



Towards the end of the calendar year, there have been many successful events across the Faculty, including the wrap-up of our media campaign, '[Economy and Austerity](#)' and '[Dealing with the Media](#)'. There are many more events planned for the New Year, including those recently funded by the University's [Interdisciplinary Network Fund](#), we look forward to seeing you there! We have also been making progress on an Institutional Social Sciences Strategy for research across all three Faculties and we will communicate an update on this in due course. This will form part of our contribution to the University's Strategic Plan, expected to be launched in the New Year. Thank you very much to all who took part in the consultation, we were able to submit a comprehensive response to both Green and White Papers.

Best wishes to all for a restful holiday!

Professor Barry Godfrey and Dr Jenny Rivers



Introducing Professor Sally Sheard – Health and Social Policy Historian



Sally is Professor of History of Medicine and sits in both the Department of History and the Institute of Psychology Health and Society. Although she graduated in Geography, her research is now mainly concerned with the interface between experts and policymakers in 20th century health policy. After spending five years experimenting with mixing history and biography writing the *Life of Brian* (Brian Abel-Smith, one of Britain's first special advisers), she is currently leading a five year project on the Governance of Health in Britain since 1948, which is supported by her Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award.

Sally commented: 'The Wellcome Trust are excellent to work with, and encourage researchers to tackle 'risky' research questions and to explore new methodological approaches. I was fortunate to spend four months at Harvard earlier this year, improving my working knowledge of US health economics and health services, to better understand why the NHS has intermittently looked to the US for policy ideas.'

Sally was an early adopter of public and policy engagement at Liverpool. In 1997 she directed a year-long programme of events to celebrate 150 years of public health, which included working as a guest curator with National Museums Liverpool, commissioning a play, artwork, and a special Royal Mail post frank. She had a long-standing collaboration with Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England, which produced a jointly-authored book and stimulated Whitehall discussions on the recent reduction in the medical civil service.

She enjoys her work as one of the senior editors at the web-based initiative, [History and Policy](#), which presents academic research in accessible formats for policymakers and the media. Although she is officially on sabbatical this year, Sally always welcomes opportunities to work with students and early career researchers and enjoys doing occasional lectures and policy engagement workshops. She's trying not to get too distracted from her current book project: a study of shortening length of hospital stays in the 20th century.

When she remembers, she tweets [@SallyBSheard](#), and writes (very) intermittent blog post: '[An academic adventure](#)'.

Funding Opportunities

[AHRC/BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinkers 2016](#) (7 January 2016) - development opportunity for early career researchers to enhance their skills to communicate their research findings to a non-academic audience, through BBC broadcasting.

[Wellcome Trust Seed Award in Humanities and Social Sciences](#) (15 January 2016, up to £50k) – flexible, responsive pump-priming funding to develop a novel idea, leading to larger awards. [Highlight notice](#) (Themed Seed Award tab): Social Media and Health: Meeting the Ethical Challenges (up to £100k).

[ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2016](#) (29 January 2016, £10k) - rewards ESRC-funded researchers who have achieved outstanding economic or societal impacts through their research and collaborative partnerships, engagement and KE activities.

Faculty support for PGRs: an update from Professor Kate Marsh

I am a specialist in French colonial history in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and I took over the role of Faculty PGR Lead in January 2015. With the launch of the Liverpool Doctoral College (LDC) in September 2015 and the obligation to ensure that the research needs of all PGRs in the Humanities and Social Sciences are not only met by the LDC but enhanced, the first year has been particularly busy. There are many important initiatives run within HSS to promote research training and professional development, and the key aim of all the Faculty PGR Team (Dr Jenny Rivers, Hayley Meloy, Grace Gaynor and myself) has been to guarantee that placement schemes such as [LiNK](#) and [engage@liverpool](#) have been central to the vision of the LDC.

The competitions for PGR funding commencing in October 2016 under both the ESRC North West Doctoral Training Centre (NWDTC) and the AHRC North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP) are now open, with a deadline of 1st February 2016 for applications for ESRC funding and 12th February 2016 for AHRC funding. Last year Liverpool achieved 17 studentships (including six CASE awards) with the NWDTC and eight with the NWCDTP, and we are looking to build on this success in 2016.

The Faculty [PGR Induction](#) in October was well attended and allowed new PGRs to meet their fellow researchers across the Faculty. This was supplemented by an [induction 'refresher' event](#) in November which focused both on the practicalities of preparing a thesis and the submission process and on demystifying the viva.

In response to the PRES results of 2015, the Faculty has brought in a number of initiatives to enhance the PGR experience including a commitment to providing a 'baseline' of resources for all PGRs, the launching of a funding scheme for postgraduate development events (the [HSS Postgraduate Research Development Fund](#)), and work into developing PGR teacher training.

You can keep up-to-date with the latest Faculty PGR news via the fortnightly [PGR Bulletin](#) and by following [@LivUniHSS_PGR](#).



Congratulations to...

Professor Nandini Das (English), in partnership with researchers at the British Library and Jadavpur University (India) has launched a mobile app that allows users to overlay rare archival photographs of Kolkata on present-day locations viewed through their phone cameras, thanks to funding from a **University of Liverpool KE Voucher**. Using images dating back to 1800s, alongside film and sounds of the city, the app creates an 'augmented reality' that allows the user to imagine themselves in the environment. [Read more](#)

Dr Matthew Fitzjohn (Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology) has received funding from the **AHRC** (worth **£100k**) for a project using his research on the houses and households of Ancient Greece to create innovative engaging lessons for primary and secondary schools, providing training and online resources for teachers. The research will embed the subject of Ancient Greece within Literacy, Maths, Art and Computing teaching, using Lego Education, Google SketchUp, and Open Source software. For instance, primary school pupils will use Lego bricks and figures to create models of Greek houses and build stories about life in Ancient Greece, and will then use the software to create movies about life in the ancient world.

Dr Beatriz Garcia (Institute of Cultural Capital / Communications and Media) has been appointed as a member of the **International Olympic Committee Culture and Education Commission**. The Commission has a new focus on Culture and Heritage, with an emphasis on the role the arts, culture and creativity can play to provide a context, inspiration or response to the world of sport. [Read more](#)

Dr Diane Urquhart (Irish Studies), with Dr Deirdre Duffy (Edge Hill University) and Lindsey Earner-Byrne (University College Dublin) was awarded a **Seed Award in Medical Humanities/Society and Ethics from the Wellcome Trust**, worth **£25k**. 'The Liverpool-Ireland Abortion Corridor: History, activism and medical practice' will inform the debate on 'abortion traffic' between Ireland and Liverpool and assist in the design of appropriate guidance for clinicians so that patients are fully supported.

Contact us about the newsletter

We would like to share news that is of interest to you so please let us know if you, or your colleagues, have success stories to share, or upcoming events. Please get in touch with Jenny (jenny.rivers@liv.ac.uk) or Maeva (maeva.zimmermann@liv.ac.uk).