NEW PROFESSOR: TOM BUCHANAN
Professor of Modern British and European History

The title of ‘Professor of Modern British and European History’ has been conferred on Tom Buchanan, our Director of Studies in History and Politics, and Co-Director of our Foundation Certificate in History. The title comes ‘with immediate effect’.

At the University of Oxford, the title of Professor is awarded on the basis of research, and stipulates that it must be of outstanding quality, and have led to a significant international reputation.

Though his well-deserved recognition is new, Tom has been with the Department for some years, having joined us in 1990 as a University Lecturer in Modern History and Politics.

Of his recognition Tom said, ‘As the title indicates, my research has been mainly concerned with the interface between Britain, Europe and the wider world during the twentieth century. My initial work on the Spanish Civil War has lead me over time into many other areas, such as political Catholicism, the relationship between Britain and China, and the rise of human rights activism.’

Read the full story, and learn about Professor Buchanan’s publications and research on our website, at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/buchanan

COMMUNWEALTH SCHOLARS, HUMAN RIGHTS
Commonwealth Scholarships bring talented Human Rights Law Master’s students from Southeast Asia and Africa

Since 2012, we’ve welcomed an increasing number of students from developing Commonwealth countries in South East Asia and Africa to our International Human Rights Law Master’s programme – thanks to generous funding by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission of the United Kingdom. These Scholars are actively engaged in fieldwork, tackling human rights abuses worldwide.

Khaled Saifullah (pictured) works in Bangladesh and South Asia, monitoring and reporting the violations of freedom of expression among journalists and media workers. Khaled is one of ten Commonwealth Scholars this year. For the full story, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/commonwealth

Open Evenings
Anyone interested in learning more about our undergraduate and postgraduate Oxford award programmes are encouraged to attend the open evenings specific to each course. Thus far, evenings are scheduled for award courses in History, Art History, Creative Writing, Archaeology, Local History and Literature, with more to follow. Participants will meet course directors and administrators, learn about opportunities for progression, and have their questions answered. The evenings take place on specific dates from January through to May. For a full listing, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/openevenings2015

Online courses for Hilary
The Great Mathematicians
Presenting mathematics with a human face: celebrating the achievements of great mathematicians in their historical context.

Who are the Celts?
What do we really know about the Celtic world? These ancient communities left us captivating artefacts and imposing earthworks, but also more subtle clues from which we can tease out the origins of the peoples who have come to be known as the Celts.

Animal Behaviour: An Introduction
In this course we will look at the full range of behaviours found in the animal kingdom from simple escape behaviours to complex tool use and their evolution.

Inequality and Labour Markets
Why are some people rich and some people poor? What determines how wide the gap is in different countries? What should governments do to deal with inequality?
PLAY IT AGAIN...

Nine of our 2014 Open Day sessions are now available to watch online, with more to follow

Health Sciences
How to assess the evidence behind the headlines for health — Professor Carl Heneghan

History
The real origins of the welfare state — Dr Jonathan Healey

Languages
Learn Mandarin Chinese! — Huiqiu Zhao Godfrey

Literature
Why English? An introduction to literary study — Dr Sandie Byrne

Music
Tales from the keyboard: the Romantic pianist-composers — Jonathan Darnborough

Political Economy
Is unrestricted immigration compatible with inclusive welfare states? — Dr Martin Ruhs
Can education be the answer to labour market inequalities? — Dr Craig Holmes

Psychology and Counselling
Delusion and spiritual experience: brain imaging, neuroscience and human values — Professor Bill Fulford
Ten things you didn’t know about Sigmund Freud — Dr Alistair Ross

NEW DPHIL: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Presenting opportunities to engage with cutting-edge Oxford researchers, and enabling fresh analysis, expertise and insight to channel back into practice

The Department has launched a new part-time DPhil (PhD) in Sustainable Urban Development, aimed at leaders and decision-makers worldwide tackling the multi-disciplinary challenges of urbanism and sustainable development.

DPhil Director Dr Johanna Waters, pictured left, said, ‘We are looking for bright, passionate, and motivated individuals to pursue topics of professional interest through a research degree. We are seeking individuals for whom part-time study at doctoral level would complement and enhance their professional practice, bringing to it an important intellectual perspective.’ For full information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/dphilsud

DESIGN FOR WAR AND PEACE
The 2014 Annual Design History Society Conference was hosted at Rewley House from 4-6 September 2014

2014 has been a year of commemoration for the wars and unrest of the twentieth century: the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War; the anniversaries of 1944, final full year of the Second World War and the opening battles of the Vietnam War in 1954; the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994.

The 2014 annual Design History Society Conference brought 120 scholars from 19 countries to reflect upon the past century’s design and craft, and their relationship both to conflict and to hopes for peace and justice. The Department’s Academic Convenor was Dr Claire O’Mahony, Course Director for the MSt in the History of Design. Full information, including conference proceedings and a link to all audio and video (three keynote lectures and numerous other sessions) can be found at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/warpeace

OPEN DAY 2014
This year’s annual Open Day was held on 4 November

Hundreds of people converged on Rewley House on 4 November to enjoy our annual Open Day – a day of 42 short lectures, workshops, walking tours and taster sessions. Participants in Oxford (some of whom travelled from the US and Europe) were augmented by the online audience who watched several of the day’s sessions live over the Internet, ‘tuning in’ from countries as far afield as Japan.

The Department offers the annual Open Day to inspire people to sample new subject areas, and to get a taste of the over 1,000 courses and programmes we offer each year. This year’s event highlighted some topics not featured before – including brain imaging, gene therapy, Sigmund Freud and evidence-based medicine.

Watch online
Several of the day’s sessions (listed, left) are available for you to enjoy online, and there will be more to come! Please visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/opendayonline2014

View these and future uploads from the day’s sessions at:
WWW.CONTED.OX.AC.UK/OPENDAYONLINE2014

For a flavour of what to expect next year, please see the full 2014 programme, at:
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/openday
COURSE HIGHLIGHTS, CONT

PGCert in Ecological Survey Techniques & Short Courses in Ecology

Our flexible part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques is delivered through an effective mixture of online, face-to-face and experiential learning. Key modules are available throughout the year as standalone online short courses. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/est

Pluripotent Stem Cell Technology Practical Workshop
8-10 December 2014
Manipulating human iPS cells, with an emphasis on differentiation to key neural lineages and downstream assays, this course combines hands-on sessions in the lab, seminars and a tour of the James Martin Stem Cell Facility. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/C130-4

Stem Cells: A Pathway Through the Maze
10-12 December 2014
Twenty lecture/discussion sessions that bring together 18 of the leading experts in the field. This course will dispel the myths behind stem cell biology and introduce delegates to the science behind the headlines, the pitfalls and the promises. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/C130-5

Prevention Strategies for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
22-27 March 2015
A dynamic six-day course designed to increase understanding of NCDs including their risk factors, determinants and prevention, and offers the support and guidance needed to put this knowledge into practice. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ncd

Philosophy and Psychiatry: Mind, Value and Mental Health – Summer School and Conference
23-25 July 2015
Appealing to philosophers, scientists, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals and service users, this three-day event is led by members of Oxford's Faculty of Philosophy with invited international speakers. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ppss

STUDENTS RECEIVE FIRST JOYCE LEECH PRIZE

English Literature students Marie Harrison and Susan Knights are the joint winners

The Joyce Leech prize is awarded to the student (or students) on the Foundation Certificate in English Literature deemed by examiners to have the highest marks on their first year of the course. The Prize, named after benefactor Joyce Leech (an alumna of the Foundation Certificate) is given in celebration of Joyce's enjoyment of many years of Continuing Education.

Award recipient Susan Knights said, ‘It is a measure of the high regard in which this course is held that a former student has kindly and generously established this prize, which I am delighted to receive.’ For more information about the prize, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/joyceleechprize

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Featuring alumni of our Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques and our MSc in Surgical Science and Practice

NIGEL ROBINS
Nigel Robins, a project manager in the UK Civil Service, began applying the skills he gained from the Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques to his professional projects straight from the outset. ‘I could see that the skills and background I was acquiring were directly applicable to problems... and that is a real confidence booster!’ Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/nigellrobins

RAIZ AGHA
Since completing our Master’s in Surgical Science and Practice, Riaz Agha has gone on to become a DPhil student at Balliol College, Oxford. ‘Balancing the rigorous demands of the course (with its assessments and the thesis) with full-time surgical training was challenging, I’ll admit! But the MSc course is designed specifically for people in my situation.’ Read the complete story at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/riazagha

NEW CRITCHLEY SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS LOCAL HISTORIANS

An anonymous donation of £1,200 towards the MSc in English Local History will be used to fund the Critchley Scholarship, to be awarded to the student with the greatest academic potential who is applying for the course for entry in September 2015. The award will fund half of the UK/EU tuition fees. Please see the course description page for full information at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V321-15

CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN CENTRAL OXFORD

Let us cater your Christmas gathering with a three-course lunch in the Rewley House dining room. Availability is now limited, so don’t delay. Chef’s festive menu and further details are available at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/christmas
CREATIVE WRITING

Tutor Alice Jolly has won the Royal Society of Literature V.S. Pritchett Memorial Prize 2014 for her short story Ray the Rottweiler. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/jolly

Undergraduate Diploma in Creative Writing alumna Elisabeth Gifford's first novel Secrets of the Sea House has been shortlisted for the Crown Award, Historical Novel Debut 2014. Her second novel, Return to Fourwinds, came out in September. Elisabeth describes it as ‘a very English novel, set between the wars, and looking at the effects of keeping secrets. A lot of it is based in Oxford around some family history and was written during the Diploma course.’

Congratulations to Diploma alumnus and current MSt in Creative Writing student Andrew Tompkinson, who has won this year’s Pasby Prize. The Pasby Prize awards £500 to the MSt student who receives the highest mark at the end of the first year.

Students, tutors and alumni of our MSt in Creative Writing programme (including Patrick Toland, Stephanie Scott, Jane Draycott, Agnes Davis and Elizabeth Thompson) have chalked up so many prizes, publications and shortlistings in recent months that they are too numerous to list here! They include the Templar Portfolio Award, The Writers’ Village International Short Story Contest, the Bridport Prize, the Forward Prize, the Medicine Unboxed Creative Prize and the Open International Hippocrates Prize. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/cwmt14

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

The Poetry of Ted Hughes: a Reader’s Guide to Essential Criticism, by Dr Sandie Byrne, Course Director of the Foundation Certificate in English Literature, has been published by Palgrave. www.palgrave.com

The First Century of Welfare: Poverty and Poor Relief in Lancashire, 1620–1730, by Dr Jonathan Healey, Course Director of our Advanced Diploma in Local History, has been published by Boydell and Brewer. www.boydellandbrewer.com

Antonia Hart, alumna of the Advanced Diploma in Local History, has published Ghost Signs of Dublin. www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1845888413

A Novel Approach for Analysis of ‘RealWorld’ Data: A Data Mining Engine for Identification of Multi-author Student Document Submission – a chapter written by Dr Kathryn Burn-Thornton, acting Director of our Advanced Diploma in Data and Systems Analysis – has been accepted for publication in the book Real World Data Mining Applications.

Dr Rikky Rooksby, who teaches literature and music courses for our Oxford Experience Summer School, has just published Songs and Solos (Hal Leonard/Backbeat), a practical guide for songwriters who wish to develop and incorporate solo passages within their songs. www.conted.ox.ac.uk/rooksby

REASONED DECISION FOR CRITICAL REASONING

When Marianne Talbot, our Director of Studies in Philosophy, set about finding a publisher for her third book, she took the decision to look no further than herself. Joining a growing number of academic authors (and reflecting a global trend in academic publishing) Marianne decided to publish Critical Reasoning: A Ramp Through the Foothills of Logic as an e-book. To read why this was the right choice (both for her and for her readers) see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/criticalreasoning

LIBRARY: NEW WEBSITE

The Continuing Education Library’s website is now hosted by Bodleian Libraries, with a ‘look and feel’ consistent with other Bodleian branch libraries. Sue Pemberton, Head Librarian, said, ‘We hope that readers will find the new website informative and easy to use. We have introduced new features, such as an online enquiry form and online library registration for weekly class students.’ Learn more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/library and keep up to date with library news by following the new Continuing Education Library blog at: blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/conted

STUDENT FEATURED

Sandra Young, a student on our Foundation Certificate in English Literature, appears in the October 2014 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine, as part of a feature, ‘Wake-Up Call’. Read more: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/wakeupcall