

## In the news...

### Overnight Millionaires

Journalist Gethin Jones followed the story of lottery winners on a Radio 5 live show earlier this year. In the radio show, which was first broadcast on Friday 22 April, Dr. Richard Tunney, an Associate Professor at the School, whose interests include judgement and decision making, and in particular choice behaviour, was interviewed about the effects of winning large sums of money.

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[BBC press release](#)

### Drawing 'integral' to science learning

More should be done to encourage students to use their drawing skills in science education, researchers at The University of Nottingham say.

In a paper being published in *Science* this week, academics say that although producing visualisations is key to scientific thinking, pupils are often not encouraged to

create their own drawings to develop and demonstrate their understanding.

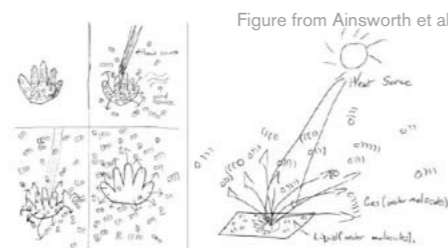
In the paper the authors, led by Dr Shaaron Ainsworth in the University's School of Psychology and Learning Sciences Research Institute, said: "Scientists do not use words only but rely on diagrams, graphs, videos, photographs and other images to make discoveries, explain findings, and excite public interest.

(Credits: UoN press release)

*Ainsworth, Prain, Tytler (2011) Science. 333(6046)*

[Link to podcast Interview](#)

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### Chinese-English bilinguals are 'automatic' translators

New research into how the bilingual brain processes two very different languages has revealed that bilinguals' native language directly influences their comprehension of their second language.

The innovative study by researchers in The University of Nottingham's School of Psychology set out to explore whether Chinese-English bilinguals translate English words automatically into Chinese without being aware of this process.

More than half of the world's population speaks more than one language but up to now it has not been clear how they interact if the two languages are very different, unlike some pairs of European languages which share the same alphabetical characters and even words. (Credits: UoN press release)

*Zhang, van Heuven, Conklin (2011) Psych Science.*

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### Career options

If you are a member of staff on the Research Only track, you should look out for the University's special efforts to support the Career Development of Researchers. Lots of information and pointers for the many career options are available. There is a Vitae briefing document with tips on how to make your CV look good and how to get most out of your transferable skills.

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/researchstaff/concordat/](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/researchstaff/concordat/)  
[www.researchconcordat.ac.uk](http://www.researchconcordat.ac.uk)

### Been thinking about volunteering this year?

Interested in brain injury, mental health or learning difficulties? Then come and meet the Student Volunteer Centre's fantastic volunteering projects! We've handpicked the best projects for psychology students and invited them all to come and meet you. Come and have a chat to them to find out which project you'd like to volunteer at. Staff from the Student Volunteer Centre will also be there to answer any questions you have about volunteering and tell you all what's on offer!

11th October, 11.30am-2.30pm  
Psychology Social Space

### All in the timing

Heron and colleagues from the University of Bradford and the UoN School of Psychology report evidence for neural channels mediating information about time in a recent study published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. The paper was picked up in the press and featured on BBC Radio 4's *Material World* and *Wired* magazine.

*Heron, Aaen-Stockdale, Hotchkiss, Roach, McGraw, & Whitaker, D. (2011). Proc Roy Soc B*

[Link to Wired magazine; Material World podcast](#)

### Calling all 3rd years

The School of Psychology has been awarded a Weston Scholarship to encourage applications by outstanding students to a taught post-graduate course. Under the scheme, a number of successful Schools (including Psychology) was awarded one full-time post-graduate taught (HEU fees only) award. The awards may be used to contribute towards overseas fees, or a higher HEU PGT fee. The awards will be allocated on the basis of academic merit, in advance of the 2012-13 session and cannot be deferred. If you are interested in applying for a post-graduate course, get in touch with the Director of Post-graduate Studies.

Contact: [jonathan.peirce@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.peirce@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Diary dates

### Student Volunteer Meet

11 October, 1130am-230pm: come and meet the Student Volunteer Centre's fantastic volunteering projects; Psychology Social Space

### Manchester Science Festival

22-30 October: At last year's festival, Catherine Preston and Roger Newport's workshop highlighting their work on sensory illusions was a big success. Check out the website for details of this year's event.

[www.manchestersciencefestival.com](http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com)

### External Seminars

Every Wednesday from 4-5 pm in B37 (the lecture theatre on the 1st floor). Look out for announcements by e-mail and on the screen in the foyer. (Organizer: Dr Nikki Pitchford)

### Internal Seminars

Every Thursday at 1pm in B37. (Organizer: Dr Mark Haselgrove)

### Applications for the MSc course

Applications are now accepted for next year's intake of the MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging. Check out the website for details.



The University of  
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UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

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# PSYCH@ Nottingham

## Welcome (back)

It's that time of the year again. The days are getting shorter and there seems to be more stuff to get done... the new academic year has definitely begun.

A warm welcome to all the new arrivals. To the new group of first years joining us from all over the UK, Europe, and Overseas – we hope you have a great time here in Nottingham. To the new graduate students embarking on the MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging and those embarking on their PhD project. And last but not least, welcome to the new members of staff, who have joined the School in the last few months.

Since the last issue of this newsletter a lot has happened. Keep your eyes peeled for student and staff colleagues in the News (Radio, TV, and in print), in exciting new articles in scientific journals, and in cameo roles in our new promotional videos – soon to hit the School's web page and bound to be a viral hit on *youtube*, or maybe not...

Keep your news coming.

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# News from Malaysia

The School of Psychology at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) was opened in September 2009. Three full-time postgraduate students enrolled in the first year. All are Malaysian, although students from anywhere in the world, including the UK, are welcome.

## New Lecturers at Malaysia Campus

Two new lecturers have joined the School of Psychology at the Malaysia Campus over the Summer Break, and we are pleased to welcome them both.

**Dr Jessica Price** joined in August 2011. Jess completed her PhD at the University of Glasgow and held post-doctoral positions at the University of Strathclyde and the University of Birmingham before taking up her new post. Jess is interested in investigating bilingual visual word processing, especially how Malaysians process emotional words. Additionally, In September 2011, **Dr Matt Johnson** also joined the School of Psychology at the Malaysia campus as a new lecturer. Matt recently finished his PhD at Yale University in the United States. His dissertation research used fMRI, EEG, and behavioural studies to examine attentional selection processes operating within working memory. He intends to continue these studies at the Malaysia campus, and potentially extend some of his previous working memory findings to the domain of attention during visual perception.

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## Promotional videos get overhaul

The School of Psychology recruitment videos are set to have a major overhaul in time for next year's UK and international undergraduate application deadlines. Broadcast Media Services, a local production company, spent several days during the summer filming footage at different locations in the School and across campus. The film team will return for one final day of shooting with a special jib camera, to capture the buzz on campus with the start of term (and some images of the beautiful autumn colours on show on University Park Campus).

There will also be a new version of the promotional video that highlights research and study opportunities for graduate students at the School of Psychology. If you are interested in using any of these (or have comments), get in touch.

A big thank-you to all those who helped out during the preparation and filming, especially those of you who were generous enough to give some valuable time for making comments on scripts, being filmed, and helping to fine-tune the edits.

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Dan Shub looking on as video is time-stamped.



Filming in the console room of the 1.5 T scanner



Graduate students in the net. EEG experiment captured on HD video

# Nottingham Psychology at Bradford Science Festival

By Paula Moran

Paula Moran, Roger Newport and Helen Gilpin have just come back from the British Science Festival in Bradford. Paula together with colleagues Sasha Gartside and Jo Neill from Newcastle and Bradford, hosted "Barks berries and leaves" a session repeated over a number of days for A-level science students and adults on the psychoactive properties of plants.

Following a general introduction to psychopharmacology they explained how hallucinogenic and psychostimulant agents grow all around us!!! The audience were especially interested to learn that Coca Cola used to contain 9mg of cocaine per glass! This was followed by a hands-on laboratory session where students extracted and measured (using High Performance Liquid Chromatography) caffeine, theobromine and theophylline from various teas, coffees

and cocoa beans. Attendees from Yorkshire were intrigued to demonstrate that Yorkshire tea contained the highest level of caffeine! The effects on reaction times and cognitive function were then measured in attendees following the consumption of caffeine containing drinks with predictable results! Feedback to the festival organisers was excellent, they may have to take the show on the road now!

Roger and Helen demonstrated the weird and wonderful world of multisensory illusions and entertained hundreds of members of the public with tricks such as the Stretchy Finger and the Disappearing Hand Trick. The Disappearing Hand Trick involves making it seem as though your hand is missing from your body by making you unable to see or touch it and details of this popular illusion will be published later this

year in the journal Current Biology. Roger and Helen were invited to take part in the Best of the Festival evening, but were already booked in for another BSF event: the Sensory Night at the Society for Dyers and Colourists in Bradford was an adults only event where Helen was the centre of attraction.

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## Graduate student success

A warm welcome to the new graduate students who are embarking on the MSc and PhD programmes. "This has been an outstanding year for getting external post-graduate funding, which is a clear sign of the really high quality of applicants this time", according to Dr Jon Peirce the new Director of Postgraduate Studies. [ds]

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## New Grad reps

Say hello to Amelia Draper, Kathleen Baess, and Stephanie McGarrity, our new graduate student representatives. They are taking over from Lauren Marsh and Andrew Kelly, the dynamic duo who were in charge last year.

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## Personal Tutor wins Oscar

By Denis Schluppeck

Congratulations to Dr Nikki Pitchford, our Undergraduate International Student Tutor, who won an Oscar in the category "Best All-rounder" in a scheme launched by the University of Nottingham Students' Union. Students nominated over 250 members of staff for awards in different categories. There was an award ceremony at the end of June in which Nikki was presented with her prize.

Nikki is an Associate Professor, who joined the School in 2002. Her research and teaching interests span a wide area of cognitive neuropsychology, especially normal and abnormal development of children.

The Students' Union launched a 'Personal Tutor Oscars' scheme this summer following very positive feedback from students' unions across the country with similar schemes. In the Oscar's, students were asked



to nominate their personal tutor for one of three categories.

Look out on the Students' Union web page for more and details and the return of the Personal Tutor Oscars in 2012!

[www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/news/article/6001/2779/](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/news/article/6001/2779/)

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