



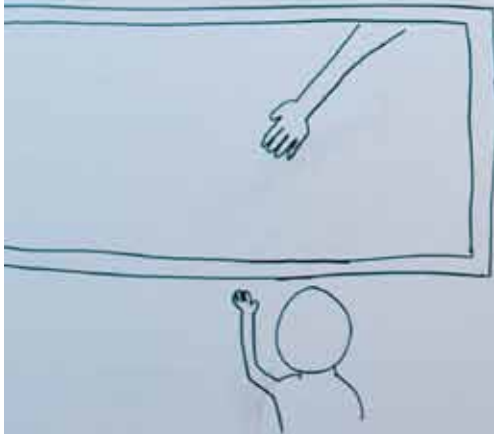
PSYCH@Nottingham

School of Psychology newsletter

Issue 6, November 2012

News from the School of Psychology

Rubber Hand Illusion



- ① Visual Feedback
- ② Visual + Twist of Arm
- ③ Turning of Floor
- ④ Self Movement (Wiggling of Fingers)
- ⑤ Synchronous of Touch

Psychology student Sam Howard is giving a presentation on the Rubber Hand Illusion.

International influence

One student shares their experiences of life at our Malaysia Campus.

Grant success

Find out about our latest research.

PsychoSoc

Latest news and events from our student society.

Eye-opening experiences in Malaysia

Lucie MacKenzie, BSc Psychology (UK)

My experience at The University of Nottingham's Malaysia Campus (UNMC) has been eye-opening in almost every way I can think of. It's surrounded by jungle and yet close to the incredible capital city of Kuala Lumpur and I have met people from all over the world who are keen to share their experiences and cultures, allowing me to embrace the new and exotic. The journey is not without its physical and emotional hurdles; adapting to the heat, the food, the way of life and the huge insects, not to mention leaving loved ones behind, is hard but it is all worth it when you step off a plane or a train into the next new city or island. Exploration becomes a regular activity and it is often hard to tear yourself away from various exploits and back to the realities of studying, but the general wellbeing instilled by being there motivates harder work. There is also the added advantage of smaller class sizes, allowing a more one-on-one approach to teaching.

Being able to study abroad is one of the greatest opportunities Nottingham has to offer, and Malaysia has the added benefit of being much more closely connected to the University, meaning friendly and sometimes familiar faces. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and allows you to discover what is truly important in life.

Learn more about life as a psychology student at UNMC and the UNMC campus at www.facebook.com/UNMCPsychology

The University of Nottingham's Malaysia Campus.



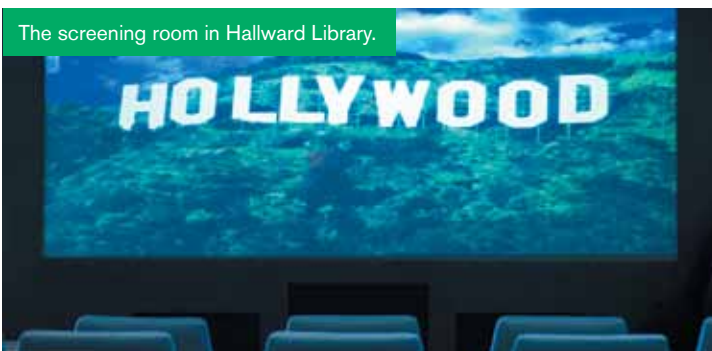
PsychoSoc

Thursday 11 October marked our first event of the year, PsychoSoc's Annual Welcome Boat Party! The night was a huge success and it was really great to see people from all years getting to know each other. As the first (and rather large!) event, this was a big moment for the new committee, so congratulations to everyone who contributed to the evening.

Other recent events have included film day, where we screened *Girl, Interrupted*, and we recently teamed up with the lecturers for a battle of the brains pub quiz.

Make sure you are keeping up to date with our events on either the Students' Union website or on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/UoNPsychology20122013

The screening room in Hallward Library.



Neuroscience@ Nottingham

Tobias Bast

Nottingham neuroscientists are invited to present posters on their recent work and discuss it with their colleagues. The two best posters presented by postgraduate students will be awarded a prize.

This year's lecture, *Touch and pain in early life - the role of spinal inhibitory circuits*, will be presented by Maria Fitzgerald from UCL and everybody is welcome to attend!

Please email Margi Godfrey (margi.godfrey@nottingham.ac.uk) if you want to present a poster or attend without a poster.

The event will take place on Wednesday 12 December from 2-4pm in the Medical School foyer and lecture theatre 3, Queen's Medical Centre. Tea and biscuits will be provided.

Grant successes

Research into human social interaction

Antonia Hamilton, an Associate Professor in our school, has recently been awarded a £1million grant called INTERACT: Understanding the mechanisms of human social interaction using interactive avatars.

The project is based on the idea that human social interaction depends heavily on nonverbal unconscious behaviour such as mimicry (unconscious copying of actions). It is hard to study mimicry at the moment because realistic social interactions can't be controlled well in the lab, but INTERACT will use new computer-controlled avatars to generate and manipulate mimicry behaviour.

This will allow us to understand how and why people copy each other without realising it; for example, we will test how people detect that someone else is copying them and why they copy different people in different ways.

The project will provide a fundamental understanding of mimicry which will be useful for social neuroscience, and for understanding development, education and human-computer interaction.

For more information, visit Antonia's website: www.antoniahamilton.com

Study looks at bodily misperceptions

Dr Kirsten McKenzie, a professor at our Malaysia Campus has been awarded RM120,000 from the Malaysian Office of Science, Technology and Innovation to study somatosensory disorders and bodily misperceptions. When we feel a sensation, such as pain, we assume it is caused by something happening to, or within, our body but there are many clinical cases in which an individual's somatic experience is found to be a misrepresentation of bodily events.

The study will use several new techniques in conjunction with Electroencephalography (EEG) to investigate when and how these illusory sensations are interpreted in the brain. One of the new techniques includes a virtual-reality system which enables people to see real-time video images of their own hands being physically distorted, such as having fingers stretched, without anything actually happening.

Students earn BPS membership

Ian Stephen

The first graduating class from the BSc Psychology degree at the Malaysia Campus have applied for BPS Graduate Basis for Registration, with a 100% success rate. Several graduates have now commenced study for BPS accredited postgraduate degrees in the UK and other graduates have continued on to postgraduate study in Malaysia.

Awards success

Ian Stephen

PhD students from the Malaysia Campus have been impressing judges at international conferences this summer. Lee Ai-Suan won the Outstanding Poster Award at the International Society for Human Ethology in Vienna, Austria. Ai-Suan, who is supervised by Dr Ian Stephen, won the award for her poster entitled The role of processing orientation on face perception in Malaysian Chinese.

Meanwhile, Lee Yee Mun, who is supervised by Dr Lizzy Sheppard, won the Dean's Award for the best abstract at the Southeast Asian Psychology Conference in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

MSc Brain Imaging

Welcome to the new group of students on the MSc Brain Imaging course, including a large international contingent! This year's intake has started taking advantage of three different pathways that allow them to specialise in Cognitive Neuroscience, Computational Methods, or Neuropsychology applications of Brain Imaging.

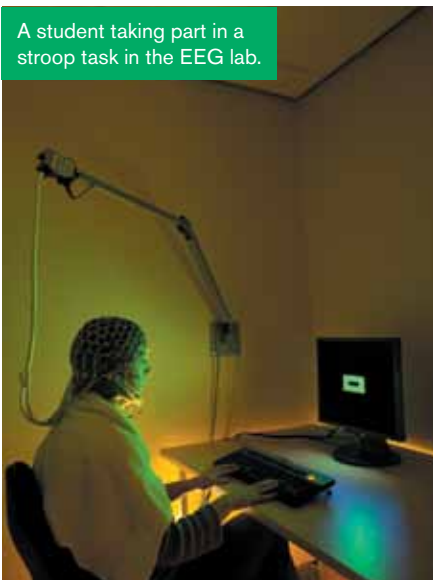
There will be an information event about the MSc Brain Imaging on Wednesday 12 December at 2pm in room A17, Psychology Building. To register your interest, contact martin.lockey@nottingham.ac.uk

For more information, visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/psychology/msc

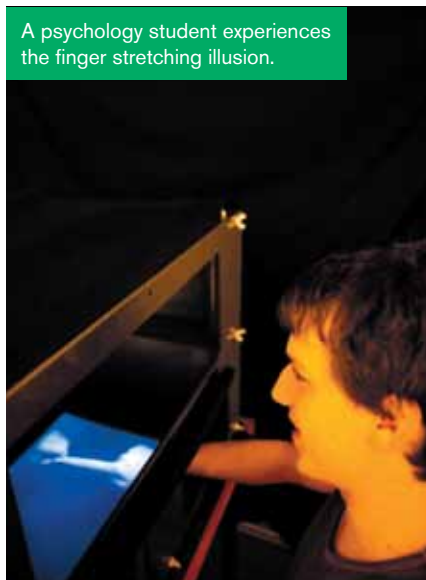
New Director of Studies

Dr Elizabeth Sheppard has taken over as Director of Studies in Psychology at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. This will allow Professor Peter Mitchell to concentrate on his expanding role as Dean of Science at the Malaysia Campus. If you have any issues, suggestions or queries about the programme in Malaysia, please feel free to contact Lizzie.

A student taking part in a stroop task in the EEG lab.



A psychology student experiences the finger stretching illusion.



De-stress and stay healthy

Laura Cochrane

Nike Training Club (NTC) is a health and fitness club for female students. The group meets twice every week for NTC Live Classes. The group workouts are led by a personal trainer and are based on the Nike Training Club fitness programme which aims to support women in their workout goals. Students of all fitness levels are welcome.

Join the Facebook page for more information

www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamntc/

We also have the Nike+ Run Club which is a free casual running club for students of all running abilities. We do a 5km run around campus on Mondays at 5pm.

For more information, please email cochrane.lara@gmail.com

Get involved with our Nike+ Run Club.



Welcome to our new international students

On Wednesday 3 October we welcomed new international undergraduate and postgraduate students to the school. New students met with current international students and staff over afternoon tea and cakes and Professor Eamonn Fergusson presented the winner of the 2012 Book Prize, Tirtha Medappa, with her prize. Tirtha was awarded a copy of the first year texts for excelling in her International Baccalaureate examinations.

Many congratulations to Tirtha and all of our international students for achieving the high grades needed. We wish you all a successful and happy time at Nottingham.

Get involved with Teach First

Laura Outhwaite

The link between low family income and poor educational attainment is greater in the UK than in almost any other developed country. But it doesn't have to be this way. Teach First is an independent charity focused on delivering far-reaching social change by addressing educational disadvantage, driving up standards and raising aspirations in schools facing challenging circumstances.

Teach First offers an exceptional two-year Leadership Development Programme that focuses on the achievements and aspirations of pupils and their access to further opportunities both in education and beyond. With high quality training, supportive coaching and ongoing initiatives, Teach First provides a unique platform of skills and experience to take forward into any career.

We are holding a drop-in session for anyone interested in working for Teach First on Thursday 28 November, 12-2pm in Coates Cafe.

For more information, visit www.teachfirst.org.uk



Nightline

Nightline is an anonymous and confidential, non-judgmental listening and information service run for students, by students. We are open every night of term from 7pm-8am and can be contacted by phone, email and instant messenger. We want you to know that we are always here to listen to whatever is on your mind, no matter how big or small they feel their problem is.

t: +44 (0)115 951 4985 (free from any internal line on 14985)

e: nightlineanon@nottingham.ac.uk

w: www.nottinghamnightline.co.uk

To instant message us, see

www.nottinghamnightline.co.uk/im

Keep your news coming

If you have anything for inclusion in this newsletter, please contact Denis Schluppeck at denis.schluppeck@nottingham.ac.uk

Or see the News Stories page on Workspace for guidance on submitting your stories:

http://tiny.cc/psychology_news

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact us.

t: +44 (0)115 951 4591

e: alternativeformats@nottingham.ac.uk

Printed November 2012.

