



The wonder and fragility of our internal lives

February saw the opening of the second part of a year-long exploration into human consciousness at the Wellcome Collection on Euston Road in London. 'States of Mind: Tracing the Edges of Consciousness' promises to examine 'the universal, yet mysterious, topic of conscious experience'.

The exhibition brings together artists, psychologists, philosophers and neuroscientists to investigate the terrain between consciousness and unconsciousness. It will feature historical material, objects, artworks and an evolving programme of contemporary art installations.

Following on from Ann Veronica Janssens' disorientating mist installation 'yellowbluepink' which probed the nature of individual perception, 'States of Mind' further questions the reliability of our inner world and subjective experience. The show explores phenomena such as synaesthesia, sleepwalking, memory loss and anaesthesia, and examines what happens when our conscious experience is undermined through dysfunctional experiences of perception or through loss of consciousness.

Curator Emily Sargent says: 'Consciousness is a fascinating subject, as magical as it is everyday. We all know what it is like to be conscious, but it remains a challenge to truly define it. This makes it rich territory both for artists and scientists alike. This exhibition examines a range of different experiences from the edges of consciousness revealing both the wonder and fragility of our internal lives. It looks at ways in which philosophy, art and folklore have established frameworks of understanding for phenomena like the nightmarish hallucinations of sleep paralysis; explores language and memory as ways of defining the self and discovers how neuroscience is pushing back the very definitions of what we understand consciousness to be in the study of patients previously thought beyond awareness. It also provides the opportunity to bring together a wonderful collection of objects, artworks and films to explore this broad, eclectic subject – at once both unique and universal.'

The first of four sections, 'SCIENCE | SOUL', takes as its starting point key moments in the historical emergence of the field of neuroscience. The pervasive idea of 'dualism', the

separation of mind and body first formally outlined by René Descartes in the 17th century, is illustrated by works such as 'The Soul hovering over the Body reluctantly parting with Life' by Luigi Schiavonetti, after William Blake. Philosophers and scientists have long tried to define how these two worlds interact and explain how an objective brain can produce the subjective experience of consciousness. The papers of Francis Crick show that he worked on this 'hard problem' until the day he died in 2004, and his notes are displayed alongside neuron drawings by Santiago Ramón y Cajal, arguably the founder of neuroscience. This section also explores synaesthesia, including author Vladimir Nabokov's experience of seeing letters as colours.

The spaces between sleep and wakefulness, as well as phenomena such as somnambulism, mesmerism and sleep paralysis, are explored in 'SLEEP | AWAKE'. This section includes archive material from the first trial where 'insanity of sleep' was successfully used as a defence, as well as footage from *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, a 1920 film about a man who is controlled while asleep. The experience of sleep paralysis, where sleepers are mentally awake but the body remains unable to move, is reflected in a preparatory drawing for Henry Fuseli's 1781 painting 'The Nightmare', a work that has formed the basis for many other depictions of this phenomenon, and Carla MacKinnon's immersive installation 'Squeezed by the Shadows' (see also <http://tinyurl.com/2611bigpic>).

The development of language in childhood is closely linked to the recognition of a sense of self. In 'LANGUAGE | MEMORY', artist Louise K. Wilson invites visitors to participate in her research into autobiographical memory, pieces from Alasdair Hopwood's False Memory Archive (see also <http://tinyurl.com/274bigpic>) question the reliability of recollections and Mary Kelly's Post-Partum Document is a series of drawings charting her changing relationship with her son as he begins to develop speech.

'BEING | NOT BEING' further explores what happens when consciousness is disordered, following injury or trauma. fMRI scans of patients in persistent vegetative, or minimally conscious, states have been shown to reveal imaginative

A feast of free psychology

This year's two-week Cambridge Science Festival will host a vast range of fascinating psychology and neuroscience events. The mainly free festival will feature a talk exploring the science behind out-of-body experiences, a play inspired by bipolar disorder, and much more.

The main vein running through the 2016 festival are events exploring our increasingly symbiotic relationship with technology and machines. On the first day of the festival, Monday 7 March a group of speakers from the fields of information technology and robotics – Dr Hermann Hauser, Dr Mateja Jamnik and Professor Alan Winfield – along with neuroscientist Professor Trevor Robbins will discuss the potential for supercomputers and machine learning to become superior to the human brain.

On Friday 11 March David Greenberg will discuss his work on what a person's musical taste can reveal about their personality – and how this can map on to five factors of personality and three different thinking styles. On the same day *Naked Scientists* presenter Ginny Smith will give an interactive talk entitled 'Your irrational brain: How we really make decisions'.

Greenberg is also presenting a fascinating live and interactive experiment, on Saturday 12 March, about how music influences experience of films. The audience will be filmed watching clips of films to see how music changes their interpretation of the clips.

Among the many talks taking place during the course of the festival, which runs until Sunday 20 March, are a host of drop-in psychology

events. Also on Saturday 12 March Anat Arzi, from the Cambridge Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience Institute, will demonstrate olfaction experiments and the cognition behind it – and promises to bust some popular neuromyths along the way. Also between the start of the festival and Friday 11 March Dr Will Harrison will be demonstrating visual illusions to demonstrate 'how blind we really are'. Between 14 and 18 March the Department of Experimental Psychology consider what we think when we think of nothing.

A play inspired by 'mental imagery', emotion and the study and treatment of bipolar disorder, *Pictures of You*, will be discussed on Friday 18 March. It will include discussions around rumination and other thinking biases from clinical psychologist Caitlin Hitchcock, along with discussions about experiences of scientists collaborating with artists.

The following day Dr Jane Aspell, psychology lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, will discuss the latest neuroscientific explanations of out-of-body experiences. She will explain why the science of this phenomenon can suggest theories of how brains create the everyday experience of inhabiting a body. In the evening Professor Viren Swami considers the science of how we form relationships. **ER**

I All of the events above, and most of the 300 taking place at the festival, are free to attend, though some require booking time slots online; for full event listings and booking information see www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk/events and for a list of psychology events see tinyurl.com/gstpbfp

activity, and this section explores the implications and ethical debates surrounding the care, rehabilitation and end-of-life wishes of these individuals. This section also looks at anaesthesia, a state of reversible coma and the closest we get to brain stem death, with a film by Aya Ben Ron, *Still Under Treatment* (2005), showing the moments in which patients fall unconscious under general anaesthetic.

A changing programme of installations (<http://wellcomecollection.org/visit-us/states-mind-installations>) linked to language and memory begins with *A Whisper Heard* – artist Imogen Stidworthy contrasts the language acquisition of a young child with that of a stroke patient with aphasia, using their responses to a passage from *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* to explore concepts of language, meaning and identity. *H.M.*, beginning on 26 April, is a film by Kerry Tribe previously shown at MOMA, which uses two synchronised reels of footage with a 20-second delay between them to reflect the experience of Henry Gustav Molaison, better known as 'Patient H.M.' (<http://tinyurl.com/psychhm>), whose case radically advanced our understanding of memory. Finally, Shona Illingworth explores the impact of amnesia and the erasure of individual and cultural memory with work from her *Lesions in the Landscape* project (<http://tinyurl.com/28julll>) which examines personal experience of memory loss in one woman alongside the sudden evacuation of the island of St Kilda in the 1930s.

James Peto, Head of Public Programmes at Wellcome Collection, concludes: 'Rather than seeking to define the slippery subject of consciousness, "States of Mind" looks at the intriguing areas around its edges... The exhibition will run for a whole year, so that a changing programme of installations and exhibits can encourage reflection on the different perspectives scientists, philosophers and artists have brought to the difficult question of what it means to be "conscious"; how does each of us perceive and relate to our surroundings and to ourselves?' **JS**

I States of Mind: Tracing the Edges of Consciousness runs from 4 February to 16 October 2016 (see tinyurl.com/wcstatesofm)

5 minutes with...

Dr Emily Glorney

Dr Emily Glorney (Royal Holloway, University of London), a member of the British Psychological Society Division of Forensic Psychology (DFP) committee, was one of two psychologists involved as a Society representative during consultation on the Law Commission report on fitness to plead tests. Currently two doctors, including a psychiatrist, advise judges on a defendant's readiness to stand trial. The Commission recommended that psychologists be involved in wider tests to assess defendants' mental fitness when facing criminal charges.

The independent body, which reviews laws in England and Wales, said existing rules to decide whether or not a defendant was mentally fit were 'out of date, misunderstood and inconsistently applied'. Glorney, who represented the BPS alongside Chartered Psychologist Dr Ian Gargan, spoke to us about their involvement and the potential future of these tests.

Where did your interest in forensic psychology come from?

My interest in forensic psychology began about 20 years ago when, as part of my undergraduate degree programme, I took on a clinical research placement concerned with the needs of people with severe and enduring mental illness who were in touch with community mental health teams. I became interested in the participants' experiences of mental illness and, for some, the relationship between these experiences and their violent behaviour.

After learning more about the relationship between mental disorder and offending behaviour through MSc Forensic Psychology study, I embarked on research and practice focused on forensic mental health. My interest in the Law Commission consultation on unfitness to plead seemed to be a natural extension of these interests - thinking about how courts might facilitate improved psychosocial functioning to support a fair trial.

Can you tell me about your involvement with the Law Commission report?

One aspect of the DFP committee's strategy is to promote the value of psychology to the legal and criminal justice system. The Law Commission's consultation process explored reform of the legal test and the procedure for

assessment of unfitness to plead. These issues were discussed in detail at a multidisciplinary symposium in June 2014, attended by law professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and representatives from government and third sector organisations.

The law professionals debated the legal test, then there was interdisciplinary discussion of the screening and assessment of a defendant and also the legal procedure for unfit accused. I made representations to these last two domains. Firstly, that for defendants who are fit to plead yet have difficulty engaging with the trial process there should be a statutory entitlement to support of a Registered Intermediary, in line with an assessment focus on functional capacity for trial proceedings and the context of the individual in the court proceedings. The aim of such provision would be to support the cognitive and psychosocial functioning of a defendant through the trial proceedings, in order to facilitate a fair trial. Secondly, I represented that psychologists, considered by the court to be adequately qualified and with sufficient experience, may provide testimony regarding assessment and fitness to plead.

Why should psychologists be involved when assessing fitness to plead?

It is clear that psychology has grown and become more prominent in the legal and criminal justice process since the introduction of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act in 1964. In practice, psychologists already complete assessments of cognitive and social functioning in order to advise courts as to a defendant's level of functioning against the criteria set for assessment of fitness to plead.

However, legally, this report could not stand alone as an opinion on fitness to plead; the view of the psychologist might be incorporated into a report by a medical doctor as per the evidential requirement. Not only is this a potentially inefficient way



of managing trial proceedings, but the evidential requirement does not give due credibility to the professional opinion of the psychologist. Psychologists are trained and skilled in trying to make sense of the complex interplay between person and environment, in addition to theory and good practice in assessment of complex constructs such as psychological functioning. I think it makes good sense for the evidential requirement to be relaxed so that psychologists considered by the court to be adequately qualified and with sufficient experience may provide testimony regarding assessment and fitness to plead.

What are the next steps?

We're really pleased that the Law Commission has made a key recommendation for legal reform, the relaxing of the evidential requirement. If the recommendations are accepted then this means that one of the two required experts to advise the court as to a defendant's fitness to plead could be a registered psychologist. This offers professional recognition of and due credit to the expert advice that psychologists, of whichever 'Division' or specialisation, provide to criminal courts. This might seem like a small victory for psychology, but big gains can come from little steps.

Don't stop at the headline!

Two psychologists who have been introducing children across Scotland to how academic research translates into the media have announced the winners of a new competition based on their work. The founder of blog Research the Headlines, Sinead Rhodes, and colleague Alan Gow (Heriot-Watt University) spoke to *The Psychologist* about their fascinating work improving the critical thinking of the next generation.

Dr Rhodes, a press officer for the British Psychological Society until last year and senior lecturer (University of Strathclyde), was inspired to launch the Research the Headlines (<http://researchtheheadlines.org>) blog in 2013 after encountering a similar NHS website. The blog provides discussions around the way in which research is portrayed in the media and encourages people to better understand how research findings may be represented or highlights research that did not receive the coverage it may have deserved.

More recently the group launched a series of workshops as part of their Rewrite the Headlines competition, with an aim to teach primary-age children about research appearing in the media. Rhodes said: 'We felt that reaching children from the youngest age they encounter research evidence in the media was important, and when I piloted workshops in schools and with teachers it became clear that children as young as age nine or ten are very aware of research evidence presented in the media. Rewrite the Headlines is needed in schools because it can help equip children with basic skills about how to evaluate this research evidence that will impact their lives.'

The resulting workshops, run by Research the Headlines contributors, Rhodes' and Gows' colleagues from the Young Academy of Scotland, and PhD students and postdocs, have so far engaged over 2000 pupils and their teachers. Rhodes said: 'The workshop specifically looks at exaggeration and selectivity in headlines, and stresses the importance of gathering fuller information before drawing conclusions.'

Thanks to funding from the British

Academy, Rhodes and Gow and their colleagues were able to launch the competition aimed at school children in primary years 5 to 7 (ranging in age from about nine to twelve years old) who had taken part in the workshop and undergraduate university students from across Scotland. The younger children were tasked with finding their own example of research in the media, while the undergraduate students had to compare a media report of some recent research in their area with the original published work, highlighting the good and the bad and trying to locate where any inaccuracies might have appeared.

The winning primary school class was from St Roch's Primary and Hearing Impaired School in Glasgow, who turned the recent headline 'Processed meats do cause cancer – WHO' into 'Eating processed meat slightly increases risk of cancer'. Abby Wrathall won the undergraduate prize with her blog entry entitled 'So, should you wait until Monday to take your child to hospital?'. The University of Edinburgh student explored recent media coverage about whether weekend versus weekday hospital admissions might be associated with poorer outcomes.



Gow, Co-Chair of Research the Headlines, explained why this particular type of public engagement in science and research was particularly important: 'Critical engagement with the media, research and the evidence generated from it is a centrally important skill. Training in this should come as early as possible, and be reinforced throughout the education process, beginning in the primary school years and continuing throughout further and higher education.' **ER**



CHECK THE GOVERNMENT'S EVIDENCE

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee has launched a new 'evidence check' online forum to look at the evidence on which the government bases its science policies. The aim is to give experts and members of the public chance to scrutinise the facts behind these policies and offer up comments, views and criticisms.

The forum's launch saw four evidence papers published online and more will be added in the coming months. The first policies released for scrutiny included evidence behind government policy on smart meters, digital government, access to healthcare, and flexible working.

Views on these papers can be posted on the forum (link below); a Committee statement said it was inviting views particularly on the strength of the evidence and how well the government's approach to policies reflects the evidence. It suggested comments would help with future work of the Science and Technology Committee by identifying areas for scrutiny hearings or for launching inquiries.

Nicola Blackwood MP, Chair of the Committee said: 'We have asked the government to set out the evidence underpinning a number of policy areas and are putting it online for everyone to analyse, scrutinise and comment on. I hope that these evidence checks will prove a valuable way to examine how the government uses evidence to make policy and I would encourage everyone – whether experts in the fields or not – to send us their thoughts and insights.'

For the Evidence Check Forum page see tinyurl.com/hn4k8r2

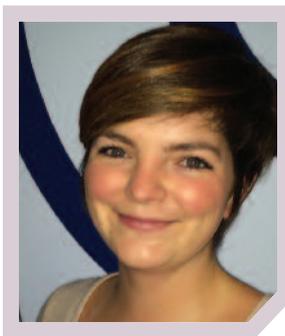
Briefing parliamentarians

A psychology PhD student with a passion for influencing policy with her work has written a Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST) briefing note about policing domestic abuse. Genevieve Waterhouse (London South Bank University), whose PhD concerns the forensic interviewing of children, secured a POST Postgraduate Award from the British Psychological Society to compile literature and interviews for the research briefing, which will be used by MPs and peers.

In her note Waterhouse gave a background of laws and statistics surrounding domestic abuse, including the recent introduction of the coercive control offence – which has made repeated controlling or coercive behaviour against the law. Waterhouse also looked at the literature, conducted more than 20 interviews with experts in the field, and examined evidence on the different policing approaches to domestic abuse.

Waterhouse said she was keen to apply for the award as she went into the field of psychology with the hope her work could directly help people and influence policy. She said: 'I thought it was an amazing opportunity to see how the research we're doing could be put into practice. I didn't want to do a PhD unless I could see it had some practical benefit, and I know for my work to have influence it will need to feed into policy.'

During her three-month secondment to POST Waterhouse said it was exciting to see science feeding into the government's



Genevieve Waterhouse

work. She told *The Psychologist* about the work behind compiling her note: 'The first thing I needed to do was increase my knowledge around the subject area, in quite a short amount of time! I read up on policy, research and reports from charities. I identified some key people in the area, including academics and experts from the College of Policing.'

Waterhouse then compiled her four-page document which was extensively reviewed and eventually published. She said the experience had been 'amazing' and added: 'Two of the most important things I've taken away from the experience were how to provide a lot of detail and

information in a short document and aimed at people who might not have any psychology background. Also learning how research can be put into practice and what kinds of research are most helpful in making those political decisions.'

ER | The BPS POST Postgraduate Award re-opens for entries at the start of June with a closing date of 31 August. The award is open to all postgraduate students registered for a higher degree by research by PhD or MPhil and who are in their second or third year of study, or part-time equivalent, at the time of application. See tinyurl.com/87s9f2v for information on how to apply. You can read Waterhouse's full POSTnote at tinyurl.com/zjwdbjl.

CANparent research results

A three-year trial of government-proposed parenting classes, led by Professor Geoff Lindsay, has revealed there is a demand from mums and dads for such classes, but the provision of adequate funding is crucial. Lindsay and his colleagues at the University of Warwick found the sessions held were popular with parents, but when funding available to the providers was withdrawn there was a sharp decrease in activities and parents' participation.

The CANparent trial aimed to evaluate parenting classes for parents of all children aged from 0 to five years old (later changed to six years old) in three areas: Middlesbrough, High Peak in Derbyshire and Camden in London. The sessions were offered to all parents and were designed to enhance parenting skills and confidence as a parent, stimulate a commercial market for the classes and prevent the need for future support for those who were struggling.

Held in two phases (2012–14 and 2014–2015) a key factor during phase 1 was the provision of a £100 voucher for each eligible parent to attend classes. In the second phase these vouchers were withdrawn, and in addition the number of class providers halved to just six, of

which only four were active in delivering parenting classes. As a result, the number of parents enrolling in phase 2 was just 164, compared with 2956 in phase 1.

Lindsay, director of the Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research spoke to *The Psychologist* about the trial. 'It's of interest and importance that recruitment was from across the whole social spectrum – what characterised the parents was a tendency to have higher levels of parenting stress,' he said. Since the trial ended David Cameron has expressed his support for these classes, and Lindsay added: 'There have subsequently been discussions at the government level with representatives from various organisations to follow up his statement – we await the outcome. It is also important to be aware that there are many providers of parenting classes that were not in the trial. As a separate initiative during phase 1 of the trial a CANparent quality mark was introduced to enable providers to submit the classes they offered for scrutiny, and if successful, gain the award of the quality mark.'

The final report of the evaluation recommends that the government at national and local levels should recognise

the value of parenting classes, as they were found to have a positive impact on parents throughout the trial. It also recommends local government and the local NHS should be open to working with providers to offer support to service users. Finally, future trials should analyse how and when to move from a subsidised phase, such as the use of vouchers, and what support may need to be in place.

Lindsay said some of the issues seen during the trials were a result not of reduced parent interest, but of supply of classes towards the end – models of financial support, viable for the government and acceptable to the parents, will be key. In a survey of parents in the community who had not attended a class, Lindsay's team found that half would not be prepared to pay and only a quarter would put a reasonable contribution towards a class. 'Also, the main factor associated with willingness to pay was the level of family income,' Lindsay said. 'This indicates the need to build up parents' awareness of the classes and their potential benefits, and financial support for those unable to pay.'

ER | For further information and reports, see <http://tinyurl.com/canparent>

School counselling on trial

The benefits of professional school-based counsellors in supporting young people experiencing emotional problems will be evaluated through an extensive three-year study, which will establish a dedicated counselling service in 18 English secondary schools. The randomised controlled trial, due to start in April 2016, has received £835,000 funding from the Economic and Social Research Council and will be led by Chartered Psychologist Professor Mick Cooper from the University of Roehampton in London.

In March last year the government announced a 'strong expectation that over time all schools should make counselling services available

to their pupils'. Around 60–85 per cent of English secondary schools currently have some form of counselling service, although Professor Cooper says that practices may vary considerably. Academic research into the benefit and cost-effectiveness of school counselling, as delivered in the UK, also remains limited.

The Roehampton-led study will see free counselling services established in schools, staffed by qualified counsellors. School staff will help to identify pupils who are experiencing emotional distress and want to take part in the research. From this group, half of the pupils will receive up to 10 weeks of humanistic counselling, and half will receive the school's

existing support provision. By comparing improvement between these two groups, the study will test whether a dedicated service can help to reduce pupils' emotional distress and improve educational outcomes. The study will also involve a series of qualitative interviews with service users, their parents/carers and teachers, to examine helpful and unhelpful aspects of school-based humanistic counselling and the process of change.

Participating schools will receive a professional service provided by fully qualified and experienced school counsellors at no cost for two years (schools who are interested should contact peter.pearce@metanoia.ac.uk).

Professor Cooper told us: 'It is important that whatever mental health interventions are offered to young people in schools are based on sound empirical evidence. To date, pilot studies suggest that school-based humanistic counselling can bring about significant reductions in psychological distress. It also suggests that emotionally distressed young people value an opportunity to talk and be listened to in a confidential environment, and with a counsellor who is trustworthy, friendly and easy to relate to. This trial offers us an opportunity to examine effectiveness in depth, and to develop a greater understanding of any potential mechanisms of change.' JS

Art and science in 'The Waiting Room'

Six psychologists from the University of Bath, whose research primarily looks into stress and pain, have collaborated on creating an art exhibition in Bath featuring works based around themes in their research. The January exhibition had an overarching theme of a waiting room and also featured hands-on demonstrations of some of the measures the psychologists use.

Hannah Family, who works as a health psychologist within the university's Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, led the team of psychologists in their collaboration with artists Katie O'Brien and Annabelle Barton, who curated the exhibition at the 44AD gallery. She said: 'I spoke to Annabelle and Katie about our research, and from this they identified several themes that linked our research together: distraction, attention span, overload, routine. The associate artists who work with the 44AD gallery were then invited by Katie and Annabelle to submit pieces of work for this exhibition, and we had an overwhelming response – with 31 pieces of work, including performance art pieces.'

Alongside the artworks Family and her colleagues, Dr Julie Turner-Cobb, Dr Ed Keogh, Dr Abby Tabor, Dr Chris Eccleston and Dr Rachel Arnold, also demonstrated some of their own work. 'The Waiting Room' exhibition included a video recreation of the original person swap and invisible gorilla experiments to show how visual attention can be fooled – which relates to Family's work as she has looked into workload, stress and how this related to errors made by pharmacists in their work.

They also included pulse-oximeters around the exhibition and invited people to measure their heart rate as they carried out activities including a wire-buzzer game. Family added: 'We wanted the exhibition to be a space where artists and the researchers could meet with the public and talk about the interpretations and context of our research. For the researchers this was a great opportunity to meet with and speak to several people who have taken part in our research, and share the findings of our research with the local community in an accessible and interactive format.'

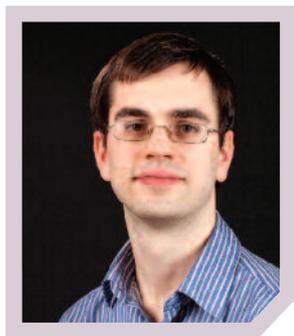
Family said such collaborations with artists work particularly well for psychological research and felt artists and psychologists were very like-minded, she added: 'We are all ultimately interested in human experience. Artists are able to offer a new lens or viewpoint on our research and they are exceptionally skilled in interpreting and representing culture, meaning, sense-making, experience of a mood, sensation or memory – it is like working with a team of highly skilled qualitative researchers.' ER



Exploring the many faces of dementia

A free online course to educate people about the different forms of dementia is being launched this month. Dr Tim Shakespeare, a postdoctoral researcher at the UCL Dementia Research Centre, has developed the course that is one of the first MOOCs (massive online open courses) to be provided by the university.

Four lesser-known forms of dementia will be discussed over the four-week course – familial Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and posterior cortical atrophy. Each week will explore current research being carried out in the area, for example Professor Sebastian Crutch (UCL) describes in one session a study using virtual reality to detect subtle changes in social behaviour.



Tim Shakespeare

Shakespeare said he was motivated to create the online course, hosted on FutureLearn, after speaking to those in the support groups hosted at UCL. He told *The Psychologist*: 'People in these groups often describe how they wish people in all kinds of services, and the public, had a better understanding of the symptoms and challenges that they experience; but too often people don't recognise the younger onset and less common forms of dementia and aren't able to understand the challenges or meet their needs.'

The course, which starts on Monday 14 March, will include video interviews, articles, discussions and multiple-choice questions. Shakespeare said the course had taken around nine months to produce

after receiving funding from UCL, he said: 'Most of the work has been in planning and carrying out interviews, which include 16 experts by experience and 15 scientists and clinicians in total. We hope the course will give an insight not just into the clinical and scientific aspects of dementia but also the personal aspects and what it means to those individuals who are affected.'

The Many Faces of Dementia course has been designed to be suitable for anyone with an interest in dementia, and it can be followed flexibly, with about two hours of learning material each week. Shakespeare said: 'I hope the course proves to be a good way of sharing knowledge more widely – public engagement is increasingly a priority. At their best online courses allow high-quality learning to be shared amongst a virtually unlimited number of people, and even the social aspect of learning can be maintained through use of comment boards on each step of the course.' **ER**
I To sign up, see tinyurl.com/jh4q6sh

New research programme in communication

A major new €3.5million research initiative led by psychologists at the University of East Anglia (UEA) will aim to improve understanding of a fundamental part of communication in humans.

Over four years, 13 different projects will explore deictic communication, which forms the crucial connection between language and objects and locations in the world. It allows speakers to direct attention to particular parts of the spatial world, for example 'this mobile phone' or 'that set of keys'. Deictic communication is critical to understanding human-to-human interaction, and human-to-system interaction in a range of technology applications – from mobile

phones to intelligent robots. It also has the potential to enhance clinical and educational interventions, for example for stroke patients and those with autism spectrum disorder.

The programme, called DComm, will see UEA work with 11 European partner organisations, including Plymouth University in the UK, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, industry experts and organisations specialising in software and technology development, architecture and brain rehabilitation.

Professor Kenny Coventry, head of the School of Psychology at UEA and DComm coordinator, said:



'Communication involves a combination of language and gestures that act together. Deictic communication is critical to understanding not only how communication develops typically in a range of spoken and signed languages, but also when communication can potentially break down in

a range of clinical and atypically developing populations. DComm will train researchers in both the basic science of deictic communication and in application, with a broad range of potential beneficiaries in both the private and public sectors.' **JS**

Revised HCPC standards

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has published revised standards of conduct, performance and ethics. These are standards for the 16 professions the HCPC regulates, including psychologists. The revisions include: a standard about reporting and escalating concerns about the safety and wellbeing of service users (Standard 7); a standard about being open and honest when things go wrong (Standard 8), including considering making an apology and making sure that the service user receives an explanation of what happened; and changes to the structure of the standards to improve their accessibility.

Elaine Buckley, Council Chair of the HCPC, said: 'We

have produced revised standards of conduct, performance and ethics to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose and up to date. We developed the revised standards through a broad range of activities with employers, partners, registrants and service users and carers, along with the formation of a Professional Liaison Group and a public consultation.'

I To download the revised Standards of conduct, performance and ethics visit <http://tinyurl.com/hpcstan>; and for a view from Council Chair Elaine Buckley on the process and the importance of the standards, see <http://hpcp-uk.blogspot.co.uk/2016/01/scpe-and-me.html>



OPEN RESEARCH TO CONTINUE IN LIBRARIES

The Access to Research initiative, which gives users in public libraries free access to over 10 million academic articles, has been given the green light by publishers and librarians to continue. The service was originally launched as a pilot by the Universities and Science Minister in 2014, since then 80 per cent of UK local authorities, encompassing more than 2600 public libraries, have signed up.

Since the launch, more than 84,000 users have accessed the service. An independent report, commissioned by the Publishers Licensing Society and the Society of Chief Librarians and co-funded by PLS and Arts Council England, found that 90 per cent of those surveyed said the information they found through the service was useful.

Access to Research has been made possible by a consortium of academic publishers, including Wiley, Springer, SAGE and Elsevier.



BANDURA AWARDED HIGHEST US SCIENCE HONOUR

Albert Bandura, the famous social psychologist behind the bobo doll experiments of the 1960s, has been awarded the National Medal of Science by US President Barack Obama. He is the only social scientist to be given the award this year along with eight others from the fields of biology, ecology and nanomaterials.

The annual prize, presented alongside the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, honours scientists, engineers and mathematicians who have made outstanding contributions to their fields. Bandura, a professor emeritus of Stanford University, is world-renowned for his groundbreaking work in social cognitive theory and self-efficacy.

His work has shown self-efficacy affects the tasks a person chooses, how much effort someone puts into them and how one feels while doing them. He also found, famously in experiments using a bobo doll, that people learn by modelling, or observing others, an idea that led to the development of modern social cognitive theory.

The 90-year-old said in a press release: 'After realizing that the call was not a prank staged by my colleagues, this stellar honor still feels surreal to me. The science medal also recognizes the far-reaching contributions of the discipline of psychology to human enlightenment and human betterment.' Bandura, who was born in Alberta, has also recently been honoured with an appointment to the Order of Canada. ER

I See tinyurl.com/juav9pp for a speech given by Bandura on how he has used psychosocial approaches in tackling urgent global problems