

The Annual College Research Conference 2009

This is the fifth annual conference and the line-up promises to be packed with an assorted range of interesting and inspiring research presentations. Papers have so far been received from Lucy Breheny, Nick Jones, Michael Bush, Chris White, Nick Rowe, Adrian Martin, Yvonne Wareham, Sue Sharkey, Helen Fairhall, Nick Bentley, Roy Watson, Robert Lee Hill, Gemma Genco, Barrie Twaddle and Julia Forster.

The breadth of topics gives a reflection of the diversity of staff interests at BPC, including "Can Equine Assisted Therapy be used to manage challenging behaviour?", "The Copenhagen Interpretation and its malcontents", "A Family Affair: Audience positioning in gangster films and the mythology of the Italian-American identity", "Improving tutorial support for those completing HE courses at Bournemouth and Poole College", "3D Mathematical Modelling", "Low Literacy Levels and Crime", "Evaluating the strategic role of on-line sales activity in building an international market", "How can we encourage reflective practice in the classroom from both teachers and learners", "Old Age Learning", "The many legacies of Jimi Hendrix - an interactive installation", "What is landscape archaeology and what does it bring to the understanding of the past?", "Needs not Numbers: A report on mental health services in East Dorset for the local black and minority population."

It is not too late to be involved in this year's research conference. Further details about submitting a paper or attending the conference can be obtained from Maureen Todd. Please contact: toddm@bpc.ac.uk.



Dorset Education Research Support Group

If you are undecided about whether to embark on your own research project, or would like to share your ideas with other researchers, you may be interested in going along to the Dorset Education Research Support Group, supported by Dorset

County Council. The content of the sessions vary. Topics have covered looking at the use of questionnaires, using IT, interviewing techniques, planning and writing. Their next meetings are:

- Wednesday 28th January, Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne, 4.15-5.45pm
- Thursday 5th March, Thomas Hardy School, Dorchester (training room), 4.15-5.45pm.

To confirm your attendance or to find out more, contact Miranda Dodd on: mdodd@dunbury.dorset.sch.uk

BPC and BU Research Collaboration

The first meeting of the Networking Research Group took place last month.

This is the first collaborative research venture between BPC and Bournemouth University. Staff working in Technology, Jim Coubrough, Nick Rowe and Philip Davies have joined forces with BU DEC staff, Reza Sahandi, David Newell and Suzi Cutts to work together towards presenting papers at MMEDIA 2009, The First International Conference on Advances in Multimedia, July 20-25, 2009, in Colmar, France.

Philip Davies, BPC's Assistant Director of HE says: "It is hoped that this collaboration will be the first of many between BPC staff and their counterparts at Bournemouth University."

LRC Supporting your Research

There is a huge variety of resources provided by the Learning Resource Centres to support you in your own research project.

Juliette Sheridan has taken on the role of LRC staff research advisor and can provide professional advice on:

- Locating and evaluating information
- Accessing online resources such as e-journals and e-books
- Effective search strategies
- Compiling bibliographies
- Individual research support

Basic guides on referencing your work are available in the LRC. More detailed guides to citations can be found at: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/library/citing_references/docs/Citing_Refs.pdf. For further information about the services provided contact Juliette Sheridan on (01202) 465914 or e-mail: jsheridan@bpc.ac.uk.



STAFF PROFILE

Name: Gemma Genco
Age: 30
Job Title: Equality and Diversity/Staff Dev. Manager
Area: Academic Services and HE
Research Interests: Equality and Diversity Issues

Gemma is the published author of *'Needs not Numbers,'* a report on the perceptions, experiences, hopes and fears of Mental Health Services in East Dorset for the local Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population.

The report was the first of its kind in the area and highlighted the urgent need for an ethnically impartial mental health service. The report highlights the need to engage with and involve local BME people in the issues surrounding psychological wellbeing and mental health service provision.

In consulting 153 local people from the BME community, Gemma found a common picture of stereotypes and misconceptions. This, coupled with a lack of available information about mental health services, had resulted in a misunderstanding concerning the mental health service provision in Dorset.

Gemma's work resulted in 22 recommendations for delivering a race equality framework in mental health to Dorset's BME population. This addressed issues locally and those recognised nationally.

Her findings were described as "invaluable" by Roger Browning, Chair of the East Dorset Focused Implementation Site Steering Group. Gemma said: "From this research I've developed a real understanding about issues locally and it's made me more aware of broader equality and diversity issues."

Gemma will be presenting a summary of her findings at the BPC Annual Research Conference in July. For further information about her research please contact Gemma on 01202 205417. Her report can be found online at:
http://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/Portals/3/Needs_64ppA4final.pdf

HE Staff Surveys

If you are a tutor who teaches on HE courses then we'd be grateful for your opinions. BPC are conducting a survey where your views will provide invaluable feedback related to the area of improving HE delivery across The College. The survey consists of ten questions so will not take long to complete. Questions will be centred on Research and Scholarly Activity, Teaching and Learning, VLE and Technology, Resources and the New Build, the HE College Calendar, HE Lesson Observation, HE Culture and HE Staff Development. To access the survey please visit:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wZs7HTHHgsLI3_2bS9LE7tVg_3d_3d

In addition to this, Richard Tyrer from Bournemouth University is conducting research on staff views of HE lesson observation and the role that lesson observation plays in improving the quality of HE delivery. He also has a survey online at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9EO2km2lqMDRQv7aW_2f7NKA_3d_3d

Web-links you really need to know about:

The open university has masses of online teaching and learning materials on a vast range of courses:

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/>

The HEA has 24 subject-specific support centres for enhancing student learning:

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/networks/subjectcentres>

A list of the best free e-book resources: <http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm>

Join a listserv community on your subject or interest and be in contact with hundreds of people world-wide:

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?INDEX>

New Assistant Director

The College welcomes Dr. Philip Davies to the newly created post of Assistant Director of HE.

What is your background?

I was educated at UCL and have a doctorate in theoretical physics (quantum theory). I've actually been with The College since 1994 when I started as a part-time lecturer teaching an evening course on Windows 3.1. I became a full-time computing lecturer a couple of years later. In the year 2000 I introduced the first HND computing course in partnership with Bournemouth University. I became Head of Computing in 2001.

Philip has since been instrumental in developing more than 15 foundation degrees for The College and is currently the Assistant Director of HE.

What does your role at The College involve?

The new post has academic responsibilities for quality, research and development. I have taken on the role of organising the Annual College Research Conference from Rob Hardy. I also act as a 'critical friend' and mentor to those staff who are presenting their research.

Why is The College raising its research profile?

We believe that research will ultimately influence and improve what staff deliver to students in the classroom. Those staff involved in Scholarly activity benefit from up-dating their skills and working with colleagues to share their knowledge and best practices.