

**Imperial College
London**

**Centre for Languages,
Culture and
Communication**

Annual Report

2018-2019



Introduction

Professor Roberto Trotta

Director



As the end of my 5 year tenure nears, this is my last Annual Report as Director of the Centre. It is thrilling to look back at the road travelled, as well as to glance ahead at the opportunities that await.

In the last four years, the Centre's activities have become ever more integrated and valued across College. The Imperial Horizons programme has reinforced its reputation as one of the best learning experiences for our undergraduate students. The Horizons curriculum review has further strengthened the aspects that have always been at the core of Horizons: innovative pedagogy, active learning, digital augmentation, authentic learning experience, and development of graduate attributes such as creative thinking, critical analysis, communication skills, resilience and self-efficacy. The Evening Classes programme has expanded in terms of classes and subjects offered, number of students and reach. It delivers a high-quality experience to increasing numbers of students, and we are proud to now offer 150 free language places to our research postgraduate students in collaboration with the Graduate School. The Science Communication Unit continues to offer two of the best Masters of their kind in the world, attracting a diverse cohort of highly motivated students.

Looking at the future, we can confidently predict the continuing success of Horizons, from 2020/21 as part of the newly established I-Explore co-curricular offer at Imperial. I am sure that Horizons, the Evening Classes programme and the Science Communication Unit will thrive for years to come, even as higher education changes with the times. The Centre's positive embrace of the opportunities afforded by digital learning, our focus on innovative pedagogy and relentless attention to the student experience will ensure that the CLCC will be at the heart of transformative education at Imperial. I am also very excited about the upcoming celebrations of the 70th anniversary of humanities at Imperial, starting in March 2020, which will shine a light on the role and importance of humanities studies at a STEM-only university.

It has been a great honour for me to serve as Director of the Centre for the past four years, supported by so many talented, motivated and dedicated people. I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal from the Centre's staff, and have been privileged to lead it at a time of momentous change. I will continue to follow the future successes and achievements of the CLCC with a modicum of pride for having been part of its becoming.

Ad maiora!

Highlights

In 2018-2019 we have been making preparations for two key events which will take place in 2019-2020: the launch of I-Explore, and a celebration of 70 years of Humanities learning at Imperial.

Looking to the future - I-Explore

October 2019 sees the arrival of the first cohort of undergraduate students who will take an I-Explore module in either their second or third years of their undergraduate degree. Students will choose from a wide selection of options outside of their main degree, taken from 4 different streams: Imperial Horizons, BPES (Business for Professionals of Engineering and Science), STEM modules from a department other than the students' own, or multidisciplinary projects. As providers of excellent cross-disciplinary modules for many years (see below!) and with Horizons offering the most modules out of the 4 streams, we have been playing an important role in defining the I-Explore framework. Students will, of course, still be encouraged to take Horizons modules for non-credit or extra credit in the years in which they are not required to take an I-Explore module.

Looking back - Humanities @ 70

It all started with the first 'Touchstone Weekend' at Silwood Park on 11 March 1950. Students would enjoy a weekend away in the tranquil surroundings of Silwood Park, discussing a range of Humanities subjects away from the Science and Engineering focus at South Kensington. A student writing in Felix on March 17th 1950 reported as follows:

"Three years ago, the College acquired a large country house set in about a hundred acres of park and woodland, at Silwood Park, near Windsor [...] On Saturday 11th March [1950] some thirty representative members of the College, students and staff, went down to Silwood as guests of the Rector and of Professor and Mrs Munro. In most pleasant and informal surroundings they lived for two days, eating, sleeping and on occasions drinking – and discussing together what ought to be: the relation of liberal studies to our science and technology, the need to be met [sic] diagnosing a complaint and seeking a cure and at the end they presented their conclusions. From these small beginnings are to spring further weekends at Silwood Park [...]. Silwood is eventually to become a regular feature of all our lives."

These weekends continued throughout the 60s and 70s, and Humanities also featured in the lunchtime lectures which started in the 60s. In 2018-2019 we have been looking ahead to 70 years of Humanities at Imperial and have been planning a series of events to celebrate this anniversary. Amongst other things, we are hosting an exhibition in the Main Foyer in March 2020, a conference and various symposia. We look forward to reporting on the celebrations in the 2020 Annual Report.

Right: Touchstone Weekend 1959



Staff success

The President's Award - Excellence in Education: Supporting the Student Experience

On 17th June 2019 Jackie Twitchett, Imperial Horizons Administrator, was presented the prestigious President's Award for Excellence in Education: Supporting the Student Experience. Jackie's application had been endorsed by students past and present, and her award is well-deserved recognition for her contribution to the success of the undergraduate Imperial Horizons programme and the student satisfaction which goes with it. Jackie, pictured right, was presented her award at the official annual President's Awards ceremony followed by the President's annual staff garden party.



President's Garden Party

Also celebrating on 17th June were Dr Lorenzo Pasculli (Horizons Lecturer in Law) and Dr Yuki Tokumaru (Coordinator of Japanese) who were invited to the Garden Party in recognition of their outstanding contribution to teaching in the Horizons programme. Lorenzo must also be congratulated on the publication of a book he has co-authored: 'Corruption in the Global Era: Causes, Sources and Forms of Manifestation' (Routledge, 2019). Lorenzo and Yuki are pictured right with Jackie.



SACA 2019



Congratulations to all CLCC staff who were nominated for a Student Academic Choice Award in 2018-2019. Special mention must go to the following who made the shortlist:

Best Teaching of Postgraduates: Dr Felicity Mellor, Dr Stephen Webster

Best Feedback, Dr Felicity Mellor, Anna Riera Mora, Dr Manuela von Papen

Best Innovation: Dr Elizabeth Hauke.

This was the first time in several years when a member of CLCC has not won a category, but it was also a record to have 5 CLCC staff on the shortlists.

Part-time lecturers spotlight

Dr Josephine Berry, Lecturer 'Visual Culture and Art'

Josephine's latest book 'Art and (Bare) Life' (Sternberg Press, 2019) explores how the Enlightenment's discovery of life itself is mirrored in politics and art, from today's "creative cities" to the birth of modern democracy and art in the French Revolution.



Dr Aifric Campbell, Creative Writing Lecturer

Aifric was the Dora Maar Fellow in Residence at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in November 2018, and she also published 'Crash, Crisis, Crypto' in the Irish Times, a short story about the 10th anniversary of the Lehman Brothers crash.

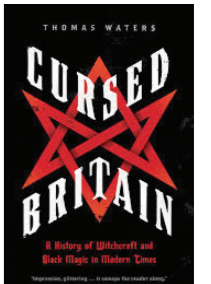
Dr Laura Bridgeman, Creative Writing Lecturer

Laura toured her new play, 'The Butch Monologues' in Australia from January to March 2019. The play was described as a 'powerful and often humorous collection of secret stories exploring sexuality, vulnerability and desire taken from interviews with butches, masculine women and transmen, living world-wide.'



Dr Thomas Waters, Lecturer, 'Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World'.

Congratulations to Tom who has published his first book, 'Cursed Britain: A History of Witchcraft and Black Magic in Modern Times', (Yale, 2019). Tom has also written a new evening class course starting October 2019, *Spellbound: A History of Magic*.



CLCC Art Historian is Radio 4 Guest

Leslie Primo (pictured right), art history tutor on the CLCC Evening Class Programme, was a guest on Radio 4 in March 2019, where he discussed Jan Gossaert's painting 'Adoration of the Kings' (below) in London's National Gallery, with Cathy FitzGerald on the Radio 4 programme Moving Pictures.

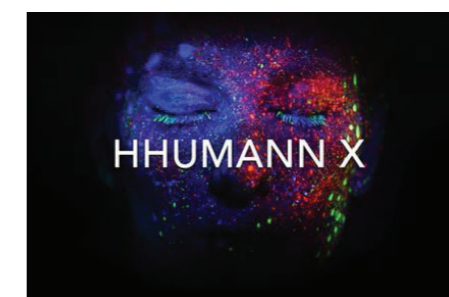


As Leslie explained, the painting has a special resonance for him, going back to childhood when he played one of the three Magi in his school Christmas nativity play.



Toni Castells-Delgado, Lecturer, Music Technology

On 20th October 2018 Toni (pictured right, below) took to the stage at London Symphony Orchestra's St Luke's Church to perform his piece, 'Hhumann X' alongside More Than Just a Choir, a community group which works with people affected by mental illness. The composition was inspired by a report on loneliness and social isolation in the UK, commissioned by the late Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered in her constituency in 2016. Creating an inclusive and welcoming society was one of Cox's causes in Parliament.



Imperial Horizons Change Makers

Revolutions in Biomedicine Summer School 2019

Summer 2019 was the second year that Imperial Horizons Change Makers Teaching Fellow, Dr Mark Pope was involved in the delivery of the Biomedicine summer school. It is open to students wanting to explore cutting-edge biomedicine at Imperial College. In July 2019, Mark collaborated with Dr Jeffrey Vernon from the Faculty of Medicine to deliver teaching in the first week.

The theme for the sessions was 'Controversies and Frontiers in Health and Medicine', and it focused on some of the latest contentious topics related to biomedicine. Following a collaborative and student-led approach, the students worked in teams and these teams chose their own topics to investigate. The topics included anti-microbial resistance, treatments for Alzheimer's Disease and the use of cannabis oil for medicinal purposes.

The sessions culminated with the students making posters and recommendations for key stakeholders. Students considered the social context of the issues to ensure that they provided holistic and realistic proposals. From health promotion campaigns to new international drug agencies, their proposals were both appropriate and innovative. It was therefore a very rewarding and enjoyable collaboration that broadened the horizons of all the students and staff involved.



'Understanding the World Today' - Dr Elizabeth Hauke, Principal Teaching Fellow

Elizabeth presented her paper at a Society for Research into Higher Education event 'Experts, knowledge and criticality in the age of 'alternative facts': re-examining the contribution of higher education' which took place on 3rd April 2019. The paper was also published in 'Teaching in Higher Education'. The paper gives a fascinating insight into the transfer of knowledge: 'Knowledge is not a passive product of learning that can be possessed, but rather it represents an active engagement with ideas, arguments and the world in which they reside. This engagement requires a state of 'knowing' – a complex, integrative, reciprocal process that unites the knower with the to-be-known.' Elizabeth uses some of the Change Makers module classes as case studies, in which she discusses the use of drama and dance and interpretive presentations to enable students to articulate and understand issues.



Left: 'Students answering a question on the Lake Nyos limnic eruption (the emergence of a big bubble of gas from beneath a volcanic lake that suffocated over 2000 villagers living on the shores of the lake). The students performed an interpretive dance of the events, with a scripted narration and a sound track. I was astonished and the class were astonished. The other students were moved to understand something 'more' about the events than the date, location and number of deaths.' Elizabeth Hauke 2019.

Change Makers in Conversation

Dr Elizabeth Hauke co-presented a paper 'Designing for authentic co-production: Negotiation, Integrity and Risk in the Classroom' at the Change Agents Network annual conference 'The Evolving Landscape of Staff-Student Partnership' at the Open University on 29th May 2019 with four undergraduate Change Makers students. The dedication of the students to participate was commendable. They were mid-exams at the time of the conference so they made a film, allowing them to be present remotely. Pictured here are the students in conversation (left to right): Peter Gobbett (3rd Year MSci Chemistry) and Fi-Fi Henry (3rd Year MEng Materials with Nuclear Engineering) who both took *Lessons From History*; and Matthew Fennell (2nd Year MEng Computing) and Samuel Shepherd (2nd Year BSc Biology) who both took *Building Happiness*.



Undergraduate Student Success

2019 Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Humanities

The highly deserving recipient of the 2019 prize went to Fred Fyles, (Medicine), pictured right, for his Humanities Project 'Representations of the HIV Positive Body in North American Visual Art, 1981-1996'. The prize field was crowded with excellent nominations but Fred's work was unanimously selected as winner. Not only was Fred the editor of *Felix* in 2018-2019, he has also taken a Horizons module in each year of his degree. We caught up with Fred to ask for his perspective on the Horizons programme.



You are a bit of a veteran when it comes to Horizons – which modules have you studied?

In my first year I studied two term-long modules: *Science and Literature* and *Water and Global Health*. In my second year I studied *Science, Art, and Design*, which was a 20-week course. And in my third and final years I undertook the *Humanities Project* and *Advanced Humanities Project* – for the former I researched the photography of Diane Arbus, and for the latter I focussed on AIDS-related artworks.

What was your initial reaction to learning about the Horizons programme?

I had the vague ambition to learn a second language – so when I arrived at Imperial and found out about the Horizons programme, and how I could incorporate these modules into my main degree (for free!) I was really excited. I was worried it would be a very science-focussed degree, at least initially; but the provision of the Horizons courses meant I was able to balance out the science-focussed aspects of my degree with modules that looked at the wider context in which we practise STEM subjects.

How have you noticed Imperial Horizons change during your time?

I think the main change has been the number and range of modules on offer, which manage to cover a wide range of topics, and are continually being changed and developed. I also got the impression when I first started that the Horizons team had had to push quite hard to get the timetable changes needed to accommodate the modules, and that not all staff felt students would gain from learning content not directly related to their course. I'm guessing the fact that Horizons is now entering its eighth year means those reservations have disappeared.

What did you enjoy about each of the modules?

I enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet other students outside my course with similar interests. For medics in particular, there's a tendency to only spend time with other medics – but this means you can miss out on a wide range of viewpoints and experiences. Throughout the modules I worked with students from a variety of departments, who were able to apply their unique worldviews and expertise to the course material, engaging with it in ways I hadn't considered before. I also made one of my closest friends at Imperial through the first Horizons module I did in my first year – a discussion of the course content spiralled out into chatting about music, films, etc. and we've been friends ever since. I also enjoyed spending time with module leaders who had a great amount of experience in the fields they were teaching, and were able to bring methodology from other disciplines, such as art history or literature, and teach us how to apply it to the content. The academics who taught the Horizons modules were definitely the ones I have felt closest to throughout my time at Imperial.

Other than the subject matter, what skills do you think the Horizons modules have helped you to acquire?

The Horizons modules I've taken were mainly looking at culture and society, so I think the main skill I've gained from them is a greater appreciation of the context in which we situate ourselves as STEM students and academics. The developments and discoveries made at Imperial – and universities across the world – are not formed in a cultural vacuum, but are intrinsically bound up with society as a whole, and raise difficult ethical questions. I think the skills Horizons modules have taught me – how to analyse a text, understanding the social impact of scientific discoveries – allow me to better understand my main subject, and apply it to the world at large.

What would you recommend new Imperial students know about the Horizons programme?

I think that initially it can be difficult to see the relevance Horizons modules can have to your degree, and there can be a temptation to view it as something completely separate from your 'main subject'. I would advise people to stick with the modules, since the intersections between their Horizons course and their degree will make themselves apparent – perhaps not in the first term of first year, but definitely further on down the line. And I would also recommend they take advantage of such a great opportunity – when else are you going to be able to have French classes (in London!) without paying through the nose!

Did your Horizons studies influence your other activities at Imperial, from your medical studies, your editorship of *Felix*, and anything else?

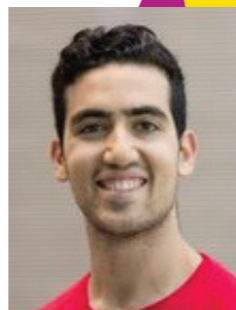
The Horizons modules definitely influenced my time at Imperial, in particular the *Science, Art, and Design* module. We were taught by a fantastic academic and artist, Lina Hakim, who introduced us to writings by philosophers and cultural critics such as Susan Sontag and Michel Foucault. Engaging with these subjects encouraged me to get more involved with *Felix*, for which I had been writing for my first two years of university. That summer I applied to be one of the paper's Arts Editors, and joined the editorial team in my third year – skip forward two more years and I was running to be the Editor-in-Chief, which was a hugely rewarding and enriching experience for me. The doors opened by the Horizons modules also led to me leaving Imperial for a year to intercalate in Philosophy at King's College London, which has left a lasting impression on how I think about medicine – again, a subject that on the surface wasn't related to my degree actually proved more relevant than a lot of the lectures on the Krebs cycle I sat through.

Do you think your Horizons studies have changed or expanded your ideas as to what you will do after Imperial?

The Horizons modules helped show me just how broad the world of medicine can be, by introducing me to subjects like medical humanities and health policy. I'm currently undertaking an Academic Foundation Programme in Liverpool – which I probably wouldn't have chosen without my broader academic experience through Horizons – and I'd like to continue what the Horizons modules kick-started by conducting research on the intersection between healthcare, society, and culture.

2019 Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Languages

The 2019 winners were Yiannis Demetriades (Biochemistry with Research Abroad) and Joshua Sia (Biomedical Engineering). Yiannis, (right), has been an enthusiastic learner of French and Spanish via the Horizons programme and he put his advanced language skills in Spanish to good use whilst fulfilling his role as President's Ambassador. He explains: 'Reaching level 5 in Spanish finally made me feel slightly more confident to communicate with natives. I have learnt all the peculiar subjunctive rules, the extra two synonyms for several verbs and adjectives that are used in different contexts etc. Pronunciation may seem simple although grammar takes a lot of time and effort to master. Speaking always helps with learning Spanish. I found Spanish speakers never judge you and are actually amazed when foreigners learn their language. That's what happened to me a few days ago. I decided to leave the comfort zone established in class and speak Spanish to the natives; not just for a casual conversation but giving a tour as a President's Ambassador around the South Kensington campus entirely in Spanish. It was definitely one of the best experiences I have had with the language. Yes, there might have been words which I couldn't remember, however, the visitors were so impressed even just by the fact that I was attempting to speak Spanish that making mistakes didn't seem to make a difference. I would undoubtedly encourage Spanish learners to step up and surpass their fears because language learning gains a completely new perspective outside of class. The skills and the entrance to a whole new world is beyond unique and self-rewarding.'



Joshua, (left), was awarded his prize in recognition of the extraordinary work accomplished through independent study which allowed him to jump from a beginners' level in his first year, to post A-level -level 4 - which he successfully completed in his second year. This was no mean feat for a student with his linguistic background and who was taking Horizons for extra credit. While his teachers were already very impressed with his performance in his first year, they were even more impressed now that he has demonstrated great perseverance and ability at an even higher level than expected.

2019 Japanese Speech Contest

Yet again, Imperial College students excelled at the annual Japanese Speech Contest on 2nd March 2019 at Kings College. This event, co-organised by BATJ (British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language) and the Japan Foundation, aims to improve the speaking and presentation skills of students studying Japanese as a foreign language at universities in the UK and Ireland. In the Individual Presentation Category Jin Hui Teh (4th Year Chemistry, Horizons Japanese Level 4) and Karolina Jankiewicz (4th Year Design Engineering, Horizons Japanese Level 4) beat stiff competition with Karolina winning the 1st prize with her speech "30 years of change: Poland after 1989" and Jin Hui winning 2nd prize with his speech "Malaysia: Racial Diversity and Harmony". They were competing against students studying Japanese as their main degree subject.

Jiaying Zhuang (1st year Chemistry, Horizons Japanese Level 2) and Kailun Peng (1st Year Mathematics with Statistics, Horizons Japanese Level 2), were one of six winner Groups selected in the Group Presentation Category, whose speech "Double Eleven in China" discussed the biggest online shopping event in China.



Left, the four prizewinners with the Japanese staff who coached them, Ikuko Saito (far left) and Dr Yuki Tokumaru (far right)

CLCC Research Seminars 18/19

The eclectic seminar programme for 2018/19 reflected the wide range of CLCC staff and postgraduate academic interests. Seminars were both past and future-oriented: a notable example of the former was Dr Christine Lattek's *Marx 200*, a talk marking the bicentenary of Karl Marx's birth, which examined differing commemorations and debates taking place in Marx's native Germany, in 2018. A present- and future-oriented seminar on climate policy was given by PhD student Geraldine Satre-Buisson; we are keen to encourage postgraduates to participate in the programme, to offer them the experience of presenting their work but also to introduce them and their research within the Centre. Other highlights included Dr Sheila Lecoeur's *Andrew Sherwood: A Life in Photography*, a richly illustrated talk that left its audience with a strong sense of 1960s Paris, and Dr Ruth Herd's '*Music of the Cosmos*': *Japanese Court and Religious Music* which presented an evocative music form of which most of us had had no previous experience. Other seminars ranged from Global Law via Intercultural Communication to the practical topic of Language Learning and its value in a STEM context.

The programme for 2019/20, looks equally diverse – so many offers of seminars have been received that we have had to institute a waiting list! The seminars are open to all – and tea/coffee and pastries are offered as an additional incentive to attend!

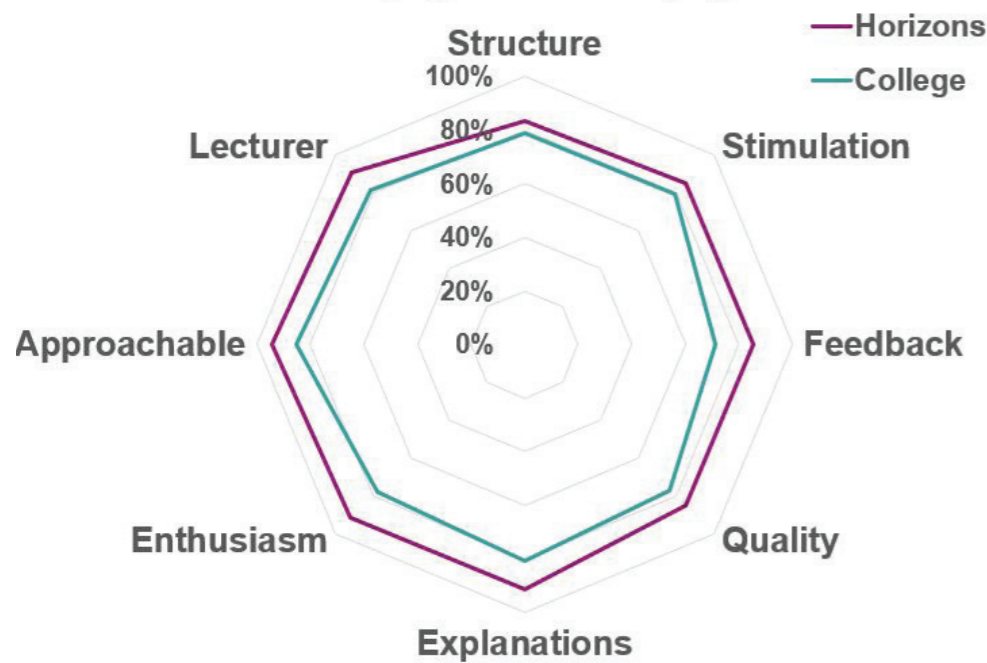
CLCC Research Seminars Programme 2019-20

31 Oct	Fédéric Piel / John James	'The Colour of Pain': the Facts and the Feelings
14 Nov	Richard Watson	The Future as Far as I Can See it
28 Nov	Roberto Trotta	The Future of Education
12 Dec	Nicholas Russell	The Perils of Patents: Problems Protecting the First British Automatic Kettle from Technical Competition
09 Jan	Ruth Herd	The Woman Warrior: Rita Taketsuru in the Popular Imagination
23 Jan	Aifric Campbell	Women Writing in Science /Anita Chandran
06 Feb	Tatiana Codreanu	Artefacted Hybrid Research-teaching as a Heuristic Matrix for Transdisciplinary and Broadened Applied Linguistic Protocols
20 Feb	Neil Taylor	The Importance of Being Matson: A Journey Behind the Scenes of the Publishing World
05 Mar	Charmian Brinson	Working for the War Effort: the Contribution of German-speaking Refugees to British Wartime Propaganda

SOLE 2018-2019

The termly Student On-line Lecturer Evaluation for undergraduate modules yielded excellent results again for Imperial Horizons and Year in Europe / Combined Degree teaching.

SOLE 2018-2019 Approval ratings.
'Definitely Agree' and 'Mostly Agree'



A very enjoyable module. It was the perfect learning experience that acted as an escape from my main degree. There was a good balance between grammar and speaking in class on different topics. *Spanish Level 5*

Great module a good break from solely focusing on STEM and useful for developing necessary skills like essay writing that are not really the focus of my degree. *Introduction to Philosophy*

These lectures are the highlight of my week. *Development of Business and Economic Ideas*

Well-taught module with interactive classes. *Italian Level 2*

Love this course! Very interesting and useful. *Japanese Level 1*

This is my favourite module. Classes are engaging, there is good discussion and I've learnt a lot. *Advanced Creative Writing*

I loved this module, it was a great change from what we usually do at imperial and a very stimulating subject, which was a starting point to many interesting thoughts and discussions outside of the course as well. *Contemporary Philosophy*

Fantastic experience, loved attending class this year. *French Level 5*

Love the enthusiasm and optimism of the whole module. Let us venture forth and be change makers! *The World Today: Collecting and Understanding Data.*

Well-structured, engaging, and flexible - gives us the freedom to explore topics that interest us and engage in interesting debates. Throughout, our vocabulary is bolstered and so is our grammar. It's normally a struggle to make a 2hr class engaging throughout but French Level 5 does a great job. *French Level 5*

A really interesting module. I thought that it was well structured, starting by introducing semiotic analysis and ways of looking at images early on. The courseworks also were good development opportunities as they helped develop a range of skills as well as knowledge (essay writing, presentation skills, group work, debating, and film making). *Visual Culture, Knowledge and Power.*

I really enjoy going to my Horizons class, the module is very interesting and I like the fact that we are a small group, which allows for everyone to talk equally and receive strong feedback. *Arabic Level 3*

My favourite module I have ever taken by far. Balance of theory and application has made it so enjoyable and has opened me up to things I never knew existed. Happy to work for the assessments and the challenge is so rewarding. *Music Technology*

Extremely eye-opening module and well designed although it opened this year only. *Understanding our Digital World*

Really interesting and well-taught. Feedback has been timely and useful. Each lesson is well-structured. Learning environment is comfortable, so we feel at ease during the speaking section of the lesson. No fear of asking questions. Lessons are always a pleasure to attend. *French Level 5.*

Such an interesting module, I am really enjoying the course. *Lessons from History*

A really fun and interesting module that I really do enjoy learning. *Interdisciplinary Making and Prototyping*

Good start to Italian. The workload is such that we cover a good amount of content without the work being difficult to balance alongside Mathematics. *Italian Level 1*

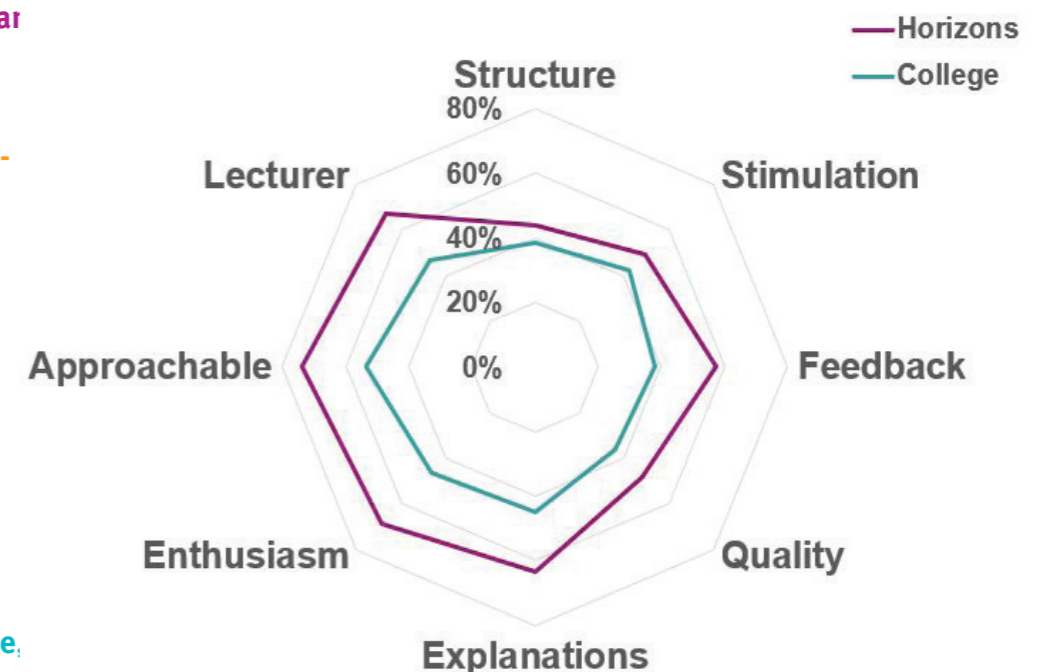
I enjoy the interactive nature of the course. Materials available were of a very large range which is good. *Mandarin Level 2*

I love this module, it's such a breath of fresh air from the regular STEM stuff. Very pleased imperial offer this as an option so thank you! *Music Technology*

Fantastic lectures given by people who clearly have a passion for what they teach. every week is a self-contained topic, which is great, but with good recurring themes. *Psychology of Music*

Great module with lots of thought-provoking discussion in lectures. Really enjoy the way the course is structured and how it's much more discussion-based than sitting and listening. *Why be Good? Problems in Moral Philosophy*

SOLE 2018-2019 Approval ratings.
Definitely Agree Only



Science Communication

The Science Communication Unit delivers two masters' courses, MSc Science Communication and MSc Science Media Production. Both are recognised internationally for their unique mix where humanities and social science critique is combined with industry-level practical skills. Students entering our programme train in TV and radio production, journalism, exhibition design and digital media campaigning.

The 900 alumni are working in all areas of the science media, in policy, in museums and in public engagement, and are making a difference. Our teaching, interactive and student-centred, celebrates the collaborative and creative instincts of our students and breeds a particular type of science communicator: thoughtful, critical, imaginative.

Silver Jubilee Celebration

In September 2018 we marked the graduation of our 25th cohort – our Silver Jubilee. Sponsored by the Faculties, the Alumnus Office and individual alumni, 200 alumni attended a day of discussion forums on a wide range of issues, including 'post-truth', diversity, trust in science and the trouble with AI. In the evening, as part of the continuing celebrations, the Provost, Professor Walmsley, cut the birthday cake.



A Day in the Museum

In a collaboration between the Unit and the Courtauld Gallery, our master's student Katrina Brain researched a 17th century ivory marriage casket (below) from the Courtauld's collection, identifying the science stories behind its design and decoration. The casket had not been on display in over 25 years; revitalized by Katrina it is now on show at the Science Museum.



Photo credit: The Courtauld Gallery

Planning for the Anthropocene at the Natural History Museum

We were delighted this year to start a new collaboration with the Natural History Museum (right), with our MSc students using the Museum's collections and facilities to investigate the Anthropocene as part of the summer term Exhibitions module. The final 'hand-in' was a pitch for a new gallery on the Anthropocene. Museum staff (including one MSc alumnus) set the brief and gave feedback on the final proposals.



Societal Engagement Academy

Once again this year the Unit played an important role in the planning and delivery of the College's highly innovative and unusual Societal Engagement Academy, which trains up to 15 scientists each year in the arts and crafts of public engagement. The seven day programme, a mix of reflection and practical activity, prepares scientists for roles in a wide variety of science communication activities, including schools outreach, the Imperial Festival, podcasts, performance, and installation art.



Tutoring at the City Academy Hackney

For the second year, seven of our students have spent an afternoon each week, from November to May, tutoring year 12 and 13 students in STEM subjects. City Academy Hackney is a community school in Homerton, in an area that faces many challenges of social disadvantage, environmental decay, and crime. The students help Sixth Formers prepare for both exams and university, and help them also with the preparation of their 'contextual' submissions, such as the Extended Project Qualification.

Hollywood Stars

Congratulations to MSc Science Media Production Students Taryn Kalish and Liliane Laborde-Edozien. At the Hollywood New Directors Awards, they won Best Documentary Feature; Best Indigenous Film; Best Student Feature and Best First Feature, for their film 'Drummies.'



Gareth at Large

Our lecturer in radio studies continues to combine his work in the Unit with presenting the World Service technology magazine "Digital Planet". Naturally his activities take him beyond the confines of SW7, and a recent trip was to Rwanda. Gareth reports:

They were right, the lake does get choppy when the afternoon winds strike up. We're bouncing along the waters of Lake Kivu in East Africa on a nippy little boat having visited an engineering project out on the lake. Behind us are the distant peaks of the Ebola-affected DRC but we're returning to the Rwandan side. I'm with the producer of Digital Planet, the BBC World Service tech programme that I present and we're in Rwanda and Kenya gathering material for the show. In Kenya, in a broadcasting house away from Broadcasting House we present the programme from the BBC's Nairobi bureau. The mics, talkback and studio setup are about the same as back home. It's the views from the office windows that are different. But it's time to return, there are student projects to supervise and I'm covering for regular presenter Adam Rutherford on Radio 4's Inside Science for the summer. My cousin posts a Facebook video of my voice emanating from his car radio as he waits to pick up his daughter. I happen to be introducing an interview with two of the inventors of GPS. For me, this talk of sat nav conjures up the excitement of travel and adventure. It's been a good summer for it.



Pictured above, Gareth at large. Taking time out for coffee

Events

Lord Judge Lecture

Dr Lorenzo Pasculli, Horizons Lecturer in Law, hosted a special Horizons guest lecture discussing tomorrow's constitution given by Lord Igor Judge, former Lord Chief Justice (pictured right). The lecture took place during Dr Pasculli's Law and Professional Ethics for Science and Technology Horizons class on 21st January 2019.

Lord Judge examined how our "unwritten" but in truth partly written constitution has adapted and developed over centuries, exploring how it has given us the privilege to live in a country which respects and generally embraces the rule of law.

He asked the question whether our constitution can successfully address the challenges that will arise in an uncertain future and whether the constitution can cope with scientific, medical and technological changes which have far-reaching consequences for society.



2018-2019 Charmian Brinson Annual Honorary Guest Lecture



The Annual Charmian Brinson Honorary Guest lecture was given on November 13th 2018 by 'Call the Midwife' creator Heidi Thomas (pictured left). Her hit TV series, 'Call the Midwife', has topped the UK ratings for seven years, and is seen in 197 countries worldwide. With a career spanning 25 years on stage and screen, Heidi's work earned acclaim from the Emmys and BAFTA. In her lecture she explored the connections between fact, fiction and emotional engagement when communicating with a mass audience. She also discussed research techniques, the technical challenges of bringing medical content to the screen, and using historical material to shine a light on the way we live today.

The lecture was, once again for the series, a great success, so much so that it was difficult to whisk the speaker away at the end to dinner, as she was being mobbed by the audience. Heidi shared the following thoughts after the lecture: "Your department embraces the most wonderful range of disciplines and personalities, of which you must be exceptionally proud". A warm endorsement indeed!

Screening of 'Refuge Britain'

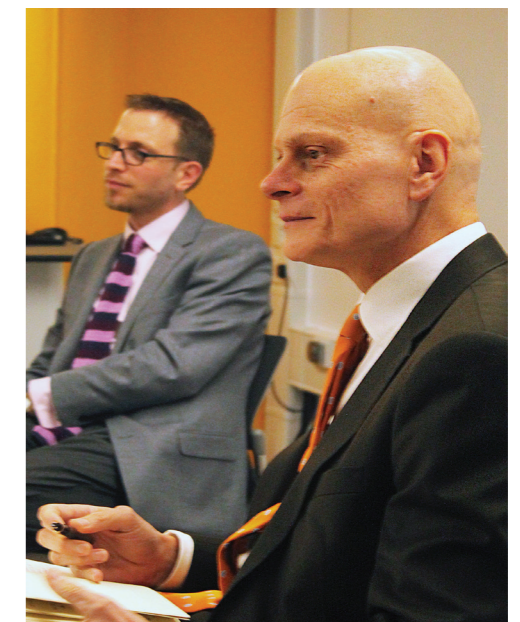
Dr Anna Nyburg (Honorary Researcher) and Dr Robert Sternberg (Senior Lecturer, Science Communication) showed a screening of their film 'Refuge Britain' at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest. Present at the screening were undergraduate textile students and also the professor of design and other colleagues from that faculty and it was followed by a Q and A session afterwards. The film had Hungarian subtitles which had been translated by some Imperial College students.

Right: Dr Anna Nyburg and Dr Robert Sternberg with poster advertising the screening.



Visit to CLCC by Imperial College Provost

The Provost, Professor Ian Walmsley, visited the CLCC on November 20th 2018, meeting CLCC staff at an open meeting followed by a visit to the Science Communication Unit's radio studio and a session with the CLCC Core Team Leaders. He then visited a 2nd year Change Makers class in action. Professor Walmsley clearly enjoyed his time with CLCC staff and he was impressed by the Centre's work. After his visit, Prof Walmsley wrote: "It was great to learn about this area of College, especially since it covers a dimension not usually associated with Imperial, and is deeply engaged (and indeed pioneering) across the spectrum of teaching and outreach. The scale and range of your activities is very impressive, and I appreciate the thoughtful and ambitious way that you are approaching the future. As the teaching and learning strategy becomes more embedded, it is clear that it will be imperative for us to provide greater opportunities for our students to broaden their horizons."



Above left, the Provost visits the radio studio and meets Gareth Mitchell, Lecturer in Science Communication (Radio).

Above and left, the Provost meets CLCC staff.

Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus

In April 2019 Dr Michael Paraskos, Evening Classes Manager and Evening Class Lecturer in Art History, organised the conference "Othello's Island" - the Annual Conference on Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the Centre for Visual Arts and Research in Nicosia, with colleagues from the University of Cyprus, University of Sheffield, University of Kent and Sheffield Hallam University. Now in its eighth year, the conference brought together academics from all over the world, to discuss everything from Byzantine icon painting to the plays of Shakespeare. Michael also edited, with Dr Jane Chick of the University of East Anglia, a selection of papers from the conference, under the title 'Othello's Island 1.' Right: Delegates at the conference at CVAR Cyprus.



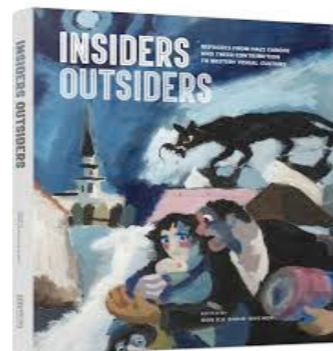
Staff News

Chair for CLCC Director

Congratulations to Roberto Trotta, Director of CLCC, who has been promoted to Professor of Astrostatistics in the Department of Physics.

Collaborative publication

Three members of the CLCC were included in a new book of essays edited by Monica Bohm-Duchen, called 'Insiders Outsiders: Refugees from Nazi Europe and their Contribution to British Culture', (Lund Humphries, February 2019). Professor Charmian Brinson wrote on the contribution of German-speaking refugee artists to British wartime propaganda. Honorary Researcher, Dr Anna Nyburg wrote on émigré designers in Britain, and Dr Michael Paraskos, Programme Manager for Evening Classes, wrote on how the art critic Herbert Read helped numerous refugee artists fleeing the Nazis settle in Britain. The book was published as part of the year-long Insiders Outsiders Festival being held to celebrate the contribution of émigrés to British culture.



Long service to the College

A number of CLCC staff have been honoured at a reception hosted by the Provost in May for their long service with the College. Adriana Lepori, (Italian Lecturer), Dr Robert Sternberg (Senior Lecturer, Science Communication) and Dr Stephen Webster (Senior Lecturer, Science Communication, and Head of Science Communication Unit) for 20 years of service; and Dr Sheila Lecoeur (Coordinator of Italian) and Sybille Moulin (Coordinator of French) for 25 years.

Futurist in Residence

We have had the pleasure in March 2019 of welcoming Richard Watson as our Futurist in Residence (although he sometimes refers to himself as "Shaman in Residence"). Richard is spending 1 day a week in the CLCC and has already started getting involved in many projects, bringing his trademark visionary style of fusing humanities, tech and science together.



Summer party 2019

For the second year in a row, a warm, balmy summer's evening on the back terrace and Garden Room of 58 Princes Gardens was the backdrop for the annual CLCC staff summer party. Staff enjoyed drinks and a barbeque in this relaxed but elegant setting, but the highlight was the appearance of Giskin Day and her latest 'Breaking Bag' - an escape room in a bag. A dedicated team of CLCC staff, set to the task of putting their heads together to solve all the problems, with only a few hints from Giskin needed to find all the clues and break all the codes. A summer party with a difference!

Right: brows furrowed in concentration as CLCC staff enjoy the challenge of Breaking Bag at the CLCC staff summer party.



Human Relations

Dr Michael Weatherburn (Senior Teaching Fellow, Horizons Field Leader: Humanities and Social Sciences), recently published a research study in leading management research journal 'Human Relations'. Michael has been examining the 'Hawthorne studies', conducted in interwar USA which showed, or at least appeared to show, that workers are more motivated by social interaction and management attention than financial incentives. This conclusion, plus the related notion that the United States was a sole pioneer in management research, has been influential on the field of management studies since. Through extensive detective work and a little luck, Michael located a treasure trove of dusty, forgotten historical sources which revealed a four-year series of incentive studies at the Rowtree Cocoa Works in York. The Rowtree Incentives and Contentment studies concluded that, in contrast to the Hawthorne studies, financial incentives were more important than social ones. These findings indicate that the USA has been less exceptional in management research than hitherto believed, and also that the important question as to the effectiveness of work incentives needs to be reopened.

New Appointments



We are very pleased to introduce Teaching Fellow Daisy Pataki to our Change Makers teaching team in December 2018. The recruitment process concluded back in early October and we had a staggering field of qualified, motivated and inspiring candidates. Daisy fascinated us at interview, telling us stories about her design and implementation of active and informal learning alongside her more traditional experiences.

Left: Daisy (far right) working with her team of first year undergraduates during The World Today Change Makers Module.

In June 2019 we were delighted to welcome our new Learning Technologist, Lola Nezianya. Lola's appointment was much needed to help CLCC manage the demand for its innovative teaching and learning - an important facet of the Learning and Teaching Strategy. Lola works part-time Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in S310.



We also welcomed another teaching fellow, Catherine Webb in September 2018. Catherine is an alumna from the MSc Science Media Production course and has joined the Humanities and Social Sciences field of study as part of the Horizons Programme. In addition to teaching on the Science Communication Horizons modules, Catherine has also been instrumental in designing and delivering some bespoke Horizons modules to the Earth Science Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Departments.





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