

**Imperial College
London**

**Centre for Languages,
Culture and
Communication**

Annual Report

2017-2018



Introduction

Dr Roberto Trotta

Director



This has been a year of momentous change for the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication (CLCC). Six years after its inception, we carried out a comprehensive curriculum review of our flagship Imperial Horizons. Our curriculum review aligns it even better with the aims of Imperial's Learning and Teaching strategy, and further increases the choice of modules for our students. From the academic year 2019/20, all Imperial undergraduates will have integrated co-curricular learning opportunities as part of their main degree. Imperial Horizons will be one of the main strands of this new offer, called "I-Explore". We are proud to have increased our offer to 171 Horizons modules, and that this year, once again, our student feedback has been the best of all undergraduate programmes across College. This is a fantastic basis on which to build for the future: my gratitude goes to the Horizons field leaders and to all Horizons lecturers for making this possible.

We are excited by the extensive refurbishment programme that over the summer gave us a new staff area and kitchen, new toilet facilities and - most importantly - a state-of-the-art suite of teaching rooms, with the latest AV equipment. This will greatly improve the quality of our environment, and our students' experience.

September 2018 saw the celebratory alumni symposium that marked the Science Communication Unit's 25th anniversary cohort. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness and acumen of the talks and panel discussions, and by the level of engagement shown by the audience – most of whom were alumni. The feeling of a big family reunion was palpable, with the youngest alumni exchanging opinions and experiences with their older, more seasoned peers. A truly wonderful day for the Unit. Congratulations to the Organizing Committee, led by the Head of the Unit, Dr Stephen Webster.

We have said goodbye to some long-standing members of the Centre, and some of the most distinguished lecturers on our programme. We were deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our colleague Roddy Swanston, a much-appreciated music lecturer with the Centre for the past 22 years. After 23 years with the Centre, our pluri-decorated lecturer and former Horizons Field Leader Giskin Day moved to the Medical School to lead their Medical Humanities programme. Dr Anna Nyburg took retirement after 29 years, during which time she contributed greatly to language teaching and to the development of the evening class programme in the Centre. We wish them both well for their future.

Building on these changes, we can confidently move ahead in this coming academic year with the implementation phase of I-Explore, the further development of the evening classes programme under the leadership of the new manager, Dr Michael Paraskos, and the continuing success of the Science Communication Masters programmes.

As always, delivering an outstanding student experience will remain our mission, and I am glad we are now so much better placed to fulfil it successfully for the future.

Highlights

1 Learning and Teaching Strategy, and Curriculum Review

The CLCC has continued to develop its teaching provision to support the implementation of the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy. With the approval of the I-Explore integrated co-curricular provision from 2019/20, the Centre is preparing for the challenge of delivering an even wider range of modules to increase student choice, and is enthusiastic about playing such a key part in the undergraduate learning experience. The Imperial Horizons programme has undergone a full curriculum review, which has reorganized the Horizons offer in three fields (now called Languages, Change Makers, and Humanities and Social Sciences), further emphasized the innovative pedagogy and student-centred approach of our modules, and revamped the offer to now encompass 171 different modules. The new Horizons curriculum was approved in October 2018 by Programmes Committee, and will take effect from 2019/20. Much of the focus of the Learning and Teaching Strategy is on teaching innovation and excellence, and this is at the core of all the teaching activities in the Centre. The Centre also developed a Horizons Programme Strategy 2018-2023, which presented the pedagogical, educational and logistical underpinnings of the future Horizons offer.



2 SACA Success

Over 20 CLCC staff were nominated for SACA awards across various categories. Many congratulations to Ms Giskin Day, Principal Teaching Fellow, who scooped the award for best innovation, and congratulations too to all the CLCC staff who were nominated and received their mug.



3 PhD Success for CLCC lecturers

Congratulations to the newly minted Dr Didier Occhipinti and Dr Scott Biagi. Didier studied for his PhD at Kings College London, with his thesis, "Control and Resistance: An exploration of contemporary French writing and film on the effects of globalisation in the workplace", whilst Scott obtained his doctorate from Manchester Metropolitan University with a thesis on the subject: "Garfinkel, Brandom's Pragmatism and Ordinary Language Philosophy: A Reflection on the Status of Formal-Analytic Work."

Insight from across the pond

As part of the Centre’s development of its 5 year strategy, Dr Michael Weatherburn (SCS Field Leader) visited Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT):

“It was a great pleasure to visit MIT for a week in February 2018. Planned as a follow-up to Dr Roberto Trotta’s 2017 visit, I enjoyed meeting with MIT colleagues and, in particular, learning about MIT’s Curriculum Requirement (CR). Originating in the late 1990s, but with deeper roots in MIT’s ‘Lewis Report’ of 1949, MIT have long-focused on using communications, humanities and liberal arts teaching to strengthen and enhance their scientific and engineering provision.

From 2001 it became mandatory for all MIT undergraduates to complete four communication-intensive CR modules. The MIT CR experience is of course particularly relevant to Imperial given our journey toward the I-Explore format from 2019 onwards.

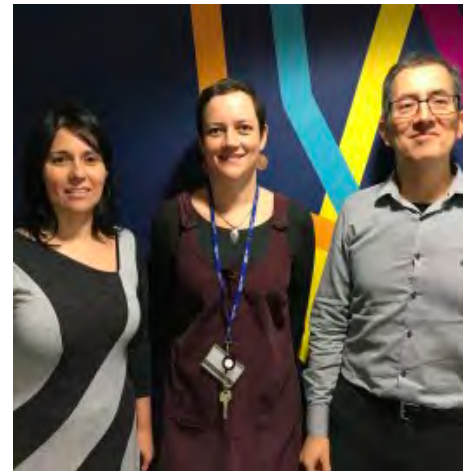
I enjoyed thirteen meetings with faculty members, an open discussion with nine undergraduate students, and joining classes on mathematics and computer science. Physics colleagues keenly demonstrated their bespoke active and blended learning spaces, which had been funded by targeted alumni donations, plus the technology used to record lecture video updates in real time. As we continue to develop Horizons tools to assist our STEM students with their communication skills, we look forward to integrating the lessons learned, and new colleagues met, at MIT.”



Depicting a blacksmith and a scholar, MIT’s logo highlights the distinctive blend of science and arts education which MIT provides to all students.

Chilean Educational Exchange

Drs Elizabeth Hauke and Mark Pope from the Global Challenges Horizons field were very pleased to welcome two guests from Chile who had come to learn about our Live, Love, Learn approach in higher education. Teresa Freyhoffer works with the teaching and curriculum innovation leadership team at Universidad Alberto Hurtado (UAH) in Santiago, Chile. Teresa has been instrumental in the curriculum reform and design at UAH; she was especially keen to understand how we apply the Live, Love, Learn approach to individualise learning with large groups of students, and how we tackle issues like inclusivity in active learning. Juan Carlos González is an assistant professor in Technological Entrepreneurship at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) and an Entrepreneurship Broker at Incuba UC (the incubator of PUC), also in Santiago, Chile. Juan Carlos was especially interested in our use of process- and praxis- based curricula for project work and wanted to understand how we work with our undergraduates compared to his work with postgraduates. It was a pleasure to host our colleagues and hear about their exciting work, as well as to introduce them to our team and Centre, and, most importantly, to our students. We were lucky that Teresa and Juan Carlos were able to attend one of our Lessons From History Classes to see our teaching in action, and to talk to the students about their own experiences of their learning – both in our courses and in their wider degree study. Teresa forwarded her reflections from her visit:



“The experience I had, was much greater than I expected. Talking with Elizabeth and Mark about the methodology they use was very enlightening. I had the privilege of attending the “Lessons in History” class and talking with the students, who are the protagonists of their own learning. In general, one of the biggest shortcomings of traditional college education is that students are not present as people who bring their own worlds, experiences, personality styles and views to the classroom. The Global Challenges approach does consider the set of contributions they represent and thus becomes a collective learning space in which the complexities and potentialities of teamwork are learned.” The teaching and learning methodology transcends the traditional physical space of the classroom. Each student is committed to their learning and to the tasks that will allow the team to which they belong to take the challenge forward. It is a living space in which differences are discovered and valued. It is full of life, movement, conversation and a lot of work.”

Undergraduate Student Success

The consistently high achievements of students undertaking Imperial Horizons, a Year Abroad or the Language for Science Combined Degree are all the more remarkable given that their CLCC studies are outside of their main degree discipline.

CLCC Prizes

As in previous years, there were several good candidates for the CLCC prizes, making the final selection a difficult choice. Ruby Freeman (Material Science) won the Acland Prize for Humanities for her essay for the module 'Visual Culture, Knowledge and Power'. It was felt that there were two deserving winners for the Acland Prize for Languages, so two awards were given, one to Helen Finney (Biology with French for Science) and the other to Benjamin Tapolczay (Chemistry with Research Abroad). Finally, the Rector's Prize for Communication Skills was awarded to the highest scoring student on the Communicating Science module, who was Alexandre van Bronkhorst Ferreira (Chemistry). Many congratulations to all for their outstanding achievement.



Japanese Speech Contest 2018

Sebastian Lim (Aeronautical Engineering) came second in the Individual Presentation Category at the annual Japanese Speech Contest. Junxi Peng (Chemistry) also gave a presentation of a very high standard and was runner-up. All other contestants were taking Japanese as their main degree subject and the contest was tough. However, the Imperial contestants' exceptional achievement was gained through their passion, dedication and hard work. During the initial round they had to submit a presentation video during their exam period. They worked non-stop from the last week of the Autumn term through the Winter holiday until the day of the contest. The Imperial finalists are pictured here with Japanese Coordinator, Dr Yuki Tokumaru. The Japanese staff are to be congratulated on preparing the students so successfully.

Engineers Without Borders Final

EWB UK organizes an annual competition that asks students to generate designs for a community in the developing world. This year students were asked to put forward designs for the Kibera settlement in Nairobi, Kenya. Our students excelled and were awarded three of the 36 places available in the finals. This was no small achievement, considering 28 universities submitted entries. Charlotte Butterworth, Arnaud Legrand and Jeannine Coelho designed a proposal for a 'Permeable Paths Solution' to the problems of flooding and water supply. Through the use of permeable concrete in the construction of new roads, they proposed that water could be drained from the roads into reservoirs and then used by the community. Akila Ramamoorthy Sekar, Jingyi Xie, Ngai Lam Chung and Noëlle Smits van Waesberghe presented a 'Porta-loo'. This was a new portable, flushless, composting toilet. Finally, Fahad Islam, Kevin Tionanda, Jessica Tjandra, Harry Peck and Catherine Lincoln presented a design that used compressed plastic waste to create bricks. Judges praised the creativity evident in all the designs. Commenting on the competition and her overall experience studying the Horizons module, Design for Sustainable Development, Charlotte Butterworth said: "I really enjoyed the course as something different from my degree. I was delighted to make it through to the final round and be able to see all the other entrants' innovative ideas."

Creative Writing Success

The Imperial Horizons Creative Writing modules are amongst the most popular on offer. As a discipline it might seem far removed from the STEM focus at Imperial, however, it is remarkable how students and alumni relate the discipline to science and engineering.

Science Challenge 2018

Final year Electrical and Electronic Engineering student Francine Tran achieved the runner-up position in the Royal College of Science Union's Science Challenge 2018. Francine entered the Creative Writing category, which was open to international competitors. The final day of the competition was held at the House of Lords on 6 March 2018 and overall winners were decided by Lord Robert Winston, in his role as ambassador for the Science Challenge. Francine was shortlisted for her short story submission which focused on the future of technology and how it will integrate into society. "As a female in Engineering I aspire to be a role model for secondary school students who are interested in pursuing it as a career. My degree specialisation is in the areas of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. The piece that I entered imagines how anthropomorphic sex robots might change the dynamics of human relationships and the consequences of this. Outside of my degree I am an avid writer, maintaining two technology-oriented blogs. I aim to produce original, easily digestible content for a non-tech audience and am passionate about outreach in STEM." Creative Writing lecturer, Dr Aifric Campbell said, "Francine's imaginative story and her success in this prize underlines the importance of creative perspectives for public engagement in STEM."

Student Award for Outstanding Achievement

CLCC alumna Anita Chandran received the IC Student Award for Outstanding Achievement for her literary and outreach work with girls and women in STEM. This is an annual award for up to six students that recognises outstanding achievement in any extramural activity that brings credit to the College. Anita began developing her literary practice when she was a student in the Advanced Creative Writing class and followed with the Humanities Essay Project 2016 where her writing was awarded the Acland prize for excellence in the Humanities. She is working on an anthology of short stories about the lives of women in science whose work has gone unrewarded and unrecognised throughout history. The finished book will contain eight stories featuring aspirational women across scientific disciplines from a range of backgrounds, ethnicities and social classes that carries the added weight of being written by a young female physicist. Anita has just completed the 1st year of her PhD in Physics. Alongside Dr Aifric Campbell, Creative Writing lecturer, Anita was invited to speak at the Women's Writing and Science symposium at UCL's School of Advanced Study on May 18. This is the first time a former Imperial Horizons student has addressed an audience of senior literary academics from a range of universities including Oxford, Bath and Notre Dame.

Financial Drama

Aifric Campbell was commissioned by the Almeida Theatre, London to write a short story for £¥€\$ (LIES), an immersive production about the global financial crisis. The production is described by the Guardian as an "ingenious high-stakes show [which] uncovers the psychology of those whose financial flutters shook the world."



Science Communication

In 2018 the Science Communication Unit celebrates 25 years since the first students graduated from its world-renowned masters' programme. It remains highly popular, and enrolls up to 55 students each year. All year long the Unit's alumni have been drawing up themes for the 25th anniversary celebration conference. Particular concerns felt by alumni are the effect of the gig economy on professional values, the role of science in a 'post-truth world', and the communication challenges of climate change and Artificial Intelligence. These topics and more were debated at the Unit's anniversary conference in September 2018.

Meanwhile, the Unit continues to host its two MScs in Science Communication and Science Media Production. Both combine media training with academic perspectives from the humanities and social sciences, and are taught by a team of practitioners and researchers. The Science Communication Unit is well-known for its innovative styles of learning and student engagement. It is also active in research, in training scientists and in broadcast and film production. We are delighted each year to see our graduates secure communication work in the media, in museums, in policy and in universities.

1 Theory and Practice

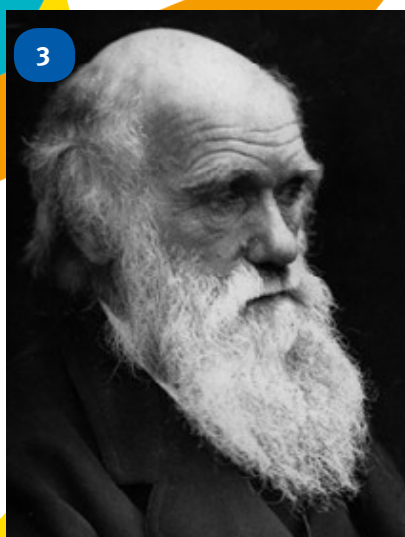
In addition to the many MSc students who graduated from the Science Communication Unit this year was postgraduate research student Jared Keller (pictured right), whose PhD was titled "A Scientific Impresario: Archie Clow, Science Communication and BBC Radio, 1945-1970."

Members of the Science Communication unit also contributed to journals and conferences, including Science in Context, the Group for Education in Museum's Case Studies, and the 15th International Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference. Dr Felicity Mellor, Senior Lecturer and MSc Science Communication Course Leader was also an invited participant at an international meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Centre in Italy focused on the relationship between the theory and practice of science communication.



2 From Eurovision to lorry parks

Gareth Mitchell, who combines his role for the Science Communication Unit with his own regular BBC radio show Click!, continues with great verve to produce the Imperial College podcast. He covers a diverse range of topics from the Imperial Festival, to why Eurovision makes people happy, to the likely effect of Brexit on the M6 'lorry park'. <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/social-and-multimedia/podcasts/>



3

3 The virtue of reticence

The Unit contributed to the College's first Engagement Day, with a workshop organised by Stephen Webster. The workshop centred on the work of Sir Francis Bacon and Charles Darwin, and argued for the virtues of reticence and humility as desirable qualities in the 'science' side of public engagement.



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Top: Thomas Heatherwick, grandson of Elizabeth Tomalin, and his mother Stefany at Heatherwick Studios in London, displaying one of Elizabeth's Reimann School designs from the 1930s. Bottom: Elizabeth Tomalin in Dresden 1930 before fleeing for Britain.

4 Refuge Britain

Robert Sternberg, Course leader of the MSc Science Media Production, collaborated with Anna Nyburg to produce a 45 minute documentary film about the contribution of refugees to the design culture of Britain - *Refuge Britain: Stories of Émigré Designers*. Framed by the life of a recent refugee from Pakistan, the film uses archive footage and conversations with the descendants of three Jewish émigré designers, Hans Schleger, Elizabeth Tomalin and Tibor Reich to explore the impact of refugee artists on the cultural life of Britain from the late 1930s until the 1970s.

Refuge Britain has been shown at the V&A, The Jewish Museum in Camden and The Fashion and Textile Museum, Bermondsey. Later this year it will be shown at the German Embassy in London and at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest. Further screenings elsewhere are in the planning stages.

1 Working with Sixth Formers

The Unit's 'link' school is the City Academy Hackney, a co-ed comprehensive school in Homerton, east London. Six MSc students have been working with Sixth Form pupils, helping them with their science and maths A levels. MSc student Meesha Patel is also visiting the school, researching for her dissertation ethnicity and STEM aspirations. We will be deepening the relation next year with school-based science communication classes, assistance with UCAS personal statements, visits to Imperial, and further tutorial work.



2 In collaboration across college



This year, the Unit entered into a partnership with the Societal Engagement Team to develop the Imperial Engagement Academy, a seven day professional staff development opportunity. Dr Alexandra Fitzsimmons, Lecturer in Museum Studies, worked closely with them to develop a course which included contributions from Unit staff and alumni. Academy 'delegates' included Teaching Fellows, Research Fellows, and managerial and technical staff from many disciplines – all of whom were working on their own societal engagement activities as part of the course. Meanwhile, Gareth Mitchell led the annual Science Communication workshop for Doctoral Training Centre cell biologists from Imperial and Warwick. This 2.5 day intensive introductory workshop in communicating science includes a visit to BBC studios to try out science communication techniques as if live on air. Gareth also ran workshops for Imperial's Post-doctoral Development Centre. The Unit collaborates with our colleagues in Academic English, contributing ideas from science communication to their teaching. Members of the Unit also contributed to steering groups and working groups in support of the College's Societal Engagement activity.

3 News from alumni

We were proud to invite several alumni back to give seminars to our current cohort. Included amongst these were Katherine Mathieson (pictured right), Chief Executive of the British Science Association, Anna Starkey, Creative Director at We the Curious, Greg Foot, Science Presenter, and documentarist Carlo Massarella, producer/director at Windfall Films. Meanwhile, recent alumni are making their mark in organisations including the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, the BBC, design and learning agency KCA London, Team Consulting Ltd in Cambridge and many more. Our celebration event in the autumn will include contributions from alumni in fields ranging from policy, to documentary making, to museums.



4 Imperial Festival

The Reflection Zone, led by students from the Science Communication Unit, gave visitors to the annual Imperial Festival opportunities to reflect on the relationship between science and society. Visitors were invited to explore and question science through a series of student-produced experiences: the magazine, *Ellement*, which posited a world where ‘male scientist’ is a novelty; the campaign ‘Science is Revolting’; a shadow puppet show and even a fairground experience with popcorn.



5 I, Science

I, Science is a termly science magazine, produced by Science Communication students, who distributed several thousand print copies across campus as well as producing and hosting web, radio and video content. The publication was also nominated for Best Specialist Publication Award by the Student Publication Association. This year, *I, Science* has looked at ‘Success’, ‘Design’ and ‘Endings’, and has investigated topics from biohacking to Flat Earth conventions.

6



Photo Credit: The Museum of London

6 Museum of London

The MSc cohort was once again approached by the Museum of London to run a Family Learning Festival with a science theme to coincide with British Science Week. The museum wanted to help families explore science in an imaginative way and asked the students to develop family learning activities exploring science in the museum’s collection. Students developed activities ranging from a journey through the sewers of history, to designing boats, to handling and investigating ancient London animal bones.

CLCC Refurbishment

Summer 2018 has seen the Centre undergo major refurbishment. With improved toilet and kitchen facilities and upgraded teaching spaces, the Centre’s physical environment has been vastly improved.

Before

The kitchen area in CLCC (below left) was in a sorry state. .



After

We are enjoying our new staff room (below right), which has much more space and will be more conducive to staff socialising and relaxing in a private area



After



The language labs (Lab 1 pictured left), each now have an increased capacity of 24, and have push down computer desks to make these spaces more flexible. They have been reconfigured to facilitate group work as well as whole-class interactive teaching. All teaching rooms have had significant AV upgrades too.

Erasmus / Year in Europe

The Erasmus / Year in Europe Programme continues to thrive, and CLCC is proud of the role it plays in preparing students for their year abroad. In addition to the intensive language learning which the students benefit from, 2017 saw the launch of a new film resource to help students prepare for their year abroad. Sheila Lecoeur, Coordinator of Italian, explains further.

Erasmus II film (2018): Preparing the Year Abroad*

Following on from our first successful film presenting and supporting Erasmus made in 2015-16, we have now completed a new film: Erasmus II. This time the focus is on how we prepare students to go abroad and how important it is to maintain the links Imperial College has built up over many years. In the first short film Dr Ingo Mueller-Wodarg (Physics) gave his views and students talked about their experiences and how, contrary to legend, it is often cheaper than staying in London. This has been used in many presentations including to the Erasmus Club to encourage students to go abroad.

As well as presenting students' experiences, Erasmus II expresses the views of five Erasmus coordinators from the departments of: Life Sciences, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Aeronautics. This is a longer documentary (37 minutes) which develops the arguments in favour of maintaining the Erasmus Programme. From this material a short version, to be shown to students as above, has also been produced. There will also be five short versions for each of the departments, featuring the views of each coordinator.

The projects have been funded by the Erasmus Programme, Imperial College Registry, and the CLCC.

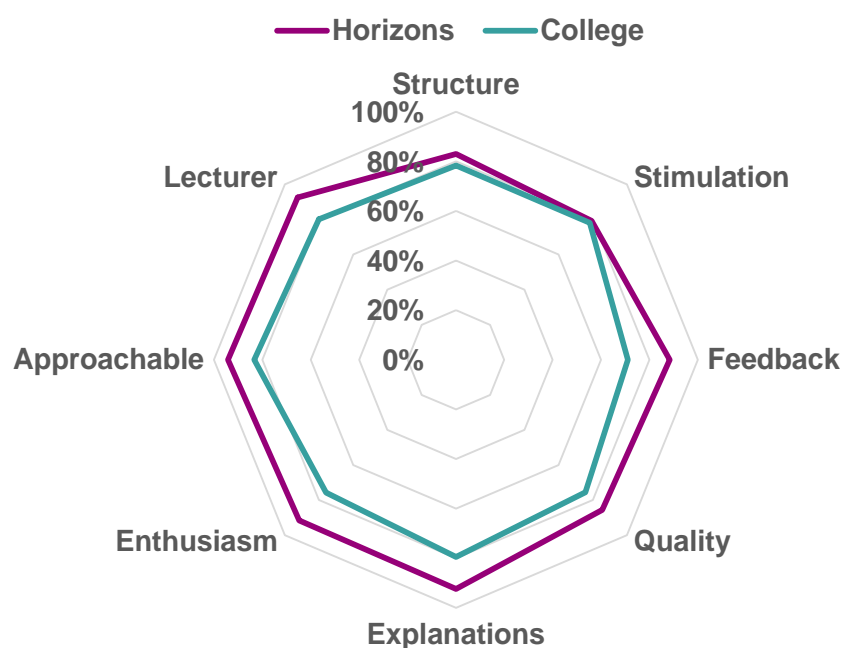
*Filmed and edited by Julien Lecoeur (Prolific TV) and written and directed by Sheila Lecoeur



Imperial Horizons Student Feedback

Horizons SOLE feedback for 2017-2018 was consistent with previous years' results, once again exceeding the College approval ratings ('Definitely Agree' and 'Mostly Agree'). The contrast is particularly marked when 'Definitely Agree' only is considered.

SOLE 2017-2018 Approval Rating
 ('Definitely Agree' and 'Mostly Agree')



'Amazing course. Get to practise and learn a wide variety of useful and practical skills.' *Interdisciplinary Making and Prototyping*

'Very good teaching, very interactive.' *Professional Skills for Employability*

'The class is very interactive and entertaining, with the discussion of relevant topics to our everyday life.'
French Level 5

'Really glad I took this course - learnt a lot of transferable skills. Would highly recommend to anyone considering a Horizons option; great break from really technical subjects whilst still being stimulating.' *Lessons from History*

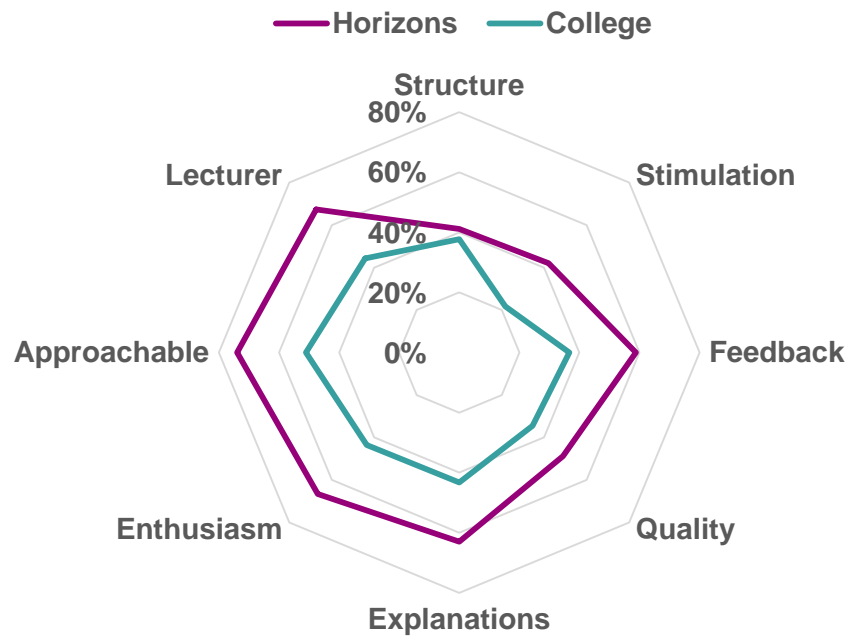
'I enjoy learning Japanese so much, this course is great!' *Japanese Level 1*

'Very enjoyable module, the interactivity makes it even better :)'
Psychology of Music

'Overall, I really like this course. The syllabus is really interesting and the material is well taught.'
Conflict, Crime and Justice

'This is an awesome course - totally different from anything I have done at university up until now. It is definitely teaching me to think more critically about myself, my mind, the way I learn and several other aspects of every day life.' *Philosophy of Mind*

SOLE 2017-2018 Approval Rating, ('Definitely Agree') only



The CLCC Gallery

The gallery space has hosted some fascinating exhibitions in 2017-2018 under the curatorship of Dr Anna Nyburg.

1 Virtuality and Invisibility

In February-March we had an exhibition by 3 artists entitled *'Virtuality and Invisibility'*. This is an art exhibition of paintings and prints from three London-based artists who combine traditional techniques and new technologies in their art practices. Kuniko Maeda is a Japanese artist. She aims to explore the relationship between 2D and 3D as a visual effect. She records textures of 3D objects made from laser-cut paper and then revert back to 2D by the means of screen-printing the 3D object onto paper. Guido Salimbeni is an Italian artist. He is exploring a way to combine digital 3D creative process and traditional art techniques. He adds a 3D printed element on top of a pictorial surface to create bas-relief paintings, and he uses a 3D printed plate to produce traditional prints with a printmaking press. Chunliu Lin is a Chinese artist. She combines new techniques and old traditions using laser engraving of acrylic panels and hand painting subjects on silk. Pictured below is Guido Salimbeni and Chunliu Lin.



Student work

A constant and positive feature of the gallery is the photographic shows of students' work from Honey Salvadori's Evening and Lunchtime Learning Classes which she arranges at the end of each course. One evening class student arriving in CLCC for the first time looked at the colourful photographs on the walls with interest and exclaimed 'This isn't very Imperially!'

Synesthesia

In January we had an exhibition of images of a project to involve children with synaesthesia by Giulia Mastrocinque.

2 Florulary

The academic year ended with a show, *Florulary* by Lucy Steggals: *Florulary* is the result of a two-year dialogue (2016-2018) between artist Lucy Steggals and staff and patients at Royal Papworth Hospital. Together they explored and experimented with new ways to reinsert the floral into the hospital – organic flowers are now banned in over 90% of UK hospitals – and celebrate the sentient, nonclinical aspects of care. The publication includes images from the archive that relate to Papworth’s rich floral history including the annual flower festival that took place from c.1923-1974; a collection of portraits taken with staff in the hospital grounds morphing them into floral arrangements; a series of bespoke bedding created in collaboration with patients on the Cystic Fibrosis ward; and the odd surprise.

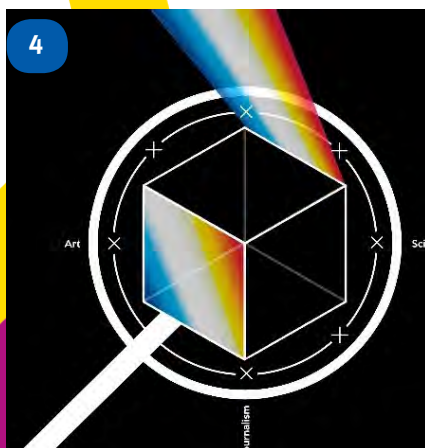


3 Oliver Sin

We are delighted to have on permanent display in our stairwell an original acrylic and oil pastel on canvas generously donated by the Hungarian artist Oliver Sin. The canvas is one of his pieces from his Asteroid Mining Series, “Planetary Resources inc (2012)” which he exhibited in the gallery in 2014. The series marks the birth of the asteroid mining industry. Sin explains, “Most of the precious metals and minerals on Earth derive from asteroid impacts... Modern technology and luxury craft uses gold, platinum, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, and osmium – all which are rare and expensive. But what if we had a near infinite supply of them? Of even greater value is the water these asteroids may contain. As boosting water into the space is very costly, it would reduce the cost of space missions if there was a space water-source. And from that water even hydrogen could be made, which is one component of the rocket fuel (the other is oxygen). So mining asteroids seems absolutely reasonable.”



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4 Sourcing Images

November saw a display by Science Communication student Natasha Gertler, I, *SCIENCE: Taking a different approach to sourcing images*. Natasha, I, *SCIENCE*’s Picture Editor, reached out to the students of Imperial College, as well as art schools, for original content to accompany each article. The exhibition included a selection of artworks from all three editions: *Other Worlds*, *Taboo*, and *The Elements*.

Moving Around

In May we displayed the work of an Italian Science Communication student, Agnese Abrusci. *Moving around* is a fundamental part of scientists’ lives while they pursue their career. This process always brings with it the difficult choice of what to bring along from trip to trip: the exhibition introduces nine scientists, their stories and beloved objects that were never left behind. This was a photographic essay about scientists from all over the world, all photographed with an object which had special meaning for them. This was certainly a good match for our space.

Forward look

We are already organising next year’s shows and have lined up a photographer’s new abstract work arrived at after a lifetime of realism. Also, we are in talks with a retired conservator from Tate Britain about a show of ‘Chemistry and Painting’. Looking forward to it already!

Staff News



Summer Party 19th June 2018

CLCC staff enjoyed the annual summer party in new surroundings in 2018, taking advantage of the glorious summer weather to mingle with drinks and canapés on the terrace of 58 Princes Gate.

There were some special farewells this year. Giskin Day, Principal Teaching Fellow, erstwhile Horizons field leader for Science, Culture and Society (until 2017) is leaving the Centre after an association spanning over 20 years, starting with studying for the MSc Science Communication in 1995. Giskin has been at the forefront of innovative undergraduate teaching, with her interest in playful-learning giving students an outstandingly positive learning experience. She has won several prestigious awards, including President's Medal for Teaching Excellence, Student Academic Choice Awards (SACA), most recently in 2018 for Teaching Innovation, and she was also awarded the highly coveted status of National Teaching Fellow of the HEA. Giskin has been an inspiration to so many, and will be missed in the Centre, but happily she will not be far away as she will be focusing on her work with Medical Humanities with the Faculty of Medicine, whilst also studying for her PhD. We wish Giskin every success and look forward to her visiting the Centre often.

We also marked the retirement of Anna Nyburg, Evening Classes Coordinator and former language lecturer. Anna's contribution to the Centre has been immense. She has taught German, French and Italian, and been assistant coordinator of German prior to focussing on the evening classes management. Feedback from her students was always outstanding, and her gift for and dedication to teaching was rewarded with an Excellence in Teaching award. She has been with the Centre for 28 years and we are delighted that she is still going to play a part with an honorary association to curate the CLCC gallery space.

Roderick (Roddy) Swanston (1948-2018)

CLCC staff were deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Roddy Swanston in April 2018. Roddy was a much appreciated staff member in the Centre. He had been a part time Humanities lecturer at Imperial since 1996, teaching Music-related option courses to our undergraduates, latterly on the Horizons programme. He also taught on our Evening Class programme. He had a loyal following of students who signed up year after year for his courses. He in turn took classes with us too, learning Italian, German and Russian, and delighted in trying out his skills. He was much loved and appreciated for the breadth and depth of his knowledge, his boundless enthusiasm and his energy. He had always a good anecdote to tell and his arrival in the Centre to teach each week was always announced by cheerful greetings and an infectious laugh, which will be missed.



New appointments

Dr Michael Weatherburn took over from Giskin Day as Horizons Field Leader for the Science, Culture and Society field of study in October 2017. Michael has been involved in the activities of the Centre for many years, first as a PhD student and then as a part-time history lecturer. Michael has played a large role in shaping both the 5 year Horizons Strategy and the CLCC Undergraduate Curriculum Review. He has also had a busy first year undertaking various activities (see page 4 for the report on his trip to MIT in February 2018). He has been appointed Honorary Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University department of history for three years. In October 2017 Michael chaired a session on corporate memory at the 70th anniversary festival of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. In December 2017 he followed this by delivering the Imperial College History Society's inaugural lecture, discussing the impact of digitisation and data legislation on historical memory. Michael was invited to speak at the FEPS-Fabian Society conference at Trades Union Congress House on 19 May 2018. He spoke on a panel on skills policy alongside Stella Creasy (MP for Walthamstow), Ursula Huws (University of Hertfordshire), and Joe Dromey (IPPR). Michael contributed expertise on skills planning and industrial strategy to a Higher Education Innovation Fund defence project organised by Cranfield University. The project fed into the UK Ministry of Defence Combat Air Strategy (July 2018).



A very warm welcome to Alison Rew who joined Imperial in August 2017 taking over as Centre Manager from Maggie Causley who is now working on special projects one day a week. This post continues to be a job-share with Claire Stapley, and Alison's days are Wednesdays-Fridays.

We are delighted to have a permanent part-time receptionist for the centre, Sheila Ekudo, who started in September 2017. Sheila works Mondays to Thursdays (afternoons).



Dr Michael Paraskos has taught various art courses on the evening class programme for several years. His classes have always been very popular and we are very pleased that he has been appointed as Evening Classes Manager from 1st August 2018 upon Anna Nyburg's retirement.



With the current and expected growth of Horizons we are very pleased to welcome new part-time undergraduate administrator Cleo Bowen. Cleo has particular responsibility for marketing (focussing largely on social media and our website), and Global Challenges administration. Cleo's usual days are Mondays to Wednesdays.



Events

The CLCC has been pleased to attend and host various College events in 2017-2018. As usual, staff were involved with events such as Imperial Festival and Education Day, and the Centre also hosted some of its own events, such as the now well-established Charmian Brinson Honorary Guest Lecture



1 Refreshing the ‘Skills’ Agenda: How can we include students in building their own skill profile?

Dr Elizabeth Hauke practises highly innovative student-led learning in the Global Challenges Horizons modules. She shared her expertise in this workshop at Education Day which encouraged participants to think about desirable discipline- and non-discipline specific skills. How are these defined and how can they be built into learning and teaching in an inclusive manner that enriches the student learning experience? The workshop concluded with a brief presentation of a co-developed skill manual used in the Global Challenges modules to help students understand the relevance of different types of skill to their learning, and how they might use them to maximise their personal efficiency and potential.

2 Breaking Bag

Giskin Day demonstrated an example of ‘playful learning’ with the escape game ‘Breaking Bag’ developed with Matthew Douthwaite (Electrical and Electronic Engineering). ‘Breaking Bag’ is an innovative activity developed as a result of a student–alumnus–staff partnership to generate educational escape games. Delegates were given the opportunity to try ‘Breaking Bag’ as a fun and memorable way of learning and teaching science skills. Breaking Bag was also a big hit at the Imperial Festival this year, with long queues of visitors keen to try it out.

Inventos e inventores españoles entre los siglos XIX y XX Dr. Francisco A. González Redondo

In a guest talk to students and staff, Dr. Francisco A. González Redondo, History of Science professor, Complutense University of Madrid, surveyed some of the most important engineering developments in Spain using the artwork of the new Spanish passport as narrative link. This talk was of special interest to Year in Europe students who had a chance to follow a lecture on technical topics as preparation for their year abroad.



Theatre Improvisation Techniques for Language Teaching

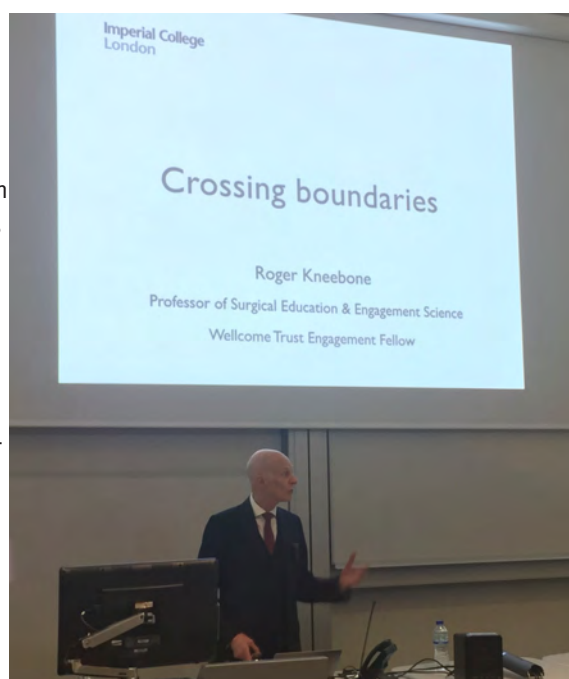
On 27th September 2017, language teachers from the CLCC and the Centre for Academic English participated in a hands-on workshop to explore Improvisation activities for language learning. The event was led by Ines Alonso-Garcia and Helen Mayer (Pictured right) from the LSE Language Centre. Theatre improvisation (improv) activities to enhance learners' speaking skills, both in English and in foreign languages and in different levels and course settings have been used for some time at LSE.

The Improvisation practice session focused on spontaneity, playing games to keep students thinking on their feet and being creative and having fun while putting the language into practice. The workshop consisted of a series of activities including warm up activities, spontaneity/vocabulary, narration/creativity and presentation/body language. The aim was to practise a series of activities which can be easily incorporated into the classroom, increasing students' participation, improving class dynamics and making students more relaxed and confident when practising. Participants found it really worthwhile, describing the session as "fun, playful, creative," and which provided "authentic opportunities for us to react to another person", which is ultimately at the heart of what we try to create in our language teaching classrooms and some of the techniques have already found their way into teaching practice.



2017-2018 CLCC Charmian Brinson Honorary Lecture

CLCC was delighted to host Professor Roger Kneebone for his insightful lecture 'Crossing Boundaries' on 29th January 2018. Professor Kneebone argued that creativity, craftsmanship and performance are as important in a science lab or operating theatre as on a concert platform or a sculptor's studio. He asked how scientists, clinicians, artists and performers can learn from one another, sharing 'embodied ways of knowing' that cross disciplinary boundaries. The audience was asked to consider how experts from apparently unconnected areas of practice can inspire one another with new ways of thinking, bringing unexpected insights to the worlds of science and medicine. The lecture was fascinating and thought-provoking, and aligned well with the many multi-disciplinary activities of the CLCC. Professor Kneebone showed a series of slides and films showing how surgeons could learn from creative arts, for example the delicate art of lace-making was experienced by a surgeon more used to handling delicate human tissue.



Political Speakers

Dr Matt Wraith (SCS Horizons lecturer), arranged a series of talks at Imperial by political speakers. In March 2018 the current Afghanistan Ambassador to the UK, Mr Said T. Jawad, discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and addressed its evolving political climate and future trajectory. Matt organised a similar visit from the Palestinian Ambassador to the UK in August 2017.

CLCC Research Seminars

Staff and postgraduate students of the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication have once again presented aspects of their current research and / or teaching as part of the Centre’s vibrant Research Seminar Programme. These seminars take place on alternate Thursdays at 14.15 in room S303 A/B and are open to all. Because of the diverse nature of the academic interests represented within the Centre – ranging from modern languages through art, music, history and philosophy to science communication and more – our programme of seminars reflects a wide range of topics; it is intended to offer speakers a chance to share their work with others within the Centre as well as to showcase the work of the Centre outside it.

2017-2018 Highlights

In 2017-2018, our programme has once again been an extremely varied one including talks on the wartime Ministry of Information, curriculum design, 19th Century country house owners and – bringing us right up to date – on the language of Brexit.



The Russian Revolution: centennial, commemoration, catastrophe

Anna Ponomareva’s (pictured) thought provoking talk marked the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. She considered both the momentous events of 1917 and their commemoration a century later in Russia where the Revolution has now become a controversial topic.



Household Names: Bill Russell (and Peter Hobbs), the men behind a global brand

We were delighted to welcome back Emeritus Reader Nick Russell who considered the life and work of his father, co-founder of the Russell-Hobbs domestic appliance company. He also discussed some of the challenges of writing biography.

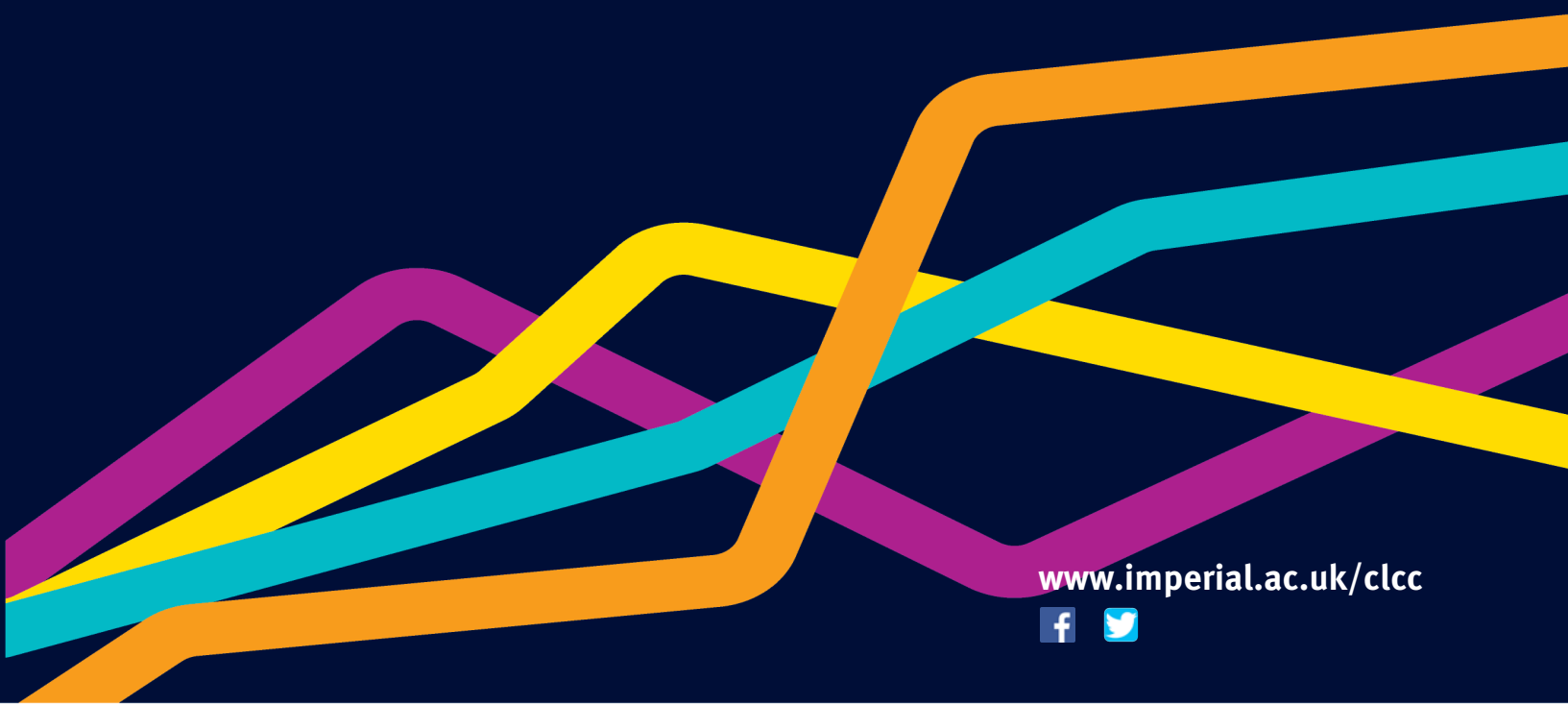
2018-2019 Seminar Series

Autumn Term

1 Nov	Lorenzo Pasculli	The Science of Global Law. Scientific Knowledge as the Foundation of the Global Law of the Future
15 Nov	Sheila Lecoeur	Andrew Sherwood: a life in photography
29 Nov	Christine Lattek	'Marx 200' : Events, Commemorations and Debates in Germany during 2018, the Bicentenary of Karl Marx' Birth
13 Dec	Marion Dufour	How English native speakers see the French language

Spring Term

10 Jan	Iria Gonzalez-Becerra	'Something good' is not enough: The Value of Language Learning in a STEM context
24 Jan	Geraldine Satre Buisson	Narratives and International Climate Policy - Polycentric Story-Telling and Regime Building
7 Feb	Tatiana Codreanu	Glocal tensions: Exploring the Dynamics of Intercultural Communication through a Language Learner's Vlog
21 Feb	Ruth Herd	'Music of the Cosmos': Japanese Court and Religious Music
7 Mar	Felicity Mellor	The Institutionalisation of Wonder: The Affective Turn in Science Communication



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