

SCR NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

ART HISTORY

Hanneke Grootenboer, who tutors our History of Art students, was invited by the Art History Department at University College London to deliver the 2011 Tomás Harris Visiting Professorship Lectures in the History of Art; these lectures were based on her recently completed book.*¹ With one of her research students, she co-convened a panel on wax sculpture in early modern and contemporary art at the annual convention of the Association of Art Historians at Warwick University, the proceedings of which are expected to be published as a special issue of the *Oxford Art Journal*. She is this year's organiser of the Centre for Visual Studies' annual Image & Object workshop, which brings together scholars across the Oxford community interested in aspects of the visual, and also the convenor of the departmental research seminar in the History of Art. She has founded an internship programme which enables second-year History of Art students to gain hands-on experience in Oxford's wonderful collections and archives such as the Ashmolean Museum, the Bodleian Rare Book Collection, the Pitt Rivers Museum and Modern Art Oxford. She writes: 'Despite the small intake (one a year), History of Art students are thriving at Worcester College, as they have all received Distinctions for Final Honour Schools and Prelims over the past few years.'

Mercedes Céron is the new Sackler Research Fellow. She has a Ph.D. from University College London, and has worked at the British Museum and the National Gallery. Her doctorate was on Goya and the development of genre painting in late eighteenth-century Spain, and her academic interests are in late eighteenth-century visual culture in Spain, France and Britain, prints and printmaking, and the history of collecting in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In Oxford she will be working on Francis Douce's collection in the Department of Western Art in the Ashmolean. Douce (1757-1834) was an antiquary interested in the history of customs and beliefs; he collected drawings, prints, manuscripts, rare books, coins and other antiquities

¹ Publication details for all asterisked items will be found in the *List of Publications*.

to illustrate these subjects. The collection was originally bequeathed to the Bodleian (his correspondence and private papers are still there) but many prints and drawings were transferred to the Ashmolean in 1863. The last batch of over 20,000 prints (every age, school, quality and size) arranged by subjects came to the museum in 2003. Dr Céron will be cataloguing the print collection and intends to publish a study of Douce as an antiquarian collector. In addition, she will probably be involved in organising an exhibition to mark the end of the research project.

Christopher Brown becomes a CBE for services to Museums.

BIOCHEMISTRY

Timothy Weil is one of four new Junior Research Fellows in Science. He has a doctorate in Molecular Biology from Princeton and was Marie Curie Research Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry at Oxford 2008-2010. He is a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellow; his topic is 'Identifying novel RNAs and elucidating their mechanisms of localization in *Drosophila* macrophages'. His research interests are in understanding the molecular mechanism of mRNA localization, specifically as it pertains to body axis patterning and cellular dynamics; live cell imaging; and advanced microscopy.

CHEMISTRY

Grant Ritchie has presented talks at five conferences: the 21st International Symposium on Gas Kinetics, Leuven (July 2010); the 18th International Conference on Advanced Laser Technologies (ALT), Egmond aan Zee (Sept. 2010); Annual Meeting of the Spectroscopy and Dynamic Group (SDG), Heriot-Watt University (Jan. 2011); Breath Analysis Workshop, Delft (April 2011); and the 8th International Conference on Tunable Diode Laser Spectroscopy, Zermatt (July 2011). He also gave an invited lecture at the University of Cork (March 2011). This year he enjoyed his first ever sabbatical period, taking Michaelmas and Hilary terms off from teaching; he spent the entire period in Oxford conducting research, and has published a number of scientific papers.* Dr Ritchie's interests lie broadly in the area of laser spectroscopy, and range from fundamental studies into the dynamics

of gas phase chemical reactions to far more applied measurements of trace constituents in exhaled breath for medical diagnostics.

John Eland has published fifteen papers in serious journals, including nine in *Physical Review Letters* or *Physical Review A*.^{*} All arise from use of his magnetic bottle coincidence technique.

CLASSICS

Peta Fowler writes: ‘During the Easter vacation a long-promised expedition to Rome took place under the auspices of **Jo Quinn** (as general) and Peta Fowler (as legate). Almost all the first and second year Classicists and Joint Schools (fourteen in total) came with us. They stayed in the youth hostel in Rome, which proved clean and cheap and was staffed by people who provided helpful advice. The students had to turn up at an agreed time and place for four consecutive days and visit sites specially chosen by Jo. We started with a visit to San Clemente, going down to the lowest and earliest level of the excavations and then ascending through the various layers up to the mediaeval church, in order to gain a sense of the rise of street level over the centuries and of the palimpsest-like nature of Rome as a city. On the following days we went to several sites not open to the general public, for which special *permessi* were acquired through the offices of the British School in Rome, and were addressed by leading archaeologists in their field. Lisa Fentress guided us through several Mithraea with such expertise that by the third Mithraeum the students were able to interpret the iconography for themselves. We were taken over the Palatine by Emanuele Papi of the University of Siena who used his powers of persuasion to open up Augustus’ House to us and who explained the complicated nature of its two phases of construction. The Forum of Augustus was also on our list and we followed the triumphal route through the Forum Boarium, Circus Maximus and Roman Forum, with detailed discussion of the problems of plotting it. On each site a student or tutor would make a brief presentation to the assembled masses – we acquired inquisitive tourists as part of our entourage. As Classicists we could not wholly ignore the pleasures of the symposium and Jo arranged for us to have a fine dinner at the British School. All participants on the trip declared it a great success.

We are hoping to offer future students such trips at least once during their course at Worcester. Greece beckons next.'

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Bernard Suftrin writes 'After formally retiring from College and University in October 2010, I spent last academic year tutoring at Worcester to ease my successor's transition from Queen Mary, University of London. At Council's invitation I remained active on the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of the University for a while; and at my Faculty's invitation I co-judged a D.Sc. submission. I also served on the programme committees of 'Communicating Process Architectures' and the 'International Congress on Tools for Teaching Logic'. Next year I shall continue to lecture in the University, and to tutor (at Magdalen and Univ). Along with Worcester colleagues Robert Gildea, Kate Tunstall and John Parrington, I co-founded the Oxford University Campaign for Higher Education (OUCHE!), whose aim is to protect the ethos of the public university as a site of open and unfettered research, teaching, and learning rather than as a purveyor of commodities.'

Hongseok Yang joined the College in the beginning of May and will take up an Official Tutorial Fellowship for five years from 1 October as Bernard Suftrin's successor. His first degree was from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has come to Worcester from Queen Mary, University of London, where he was Lecturer and EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow at the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr Yang is interested in various programme verification techniques, both manual and automatic. What excite him most are techniques for heap and concurrency that can scale to real-world software systems. At present, he spends a large portion of his research time studying machine learning and artificial intelligence and finding applications of their techniques to automatic software verification. He also works on developing programming language theories, such as data abstraction and semantics, which formally explain programming disciplines used in major low-level systems code.

ECONOMICS

Simon Cowan has been continuing his work on the theoretical analysis of the effects of price discrimination, which he has extended to consider policy and empirical implications. He has also started work on an analysis of regulation in the National Health Service. He has been helping to develop a new inter-disciplinary option course in PPE on the philosophy and economics of the environment, to be taught jointly by philosophers and economists.

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Ernesto Macaro has been completing an ESRC-funded project on French vocabulary acquisition with lower intermediate learners.

Gabriel Stylianides was appointed to a Supernumerary Fellowship to be held in conjunction with his appointment to a University Lectureship in Mathematics Education. He was previously an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. A Fulbright scholar, he received M.Sc. degrees in Mathematics and Mathematics Education, and then his Ph.D. in Mathematics Education, at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on issues related to the meaningful engagement of students of all levels of education (including university students) in fundamental mathematical practices – notably mathematical reasoning, proving, problem solving, and algebraic thinking. This year he has been the recipient of the 2011 American Educational Research Association SIG/RME Early Career Publication Award for his article ‘Reasoning-and-Proving in School Mathematics Textbooks’ (*Mathematical Thinking and Learning*, vol. 11, 2009, pp. 258-288).

ENGINEERING

Antonis Papachristodoulou is Arthur Dexter’s successor as Fellow and Tutor in Engineering. In 2000 he obtained an MA/M.Eng. degree in Electrical and Information Sciences from Cambridge University as a member of Robinson College. In 2005 he completed a Ph.D. in Control and Dynamical Systems at the California Institute of Technology, with a Ph.D. Minor in Aeronautics. His thesis was entitled *Scalable Analysis of Nonlinear Systems Using Convex Optimization*. After a short David Crighton Fellowship at Cambridge and a postdoctoral fellowship at the

California Institute of Technology, he joined the Department of Engineering Science at Oxford in January 2006 as Departmental Lecturer in Control Engineering, while teaching at St Edmund Hall. His research focuses on the development of mathematical tools and algorithms for the scalable analysis of nonlinear networked systems using convex optimization and sum of squares programming.

ENGLISH

David Bradshaw writes: ‘On 1st September 2010 I began a three-year stint as Chair of the English Faculty Board. I have lectured in Glasgow and Cambridge and published articles on T.S. Eliot’s politics, Kipling and war, Virginia Woolf and London, and the egregious James Douglas, who revelled in his self-appointed role as “the sanitary inspector of literature” between the wars’.

Elisabeth Dutton gave a paper in Padua on ‘Bilingualism and translation: the voice of early Tudor stage directions’ and an invited lecture at Amherst in November on ‘Stage Latin – text and side-text before the professional playhouse’. A short documentary film about her staging of John Skelton’s *Magnyfycence* at Hampton Court Palace is now online at <http://www.thynkebyggly.org/magnyfycence>; parts of the film were shot in Worcester Hall. She directed Henry Chettle’s *The Tragedy of Hoffman*, using a mixed cast of professional actors and conference delegates for the Malone Society Conference at Magdalen College in September, and in May she directed a cast of Globe actors in a series of short scenes from Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and from pre-Shakespearean plays, to accompany the British Academy Shakespeare Lecture by Laurie Maguire. She has also been busy with her project on *The Faerie Queene Now!* She reports that it has been another strong year for Visiting Students, and that next year’s intake also looks excellent.

GEOGRAPHY

Heather Viles has continued as a member of the Advisory Board of the AHRC-EPSRC Science and Heritage Research Programme and in a final year as Vice-President (expeditions and fieldwork), Royal Geographical Society with IBG. She started a two-year term as

Deputy Chair, British Society for Geomorphology, and will take over as Chair in 2012. She gave invited talks in Portsmouth and Plymouth Universities, and carried out fieldwork in Namibia; Zhangjiajie, China; Belfast; Wytham Woods near Oxford; and Portland, Dorset. The final report of the English Heritage-funded research project which she carried out with a colleague on 'Ivy on walls' is now available on her departmental website at: <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/landscape/rubble/ivy/ivy-report.pdf> This report illustrates discoveries on the beneficial aspects of ivy growth on walls, whilst acknowledging that it can also have deteriorating effects. The project received a lot of media coverage in the UK and around the world.

Sebastian Engelstaedter is one of the new Junior Research Fellows this year. He has returned to Oxford, where he studied for his doctorate at Worcester and was Martin Senior Scholar, from Cornell. He is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the School of Geography and his topic is 'Fennec: the Saharan Climate System' (a Natural Environment Research Council – NERC – project with Leeds, Reading, Imperial and the Meteorological Office). His research interests are in climate and environmental change on regional to global scales with a specific focus on land-atmosphere interactions in arid and semi-arid environments, the processes controlling the spatial and temporal variability of the dust cycle (emission, transport and deposition), and the climate of the Sahara/Sahel region.

GEOLOGY

Don Fraser was again Visiting Professor at the Institute for the Study of the Earth's Interior, Misasa, Japan, where he set up a set of magic angle spinning nuclear magnetic resonance (MAS NMR) experiments to follow exactly how olivine hydrates, repolymerizes and dissolves. The interaction of minerals and rocks with water and CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere and hydrosphere contribute to the complex balance of processes involved in global warming.

During the year he published four papers together with colleagues on the origin of biohomochirality* - the configurational asymmetry chosen by living organisms in which almost all DNA coded amino acids

are L-symmetry in contrast to the D-symmetry of sugars. He writes: 'This 'handed' or chiral asymmetry is also shown in amino acids from certain hydrated meteorites. Our theoretical and neutron-scattering work shows that clays, common hydrated minerals which are able to catalyse the formation of RNA oligomers from RNA monomers, also select L-handed amino acids from D-handed enantiomers. This may be relevant for our understanding of the very first molecular processes involved in the origin of life. Applications of this work include methods for the preparation of chiral pharmaceuticals.'

Mike Searle spent two months in Tibet with two D.Phil. students, and has just returned from a month in Nepal where he is working on the Annapurna - Dhaulagiri ranges. He also 'starred' on a TV documentary 'How the Earth was Made', which involved explaining how the Himalayas were constructed and combining with a climbing friend (Kenton Cool), who collected rock samples from the summit of Everest.

HISTORY

Robert Gildea has been steering the 'Around 1968' project to completion. The website documenting interviews with nearly 500 activists belonging to over 100 activist networks in fourteen European countries has been launched and can be found at <https://around1968.modhist.ox.ac.uk>. A series of six articles by the research team 'Voices of Europe's '68' has been published in a special issue of *Cultural and Social History*, vol. 8:4 (2011). Professor Gildea has also contributed a chapter to a collection edited by one of the team members.*

Katharina Ulmschneider writes: 'I am continuing work both on Anglo-Saxon economic history and metal-detector finds, and on the co-directed project 'Persecution and survival: the experience of the Jewish refugee Paul Jacobsthal' funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Reva and David Logan Foundation. An exhibition of Jacobsthal's life as an archaeologist and his experience as a refugee in Oxford will take place from January to March 2012 at the Museum of Oxford. Details will be posted on our website <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/jacobsthal.html>. We are very grateful to the former Worcester students who have come

forward with their own experiences of this time and have allowed us to take oral histories. Please continue to get in contact.’ She has given lectures on the project and on other topics in Oxford, Cambridge and Suffolk.

Peter Frankopan has been busy combining being the first Director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, based at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies in St Giles, in its first year, with finishing off a new book on the First Crusade, which will appear in November. Outside Oxford, he has lectured in Liverpool and been an external examiner at King’s College London.

James Campbell has clearly been busy in retirement; his publications are listed below.*

LAW

Donal Nolan writes: ‘I co-edited the fourth edition of *OSCOLA*, the *Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities*, which came out late last year. *OSCOLA* is designed to facilitate the accurate and uniform citation of UK legal authorities, and is used by many law schools in the UK and overseas, and by a number of legal journals and publishers. The fourth edition was a major revision and extension, and in the three months following its publication there were nearly 40,000 unique views of the *OSCOLA* web page (www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola). I also travelled to Melbourne in March courtesy of the Melbourne Law School’s International Research Visitor Scheme to work with Professor Andrew Robertson on our forthcoming edited collection *Rights and Private Law*, which is made up of papers from the Obligations V conference we co-convened in Oxford last year’. He also gave papers in York, Oxford and Melbourne and at the Society of Legal Scholars’ Annual Conference at the University of Southampton.

Cathryn Costello’s doctoral thesis was examined in May 2010 by Professors Paul Craig and Dora Kostakopoulou. She is currently revising and expanding it for publication with OUP in the Oxford Studies in European Law series. In the past year, she presented scholarly papers at the Nordic Asylum Law Seminar in Copenhagen;

the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies Spring Symposium, Bloomington, Indiana; the VU University Amsterdam; and the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin. She also addressed audiences of legal practitioners and policymakers under the auspices of the European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA) in Athens; the Dutch Council of Refugees; the European Commission's Odysseus Programme in Brussels; and the Irish Centre for European Law & Refugee & Immigration Practitioners' Network in Dublin.

Maris Köpcke Tinturé, who has degrees from Barcelona, Brussels, Harvard and Oxford, was elected to a fixed-term fellowship in Law for 2010-2014. She first joined Worcester as Lecturer in Law in Michaelmas 2009, taking over Michelle Dempsey's teaching in Jurisprudence and Criminal Law. Her interests are in most aspects of jurisprudence and the philosophical foundations of the criminal law. She completed a doctorate at University College Oxford in 2009 on *Some Main Questions concerning Legal Validity*, which explored why it is morally necessary that legal validity does *not* primarily turn on moral considerations. She has recently been awarded the 2011 European Award for Legal Theory, which is assigned every three years to the author of the best doctoral thesis in the area of legal theory and philosophy of law submitted anywhere in Europe. It entails publication by Hart Publishing (Oxford) and appointment as a lecturer at the European Academy of Legal Theory, in charge of a seminar for a period of three academic years.

Judith Freedman was on leave this year and travelled to the University of New South Wales in February, where she delivered their 'Inaugural Thought Leadership Lecture' on tax policy making, on the occasion of the launch of the Australian School of Taxation and Business Law. She presented a paper at a conference in honour of John Braithwaite at UBC in Vancouver in September 2010 and was a Hauser Global visitor at NYU during April 2011. She has been appointed a member of the Office of Tax Simplification Small Business Taxation Consultative Committee and also of the Aaronson General Anti-avoidance Study Group, set up by David Gaulke, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury. She gave interviews on Radio 4 with Evan Davis on 'Evan Loves Tax'

(Sept. 2010) and with Clive Anderson (March 2011) on 'Unreliable Evidence on Tax Avoidance'. She gave evidence to the House of Commons Treasury Sub-Committee on 'Administration and effectiveness of HMRC: closing the tax gap'.

Julian Roberts has given invited lectures in Sheffield, London, New York, Budapest, and Toronto.

MATHEMATICS

Richard Earl received an Oxford Teaching Award for 2009-10.

Joanna Davies is leaving College this year and will be pursuing her research interests in a project based in Devon.

MEDICINE

Kim Dora was elected to a Supernumerary Fellowship from 1 October 2010. She has a B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Tasmania, and has worked in laboratories in Australia, the USA and the UK. Her first academic post was at the University of Bath as Lecturer (subsequently Reader) in the Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department. She currently holds a research post in the Department of Pharmacology in Oxford, where together with Professor Chris Garland she has established a Vascular Pharmacology Group. Her general area of interest is vascular physiology and pharmacology, specifically establishing how small, resistance arteries control tissue blood flow and influence blood pressure. She has been teaching Worcester students since 2008.

Rory Bowden continues his research on the lifestyles and behaviour of micro-organisms, particularly concerning bacteria with major impacts on public health. Over the last five years, whole-genome sequencing has been adopted as the ultimate tool in describing relationships between members of a bacterial population, with benefits in understanding their biology, transmission and disease-causing properties. Rory leads a group of about ten people analysing literally thousands of genomes as part of a large Oxford-based clinical research consortium, a scale of research in microbiology that just a few years ago was unimaginable. Research highlights of this year have included: new

understanding of the origins and evolution of MRSA, the ‘superbug’ multi-drug resistant form of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the UK; a clarification of the role of hospital transmission in the spread of *Clostridium difficile*, and new insights into the true relationships between tuberculosis cases that on first view seem to be part of the same outbreak. This kind of work is the epitome of a large-scale, multi-disciplinary collaboration and an area of scholarly effort for which Oxford is internationally famous but which may be less well known in the College environment. Rory is happy to talk with members of the wider College community about his research and related fields.

Edward Hutchinson is one of the new Junior Research Fellows this year. He did his doctorate at Christ’s College Cambridge and was the Society for General Microbiology’s Young Microbiologist of the year 2007. He is an MRC-funded Postdoctoral Research Scientist and his topic is ‘Molecular Interactions between the Transcriptional Machinery of Influenza Virus and the Host Cell’. Along with his research, he has done some science outreach this year. He designed and ran a stall at the Oxfordshire Science Festival Launch event (26th Feb.) and with several helpers spent the day on Cornmarket explaining influenza genetics and pandemics to several hundred people (through the medium of chocolate). On 15th June he gave a talk about microbes at SciBars, a science society run for the public in the Port Mahon pub (typical audience 20-30) and he will be giving similar talks at Cafés Scientifiques next academic year. He has also recently registered as a STEM Ambassador for a national scheme that co-ordinates outreach work to school children in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths; he hopes to give talks on similar subjects at a range of secondary schools.

Jennifer Bizley is leaving to take up a post at University College, London.

Aron Chakera is returning to Australia.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Kate Tunstall has been on leave this year, which has allowed her to complete her book *Blindness and Enlightenment*.^{*} She is currently editing ‘Self-Evident Truths?': *Human Rights and the Enlightenment: The Oxford*

Amnesty Lectures 2010 and has been working on two new projects. The first is on ‘anonymity’ as part of a collaboration between the Besterman Centre for the Enlightenment (Oxford) and the Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe (Johns Hopkins). This led to a conference at Johns Hopkins in November, the proceedings of which will appear in a special issue of *Modern Language Notes* later this year. The second is on ‘disputes and *querelles*’ as part of the AGON project, a collaboration between Oxford and Paris IV, which received a major research grant from the French government’s Agence National de Recherche. She writes: ‘The government’s assaults on higher education have also meant that I’ve also been doing lots of activism. Along with a group of other Fellows of Worcester and some like-minded colleagues in other Colleges, we formed OUCHE! (Oxford University Campaign for Higher Education). It drafted the resolution that was passed with near unanimity by Congregation on 7th June: ‘Congregation instructs Council to communicate to Government that the University of Oxford has no confidence in the policies of the Minister for Higher Education.’ The resolution has inspired colleagues at other institutions to put similar motions to their Senates, departmental meetings, etc. OUCHE also set up the national petition: www.noconfidence.org.uk.’

Marine Roussillon has been elected Junior Research Fellow and Lecturer in French. She has studied at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris and her doctorate, awarded this year with *félicitations* at the University of Paris 3 was entitled *Visions du Moyen Âge à l’âge classique: usages des récits chevaleresques (1600-1750)*. She is interested in a large number of topics in the field of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French literature, history and culture, including the reception of the Middle Ages in the period, the cultural practices of the nobility, and the construction of national identities in literature.

Muireann Maguire, Career Development Fellow in Russian Literature and Culture at Wadham College, replaces Dr Philip Bullock as Tutor for Russian at Worcester in 2010-2012. Her current research concerns the representation of science and scientists in Russian literature and cinema, and her book of translated Russian ghost stories, *Red Spectres*,

is forthcoming with Angel Classics in 2012. Running is one of her preferred leisure activities; she ran three marathons in 2010 and intends to run the Dublin Marathon in October 2011.

MUSIC

Stephen Farr has performed solo concerts in Denmark, Norway, Italy, Iceland and throughout the UK; featured with ensembles including the City of London Sinfonia, Polyphony, the Holst Singers, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Academy of Ancient Music in concert and recording; appeared as soloist and guest director at the Cartagena International Music Festival; premiered a major new work for organ by Judith Bingham in a solo appearance at the BBC Proms; and appeared frequently on BBC Radio 3 as a soloist, with the BBC Singers, and as a reviewer on CD Review.

PHILOSOPHY

Sabina Lovibond retires on 30 September 2011 after twenty-seven years as a Fellow. An appreciation will be found on p.91. She writes: 'My main news for the year is the publication of *Iris Murdoch, Gender and Philosophy** by Routledge, in April. Also, in February, I gave some guest lectures (on 'Practical Reason and Character-Formation') at Humboldt University, Berlin, and in a series at J. W. Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main.' Her successor will be Dr Michail Peramatzis.

PHYSICS

Paul Ewart was selected for an Oxford Teaching Award 2009-10.

Sugata Kaviraj was the 2011 recipient of the Winton Capital Award of the Royal Astronomical Society for the most promising early career astrophysicist. His main interests are the formation and evolution of the galaxy population over the 14 billion year lifetime of the Universe. His current efforts are focused on exploiting the new ultraviolet capabilities of the Hubble Space Telescope to study star formation in nearby galaxies at unprecedentedly high spatial resolution. The work promises detailed empirical insights into how galaxies (the building blocks of the visible Universe) are assembled and will yield valuable constraints on modern galaxy formation models. Over the last year

his research has appeared in fifteen articles and six conference proceedings.*

Thorben Cordes is one of the new Junior Research Fellows this year. He studied Chemistry at the Technical University of Braunschweig, with a strong focus on physical/laser chemistry and obtained his Ph.D. in Physics from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich in 2008. He worked on a variety of different problems in biophysics and photochemistry using time-resolved spectroscopy. He currently holds an EU Marie-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Biological Physics Research Group at the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford. Trained as a physical chemist, he is generally interested in interdisciplinary problems at the borderline of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Some of his projects involve the use of single-molecule fluorescence methods to study the properties and dynamics of tiny biological machines such as RNA-Polymerase.

POLITICS

Alan Ware completed the final draft of his latest book, changing its provisional title to *Political Conflict in America*, and this will be published in New York by Palgrave during the academic year 2011-12. Work on that manuscript took him away from his new project on the 'Politics of Grammar Schools in England and Wales since 1900', but he hopes to make up for lost time during Michaelmas Term when he will be on sabbatical leave. He took early retirement from the University under its OMIS scheme in December 2010, but he will be continuing as a Tutorial Fellow and Garden Master at Worcester until 2012.

THEOLOGY

Sue Gillingham writes: 'Worries that my impending hip replacement might interfere with a well-subscribed international conference on the Jewish and Christian reception of the Psalms, convened at Worcester from 22-24 September 2010, proved exaggerated. On the second evening a generous gift from Martin Paisner (1962-65) supported a memorable event in Worcester Chapel, where, helped by Jonathan Arnold's expertise, and amidst all the opulent iconography, a cantata of Jewish and Christian psalmody may well have been a first in that

liturgical space. Jonathan was cantor for David Mitchell's reconstruction of the ancient Hebrew cantillation of psalmody, and the choir performed three psalms from Tallis's *Archbishop Parker's Psalter*, as well as a setting of Psalm 122, composed specially for the event by Robert Saxton; whilst Howard Goodall conducted the first ever live performance of his Psalm 137. (A CD of this event is still available.) The eighteen papers from this Conference are to be published by OUP in 2012.' She has also been busy with her research on the Psalms, giving papers in Strasbourg and Pretoria and working on a volume on the reception history of Psalms 1-2, to be published by OUP. She writes: 'Finally, I'm finding that the Church is at last waking up to the value of reception history, too; I now offer study days for ordained and lay ministers around various Anglican Dioceses. Whether this will count as 'impact' I wait to see!'

Afifi al-Akiti has been made PMP, the Malaysian equivalent of the CBE, in this year's Sultan of Perak Birthday Honours List. Elsewhere overseas, he was elected Associate Fellow, Centre for Islamic Development Management Studies (ISDEV), University of Science, Malaysia. In Oxford, he curated the special exhibition staged at the Museum of the History of Science, entitled 'Al-Mizan: Sciences and Arts in the Muslim World', which was open to the public from October 2010 to March 2011. The exhibition highlighted the connections between the sciences and arts in Muslim societies and the ways scientific enquiry and artistic creativity were combined. Inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, the exhibition was accompanied by a series of public programmes that included lectures, table talks, workshops, tours, and family events.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Al-Akiti, Afifi: *Sampaikah Amalan Orang Hidup Kepada Arwah: Suatu Kupasan Ilmiah Menurut Pandangan Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah* [in Malay: 'The actions of the living on behalf of the dead: a theological investigation according to Sunni Muslim doctrine'] (Pelima, 2011)

___ (as guest editor): special issue celebrating the 100th year of the founding of the journal *The Muslim world: a journal devoted to the study of Islam and Christian-Muslim relations* (Wiley-Blackwell)

Arnold, Jonathan: *The great humanists: an introduction* (I.B. Tauris, 2011) [forthcoming]

Ashe, Laura: 'Mutatio dexteræ Excelsi: narratives of transformation after the Conquest', *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 110 (2011) 141-72

Campbell, James: 'Questioning Bede', in *Intersections: the archaeology and history of Christianity in England, 400-1200: papers in honour of Martin Biddle and Birtke Kjølbye-Biddle*, ed. M. Henig and N. Ramsay (Archaeopress, 2010) 119-28

___ 'Historical sources and archaeology', in *The Oxford handbook of Anglo-Saxon archaeology*, ed. H. Hamerow, D.A. Hinton and S. Crawford (OUP, 2011) 951-67

___ 'Secular and political contexts', in *The Cambridge companion to Bede*, ed. S. DeGregorio (CUP, 2011) 25-38

___ 'The Romans to the Norman Conquest, 300 B.C.-A.D. 1066', in *A world by itself: a history of the British Isles*, ed. J. Clark (Heinemann, 2010) 4-108

___ 'Aspects of nobility and mobility in Anglo-Saxon society', in *Soldiers, nobles and gentlemen: essays in honour of Maurice Keen*, ed. P. Coss and C. Tyerman (Boydell, 2009) 17-31

___ 'The Anglo-Saxon origins of English constitutionalism' is now available in a Chinese version in *Historical Research* (Peking) iii (2010) 69-75

Costello, Cathryn: ‘Citizenship of the Union: above abuse?’, in *Prohibition of abuse of law: a new general principle of EU Law*, ed. R. de la Feria & S. Vogenauer (Hart Publishing, 2011)

___ (as co-author): *The evolution of fundamental rights charters and caselaw: a comparison of the EU, Council of Europe and UN systems* (European Parliament, 2011)

Dutton, Elisabeth: ‘The Croxton Play of the Sacrament’, in *The Oxford handbook of Tudor drama*, ed. T. Betteridge and G. Walker (OUP, 2011) [forthcoming]

(as co-editor): *John Gower, trilingual poet: language, translation and tradition* (D.S. Brewer, 2010)

Eland, John (as co-author): ‘Double core hole creation and subsequent Auger decay in ammonia and methane molecules’, *Physical Review Letters* 105 (2010) 213005

___ ‘Triple ionisation spectra by coincidence measurements of double Auger decay in the case of OCS’, *Journal of Chemical Physics* 132 (2010) 014311

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