FIRST STEPS TOWARD A ROOM TEMPERATURE SUPER-METAL

In a paper recently published in Euro Physics Letters, NYU London’s Guy Wilson, General Physics Lab, and his co-authors in Queen Mary London, Madrid, Berlin and Saratov Russia provide a theory to account for the thirty-year-old outstanding experimental results by Donovan and Wilson on the electron transport in polydiacetylene (PDA) single crystals. Their work gives a theoretical understanding of currents induced by light pulses in these crystals, resulting in electron mobility that is higher than in any conventional semiconductor.

In crafting an “umbrella” Hamiltonian, which gives the complete story of quantum energy in the crystals, the authors explain how, in the presence of a low, external electric field, currents at supersonic velocities can be achieved. The paper’s authors write that further experiments building on this transport theory of PDA crystals could achieve a room temperature super-metal. Their transport theory “offers the possibility of a mechanical control of electrons at the nano-scale,” and can also be used for other materials “whose stiffness and crystal vibrations permit strong enough compressions.”

Read the full paper at: http://iopscience.iop.org/0295-5075/106/2/27004

LONDON MUSEUMS

Eliya Ribak, Cultural Foundations I, is leading a new class for the fall semester: London Museums. It is intended as a ‘Museology 101” class, using the treasure trove of London museums as case studies for this introduction to the study of museums. Thirteen London museums serve as classrooms for the study of a variety of museological elements ranging from material culture to museum architecture.

The course has three main themes: the first is museum history, which includes the history of collecting and collections as well as the development of museums from the private to the public domain. The second is the role of the contemporary museum— including important functions of this complex institution such as display and interpretation, education, material culture, conservation and ownership issues. The final theme is museum types, where communal, historical, art historical, science and anthropology museums will be interrogated.

Eliya says, “London Museums was born of my engagement with NYU London students for the last five years. As an archaeologist my approach to teaching Cultural Foundations I and II has been to focus on material culture. The best way to experience prehistorical to 18th century material culture today is in a museum. As we are fortunate enough to be located next door to the British Museum, I could take full advantage of it as my second classroom. I discovered that students are very enthusiastic about classes taking place in museums and other sites in London. With structured exercises and assessment, these classes proved both popular and pedagogically effective.”

She continues, “as it is an introductory course, the courses aims and themes were easy to define and class topics simple to decide. It was more complex to decide which topic should be taught in which museum. London is incredibly rich in museums, both in numbers and quality. It certainly has a fascinating museum development history, which was very helpful in developing the course. It was relatively easy to assign a museum for the museum type classes. After all, it wasn’t hard to decide to teach about Museums and Science in the Science Museum, the largest, and most impressive of its kind in London. The British Museum came readily to mind when I was planning the class on cultural property, as it has been involved in a few ownership skirmishes over its long history.

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“More complex to assign were classes on education, display, material culture, collecting and history, because all museums share these traits. My knowledge of London Museums was particularly beneficial to me at this point, as I was able to find small museums which were particularly useful in hosting certain classes. Collecting as a psychological phenomenon, for example, is best discussed in the unique environment of the Sir John Soane’s Museum. The study of Display in The Royal Observatory should help students understand the challenges museums face in displaying awkward specimens!”

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LONDON MUSEUMS
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“St Joan, an original production by the London based Pascal Theatre Company, is a brilliant, challenging show. Much original theatre lacks a complex, erudite script at its core. Even many great, original performances lack the courage to present a piece which could, in channelling avant-garde tendencies, potentially alienate their audience.

Julia Pascal’s St Joan, however, does just this. I had to see the performance a second time before writing this review. This work is not dumbed down to achieve a high star rating from a disinterested critic and its subject matter confirms this. St Joan is concerned with many things. Primarily, it asks us to question the truly abstract notion of nationalism, though it considers nationalism from a variety of perspectives. It focuses on the displacement of Jews from Joan of Arc’s time up to the collapse of colonialism and on to modern Britain. Secondly, St Joan is about the

FOCUS ON: JULIA PASCAL

Julia Pascal, Writing I, has had her latest production, St Joan, reviewed by Duncan Grindall on the website Broadway Baby. Below is an extract (full review available at: http://www.broadwaybaby.com/shows/st-joan/700167)

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GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND AWARD

We are pleased to announce that Phillip Drummond, British Cinema, has received one of the first round of Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund (GCFDF) Awards to support the preparation of a proposed course on The First World War in collaboration with colleagues in the Departments of Liberal Studies and History at Washington Square.

The course, expected to launch in 2015-2016, will draw upon and contribute to the centennial commemorations of the conflict currently underway around the globe. A taster of the course will be provided by ‘Remembering the First World War’, a special event to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the conflict, running at NYUL in early November (see below).

Julia Pascal, Writing I, has also received a GCFDF Award to work on a project entitled ‘Art and Experience: In the Beginning Was the Dance’ with Dr. Mahnaz Yousefzadeh, and Dr Martin Reichert from NYU Liberal Studies. The team will offer a series of workshops in New York and London designed to facilitate an experiential approach to the teaching of the great texts in the core humanities curriculum at Liberal Studies. They will develop some ‘model classes’, comprising readings, study questions, whole-class and group activities, as well as assignments. These can be adapted and modified by faculty teaching the Foundations sequence at all Liberal Studies global sites. They will also be able to used to train the students in art-based research which they are required to conduct in their junior and senior years.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR REMEMBERED

The centenary of the Great War (1914-1918) is the subject of a substantial programme of NYUL events being planned for by Phillip Drummond and Tony Skitt for this year’s New York ‘World Tour’ in the week of November 9-14, entitled ‘Remembering the First World War’.

The event will include opportunities for participation in the historic public commemoration of Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph and Armistice Day in Trafalgar Square; a visit to the Imperial War Museum for the new WWI galleries and the accompanying art exhibit; a visit to the Tower of London to view the spectacular and emotive poppy installation in the moat; poetry and drama performances; a poster display; an academic debate; and film/TV screenings which range from Jeremy Paxman’s celebrated television series Britain’s Great War to Lewis Milestone’s legendary anti-war film All Quiet on the Western Front. We plan to observe the customary national two-minute silence at 11am on Tuesday 11 November.

Full details and souvenir programme to follow.
FOCUS ON: PHILIP WOODS

Philip Woods, *Britain and Slavery* and *Cultures and Contexts: British National Identity*, enjoyed a three week break from research over the summer when he helped lead a group of 12 student volunteers from Kingston University, London, to Chennai, India. The students had been invited by Ratheesan Yoganathan, an ex-Kingston student and co-founder of the Lebara telecommunications company, to work for the Lebara Foundation, which supports children around the world whose families have been displaced, for whatever reason. In this case, the students would help teach in Sri Lankan Tamil refugee camps which had been established in Tamil Nadu, in southern India. They would also work in a slum area where fishermen had been relocated after the devastating tsunami of 2004.

Philip had been to Chennai many years ago when he undertook his postgraduate research and has visited India many times since. However, most of the students had never been to India before, let alone worked in refugee camps or slums. Philip says, “they responded magnificently and re-affirmed one’s faith in the student generation. Despite travelling for two to four hours each day and working in the heat of the summer in India, they showed great enthusiasm, energy and stamina. They made instant connections with the children and used their skills to teach English, crafts and sports activities.” Continuing, he says, “although they were only in Chennai for three weeks, there is no doubt that they made a difference to the children and mothers in the camps, showing them that they really mattered and had skills which they could develop after the students left. The students themselves all felt that they had benefited greatly from the experience, and a number described it as ‘life changing’. It is hoped that the international volunteering will be repeated in future years.

If you would like to read more about the excellent work undertaken by the Lebara Foundation, please visit [www.lebarafoundation.org](http://www.lebarafoundation.org).

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

Geraldine Biddle-Perry, *History of British Fashion*, is a fashion and cultural historian. Her work considers questions of self in a range of cultural historical contexts and explores the self-conscious fashioning of modern bodies through popular consumption. Her research includes the symbolic and social significance of hair and its styling; and the development of recreational and outdoor leisure clothing in relation to class and social aspiration in the late nineteenth and first part of the twentieth century. Recent research has been concerned with the development of British ceremonial team uniforms in the context of an emerging modern Olympic movement and fashion and suburban aspiration at the fin de siècle. She is currently working on a monograph looking at mainstream fashion and leisure consumption in post-war austerity Britain to be published in Summer 2015.

Vijay Chudasama, *Organic Chemistry I Lab*, graduated from University College London (UCL), 2008, where he worked on a novel, versatile approach for the synthesis of 2,4-substituted oxazoles under the tutelage of Dr. Jon Wilden. Following his undergraduate studies, Dr. Chudasama obtained his PhD (2011) at UCL working with both Prof. Stephen Caddick and Dr. Richard Fitzmaurice on the use of aerobic aldehyde C-H activation for the construction of C-C and C-N bonds. He has won a collection of awards/prizes including the Ramsay Medal (2011), Lilly Postgraduate Prize Day (2010), and UCL Graduate School Research Scholarship (2008, 2009, 2010). After his graduate work, Dr. Chudasama took a year out to work in patent law. He returned to UCL to do a postdoctoral stay in the laboratories of Prof. Stephen Caddick and Dr. Mark Smith where he turned his attention to developing novel reagents for cysteine and disulfide functionalisation. In 2013, he was highlighted by Scientific American to be one of 30 scientists, under 30 years old, across the world with promising prospects in Chemistry and selected to attend the 63rd Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting. In 2014, Dr. Chudasama was awarded a prestigious Ramsay Fellowship in the field of Chemical Biology and was made Technical Director of biologicals company (ThioLogics), which is based on technology he is an inventor of. To date, Dr. Chudasama has published over 20 papers and patents.

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**Jonathan Franklin**, *Victorian to Modern: Crimea to WW1*, researches and teaches Victorian Literature, specializing in the history of teaching and pedagogy in the period. He grew up in North London, a few miles away from Bedford Square, completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Cambridge, before heading over to New York for a doctorate in English literature. In the last year, he has taught classes at NYU New York, presented at a conference for Dickens fans and taught classes in a medium-security women’s prison. He also has strong interests in social inclusion and widening participation in higher education and has worked to support students from under-represented backgrounds in both an academic and a pastoral capacity.


**Molly M. Martin** received her Ph.D. in Italian Literature from Columbia University. Her research centres on women writers of the Italian Renaissance. Her book *Veronica Gambara Complete Poems: A Bilingual Edition* (2014) presents the first complete translated edition of Gambara’s lyric poetry. Prof. Martin teaches Cultural Foundations in the G/LS program. Her Fall seminar “Ancient Foundations for the Modern World” explores the re-emergence of Classical works onto the modern cultural landscape, while her Spring seminar “Shifting Cultural Geographies: Literature, Maps and Travel Writing” centers on Early Modern travel from the Islamic golden age to European cultural rebirth.

**Peter Speiser**, *A History of London*, graduated in Modern History at the University of Westminster in 2005. He then went on to complete an MA in History of International Relations at the London School of Economics in 2006. In January 2013 he was awarded a PhD at the University of Westminster. His main research interests are post-war London, the British Army of the Rhine and Anglo-German political and social relations since 1945. His teaching experience includes modules such as ‘Cosmopolis: London since 1960’, ‘The Great Wen, Nineteenth-Century London’ and ‘The London Blitz: Image, Impact, Legacy’. He is currently working on the publication of his PhD thesis as a monograph.

**Philipp Wirtz**, *What is Islam?* and *Islam and the West*, received his PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies in 2013. Philipp is currently a Senior Teaching Fellow in the Department of History at SOAS. His research interests are mainly within the history of the Ottoman Empire and its successor states. At the moment, he is turning his PhD thesis about the depiction of the Ottoman Empire in Turkish autobiographies into a monograph. Philipp teaches various aspects of the history of the Middle East; in the current academic year he convenes a course on the Middle East in the period of the Crusades and a module on medieval Arabic travel accounts at SOAS.

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**FOCUS ON: NEIL BINGHAM**

**Neil Bingham**, faculty member of NYU London’s graduate program in Historical and Sustainable Architecture, curated an exhibit this summer at the Royal Academy of Arts on the work of renowned British architect Norman Shaw. Running from 30 to 14 September and entitled “Dream, Draw, Work,” the exhibit explored the materials, draughtsmanship and design practices of Shaw and his staff with an array of drawings surviving from his office in the Royal Academy’s own collections. Shaw designed country Houses like Craigside in Northumberland (now National Trust) and rebuilt the area around London’s Piccadilly Circus. His drawings were considered to be amongst the most brilliant and influential of the late nineteenth century.

**Benedict O’Looney**, *Recycling Architecture and Seeing London’s Architecture*, complemented the exhibit with two sketching tours of Norman Shaw’s buildings near the Royal Academy.
FOCUS ON: TONY GREENER

Tony Greener, *Organizational Communications*, examines the value of professional communications staff in communicating change management programmes in the UK media industry. This is the abstract for a short presentation he is giving in September at Brighton Business School’s Research Conference.

MIND THE GAP – ABSTRACT


It would be logical to imagine therefore that there was a significant degree of overlap between these two fields. But there is very little. Instead there is a gap – not a yawn-ing one, but a gap nonetheless.

At a deeper level, there is, within the internal communications literature, a limited number of articles which champion, to a certain extent, monologic communication (Fulk & Boyd 1991, Tourish 1997, Young & Post 1998, Elrond & Tippett 2002, and Kitchen & Daly 2002), partly because that is the modernist approach which has been adopted by many organisational managerial groups to bring about acceptance of change management programmes, especially those radical in nature. There is correspondingly, a counterbalancing body of academic literature which beliefs that dialogic communication is more likely to ensure employee cooperation and a smoother transition from the existing to the desired structures and states (Hargie & Tourish 1996, Jones 1996 who uses BA in a practice-based article, White 2002 who uses Scotiabank for similar purposes, Johanssen & Heide 2008, and Balle 2008 who looks at the mergers and acquisitions in which IBM has been involved.) Once more, logic would suggest that there should be a relatively large body of academic literature which overlaps these two paradigms; and once again, the logical view would be disappointed.

At a time when this University is itself undergoing a significant change programme, it is worth reflecting on these two apparent continua about communicating change programmes. It is not within the scope of this short presentation to draw conclusions, let alone to advocate one approach as being somehow superior to others. But it may be helpful to show some of the evidenced arguments which appear prominently in the literature and to ask the question: “does this knowledge in any way help the process of communicating change programmes within this University?” This abstract and presentation merely ask the question; they do not presume to supply answers as well.

FACULTY NEWS


Peter Cave has a new book coming out in February 2015- Ethics, A Beginner’s Guide (Oneworld Publications). It can be seen at: [https://www.oneworld-publications.com/books/peter-cave/ethics](https://www.oneworld-publications.com/books/peter-cave/ethics). It follows two previous guides for Oneworld - Philosophy (2013) and Humanism (reprint 2011). Peter also recently debated on Revelation TV, opposing the motion that God is not dead. The videos can be viewed at: [http://bit.ly/1pHq1xa](http://bit.ly/1pHq1xa) and [http://bit.ly/1q7nEd0](http://bit.ly/1q7nEd0).

Peter teaches Central Problems of Philosophy.

Nick Collins provides the students of the MA in Historical and Sustainable Architecture programme with two special enrichment lectures on the history of British conservation and architecture. Nick has recently established a consultancy, Portico Heritage Ltd., which provides advice and guidance on all aspects of delivering change in the historic built environment.

Portico Heritage provides practical support to owners, developers, architects, occupiers and decision makers in the public and private sectors - understanding the planning system, liaising between clients and authorities, providing the necessary expert reports and securing the best solutions.

Nick has twenty years experience in the property sector, including most recently as a Director of the Conservation

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Team at integrated design consultants, Alan Baxter & Associates. Nick spent nine years at English Heritage as a Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas where he led a specialist team of historic building inspectors, architects and archaeologists on a wide range of heritage projects in London.

Eve Grubin will be giving a poetry reading at The Jewish Museum on Sunday 19 October 2:30PM. Tickets can be purchased here: [http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk/whats-on?item=579](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk/whats-on?item=579). Eve teaches Writing I.

Trino-Manuel Ñíguez has been awarded a highly competitive grant by the Bank of Spain within its programme of Research Projects in Economics. The project is entitled “Financial Risk Modelling and Forecasting Under High Degrees of Uncertainty”. It will be carried out during 2015 and will benefit from the contributions of collaborators from Spain and the UK. Trino teaches International Economics.


**THE FOURTH ANNUAL LONDON FILM AND MEDIA CONFERENCE**

**FILM AND MEDIA 2014: The Fourth Annual London Film and Media Conference**, organised by Phillip Drummond and Academic Conferences Ltd, was a great success in June 2014, with 185 participants from some 40 countries. Founded in 2011, the event has at once become one of the largest events in the field in Europe, and perhaps the most culturally diverse.

This year’s conference theme, ‘Visions of Identity: Global Film & Media’, was addressed through a tribute screening of *The Stuart Hall Project*, in Keynotes by Professors Larry Grossberg (UNC at Chapel Hill), Mandy Merck (RHUL), and Daya Thussu (Westminster and NYUL), and by Papers presented in the course of 56 wide-ranging Panels from around the world.

In a new collaboration it is hoped to bring the event to NYUL next summer, along with ACL’s *The London Symposium*. Meanwhile, the new conference e-book *The London Film and Reader 3: The Pleasures of the Spectacle*, containing 60 essays from the 2013 event, will appear by the end of the year.

For free e-book downloads, and for the electronic version of this year’s 150-page Conference Programme, please visit [www.thelondonfilmandmediaconference.com](http://www.thelondonfilmandmediaconference.com).

Cultural Studies guru Prof. Larry Grossberg (UNC Chapel Hill) pays a Keynote tribute to the legendary Stuart Hall at FILM AND MEDIA 2014.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

We welcome updates from faculty regarding upcoming academic events.

Please email details to academics@nyu.ac.uk