

## WELCOME

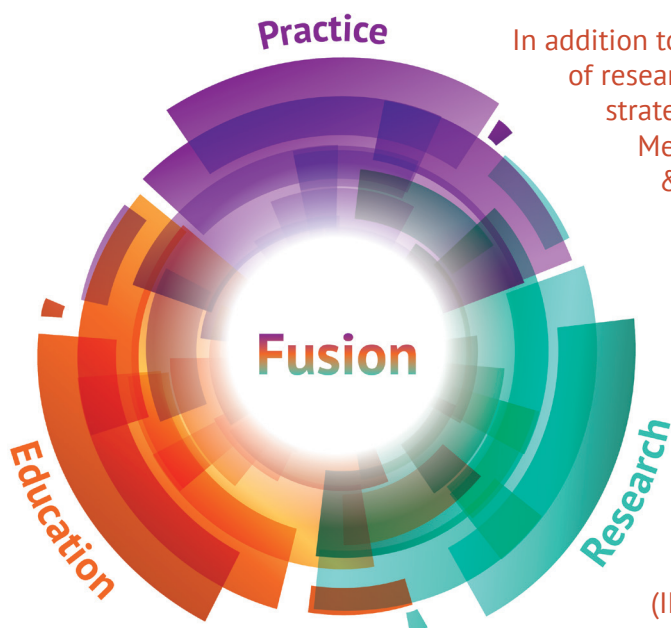
Welcome to the fifth edition of RKE News, providing a termly update of internal and external research and knowledge exchange news, successes and opportunities.

This issue focuses on BU2025, the Strategic Investment Areas, Research Funding Panels, some of the many funding opportunities which are available and upcoming events.

I hope this information is helpful and of interest to you. If you would like to send in any stories or ideas for inclusion or if you have any feedback in general, please email Natalie Tealdi: [ntealdi@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:ntealdi@bournemouth.ac.uk)

## BU2025 - 1 YEAR ON

**Research plays a key role in the University's BU2025 strategy, which has a clear vision in which BU inspires learning, advances knowledge and enriches society. By working in partnership with external organisations, we will be able to develop and co-create research which helps to tackle key societal challenges such as ageing well and responding to environmental changes.**



In addition to this, we will be building on our existing areas of research expertise by investing in a number of areas of strategic growth: Animation, Simulation & Visualisation; Medical Science; Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science; and Assistive Technology. By supporting development in these areas not only will we be building on existing strengths, but also meeting the needs of external drivers such as the Industrial Strategy.

Our research continues to have tangible economic and societal benefits. Achievements over the past 12 months include:

- a. In the Faculty of Health & Social Sciences, a new Institute for Medical Imaging & Visualisation (IMIV) has been launched. By working together with practitioners, other researchers and students, IMIV will be a hub for medical imaging technology programmes and translational research development.
- b. In the Faculty of Management, researchers are working with policy makers and industry partners to assist them to better understand the implications of Brexit for different areas of the economy.
- c. Research from the Faculty of Media & Communication demonstrated the role of digital media and advertising in engaging consumers' imagination, which has transformed advertising in the Transport or London network. As a result of this project, companies have been able to enhance the effectiveness of their advertising, while also generating more relevant and enjoyable advertising for passengers.
- d. Meanwhile, researchers in our Faculty of Science & Technology have been working with charities and policy makers to highlight the dangers of online gambling, as well as coming

up with data-driven responsible gambling tools which will allow players to moderate their online behaviours.

The new research development programmes introduced in 2018 (as part of the **RKE Development Framework**) were expanded and enhanced in 2018/19. They are well received by participants who are already submitting research applications to prestigious funders. For example, staff from the 2018 cohort of the Research Council Development Scheme have submitted research bids totalling £2.6M.

A new **Research Performance and Management Committee** (RPMC) was established to oversee research performance. A set of **principles and outcomes** underpins research development and investment decisions. Departmental RKE income targets, based on external benchmarks and disciplinary norms, were set for the first time in 2018/19. A review of the Research Centres took place in summer 2019, resulting in the establishment of 17 Centres in areas of research strength, all of which are interdisciplinary and cross-departmental.

A three-year plan for QR funding was implemented to ensure the shrewd investment of funds to build research capacity and maximise the University's submission to REF 2021. Seven new Funding Panels were established to ensure the robust allocation and monitoring of internal research funds (see page 4). New capacity building schemes were implemented, including a research fellowship scheme and the Global Visiting Fellows scheme. Emphasis continues to be put on enhancing the bidding support available to researchers, through external bid writers, team building and mentorship bolstered further by the provision of research incentives for those successful in securing **prestigious awards** and/or **notable amounts of research income** and for **Faculties surpassing RKE income targets**.

## STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AREAS

As articulated within BU2025, our Strategic Investment Areas (SIAs) build on our existing academic strengths and future opportunities aligned to external priorities, including policy direction and funding.

The four Strategic Investment Areas are:

**Assistive Technology**  
**Animation, Simulation & Visualisation**  
**Medical Science**  
**Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science**

Since the launch of BU2025, we have developed the scope for each SIA and reviewed relevant policy, legislation, networks/specialist interest groups as well as related growth/acceleration of areas of research for the UK, EU and globally. We have set up initial primary groups of academic staff for each SIA as steering groups and have confirmed and embedded the scope of each SIA.

To build on these initial steps, twice a year we are inviting colleagues from across the university to put forward concepts for strategic investment, which will enable the growth of our SIAs. **The next funding call will take place in December 2019.**

EOIs are invited which articulate concepts that advance fundamental research in line with the scope defined for each of the Strategic Investment Areas. We envisage that these concepts will grow our institutional research income through interdisciplinary research and anticipate that only a very small number of internal investments will be made each year.

The SIA Steering Groups are chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tim McIntyre-Bhatty with the following colleagues as Conveners for each group:

**Assistive Technology – Dr Christos Gatzidis**  
**Animation, Simulation & Visualisation – Professor Kate Welham**  
**Medical Science – Professor Stephen Tee**  
**Sustainability, Low Carbon Technology & Materials Science – Professor Janet Dickinson**

For general queries about the Strategic Investment Areas, or to be added to the relevant mailing list to receive updates about each SIA, **please email [sia@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:sia@bournemouth.ac.uk)**.

If you wish to discuss the programmes of research associated with the SIAs, please contact Dr Rebecca Edwards, Research Programme Manager in Research Development & Support.

# GENDER RESEARCH AT BU

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines gender as referring to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men – such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. Gender identity is a personal perception of ourselves and an individual may see themselves as a man, woman, as having no gender or as having a non-binary gender (on a spectrum between man and woman), and the gender someone identifies with may not match the sex they were assigned at birth (transgender).



The United Nations (UN) states that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Goal number five of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses specifically on gender equality.

At BU, there is a range of research being carried out contributing to our understanding of gender-related issues here in the UK and across the world. Here are a few examples of some recent or current areas of research. The travel motivations and experiences of solo female Asian tourists have been studied by Dr Lorraine Brown, Associate Professor and Dr Hanaa Osman, Principal Academic in Tourism & Hospitality. Their research found that in order to travel alone, the participants had to resist sociocultural expectations around Asian women's behaviour. They also found that sexualised male attention was an important constraint, which limited the use of the leisure space offered at the destination by solo Asian women. Being Asian was felt to further increase their vulnerability. None of these factors however deterred the women from future solo travel plans. Dr Rafaelle Nicholson, Post-Doctoral Researcher in Sport Leisure & Tourism, is recording female experiences in a variety of sports, including cricket, hockey and netball, through the use of oral history and ethnography. She is particularly interested in the links between women's international sporting organisations and the British Empire.

Within the field of physical activity and active leisure, Dr Jayne Caudwell, Associate Professor of Events and Leisure, and Dr Carly Stewart, Principal Academic in Sport, have recently completed a study entitled 'Safe Swim: Supporting physical activity and wellbeing for transgender young people' in which research participants shared their experiences of attending a local swimming pool during privately hired sessions. The findings, so far, indicate the positive social and wellbeing aspects of attending these sessions. The project runs until March 2020.

Professor of Reproductive Health, Edwin van Teijlingen has completed over a decade of field research in Nepal, especially on community-based projects around maternal health. This has included examining high suicide rates among pregnant women in Nepal. Professor van Teijlingen and colleagues from other institutions found that the Nepali Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) received little or no formal training on perinatal mental health issues. Since then, 80 ANMs have been trained in this area.

Dr Shelley Thompson, Senior Lecturer (Academic) in Corporate & Marketing Communications, is currently looking at the under-representation of women's voices in news debates about science, following her presentation at the UN Conference on Women and Girls in Science and the Role of the Media in February 2017. She recently wrote about the visibility and recognition of women scientists.

With the field of media, Dr Einar Thorsen, Associate Professor of Journalism & Communication, and Dr Chindu Sreedharan, Principal Academic in Journalism & Communication, are directing a research and capacity-building project by BU and UNESCO in New Delhi, which has been funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund. This is a 20-month study to map the journalistic challenges of reporting rape and sexual violence across India. The project, Media Action Against Rape, will build capacity to generate sustainable impact—specifically, for rape reportage, journalism education, and resilience against gendered violence towards women.



Julie Northam, Head of Research Development and Support and Chair of the Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team at BU, commented: "It is inspiring to see the breadth of research being carried out by BU academics in the field of gender and the impact this research can have in this fundamentally important area. This positively supports BU's purpose of inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching societies and links to our institutional value of inclusivity."

# FUNDING PANELS

To help us further develop our research capacity in line with BU2025, seven funding panels have been established to have oversight of funding allocations, in order to build the research environment, our external engagement and the quality and impact of research endeavours.

The Funding Panels and their Chairs/Deputy Chairs are:

Funding Panel	Chair	Deputy Chair
Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)	Professor Wen Tang	Prof Zulfiqar Khan
Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)	Professor Lee Miles	Dr Luciana Esteves
Research Impact Fund	Professor Dinusha Mendis	Dr Einar Thorsen
Doctoral Studentships Fund	Professor Katherine Appleton	Dr Dan Jackson
ACceleration of Research & Networking Fund (ACORN)	Professor Jan Wiener	Professor Julie Turner-Cobb
Charity Impact Fund	Professor Lee-Ann Fenge	Dr Fiona Cownie
Global Visiting Fellows	Dr Darren Lilleker	Dr Fiona Cownie

## Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF)

The **Higher Education Innovation Fund** is a £210M fund led by Research England which provides English universities with grant funding to support and develop a broad range of knowledge-based interactions between universities and the wider world, which result in benefits to the economy and society. The HEIF Funding Panel is responsible for ensuring BU invests HEIF funding in line with BU's HEIF-6 Strategy. research capacity and team performance and ensuring the university invests HEIF funding in line with **BU's HEIF-6 Strategy**.

Below are examples of some of the funded projects:

**Dr Philip Sewell from the Faculty of Science & Technology** was awarded funding for his project 'An advanced manufacturing supported supply chain – Enhancing the efficiency of the RNLI'.

The aim of the project was to collaborate with RNLI to investigate the advanced manufacturing technologies that could be exploited to reduce the requirement to hold, move and dispose of inventory. The project would inform strategic decision making and inspire people across the organisation about the future of how they design, build, maintain and support their current and future fleet.

The RNLI is the national charity that saves lives at sea, supporting 4,500 volunteer crew at 238 lifeboat stations and 300 seasonally lifeguarded beaches around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland. The RNLI launches lifeboats to assist more than 8,000 people every year, Lifeguards rescue around 2000 people and between them directly save the lives of more than 400 people a year.



To support these volunteer crew and seasonal lifeguards, the RNLI maintains a fleet of 457 lifeboats, hundreds of coastal buildings, a large fleet of diverse vehicles and holds a stock of more than 15,000 spares in a warehouse at its Poole headquarters in Dorset, from where a fleet of RNLI vehicles transport spares around the country often over long distances, often at short notice.

As a 24/7 search and rescue charity with a national capability declared to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the RNLI sets very high availability targets for rescue assets and often adopts a cautious 'just in case' approach to stock holding, leading to excessive inventory being held for extended periods. The costs of procurement, storage, transport and disposal of obsolete stock are high, money which could otherwise be invested in



preventative or rescue activities to save more lives at sea.

The project has resulted in various case studies being produced for the RNLI demonstrating the advantages that advanced manufacturing would have on the business. Lead times and costs were reduced, as well as production times. Design and engineering benefits were also discovered alongside supply chain benefits.

**Professor Matthew Bennett and Professor Marcin Budka** were awarded funding for their project '**Palaeo Go! Developing the underlying potential**'. The aim of the project was to create a basic freeware platform from open source code for use in public engagement. This would allow a venue to modify its own exhibit easily.

Outcomes of the project so far include the first version of the PalaeoGo! app being available to download via the iTunes store or Google Play store; At Dorset County Museum a PalaeoGo! Diplodocus was deployed to coincide with the visit of the Natural History Museums 'Dippy'. It was also arranged to send PalaeoGo! to Birmingham Museum which was Dippy's next stop; The augmented reality platform (Zappar) has been used to create four codes with different extinct animals. The codes could be scanned with the Zappar application from the banners placed around a museum. Visitors could play with these creatures, making and sharing photos with them, as well as taking part in activities prepared by the museum; In March 2018 PalaeoGo! was taken to Hong Kong as part of DTI HE show organised by BU's international office; In September 2018



exhibits at the Freshers' Fair at Bournemouth University, as well as at the BFX Festival took place to encourage students to take part in the app trail. The trail took place in October/November 2018. The test group explored how users interact and learn from apps like this. There were 5 facts about each creature that participants could explore further, by clicking and reading blog posts and interesting articles included in these post; In March 2019 an exhibit at the Family Science Festival in Dorchester took place which showed the PalaeoGo! app to visitors. There were lots of interested people, especially families with young children. Estimates show around 2,200 people attended the event.

## Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

The University has established a dedicated GCRF Panel to oversee respective funding allocations, monitor GCRF project performance and ensure awards support the **BU QR GCRF three-year institutional strategy**. The aim is to support a diverse portfolio of research activities with the common feature that they all in some way address the challenges defined for developing countries in the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (the SDGs).

Below are examples of some of the funded projects:

**Stephen Jukes** received GCRF funding for his project 'The Children of the Revolution. Animating the Lives of Ex-FARC Child Soldiers to Promote Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia'. The project aims to promote peace and reconciliation in Colombia as the country ends 50 years of conflict. The research team worked with children caught up in the conflict – some forced to become child soldiers - and who are in a process of re-integration. The project, based in a remote indigenous community, incorporates an autobiographical approach to re-construct first-hand experiences of conflict and highlight challenges of re-integration. It presents the participants' testimonies through an animated documentary to promote social inclusion. They worked with three charities with a track record of engagement in the community:

- The Norwegian Refugee Council
- Fundación Fahrenheit 451
- Fundación Tyet

An animated film, The Tree of Love, was produced based on narratives/ experience of the children.



The project has impacted the lives and future direction of participants from Jambalo. They have set up their own animation studio. They testify to the confidence this project has given them to speak publicly about their experiences and the film. The most high-level impact is evident in the screening of the film, testimonies from the Jambalo participants and a panel discussion that took place at the Colombian Truth Commission in Bogota on 17 September 2019. The Truth Commission accepted the film as a submission to its 3-year project of listening to testimonies from all sides of the conflict. After our visit, the Commission published a blog post about the film on its website:

<https://comisiondelaverdad.co/actualidad/noticias/ninos-y-jovenes-relatan-sus-vivencias-en-el-conflicto>

**Amina Juma Hamza** was awarded GCRF funding for the project '**Understanding changes in mangrove use and climate change knowledge in a coastal community in Lamu, Kenya**'.

The project aimed at understanding the past and present uses of mangroves in Kenya; the drivers of change and documenting community knowledge on environmental changes including climate change. To achieve this, a field survey in Lamu, Kenya was conducted in June and July 2019. This involved focus group discussions with different mangrove users; and household interviews conducted in Lamu, Manda, Pate and Ndau Islands. The field activity started with a meeting with the county ecosystem conservator and foresters at the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to collect information on the amount of mangrove wood harvested in Lamu and its monetary value. KFS is a government department that is in charge of the management of mangrove forests in Kenya. The project has further improved research and advanced current knowledge on environmental changes to mangrove ecosystems in Kenya.

Preliminary findings of the research activity will be ready by November 2019 and will provide information on how environmental changes have influenced livelihoods dependent on mangroves and provide possible adaptation options to increase local community resilience to environmental/climate change. Kenya is currently undertaking important coastal changes due to increased investment in large scale infrastructures e.g. ports, transport systems, oil and gas exploration among others. Lamu is one area that has witnessed this development posing a threat to the area's coastal ecosystems including mangroves. Lamu is the oldest and the best reserved living settlement among the Swahili towns along the East African Coast and a UNESCO world heritage site due to its rich Swahili cultural properties. The findings of the project will therefore provide evidence to support environmental protection of an important site.

## Research Impact Fund

The Research Impact Funding Panel is responsible for assessing and determining priority areas for impact support and investment. The impact fund aims to support the development of high-quality impact case studies for BU's REF 2021 submission as well as developing future areas of impact. The impact fund also seeks to improve the culture of research impact to embed impact into each stage of the research lifecycle, and recognise and reward the efforts of those working towards developing their research impact.

Below are examples of some of the funded projects:

**Professor Sarah Bate from the Faculty of SciTech** was awarded funding for her impact case study, '**Initiating NHS recognition of prosopagnosia (face blindness)**'.

Professor Bate's research led to the NHS formally recognising the condition, and it was added to its online 'Health A-Z'. Together with extensive media coverage, the recognition increased public awareness and resulted in a greater number of people being diagnosed. To ensure the impact case study was able to clearly demonstrate the benefits of the research for people with 'face blindness', Professor Bate's team



needed to gather more evidence.

They used the Research Impact funding to upgrade an external website to capture details of who was downloading their guidelines, as well as inviting users to provide longer-term feedback. An hourly-paid RA was employed for 50 hours to gather qualitative evidence from people with prosopagnosia and relevant charities. The funding also enabled the RA to liaise with the charities to assess the increase in requests for their resources and further disseminate the new guidelines for the management of the condition to charities and networks, collecting evidence of how many professionals were using the resources.

**Professor Jane Murphy from the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences**, was awarded funding for her work with the Ageing and Dementia Research Centre (ADRC).

The aim of the impact case study, **'Optimising food and nutritional care for people living with dementia'**, is to develop and publish new research informed resources for dementia and nutritional care and to determine how family carers and the care catering sector have engaged with them and measure the impact on the provision of food and nutritional care.



This activity will build on and strengthen the work accomplished to date for an existing REF impact case study by extending the reach and significance to wider users and beneficiaries of the research-informed tools.

Existing resources already published will be adapted to suit the users and beneficiaries. (<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/nutrition-dementia>)

## Doctoral Studentships

The Doctoral Studentships Funding Panel is responsible for ensuring the University maximises the opportunities presented by the BU PhD Studentship allocative process and to determine recommended priority investment in projects from the QR RDP Supervision grant for consideration by the RPMC.

Below are examples of some of the funded studentships:

**'Assessing the importance of landscape configuration and functional links to inform the conservation of a red-listed bird species'**. Lead PI: Richard Stillman, Faculty of Science and Technology

**'Voices from behind closed doors: participatory film-making inside a refuge for domestic abuse survivors'**. Lead PI: Sue Sudbury, Faculty of Media and Communication

**'Injury risk and performance: Towards a better understanding of the complexities & intricacies of load monitoring within an elite football club.'** Lead PI: Tim Rees, Faculty of Management

**'Motorcycle Injury Prevention.'** Lead PI: Ann Hemingway, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences

## ACORN

The ACORN Funding Panel is responsible for assessing applications and awarding agreed Acorn Funds for the year to BU Early Career Researchers with the most promising talent, to gain experience of managing and leading their own pilot research projects. These awards support BU's commitment to the **Concordat to Support to Career Development of Researchers** and is made possible by BU's QR (Quality Research) allocation.

Below are examples of some of the funded projects:

**Amanda Adams from the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences**, was awarded funding for her proposal **'Using the power of the creative arts in supporting dementia care'**.

The study explores the attitudes towards, and understanding of dementia, amongst creative arts organisations, including those engaged with populations affected by dementia, and those that are not. Findings will be used

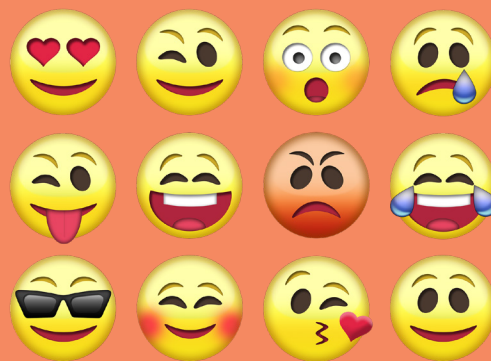
to inform a dementia-awareness training program, tailored towards the needs of creative arts organisations. The dementia-awareness training program will address all outstanding training needs, enabling organisations to provide more adequate support to PwD. It will comprise of different levels of training, incorporating the outstanding areas of training identified within the findings. Organisations can choose to undertake areas of training they deem necessary, based on the capacity of support they provide to PwD.

The research will lead to peer reviewed publications within academic journals as well as a public dissemination event.

**Dr Benjamin Gorman from the Faculty of Science & Technology**, was awarded funding for his proposal '**Accessible Emoji**'.

The project aims to 1. identify the challenges people with a visual impairment experience when they encounter and use emojis, and 2. Their awareness of the fallibility of interpreting emoji.

There are currently over 3,000 emoji in the unicode standard. Emoji are graphical symbols that have become a significant part of enhancing our everyday online activity and computer-mediated communication (e.g., emoji allow people to depict emotion easily within instant messages). Emoji are widely used across social media: On Twitter there are over 25.4 billion tweets containing emoji, as tracked by [Emojitracker.com](https://emojitracker.com), Facebook report that 5 billion emoji are sent daily using their messenger platform.



Around the world it is estimated that 36 million people are blind and 217 million have a moderate to severe vision impairment. Prior work has demonstrated the range of challenges blind people face, including the barriers to using social media. People interpret emoji differently and variations in the design of emoji across different platforms can exacerbate misunderstandings. Unfortunately, this evidence has come from research on those with typical abilities. Therefore, it is not clear if people with visual impairments experience similar or unique challenges when using emoji.

Academic interest in emoji has rapidly grown, however, the accessibility of emoji is severely under-researched. This work aims to increase understanding of the accessibility challenges of emoji and will enable us to advise the unicode consortium on improving emoji standards. In addition to disseminating this work at prestigious academic venues (e.g., CHI, ASSETS), it will also be used in public-friendly platforms (e.g., [theconversation.com](https://theconversation.com), [emojiiwrap.com](https://emojiiwrap.com)) and utilised via personal links with emoji experts to highlight the findings and benefits to society. Finally, national and international collaborations will be established with BU during this research. This research will lead to improved communication between people with and without visual impairments. The findings will lead to guidelines and recommendations that will define new standards in reducing the exclusion of individuals with visual impairments across social media.

## Charity Impact Fund

The Charity Impact Funding Panel is responsible for determining recommended priority investment in projects from the QR Charity Support grant for consideration by the RPMC.

The purpose of the funding is to:

- Increase engagement with charities in order to further the impact of BU's research
- To increase the amount of research undertaken collaboratively with charities
- Encourage future funding bids with charitable partners

Below are examples of some of the funded projects:

**Dr Gloria Khamkar from the Faculty of Media and Communication**, was awarded funding for her proposal "**Advocating 'Social Journalism' through Citizen Journalism training amongst Social Work students in Mumbai, India**".



A key outcome was a one-day training workshop on 'Social Journalism through Citizen Journalism' for the young Social Work students studying at Committed Action for Relief and Education (CARE) in Mumbai, India.

The workshop also produced a podcast with its participants, about their experience in participating in this workshop; the podcast was distributed on social media as well as the hosting platforms such as SoundCloud.

The workshop trained the participants in addressing social issues by using Social Journalism tools and platforms of Podcasting and Website Blogs. The workshop also aided the assessment of the need for such Social Journalism training amongst the Social Work students.

**Dr Sean Beer from the Faculty of Management** was awarded funding for his proposal '**The multiple benefits of dark night skies**'.

This project is based on developing links with the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust, with a particular focus on the dark night skies of the Cranborne Chase and the intention of the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (CCAONB) to bid for International Dark Skies Reserve Status.

Dark night skies represent a resource for local leisure and tourism businesses to develop existing products (for example to attract guests interested in Astrotourism) but also new products, for example an observatory. One English National Park has estimated that the award of Dark Sky Reserve status has resulted in an economic benefit of £25 million per year.

Dark night skies occur because of a lack of light pollution. There is extensive light pollution in the UK and around the world, however, there are potentially technological solutions to light pollution. It has been estimated that light pollution from streetlights alone (the wasted light that shines upwards rather than downwards) costs the UK 830,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide pollution per year.

There is a growing research base that is linking light pollution to environmental degradation through its disruption of plants, animals, and associated ecosystems. At the same time our skies form part of our heritage as exemplified by folklore, myth and legend associated with the different constellations for example. There is significant evidence of historic engagement with the stars and in Dorset and Wiltshire an extremely rich archaeological environment that reflects this. There are also many monuments such as the Dorset Cursus (the 10 km long Neolithic monument running through Cranborne Chase) whose functions are still to be interpreted.

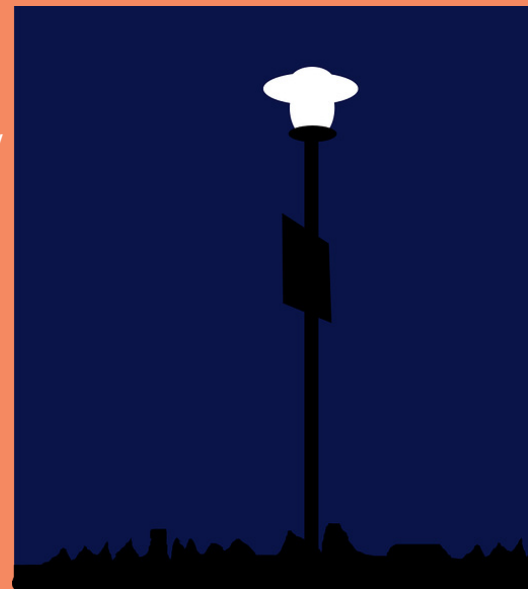
There is extensive research evidence on the effects of light to human health. This relates directly to conditions such as cancer and also mental health. There is also a spiritual dimension to human engagement with darkness and perceptions of our place in the universe, which may be central to our ideas of connection.

As part of the project, a conference/workshop was organised to explore the broad benefits of dark night skies, specifically in terms of the:

- environmental benefits including carbon dioxide emission reduction
- benefits to human health and well-being
- social benefits including financial savings, decreased crime, educational opportunities.
- benefits to the local economy, in particularly in terms of leisure, tourism and hospitality
- broader opportunities relating to the cultural enrichment of the area.

The conference/workshop was designed to;

- Engage with the local community in general on behalf of the Trust, the AONB and the University.
- Develop the relationship between the AONB, The Trust, and the University
- Help the Cranborne Chase in its endeavours to obtain International Dark Sky Reserve status
- Grow the understanding of stakeholders and other members of the local community of the nature and value of dark night skies, specifically for the Cranborne Chase and also more broadly.



## The Global Visiting Fellowship (GVF) scheme funding panel

This panel is responsible on behalf of RPMC for assessing applications and awarding agreed GVF funds to applicants (nominated by a BU staff member) from our published international priority partners, aligned with our strategic investment areas, as well as evaluating the return on investment. The GVF panel will maintain oversight of funding allocations from the **GVF scheme** in order further to build the research environment, our external engagement and the quality and impact of research endeavours, in the context of global engagement.

There will be three rounds of the GVF scheme and the first round applications were reviewed in September 2019 and recommendations were approved by RPMC in October 2019. Three applications were funded and will begin their three year GVF shortly:

Fellow & Fellow institution	BU Nominator	Faculty	Summary of Fellowship
Professor Yonggang Meng, Tsinghua University, China	Prof. Zulfiqar Khan	FST	Joint research in tribology, nano-coating and tribo-chemistry to lead to external funding, publications and impacts in low carbon technology.
Prof.essor Li Dangguo, Tsinghua University, China	Prof. Zulfiqar Khan	FST	Joint research in corrosion, corrosion condition monitoring and advanced materials (nano-coating) to develop synergistic understating of failures within marine, petrochemical and process industry applications.
Professor Junjun Pan, Beihang University, China	Dr Xiaosong Yang	FMC	Develop patient specific VR surgery simulation and planning, which can effectively shorten the treatment and lower the surgery risk for real patients.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Nov 19-Jan 20

#### Research and Knowledge Exchange Development Framework events

##### November

18th - UKRO Visit  
19th - Impact planning sessions  
19th - Working with industry  
19th - Developing an effective search strategy  
19th - Research and Personal data  
19th - Building Evidence for REF Impact Case Studies  
20th - Leverhulme Prize Drafting Workshop  
20th - Leverhulme Visit  
26th - Public Engagement Evaluation and Impact  
27th - Monthly themed networking event for Early Career Researchers  
27th - Measuring the Impact of your Research with Advanced Citation Tools

##### December

3rd - NHS Site set-up OF research and overview of approval process  
5th, 6th - Detailed impact support sessions  
10th, 11th, 12th - Writing Academy  
10th - Inspirational Impact journey  
11th - Working with industry

##### January

13th - Writing Days  
14th, 15th, 16th - Writing Academy  
15th - Monthly themed networking event for Early Career Researchers  
15th - Working with Industry  
21st, 22nd - Detailed impact support sessions  
22nd - Research Council Development Scheme  
29th - STEAMLabs (non-SIA)  
29th - ECR Research Showcase Day  
29th - Introduction to impact

**[Book online here](#)**

# IN CONVERSATION WITH....

## Dr Rebecca Edwards, Research Programme Manager



Dr Rebecca Edwards

### Hi Rebecca. Please can you tell us for how long you have worked at BU?

I joined BU back in 2012, initially to accelerate public engagement and impact as a Research Development Officer, and since then I have held a variety of posts centred enabling the growth of research and societal impact. Before joining the institution, I completed my PhD in geography at Royal Holloway (University of London) and held interdisciplinary research positions at the Universities of Cardiff and Southampton.

### Please can you tell us a bit about your role as Research Programme Manager (RPM)?

As RPM, I work across RDS, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and all Faculties and Professional Services, to enable research development within and across the Strategic Investment Areas (SIAs). This involves

supporting the SIA convenors and steering group members to develop the SIAs (including mobilising relevant RDS support), building consortia and external partnerships, securing high quality and high value external funding, and maximising research IP exploitation. I report into the Head of RDS (Julie Northam) with a dotted line into the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

### What do you enjoy in your current role?

Securing both the growth of fundamental research at BU (for example through the establishment of the Institute of Medical Imaging and Visualisation and the Institute for the Modelling of Social Environmental Transitions) and establishing a new approach to IP exploitation. It is fantastic to leverage new funding sources, demonstrate the value of research activities and to bring colleagues together to ensure we maximise the potential for interdisciplinary research. I also enjoy unpicking thorny issues which hold us back and enabling culture change.

### What are your priorities?

To ensure that our SIAs go from strength to strength! It's a fast, competitive funding environment so there is a considerable need to work in a way which is both agile and

focused. Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure that the entirety of our academic community engage with the opportunities the SIAs offer – especially from the arts, humanities and social sciences. We cannot solve the grand challenges which society needs us to address without a holistic disciplinary perspective. Furthermore, I am passionate about ensuring that the strategic growth in research is of benefit to our students and external partners.

### What should academic colleagues across the University come to you for?

Joining up the dots! I am the go-to person for all things SIA related. And some might say un-ending enthusiasm for all things research related.

### And finally, what do you love about working at BU?

I never cease to be inspired and amazed by brilliant colleagues who are developing leading, innovative research which is making a substantive difference to the world around us. It is fantastic to work so closely with colleagues across the institution to ensure that this happens.

For more information about the Strategic Investment Areas, please see the [intranet](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some of the latest funding opportunities available to you:



### Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

**Deadlines: 11 Dec 19, 5 Feb 20, 1 Apr 20**

These partnerships enable a business to bring in new skills and the latest academic thinking to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project through a knowledge-based partnership. **Find out more**

### Leverhulme Trust Visiting Fellowships

**Deadline: 7 May 20**

These fellowships are for UK institutions to invite an eminent researcher from overseas to enhance the skills and knowledge of the academic staff and/or student. **Find out more**

### Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships

**Deadline: 27 Feb 20**

These fellowships are for those with a research record but who have not yet held a full-time permanent academic post, to undertake a significant piece of publishable work. **Find out more**

### Royal Society Research Fellowships

**Deadline: 9 Aug 20**

These fellowships are the Society's premier research awards and the aim of this scheme is to release the best leading researchers from teaching and administration allowing them to focus on research. **Find out more**

### EPSRC Standard research grants

**Deadline: This is an open call.** These grants are for a wide variety of activities, including feasibility studies, instrument development, equipment to support a number of research projects, overseas travel grants, and long-term proposals to develop or maintain critical mass. **Find out more**

If you would like to submit a bid, please contact your Faculty FDO in the first instance.

For information about RDS Faculty Facing staff, please see the [Research blog](#)

You may like to refer to the [RDS Application Timeline](#)

# RECENT AWARDS - CONGRATULATIONS!

During 2018/19 there were a total of **496 RKE bids submitted** from across all four Faculties; of these, 195 were awarded and 99 are awaiting decision. This represents a **strong success rate** to date (39.3%). For the third year in a row, bidding is characterised by a shift towards quality research funding. This fits with the BU2025 strategy of encouraging longer (in terms of duration) and larger (in terms of value) applications to prestigious research funders, and moving away from activities that do not fit well with our charitable status and/or do not add value to our research profile or reputation.

## Recent awards include:

Name	Faculty	Project title	Funder	Amount awarded
Clive Andrewes	Health and Social Sciences	Workforce Transformations 2019/20	Health Education England - Wessex LETB	378,440
Helen Palmer	Student & Academic Services	China Football Coaches 2019	Federation of University Sports of China (FUSC)	354,927
Raian Ali	Faculty of Science and Technology	Meaningful Transparency, Powerful Social Norms and Data-Informed Behavioural Change for Responsible Online Gambling	Gamble Aware	279,839
Chris Chapleo	Business School	Actisense	Innovate UK	179,633
Keith Brown	Health and Social Sciences	Leadership Framework Agreement	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	89,000
Vasilis Katos	Faculty of Science and Technology	The State of Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities in 2018 Report_ tender	European Union Agency for Network and Information Security	66,956
Richard Gordon	Faculty of Management	FCO Provision of a Disaster Preparedness Course For the Overseas Territories 2019-2023	Foreign & Commonwealth Office	66,345
Clive Andrewes	Health and Social Sciences	Framework - Leadership	Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust	65,000
Richard Paul	Faculty of Science and Technology	Novel Psychoactive Substances in Prison: An Assessment of Prevalence and Prison Staff Exposure Risk.	Prison Officers Association	59,668
Keith Brown	Health and Social Sciences	SW AMHP Programme	North Somerset Council	55,831
Clive Andrewes	Health and Social Sciences	Foundations in Practice Nursing 2019/20 - Portsmouth (September 2019)	Health Education England	50,653
Jane Healy	Health and Social Sciences	Kosovo AHRC project	AHRC	4,470
Isabella Rega	Faculty of Media & Communication	Creative Network Plus: Baseline Research and Development Project	AHRC	3,571