

## LEICESTER RESEARCH GRANTS, BOOKS & PEOPLE

### Press Coverage of Research Grants

The Bulletin is sent to the media as well as other external contacts. As a result, details of grants appearing in this section may stimulate press interest. The Press Office may also actively seek media coverage of particular grants detailed in this section. It is therefore the grantholder's responsibility to request that any grant of a sensitive or confidential nature be excluded from the Bulletin.

This can be done by contacting the Research Office, which has responsibility for compiling this Research section (2495).

Visit the following website for more detailed grant descriptions in Word format: [www.le.ac.uk/press/augsummaries.doc](http://www.le.ac.uk/press/augsummaries.doc)

#### ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT HISTORY

**Professor L. Foxhall**  
RA11073  
Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship  
£31,250 *Humboldt Foundation*

#### BIOCHEMISTRY

**Dr. M. Carr**  
RM31058  
Supplement- NMR- Based Structural Studies of the M Bovis Protein MPB70  
£5,000 *Vetinary Laboratories Agency*

**Prof. D. Critchley**  
RM31150

Wellcome Trust Vacation Studentship- Mr. A Seager  
£1,320 *Wellcome Trust*

**Dr. M. Dickens**  
RM31148

Vacation Studentship: Investigation of JIP3 Binding Partners by Yeast Two-Hybrid Analysis  
£1,320 *Wellcome Trust*

**Dr. A. Fry**  
RM31149

Characterising the interaction between the cell cycle regulated NEK2A protein kinase and protein phosphate 1  
£1,600 *The Biochemical Society*

#### BIOLOGY

**Dr. E. Mallon**  
RM48090

The energetic cost of the immune response in bumblebees  
£1,386 *The Nuffield Foundation*

**Dr. E. Rosato**

Co-Investigator Prof. Kyriacou (Genetics) & Dr. T. Gaten (Biology)  
RM48092

Gene function in Antarctic krill: determining the role of clock-genes in synchronised behavioural patterns  
£226,896 *NERC*

**Prof. G. Whitelam**  
RM48079

Pesticide biomarker antibodies  
£78,450 *ADAS*

#### CANCER STUDIES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE

**Dr. S. Ablett**  
Co-Investigator Prof. Pinkerton  
RM60062  
New Agents and Pharmacology Equipment Grant  
£4,000 *CRUK*

**Dr. S. Ablett**

Co-Investigator Prof. R. Walker (Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine)  
RM60061  
SIOP-LGG 2003: Co-Operative multi-centre study for children and adolescents with low grade glioma  
£30,845 *CRUK*

**Dr. M. Evans**  
RM60065

Establishing the Utility of Fluorescence in Situ Hybridisation in Combination with the Single Cell Gel Electrophoresis ('comet') Assay  
£870 *Biochemical Society*

**Prof. A. Gescher**  
RM60059

Grant in Aid of Research "£2,000 *Indena SpA*

**Prof. W. Steward**  
RM60064

Purchase of specific items for aiding cancer research  
£95,000 *John Hobley Charitable Trust*

**Dr. J. Thorpe**  
RM60063

Tea Polyphenols as Prostate Cancer Prevention Agents  
£24,644 *Prostate Cancer Research Foundation*

**Dr. I. White**  
RM16013

Receptor Mediated Toxicity  
£82,636 *MRC*

#### CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE

**Dr. K. Chitkara**

Co-Investigator Dr. A. Gershlick  
RM61053  
Grant in Aid of Research  
£20,000 *GlaxoSmithKline*

**Prof. A. Goodall**

Co-Investigator Prof. N. Samani  
RM61056  
BLOODOMICS: Identification of Risk Genes for Atherothrombosis in Coronary Artery Disease by Transcriptome and Proteome Analysis and High Throughput Exon Resequencing - first tranche  
£141,980 *EU Commission*

**Prof. N. Samani**  
RM61055

The POPULAR Study  
£80,000 *The Edith Murphy Foundation*

#### CELL PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY

**Prof. J. Challiss**  
RM36078  
Pharmacological Profiling of NK3 Neurokinin Receptor Antagonists  
£20,000 *GlaxoSmithKline*

**Prof. J. Challiss**  
RM36083

Evaluation of the Antibody Immunocapture Technique of DeLapp et al. to Assess Ga-Specific [35S]-GTPγS Loading  
£60,000 *GlaxoSmithKline*

#### CHEMISTRY

**Dr. A. Stuart**

RP10022  
Supplement - Fluorous-derivatised phase transfer catalyst  
£8,286 *Royal Society*

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Dr. A. Kurz**  
RP202012

Coalgebras, Modal Logic, Stone Duality  
£118,516 *EPSRC*

#### ECONOMICS

**Dr. P. Demetriades**  
RS10036

National and International Aspects of Financial Development  
£137,781 *ESRC*

**Dr. S. Lemos**  
RS10028

Research Secondment to DWP  
£11,750 *Department for Work and Pensions*

#### EDUCATION

**Dr. T. Basit**  
Co-Investigator Dr. L. Roberts (Manchester Metropolitan) & Dr. A. Kenward (Sussex)  
RE10073  
Tackling Racism on School Placements  
£5,580 *Teacher Training Agency*

#### ENGINEERING

**Dr. P. Lefley**  
RP12114  
High Performance Opportunistic NiCad Battery Charging  
£13,300 *HEROBC via Nottingham*

**Dr. M. Warrington**

Co-Investigator Dr A J Stocker & Dr N Zaalov  
RP12117  
Further investigations and simulation of ionospheric radiowave propagation effects occurring over northerly paths  
£232,874 *EPSRC*

#### ENGLISH

**Dr. M. Halliwell**  
RA12028

Contesting Culture: American Liberal Imaginations in the 1950s  
£400 *British Academy*

#### GENETICS

**Dr. J. Morrissey**

Co-Investigator Prof P Andrews (Infection, Immunity and Inflammation)  
RM33097  
Investigation of iron-responsive gene regulation in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*  
£122,594 *Wellcom Trust*

#### HEALTH SCIENCES

**Prof. P. Burton**

Co-Investigator Nottingham University/ Birmingham University  
RM62071  
Phase 1 Pilot Project  
£62,223 *Wellcom Trust via UK Biobank Ltd.*

**Dr. D. McGrother**  
RM62068

Evaluation of diet and lifestyle, comorbidity and socio-economic factors in the aetiology of urinary storage disorder in women  
£104,120 *BUPA Foundation*



## HISTORY

**Dr. C. Dyer**  
**RA15051**

Support for Conference: W.G. Hoskins and the Making of the British Landscape  
£100 *Oadby and Wigston Borough Council*

**Dr. G. Lewis**  
**RA15057**

Behind the Museum's Facade: The Role of Personal Politics in Virginia's Massive Resistance  
£400 *British Academy*

**Dr. R. Sweet**  
**RA15055**

The British in Italy and the Grand Tour in the Long Eighteenth Century  
£2,000 *Paul Mellon Centre*

**Dr. C. C. Szejnmann**  
**RA15056**

Institute of Regional and Comtemporary History - Research Support  
£2,000 *Fritz Thyssen Stiftung*

## INFECTION IMMUNITY AND INFLAMMATION (CLINICAL)

**Prof. P. Andrew**

Co-Investigator Prof C O'Callaghan  
**RM63059**

PNEUMOPEP: New Methods for Treatment of Antibiotic Resistant Pneumococcal Disease  
£294,293 *EU Commission*

**Dr. C. Brightling**  
**RM63061**

Remodelling in asthma: mast cell and eosinophil interactions with

mesenchymal cells  
£145,365 *Asthma UK*

**Prof. C. O'Callaghan**  
**RM63058**

The domiciliary measurement of nasal NO as a screening test for primary ciliary dyskinesia  
£5,800 *Medisearch*

## LABOUR MARKET STUDIES

**Dr. J. Sung**  
**RS141012**

Supplement - Human Resources Quarterly Indicators  
£11,506 *CIPD*

## LAW

**Prof. C. Graham**

Co-Investigator Mr M Fitch

**RL10038**

Household Water Services in England and Wales  
£3,500 *UNISON*

**Prof. R. White**

**RL10039**

Analysis of Judgements in the European Court of Human Rights  
£95,438 *AHRB*

## MATHEMATICS

**Prof. A. Gorban**

**RP201027**

Model Reduction and Coarse-Graining Approaches for Multiscale Phenomena  
£2,000 *London Mathematical Society*

**Dr. J. Levesley**

**RP201026**

Analysis of the probability of fixture clashes between Leicester City and

Leicester Tigers  
£6,829 *Leicester Tigers*

## MUSEUM STUDIES

**Ms. J. Dodd**

**RA17035**

Developing Learning Advocates in Museums, Libraries and Archives  
£9,566 *Museums, Libraries & Archives North West*

**Prof. S. Knell**

**RA17036**

Pander's Tooth: The Material Culture of Science  
£5,811 *British Academy*

## PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

**Dr. N. Bannister**

**RP16180**

Sensors in Extreme Environments  
£544,051 *EPSRC*

**Prof. G. Fraser**

Co-Investigator Dr R Ambrosi

**RP16175**

HP3 Densitometer  
£6,898 *The Open University*

**Prof. G. Fraser**

Co-Investigator Dr J Pye

**RP16176**

BepiColombo - MIXS interim funding  
£32,828 *PPARC*

**Dr. J. Lees**

Co-Investigator Prof G Fraser

**RP16181**

A Detector for All Seasons: Towards Silicon Carbide Imaging Arrays  
£45,205 *EPSRC*

**Prof. M. Watson**

Co-Investigator Mr T Linde

**RP16173**

Supplement - AstroGrid, Central Fund Holder  
£50,672 *PPARC*

**Prof. M. Watson**

**RP16179**

The European Virtual Observatory - VO Technology Centre  
£235,889 *EU Commission*

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Dr. C. Lillo**

**RM43027**

Executive Functions and Cross-Modality Binding in Serial Temporary Memory - Vacation Studentship  
£1,400 *Nuffield Foundation*

**Prof. T. Jordan**

**RM43026**

Investigating the use of coarse visual information in word recognition by adults of different reading abilities  
£49,621 *Wellcom Trust*

**Dr. K. Paterson**

Co-Investigator Ms T Webb

**RM43028**

Age-of-Acquisition Effects in Visual Word Recognition  
£7,476 *Nuffield Social Science Small Grants*



# Books

## Animals, Politics and Morality – Second Edition

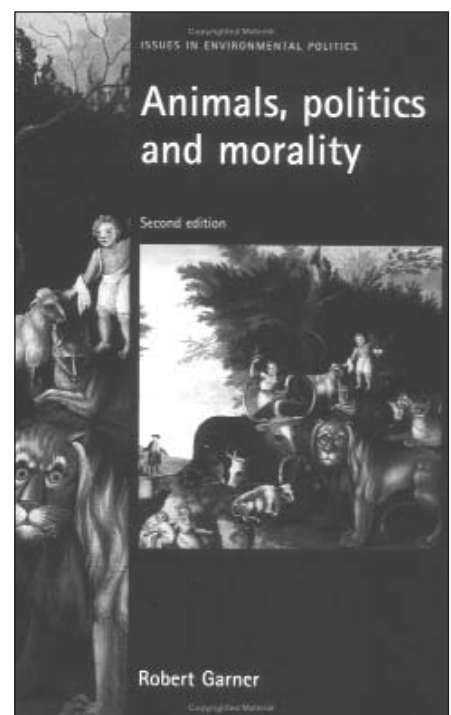
Author: Robert Garner, Publisher: Manchester University Press, ISBN: 0-7190-6621-2 £14.99

► In the last decade in Britain, we have witnessed major campaigns and public controversy over the export of live animals, and the use of animals in research. How do we treat animals? How ought we to treat them? These are the two central questions tackled in the extensively re-written and updated second edition of this well-regarded and much-cited text. It remains the only book which combines in a single volume, a concise and accessible account of the on going debate about animals in moral and legal philosophy, with a detailed analysis of how this debate is central to an understanding of the ways in which animals are treated.

After examining the radical philosophical claims

for animals- made, originally, by Peter Singer and Tom Regan and, more recently by a new generation of legal and moral philosophers, the book goes on to show how these moral imperatives impact upon the political debate about animals. The author shows how moral positions are essential to an understanding of the modern animal protection movement revitalised since the 1970s. Moreover, in four chapters at the heart of the book, the ways in which we exploit animals- as sources of entertainment, food and medical advancement- are judged according to the various moral positions identified in the debate.

- *Robert Garner is Reader of Politics at the University of Leicester.*



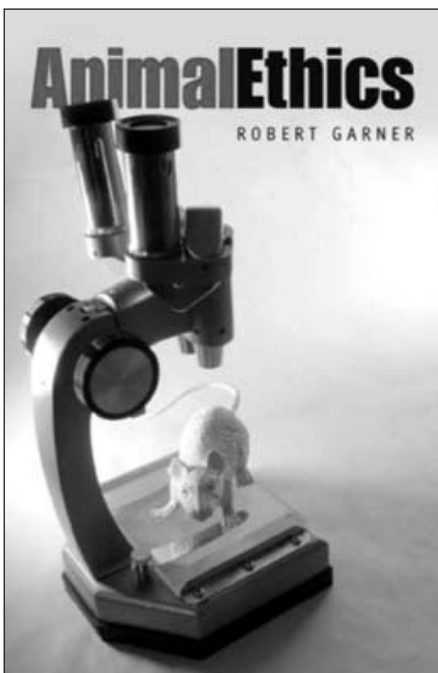
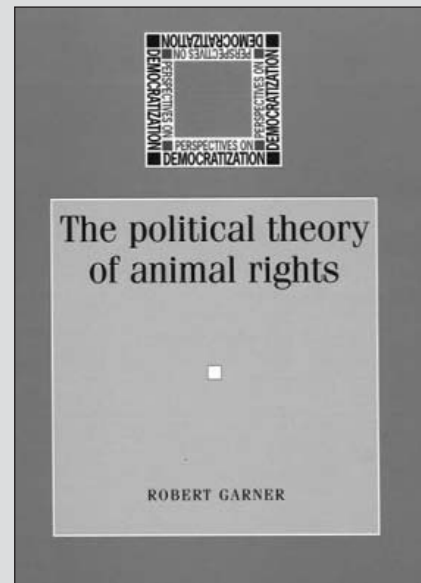


## The Political Theory of Animal Rights (Perspectives on Democratization)

Author: Robert Garner, Publisher: Manchester University Press,  
ISBN: 0-7190-6710-3 £50.00

► This unique and innovative book seeks to examine the impact on political thinking of regarding animals as morally important beings. Garner notes how political theorists have largely neglected the effect on political thinking of incorporating the interests of nonhuman animals. Yet, he argues, the case for granting them a high moral status is well nigh unanswerable. As a result, the author challenges the presumption that political theory is about the 'human question'.

Garner seeks to identify the political ideology that is best able to further the interests of animals. To this end, the claims of competing ideological positions are reviewed, and it is concluded that liberalism, despite having weaknesses, is the most appropriate ideological position for the protection of animal interests. This study will be essential reading for anyone concerned with political theory, moral philosophy and ideology. It should also be of interest to students of environmental politics.



## Animal Ethics

Author: Robert Garner, Publisher: Polity Press, ISBN: 0-7456-3079-0 £15.99

► This book is an attempt to lead the way through the moral maze that is our relationship with nonhuman animals. Written by an author with an established reputation in this field, the book takes the reader step by step through the main parameters of the debate, demonstrating at each turn the different positions adopted. In the second part of the book, the implications of holding each position for the ethical permissibility of what is done to animals - in laboratories, farms, the home and the wild - are explained.

Garner starts by asking whether animals have any moral standing before moving on to assess exactly what degree of moral status ought to be accorded to them. It is suggested that whilst animals should not be granted the same moral status as humans, they

are worthy of greater moral consideration than the orthodox animal welfare position allows. As a result, it is suggested that many of the ways we currently treat animals are morally illegitimate.

In the final chapter, the issue of political praxis is tackled. How are reforms to the ways in which animals are treated to be achieved? This book suggests that currently dominant debates about insider status and direct action are less important than the question of agency. That is, the important question is not what is done to change the way animals are treated as much as whom is to be mobilised to join the cause.

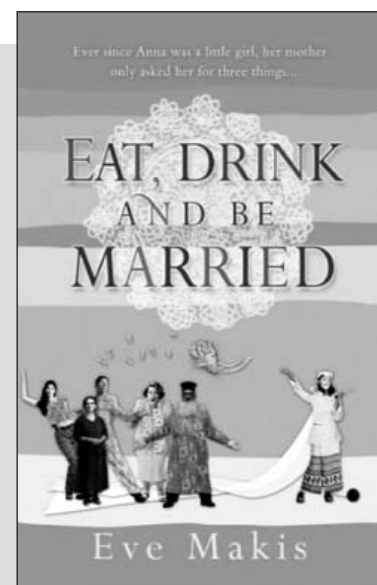
Students of philosophy, politics and environmental issues will find this an essential textbook.

## Eat Drink and Be Married

Eve Makis

£6.99, Paperback, Black Swan (Transworld)  
ISBN: 055277216X, BA Combined Arts

► Eve is 39 and lives in Nottingham and this is her first novel. Comic story of a Greek Cypriot family living on a council estate in 1980s Nottingham.  
<http://www.booksattransworld.co.uk/catalog/author.htm?authorID=4943> Transworld Publishers Website





## New Book by Management Centre Academics

► Ideas about business ethics and corporate social responsibility are currently at the cutting edge of management thinking. An innovative new textbook on business ethics has just been published by two University of Leicester Management Centre academics, and one academic from the Netherlands.

For *Business Ethics* by Campbell Jones, Martin Parker and Rene ten Bos (Routledge 2005) is an attempt to provide a clear and accessible introduction to business ethics, and also expands business ethics beyond its current narrow confines. It is ground breaking in the sense that it offers a distinctively critical approach to business ethics, an approach that the authors argue is an essential element in any serious philosophical conception of ethics anyway.

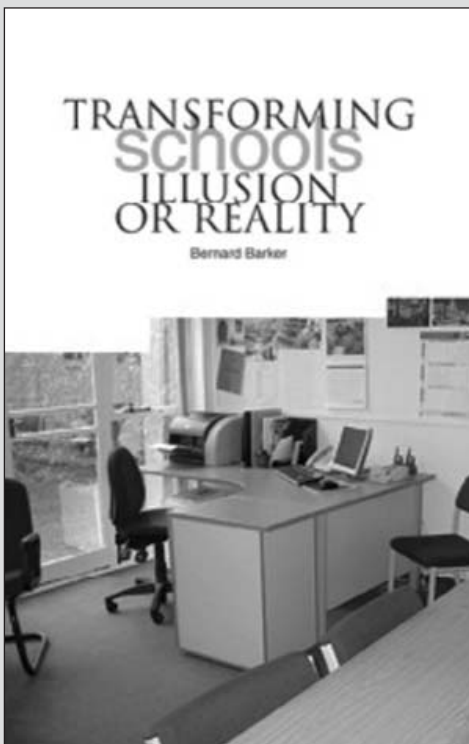
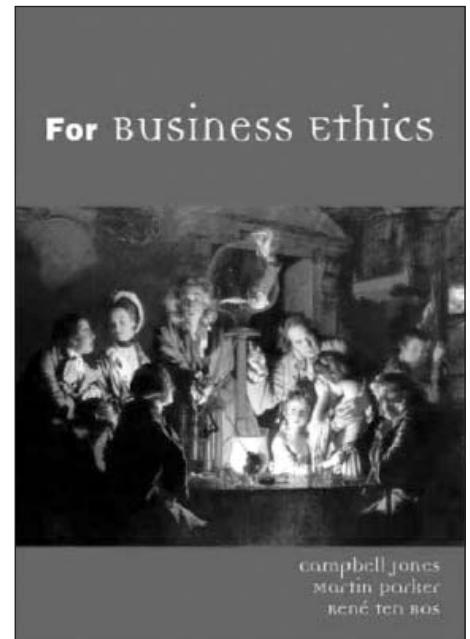
Jones, Parker and ten Bos provide overviews of utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics, and uncover the possibility of a subversive and heterodox conception of business ethics in these theories. They attempt to expand the definition of business ethics to include the politics of business too, whilst consistently questioning the meaning of ethics, and the possibility of ethics in an era of corporate capitalism and hierarchical forms of organization. The problem with so much writing on business ethics, this book

suggests, is that it fails to question business, and simply provides the legitimization for various forms of corporate strategy and marketing. Ethical business, Jones et al suggest, might look very different than business as usual.

With an easy to use glossary, and substantial recommendations for further readings, *For Business Ethics* is an essential purchase for students and practitioners who want to go beyond simplistic answers to questions of corporate social responsibility. It is both an introduction to business ethics, and a challenge to anyone who has suspicions about the ethics and politics of contemporary organized societies. The distinctive feature of much of the research and writing being conducted by the academics at ULMC is this intention to ask the difficult questions. This approach to our research and teaching is the inspiration for a book that seeks to change the way that students and lecturers think about business ethics.

Campbell Jones is a Director of ULMC's Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy, and a Senior Lecturer in Critical Theory and Business Ethics. Martin Parker is Professor of Culture and Organization, and teaches business ethics as a third year option on ULMC's BA in Management Studies. He will also be teaching this course as an option on the full time MBA in the Spring of

2006. Rene ten Bos is a consultant with Schouten and Nelissen in the Netherlands, as well as being Professor of Philosophy and Organization Theory at the Raboud University in Nijmegen.



## Transforming Schools - Illusion or Reality

by: Bernard Barker

Price £16.99, Å25.50, 192 pages, 228mm x 145mm, ISBN 1 85856 364 X, August 2005

► This intriguing book challenges the usual idea of how a weak or failing school can be turned into a successful one by the simple introduction of effective leadership and management. Bernard Barker describes the journey of a struggling Midlands comprehensive through special measures.

He relates how Ofsted inspectors impose a conventional regime, based on improved leadership, to drag the institution from the mire. But he shows that schools, heads, teachers and pupils are infinitely diverse and have an infinite range of motivations, priorities and personalities.

This in-depth and analytical yet thoroughly human account of a school's struggle away from the stigma of special measures is a must-read for all involved in education, from policy makers and officials to local authorities, researchers, leader-watchers, heads, teachers, governors and parents.

Dr Barker was head of comprehensive community colleges in Cambridgeshire and Leicestershire for 19 years. He is a lecturer at the Centre for Educational Leadership.



## Computer scientists elected members of IFIP

► Dr Alexander Kurz, Dr Dirk Pattinson and Dr Irek Ulidowski from the Department of Computer Science joined Prof José Fiadeiro and Dr Reiko Heckel as members of IFIP - the International Federation for Information Processing.

IFIP - the International Federation for Information Processing - is a non-governmental, non-profit umbrella organization for national societies working in the field of information

processing, established in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO. The UK is represented by the British Computer Society. Technical work, which is the heart of IFIP's activity, is managed by a series of Technical Committees. Each Technical Committee is divided in a number of Working Groups, each of which brings together the most active researchers in a given topic.

On September 7, Dr Alexander

Kurz and Dr Dirk Pattinson joined Prof José Fiadeiro and Dr Reiko Heckel as members of WG1.3 on "Foundations of System Specification". WG1.3 was established in 1992 as a working group of TC1, the technical committee on "Foundations of Computer Science". This makes Leicester the university with highest number of members in the group: 4 in 37. The country with the largest

share is Germany with 8 members, followed by the UK with 7 (Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Swansea also have members), France with 5 and Italy and the USA with 4.

Before that, on September 3, IFIP created WG1.8 on Concurrency Theory. Among its founding members is another lecturer from the Department of Computer Science: Dr Irek Ulidowski.

## Leicester student through to National Finals of STEP Award

**Psychology and Sociology student Laura Scully is outstanding achiever**

► University of Leicester student Laura Scully has triumphed in the regional heats of the Shell STEP Award and is through to the National Final.

Laura was selected by a panel of judges at the East and West Midlands Final from six other outstanding achievers at a prestigious event at Rockingham Motor Speedway, Northampton.

Laura undertook a summer placement at St George's Nursery School in Leicester, researching and implementing a marketing strategy including a new website for this expanding business. Laura is studying

Psychology with Sociology at the University of Leicester and is looking to start her career with a local business when she graduates next year.

Penny Waterfield, Leicester Programme Manager for STEP agent Success Matrix said: "It's fantastic that Leicestershire has beaten some tough regional competition and will have Laura flying the flag for our county at the National Finals. It is truly inspirational to hear the impact these talented students have made to small companies, often seeing a significant increase in productivity and efficiency. We wish Laura all the best in London."

Success Matrix also received a special award on the night for Regional Agent of the Year. One of 11 service agents in the Midlands, STEP UK chose to present this on the basis of the record number of placements achieved and a reputation for unrivalled service quality to both businesses and students.

The STEP Final will be held at the Merchant Taylor's Hall in London on Tuesday 18th October. Shell UK Chairman, James Smith, will host the black tie dinner. Laura will be competing against 11 other students from across England and Scotland,



with the opportunity to scoop the top prize of £1,000 and the title of Most Enterprising Student in the UK.

[www.successmatrix.co.uk](http://www.successmatrix.co.uk)  
Tel 0116 258 7332 [www.step.org.uk](http://www.step.org.uk)

## Distinction for Young Academic

**A University of Leicester lecturer has won an international accolade which was presented to him in Japan**

► Dr. Matthew Turner, of the Control and Instrumentation Research Group in the Department of Engineering, received 100,000 Yen (£500) at an event held at Osaka University. His award winning research was carried out in conjunction with Jorge Sofrony and Ian Postlethwaite from the University.

Dr Turner said:

"Some modern aircraft experience a complicated interaction between pilot and airframe which can lead to the onset of a so-called pilot-induced-oscillation (PIO). This research contributes a methodology for

controller design which addresses one of the causes of PIOs. Ultimately this should enable engineers to design safer control systems for aircraft."

The Sice International Award is a scholarship to help those foreign researchers who are young, have potential ability to contribute to the field of Instrument and Control Engineering, and come to Japan to present their papers.

Applicants have to be under 40 years old and must be presenting a paper at SICE2005 and have sufficient achievements in their fields.





## Caitriona is Woman of Distinction

▶ A University of Leicester postgraduate has won a prestigious prize worth £6000 from an international body recognising women's achievements.

Caitriona Jackman, from Limerick, Ireland will receive the accolade at a presentation evening on September 20th organised by the British Federation of Women Graduates.

Caitriona is in the final year of her PhD in Planetary Physics in the Radio and Space Plasma physics

group of the Physics and Astronomy Department, under Professor Stan Cowley.

Professor Cowley is a Co-Investigator on the magnetic field experiment on the Cassini spacecraft, and has been working with Caitriona and others to understand the large-scale nature of Saturn's magnetic field.

Using data from the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn, the Leicester team has been able to make predictions about conditions in

interplanetary space while the spacecraft was at its closest ever to the giant planet. Research led by Caitriona has looked at an interval in July 2004 when the Cassini spacecraft went into orbit around Saturn. This window of opportunity was provided on 1 July 2004, when the spacecraft flew 1.33 Saturn radii (about 80,000 km/ 50,000 miles) from the planet and the rocket engines completed a fuel burn so that Cassini could be captured by the gravity of the giant planet.



## From Dancer to Doctor - Leicester Medic Elected to Top BMA Student Post

▶ A University of Leicester medical student has been elected to the chair of the British Medical Association's Medical Students Committee, representing the country's 33,000 medical students.

Kirsty Lloyd, who is a mature student at the Medical School is in her 4th year at Leicester. Medicine, however, was not her first career and she originally trained for 15 years to become a contemporary dancer, performing in top London venues, including the Place Theatre, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Natural History Museum.

A back injury led to her reconsidering her future and attendance at a meeting of the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science inspired her to investigate medicine. A-Levels in craftwork (needlework) and the history of art were not an obvious choice for

her new ambition, but she had also taken biology, which she had thoroughly enjoyed.

Kirsty completed the Access to Medicine course at the College of West Anglia. Subjects covered were biology, physics, chemistry, maths and medical geography. These enabled her to meet the entry criteria for medical schools.

Having made contact with medical schools before applying, she discovered that some would not accept her qualifications, but she applied to four who would take her if she got distinctions. Undaunted, she went on to do exactly that.

Her election to the chair of the BMA Medical Students' Committee has not come out of the blue. At dance college she was active in the students' union and she had held the post of BMA student representative for Leicester for the previous two years

Commenting on the key issues

facing medical students, she said that rising debt levels were continuing to deter students from less affluent backgrounds from becoming doctors:

"Medical student debt is spiralling. The average fifth year medical student owes nearly £20,000, and the high cost of studying for a medical degree is one of the reasons so few medical students come from working class backgrounds. The introduction of top-up fees next year is likely to make this worse."

A report into the effects of top-up fees on access to the professions is due to be published later in Autumn 2005. Commenting on what the BMA would like to see from the report, Kirsty said:

"Top-up fees could mean debts as high as £64,000 for medical students, and there's a real risk that we're creating financial barriers that will prevent some very able students from

becoming doctors. We need to let people know that a career in medicine isn't just for the public school educated middle classes, and we need to ensure there's enough financial support for medical students from less affluent backgrounds."

Her BMA role will demand one or two days a week from her time and Kirsty knows she will have to be very disciplined if her medical studies are not to suffer.

This year Kirsty is undertaking an intercalated BSc, specialising in cancer research, working in the Breast Cancer Research Unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. She has not yet decided which branch of medicine she will take up. She is currently resisting pressure from former dance colleagues to become their GP.

## Obituaries

### ▶ Mrs. Joan Alexander

We have learnt, with great regret, of the death of Mrs. Joan Alexander. Joan joined the University in March 1979 as a Senior Clerk in the Accountant's Office, and was promoted to the post of Chief Clerk in the Cashier's Office in January 1984. She retired in September 1999.

### ▶ Dr. David Reeder

We have learnt, with great regret, of

the death on 1 August of Dr David Reeder. David was appointed to a University Research Fellowship in the Faculty of the Social Sciences for a year from April 1967. He joined the School of Education as a Lecturer in 1973 and retired in 1987 as a Senior Lecturer. Subsequently he was an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban History.

### ▶ Dr. John Butland Smith

We have learnt with great sorrow, of

the death of Dr. John Butland Smith, an Honorary Fellow. John Smith died from pneumonia on Saturday 16 July, having been ill with cancer for just over a month. John joined the Centre as a PhD student after gaining an MA in Victorian Studies at the University of Leicester.

### ▶ Arthur David (Dave) Warner

We have learnt, with great regret, of the sudden death on 31 July 2005 of Mr Dave Warner. Mr Warner

joined the University in March 1994 as a part-time cleaner in the Fielding Johnson Building. He was promoted to his current position as Porter in the main Attenborough Building in August 2001.



## Events

A complete list of events can be viewed in Events Diary at <http://ebulletin.le.ac.uk>

### 19 October

#### Alternative Landscapes -

The Richard Attenborough Centre -

**Two one - person shows. Aerial photography focusing on natural and man made pattern in landscape by Robert Thacker plus a geologists viewpoint on landscape from Keith Cooper. 18 October until 24 November.**

▶ Two exhibitions of landscape photography highlighting the contrasting approaches of photographers Keith Cooper and Robert Thacker.

- Robert Thacker - Aerial Landscapes - An Alternative View
- Keith Cooper - The Bones of Landscape

### 20 October

#### Capitalism's Downfall

Ken Edwards Lecture Theatre 1, 5:30pm

▶ "Capitalism, as a socio-economic system, is threatening both our human and spiritual survival and yet we remain in denial," warns Yorick Blumenfeld who has spent the past 25 years writing about our future prospects. He asks: "What elected politician has the courage to say that our survival on this planet means reducing our standard of living? And yet survival now depends on how we tackle the pollution of air and water as well as the rapid depletion of our natural resources, such as top soil, oil, timber and fish".

"Like anorexics, we look in the mirror but are unable to recognise what we are doing to ourselves and our planet, ... capitalism does not tolerate alternatives: it is wedded to the status quo - that is, the power of wealthy corporations, lobbyists and hyper-rich individuals to block genuine, meaningful change."

In his first lecture, Yorick will examine the disastrous consequences of capitalism's focus on profits, growth, efficiency, greed and ruthless competition, and look at why it is also corrupting the democratic process itself. He contends that market capitalism and democracy are ultimately incompatible.

A second lecture entitled "Alternatives to Capitalism" will follow on Wednesday 26 October, at 5:30 in KE1.

For further information please contact Fiona Carlyle, PA & Co-ordinator, Marketing & Distance Learning, email: [fc47@le.ac.uk](mailto:fc47@le.ac.uk), direct tel: 0116 252 5386

### 27th October

#### Jazz event in Cafe Piazza

▶ An informal relaxed evening featuring one of the most promising prospects to have emerged on the UK scene. Richard Fairhurst is not just another aspiring young jazz musician, he is recognised by many as potentially one of the most exciting young talents around, both as a pianist and composer.

For more information please visit

<http://www.le.ac.uk/catering/jazz.htm>, or contact Nathan Jackson, Catering Business Administration Manager University of Leicester, Tel: 0116 252 2209, Email: [njj4@le.ac.uk](mailto:njj4@le.ac.uk)

### 9 November

#### Watch the Stars

The University of Leicester Observatory is the location for a number of open nights put on by the Department of Physics and Astronomy

▶ The Department of Physics and Astronomy is arranging to hold a number of Open Nights at the Observatory on Manor Road, in Qadby. The dates will be: Wednesday, 9th November; Thursday, 8th December; Monday, 9th January and Monday, 6th February. All Open Nights will begin at 7.00 p.m.

Open Nights are restricted to members of the University staff and their families. Numbers are constrained by the size of the Observatory. Please make your booking through the Astronomy Group Technician on 2081 or email [rfm@le.ac.uk](mailto:rfm@le.ac.uk)

#### BEAUTIFUL STONE COTTAGE TO RENT IN THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE

150yr old stone cottage with large log fire suitable for renting all year. Sleeps up to 6 adults. Located in a small hamlet within its own private garden overlooking the countryside in Treal. The cottage is easily accessible by Ferry (90 mins from St Malo and 3.5hrs from Caen). Please contact Mr or Mrs Abell on 01489584048 for further information."

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# Engineering the Future: New Centre Launched to Meet Needs of Industry

► The University of Leicester has joined a consortium of partners from industry and the university sector to launch a new initiative that will provide practical, high level training for systems engineers of the future.

The Systems Engineering Doctorate Centre is a new initiative from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Council (EPSRC) that will allow candidates to acquire an Engineering Doctorate degree.

"We will be training high-quality engineers who may become future leaders in UK industry. The qualification is a radical alternative to the traditional PhD and is better suited to the immediate needs of industry," said Professor Ian Postlethwaite, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at

the University of Leicester.

"We are providing a more vocationally-oriented doctorate in engineering. The research engineers are expected to spend around three quarters of their time working directly with the collaborating company, with the research projects designed and supervised jointly by the academics and the co-operating company."

Professor Postlethwaite said that the new Centre represented a further expansion of Leicester's strategic research capability in Systems Engineering. The University of Leicester already houses a Control and Instrument Group which has an international reputation in the development and application of

advanced control system design methods and the construction of novel instrumentation. Much of its research is fundamental and generic with wide applicability across various sectors of industry but particular attention is given to: aerospace control, especially UAVs (uninhabited air vehicles) and helicopters bioengineering, especially artificial nose technology, computational neuroscience and human control systems health management: diagnostics, prognostics and reconfiguration software for reliable embedded systems

The group has recently been invited by BAE Systems to be its Preferred Academic Capability

Partner in the area of Control Systems, along with Imperial College.

The Systems Engineering Doctorate Centre (SEDC) will be coordinated by Loughborough, but will take the form of a consortium involving four other universities - Leicester, Bath, Queen's Belfast, and Strathclyde and a number of industry organisations. A key industry partner is BAE Systems and a number of other industry partners are already "signed up" to the EngD Centre to provide a wide industrial support base including defence, aerospace, automotive, shipbuilding, power generation and process control.

# Society for General Microbiology (SGM) Undergraduate Prize

► Joanne Purves has been awarded the Society for General Microbiology (SGM) undergraduate Microbiology Prize 2005 - an award for best performance in second year microbiology modules.

This prize aims to encourage

excellence in the study of microbiology by undergraduate students, and to promote scholarship in and awareness of microbiology in universities.

The Society for General Microbiology (SGM) is the largest

microbiological society in Europe. It has over 5000 members of whom 75% are resident in the UK with the rest in more than 60 countries worldwide.

Joanne, who is currently doing her final year research project on the

pathogenicity of *Staphylococcus aureus*, was awarded £100, a certificate and one year's free undergraduate membership of the SGM.

# New Test will Aid Diagnosis of Asthma in Young Children

► One in ten children in the UK has asthma but the condition can be difficult to diagnose and treat in the crucial early years. This is partly because doctors do not yet have a test that is easy to administer.

But now Asthma UK is funding research which, if successful, will provide a new test for doctors to use on babies and small children while also shedding light on how and why some children develop asthma early in life.

Many babies and small children wheeze but only some will go on to develop asthma. Why? The answer may lie in the degree to which a wheezing child's lungs are inflamed: people with asthma have inflamed lung tissue and airways which, if they're not treated, can lead to the airways becoming narrower.

But assessing to what degree a child's lungs are inflamed is not easy. Babies can't cough up sputum for analysis and the only way to

assess their lung inflammation is by using a technique which requires a general anaesthetic, which is not generally desirable in such young children.

Now scientists are pioneering a new technique that has previously been used in older people. Quite simply, the infant will be given a mist of salt water to breathe. This promotes the shifting of secretions and induces coughing of cells. The team will be evaluating whether

these cells can be removed by gentle suction via the nose. Scientists will try the new technique on 25 children under the age of two.

Dr Jonathan Grigg, who will be leading the team at the University of Leicester, comments:

"If this technique is successful in sampling cells from the lower airways of young children we will be able, for the first time, to assess the effect of therapies on asthmatic lung function in this group."