

Second Week Newsletter. Trinity Term, 2017.

Morning all!

I've got a treat for you when you all wake up from your post-May Day naps: the newsletter! A selection of tasty things for you today, from various ways to make money (summer teaching, taking drugs) to opportunities to enrich your minds (graduate research conference, workshop, speaker events) to what is essentially the best part of everyone's week (the Memorial Room closures). Read it and (hopefully don't) weep!

Have a great week!

- 1. Memorial Room Closures.**
- 2. Paid Study: Lamotrigine.**
- 3. Oxford Royale is Recruiting.**
- 4. Notices from the International Relations Society.**
- 5. Workshop for Manuscripts and Text Cultures.**
- 6. St. Antony's Graduate Research Conference.**

1. Memorial Room Closures.

The Memorial Room is closed at the following times this week:

- Tuesday 2nd May, 2-6pm.
- Wednesday 3rd May, 11am-1pm, 2-4pm.

The usual drill: make sure you're not working there at these times, make sure you don't leave any of your belongings lying around.

2. Paid Study: Lamotrigine.

Healthy Volunteers Needed: Effect of lamotrigine on brain function

Healthy volunteers aged 18-40 are needed for a project studying the effects of a single dose of oral lamotrigine, a commonly prescribed medication for epilepsy and bipolar depression, on brain activity using brain imaging technology.

The study would involve 2 visits lasting approximately 1 and 5 hours, respectively. We are unfortunately unable to include volunteers with a history of a psychiatric disorder such as depression or anxiety in the study. Time and expenses will be reimbursed.

If you are interested in participating in the study or you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me on the following e-mail address: tarek.zghoul@psych.ox.ac.uk

Best wishes,

Tarek Zghoul - MBChB, PhD

(Ethics Approval Reference: R49749/RE001)

3. Oxford Royale is Recruiting.

We are currently recruiting academic staff for our 2017 summer school.

Oxford Royale Academy (ORA) is Oxford's largest residential summer school provider providing residential summer schools for some 3,500 teenagers over the summer in the Oxford University Colleges. Each year we are privileged to work with a host of postgraduate students who give up their time to share their area of expertise with students from over 150 nations of the world.

Generally this entails committing to a few hours per week teaching a group of between 12 and 15 students at one of Oxford's world-famous colleges. Detailed teaching guides are provided so that staff are able to hit the ground running and we also offer a training week at the beginning of the summer school for the those with an academic background but who are perhaps less experienced pedagogically.

I wonder if you would be able to share this opportunity with members of your MCR? Further information can be found [here](#).

4. Notices from the International Relations Society.

1. Daniel Tudor is a journalist who holds a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford, an MBA from the University of Manchester and moved to Korea a decade ago. Since then he has worked as Korea correspondent for The Economist, written for several Korean newspapers and opened a chain of craft beer pubs in Seoul.

www.facebook.com/events/210111429490572/

He is the author of several books on Korea: Korea – The Impossible Country was published in 2012; A Geek in Korea – Discovering Asia's New Kingdom of Cool (2015) and his most recent publication, co-authored with Reuters correspondent James Pearson: North Korea Confidential, highlights the increasing role of marketization as a form of dissent to the North Korean regime.

Daniel will be speaking on the subject of North Korea: Feudalism with Capitalist Characteristics. Recently, as tensions rise between North Korea, its neighbours, and the West, the lives of the North Korean people become evermore precarious: who knows what the next move by the West, or Kim Jong-un will be?

Come and hear a unique insight into the 'darkest place on earth'. This event is FREE for members, and £3 for non-members. Membership can be purchased at www.oxirsoc.com/membership-1/

If you would like to have DINNER with Daniel Tudor before the talk, please fill in the form below in

order to be entered into the ballot: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyjJsxC1xuHwaCQc3lzzKxHvyyCyBGIBgFV8t-ZufrOke2NA/viewform

7:30, 1st May, Saskatchewan Room, Exeter College

2. Come along to hear Bill Emmott, former Editor of the Economist, speak on 'The Fate of the West' next Tuesday. The event is being hosted by Oxford University United Nations Association, whilst OXIRSoc's own Lighthouse magazine will also be featured.

www.facebook.com/events/814743662013026/

Bill Emmott was the Editor of the Economist, the leading weekly magazine on current affairs, from 1993 until 2006. He co-founded the Wake Up Foundation alongside Annalisa Piras as a charity dedicated to educating about the decline of western societies. He is the author of many books including the Sun Also Sets: The Limits to Japan's Economic Power (1989), 20:21 Vision: Twentieth-Century Lessons for the Twenty-first Century (2003) and Good Italy, Bad Italy (2012). Most recently, in 2012, he co-wrote and narrated "Girlfriend in Coma", a ground-breaking documentary about the decline of Italy.

There will be a Q&A session after the event where audience members will be able to ask Mr. Emmott about his work and his beliefs. Copies of the book will be made available for general sale for those who wish to get their book signed on the day by Mr. Emmott.

The event is FREE of charge and open to both members and non-members. Members of the OUUNA Committee will be at the Porters' Lodge to direct you to the event location.

7:30, 2nd May, Pontigny Room, St. Edmund's Hall

3. Peter Tatchell is a well-known human rights campaigner, garnering much attention for his involvement in the LGBT rights movement in Britain and abroad. As a prominent member of OutRage!, he campaigned tirelessly throughout the 1990s against homophobia. He also made headlines in 2001 for his citizen's arrest of Robert Mugabe. Tatchell continues to be involved in many further issues and causes, including hosting protests in Russia against the country's anti-LGBT stance. He is a critic of 'no-platforming' policies, and director of the Peter Tatchell Foundation.

www.facebook.com/events/839815439500192/

He will be speaking on 'The Coming War with Russia'. This event is FREE for members, and £3 for non-members. Membership can be purchased at www.oxirsoc.com/membership-1/

If you would like to have DINNER with Peter Tatchell before the talk, please fill in the form below in order to be entered into the ballot: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxdtaAHRvBLzcM-ftB3shv62yX-p8Hm-BQCPdCQgdbYcw_Q/viewform

7:30, 4th May - location tbc

5. Workshop for Manuscripts and Text Cultures.

The [Workshop for Manuscripts and Text Cultures](#) at The Queen's College is pleased to welcome you to the first event in its **Lunchtime colloquium** series. This is an opportunity to discuss research in progress in an informal setting with both senior and younger scholars. The inaugural event will host the presentations by **Jacob Dahl** and **Christopher Metcalf**. The participants are encouraged to bring bag lunch to the meeting.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, **2nd May** (2nd week) at **12.30-2pm in the Magrath Room**, The Queen's College.

Jacob Dahl, Wolfson College, Oxford

Seals and their impressions in the Ancient Near East

Four core datasets constitute the main material and intellectual remains of one of the world's most important early civilisations, that of the Ancient Near East (ANE): cuneiform tablets, remains of architecture, pottery, and seals and their impressions on clay artefacts. Although seals have attracted much interest as objects of art, no project has attempted their systematic documentation and study, and fundamental questions regarding seal use and manufacture remain unanswered. In this presentation I will outline a project I am starting, and which was generously funded by the Fell Fund in the first instance, and which aims at building and testing an innovative new image capture system for use in imaging several key-collections of seals. Based on the sample dataset I hope to pilot the use of innovative methods for sorting and tagging the dataset, ultimately leading to a new approach to the study of ANE seals that is not based on traditional art historical methods. In my project I address one single, but fundamental question: why have scholars failed to match up more than a handful of physical seals and impressions? I consider this to be either a data problem—relationships exist in published data but have gone unrecognized due to flawed data-mining capabilities or strategies—, or an historical problem—the physical seals we have in our collections are from a different dataset than those whose impressions we find on tablets and sealings, or seals were continuously re-carved, thereby reducing the likelihood of finding a matching seal and impression. I will replace the traditional art-historical typology with IT-driven image-analysis. This data driven typology will facilitate pathways to data of hitherto unseen magnitude, allowing for a multitude of research questions to be addressed, and will, I hope, have a transformational effect on the study of seals and sealing practices in the ANE, and rich applications to other projects across the humanities at Oxford and beyond.

Christopher Metcalf, The Queen's College, Oxford

A new Sumerian poem of the 20th century BC: An illustrated talk

This talk will present the results of a research project on an unpublished Sumerian literary text from ancient Mesopotamia, dating to ca. 2000 BC. The text, which is today in the collections of the British Museum, describes the relationship between the goddess Inana, one of the main deities of the ancient Mesopotamian pantheon, and a king of the dynasty of Isin. The talk will explore the rich mythological conceptions that lie behind this fascinating but difficult poem, which will be edited for the first time in a forthcoming joint publication on which I have worked for three years with a colleague at SOAS, University of London.

6. St Antony's Graduate Research Conference.

Dear all,

We are writing to invite you to the annual St. Antony's Graduate Research Conference, which is happening tomorrow (Tuesday, May 2). The conference brings graduate students from all over the university to present their research in panels chaired by St Antony's fellows and faculty members. This year, the theme is **Shifting Borders: History, Reality, and Legacy**. The conference runs from 9 AM to 5 PM; the keynote will be delivered by the Warden of the College, Professor Margaret MacMillan, at 4 PM.

Please find attached here the poster and the program for the conference. In addition, [here](#) is the facebook link for the event. Please feel free to come for the entire program or for any specific panels that interest you. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

All the best,

Ibrahim and Leonie

Co-Directors of Research Exchange and Global Languages at St Antony's College