

Third Week Newsletter. Trinity Term, 2017.

Morning all!

This week's newsletter welcomes you to third week in a flurry of opportunities to earn money by being poked by scientists. There's also the perennial notices from the IR/Economics societies - and an interesting twist to the usual information about the Memorial Room. Read on for more exciting twists and turns...

Have a great week!

Queen's Notices.

- 1. Become a Junior Dean!**
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Other Notices.

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1. Become a Junior Dean!

As I'm sure you're aware, college is currently looking for new Junior Deans to start next. The advert that's been circulated around the mailing list is copied below. I'd encourage everyone to think about applying if it's something you're interested in!

We are currently looking to recruit four new Junior Deans for the academic year beginning in September 2017.

The post of Junior Dean is suitable for senior graduate students (normally students in the second or later years of their graduate programme). The primary role of the Junior Dean will be to act as a decanal presence in College, particularly in evenings and at weekends in term-time, and specified periods out of term. The College has four Junior Deans and they are the first point of call for welfare and disciplinary matters that require an immediate response.

The successful candidates will be offered accommodation in College (either the Florey Building, St Aldate's House, Carrodus Quad or the main College site) free of charge; will receive free meals in Hall and, subject to approval by the Governing Body, up to two meals per week with the Senior Common Room; plus an annual stipend (currently £2,000) which includes entertainment expenses. Applicants are encouraged from across the University and must be current graduates.

Further information can be downloaded from the College's website at www.queens.ox.ac.uk/vacancies

Completed applications should be submitted by midnight on Wednesday 10 May.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact the current Junior Deans at decanal.team@queens.ox.ac.uk for informal enquiries or to discuss the post.

2. Use of the Memorial Room.

As I'm sure you all saw, there was an email sent round by Marie Bracey last week notifying us that the Memorial Room is now closed to members of the MCR due to the completion of the New Library. However, at the open meeting for graduates that took place last week, this was raised with the Provost and he said that in fact we should have the Memorial Room as a workspace for the rest of the term. Clearly there have been some crossed wires somewhere! For now, MCR bod cards (I believe) won't let you into the Memorial Room.

Tim is currently looking into this, and we'll keep you updated as and when we know more.

3. Paid Study [1].

[University] Participants needed for emotional processing drug study

Ethics Ref: R50651/RE001

We are looking for volunteers aged 18 - 55 who have never suffered from any psychological disorders to participate in a study investigating the effects of a single dose of the antibiotic drug minocycline on the processing of emotions.

Duration: Two appointments (one screening visit, one study visit) about 5.5 hours in total

Who can participate? Healthy adults aged 18-55 years old

What does the study involve? The study mainly involves computer-based psychological tasks on emotional and cognitive processing and the taking of blood samples.

If you would like to find out more/are interested in participating, please contact Shi Yu Chan at minocycline@psych.ox.ac.uk. You will be reimbursed for your time!

4. Paid Study [2].

Participants wanted for a study involving cognitive training combined with transcranial electrical stimulation (tES). This experiment involves multiple daily sessions of cognitive training combined with non-invasive transcranial electrical stimulation (tES) and electroencephalography (EEG). There are 13 consecutive days (Mon-Fri only) plus a follow up session that can be scheduled for 3 to 5 weeks after completion of the 13th session. Times for daily sessions are flexible, and participants are compensated for their time and effort. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed as well. If you wish to participate or to receive further information please email Margherita at margherita.nulli@psy.ox.ac.uk.

5. Notices from the International Relations Society.

1. Ex- U.S. Assis. Secretary of State Michele Bond on Trump - Monday, 3rd Week
2. Professor of Political Science at Yale University Stathis Kalyvas on Civil War- Tuesday, 3rd Week
3. Former Foreign Secretary Lord David Owen on Brexit - Wednesday, 4th Week

1. Michele Bond is a retired U.S. diplomat with a stunning career, serving in places across the globe as diverse as The Netherlands to Lesotho, where she was Ambassador from 2010-2012. She was nominated by President Obama to become Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs in 2015, a post which she held until 27th January of this year.

Bond will be speaking on 'Trump's Rhetoric and U.S. Immigration Security Concerns'; tackling the new administration's record, the presence of xenophobia in the U.S. and the proposed changes to visas still yet to be seen.

She will be lending her unique insight into the ramifications of Trump's proposals and shedding some light on 'key elements that deserve more attention than they have received'. As the previous head of the department, Bond offers an impressive and comprehensive overview of an administration intent on introducing such policies as the notorious 'Muslim ban', 'extreme vetting', and the crack down on illegal immigrants.

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Monday 3rd Week (8th May), 7:30, Danson Room, Trinity College

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/426759047701734/>

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/m6hi1IoIb1sCmtnX2>

2. Stathis Kalyvas is a noted academic specialising in the study of conflict and violence. Kalyvas is the author of numerous studies, including 'The Logic of Violence in Civil War' (2006), 'The Rise of Christian Democracy and Europe' (2006), and co-edited 'Order, Conflict and Violence' (2010). Recently, he has directed his attention to Greece and its current political situation, publishing his book 'Modern Greece', in 2015. He currently directs the 'Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence' at Yale University, where he is also the Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science.

Kalyvas will be sharing his knowledge on civil conflict by giving a talk entitled '20 Questions and Answers about Civil Wars'.

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Tuesday 3rd Week (9th May), 7:30, Saskatchewan Room, Exeter College

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/423628877996579>

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/8mFFsXrcKQTibkO92>

3. Lord David Owen CH FRCP is coming to give a talk about his illustrious career in British politics. Foreign Secretary from 1977-1979, Owen was involved in overseeing and developing the creation of independence for certain African states, and in the promotion of human rights. A staunch centrist having held a lot of previous support for the European Union, Owen made headlines when he announced that he intended to Vote Leave in the Referendum of 2016.

In 1981, Owen became one of the 'Gang of Four', leaving the Labour Party to found the Social Democratic Party, of which he was leader from 1983-1987 and which eventually transformed into the Liberal Democrats. Made a life peer in 1992, he now sits in the House of Lords, changing his status from 'crossbencher' in 2014, to 'independent social democrat'.

Lord Owen will be sharing his thoughts on 'Brexit - An amicable divorce from the E.U.?'

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Wednesday 4th Week (17th May), Saskatchewan Room, Exeter College

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1926994697547256/>

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/UW4D58zyR7MIE0D22>

6. Paid Study [3].

Volunteers wanted for motor learning and brain stimulation study - earn £125

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a study investigating how transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) affects our ability to learn and remember new motor tasks. We would want you to be involved in the study on 4 days, each around a week apart. On each day of the study you would be asked to participate in one morning session (lasting around 1.5-2 hours) and one evening session (around 10 mins).

In the morning sessions you will learn a new motor task, while receiving tDCS and your brain activity will be recorded using transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). In the evening sessions your skill on the motor task will be tested again.

We need volunteers between 18 and 35 years old, who do not play a musical instrument to a high level (e.g. to grade 6 or above and still taking part in regular practice). You must be in good health and without a history of epilepsy or any other disease affecting the brain or spinal cord. If you are pregnant you should not volunteer.

Sessions will take place at the Warneford Hospital. You will be remunerated for your time.

If you are interested in taking part you should contact Ainslie Johnstone (ainslie.johnstone@ndcn.ox.ac.uk) for more information

7. Notices from the Economics Society.

Martin Chavez, Goldman Sachs CFO: Technology and the Economy

Tuesday, 9th May, Merton College Oxford

In partnership with the Oxford Finance Society, the Oxford Economics Society is proud to present our third speaker event of the term. The event will take place at 2pm in the T.S. Eliot Lecture Theatre at Merton College. Please arrive early to ensure a seat - we expect the event to be very busy.

Renowned for transforming Goldman Sachs' technology, Martin Chavez will be coming to speak to us about the role of technology in his firm and in the economy at large. He has deep knowledge of both the financial sector and Silicon Valley, and will be able to offer us both practical advice on the skills we need to succeed in the industry in the future, as well as broader predictions for the economy.

The event will take a "fireside chat" format: it'll be an informal way to ask any questions you have about technology, finance or the skills economics graduates need to succeed in today's labour market. Most of the time will be dedicated to audience questions, so don't miss out on the opportunity to have them answered by an expert in the field.

Admission is free

www.facebook.com/events/1477324148985884/

A Week in Economics

Macroeconomics: Manufacturing growth in the EU outpaces that of America, and the ECB reaffirms its commitment to near zero interest rates and lack of uptick in terms of bonds, whereas Federal Reserve plans to increase rates by June.

UK: Foreign investment is decreasing particularly in manufacturing and the oil and gas sector for the first time in decades, which could have significant effects as foreign investment has been responsible for about a third of British GDP in the last decade.

US: GDP growth for the quarter is at an underwhelming 0.7%, primarily due to a major slowdown in consumer spending. Non-residential investment has increased significantly, mostly due to rising oil prices, although research and development spending is still low.

Markets: Record setting figures for equity markets, particularly as the results of the French election diminish the likelihood of a French exit of the EU. The MSCI All Country World Index reached record highs, North American markets responded less but the S&P 500 still increased.

Long-View: The US and the EU ponder introducing very long term bonds, up to about 50 years, which could be beneficial if short term interest rates pick up and demand becomes more stable, but could otherwise become a burden to the taxpayer.

8. Paid Study [4].

I am a researcher at the department of Experimental Psychology and I am currently recruiting healthy right-handed participants for my study. I was wondering if you would be willing to help me in this process by putting up flyers (see attached) in the MCR/JCR or telling students about the research. Of course, the participants will be reimbursed by bank transfer (**30 pounds**) and travel expenses (i.e. a taxi or bus) will also be reimbursed up to **10 pounds**.

The study combines non-invasive brain stimulation (tES) with an electroencephalogram (EEG) and several cognitive tasks. Both techniques are **not** harmful or dangerous. The study takes place at the **New Richards building**, Old Road Campus, Oxford (OX3 7LG) and it will last for approximately **two hours**. They can contact me by sending a mail to neuroscienceoxford@gmail.com.

Since this is a great opportunity for students to earn some money in just two hours, I thought you would be interested.

Thank you for your help!

All the best,

Nienke van Bueren