

**Imperial College
London**

**Centre for Languages,
Culture and
Communication**

Annual Report

2016-2017



Introduction

Dr Roberto Trotta

Director



Delivering an outstanding learning experience has always been at the heart of the Centre's mission. Even so, 2016-17 has been an exceptionally rewarding year: enrolments in our flagship Imperial Horizons programme continued to grow; two of our Horizons field leaders have been recognized by some of the highest teaching accolades within College and nationally; some of our students have made Imperial proud by winning national competitions in subjects rarely associated with our institution; and, most importantly, students' feedback remained sky high, a testament to the dedication, enthusiasm and qualities of our teaching staff.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of a great number of colleagues, both at the Centre and across Imperial. My particular thanks go to the Centre's administrative staff, who have ensured that a complex machine delivering almost 100 different courses to over 4,500 undergraduate students ran smoothly despite the many logistical challenges such a programme entails.

Our Science Communication Unit celebrated its 25th anniversary: in its maturity, the MSc programmes retain all the freshness of youth, combined with the insights of experience – a delicately balanced mix that was recently described in the Financial Times as “the [UK] leader”.

Our Evening Classes offer has gone from strength to strength, and it now attracts over 1,100 students. Courses span the traditional humanities subjects, but have started to showcase some of the cutting edge science that Imperial is world-renowned for, thus contributing to our societal engagement ambitions.

But we are not going to rest on our laurels. Imperial is embarking on a wide-ranging effort to reshape its teaching and learning, with the aim of becoming one of the world leading research institutions in the subject. With its experience of cross-disciplinary learning, innovative teaching, and student-centred approach, the Centre aspires to play an important role in defining and delivering what the Imperial student experience should be like in the 21st century.

The Centre's staff and myself greatly look forward to continuing working with the Students' Union, our colleagues across College and with Imperial's leadership. Together, we will equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve in the fast-changing world of tomorrow.

Highlights



2 Learning and Teaching Strategy



Developing our distinctive educational experience, adopting modern evidence-based teaching methods and using fresh approaches to assessment and feedback



1 #Imperial Lights

For one week in November, the Central Library building was alight with a dazzling illumination celebrating the work of the Centre and other support services such as the Graduate School, Educational Development Unit, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre and the Learning Development Unit.

2 Learning & Teaching

CLCC is delighted to be playing an integral role in delivering Imperial's Learning and Teaching Strategy. Outstanding education and a positive impact on student experience is at the heart of the CLCC and we very much look forward to working with departments to help implement the strategy.

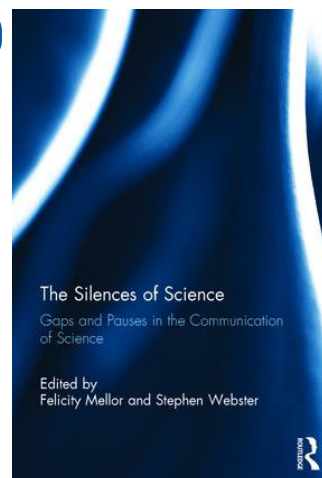
3 Teaching Excellence

The CLCC celebrated some outstanding staff commendations in 2016-2017. Giskin Day was awarded the highly coveted status of National Teaching Fellow by the HEA, and Elizabeth Hauke was awarded Imperial's prestigious 'President's Medal for Teaching Excellence'. Elizabeth also won the prize for 'Best Dissertation' for her MEd in University Learning and Teaching.

Science Communication

In 2017 the Science Communication Unit celebrates 25 years of delivering its world-renowned masters' programme, which remains highly popular and enrolls up to 55 students each year. The Unit is staffed by a team of practitioners and researchers and hosts two MScs, in Science Communication and Science Media Production; both combine media training with academic perspectives from the humanities and social sciences. The Science Communication Unit is well-known for its innovative styles of learning and student engagement. It is also active in research, in training scientists, and in broadcast and film production. We are delighted each year to see our graduates secure communication work in media, in the museums, in policy and in universities.

1



1 The Silences of Science

To date, studies of science communication have focussed on what is said rather than what is not said. They have highlighted the content of communication rather than its form, and have largely ignored the gaps, pauses and lacunae that are an essential, and meaningful, part of any communicative act. Through a range of case studies from historical and contemporary situations, this volume, edited by Felicity Mellor and Stephen Webster, published by Routledge 2016, draws attention to the significance of silence, its different qualities and uses, and the nature, function and meaning of silence for science and technology studies.

2



2 Podcast, postdocs, paralympics

Gareth Mitchell, who combines his work for the Science Communication Unit with his own regular BBC radio show Click!, continues with great verve to produce the Imperial College podcast – on topics ranging from WEF Young Scientists, to Postdoc life, to paralympic tech. <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/social-and-multimedia/podcasts/>.

3



3 Alumni news

Recent alumni are making their mark in organisations including the BBC, the Science Museum, the British Science Association, the Gatsby Foundation, the Naked Scientists, NPL, Kew Gardens, Wellcome, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and many more.

Several now more experienced and senior alumni were invited back to give seminars to the 2016-2017 cohort. Included amongst these were Imran Khan (pictured above), Head of Public Engagement at the Wellcome Trust, Jenny Jopson, Public Engagement Manager at the Francis Crick Institute, and documentarist Carlo Massarella, producer/director at Windfall Films.

Refuge Britain

Robert Sternberg, Course leader of the MSc Science Media Production, has collaborated with Anna Nyburg to produce a documentary film about the contribution of refugees to the design culture of Britain. Refuge Britain will be screened at the V&A in November 2017 as part of their conference: Designs on Britain: Jewish Emigre Designers.



Teaching across College

In addition to its core work, the Science Communication Unit consults across the College on how to embed science communication issues within the standard curriculum. This year it was joined for the second year by Silwood MRes students from the Tropical Rainforest Ecology and the Ecosystems and Environmental Change masters' programmes. The Silwood students came to South Kensington campus for a week of much-appreciated philosophical challenge and practical activity. Students left with intentions which included starting a blog, exploring their artistic creativity, and reading more science journalism.

Gareth Mitchell led the annual Science Communication workshop for Doctoral Training Centre cell biologists from Imperial and Warwick University. This is a 2.5 day intensive introductory workshop in communicating science and includes a visit to BBC studios to try out science communication techniques as if live on air. Gareth also ran workshops for Imperial's Post-doctoral Development Centre, and for the Sainsbury's Farming Scholars. The Unit collaborated with colleagues in Academic English, supporting them to introduce science communication activities into their teaching, and ran workshops for the College's careers service.

During the year, Unit staff have collaborated with the Societal Engagement team to develop a 7 day training course aiming to train Imperial scientists in the crafts of public engagement. The Imperial Engagement Academy launches in November 2017 with a day devoted to helping scientists understand their motives in communicating science.

Sharing Data, Shaping Views

In March 2017 the Science Communication Unit and the Institute for Global Health and Innovation co-hosted a panel discussion on data sharing within the NHS. The discussion was introduced by Lord Darzi and focused on the issue of public trust and communication. The final report was written by MSc students Aran Shaunak and Kate Smith. Twitter commentary available here: <https://storify.com/SowerbyeHealth/sharing-data-shaping-views-the-public-communication>.

From the Archers to Big Data

Student dissertation research during 2016-17 showed its usual broad range. Dissertation titles included The modern mythology of big data (Madeleine Finlay), A Goldilocks Zone for a Global Narrative: Examining International Narratives in Museum Space Exhibitions (Kate Smith) and Technology in the Archers: A discourse analysis of emerging technology in a radio soap opera (Agnes Donnelly).

How should medical evidence be communicated?

Stephen Webster was a member of the Academy of Medical Science's committee convened to discuss the use of medical evidence, especially in the light of media controversy over the value of statins and Tamiflu. Full report, published in June 2017, available here: <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/file-download/10857932>.

1 From the classroom to the big screen

Student practical work reaches professional quality and students frequently have their work accepted at film festivals. This image is a still from MASK by Mary-Laine Friday and James Bowers, which received Official Selections at four festivals: GLITTER! Oklahoma LGBT film festival 2017; TMFF - The Monthly Film festival 2017; Roma Cinema Doc 2017; Moving Pictures Festival 2016.



2



2 Dolly the Sheep

A sculpture of Dolly the Sheep was exhibited in Imperial's Central Library, to commemorate the twenty years since Dolly the sheep was cloned from mammary cells. The sculpture invites viewers to reflect on what Dolly has meant to the world and to them. The sculpture was made by Ellyw Evans, Zoe Ohman, and Joanna Wolstenholme as coursework for the MSc Science Communication. Made on a papier mâché base, the sculpture is finished with a collage of media responses to Dolly. On her legs are found copies of the original research papers, while on her body are news pieces, comments and cartoons that appeared throughout her life.

Dolly's creators explained 'Creating a model of Dolly took us on quite a journey. From sourcing newspaper articles at the British Library, to visiting her taxidermy remains at the National Museum of Scotland, to spending hours perfecting our papier mâché technique at Imperial's art studio. We hope our results invite people to share their memories of Dolly's legacy 20 years on.'

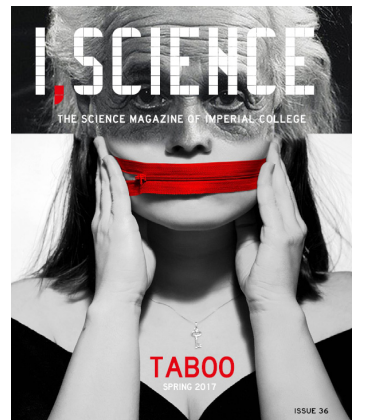


3 Science Communication Students at the Imperial Festival

The Contemplation Zone, led by students from the Science Communication Unit, gave Festival visitors opportunities to reflect on science, and science communication. It included an interactive activity about Facebook and fake news, where visitors were asked to judge the truthfulness of a series of news pieces, and were also given space to chat and reflect on their answers. It also included a reading station with I,Science and other magazines, colouring activities, and podcast and video stations.

4 I,Science Magazine

I, Science, Imperial's termly science magazine, which is produced by students from the Science Communication Unit, distributed 9,000 print magazines across campus as well as producing and hosting web, radio and video content. The publication was also nominated for Best Specialist Publication Award by the Student Publication Association. Madeleine Finlay, Co-Editor in Chief explained: 'I,Science melds science, art and storytelling to produce interesting and visually appealing articles on a vast range of topics.' This year, I,Science has looked at 'Other Worlds' and 'Taboo', has investigated how stars are born, how lucid dreaming works, and has explored the psychology of disgust and questioned the authority of Darwin and Einstein.



5



5 Family Learning Festival at the Museum of London

The MSc cohort was approached by the Museum of London to run a Family Learning Festival with a science theme to coincide with British Science Week. The museum wanted to help families explore science in an imaginative way and asked the students to develop family learning activities exploring science in the museum's collection. Students designed and delivered stalls that connected science to the museum's collection in a way that was interesting for families. There were stalls on surface area and volume using geometry nets, sensory ecology and how different animals react to a fire, non-Newtonian fluids (aka custard!), engineering the perfect fire engine with a specially designed app, material properties during a fire, and lab experiments about the three key ingredients of fire. Over 3,000 family visitors attended the activities. Asked what they would remember about the day, visitors cited all seven of the students' activities, suggesting they were all uniquely memorable. They also said they would remember 'Spending time together and learning new things' and the 'lovely first introduction to science'. Asked about how it made them feel about science, comments included: 'Fun, approachable' and 'Lots of science experiments can be simply done at home, similar to experiments we did together.'

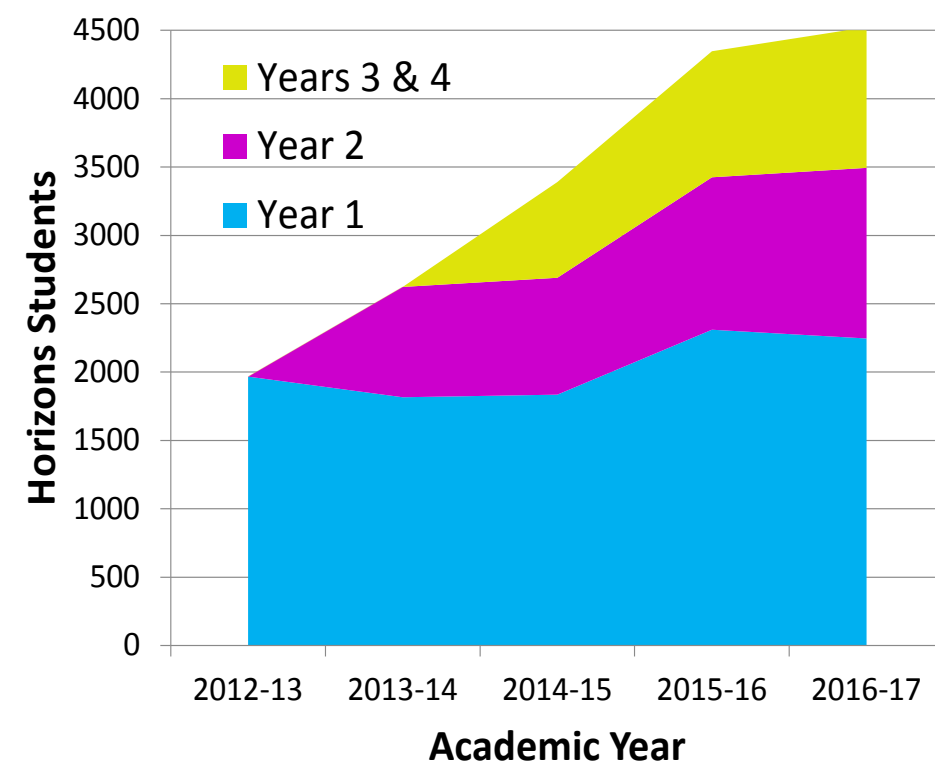


Photo credits: The Museum of London

Imperial Horizons

In 2016-2017, 4547 undergraduates enrolled on the Imperial Horizons programme, a 5% increase on 2015-2016. The programme allows STEMM students to place their studies in a wider context, broaden their skills and improve their employability.

Over 4,500 enrolments in 2016-17



80% of enrolments were for non-credit or extra credit

69% of first years enrolled on a Horizons course

90% lecturer positive feedback
(Autumn and Spring Term SOLE surveys)

Over 50 classrooms needed for each Horizons teaching slot.

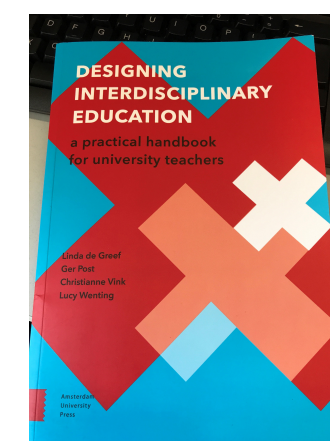
Success for Global Challenges Tutor

Another Global Challenges tutor has now progressed to a full time teaching position, using their Global Challenges experience as the basis for their application and role. Our warmest congratulations to Dr Ali Mozaffari (pictured right) who was appointed a Teaching Fellow to the Natural Sciences BSc at UCL.



Interdisciplinary and Innovative Teaching

The Imperial Horizons programme has become well-renowned for teaching innovation and for leading the way in interdisciplinary teaching. The Global Challenges course 'Lessons in History' has been highlighted in the newly-published text book 'Designing Interdisciplinary Education', Amsterdam University Press 2017.



Creativity

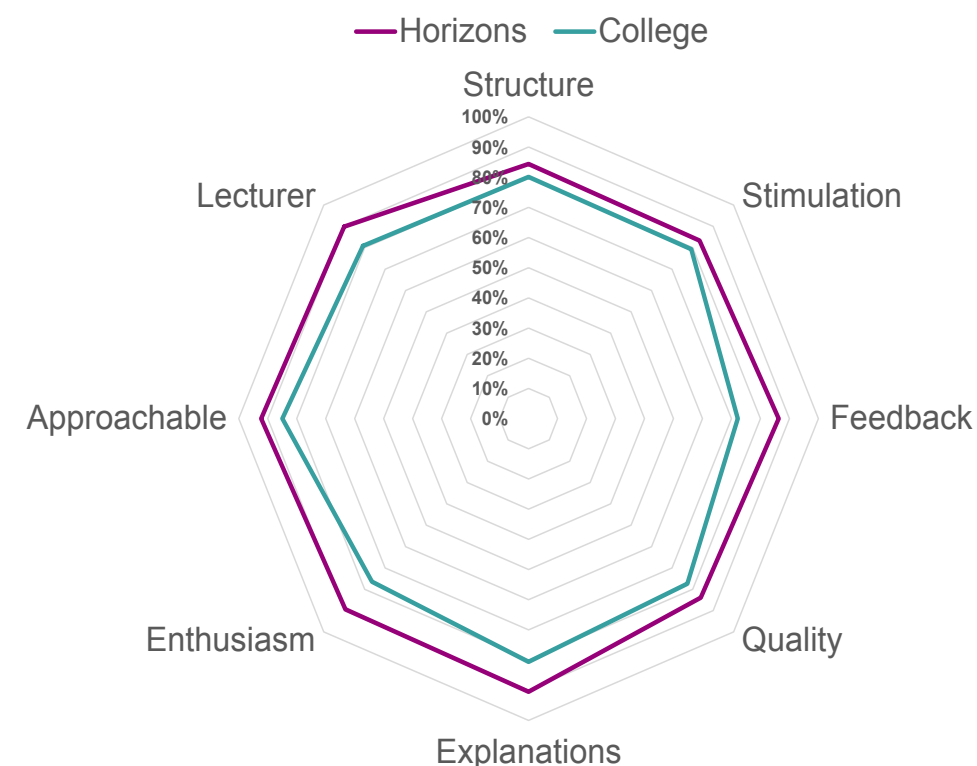
One of the key facets of the Horizons programme is to allow students to explore their creativity. The Music Technology and Creative Writing courses are both hugely popular with students. On the back of the success of Imperial Mathematics alumna Cassandra Yong's short story 'Adrift', which won the prestigious HG Wells Short Story Competition in 2016, Creative Writing students continue to impress. The students (pictured here with lecturer, Dr Aifric Campbell), have produced notable critical essays exploring the relationship between creative writing and coding, physics, musical composition and academic writing. Music Technology students have produced some excellent and innovative compositions. Pictured here is Finbar Gaffey (Biology), using the acoustics in the Queen's Tower for recording trombone for one of his final compositions.



Imperial Horizons Student Feedback

Horizons modules consistently achieve outstanding student feedback via SOLE (Student Online Lecturer Evaluation) and 2016-2017 was no exception.

SOLE 2016-2017 Approval rating
(‘Definitely Agree’ and ‘Mostly Agree’)



‘One of the most likeable, enjoyable and insightful courses I have found in Imperial, I am very glad I took it.’ *Entrepreneurship*

‘Very well designed course - as a beginner with no prior knowledge I found it both challenging and very enjoyable!’
German Level 1

‘Probably one of the best lecturers at Imperial; very helpful, super committed and very enthusiastic about the subject. Lessons from History’

‘My lecturer is fantastic. Genuinely enthusiastic and passionate with a real skill for leading a productive and entertaining seminar session.’
Philosophy of Mind

‘I LOVED THIS COURSE. It was fun and engaging and sometimes cathartic! By the end of the course, I not only feel that I am a better writer but that I will be a better scientist when writing reports/essays.’
Creative Writing

‘Music technology has been very interesting and a great change to the usual academic courses I am taking! The content has been diverse and interesting, and the practical element has been engaging and challenging.’

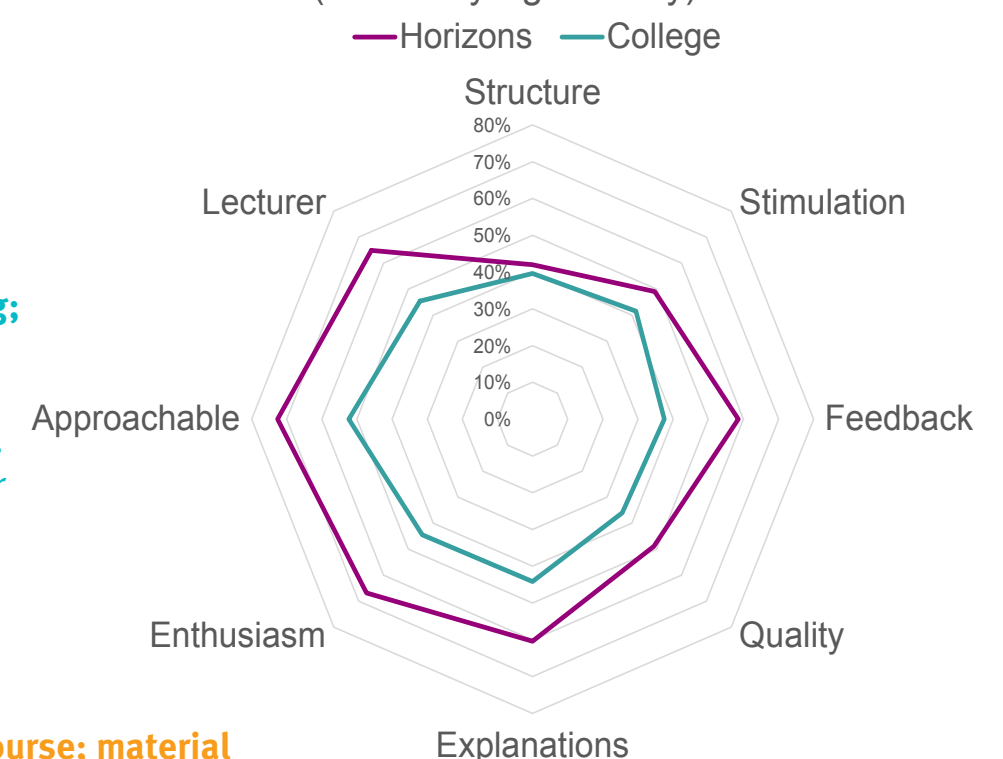
‘Best French teacher. Material is well integrated with grammar, and the result is a very engaging and stimulating course.’
French Level 5

‘The module was extremely stimulating; it’s like learning about a whole new world.’ *Visual Culture, Knowledge and Power*

‘Really enjoyed this course; material was stimulating and challenging. My lecturer was a great teacher who always kept us interested and handled the discussion parts very well.’
Communicating Science

‘I love how enthusiastic our teacher is. I feel that she truly loves teaching.’
Spanish Level 2

SOLE 2016-2017 Approval rating
(‘Definitely Agree’ only)



‘My lecturer was a lovely teacher who really pushed us to do our best, and promoted a happy and relaxed environment where learning was enjoyable.’ *French level 2*

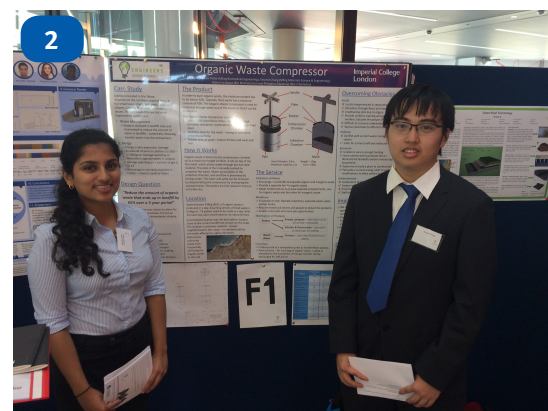
Imperial Horizons Student Success

Imperial Horizons students have produced some outstanding pieces of work, made all the more notable by the fact that they were on subjects outside their main degree.



1 2017 Japanese Speech Contest

Imperial students excelled once again at the annual Japanese Speech Contest. Their triumph is all the more remarkable for the fact that they were competing against students who were taking Japanese as their main degree discipline. Wei Lun Toh won the first prize in the individual presentation category for his very engaging and informative speech on 'The History and Origins of English.' Second place went to Polena Lilyanova who gave a very lively presentation on 'The Beauty of Bulgaria', while dressed in Bulgarian national costume. Wei Lun and Polena are pictured here with the Director of the Japan Foundation and Japanese Coordinator, Yuki Tokumaru, and Japanese lecturer, Satoko Kataoka. In the Group Presentation category, one of the best four finalist groups was Imperial's team "Space Oddity". The group consisted of two Imperial Horizons Japanese Level 2 students, Hans Kukreja and Ignaty Romanov-Chernigovsky. They were awarded a prize with their presentation about 'Tim Peake's Expedition to Space.'



2 Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Challenge

EWB UK organizes an annual competition for undergraduates to find solutions to problems faced by deprived communities around the world. The remit is to create designs to further sustainable development. In 2017 the challenge was set in Lobitos – a former oil town on the north Peruvian coast – and the partner was engineering NGO Ecoswell. Imperial Horizons students competed against over 4,000 engineering students from 26 universities across the UK. Two Horizons teams who had thrived in their interdisciplinary setting to produce innovative designs qualified for the finals in June. Imperial students took on the challenge of the national finals at their most pressured time of year, with many in the midst of their end of year exams. Our students presented posters on their designs to the judges and, although they did not win the competition, they acquitted themselves excellently. Aishwarya Pattar and Vincent Chung presented their team's design for an 'Organic Waste Compressor' (pictured). They gave a professional presentation that demonstrated intelligent planning for the use of organic waste as both a fuel and fertilizer. It was particularly impressive for its detail on the implementation strategy tailored for the community, including an incentive scheme to encourage uptake amongst locals. Juyeon Chae, Bryan Lim, Matthew Ho and Ryan Lin presented a design for a composting technique entitled 'Effective Microorganisms'. There was strong interest in the technique and the students received much complimentary feedback along with business cards from researchers looking for new ventures!

3 2017 Prize Winners

There was, as usual, a very strong field of candidates for the annual 2017 CLCC student prizes. The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Languages was awarded jointly to Ludovica Pototschnig, Harriet Hardy and Scott Tyler Hobbs. The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Humanities was awarded to Hann Yee Son. Saba Quereschi won the Prize for Communication Skills by achieving the highest mark in the Horizons module 'Communicating Science: The Public and the Media'. Warmest congratulations to all the prizewinners.

4 5th International Student Chemistry Olympiad in Moscow

Robert Raclea, now in his second year in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry, achieved the second highest score in the 5th International Student Chemistry Olympiad held in the Faculty of Chemistry of Moscow State University (MSU, pictured right) in March 2017. This competition has great prestige, and for the first time this year applications were invited from English as well as from Russian speakers. The competition has two stages. In the first, the distant or selection stage, which for English-speaking students took place in November 2016, applicants were asked to submit solutions to chemical problems devised by MSU staff. In March 2017 the originators of the best solutions, as assessed by MSU professors, were invited to come to Moscow for a week for the final stage of the competition. It took the form of a five-hour written examination designed to test chemical knowledge, originality and technical resourcefulness. Robert's success in winning the second place in this competition is a remarkable achievement. Besides the competition there was a full cultural programme: sightseeing in the Kremlin and in Moscow generally, visits to factories, talks by experts from the chemical industry and feedback from MSU staff on the solutions submitted in the application process and the final examination. Participants from outside the Russian Federation were offered hostel accommodation. Robert had the advantage of having taken Russian Level 1 in Imperial Horizons. His conclusion: "It was an amazing experience."



Evening Classes

The evening class programme has gone from strength to strength and had its most successful year yet in 2016-17, with a total of 1100 enrolments, an increase of 25% on the previous year. As well as some of the old favourites such as foreign languages, creative writing and film appreciation, some new subject areas were introduced and proved hugely popular. The usual marketing campaign around the South Kensington institutions was expanded to include leafleting at local tube stations. Dr Anna Nyburg, Evening Classes Coordinator, explains further:

'Last academic year, South Kensington residents would have seen two Science Communication postgraduate students wearing unmissable orange T-shirts, handing out flyers advertising our annual programme of some 60 classes on languages, arts, humanities and science subjects. It worked, or something did, because we experienced 25% more enrolment, clocking up some 1,100 evening class students, a bumper crop. It certainly helped that we were offering at least two new courses: 'Photography' and 'The Brain: Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience.' Both proved so popular that we had to run 2 parallel classes to cope with demand.'



Lecturer Spotlight



One lecturer's classes proved particularly popular. Not content with having the biggest class on record with 26 students in his new 'Modern Art and Design' course, Dr Michael Paraskos (pictured above), designed a new course of his own, 'Greek and Roman Mythology in Art'. It was a sell-out. On

the smaller summer programme, Michael introduced another new course on 'London Architecture', a walking course. The student feedback was lyrical.

Lunchtime Learning

Building on the success of the 2016-2017 evening class programme, CLCC is expanding its short-course provision in 2017-2018 to include a Lunchtime Learning programme. The aim is to meet the needs of those who cannot stay late into the evening for an evening class. Lunchtime Learning classes will be one hour per week and allow Imperial staff and other local workers and residents the opportunity to do something for themselves in their lunch hour.

The CLCC Gallery

The Centre's gallery space is offered to artists who wish to exhibit 2-D work relating to the world of Imperial, and which has some connection to science. The work is seen by hundreds of staff and students as they go to and from classes in the Centre and are a talking point. In the past, we have had works on cancer treatments, some beautiful images of viruses embroidered on and displayed on light boxes as well as some more conventional botanical photographs. Physics seems especially inspirational to artists and 'Our Imperceptible Universe' was one exhibition by Sarah Casey that we shared with the Blyth Gallery. Last year we had a display of typography by Becky Turner who has studied how typography affects the message, and a bold study of migration, both human and avian, by the prize-winning printmaker Chudamani Clowes.

Every year we hope that artists will come forward and brighten our walls!

Murmurations by Chudamani Clowes

'I have used the roosting behaviour of starlings and the phenomenon of murmuration to consider the subject of migration. Many thousands of birds whirling simultaneously to form complex patterns; building at each stage to form a giant organic mass, shape shifting, inverting, breathing inwards and outwards. I saw this as an analogy with humans in flight, moving across Europe to find safety. Disparate elements forming a temporary unity. I wanted to understand the biological mechanisms of migration: could they be the same physiological mechanisms working in both species? Scientists have studied this phenomenon, this interface between biology and physics. The mystery has been delved into using tools of high powered video analysis and computer modelling. It seems that starlings are influenced by their neighbours when flying. If the neighbour turns they also turn in flight. I have been making collaged paintings using rescue blankets. The blankets use gloss paint to make them shine. The blankets were shredded using a serrated pair of scissors. The cuts resembled appendages of the starlings. The shapes are jagged and spiky. I wanted to create a feather-like mottled effect on canvas. I used a collage of ceramic pieces of murmuration clouds made from black clouds on to the paintings. The black paintings conjures up images of thermal images taken by rescue boats in the Mediterranean. These flickers of gold can also be seen as people covered in gold blankets floating in the dark.'



Events

CLCC has been represented at several major College events such as Imperial Fringe, Imperial Festival and Education Day. We have also hosted our own events such as the Charmian Brinson CLCC Guest Lecture, now a notable annual event on the CLCC calendar, and the CLCC research seminar series.



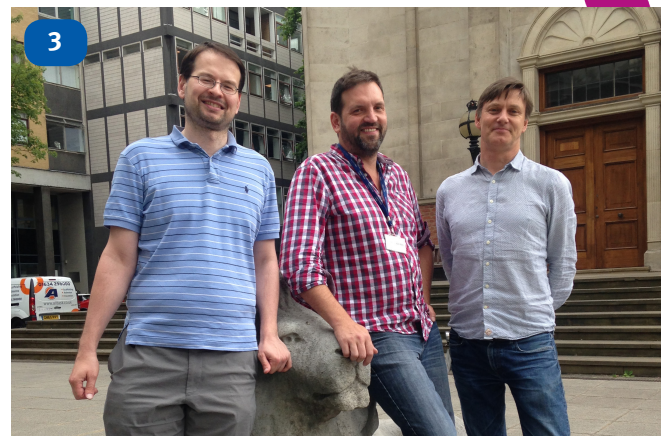
1 College Open Days

The Imperial Horizons stall at the College Open Days on 28th, 29th June and 16th September 2017 was kept very busy with prospective students and their parents. Visitors to the stall were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the opportunities for studying outside of the main degree discipline with the Imperial Horizons and Evening Class programmes.



2 Education Day

Giskin Day set delegates the ultimate challenge at Education Day 2017 by creating an 'escape room' for her colleagues to puzzle their way out of. Giskin has invested time researching and practising playful learning as an innovative learning experience for Imperial students, creating an innovative and immersive teaching tool.



3 Summer Garden Party

At this year's garden party Elizabeth Hauke was recognised for her prestigious award of a President's Medal for Excellence in Teaching. Three support staff were celebrated for their exceptional service. Christian Jacobi, Liam Watson and Paul Chauncy, (pictured here) and Elizabeth enjoyed summer cocktails, canapés and a performance by the Imperial College Jazz Band.

4 Imperial Fringe



to gauge public opinion on concepts relevant to their studies. Students also had the chance to participate in other Fringe events, many of which showed the use of technology and psychology to detect and deter crime.

What is the function of punishment? What sanctions can be considered just? These are some of the issues discussed by Dr Lorenzo Pasculli at the popular Imperial Fringe event on criminality held on 3 November 2016. Dr Pasculli delivers the Imperial Horizons course, 'Conflict, Crime and Justice' which examines how we approach criminality, war and justice in complex, globalized societies. Cunningly disguised as Sherlock Holmes, Dr Pasculli sparked debate by showing the scenes from the popular TV show, 'Game of Thrones' in which Jaime Lannister, after attempting to murder young Bran Stark, gets his hand lopped off with a sword by a bandit. Visitors to the Fringe also voted using their phones in a poll on topical penal issues such as targeted killings of terrorists and chemical castration of sex offenders. A big plasma screen showed the results in real time to encourage discussion. Dr Pasculli's students attended the event, giving them the opportunity

5 My Family in Exile - Dame Stephanie Shirley

The first annual Charmian Brinson CLCC Guest Lecture was given by Dame Stephanie Shirley on 20 October 2016 and chaired by Dr Anna Nyburg (pictured here with Dame Stephanie). In her lecture, 'My Family in Exile', Dame Stephanie spoke movingly of her flight to Britain from Vienna aged only five on one of the famous Kindertransport trains. She linked her experiences with refugees today from Syria and elsewhere trying to enter the UK, touching on universal themes of loss, identity and recreating one's life in a new country and language. She credits her entrepreneurial success in part to her harrowing experience as an unaccompanied child refugee. Afterwards, many members of the audience queued to buy copies of her book, 'Let it Go,' with the proceeds going to Dame Stephanie's own charity Autistica, set up to support children, who, like her own late son, were born with autism. It was indeed a moving and memorable evening.



CLCC Research Seminars

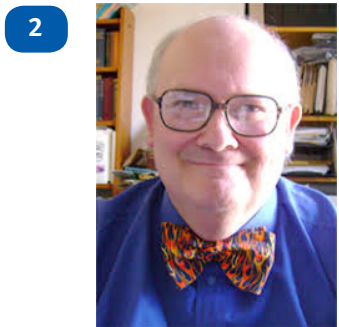
Staff and postgraduate students of the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication have presented their current research and/or teaching as part of the Centre’s vibrant Research Seminar Programme. These seminars take place on alternate Thursdays at 14.15 in room S303A/B. All are welcome. Because of the diverse nature of the academic interests represented within the Centre – ranging from modern languages through art, music, history and philosophy to science communication and more – our programme of seminars reflects a wide range of topics, and is intended to offer speakers a chance to share their work with others within the Centre as well as to showcase the work of the Centre outside it.

2016-2017 Highlights

Our programme this session has been every bit as varied as in previous years, with talks on anarchism, the popular Japanese television series and cultural phenomenon ‘Massan’, and exiles from Nazi Germany engaged in the British textile industry.



1 The Power of Simplicity
Roberto Trotta started the 2016-2017 series with a seminar in which he discussed the writing of his recent book ‘The Edge of the Sky: All You Need to Know About the All-There-Is’ that set out to convey complex scientific ideas using a vocabulary of no more than 1000 words.



2 Music Tempo
In one particularly entertaining session entitled ‘How Fast Should it Go?’, Roderick Swanston (pictured above) played numerous renderings of classical works of music with a critical eye to the composers’ and conductors’ differing choice of tempi.



3 Artificial Intelligence
Greg Artus (above left) considered the thorny philosophical question of ‘Morality and Machines: How Can we build Human Values into Future Artificial Intelligence’; while Artificial Intelligence raised its head for a second time in Aifric Campbell’s (above right) ‘The Novelist in the Fly Lab: Telling Stories about A.I.’ This seminar, which had its roots in her fourth novel ‘The Drive’, considered the novelist’s challenge in weaving scientific research into fiction while discussing how her conversations with mathematicians and engineers had helped her to frame and resolve the problem.

2017-2018 Seminar Series

Autumn Term		
26 Oct	Michael Weatherburn	History at work: building organisational memory, empathy & compassion.
9 Nov	Charmian Brinson	‘Nothing short of a scandal’? Harry Peter Smolka at the Ministry of Information.
23 Nov	Nicola Pickering	The nouveau-riche country house owner in the nineteenth century.
7 Dec	Anna Ponomareva	The Russian Revolution: centennial, commemoration, catastrophe. *
*This talk will start at 2.00pm		
Spring Term		
18 Jan	Michael Paraskos	In place of facts: creative fictions as a research tool.
1 Feb	Elizabeth Hauke	Designing dynamic curricula: leaving space for students to live, love and learn.
15 Feb	Marion Dufour	How English native speakers see the French language .
1 Mar	Manya Elrick	Lies, damned lies and brexiteers.
Summer Term		
3 May	Nick Russell	Trouble at mill. Can there be a fiction of the workplace? (provisional)
17 May	Hyejin Jang	Developing intercultural competence through Korean language education: conceptualisation, transformation and adaption.
31 May	Anna Nyburg and Robert Sternberg	Film: ‘Refuge Britain: Designers at Work. ‘
14 June	Lorenzo Pasculli	The Science of Global Law. Scientific knowledge as the foundation of the principles of the global law of the future.

