

RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE

2017

Sussex Impact and Research Awards

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OF SUSSEX

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TALK TO US

If you are a researcher who wishes to develop your own impact further, or an external guest who wishes to work with us in new, different or expanded ways, please get in touch with our dedicated Research Quality and Impact Team: rqi@sussex.ac.uk or 01273 873297.

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you on behalf of the University to our celebratory reception and presentation of the third Sussex Impact and Research Awards.

At Sussex a key part of our research strategy is to recognise, celebrate, and invest in outstanding impact.

This event is not only about recognising the winning entries; it gives a heightened profile to the range of impacts Sussex research creates across society, the economy, culture, technology, health, the environment, and beyond. This programme describes some of this inspiring work.

Nor do the awards solely focus on impact, but also on the research of our outstanding new and emerging researchers. This recognition demonstrates our institutional commitment to the future of the University and the broader academy as places of excellence, rigour, and innovation.

I hope that you enjoy the occasion, and will join me in congratulating not only our winners, but also all those who are engaged in excellent research and the creation of impact across our Sussex community.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL C R DAVIES FRSE
PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



Impact Awards

The Sussex Impact Awards recognise the effects and benefits of Sussex research beyond the academy between January 2014 and May 2017.

The criteria for entries included explaining the reach and significance of the impact, and demonstrating the link between the impact and research undertaken (wholly or primarily) at Sussex. Awards will be made in each of three categories of impact (cultural and creative; policy and practice; and public engagement).

Cultural and creative impact

Sussex research changes the ways people interact with their environment and how humans understand and shape their own lives – individually, historically, and in society today. Across the University, this research generates a range of cultural and creative impact.

Ranging from work with major museums, to creating new forms of participation in music and transforming the place of young people in cultural heritage, from re-imagining Modernism in Sussex to retrieving a forgotten woman artist, these nominations reflect diverse research projects that have changed both individual attitudes and organisational and social priorities.

CULTURAL AND CREATIVE IMPACT



Can new methods in musical scores help people participate better in musical performances?

Professor Ed Hughes (Media, Film and Music) with Dr Lizzie Thynne, Dr Alice Eldridge, Dr Chris Kiefer

Since 2014, Ed has composed four musical scores whilst designing them to enable young people to participate confidently in ensemble music-making; an estimated 753 pupils aged c. 8 to 18, from across England, have participated. Ed's scores have contributed new methods for engaging diverse users through special scoring techniques, frequently coupled with innovative score technology pioneered by Sussex's 'netem' team.



'You can't move history. You can secure the future': engaging youth in cultural heritage

Dr Pollyanna Ruiz (Media, Film and Music)

This AHRC-funded project demonstrated that the campaign to save the Southbank's Undercroft was led by young, highly-engaged political subjects, defining their own claims to urban space. Working with grassroots group the BrazenBunch, Ruiz produced a film, a workshop, and a report that led the Southbank Centre and Heritage Lottery Fund to change their strategies for urban arts and young people.

Re-imagining the British Museum's Dalziel Archive

Dr Bethan Stevens (English) with Ms George Mind

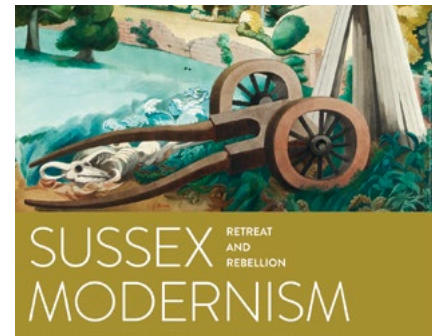
Dalziel Brothers were Victorian Britain's largest wood engraving firm. Yet their archive of 54,000 prints, which includes printmakers' proofs for Lewis Carroll's Alice books, and Pre-Raphaelite illustrations to Tennyson, has gone unused until now. The Dalziel Project shares and interprets this collection, reaching thousands of readers and inspiring new creative works by school children, wood engraving practitioners, curators, and writers.



Creatively re-imagining the life and work of surrealist photographer, Claude Cahun, on film

Ms Lizzie Thynne (Media, Film and Music)

Lizzie Thynne's *Playing a Part* was the first film about the long-neglected woman artist, Claude Cahun (1892–1952). The film's approach has developed public understanding of the artist, innovating in the biopic form, and has been used by curators internationally to illuminate Cahun's work and her role in World War II, including a surreal campaign of resistance in Nazi-occupied Jersey.



Sussex Modernism

Dr Hope Wolf (English)

In 2017 Hope curated a London exhibition on Sussex Modernism – the work of modernist artists and writers in rural and coastal Sussex – that newly combined collections from regional museums and galleries and, supported by an events and education programme, attracted over 52,000 visitors. Highlighting Sussex's rich cultural history, Sussex Modernism questions assumptions about the geographies of artistic experiment.

Policy and practice impact

Sussex has a long history of engaging in research that has the potential to transform public services as well as to enhance the lives of citizens, through both national and international policy improvement. This award celebrates the diversity of research undertaken at Sussex that influences government policy, business and innovation, social care, conservation and climate policy, and public health.

Entries in this category were themselves diverse, ranging from holding governments to account to saving rare species, from working with midwives to bringing research to homeless hostels. The range of nominations demonstrate the impact of Sussex research on policymakers and practitioners on local, national and international scales.

POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPACT

Earlier diagnosis of liver disease in homeless adults.

Dr Ahmed Hashim and Dr Sumita Verma (Brighton and Sussex Medical School) with Dr Tim Worthley and Professor Guru P. Aithal.

Ahmed, Sumita and their colleagues have created the first hostel-based 'one-stop' liver disease screening service in the UK. This service was started at two GP-affiliated homeless hostels in Brighton, and has led directly to significantly increased engagement, treatment and, very likely, improved outcomes. This project reflects the ideal operation of a hospital-community collaboration.

Delivering climate technologies to developing countries

Dr David Ockwell (Global Studies)

David wants to bring climate technologies to developing countries. His research has been used to inform key policy approaches in the new Paris Agreement on climate change to help make this happen, building on years of policy engagement. He is now advising the Green Climate Fund on how to fund implementation of this policy approach across the world.



Freedom of religion and effective foreign policy

Dr Fabio Petito (Global Studies) with Miss Medeni Fordham and Ms Claire Copeland from Policy@Sussex

Fabio works on the issue of 'Freedom of Religion or Belief' (FoRB) as a crucial element of international policy. His research has influenced the development of an Italian model of religious engagement in foreign policy and contributed to UK government and parliamentary discussions on the topic. Fabio was also invited to address the House of Lords and has been invited to become partner of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Understanding diversity at home: travellers and gypsies in relation to permanent residents and local authorities in the south of England

Dr Roberta Piazza (English)

Roberta has been collecting interviews with travellers since 2012, aiming to bring to light information that could help build bridges between the community and Brighton & Hove Council. The research will soon culminate in an event in Horsdean that brings together local residents, travellers and local council members.

Saving the African pangolin from extinction

Dr Jörn Scharlemann (Life Sciences) with Mr Daniel Ingram

Jörn has contributed significantly to preventing the extinction of the African pangolin. His team's qualitative analyses of hunting and market sales of pangolins directly contributed to the decision by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and to ban the international trade of all pangolin species globally. Making the practice of hunting pangolin illegal is a significant step toward preserving the species.

Improving communications during childbirth

Dr Tanja Staehler (History, Art History and Philosophy)

Tanja is committed to improving communication between childbirth participants. Her research has led to an online module hosted by the Royal College of Midwives. This was launched in 2016 as part of their 'Better Births' campaign, and has already been completed by 150 midwives.

Holding the government to account for its arms exports to Saudi Arabia

Dr Anna Stavrianakis (Global Studies)

Anna has used her research to hold the government to account for its controversial arms sales to Saudi Arabia. She informed parliamentary debate around key issues, and her work contributed significantly to the questions parliamentarians raised with the government, which was then forced to respond on issues previously not discussed – shining a light on a formerly opaque area of policy.

Public engagement impact

This award recognises the many different ways in which Sussex is reaching out to the public directly, and working with different organisations, groups and communities to ensure that our research is helping to tackle the challenges they face.

The entries demonstrated the sharing of research and knowledge with a diverse range of audiences, from mobilising the public to help save bumblebee populations to working against corruption around the world, from bringing research into school classrooms to influencing Brexit.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Taking Sussex Neuroscience to the less privileged communities of Africa

Dr Tom Baden (Life Sciences) with Mr Mahmoud Bukar Maina

Tom is inspiring young students in Africa to discover a passion for science at a young age through 'TReND in Africa', ('Teaching and Research in Natural science for Development'). TReND has developed research-based outreach activities that have reached at least 70 primary and secondary schools, totalling to over 3000 students and over 100 teachers and government officials. The events have and continue to promote the importance of science and dispelling misconceptions.



Exploiting yeast genetics to let students do science

Dr Jon Baxter (Life Sciences)

Jon's lab has engineered a safe and 'school ready' yeast strain that can be used in classrooms for basic genome experimentation. Now, Year 12 students at Gildredge School in Eastbourne are doing experiments that previously were too dangerous for non-lab environments. This pilot will hopefully springboard to greater engagement with STEM in multiple schools.

Using mathematics to hold leaders to account

Dr Elizabeth David-Barrett (Law, Politics and Sociology)

Elizabeth has worked extensively with African civil society activists and mathematicians across Africa to develop their skills and motivation to analyse corruption using new analytical tools and big data. The World Bank and DFID are also interested in the work and will soon use the research to lobby for change.

Seeing Kew anew

Dr Jim Endersby (History, Art History and Philosophy)

Jim has worked closely with staff to promote public understanding of the scientific mission of Kew gardens. Through BBC documentaries, books, public lectures and most recently a still-ongoing exhibition, Jim has shown that Kew is not just a pretty garden, but an organisation that wants to make a difference.

Raising awareness of bee declines and how we can all help to reverse them

Professor Dave Goulson (Life Sciences)

Dave's research informs his tireless efforts to aid in the conservation of, in particular, bumblebees. He has appeared on the radio, television as well as in print to raise awareness of the dramatic decline in bumblebee populations in recent years – and he also works with politicians, schools, hobbyists and others to protect pollinators around the world.

UKTPO Influencing the debate on Brexit

Professor Alan Winters (Business, Management and Economics) and the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO)

Alan and the UKTPO members have established themselves as a leading research group contributing to the Brexit debate. Members have engaged with ministers, MPs, Lords, city firms, law firms, trade unions and business associations. Many of the initial UKTPO recommendations have become policy – and it is highly likely that engagement by the Sussex researchers contributed to this.

Youth power for sustainable responsible societies

Dr Dimitris Ziouvas (Law, Politics and Sociology)

Through his research, Dimitris drives youth anti-corruption education. His research led to the establishment of the Youth Civil Society Organization EURIA with over 1400 members and branches in 6 European countries. Since 2014, over 800 school children in Greece have received training, and for this work Dimitris has been awarded the Anti-Corruption Excellence Award in support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



Emerging researcher

This award recognises research of the highest calibre from individuals in the early stages of their career.

One award will be presented to researchers who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional contributions to their research field as a whole.

Nominations were received from many Schools, which represented excellent research that is making a difference and promises exciting work from future leaders. Entries show a range of innovative work that is already transforming academic fields and creating new interdisciplinary research territory.

EMERGING RESEARCHER

Rethinking the influence of science on literature and literature on science

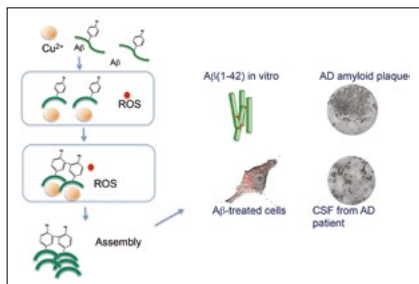
Dr Will Abberley (English)

Will is an innovator in literature and science, who has published widely including a monograph with Cambridge University Press, and has another book in progress. Will's first monograph connects literary forms and theories of language evolution, scientific objectivity and animal/human divisions; his second will further challenge oppositions between science and arts. Will has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize.

A central role for dityrosine cross-linking of misfolded proteins in neurodegenerative diseases

Dr Youssra Al-Hilaly (Life Sciences)

The mechanism underlying neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's is not well defined, which makes finding a cure very challenging. Youssra found that dityrosine cross-linking plays an important role in the pathogenesis of both AD and PD, and identified a potential disease biomarker, which may allow early detection. The Alzheimer's Society has agreed to fund further research as a result.



The development of next generation nuclear microbatteries for conversion of nuclear energy to electrical energy

Dr Silvia Butera (Engineering and Informatics)

Silvia designed and successfully performed experiments that will provide innovative long-life microbatteries that can work over a broad range of temperatures without the need for cooling, with particular potential for use in remote or harsh environments. These results underpinned five papers in peer-reviewed international journals, leading to a fresh perspective in semiconductor materials and a pending patent.

Researching child sexual exploitation and trauma-informed approaches to practice with vulnerable young people

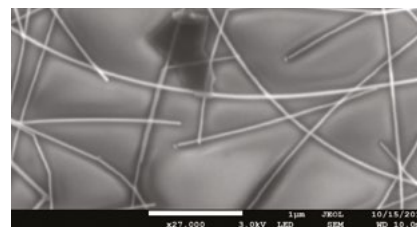
Dr Kristine Hickle (Education and Social Work)

Kristine has forged strong connections with partners who help to facilitate research on child sexual exploitation (CSE) and trauma-informed practice with vulnerable young people. Working with police, Kristine's work on the 'See Me Hear Me' project has changed professional practice in three local authorities. She has six articles in international journals, and £184,700 research income as principal or co-investigator.

Developing a new theory of the political economy of financial regulation

Dr Pablo Iglesias-Rodríguez (Law, Politics and Sociology)

Pablo's innovative, interdisciplinary research has resulted in the formulation of a new theory about the political economy of financial regulation. Pablo's work has been published in prestigious journals, receiving excellent reviews, and has been cited in very influential legal scholarly literature. The results have influenced post-financial crisis policy reforms in the EU, and informed the work of major international organisations.



Developing routes to applications by understanding nanomaterial structure-property relationships

Dr Matthew Large (Mathematics and Physical Sciences)

Matt has developed the tools which will help the electronics industry develop cheaper, low-power, robust and flexible consumer devices. He has been working in collaboration with a manufacturer to produce proof-of-concept devices. The work has spawned publications in well-respected international journals, and a patent application has been filed based on the potential commercial exploitation of the technology.

EMERGING RESEARCHER



Understanding the role of social learning and social norms in economic decision-making among poor households in the developing world

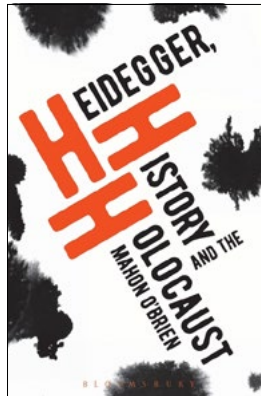
Dr Annemie Maertens (Business, Management and Economics)

Annemie explores the roles of social networks in economic development – how farmers learn about agricultural technologies from peers, how marriage-related social norms affect women, and how adult education changes these norms. Since 2010, Annemie has published ten papers, and has obtained five internal and three external grants (over \$1.25m). She collaborates with policy-makers to translate her research into impact.

Influential scholarship on one of the most important and controversial thinkers of the twentieth century – Martin Heidegger

Dr Mahon O'Brien (History, Art History and Philosophy)

Mahon has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and has produced two internationally renowned monographs; his third book will be published in 2017. As a result, Mahon is now recognised as the most influential emerging researcher in Heidegger studies, with praise for his work from highly-regarded international scholars. He convened, at Sussex, the world's biggest conference on Heidegger last year.



Doing more with less wiring: enabling green communications for the next generation of vehicles

Dr Zhengguo Sheng (Engineering and Informatics)

Zhengguo's research investigates the integration of modern communication technology into vehicles to reduce cost and increase reliability, specifically by reduction in dedicated wiring (which power electronic components, support data communication and satisfy increasing demand in intelligent mobility). The project has resulted in several major publications, and has received several awards in the UK and Canada.

Making oratory resonate: developing a new research field in the humanities

Dr Tom Wright (English)

Tom's research has carved out a distinctive niche between literature and cultural history by focusing on public speech and oratory as a major art form of the nineteenth century. This has produced award-winning pedagogic innovation and several important publications: *The Cosmopolitan Lyceum* (2013), a collection of interdisciplinary essays, and *Lecturing the Atlantic* (2017) a monograph published by Oxford University Press.

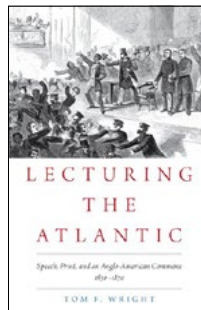


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p11: Science demonstration (Tom Baden) TReND outreach team; Man in bee costume (Dave Goulson) Dave Goulson

p13: Alzheimer's Disease Diagram (Youssra Al-Hilaly) Youssra Al-Hilaly; Graphene (Matt Large) Matt Large

p14: Corn field (Annemie Maertens) Annemie Maertens; Annemie Maertens sitting with Indian farmer (Annemie Maertens) Annemie Maertens; Heidegger book cover (Mahon O'Brien) by kind permission of Bloomsbury; Lecturing the Atlantic book cover (Tom Wright) by kind permission of Oxford University Press.

p15: Arts A tower, Stuart Robinson

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FIND OUT MORE

If you would like more information about Sussex Impact Day, the Sussex Impact and Research Awards, or have any impact-related questions please contact the Research Quality and Impact team:

rqi@sussex.ac.uk

Read more about the impact of Sussex research at:

www.sussex.ac.uk/research/impact



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