

Faculty of Arts & Architecture Research Newsletter

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Special Research Degree Student Issue

PhD Completions

This term, Nabeel Ali completed his PhD entitled 'Reviving the art of Arabic calligraphy by practical exercises in interactive multimedia'. Mr Ali's thesis examines why Arabic calligraphy has declined in value in Kuwait and 'focuses on devising and critically examining a set of practical solutions to bring about a revival ...' Mr Ali designed an interactive CDROM as a means of articulating some of his solutions for a revival of calligraphy. Chris Mullen and Nabil Safwat supervised Mr Ali and his award is expected to be confirmed at the next RDC in March.

The Faculty's first practice-based PhD in fine art was successfully examined in March. David Kirshner's exhibition and thesis addressed the relationship of the visual to the discursive and its subsequent effect on the notion of the 'plan'. Mr Kirshner emphasised that 'the two parts of the submission are complimentary [and] neither should be thought of as a 'commentary on each other'. Mr Kirshner was supervised by Laurie Preece and Geoff Bennington, University of Sussex.

New Students

The Faculty now has 46 research degree students, 8 of whom have joined the University since September 1999. The Centre for Research and Development and the Schools are seeking to develop areas for further research. Chris Mullen has been particularly active in this regard by establishing a research cluster around multimedia.

The new research students and their projects are:

School of Arts and Communication

Rosalie Greener (MPhil): 'An exploration of authorship in film by an empirical re-evaluation of the creative contribution of the writer and director to film making.' Supervisors: Bill Beech, Stuart Laing

Paul Grivell (PhD): 'The sea from the land, the land from the sea: an investigation of the

ways of seeing the seafront, with a particular emphasis on Brighton as a site of mass tourism.' Supervisors: Karen Norquay, Dave Green (SHACS).

Maria Short (PhD): 'Pictures for peace: photographic meanings and interpretations.' Supervisors: Chris Mullen, Grace Robertson (external).

Sari Tanimura (MPhil/PhD): 'An exploration of the ways in which books at particular times have departed from the conventional modes of assemblage.' Supervisors: Chris Mullen, George Hardie.

Pei-Ying Wu (PhD): 'Twentieth century Western design of two dimensional surfaces for the three dimensional in the context of stage set design' Supervisors: Chris Mullen, James Mellor (external).

School of Historical and Critical Studies

Anthony Armstrong (PhD): 'The New Leftist Review in the 'long' 1980s: a study in the politics of defeat and decline.' Supervisors: Greg Elliot, Tom Hickey.

Sue Michaelson (PhD): 'The feminine principle in 2D image making: a journey through visual language.' Supervisors: Mike Tucker, Brian Bates (University of Sussex).

Riina Toya (PhD): 'The influences of Japanese dress on British culture: 1850-1914.' Supervisors: Lou Taylor, Toshio Kusamitsu (University of Tokyo).

Funding Opportunities

The AHRB are offering Studentships in the humanities and there is a separate, new pilot scheme for doctoral study in the creative and performing arts. The AHRB have confirmed that 25 studentships will be offered for the pilot scheme. This scheme provides an ideal opportunity for the funding of practice-based research, which until now has not benefited from awards for doctoral study.

Deadline: 1 May 2000. Applications and guidelines can be obtained from Jennifer Lehmkuhl Hill or Jane Pumford at the CRD.

Supervisors

Do you want to become a supervisor? In order to be entered on the University's Approved Supervisor Register, 2 of the following 3 criteria must be met:

- Research active (you should have been submitted in the RAE 1996 or will be submitted in the RAE 2001);
- Attended one of the research degree supervisor workshops;
- Previously supervised a PhD to completion.

The University has just announced the dates of the research degree supervisor workshops for the next academic year:

- **The Supervision Process**
Thursday 12 October 2000
Tuesday 13 February 2001
- **The PhD from Start to Finish**
Tuesday 14 November 2000
Thursday 15 March 2001
- **Getting and Keeping your Research Students**
Tuesday 12 December 2000
Thursday 24 May 2001

And a new workshop for supervisors who have already supervised to completion:

- **Managing your Students**
Tuesday 28 November 2000
Thursday 26 April 2001

If anyone, who wants to become a supervisor, or already is a supervisor, is interested in attending any or all of these workshops, please contact Jennifer Lehmkuhl Hill or Jane Pumford.

Conferences

Upcoming Events

The Faculty of Arts and Architecture is hosting an international conference entitled *Peasants Real and Imagined: The Discovery and Representation of Vernacular Cultures in Europe around 1900* on 31 March and 1 April 2000. The conference is being held in conjunction with 'The Lost Arts of Europe' exhibition in the Gallery.

For additional information, please contact Donna Robson, x3086, or by email: d.m.robson@bton.ac.uk

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College is hosting a three day international conference entitled *Consuming Crafts* on 19-21 May 2000. The conference will aim 'to raise the level of critical debate by the application of inter-disciplinary theories of consumption to the study of the crafts' as well as promoting international research, addressing theory and practice and evaluating the role of crafts consumption in a variety of historical, social and cultural contexts.

For more information, contact Kate McIntyre, conference convenor, by email: kate-mac@dircon.co.uk.

The University of Hertfordshire's conference *Research into Practice* will be held on Friday 7 July 2000. The central theme of the conference is to examine the foundations of practice-based research in art and design. Models of research through practice may be found in the professional development of the subject through exhibited and award-winning artefacts, in accrued historical evidence in collections, in academic studies and their assessment in the RAE, etc. We are particularly interested in how any of these models can be mapped onto research degree regulations to provide paradigms of research through practice for students and their supervisors.

The conference fee is £125 and the deadline for registration is 10 June 2000. For further information, please refer to the conference home page: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/artdes/conex/res2prac/index.htm>

Conference Contributions

The *Contemporary British Design: Critical Voices in the Culture of Consumption* seminar on 4 March 2000 was held in conjunction with the 'Lost and Found' exhibition in the Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw. Papers were contributed by Jonathan Woodham, 'Designing Design? Creativity and Critiques'; George Hardie, 'Going Amateur'; and by the Design Council Archive's artist-in-residence, Marysia Lewandowska, 'Dissolving Practices'.

If anyone has information about forthcoming conferences or events or has participated in a conference, please inform the CRD and it will be reported in the next newsletter.