

Reception & Networking Event

Thursday 15 June, 18:30 – 21:00, Mary Ward House

We're excited to be hosting our evening reception on Thursday evening (15th June) at Mary Ward House.

We're inviting attendees to join our dinner networking event: activities will include a "Poster on a Postcard" competition (no preparation necessary!) and opportunities to hear from students who have undertaken ESRC sponsored internships or Overseas Institutional Visits.

A buffet dinner and beverages will be served and it will be a great opportunity for students to network and get to know one another in an informal setting.

Poster on a postcard competition

Voysey Room, from 18:30 onwards

This is an opportunity for you to meet students who use similar approaches to research or data gathering to you but may be from different disciplines.

Step 1: Tell us about your research. Create a "poster on a postcard" that illustrates your project. Don't forget to include your name and any contact details that you want to share.

Step 2: Display your postcard and share your research. We have labelled the display boards with some broad categories of data sources. Put your postcard in the category that you consider to be most appropriate. If you can't find a space that fits then please feel free to create your own category!

Step 3: Enjoy the other postcards and vote for your favourites. Put stickers on the postcards that you like best. The creator of the most popular postcard will win a small but delicious prize. In the event of tie the conference committee will decide the winner. The competition winner will be announced at 8.30 pm.

Overseas institutional visits (OIV) speakers

Dickens Library, 19:30-20:30

Come to the Dickens Library between 7:30 and 8.30 pm to have an informal chat with students who have taken part ESRC-funded overseas institutional visits. They will be identifiable with a bright sticker and open to answer questions about their experiences.

OIV recipients:

Nicolas Berger, LSHTM

Columbia University, New York City, USA (spring 2016)

I spent 3 months at Columbia University in spring 2016. During my visit, I worked with a research group (Built Environment and Health Research Group) which has similar interests to my research group at LSHTM (Healthy Environments Research Programme). I worked for 3 months on a specific project, related to but distinct from my PhD thesis. The project involved the use of New York City data, whereas I am working with London data in my thesis. During my stay, I had the opportunity to attend classes, seminars, research group meetings and to bring contribution to various projects.

Victoria Garfield, UCL

Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Trondheim, Norway (Spring 2017)

My OIV was from 6 March 2017 to 4 June 2017. I went to work with Dr Silje Steinsbekk in the Institute of Psychology at the Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim. The main aim of my visit was to replicate the findings of one of my recently published PhD studies. Specifically, I wanted to see whether I observed similar effects (of BMI and sleep duration) in children as I found in a sample of older English adults. Although this was my main project at NTNU, I also got involved in a couple of other side projects, one of which is soon to be submitted for publication. I was also completely immersed in the research group of Prof. Lars Wichstrom, who leads the Trondheim Early Secure Study (TESS) data that I analysed.

My host, Dr Steinsbekk was very clear from my first day, that I was free to work however best suited me, whether in the office or elsewhere, and that she was here for anything I needed. I think I was extremely lucky because Dr Steinsbekk had spent a sabbatical year with one of the groups I'm part of at UCL and has very strong links with this group and in particular, my primary supervisor. The work culture in Norway is distinct from that of the UK; people start at 8:30 and finish work between 3 and 3:30pm. Overall, my OIV experience was incredibly positive and it was great to live somewhere like Norway for a short period.

Maggie Laidlaw, Edinburgh University

Marshall University, West Virginia, USA (January 2017)

Hosts: Professor Luke Eric Lassiter, Dr Elizabeth Campbell and Dr Susan B Hyatt (School of Liberal Arts, IUPUI, Indianapolis)

My PhD study, which is project linked to the Imagine Programme (www.imaginecommunity.org.uk) is concerned with women, time, community and civic engagement. Being part of the Imagine programme allows me to also explore how research might be done 'differently'. My own methods, which include the use of poetry, attempt to challenge the power and politics of representation in academic writing and research, and I am keen to develop this thread of arts based methods in social research in post-doctoral work. This OIV allowed me to strike up conversations and exchanges with my peers at Marshall University, and build intellectual networks across these universities, but also across the various community based institutions working in collaboration with the universities.

My visit to the USA for the month of January was primarily concerned with giving talks/ presentations to undergraduate and PG students, and engaging with third sector and local humanities organisations across West Virginia, North Carolina and Indiana, USA - all of which provided me with useful feedback, however a great deal more emerged during this visit.

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Lucien Georgeson, UCL

Yale University, Connecticut, USA (2015)

In 2015, I spent 3 months at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES) at Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut. My OIV was also part of the Yale-UCL Collaborative Student Exchange Programme.

While I was there, I worked with the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP) on a broad outline of how my research on the green economy could be compared with the results of the Yale Environmental Performance Index. In addition, while I was there I was able to develop a new research agenda on the development and negotiation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which involved travelling to New York to observe 3 sessions of the intergovernmental negotiations at the UN Headquarters. I also volunteered at the Environmental Film Festival at Yale and took part in a 'data hack' on environmental data organised by YCELP. I am more than happy to speak to any students interested in FES, Yale or an OIV to a US university or within geography/environmental studies more broadly.

