



THE JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Spring Newsletter

Issue 2, March 2008

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to provide this update about the recent activities of the James Martin 21st Century School.



The main focus of the past few months has been finalising the results of the funding round, which took place at the end of last year. We are delighted to announce that six new institutes will be added to the School in October 2008, when the next phase of the 21st Century School will officially be launched. The School will continue to develop its expertise and impact in current areas of research, and will also embark on an exciting programme of activities focussed on its new Institutes. You can read more about this in our News Highlights section.

We have had a very successful seminar series this term, based on the theme of "Risk in the 21st Century", which brought to Oxford a variety of academics, government leaders and international experts, including author Nassim Taleb. Our public lecture series has also been popular, with four lectures taking place this term, and two more scheduled for May. Further details are in the Events Highlights section of this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to James Martin, the School's founder, who spent three weeks with us here in Oxford to meet current and new Directors of the Institutes, deliver a public lecture, and show a sneak preview screening of his film, "The Meaning of the 21st Century". It is always a pleasure to host Jim in Oxford, and his unflagging support and enthusiasm for the School is a tremendous boost to all our efforts.

Best wishes,

Ian Goldin
Director, James Martin 21st Century School



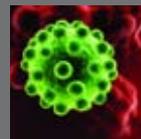
Institute for Science and
Civilization



Environmental Change
Institute



Oxford Institute
of Ageing



Institute for Emergent
Infections of Humans



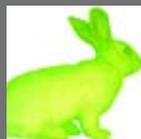
e-Horizons
Institute



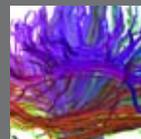
Institute for the Future
of the Mind



International Migration
Institute



Programme on Ethics of
the New Biosciences



Future of Humanity
Institute



World Education
Institute



News Highlights

Funding Round 2008-11

We had a very strong response to our funding call in October 2007, and sixty applications were received from across the University. The majority of applications were excellent and innovative, with the shortlisted bids far exceeding the resources we have available. All applications were evaluated by our Management Committee according to our stated criteria: excellence, impact and additionality. Those applications that were selected to receive funding from the School clearly and substantially met the highest standards for the selection criteria.

The 21st Century School's programme of research activities will be expanded to include six new research areas:

- Nanostructures: Medicine or toxin?
- Stem Cell Institute: Nurturing the science behind regenerative medicine
- Managing and regulating armed conflict in the 21st century
- The 40% vehicle: Technologies and integrated approaches for demand reduction
- Carbon in the 21st century ocean
- Chair in renewable energy

Currently funded Institutes will adapt or evolve their research agenda according to their funding allocations. For example, the Environmental Change Institute will develop a project on tropical rainforests, the Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences will evolve into a broader programme on science, ethics and technology, and the Future of Humanity Institute will focus on addressing the challenges of profound uncertainty. Other Institutes have had great success in leveraging additional funding, and so are also adapting or expanding their programmes of research. For example, the Oxford Institute of Ageing has received funding from HSBC for a number of projects, and the International Migration Institute won a MacArthur Foundation grant to support a programme on African perspectives of human mobility.

The e-Horizons Institute will no longer receive funding directly from the School. However, its research projects and programmes will be absorbed into the Oxford Internet Institute, with whom we aim to develop a productive and more permanent partnership to achieve shared goals. The World Education Institute will also not receive any funding but will remain in the School to help develop educational programmes and outreach to the public.

A process of finalising the future shape of the James Martin 21st Century School is still in progress. All the Institutes of the School will provide details about their research focus and academic staff, to be officially announced in the Summer.



James Martin meets new members of the proposed nanostructures institute

The School and the University of Oxford

The Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes, will host a dinner in London in May as part of a broader strategy to engage business leaders with the School and to widen our discussions on critical challenges.

The Chancellor has been tremendously supportive of the School's work, and the School has been recognised as a priority for the University's overall fundraising campaign, to be launched this May.

We are also in negotiations with colleges of the University to offer early career fellowships and college affiliations for our Research Fellows. This will help the School to be more fully integrated into the collegiate University and will allow our Fellows to benefit from new networks and opportunities arising from the college connections.

The School Management Committee

The 21st Century School's Management Committee has executive responsibility for managing the overall strategy of the School, including budgets and accountability. The Committee has been comprised to ensure representation by each of the academic divisions and the head of Research for the University. The Management Committee consists of:

- Dr Ken Fleming, Head, Medical Sciences Division
- Dr Ian Goldin, Director, James Martin 21st Century School
- Professor Alex Halliday, Head, Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division
- Professor Neil MacFarlane, Head, Department of Politics and International Relations (as the Social Sciences Division representative)
- Professor Ewan McKendrick, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research, Academic Services and University Collections
- Professor Sally Shuttleworth, Head, Humanities Division
- Dr Michael Spence, Head, Social Sciences Division (Chair of the Management Committee) *

* From April 2008, Roger Goodman will be the new Head of the Social Sciences Division and Chair of the School's Management Committee.

International impact

James Martin Research Fellows from the Environmental Change Institute attended the climate change negotiations at Bali at the end of last year. The ECI was invited to present in side events and to advise government, business and NGO negotiators in Bali. <http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/cop07/sideevent.php>
Professor Diana Liverman, Director of the ECI, started a blog to talk about her experiences during the event: <http://dianaliverman.blogspot.com/>.

Policy impact

Steve Rayner's (Institute for Science and Civilization) discussion paper, the "Wrong Trousers" (published

last term) provided the basis for a number of debates and interviews with the media, including the BBC's Today Programme and National Public Radio's "Science Friday" programme in the USA. It also prompted an invited editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* and a subsequent article in the most recent edition of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. The paper has been widely circulated through electronic and paper publication. Its call for a massive injection of public investment in Energy R&D has been particularly well received in the USA and Japan.

In aiming to build broader policy impact and inroads into government, the School is currently working with each of the Institutes to produce one-page policy briefings that outline key priorities for government that have arisen from our research. These will be available shortly on our website, and will be part of an ongoing project of engagement with policymakers.

Partners and affiliates

The 21st Century School is beginning to develop relationships with a number of other organisations in order to expand its intellectual depth, strategic outreach, and international impact in addressing the most pressing 21st century challenges.

Partner and affiliate organisations will have clearly stated shared goals with the 21st Century School, and will offer access to specialised expertise and new audiences. They are not part of the University of Oxford, but they contribute to a two-way relationship of information sharing, policy development and intellectual collaboration with the School.

Our first affiliate is the **James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies**, based at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. Its expertise on weapons of mass destruction will contribute to the work of the School in exploring the potential consequences of emerging technologies. <http://cns.miis.edu/>

School website – Director interviews

Directors from each of the School's Institutes have been interviewed to produce brief 3-minute webcasts for the School's website. Directors discuss their key aims and activities, how they are addressing big questions for humanity, and what it means to be a



part of the James Martin 21st Century School.
<http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/video.cfm>

School website – new blog

We now have an online blog for James Martin Fellows and other people interested in our work to explore and discuss key 21st century challenges addressed through the School's research, events, publications and activities.

This term we launched the blog alongside our seminar series, with blog entries made weekly by the series' conveners. The aim was to summarise key points raised in the seminars, provoke debate, and suggest further avenues for discussion or engagement with the themes addressed.

In the future, the aim will be to broaden the content and scope of the School's blog, to invite comments from Institute Directors, Fellows and guests on specific themes of relevance to the work of the 21st Century School.

<http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/blog/>

Angela McLean elected Fellow at All Souls

Professor Angela McLean, Director of the Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans, has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship in Theoretical Life Sciences at All Souls College, Oxford, with effect from 1 October 2008.

Event Highlights

Hilary Term Seminar Series on "Risk in the 21st century"

This term, our seminar series was convened by two Fellows from the Future of Humanity Institute, Rafaela Hillerbrand and Peter Taylor. They designed a programme of speakers that brought presentations from academics and experts from a variety of different backgrounds.

The series was intended to provide the audience with an overview of state-of-the-art risk analysis from the perspectives of the natural and engineering sciences, the social sciences and

philosophy, as well as a practical approach to real-life risks as they occur in decision making.



Sir David King

Speakers included: **Didier Sornette**, Professor on the Chair of Entrepreneurial Risks, ETH Zurich, who suggested a general strategy for understanding the organization of several complex systems; **Leonard A. Smith**, Research Professor in Statistics at the London School of Economics (among other positions), who emphasized the limitations of our current abilities to simulate and predict; **Sir David King**, former Chief Scientific Adviser and Director of the new Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, who talked about solving problems through inventive technology and government will; and **Helen Ghosh**, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), who talked about the challenges of handling environmental risks in a political environment.



Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Nassim Nicholas Taleb concluded the series with a public lecture based on the stimulating ideas in his book, "The Black Swan: The impact of the highly improbable".

Public Lectures at the School

Norman Myers, a Fellow of the James Martin 21st Century School and renowned expert on systems ecology and developing world poverty, gave our first public lecture of the term, with a presentation entitled "The Lemming Drivers: Why policy processes often fail us". Myers' lecture discussed first and foremost the problems of the environment, which despite decades of efforts by governments, NGOs and other bodies, and despite many success stories, are growing worse. He urged us to address the "institutional roadblocks" that induce us to engage in numerous activities that run counter to our long-term welfare. The lecture was chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell.

We were also pleased to welcome **David Sandalow**, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, to give a public lecture on "Freedom from Oil: How the next President can end the United States' oil addiction", based on his book of the same title. Sandalow, a former adviser to the Clinton administration, drew on both his government experience and energy expertise to explore options, shape solutions and suggest national policy to address the United States' oil addiction.

James Martin, Founder of the James Martin 21st Century School, gave the final lecture of the term, with a presentation entitled "Target Earth: the grand scale problems of the 21st century." He also gave a public screening of his film, "The Meaning of the 21st century", at an independent film theatre in Oxford. The film provided an excellent opportunity for a broad audience to meet James Martin



James Martin

and engage in a question and answer session at the end of the film. We have some comments on our blog following these events. These are online at: www.21school.ox.ac.uk/blog

Policy Foresight Programme

"A new look at the interaction of scientific models and policymaking", organised by the Policy Foresight Programme (directed by Sir Crispin Tickell) and the TransAtlantic Uncertainty Colloquium was held in February at the James Martin 21st Century School.

The event brought together modellers, policymakers and academics from the UK, the Continent, and the US for a day of assessing the role and value of models, in particular environmental models, in policymaking.

The Record can be found on the Policy Foresight Programme's website at:

<http://www.martininstitute.ox.ac.uk/jmi/networks/Policy+Foresight+Programme.htm>

Events organised by Institutes

- The James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization held a seminar series entitled "Surveillance, Identity, and the Future of Privacy in the 21st Century", hosted jointly with the Oxford Centre for Criminology. The multi-disciplinary seminar series explored how recent developments in the technologies and practices of surveillance are transforming the ways in which we think about questions of privacy and identity.
- A seminar series on "Ageing in Asia" was convened by Dr. Hafiz Khan, an HSBC Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Ageing. The series brought together international experts in ageing to look at the social and economic impacts of demographic transition.
- In January, the Oxford Institute of Ageing hosted a workshop for members of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) to develop a collaborative research project on the health policy challenges of ageing populations. The collaboration is being jointly coordinated by Kenneth Howse, James Martin Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Ageing, and Professor Susan Reynolds Whyte from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. For more information on the IARU Ageing, health and longevity projects see: <http://ageing.iaru.ku.dk/>



- The Environmental Change Institute co-hosted with Linacre College the Linacre Lectures on “The Role of Non-State Actors in Climate Change Governance”. Geoff Lye, Vice-Chairman of SustainAbility, Pedro Moura Costa, Managing Director of EcoSecurities, and Sir David King, Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, were among the speakers.
- The e-Horizons Institute organised events on “Uncertainty visualisation”, “Linking Up the Environmental Sciences”, “the New e-Science”, and “A second look into the future impact of ICT on our lives”, among others. The aim of e-Horizons events has been to provide an opportunity to critically assess competing visions of the future of media, information and communication technologies and their societal implications.
- The Future of Humanity Institute and Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences collaborated on a series of Advanced Research Seminars, aimed at Oxford graduate students.
- The Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences co-organised with the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics an event entitled, “Consciousness in the Persistent Vegetative State: Philosophical and Methodological Issues”. The workshop focused on the complex ethical implications of the recent findings of preserved consciousness in a patient with persistent vegetative state condition.
- The Program on the Ethics of the New Biosciences and the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation, based at the University of Manchester, held a work-in-progress workshop in Oxford to explore the relationship between science, ethics and innovation.

Research Highlights

Academic research activities, reports and publications

The Directors and Fellows in the Institutes of the James Martin 21st Century School have been involved with a wide variety of activities and publications arising from their research in recent months. The following list is a selection of these outputs:

- Gwyn Prins and Steve Rayner (Institute for Science and Civilization - JMI) published an article in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (vol 64 issue 1), discussing the Kyoto Protocol.
- A review of Daniel Neyland’s (JMI) book, *Privacy, Surveillance and Public Trust*, by Johann Yttri Dahl has been published in the peer reviewed transdisciplinary online surveillance studies journal, *Surveillance and Society* 5(1):83-84. The review is available at: [http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/articles5\(1\)/books.pdf](http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/articles5(1)/books.pdf)
- Research Fellow Max Boykoff (Environmental Change Institute - ECI) has had four articles published this year. Boykoff’s work focuses on the cultural politics of climate change, and the various roles of non nation-state actors at the interface of international climate science, policy and practice. His recent publications arise from his research which analyses media representational practices and climate change.
- Sarah Harper (Institute of Ageing) co-edited (with Roger Goodman) a book entitled *Ageing in Asia: Asia’s Position in the New Global Demography*, published by Routledge. The volume takes four key themes related to ageing – the experience of old age; intergenerational relations; economics of and social policy for ageing; longevity and the culture of ageing – and examines how these issues are emerging in different regions of Asia, specifically, the former Soviet Union, South Asia, China, Japan and South-East Asia.
- Susan Greenfield (Future of the Mind) has a new book, *ID: The Quest for Meaning in the 21st Century*, due out in May. The book draws on the latest findings in neuroscience to show how far we are and can be in control of the development of our brains and minds – and the actions we need to take now both to safeguard our individuality and to find the fulfilment which our current unfettered materialism cannot provide.
- Stephen Castles (International Migration Institute - IMI) co-edited a book with Raul Delgado Wise entitled *Migracion y Desarrollo: Perspectivas desde el sur*. It includes contributions from IMI fellows Hein de Haas and Oliver Bakewell. The English version is due out soon.

- IMI’s major research project into African Perspectives on Human Mobility, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, began in January. Partnerships with institutes in Ghana, Morocco, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria have been established. A literature review has begun, and a workshop on research methods will take place in Oxford in September. <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research/african-perspectives-on-human-mobility>
- Nick Bostrom (Future of Humanity - FHI) gave the PODium speech in a recent *Nature* podcast. In the speech he argues that developing safe, cognitive-enhancing drugs for all could be the most significant contribution to scientific progress. Nick’s contribution can be found here: <http://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk/sound%20files/nature-podcast-bostrom-extract.mp3>. The podcast was a companion piece to Bostrom’s letter in *Nature* 451, 520 (31 January, 2008): <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v451/n7178/full/451520b.html>.
- Rafaela Hillerbrand (FHI) was awarded the biannual Natural Sciences prize of the Ingrid zu Solms Stiftung, a charitable foundation which promotes excellence in education and research by women. Rafaela was also made a Fellow of the foundation. <http://www.ingrid-zu-solms-stiftung.de/>
- Nim Pathy and Mario Recker (Institute of Emergent Infections - IEIH) have recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It was a very productive visit: they gained valuable insights into the epidemiology of dengue and the evolutionary biology of influenza, and also built positive relationships for future collaborations. Further details available at: http://www.emdis.ox.ac.uk/200802_pathy_recker.html

- Julian Savulescu (Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences) appeared in a live debate organised by Intelligence Squared in the US, speaking for the motion, “We should accept performance-enhancing drugs in competitive sports”. The percentage of the audience in favour of drugs use in sport doubled during the debate, from 18% to 37%. Details can be found at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18299098>

Details of other publications can be found in the Resources section of the website: www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/publications.cfm

Please also view our Research pages to find out more about projects and outcomes of research across the School: www.21school.ox.ac.uk/research/



Other news

We will be holding the 21st Century School's second Advisory Council meeting on 17 June. Council members will offer strategic guidance and support for our research. We plan to seek the Council's guidance as we change gears, preparing for the next phase of the School's development, and also to create opportunities for Council members to meet with individuals in each of the Institutes.

Upcoming Events:

We would like to announce the following upcoming events:

- May Day Lecture – 1 May, 11.30am, Sheldonian Theatre. “Global Governance: Meeting 21st century challenges” by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University.
<http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/?redirect=160>
- Distinguished Public Lecture – 12 May, 4.30pm, Sheldonian Theatre. “What is Science for?” by Professor Sir John Sulston and Professor John Harris, University of Manchester. Introduced by Professor Richard Dawkins, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science.
<http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/?redirect=161>
- An International Conference co-organised by the ECI on “Food Security and Environmental Change: Linking Science, Development and Policy for Adaptation”, 2-4 April in Oxford. The event will bring together scientists, policy makers and representatives of development agencies to forge new partnerships and promote an integrated approach for food security and GEC research.
<http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/news/events/gecafs-0408.php>
- Institute of Ageing Spring School on “The Multi-Disciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research”, 14-18 April in Oxford. This is a four-day course on aspects of ageing research for practising researchers, academics and graduate students working in the public and private sectors. The School will address concepts and tools on demography, bio-demography, bio-medical research and practice, economics, health and policy.
<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/conferences.html>
- Conference on Theories of Migration and Social Change, Oxford 1-3 July: sponsored by the EU Network on International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe (IMISCOE). The conference is jointly organised by the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) and the International Migration Institute (IMI) at Oxford University. The event has been organised in response to an IMISCOE call for proposals for conferences on: ‘fundamental and strategic issues in theories, concepts and methodologies for the study of migration and integration’.
- In Trinity Term, the Oxford Institute of Ageing is organising the first dedicated seminar series on “Ageing in Africa” (Thursdays 12.30 – 2 pm, at Manor Road Building, starting on 24 April).
- The 2008 James Martin Forum on “Catastrophe and Risk in an Uncertain World”, organised by the Institute for Science and Civilization, will be held in September.

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