

Summer Newsletter

Issue 3 - July 2008

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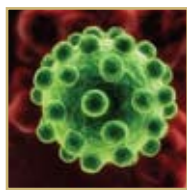
Institute for Science and Civilization



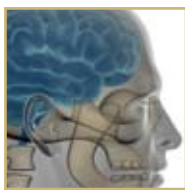
Environmental Change Institute



Oxford Institute of Ageing



Institute for Emerging Infections



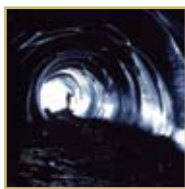
Institute for the Future of the Mind



International Migration Institute



e-Horizons Institute



Future of Humanity Institute



Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences



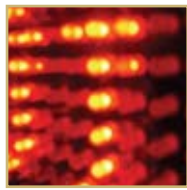
World Education Institute



From
October
2008



Carbon & Energy Reduction in Transport



Chair and Programme in Energy Materials



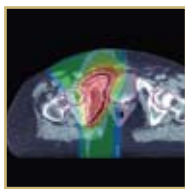
Institute for the Norms and Ethics of War



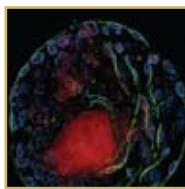
Nanoscience for Medicine



The 21st Century Ocean Institute



Particle Therapy Cancer Research Institute



The Oxford Stem Cell Institute

Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the final newsletter of the 2008-09 academic year, and I am delighted to be able to highlight some achievements of the past months from across the 21st Century School.

We have had a busy and productive term. Highlights include a rich set of regular seminars and one-off events, as well as two Distinguished Public Lectures in the Sheldonian Theatre, organised by the School. We also had a dinner in London, hosted by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, as part of our ongoing effort to engage with thought leaders from around the world and to raise additional funds for the School. There are more details about these events in the newsletter.

Our annual Advisory Council meeting was held on 17 June, and provided an excellent opportunity for Council members to meet with Institute Directors and discuss their research activities and future focus. We are extremely grateful for the time that individual Council members have spent with us, and greatly appreciate their extraordinarily useful advice and support.

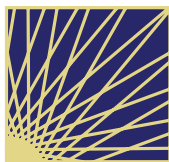
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michael Spence, the former Chair of our Management Committee, on his new position as the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney. And I would like to welcome Roger Goodman, as the incoming Head of the Social Sciences Division and Chair of the School's Management Committee.

Lectures and tutorials have now stopped for students at the University of Oxford. October 2008 will not only bring the start of a new academic year, but also the launch of the expanded school, with fifteen Institutes.

We look forward to your involvement in this exciting new stage of our development.

Ian Goldin

Director, James Martin 21st Century School



News Highlights

New shape of the School



We are in the final stages of confirming awards to the seven new Institutes that will join the eight existing Institutes of the School from October 2008, as a result of the competitive funding round held at the end of last year. The fifteen Institutes have now outlined a matrix of expectations and benchmarks of achievements. The main criteria of assessment in which Institutes will have to demonstrate achievement are: excellence, impact and additionality. The School will hold a mid-term review process to measure progress and achievements of each Institute during the course of their funding. The seven new research programmes to be added to the School are:

- Chair and Programme in Energy Materials
- Institute for Carbon and Energy Reduction in Transport
- Institute for the Norms and Ethics of War
- Institute of Nanoscience for Medicine
- Particle Therapy Cancer Research Institute
- The 21st Century Ocean Institute
- The Oxford Stem Cell Institute

We would like to express our thanks to the Trustees of the James Martin 21st Century Foundation who have agreed to allocate an exceptional addition to our annual funding amount, allowing us to support more research programmes and strengthen the Hub capacity in terms of its fundraising and impact activities.

Advisory Council

Several Council members (Nick Stern, Craig Venter, Joseph Stiglitz, Joseph Nye, Julia Marton-Lefevre, James Martin, Francis Finlay, Martin Rees, Crispin Tickell and Mark Shuttleworth) have visited the School over the course of the past year, giving

public lectures and small seminars or meeting individually with the School Director and the Institutes.

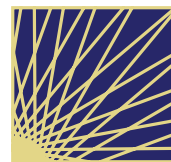
The annual 21st Century School Advisory Council meeting was held on 17 June in Oxford. The meeting was held in the School's premises at the Old Indian Institute, with a drinks reception and dinner at New College. It provided an opportunity for Council members to meet with the School's Institute Directors to talk about their progress and their various achievements. The Council discussions provided highly valuable guidance and feedback on our overall strategy and current research direction. We are most grateful for the time and support that our Council members give us, and look forward to taking up their advice and developing more opportunities for their engagement in the coming months.

Private sector engagement

We were delighted that the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Chris Patten, hosted a dinner for the School in London in May. The dinner brought fifteen business leaders to join a discussion with Lord Patten, Dr Ian Goldin and Professors Sarah Harper and Angela McLean on the role of the private sector in meeting 21st century challenges. The guests expressed great interest and enthusiasm in the School, and a number of participants have agreed to help us build our networks among individuals in the private sector who may be able to help us achieve our aims – by providing financial resources or professional expertise.



The Chancellor with Marcus Agius, Chairman of Barclays Bank, at the dinner



Awards and achievements

Dr Mario Recker, James Martin Research Fellow at the Institute for Emerging Infections, has been awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship (URF) to continue his research on emerging infectious diseases. Specifically, his project aims to elucidate some of the complex interactions between pathogens and the human host in order to understand the epidemiological phenomena associated with infectious diseases such as chronic infections of malaria or the recurrent epidemic outbreaks of Influenza or Dengue. The work combines mathematical models with analysis of data from laboratory and field studies and will be carried out in close collaboration with scientists in Oxford, Kenya and Vietnam.



Professor Julian Savulescu, Director of the Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences, recently received three major awards to develop his research programmes.

He was awarded a Wellcome Trust Strategic Award, under the Trust's Biomedical Ethics Programme, to make the University of Oxford an international leader in the field of neuroethics. Research facilitated by this grant will focus on four areas: cognitive enhancement; ethics of borderline consciousness; free will and addiction in light of neuroscience; and the neuroscience of morality and decision making. The Arts and Humanities Research Council also gave an award for the Programme to conduct a three-year project on "Science and Religious Conflict". The project will commence in January 2009. The Programme has also been awarded a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship grant, which will bring Professor Walter P. Sinnott-Armstrong, who is Co-Director of the MacArthur Program of Law and Neuroscience at Dartmouth College, USA, to Oxford. Professor Sinnott-Armstrong will give three Leverhulme Lectures and one graduate seminar during his visit.

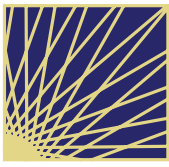
Professor Stephen Castles, Director of the International Migration Institute, has been invited to become a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Council on Migration. The Council is a small group of some of the most knowledgeable and relevant personalities in the field and is integrated into the Forum's Network of Global Agenda Coun-

cils that address crucial challenges of humankind to ensure that inter-linkages among global issues are fully explored.

Professor Yadvinder Malhi, Leader of the Environmental Change Institute's new Centre for Tropical Forest Science and Policy, was profiled in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* (29 May 2008) as one of the leading young academics in British universities who are contributing enormously to their disciplines. The list of ten academics was compiled after discussions with institutions, research councils and learned societies.

Trudi Lang, a DPhil student at the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, won a prize for the best conference paper that she will present at the Academy of Management meeting in Anaheim in August. The paper, "Systematizing the organizational scenario literature using Morgan's metaphors", will be published in the *Best Paper Proceedings* of the 2008 Academy of Management Meeting.

<http://meeting.aonline.org/2008/>



Events Highlights

Public Lecture - Global Governance



Professor Joseph Stiglitz in the Sheldonian

The historic Sheldonian Theatre was filled to near capacity when Nobel Prize winner and Columbia University Professor Joseph Stiglitz, gave a May Day Lecture on the topic of "Meeting the Challenges of Global Governance in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Global Financial Market Debacle". Stiglitz, who is also a member of the 21C School's Advisory Council, argued that current global institutions are not doing a good job of managing market activities. He called for unbiased, democratic and economically sustainable reforms. He suggested that the UN ought to occupy the role of representing and regulating global collective interests. The Lecture invited a lively debate with the audience, which was then continued on our newly launched 21st Century School Blog.

www.21school.ox.ac.uk/blog

Public Lecture - Science & Ethics



Professors Sulston, Dawkins and Harris

Over 600 people attended another Distinguished Public Lecture in the Sheldonian Theatre, this time by Nobel Prize winning Professor Sir John Sulston, with his colleague Professor John Harris. Professor

Richard Dawkins introduced the lecture and joined the speakers for a discussion and debate with the audience at the end of the lecture. They posed the question, "What is Science for?" and gave two quite different answers, with Harris arguing that science should be for the public good and Sulston arguing that it is the very fact of seeking and generating knowledge that makes science a public good – not the possibility of a positive outcome. The discussions continued on our Blog.

www.21school.ox.ac.uk/blog

Royal visit

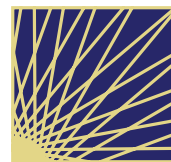


Dr Ian Goldin presents photograph to HRH the Duke of York

HRH the Duke of York visited the 21st Century School in May. Dr Ian Goldin gave a brief tour of our building to His Royal Highness and presented him with the gift of a photograph which showed the Prince of Wales in a processional ceremony for the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Indian Institute building (in 1883). His Royal Highness also met with Professor Julian Savulescu and Professors Sulston, Harris and Dawkins before attending their Distinguished Public Lecture at the Sheldonian.

Events organised by Institutes

The first **Oxford Institute of Ageing** Spring School was held 14-17 April 2008, and attracted over 70 participants drawn from regions across the globe. It provided a "Multi-Disciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research", equipping the next generation of researchers with the tools they need to move into the 21st century. The Spring School filled a gap in academic skills in global ageing research, and once again emphasized the University of Oxford and the Oxford Institute of Ageing as leaders in this endeavour. The next Spring School will take place in April 2009.



“Hepatitis C – from Virus to Vaccine” was the subject of a half-day interdisciplinary workshop hosted by the **Institute for Emerging Infections** in May 2008. Over forty researchers from different University departments and disciplines gathered for an intensive morning of discussion focussed on the Hepatitis C virus. Data presented ranged from clinical case histories to the most up-to-date phylogenetic analyses with a shared focus of understanding enough about this devastating infection to cure it or prevent it. Discussions are also taking place with regard to planning similar meetings on other IEH topics such as Influenza and HIV.

In June, the **e-Horizons** Institute sponsored a seminar entitled, “Virtual Schooling: The evolution of new ecologies in secondary education in the 21st century”. Virtual schooling is increasing rapidly in many countries so that thousands of students in primary and secondary schools are learning from a teacher who is not in their school alongside peers in other schools. The seminar explored recent research into these new method of teaching and learning, including those associated with campus-based and virtual schools in the USA and New Zealand.

The **Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences** and the Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation, based at the University of Manchester, held a workshop in Oxford in June to explore the relationship between science, ethics and innovation. The workshop was entitled, “Moral Science—Science, Ethics and Innovation”.

Research Highlights

Academic research activities, reports and publications

Professor Steve Rayner, Director of the **James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization** gave the opening lecture at the International Commission for the History of Meteorology (ICHM) Conference on “Weather, knowledge and everyday life” in Rio de Janeiro in May. The conference was devoted to understanding the place of weather and climate in everyday life. Speakers and delegates explored the ways in which various disciplines— from history to historical geography, anthropology to sociology —conceptualize the evolution of climatological citizenship as it manifests itself in daily routines, rituals, perceptions, reactions to and uses of the weather.

The **Oxford Institute of Ageing** launched HSBC Insurance’s fourth annual report of “The Future of Retirement” study, which focuses on how people from across the world are preparing for retirement. The study examines four key themes – Expectations, Choice, Preparedness and Inheritance. The research report, entitled *Investing in Later Life* and conducted among 40,000 people in 25 countries, is the largest of its kind in the world. The report was launched by Professor Sarah Harper in London on 13 May 2008, and in Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong between 11 and 17 June 2008. The report is available for download at: www.hsbc.com/retirement

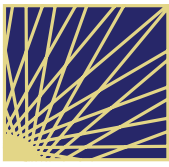
Environmental Change Institute scientists have published their work in a special edition of the prestigious *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* after hosting a successful event on “Climate change and the fate of the Amazon” in Oxford last March. The potential “dieback” of the Amazon forest in the 21st century has become one of the iconic images of 21st century environmental change, but is the subject of much controversy. This themed issue contributes to the latest thinking and research on the response of the Amazon forest to climate change from an interdisciplinary perspective, and attempts to navigate a future course for research and scientifically-informed policy for this important region.



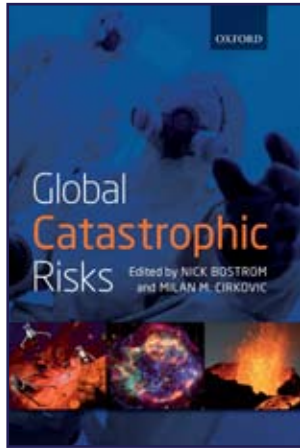
Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of the **Institute for the Future of the Mind** launched the publication of her new book with a talk in Oxford organised by Blackwell Bookshop. The book is

entitled *ID: The Quest for Identity in the 21st Century*, and received a large number of press and radio mentions, with reviews in *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Guardian* and *Telegraph* newspapers.

Dr Guy Kahane, Research Associate at the **Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences**, recently had an article, “Brain Imaging and the Inner Life”, published in *The Lancet* (May 10, 371:9624 (2008), pp. 1572-3). Recent advancements in brain imaging technology have begun to raise the possibility that at some point in the future this type of technology will be used to accurately view the inner life of the mind. In this article, Kahane dis-



cusses the consequences of such technology for an individual's privacy and autonomy, and considers what a society devoid of secrecy might be like.



Dr Nick Bostrom, Director of the **Institute for the Future of Humanity**, has co-edited a book called *Global Catastrophic Risks*, to be published by OUP in June 2008. The book includes a foreword by Lord Rees, and essays by twenty-six leading experts who look at the gravest risks facing humanity in the 21st

century, including natural catastrophes, nuclear war, terrorism, global warming, biological weapons, totalitarianism, advanced nanotechnology, general artificial intelligence, and social collapse. The book also addresses over-arching issues—policy responses and methods for predicting and managing catastrophes.

Dr Hein de Haas, James Martin Research Fellow at the **International Migration Institute**, has published a report for the International Organisation for Migration entitled, "Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union: An Overview of Recent Trends". The report has already generated international press interest.

Impact and outreach

Policy briefings: The James Martin 21st Century School will launch its new policy briefing series at a seminar entitled "From academic research to government policy: 21st century challenges in perspective" to be held in the House of Commons on 3 July 2008. Dr Ian Goldin and Professor Sarah Harper (Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing) will each give presentations to explore some key 21st century challenges and see how academic research can have important implications for policy development. In addition to a cross-party selection of MPs and Lords, a number of invited representatives from government, media, NGOs and think tanks will attend.

New School brochure: We have produced a 21st Century School brochure, which aims to reach new audiences by sharing examples of our wide-ranging and far-reaching work into addressing 21st century challenges and opportunities. The brochure illustrates by example the kind of research activities the School engages in, and summarises the work of both current and new Institutes. The brochure will be just one tool in a variety of printed and online products that we are developing to build impact and share the remarkable stories arising from our research.

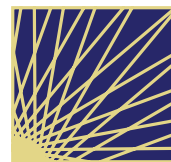
International event: Three Oxford Institute of Ageing academics, Professor Sarah Harper, Kenneth Howse and Dr George Leeson, participated in the IARU (International Alliance of Research Universities) seminar and meeting on the *Policy challenges of ageing* held at the National University of Singapore, 12-13 June. The OIA has been successful in gaining a grant from the IARU VC Presidents' Council to examine *The policy challenges of ageing in 6 countries*, led by James Martin Fellow Kenneth Howse.

Media appearance: Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield and Dr Jonathan Sharples of the Institute for the Future of the Mind recently appeared on *Teachers TV*, the digital channel for everyone who works in schools. They discussed the role of neuroscience and psychology in education, as part of their Institute's efforts to help educationalists find accessible and relevant insights from brain-science research.



Newsletters: At the end of last term, the International Migration Institute launched its e-newsletter with the aim of contributing to the migration dialogue by exploring specific migration themes and providing information on recent and upcoming events, scholarship

opportunities, and new research projects initiated by IMI. The e-newsletter is one of the Institute's outreach activities to keep people updated about the latest research outcomes and also to develop a network of researchers on international and African migrations.



Other news

Job vacancies

The **James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization** is offering a number of research fellowships in Science and Technology studies to commence in October 2008. Closing date for applications: Monday 14 July 2008. Further details available at:

<http://www.martininstitute.ox.ac.uk/>

Upcoming events

The **Oxford Institute of Ageing** is organising the Second AFRAN Research-Policy Dialogue in partnership with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics and Help the Aged, which will take place on 8-10 July 2008 in Abuja, Nigeria. The event will specifically focus on issues of health and old age. The theme of the dialogue is: "Advancing Health Service Provision for Age-related Non-Communicable Disease and Older Persons in sub-Saharan Africa: Identifying Key Information and Training Needs". The African Research on Ageing Network (AFRAN) is a United Nations endorsed programme, hosted by the Oxford Institute of Ageing.

In November 2008, the **International Migration Institute** will co-convene the second African Migration workshop with the Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. The workshop, entitled "African migration research: methods and methodology", seeks to highlight new techniques utilised by researchers exploring migration in the African context and to provide room for discussion and for an in-depth analysis of the benefits, disadvantages and potential of innovative methodologies.

The **Future of Humanity Institute** is organising a conference on "Global Catastrophic Risks" in Oxford, 17-20 July 2008. The conference is intended to advance knowledge and increase academic interest in this neglected area. It will provide an overview of the key risks and the state of current thinking on each of them. Topics treated will include nuclear terrorism, cosmic threats such as supernova, comets and asteroids, the long term fate of the universe, pandemics, nanotechnology, ecological disasters, climate change, biotechnology and biosecurity, the cognitive biases associated with making judgements in the context of global catastrophic risk, social collapse, and the role of the insurance industry in mitigating and quantifying risk.

<http://www.global-catastrophic-risks.com/>



Global Catastrophic Risks

The Oxford e-Research Conference is being organized by a consortium of research projects, including **e-Horizons**, in association with the journal *Information Communication and Society* (iCS). It will take place in Oxford from 11-13 September 2008. The event seeks to stimulate and inform multi-disciplinary research and public understanding on the development, use and implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs), like the Internet, in shaping research across the disciplines. It will bring together data from key e-Research projects from around the world examining the role of the Internet, Web and the Grid in research.

Join our Mailing List

Keep up to date with event and news across the school by subscribing to our mailing lists online at:

www.21school.ox.ac.uk/?redirect=131

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