

# EU-approved women's studies course begins

**University of York:** The Centre for Women's Studies welcomed the first students to its master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies in September.

The course has been selected by the European Commission as an Erasmus Mundus Master's programme, which gives students a chance to study in at least two European countries. Students will be able to graduate with a double degree.

The course results from a collaboration between eight institutions in six European countries. The commission described it as "a model in the field of women's studies and gender studies in a European and global perspective".

The Director of the centre, Professor Victoria Robinson, said: "In these Brexit times, we are looking forward to developing future European and international teaching and research connections."

Two new members of staff have been appointed as lecturers in the centre. Dr Rachel Alsop, who is Programme Director for the degree, and Dr Boriana Alexandrova-Isgate, who becomes part of the interdisciplinary team. Dr Alsop is also one of the editors of the *Journal of Gender Studies*, now located in the centre.

- In other York news, Dr Frances Thirlway gave plenary presentations on stopping smoking at the Global Forum on Nicotine in Warsaw and the annual Electronic Cigarette summit in London. Her work is popular with vaping advocates and was quoted in a recent report by the French vaping advocacy organisation, Sovape.

An edited collection which puts law and time scholarship into a wider context has been published. *Law and Time* is edited by Dr Siân Beynon-Jones, York, and Professor Emily Grabham, Kent Law School. It draws



**Professor Victoria Robinson**

together contributions from anthropologists, sociologists, legal scholars, geographers and historians. The book, published by the Routledge Social Justice series, emerged from the AHRC-funded Regulating Time research network.

Rachael Burns recently completed her PhD thesis, undertaken at the University of Kent. This explored the architecture and topography of Nazi concentration camps and how the physical and psychological sequestration of the inmates affected the empathy that civilians felt towards them. Her research drew on the work of Arendt, Bauman, Cohen, Elias, and de Swaan's 'dycivilising process'.

## Durham appoints three staff

**Durham University:** The Department of Sociology has appointed three researchers.

Professor Catherine Donovan, who joined from the University of Sunderland, researches the interpersonal and familial lives of LGBT people, with a focus on domestic violence. More recently, she has researched student safety.

Professor Brian Castellani is Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Northeast Ohio Medical University, in addition to his new Durham role. His recent work includes *The Defiance of Global Commitment: A Complex Social Psychology*, which explores how unhealthy social psychologies of people around the world are negatively affecting

public policy.

He launched an updated version of a map which gives an overview of the complexity sciences, adding new areas including applied complexity, complexity in policy and healthcare, and intersectionality theory: <http://bit.ly/2Ocxays>

Dr Kelly Johnson's research interests include domestic abuse, policing, and responses to violence against women and girls.

Her recent projects have researched people's experiences of revenge porn and upskirting, and the police responses to the new offence of coercive control in England and Wales.

## Almost half of UK staff have to work very hard – report

People are working harder and faster, with more of them coming home exhausted at the end of the day, a study of more than 3,000 workers by Cardiff and Oxford universities and UCL Institute of Education found.

The research found that the intensity of effort required in British workplaces has reached a new high, with close to half of workers expected to work very hard and the number of jobs requiring very high-speed work almost doubling since 1992.

Last year 70% of nurses reported that their jobs required them to work very hard, compared with 55% in the 1990s. Around 92% of teachers strongly agreed that their job requires them to work very hard, up from 82% in 2012.

Overall in 2017, 46% of the British employed workforce strongly agreed their jobs required them to work very hard, up from 32% in 1992.

The lead researchers, Professor Alan Felstead, said: "At a time when real wages are stagnating, our results suggest that workers are working harder and have less scope to carry out their job tasks as they would like."



**Professor Alan Felstead**

The study also found that, because of the lowest unemployment rates since the 1970s, people were less anxious about losing their jobs than previously.

Professor Felstead said that this improved job security was a "silver lining" to a "big black cloud".

- In other Cardiff news, a book by Dr Aimee Grant offers an accessible and practical guide for researchers from undergraduate level onwards.

*Doing Excellent Social Research with Documents: Practical Examples and Guidance for Qualitative Researchers* comprises six cases studies, including official documents, social media and visual methods. A 20% discount is available on the Routledge website with the code, FLR40, and chapter eight is free to view: <http://bit.ly/2y2UbJc>