

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 23 February 2024

Update from the Dean



This past fortnight has been fruitful with lots of connection and collaboration. My research interests are really wide - in the last year I have published papers on climate change and sea anemones, systems based approaches to tackling antimicrobial resistance and human pub choices. So, that means I get to have lots of fascinating discussions with interesting (and lovely) people. So, I am feeling really lucky to be working in a job in which I can be talking about PGR assessment policy in one meeting and trying to analyse the spatial movements of pub goers or manta rays in the next hour! Hopefully, you too are still finding joy and excitement in your research projects.

Feeling part of a community of people who you can share research or other interests with is something that is vital to individual and university success. Finding such connections seems to have become harder for PGRs (and staff) since Covid - according to all of the surveys and focus groups that YGRS has run since 2020. In this newsletter you will find lots of opportunities to meet other PGRs who might have similar interests or challenges to yourself.

Our friends at Bradford Uni are running a workshop ([Brad-ATTAIN PGR Networking Boot Camp](#)) for UK PGRs from ethnic minority backgrounds - the feedback from last year's event was phenomenal - so I really recommend it to you. And for our self funded PGRs, you can apply to the [YGRS Conference Fund](#) to attend UK or international conferences. Finally - applications for the [3 Minute Thesis](#) competition open on 1 March - thrilling and terrifying seems to be the verdict of previous participants! Please give it a go!

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

UPDATE: Improving the support for PGRs from offer to enrolment

Last November, we ran focus groups and a survey to gather your suggestions for improving the support for PGRs from offer to enrolment. We can now provide an update about [changes we're making as a result of your feedback](#). Thanks to everyone who took part.

PGR Forum

The next [PGR Forum](#) takes place on Monday (26 February). Your PGR academic representatives come together with YGRS and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to enable a wider range of PGR views to be heard within the University. Contact your [PGR academic rep](#) if there are any areas that you'd like to see discussed at the Forum.

Please complete the Research Integrity Tutorial

There are a number of [things you need to complete in your first year](#) as a postgraduate researcher. This includes the [Research Integrity Tutorial](#) on the VLE, which gives a comprehensive guide to citations, references and academic misconduct. Please make sure you have completed this training.

YGRS Conference Fund - deadline soon

Self-funded PGRs can apply to the [YGRS Conference Fund](#) for funding to attend UK and international conferences when other funding options have been exhausted. The closing date for the next round of funding is midnight on 1 March.

Support for your supervisor

See the [York PGR Supervisor Programme for 2024](#) for information on how we support the people who support you.

Support and wellbeing

Emerging Researchers' Forum – Supervisor relations, managing workload and top tips

The Emerging Researchers' Forum (ERF) is an informal network for researchers (PhD, MRes, ECRs) to share experiences, offer peer-support and socialise with those at a similar level within the university. [Come to the next Emerging Researchers' Forum meeting](#) on 29 February.

Collaborative Writing Retreats

Our online retreats give you time, peace, and space to fend off procrastination and beat writer's block. Each session will provide a friendly and constructive environment in which to meet like-minded peers, discuss challenges and work in a focused way using the established Pomodoro technique. [View the full list of sessions](#).

Disability drop-ins

Come to a [Disability Services drop-in session](#) in the Library to chart through support available to you.

6 Mar: Brad-ATTAIN PGR Networking Boot Camp

The [Brad-ATTAIN PGR Networking Boot Camp](#) is an opportunity for PGRs from different universities to come together, share experiences, network, learn and be inspired. It is open to PhD students studying in the UK who self-identify as being from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background, and have UK 'home' student status. [YCEDE](#) has funding to support PGRs who would like to attend - contact info@ycede.ac.uk

Researcher development

28 Feb: [What is Open Research and Why Does it Matter?](#)

An overview of Open Research, including its benefits, methods, and the support available at York to open up your research.

6 Mar: [Preparing for your Viva](#)

This session for final year PhD researchers focuses on how to prepare for the viva and the viva process. We examine the requirements of the viva for both you and the University, how your viva will progress and how you can prepare. We then look at the viva itself with tips for giving better answers first time around and dealing with awkward questions, before a mini mock viva gives you the chance to practise your skills.

Open research update

The third issue of the Open Research Newsletter focuses on Research Data Management, including a PGR journey into FAIR data sharing in bioarchaeology and useful RDM guidance for researchers across all disciplines. There is also an exciting update on the first open access book titles published with support from our institutional York Open Access Fund. [Read all issues of the Open Research Newsletter](#) (login required) and subscribe to receive future issues.

Keen to enhance your digital creativity skills?

Looking to explore new technologies to support your research? York researchers can access cutting-edge equipment, technical support and a range of fully funded workshops and events at the Creativity Lab. See the [Creativity Lab's Experimental Sessions](#).

Careers

28 Feb: [Non-academic careers in Higher Education](#)

Universities offer many different job roles in addition to academic research and teaching. If you're interested in exploring what this sector might offer, join us for this online panel Q&A event where you will hear from PhD graduates working in a range of roles such as planning, research and innovation, equality and diversity and business engagement.

5 Mar: [Career Planning: Understanding yourself and your options](#)

This workshop will help you to understand your career options and how to research them but it will also encourage you to consider what's important to you when choosing what to do after your PhD and what you have to offer.

6 Mar: [How to start a career in think tanks](#)

Interested in politics and government? A career in think tanks or policy can be a great way to put this interest into practice with a range of career options from research to communications to events and fundraising. This session will look at what a career in think tanks might look like, how to put yourself in the best position to apply and the different roles open to you.

Government Social Research scheme

Recruitment for Government Research Officers has just opened. Research Officers analyse social trends, support development of government policy and evaluate how policies make a difference to public services. Find out how to [apply to be a Government Research Officer](#) and join a virtual Q&A session explaining more. Application deadline: 18 March.

English for employability sessions

[English for Employability sessions](#) for international students are taking place every Wednesday until 8 May. It is a chance to practise common UK interview questions and scenarios, including "small talk" and how to introduce yourself. Led by international students, this will be useful for those who want to build confidence in their English skills.

Teaching

Introduction to Teaching and Learning training

If you're planning to teach as a GTA at York, you need to complete [Introduction to Teaching and Learning training](#) first. There are three different workshops; you should complete the one recommended by your department. For any queries, please contact the Academic Practice Team: academic-practice@york.ac.uk

Latest GTA opportunities

The Department of History is currently recruiting for multiple GTAs to assist them across several modules. Interested applicants from History, CMS, CMODS, CREMS and CECS should [apply by 22 March](#).

Navigating feedback: Essential resources for staff and students

Marking season has arrived, and the Academic Skills Community has resources that you might find helpful. The [Comment Bank for Feedback](#) provides comments and additional resources for you to use in marking. A new online guide for students called [Understanding Your Assignment Feedback: What Does My Feedback Mean?](#) is designed to help students better understand what feedback you give and how they can improve. If you have queries or suggestions, contact Roisin Astell: learning.enhancement.team-group@york.ac.uk.

PGR public engagement activities

Take part in the Being Human Festival

This year's [Being Human Festival](#) will take place 7–16 November with the theme 'Landmarks'. Humanities researchers are invited to apply to take part.

3 Minute Thesis: applications opening soon

Keep an eye out - applications for [3 Minute Thesis](#) open on 1 March!

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Suggest a Sabb

Do you know someone who would make a great student representative in the [new single Students' Union](#)? Then recommend them! They don't need any experience and don't need to have been involved in Union activity before. YUSU will simply get in touch with them with more information about running in the Students' Union elections. It's a great way to show your support to your peers and encourage them to take on the challenge of running as a candidate! You can [Suggest a Sabb](#) until Wednesday 6 March.



Events and opportunities:

- A chance to [win £1000 with the Santander Universities Brighter Futures Grants](#)
- How well do we promote York? [Share your feedback](#) for the chance to win £20 Amazon voucher
- Join the new ESRC [Vulnerability & Policing Research Centre international PhD Network](#)

More news and opportunities can be found on the [Research Student Community blog](#)

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

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