

The University of Cambridge Magazine for Graduate Students



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN CAMBRIDGE

CSI: Cambridge
Free Trade Agreements and Toilet Diplomacy in East Asia
Electronic Literature and Multimedia Hypertext Fiction
Graduate Student Parents

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Welcome to Cambridge

Dear new graduate students:

Welcome to Cambridge!!! If you are doing an MPhil you're probably already settled in and have started your intense one-year course. PhD students are usually a bit slower this time of the year, as they are trying to learn about the city and student life here at Cambridge. Well, there is much to do and I encourage all of you to get involved in as many activities as possible (without jeopardising your studies, of course).

Cambridge has much to offer in terms of extracurricular events. In addition to the usual collegial social activities, the university has hundreds of clubs and societies you can choose from. In this issue, GOWN would like to present to you a sample of what Cambridge offers. So get out there and have some fun!!!

Jane Ding
Editor-in-Chief

Christina Sanderson

For anyone with an interest in British art and literature in the nineteenth century the 'Literary Circles' exhibition, subtitled: Artist, author, word and image in Britain 1800-1920, currently showing at the Fitzwilliam Museum is a must. Drawing almost exclusively from works from the museum's own wonderfully rich collection, the exhibition explores the manners in which word and image were interlinked and fed off one another during the Victorian period and beyond.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, literature was regarded as a higher art form than painting and many painters used literary sources to legitimise their art. The Pre-Raphaelites turned to the works of Shakespeare and Dante and the poems of Tennyson and Keats as inspiration for their paintings. The exhibition includes both manuscripts and pictures; there is an original manuscript of Keats's *Ode to the Nightingale* and a gorgeously rich chalk drawing *La Pia de' Tolomei*

Literary Circles

Fitzwilliam Museum

by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, a subject drawn from Dante's *Purgatory*. The drawing shows Rossetti at the height of his talents capturing the fatalistic despair felt by this beautiful woman.

The mid-nineteenth century was a 'Golden Age' for illustration and 'the book beautiful'. With illustration, text and image are working literally side by side; on display are some beautiful Pre-Raphaelite engravings produced to accompany Tennyson's poems and one is immediately conscious of the enormous challenge of translating the written word into image within the constraints of a small page; Burne-Jones' edition of the works of Chaucer, published by Kelmscott Press, bears the artists' own elaborate annotations and demonstrates the practical problems he encountered in illustrating Chaucer's stories. It is personal touches such as these and for example, the rather uncanny presence of William Blake's spectacles which add so much to the overall enjoyment of the exhibition.

William Blake was of course famous for his success as both a poet and a writer; I for one however, did not know that Thomas Hardy could draw. Yet, here in addition to a first edition of *Jude the Obscure* is Hardy's first volume of poetry interspersed with thirty of his own illustrations.

The exhibition is not without its amusing side. There are some fabulous Burne-Jones caricatures of a very portly William Morris turning cartwheels across the floor and another of him sitting rather awkwardly in his bathtub, which cannot fail to

bring a smile to one's face. Children's illustrations such as Kate Greenaway's *Alphabet* are also a delight to behold.

The final section of the exhibition looks at how 'visionary' artists such as Richard Dadd (who famously committed patricide and ended his days in Broadmoor prison) and William Blake tackled the very difficult task of giving visual form to the supernatural. Dadd creates a compelling vision of a fairy world in his *Songe de la fantaisie*, while George Romney manages to conjure up a vision of the ghost of Banquo in his drawing of the *Banquet scene from Macbeth*. Samuel Palmer's deliciously rich-coloured *Magic Apple Tree* demonstrates his fascination with the mystical link between art and nature. The work, one of the Fitzwilliam's best, is radiant; its glorious colours reminding one of the incandescence of medieval illuminated manuscripts.

Through paintings, drawings, manuscripts and objects the Fitzwilliam's exhibition examines the critical dialogue between text and image that took place in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. There are some wonderful pieces to behold and one gets a sense when walking through the exhibition rooms, both of the personality of these great writers and artists and the different ways in which they inspired one another through their discussions and work.

The exhibition is on at the Fitzwilliam Museum until 30th December.

CSI: Cambridge

Gabriel Brostow

The long wait for a non-comedic television series about Cambridge University is finally over. The scientists are sexy, the data is messy, and without a doubt, the evidence never lies. In fairness, we don't have the same camera crews and aren't even consultants to the show's producers. We should however, hold our heads high, knowing that our research is advancing the state of forensic science. The glitzy shows are about us, though sometimes we don't even realize the extent.

Although science-fiction inspires many inventions, my interest in crime scene forensics started two years ago at a linguistics talk about speaker identification - an application I hardly cared for. Dr Gea de Jong, now a Phonetics researcher in our Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages, spoke on her use of pattern analysis (my reason for attending) in speech forensics. She told anecdotes of using a recorded message to confirm a suspect's involvement in a hoax bomb threat at the Royal Albert Hall. It turns out that an expert can sometimes identify a person's regional birth-accent and the approximate number of years that individual has been living in a new city.

She gave other fascinating audio-analysis examples, such as one involving recordings of gun shots. A 911 recording of a Florida gas-station robbery helped verify which of two guns was fired by the owner - indicating self-defense. The guns were different models, but were not obviously identifiable because of telephone distortion and different locations relative to the handset (the louder shotgun was fired from the doorway).

There are too many crime-scenes, not enough experts, and most critically, evidence must be examined objectively in a repeatable fashion to be useful - and convincing. Fingerprints, first described by Prof Purkyne at the University of Breslau in 1823, are the oldest biometrics used to consistently identify individuals. Among the newest is iris recognition, developed by Prof John Daugman at our Computer Laboratory. His patented algorithm is in general use for identity verification, and was notably used to confirm the identity of the National Geographic cover's Afghan girl 18 years later. Both the cops and robbers now realize that a fingerprint or a photograph of an

eye leads directly to a suspect's identity if they are already listed in an accessible database.

These techniques are proven, and some good databases exist, but I don't work on fingerprints, irises, or audio signals. The pattern analysis in Dr de Jong's talk demonstrated that I and many other scientists are already doing research that could be applied to crime scenes. So much of science is focused on modeling patterns, and investigators on the front lines cannot know that what I am studying could help them. In turn, crime scenes can motivate new research problems for us. Blood spatter analysis is one example.

Some scenes of violent crime contain blood stains. Blood spatter stains occur when blood flies off passively due to force being applied to a body. In 1895, Prof Piotrowski at the Jagellonian University was the first to propose that the elongated shape and layout of the stains indicated the location of a victim's head at the time it was subjected to trauma. There is a well established technique by which a specially trained forensic technician measures the individual blood spots (usually 100s of them) with a ruler.

The stains are affected by many physical variables, such as speed, liquid density, and the material properties of the surface. Air resistance affects the otherwise spherical shape of an airborne blood drop only slightly. Ideally, once

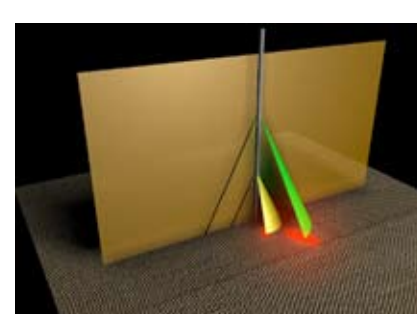
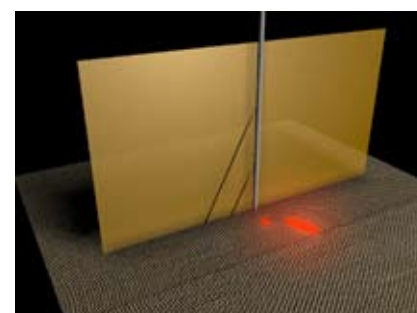
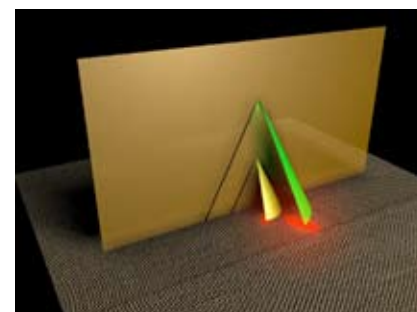
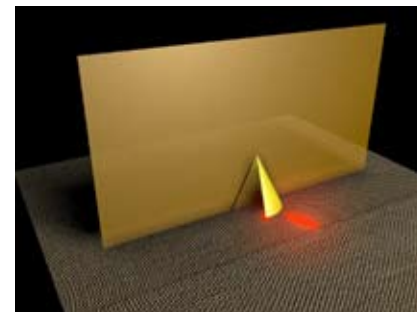
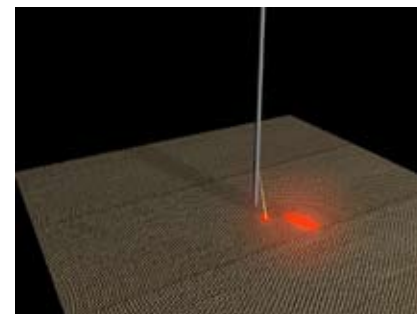
the sphere lands on a flat surface, the collision flattens the liquid into an ellipse. The proportion of the ellipse's width to length reflects the angle of impact.

Currently, the technician pins a string to each spot, stretching it across the room to approximate the projectile motion with a line. This eventually gives the forensic expert a good idea of where the victim stood on the floor plan when hit (the strings intersect in the same area), and a rough idea of the height where impact occurred. Working with Amy Shen, a recent CU Engineering graduate, our main contribution is an algorithm that processes digital images of the crime scene to obtain the same information as the current "string method." Our experiments (so far, only using red paint) indicate that the algorithm matches the accuracy expected from a forensic investigator. Our secondary contribution is the exploitation of calibration objects to perform image rectification, producing shot-from-above images of the whole crime scene.

Further developments are incredibly relevant to forensic crime investigators - in pattern recognition, AI, and modelling - of various phenomena. Shoe prints are still photographed and posted on web-sites in hopes that someone will recognize the brand and size. Forensic artists still sketch suspects instead of adjusting photo-real models. Age progression is a black art. Polygraph tests are STILL used as supportive evidence. There is no Bat-computer that determines a sample's chemistry.

Specialists in other fields and investigators working on real cases don't always know what tools to ask for. As scientists, we are in a great position to examine the utility of our findings - but we have to talk to those "outsiders." Responsible application of science can coexist with the catching of bad guys - and the exoneration of good guys.

Note: Gabriel's work was done in the Computer Vision Group of Prof Roberto Cipolla. Very few undergraduates were harmed in our experiments.



© Gabriel Brostow

An automated process for blood splatter

Free Trade Agreements & Toilet Diplomacy in East Asia

Mui Pong Goh

What do Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and the toilet have in common? More than what one might initially realise. For a starter, both are vitally important in the diplomatic landscape of the region.

Unlike lawyers who are used to poring through long documents of international agreements filled with indescribably boring legal text, I found out that I was easily bored by examining texts of FTAs. This was not what I had in mind when I started on my PhD research! Instead, I had wanted to find out why governments in East Asia decided at around the same time to use a previously neglected tool of diplomacy- free trade agreements (FTA).



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FTAs refer to agreements where two or more states sign to liberalise trade among them. Although these agreements traditionally only cover trade in goods, they have nowadays encompassed other economic issues such as the recognition of professional qualifications and increased mobility of business personnel.

Until recently, the East Asian states have not shown an interest in pursuing FTAs as they have relied on negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Unlike most European states which rely on the immediate regional markets (i.e. the European Union), most of the East Asian states trade with markets that are outside of East Asia (i.e. the United States and the EU). There is thus little incentive to form regional FTAs. However, the increasingly politicised differences among the members

of the WTO have made agreements at the WTO level difficult to reach. For instance, many of the developing countries want greater access to the agricultural markets of the developed countries which tended to be protected with high tariffs and generous subsidies. On the other hand, many of the developed countries want lower tariffs and concessions on other areas such as greater protection of intellectual property rights. The picture is a lot more complicated than this, of course, but the gist is that finding common positions among 149 members is not easy. As a result, the East Asian states have turned to negotiating bilateral FTAs.

Yet FTAs are more than simply economic agreements. They can often promote regional integration. For instance, the European states initially formed FTAs to promote closer economic integration among themselves. Gradually, cooperation “spilled over” from economic to other areas, leading in part to the shape of the EU today. While some in the EU (particularly in the UK!) might feel that the EU has been encroaching onto their state’s sovereignty, it is difficult to argue against the observation that the European states have been better able to make their voice heard collectively than individually. It is this desire to make their voices heard that some of the East Asian states have also embarked on negotiating FTAs among themselves.

This journey of finding FTA partners, actual negotiation of the FTA and finally closing the deal often provides fascinating insights of how international diplomacy in East Asia is conducted. After all, as a political scientist, I am much more concerned about the political considerations and consequences that such agreements have on the region.

Here, I have to bring in another important feature of East Asian diplomacy- the toilet. I have almost ceased to be amazed at how often important toilet diplomacy feature in East Asia. For instance, for the past few years, relations between the Chinese and Japanese had worsening at the political level. The Chinese were furious that the then Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi regularly visited the controversial Yasakuni shrine where some war criminals (from the Second World War) were buried. The Chinese (as well as the Koreans and Southeast Asian states) thought that the regular visits to Yasakuni suggested that the Japanese did not feel remorse for the sufferings inflicted on the region during the war. The relationship between Japan and China was in such a state of deterioration that the Chinese refused to hold high level bilateral meetings with the Japanese. However, both the Japanese and Chinese Foreign Ministers had apparently a fruitful meeting in the toilet (for ten minutes, if you are curious) at a regional meeting in July 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In 2004, toilet diplomacy played another role when China sought to relieve some of the tension in China-Taiwan relations by inviting the Taiwanese to the WTO meeting in Beijing. No, not the World Trade Organisation but the World Toilet Organisation.

However, the toilet has not always been helpful in flushing away political tensions. The humble toilet seat was one of the items that the Indians wanted to exclude from its FTA with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). This meant that ASEAN could not export toilet seats to India at a preferential tariff rate, resulting in a deadlock of negotiations. (The negotiations are still in a state of constipation).

Sometimes, the toilet was also the venue where important decisions were conveyed to other diplomats. For instance, in 2005 the ASEAN members came under great pressure by the EU and United States not to allow Myanmar to take over the rotating chairmanship of ASEAN. Both the EU and the United States were, understandably, appalled by Myanmar’s poor human rights record and did not want it to be the head of a regional organisation. On the other hand, the other ASEAN members were too polite to publicly block Myanmar. Fortunately at a regional meeting, the Myanmar Foreign Minister confided in his Singaporean counterpart (in the toilet) that Myanmar would not take up chairmanship of ASEAN. The Singapore Foreign Minister admitted that the news was a relief.

Lest I be accused of trivialising Asian regional diplomacy, let me say in my defense that one of the most publicised stories of the United Nations Summit in 2005 was the photograph of US President Bush passing a handwritten note to his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking if he could go to the toilet. It was probably one of the most embarrassing leaks in the UN Summit that year with the European media providing a generous coverage.

(Afternote: Unfortunately my PhD thesis will not include any mention of toilets).

Living on the edge: A trip to the Wakhan Valley in Tajikistan

Ben Paarmann

After successfully overcoming endless mountain passes and military checkpoints, our Soviet minibus finally starts to descend into the Wakhan Valley in Eastern Tajikistan. For about three days, our driver Valerij had skillfully maneuvered us from Osh in Kyrgyzstan to here – and although probably one of the most dangerous roads in the world rarely had we felt so safe sitting in a car in Central Asia.

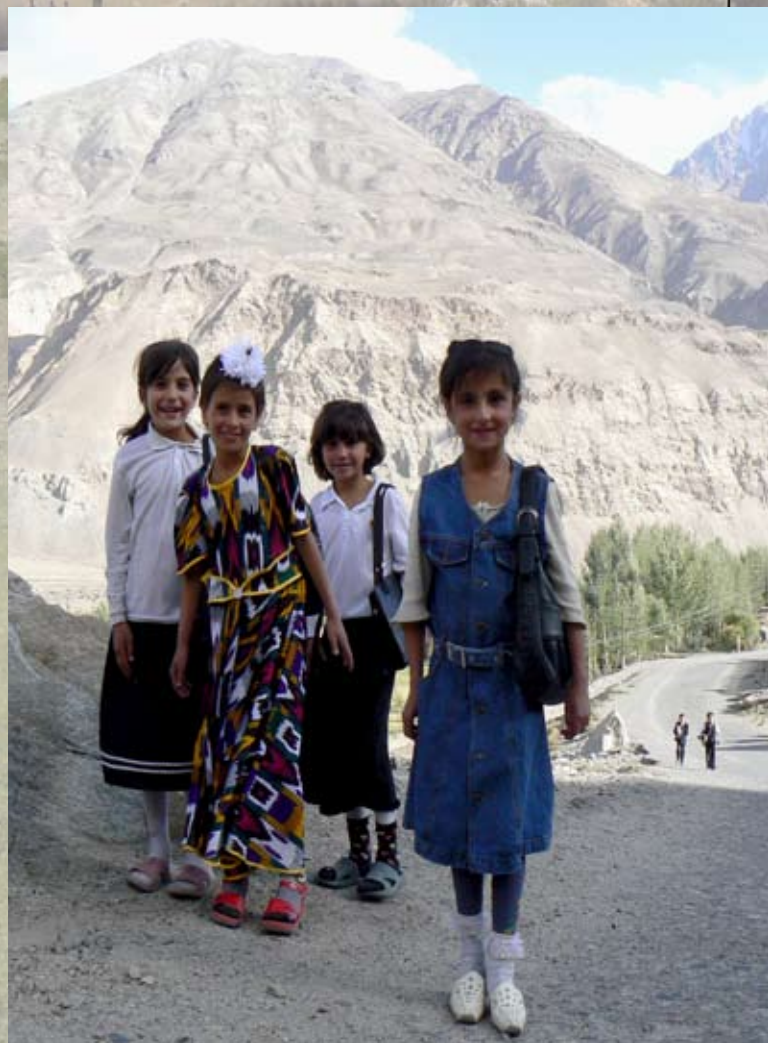
Flanked by imposing Pamir mountains, the road would from now on lead us back towards vegetation, agriculture and constant human settlement – a welcome change after the inevitable altitude sickness and the freezing winds of the high plateau rising behind us like a wall of ice and rock.

The Wakhan Valley has always been a contentious stretch of land in geopolitics. Across the border lies Afghanistan's namesake Wakhan Corridor, an artifact of the 19th century Great Game, the imperial rivalry between Britain and Russia involving polyglot spies with long fake beards and a backpack full of cartographic material. The British Empire in India and Tsarist Russia did not want to share a common border, thus they carved out a thin corridor from their territories and arbitrarily attached it to Afghanistan.

Today, the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan is one of the world's most trafficked drug smuggling routes. Opium, produced in Afghanistan's unruly regions, is illicitly being shipped across the border rivers on its onward way to Europe. The military presence here is accordingly stepped up, although the Russian army has withdrawn its 201st Motor Rifle Division two years ago, making way for young and inexperienced Tajik conscripts.

Interaction between the Tajik and the Afghan sides, only a stone-throw apart, is limited. While inhabitants on both riverbanks share a common Ismaeli heritage, trade remains centred around a few bridges spanning across the fast and torrential river roaring down the valley to finally join the Amu-Darya further downstream.

"We used to trade with the town on the other side", a Pamiri from the valley tells us. He and his fellow villagers owned a speedboat that could traverse the river in just a few seconds. "But one day, the Afghans stole it." Skilful negotiation in this part of the world is often unheard of, especially with the other side's anarchic relatives. So what did they do to get their boat back? "We kidnapped their Mullah", the tradesman replies.

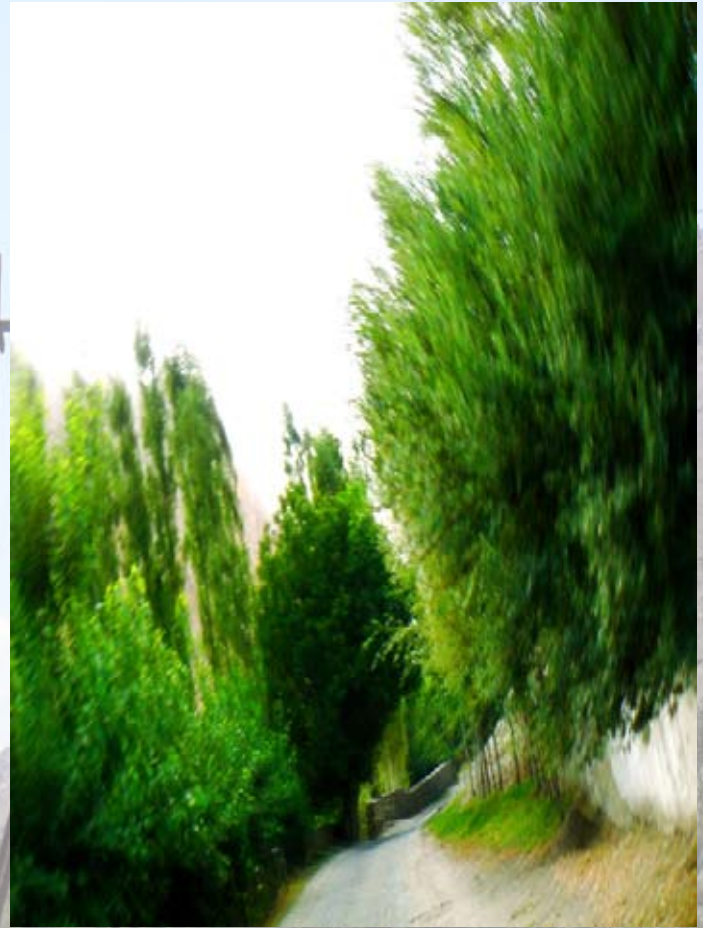


Commentary

Although the bullet holes in their beautiful Pamiri house show that it was not that peaceful a deal, the Afghans finally gave in after two weeks. Evidently, they chose a prominent Mullah, the Pamiri tells us. “We weren’t so sure after a week had passed and no one got into contact with us. People began to start laughing at us because we were so naïve in thinking that those on the other side would really trade a valuable boat against their Mullah. They would simply get a new one and keep the boat!”

Further down the road, we take a sidetrip up the mountains to our right and pay a visit to holy Sufi springs named after Bibi Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Mohammed. Although claimed to increase female fertility, a bath in the hot sulphuric water is good against any ailment, the local doctor assures us with a cigarette hanging between his teeth.

On both sides of the road, mainly women harvest the yields of the fertile land. The men, the cashier of the holy springs tells us, work in more responsible, administrative jobs. Even if that means staring idly at the wall most of the day.



Largely dependent on humanitarian assistance during the Tajik Civil War from 1992 to 1997, the Wakhan Valley is slowly recovering from the turmoil of the 1990s. Instability in neighbouring Afghanistan is scaring tourists away, however. Currently, only around 200 tourists per year take on the trip between Osh and Khorog, the capital of Tajikistan’s eastern Gorno-Badakhshan region.

Hopefully, this is going to change. Unparalleled hospitality, breathtaking landscapes and the opportunity to occasionally wave at Afghan herdsmen on the other side of the river make this part of Tajikistan an experience never to be forgotten.

END

Benjamin Paarmann is the editor of *neweurasia* (www.neweurasia.net), an online magazine devoted to Central Asia and the Caucasus. He is currently reading for an MPhil in Development Studies at Cambridge (Downing College).

Cover Story:

Extracurriculars at Cambridge

At Cambridge you have the opportunity to have a balanced academic-social life. In fact, there is such a wealth of college and university events around you are almost certain to find something suitable and enjoyable. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn a new sport, or volunteer in the community, or take up a political or social position to serve your fellow students. Over the last three years I can say I've participated in many societies and learned a lot about myself in return. Hopefully you will find something that interests you!!

Jane Ding



Student Union

Ashley Aarons

When you think about Cambridge life, it tends to be in terms of colleges. However when you go to the University-wide Societies Fair, or any college Societies Fair, you just get to see how important all the different societies are to people here. From Rugby to Tiddlywinks, Tap and Jazz to the Union to the Winnie the Pooh society, Engineers without Borders, there seems to be a society for everyone.



From my pretty biased perspective, the Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) Societies Fair seems to be the zenith of this involvement. Most years, more societies put up a stand at this Fair than at any other in the country, while the number of students who come along as a proportion of total student population is one of the highest. This year, though, even more societies were represented, with nearly a massive 400 there, about 40 up from last year; and about 9,000 students passed through, approaching half of the student population. That kind of passion, with students queuing up in massive lines to get into the fair, and stallholders giving up several days of their Fresher's Week, is simply amazing, and I think is something we should be very proud of at Cambridge.



The buzz word at the Societies Fair, of Fresher's week, of Cambridge non-stop, is get involved, really go and get involved. There's many ways you can get involved with societies. You can start by signing up to their mailing lists, and just getting and deleting emails from time to time. Most societies will have some kind of introductory squash early in term, and if you've missed this and missed signing up at the Societies Fair, go to www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/societies/directory, and you will find them all there. This website directory is very new and a very useful resource for looking up any society. Across the year, societies will carry out varying, events which they will encourage you to attend, and most societies will have elections of some kind to see who will be on the society committee next year. If you really want to get involved, aim for that. However, you may want to try out a number of activities that societies get up to, and be involved loosely with a number of societies, rather than deeply with just one or two.

More generally, CUSU are always trying to do more for societies, and let the services officer know anything you think is going wrong or right, or could be done. A number of new initiatives are planned this year, and make sure you look out for the 'give it a go' campaign in Lent term.

On a slightly more official note, there are three types of societies: college based, university-wide (unregistered) and university-wide (registered). The details of the differences are online at www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/societies/information, but 'registered' societies are registered with the Universities Societies Syndicate, and may apply for grants from them. Unregistered societies can't, but that means they can be more flexible in what they do. College societies exist, as the name may make you guess, on a collegiate level. And, if there's no society for what you want, make it happen yourself. Start a society. You can do this by just getting some friends together, or you can officially write a constitution and elect a committee. The choice is yours, but if you want some advice, ask the CUSU Services Officer, Ashley Aarons, email services@cusu.cam.ac.uk.



All images © Ashley Aarons

If you've ever felt stuck in the Cambridge bubble and longed to get back to the real world for a while, if you ever feel swamped by work and want to do something a bit different, if you want to get involved in the local community, if you want to gain work experience through volunteering, or if you're just looking for a way to turn your hobby into something that benefits others, Student Community Action can help.



SCA

Student Community Action

Rebecca Jones, President

All photographs © Rebecca Jones

Cover Story





SCA is a registered charity run by and for students in Cambridge. Our role is to promote and develop student volunteering opportunities in the local community; we like to think of ourselves as the missing link between university life and the outside world. We have a variety of projects you can get involved in, ranging from the more traditional volunteering opportunities such as working with disadvantaged or disabled children, conservation work, and social events with elderly people, to more unusual projects such as e-mentoring, teaching science through interactive workshops, and working with prisoners' families. We can also offer administrative work experience within our own organisation and other local charities and NGOs. Some of our projects are well-established and some are just starting up, but what they all have in common is that they are sustainable, beneficial to the local community and are in desperate need of student volunteers. Volunteers typically spend a couple of hours a week working on their projects, but we also have one-off opportunities and once-a-term events to get involved in.

We have over 2000 volunteers registered with us, 600 volunteers actively working on our projects, but only 30 graduate volunteers—and we'd really like more. We particularly value the expertise and life experience that our grads can bring to our projects. Furthermore, many of our projects benefit from a long-term commitment over a year or more, and this is something we've found graduate students may be able to offer more easily than undergrads. For instance, we run a befriending scheme for disadvantaged children called Big Siblings, and families on this scheme have often reported that they appreciate the stability a long-standing commitment from a volunteer produces. Many of our graduate volunteers find that

volunteering with SCA is an enriching experience, and one which can offer professional and personal development opportunities as well as being of benefit to the community. Harriet Groom, one of our graduate volunteers, told us that "as a graduate student it's very easy to get completely caught up in your work and lose sight of everything else. Volunteering can really help to snap you out of that trance and give you something to look forward to."

Becoming a volunteer with SCA is simple; just come along to our office at 10 Pembroke Street and you can sign up straight away. You can join at any time; there's no need to wait for next term to get going. Our office is open Monday–Thursday, 10–12 and 1–4.30. You can also email us at mail@cambridgesca.org.uk or call us on 01223 350365. For most projects you just need references and a criminal record check, which our office will arrange for you. Please call in to the office or check our website www.cambridgesca.org.uk for a full listing of all of our projects.



UNA-UK

Was Yaquob

Over a billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day. More than 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. Every 3 seconds, a child dies of hunger or preventable disease. It is estimated that five people die from AIDS every minute. Even though the modern world has the resources, knowledge and technology to eradicate these distressing facts, the global political will is lacking. One of the fundamental goals of the UN is to change this through its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education - all to be achieved by 2015.

Which is where organisations like the Cambridge University United Nations Association come in. We are an official Cambridge branch of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom (UNA-UK), the UK's leading authority on the UN. As such, we have a great responsibility to empower students by raising awareness of the UN's ideals, and involving students in its reform and development through informed and critical debate. When discussing aims as ambitious as the MDGs, some commentators on student politics have suggested that, confined to a state of ignorant affluence in Cambridge we can have little constructive impact on the world at large. This is wilful apathy. There is much we can do to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

We are often relatively isolated from international affairs - often a little too stuck in our rigorous work-pub-club-sleep routine to think about much else other than work. Even by simply raising awareness of the UN's goals and activities, CUUNA can pressure our government to commit to the MDGs, and prepare bright young men and women for lives devoted to something greater than making a lot of money and munching caviar at corporate dinners. We believe in the importance of providing a regular forum in which students from diverse backgrounds can network, socialise, and engage with issues of global importance. For those of you with disdainful memories of Model United Nations school events, CUUNA will definitely not be a glorified dating agency for precocious individuals. Rather, through a wide range of campaign, charity, social, speaker events and trips we hope to intelligently



involve students in the future of the UN, its Charter and the work of its various agencies, emphasising the MDGs

All our campaigns will be in line with the MDGs– we have, for example, a variety of forthcoming events this term, such as Universal Children’s Day and UN day– see our website for more details. Our recent event – CUUNA STAND UP saw more than 120 people turn up to make a symbolic stand on Parker’s Piece against poverty, a gesture co-ordinated on a global scale by the UN Millennium Campaign (Official Guinness World Record for the most people to ‘Stand Up Against Poverty’ in 24 hours was set on 15-16 October 2006 for the UN’s Campaign, involving a massive total of 23 542 614 participants in 11 646 events around the globe). Though it may sound like a small start, this is only the first step towards empowering students and youth in the arena of international politics. We will show governments that the support of the electorate rests on their commitment to tackling global as much as domestic issues.

The first step is informing students of the UN’s ideals. To this end, CUUNA membership provides various benefits including; 4 issues of the UNA-UK quarterly New World, careers advice, internship assistance and subsidised social events. Membership will also make you eligible to participate in our academic trip - our first planned trip is to Geneva. Through our links with the World Federation of United Nations Associations we will be able to arrange attendance at a variety of events, as well as the opportunity to meet some UN officials. Closer to home, we also plan, for next term, to bring a range of guest speakers to Cambridge, including Lord Hannay, Chair of the UNA-UK, and one of our advisors, the pre-eminent biologist Sir Brian Heap. We also encourage you to get involved beyond membership, by joining the CUUNA committee. At the moment we are recruiting editorial staff for our termly magazine, and college representatives to help with our campaigns and publicity. However you might choose to be involved, we would love to have you join us.

www.cuuna.org





Graduate Union

Beth Bowers

If you've been into the Graduate Union this term, you'll know that we're now host to Cambridge's newest café, Cambridge Blue. The café and lounge are now open from 9.30–18.30 for drinks, sandwiches, pastries etc. Our shop remains open 10–17.00 for thesis-binding, gown hire, photocopying, railcards and some of the best stationery deals around. Over the summer, we've also changed and refurbished the lounge space, meaning that we can accommodate a greater number and variety of graduate events. Several of our rooms are available to book for student events (contact enquiries@gradunion.cam.ac.uk for details), and, so far, this term we have hosted parties, music events, film screenings and speaker meetings. Upcoming events include Thai Massage, Sports Massage, self defence classes for women, graduate development talks and our Open Mic end of term party, to be held on December 9th. See the calendar at www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk for more details. There is also a regular coffee morning, held each Friday in and out of term, at the University Centre, for student parents and their young children (coffee for the parents, toys for the children!)

The Graduate Union's membership is diverse, encompassing a much greater range of ages, nationalities and experiences than the undergraduate community. Therefore, we aim to offer a programme of events, and a network of support, that reflects that diversity. Our recent forum, 'In Conversation with the Vice-Chancellor', attended by several senior members of the University, allowed Graduates to post their questions and concerns directly to the

Vice-Chancellor herself, and illustrates the way in which the Graduate Union can offer its members a clear, coherent and committed way to make themselves heard. This can also work at the college and departmental levels; in addition to representing graduates on a large number of University committees, the president is happy to visit and liaise with MCRs over any issue, and can also offer confidential welfare and academic advice to individual students. Contact Beth Bowers at president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk.

Many of the GU's events are initiated and run by volunteers. As you may have seen from the posters in your department and college, elections for positions on the Graduate Union Board were held online on 6th and 7th November, and the Presidential election will be held in May 2007. If there is something that you'd like to change, or you'd just like to be involved, why not consider standing in the future? We welcome volunteer support throughout the year, in addition to your feedback on how we can improve our services and representation for graduates.



All photographs © Beth Bowers

Cambridge Writers' Guide

Helen Mort

'Art is a quest for order and sanity undertaken by people who are themselves often disorderly, none too sane and rarely loveable' - Al Alvarez, 'The Writer's Voice'

Cambridge has had its fair share of poets who have been mad, bad and dangerous to know. From Byron who allegedly kept a bear chained up in Trinity Great Court to Milton of Christ's college, the university's literary tradition is daunting.

These days, head to 'The Castle' at about half past eight on a Monday night and you'll find a rather less eccentric group of people. Other pub-goers might cast bemused glances at the group in the corner holding pints and reading out poetry, but on the whole, Cambridge writers blend in with the other drinkers, only the occasional beret or arty pen giving us away.

Writing is, of course, a notoriously solitary activity and it might seem strange that such a group exists at all, but the aim of Cambridge Writers' Guild is to bring creative people in the city together. The Guild was the brainchild of former John's philosophy student Niccolo Milanese. A talented poet himself and heavily involved with the production of 'Inprint' poetry magazine, Niccolo wanted to establish a forum for university writers to be able to work together, share ideas or simply meet up.

Today, CWG has expanded to a membership list of hundreds, reflecting the diversity of creative talent in Cambridge in 2006. As a free society, it continues to attract English students, drama enthusiasts, poets, storytellers and readers alike. Anyone with an interest in words is welcomed. And this year promises not to be a quiet one for Cambridge writers.

The Guild has a strong tradition of poetry in particular, with more than ten past winners of the prestigious 'Foyle Young Poets of the Year'

award having been prominent society members over the past two years. October 5th this year was National Poetry Day and to celebrate the occasion, myself and fellow writer Gloria Dawson took to the streets of Cambridge armed with dozens of sheets of A4 to start a guerrilla poetry campaign. Poems in banks, on phone boxes, letter boxes, colleges, toilet doors...you name it, we stuck a poem there to surprise passers by. Whilst all our campaigns may not be quite as visible, the Cambridge poetry scene is thriving, with workshops both inside and outside the university, regular guest readers and open mic nights such as the famous Clare Cellars poetry nights.

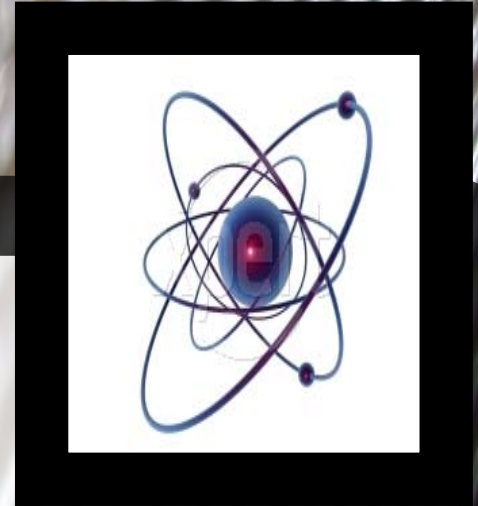
But CWG is by no means just a poetry society. Over the past year we've also organised prose workshops, Halloween storytelling in a dark, dark staircase in a dark, dark college, 100 word story competitions and much more. Prose writers are particularly invited to get in touch and organise their own events. Playwrights are active in the Guild too, with society member Ollie Evans' drama 'Untimely Figs' enjoying recent success at Corpus Playrooms and with regular 'script labs' organised by Issy McCann and Suzanne Gorman, Literary Director of new writing theatre 'Soho'. CWG is as diverse as the writers involved with it and we're always looking for new ideas.

Over the next term, we're planning an exciting collaboration with Kettle's Yard, so it's a great time to get involved. If you want to be put on the CWG mailing list, or are interested in organising your own events, contact hm317@cam.ac.uk.

All images @ www.morguefile.com

Cambridge University Scientific Society

Adrian Slusarczyk



From Newton to Darwin, from Maxwell to Crick and Watson, Cambridge scientists have transformed this world with their ideas. Cambridge remains at the forefront of science because it brings great minds and promising students together and allows them to stimulate each other. Doing so across subject boundaries is the aim of the Cambridge University Scientific Society – the largest science society in the university and part of the “Cambridge experience” for scientists and interested non-scientists alike.

SciSoc, as which it is also known, was founded in 1995 by students and is open to all who enjoy science, regardless of their subject. Among the members are undergraduate and graduate science students, mathematicians, engineers and medics, members of the faculty and staff and a few individuals from outside the university, many of whom work for local technology companies. Today it has about 800 lifetime members. A further 1600 people subscribed to the free newsletter.

During term-time, the society organises a series of weekly with world-class scientists from all disciplines, as well as those who communicate science in the media or apply it in the economy. None of the specialist or college science societies organises such events on a regular weekly basis. SciSoc’s speakers come in part from Cambridge, in part from other institutions in the UK and Europe, and have included a number of Nobel laureates.

The talks’ subject matter is accessible to all with a general scientific school background, and the talks are followed by often vivid discussions with the speaker over wine, juice and biscuits provided by SciSoc. Last year, a start-up company was among the many things emerging from one of these stimulating conversations.

Among the social events SciSoc organises are dinners and cocktail evenings for scientists, the annual Garden Party and the Founders’ Dinner – a popular black-tie event attended by over 200 people last year. Several events each year, such as a Christmas Dinner, are organised together with other science societies such as the Biological and Physics societies and provide a chance to socialise with fellow scientists one might otherwise never have met.

$$E=MC^2$$

The society is run by an executive and a general committee with a combined headcount of between 10 and 15. The general committee gets to invite fascinating speakers, dine with them at Brown's restaurant before each talk with SciSoc footing 50% of the bill, and ensures that every event runs smoothly. Without taking on too much commitment up front, general committee members can contribute their skills in many areas – be it by taking photos at the events, publicising talks to the Cambridge community or taking charge of organising a dinner. The next general committee will be elected on 28th November for one term and is a great chance to get involved with SciSoc.

The executive committee is elected for one year every Lent term. Its officers are in charge of specific areas of the society's operations, such as press and media, publicity, IT, social events or finance. They are responsible for liaising with local media about upcoming events and provide them with news and photos. They advertise society events, oversee the organisation of events and keep an eye on expenses and the society's revenue, which comes to a large extent from our sponsors – Bayer CropScience and Science International.

By taking on key responsibilities in a renowned and growing organisation, as a member of the executive committee you can improve and apply your organisational skills as well as any specialist ones for each position. You will be part of a committed, professional and enthusiastic team, comprised of both undergraduates and graduates.

Take a look at our website at www.scisoc.com to find out about our upcoming events. By coming along to one of our talks (they are free for members and cost 1 pound for non-members), you get a chance to chat with the committee as well as with the speaker afterwards – it's a great opportunity to get a first-hand impression of SciSoc and what it can offer you. You can also email the presidents (president@scisoc.com) with any inquiries. Getting involved with the Scientific Society is not just another addition to your CV – it's your chance to experience the exceptionally stimulating atmosphere of science in Cambridge.

Contacts:

Adrian Slusarczyk and Cong Cong Bo
Presidents
www.scisoc.com
presidents@scisoc.com

Talks usually held at 8pm every Tuesday at the Dept of Pharmacology, Tennis Court Road. See website for details.

The Cambridge Canadian Club

Mary Pine

Founded in 1948, the Cambridge Canadian Club is an organization of post-graduate students, undergraduates and members of the University of Cambridge. While many are Canadian, others simply take an interest in Canada – our membership is open to all!

The Club has a long tradition of organizing social, cultural, academic, and career events throughout each year, made possible by generous donations from businesses and organisations in the UK and Canada. Such events serve both to create links among Cambridge Canadians and friends of Canada, and allow our members to form contacts for

their career futures, whether in Canada or abroad. Yearly events have included career seminars with representatives from the public and private sectors of Canada and the UK, traditional black-tie dinners with the Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, film nights showcasing Canadian cinema, curling sessions, hockey events, barbeques, pub nights and other social events. In addition to keeping our members informed of events in Cambridge, we also keep strong ties with the Canadian social, academic and career scene in London, and host reciprocal events with the High Commission, LSE and other organisations.

All images @ Mary Pine



The Club is run by an Executive Committee, which comprises a small, enthusiastic and fun-loving group of Canadian graduate students. We meet approximately once a month for casual discussion and planning over a pint (or two) at the pub, and have a great time planning, organizing and executing events. We also appreciate suggestions from our members on future events, and will oblige whenever we can. And yes, we know – more hockey!

If you'd just like to know more about the Club, please visit our website at <http://www.srcf.ucam.org/cdnclub/>. Yearly membership is just 5 pounds, enabling you to attend all our events free or at a reduced rate, and to get informed about the many interesting goings-on around Cambridge and London (and there really are a lot). In recent years, we've achieved new records in club membership, a clear sign that the Cambridge Canadian Club has generated much interest among students and the wider Canadian community at Cambridge.



And if you're wondering: no - *you don't have to be Canadian* or even a student to be a member! We have many British, American and European members, as well as non-student members in the broader community. It's a great way to learn about career opportunities, meet some really friendly people and do some networking at the same time. And besides, how else would you celebrate Thanksgiving and Canada Day? Give it a go, eh!

[Please note: because many of our former executive members have recently graduated, we are currently seeking new Committee members, so if you're interested, please see our website - above.]

72% of ideas turn up when
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Cambridge University Entrepreneurs

Emma Yap

Cambridge University Entrepreneurs organise the most successful student-run business planning and creation competitions in Europe. It is run by a dedicated committee of postgraduate and undergraduate students who are passionate about educating staff and students about enterprise and helping them to create global companies with the potential to shape the world.

Since CUE started in 1999, it has received over 450 entries and awarded over £280,000 in grants to 31 business ideas. These companies have raised more than £8m of further funding and are currently valued at more than £22m. CUE competitions help entrants with everything from finding business ideas to creating global companies. Many CUE alumni have gone on to set up successful companies, such as Light Blue Optics and Owlstone, many of which are based in Cambridge. CUE's competition winners have a strong record of success; two previous competition winners, Margo and Optisynx, are currently on the shortlist for receiving funding in the Running the Gauntlet competition. "I was a finalist in the business plan program and we received an incredible quality of in-depth training you would expect to pay a huge amount for. The mentoring and support I received from being involved in CUE was best in class and commercially extremely valuable. CUE is definitely not an opportunity to be missed," said Rend Shakir, CEO of Cambridge Matrix and previously runner-up Cambridge Businesswoman of the year.

This year, CUE is running a Business Ideas competition and a Business Creation competition that is open to both staff and students. The Business Ideas competition requires entrants to submit 1500 words summarising their idea and is ideal for those who want feedback on a business idea and the chance to win £1000 cash. People are encouraged to enter the Business Creation competition if they feel they are ready to create a business sometime in the next year and want feedback on their idea, professional mentorship, introductions to potential investors, media exposure and the chance to win at least £5000. CUE helps competitors in every stage of developing their business ideas – they hold various workshops which provide training in essential business skills, feedback from world class entrepreneurs, mentoring by experienced professionals, media exposure for business ideas, introductions to a network of entrepreneurs, investors and potential partners and introduction to the private equity world around Cambridge.

CUE caters for any kind of idea, both for-profit and not-for-profit through the 3P (People, Planet, Productivity) branch of its Business Creation competition which rewards ideas focused on creating social or environmental benefits. One previous winner of the 3P competition, the software company Aidworld, works with the UN to provide software which makes the internet accessible to areas of sub-Saharan Africa with the poorest communications networks.

All those interested are encouraged to attend the CUE £1k Boot Camp which will be taking place in November. This will teach entrants how to write a winning executive summary and will be an excellent opportunity to network. Potential entrants are also encouraged to attend Enterprise Tuesday, a free evening programme organised by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning. The first event, on Motivation, will take place at 6 p.m. on 24th October at the Engineering Department. For more information please see www.cue.org.uk

The Cambridge Golf Club

David Zaayman

Serious fun. That's how generations of Cambridge golfers have described their longstanding rivalry with Oxford – a rivalry that has fought out 117 Varsity Matches, making it the oldest amateur competition in all of golf. The phrase “serious fun” has always embodied what golf at Cambridge is all about. Whether at our weekly, longstanding fixtures against some of the great golf clubs in England, the famous (and quirky) annual competition for the President's Putter in the depths of winter at Rye Links on the English Channel, the tightly-contested Varsity Match, or our summer tours to classic Open Championship venues, “serious fun” captures the lifetime of competitive enjoyment that Cambridge golf can offer.

“Walking through Cambridge in the dawn twilight of autumn was like the chilling promises of a mermaid.”

The poet Patric Dickinson won his golfing Blue whilst at Cambridge. He put into words the experience that every Cambridge golfer still has, week-in-week-out through the autumn and winter terms. Early mornings, full days of golf, even fuller lunches, and the well-trod path home to the Cambridge Fens spent reflecting on a day of good golf and company.

“By half-past nine we were changing to play Sunningdale, say, or Woking. A serious innocence in golf in those beautiful birch and heather and emerald green gardens kept me straight.”

The relationships that Cambridge golf has with the best clubs throughout England are long-standing and highly valued. This year

will see the centenary match of Cambridge versus Walton Heath, an event celebrated with a black-tie dinner hosted by the club. Occasions like this are indicative of the richness of the Cambridge golf experience. Every weekend, Cambridge golfers are treated as honoured guests in another person's home. Two rounds of golf, a full roast lunch, and refreshments aplenty are the standard of the day. Often your opponents are old Cambridge and Oxford Blues, strengthening the generational ties of a game that can be played for a lifetime. It is an experience the dedicated golfer could never hope to purchase. The value of a day's golf as a member of the CUGC goes far beyond price.

“After tea, and possibly a drink, there was a tedious drive back to Cambridge, eastward into darkening night, sometimes against time, for cars had to be in by eight-thirty. It never seemed a long day.”

The days of golf and travel throughout the terms all lead to a single point: the Varsity Match in late March. For the Blues, the second team Stymies, and the Ladies, Varsity Week is packed full of competition, anxiety, and serious, deliberate fun. In Patric Dickinson's day and before, the Oxford and Cambridge sides used to supply players for the Walker Cup and international teams. With only one point separating the two sides over the past three years, the competition is no less fierce today.

Being a member of the Cambridge University Golf Club offers passage to a time that seems long gone in a modern age. For 10 men each year, there still is a chance to be asked, as Dickinson was, “Would you care to play against Oxford?” As though one might have something better to do that day.

Electronic Literature and the Multimedia Hypertext Fiction: A Review of Megan Heyward's of day, of night

Rose Hepworth

'A few months ago I came to realise slowly, quietly, without any great drama that I seemed to have lost the ability to dream.'
~ of day, of night

"of day, of night" is one of those reassuring, faith-restoring new media works in which the reader is no longer a casualty in the cross-fire between a compelling narrative and interactivity. Megan Heyward brings about a harmonious coexistence, which is skilfully braided together with other symbioses: plot/structure and text/image/sound.

Like "I Am A Singer" (1997), this latest CD-ROM is concerned with the relationship between memory and identity. The protagonist, Sophie, has lost the ability to dream. We accompany her as she explores her daytime environment and collects discarded objects that surrender fictional fragments. These memories resonate through her subconscious, culminating in a haunting dreamscape.

Despite requiring a degree of interactivity (Heyward seems to prefer 'audience participation'), the participator feels secure in Heyward's hands, confident that she is highly skilled in the craft of storytelling.

Upon entering the world of the story, the screen shows a map. By exploring the map with the cursor, three markers are revealed, 'before', 'realise' and 'halfway'. These can be selected and each serves as a portal to a section of introductory narrative in which Sophie introduces herself and the foundation stone of the story: her inability to dream.

This is familiar ground. Our objective is a response to the



crisis; that is, we must help Sophie reclaim her dreams, but we also want to explore the map and its half-hidden landmarks which (dis)appear as the mouse passes over them. Fortunately, undertaking such an exploration is the key to helping Sophie, and the result is mesmerisingly immersive. Heyward ensures we're not let loose on the map to romp about randomly, tying the threads of the narrative into messy unintelligible knots. Rather, Heyward lets out the slack a little at a time, allowing us to play and weave, until our gradual comprehension unlocks another area of the map and thus another section of the story.

In the introduction, Heyward describes her desire to create a 'fluid relationship between narrative and interactive elements where participation appears seamless'. Reading this, Shelley Jackson's Patchwork Girl (1995) springs to mind - another electronic text in which interactivity/participation advances the narrative rather than detracting

She knew that Susie wasn't just a doll.
 She was her real little sister. Susie came everywhere.
 In the daytime she would dress Susie up and feed her,
 then **push** her around in the white pram.
 At night she would wrap her in blankets and put her to bed.



One time she even took Susie in the bath, but never again.
 She had screamed when she saw the **water** streaming
 endlessly out of her legs and arms and neck.

describe



halfway



realise

all images © Megan Hayward

from it (an issue receiving much attention from practitioners and theorists alike). Indeed, it is from such clever integration that much of the narrative intensity originates. Interestingly, whereas Jackson's text and protagonist draw strength from the visibility of their seams, it is the seamless nature of Heyward's text that beckons and bewitches.

Also seamless is the language of the piece: a merging of text, image and sound. The use of the cinematic loop is not merely illustrative but neither is it the dominant narrative channel. The text is punctuated with highlighted words that 'speak' when the mouse is passed over them, revealing audio snapshots that are almost tangible. The musical theme, an hypnotic ebb and flow, adds to the fluidity, accompanying the participator throughout her travels in the day environment and replaced in 'night' by a cavernous gallery of sounds which form a backdrop to whispered lines from Sophie's dreams.

The 'map of sorts' charts the territory for the first section, 'day'. It is the central point in the piece, the point to which the participator must return and pass through in order to progress through the story. It is unsurprising then, that the map demonstrates a convergence of the seamless relationships that I, as participator, have found so effective. Most obviously, it is an important navigational aid but it's also a pictorial metaphor for the logic we try to impose upon our consciousness and waking life. Each area that is explored permits us to access another area, the way one memory triggers a myriad others. Mousing over these titles on the map makes them appear and disappear, you forget what an area is called, where it is located, or if it was really ever there - just like ideas, thoughts and memories that are flickeringly elusive. In this way, the order imposed by the map is resisted by the presentation of the piece. Even as Sophie tries to exert some control over her unconscious mind, when her dreams return they are crazy compositions of the fragments of stories yielded by the day objects.

The map also adds to the sense of cohesion - the territory it charts mirrors the narrative progression. As we explore the map, Sophie explores the objects, as we explore the narrative fragments, Sophie explores her unconsciousness. This is really satisfying for the reader/participator who has achieved both her objectives while being told a luscious story, the meandering, branching, unravelling structure of which does a good proportion of the storytelling.

Navigating the world of Megan Heyward's of "day, of night" is to experience the succulent, polyphyletic language of new media writing at its beautiful, poetic and compelling best.

An American in Cambridge

In which a deal goes bust twice, seasoning is nothing to sneeze at, and pickle saves the day

Anne Henochowicz

The most surprising thing about the U.K. so far is how surprising it is. I assumed that a European country would require minor adjustments for an American. And we speak the same language.

As it turns out, we don't quite speak the same language, Great Britain is a "funny island" apart from the Continent, and Cambridge is an island all its own. I've made my fair share of mistakes, some humorous, since I arrived in late September. I hope that, by sharing my misadventures with you, you can avoid the same. Or at least sympathize with another confused American.

Going the distance

Wolfson Court, the annex to Girton College, is about a mile from town. Life is hard on a Wolfie without wheels. I bought a bike on my second day here.

Now, I'm a frugal graduate student, and the exchange rate is about two U.S. dollars to the pound. Even the British students recommended buying a used bike, on the logic that it'll just get ruined anyway. So instead of getting the £80 new lady's bike, gleaming lilac and silver, I opted instead for the £50 black Mistral.

A week later, I got a flat tire. This could happen on a new bike, true. But this was more than a puncture. The repairman said I needed a new tire (probably because the old one had seen better days). £20 there. Well, OK, still cheaper than the pretty purple bike. As I pedaled home from the shop, one of the back reflectors fell off.

The next day, the same tire was flat again. Another £20 for that. So my used bike cost more money, and much more time, than the nice new one.

And how did that reflector fall off? The back frame is rusted so much around the bolt that nothing was holding it in. I've patched other rusty spots with duct tape. Lovely.

Sometimes you have to make an investment. Buy the pretty bike.



Lift = Elevator

Art Review

Petrol = Gasoline

Autumn = Fall

Oregano or oregano?

As far back as I can remember, I have been perplexed by herbs. My British friend solved the mystery for me when I used “herb” in a sentence. “Erb,” she said in her finest American accent, “erb!” Never in my wildest fantasies did I imagine that the “h” in “herb” could be pronounced.

So what else is different? You say tomAYto, I say toMAto...

You say oreGANo (Oregon + o), I say oREgano
You say fairy cakes, I say cupcakes

kit = uniform
cotton buds = Q-tips
plasters = Band-Aids
zebra crossing = crosswalk
sugar paper = construction paper
typex = whiteout
guillotine = paper cutter

And my favorite: pants = underwear. Hold on to your trousers, kids, let's call the whole thing off.

Pickle, food of the gods

British food is notorious. Who invented Bubble-and-Squeak and Toad-in-the-Hole? Did he imagine those sounded appetising? Can the British redeem their reputation?

I think they already have, in their contribution to the international sandwich-making community. Pickle, my friends, should be in every fridge in the world. No, not pickles, pickle.

What is pickle? The ingredients list mentions “various vegetables,” and the Sainsbury generic brand doesn't go into any more detail. How does one eat pickle? With cheese on bread. With grilled cheese. Maybe some people put it on other foods, but it belongs in a cheese sandwich.

It's crunchy stuff in a mysterious sweet black goo. It's delicious. It saves the day and the midnight snack. It's brilliant. And I mean that in the British and American sense.

Pavement = Sidewalk



Emilia Wilton-Godberfforde

This latest gangster film, based on the novel by Giancarlo Cataldo (who also co-wrote the script) has been a huge hit in Italy. The story charts the rise and fall of three criminals leading the ill-famed 'Maglianagang', a criminal organisation which did actually plague the city of Rome from the late Seventies to the early Nineties. Going by the nicknames of Ice (Kim Rossi Stuart), Lebanese (Pierfrancesco Favino) and Dandy (Claudio Santamaria), this trio take control of Rome's criminal underworld and run drug-dealing and money laundering operations, violently quashing those who stand in

their way. As the years go on, their plans go awry and, unsurprisingly, their friendships are broken by betrayal and personal greed.

Their corrupt lives are set against the troubled times, the so-called 'anni di piombo' (leaden years) of Italy's history. Michele Placido layers the fictional depiction with TV news reports charting the kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro and the bombing of Bologna train station. He attempts to incorporate the human drama of the gangsters with these events but the storytelling becomes very murky as the film jumps forward too rapidly and then lingers over some time periods for far too long. The historical account is not seamlessly woven into the body of the film. Such breadth means it is very difficult to keep the plot cohesive and instead the film ends up replaying motifs of betrayal and vengeance. Similarly, Placido's homage to Luchino Visconti's *Rocco and His Brothers*, by use of the three-



The Interest



Trigger Happy



Temptation



Chillout



La Familia



Desperation



Casing the Joint



Patience



The Hit Squad



DriveBy

Directed by Michele Placido

Starring Kim Rossi Stuart, Anna Mouglalis, Pierfrancesco Favino, Claudio Santamaria, Stefano Accorsi, Riccardo Scamarcio, Jasmine Trinca and Toni Bertorelli

Country: Italy
Time: 152 minutes
Certificate: 15
Language: Italian

part structure of his film, in which each section tells the story from a different male character's perspective, is a nice idea but fails to work. These divisions seem to get lost in a film that is meandering and far too long, thus failing to keep you interested.

This is a terrible shame because the first hour of the film is fantastic. Beginning with these three teens smashing a car window, this explosive jolt sets the tone for much of the first part of the movie: violence, adrenaline-rush shootings and slick fast-paced editing infused with an energetic score. Songs like Sweet's 1973 'Ballroom Blitz' are used with gusto. This style unfortunately disappears as the film gets too caught up in the petty intricacies of the characters and ends up being overly sentimental. For example, when each of the characters die, they have a flash back to a key moment in their childhood solidarity and as this is repeated it becomes all the more

over-emotional and pathetic. (corny is slightly clichéd, is there a better way of expressing this?). Scenes of Lebanese in his luxurious villa are also rather overdone. The shots emphasize how power and money have not brought him happiness as he fritters time alone, miserably drinking and snorting coke.

Favino (Lebanese) is, nonetheless a very convincing actor and there are moments of real pathos as the film shows these characters to be vulnerable children who have never really grown up. The scene in which Lebanese accuses Freddo of breaking their pact of being a team 'forever' shows him to be desperately insecure and jealous of Freddo's progress. In fact, all the cast are excellent but particular mention should also be made of Kim Rossi Stuart who plays Freddo. He gives an outstanding performance and his expressive eyes show pain, fragility and explosive anger. We warm to him as a character, particularly when we see him care about his drug addict brother and have a tender and enduring love affair with a young teacher. Placido chose actors all with a background in theatre but said that he wanted to give the characters a real physicality and round off their edges. This works very well. Despite the strong cast and the stylish footage, however, this film is ultimately disappointing.



CU Pugwash Society – Think Science, Technology and World Affairs, not Piracy!

Rebecca Arkell

If I asked you to define science and technology what would you say? Simple, maybe? We all know what science and technology are. Don't we?

In fact the Oxford English Dictionary has 7 definitions for science, which is further subdivided into 19 sub-headings. Technology is slightly simpler with only 4 different definitions and 7 sub-headings. Maybe not as straightforward as we believed.

But why do I ask?

These two deceptively simple words represent a whole raft of ideas, inventions and simple everyday items that we take for granted. Science and technology interface with every aspect of our lives, from our electric toothbrushes and 'clinically proven' toothpaste to mobile phones, laptops and painkillers. So maybe we should be giving it a little more thought?

This is the whole idea behind the Cambridge University Student Pugwash Society. Student Pugwash encourages young people to examine the ethical, social and global implications of science and technology.

From such diverse topics as Nuclear Weapons, Climate Change, Bioethics and Security Economics we aim to take a look at issues that affect everyone, scientist and non-scientist alike. Whether we like it or not, ours is a generation that will have to deal with many of the global problems that face us. We need to develop new tools within an interdisciplinary framework to actively search for and realize sustainable and equitable solutions. We need to learn to think in a new way, and the first step is education about all these areas.

In regular meetings we bring together expert speakers and interested students. An initial talk by the expert gives us background on the subject and this is followed by questions and an informal discussion/debate. This gives us the opportunity to examine the topic from all angles and disciplinary viewpoints, allowing us to take a more informed stance on the issues.

The CU Student Pugwash Society is based on the ideas behind the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. These conferences (first held in the town of Pugwash, Canada) bring together a world-wide network of scientists, influential scholars and public figures concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems.

Originally founded in the 1950's by some of the most prominent scientists of the day, the society was based around the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. This Manifesto (signed by several Nobel Laureates and one of the last things that Einstein signed before his death) called for the abolition of weapons of mass destruction, and its final haunting words are as true today as they were then.

'There lies before us, if we choose, continual progress in happiness, knowledge, and wisdom. Shall we, instead, choose death, because we cannot forget our quarrels? We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new Paradise; if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death.'



In 1995 Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat (the only scientist to leave the Manhattan Project) and the Pugwash Conferences were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of their work during the Cold War.

While CU Student Pugwash has no Nobel Prize winning members (though I believe it's a secret aspiration for most graduate students) we are keen to encourage anyone interested in these subjects to attend our free meetings. Whatever your discipline, everyone, especially graduate students, adds another well-informed voice to our debates.

Some of our upcoming events include talks by Sir Martin Rees the Astronomer Royal (co-sponsored with Trinity College Science Society) and Dr Brian Rappert (Author of 'Controlling the Weapons of War: Politics, Persuasion and the Prohibition of Inhumanity'). We also have Dr Aubrey de Grey speaking on 'Life extension: scientists' duty to discuss timescales and consequences' and Dr Tim Hubbard on 'Sustainable biomedical R & D and the developing world'.

More information can be found on our webpage: www.cam.ac.uk/societies/pugwash/

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Graduate Student Parents: Facing A Financial Minefield

Elizabeth Boyle

My husband and I are both full-time PhD students, so when our daughter was born last July, we were confronted with the considerable challenge of completing research degrees whilst bringing up a child. I am lucky enough to be funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which means that I was entitled to four months of paid maternity leave, a luxury not given to the majority of new student parents, particularly those who are self-funded. But when those four months were up, we had to decide on what to do next – would we put our daughter into a nursery, and if so, how could anyone even begin to afford the £180 each week for a full-time place?

There are over 500 graduate student parents in Cambridge, of whom at least 200 have pre-school age children. Many manage without childcare by working during evenings and weekends when a supportive partner or family member is able to take over parenting duties. However, I seriously doubted that I would be able to complete my PhD within the tight timescale laid down by my funding body without some form of childcare. A part-time nursery place seemed to be the most satisfactory

compromise between finishing on time and indulging my guilt at sending my child off to nursery before she was old enough even to sit up. With fees around £450 per month, it was time to negotiate the minefield that is financial aid for graduate student parents.

To be sure, there is plenty of financial assistance available to parents who choose to send their children to nursery or to a childminder. However, the bewildering assortment of tax credits, child benefit, allowances, bursaries, government handouts and university and college assistance will need you to first study accountancy to be even remotely comprehensible.

Until recently, postgraduates funded by UK Research Councils – such as the AHRC, BBSRC and others – could apply for a Young Dependants Allowance if they were a single parent or if their partner was in full-time education. But that allowance was discontinued at the end of the 2006, with the exception of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which is extending the scheme up to the end of 2007. The allowance was worth up to £2145 for students with one child, and £3,375 for two children or more. That could go a long way towards alleviating the immense financial pressure faced by full-time research students.





When I queried the umbrella organisation, Research Councils UK, why they had decided to end that allowance, they said that they were “responding to the changing environment for postgraduate funding. Following implementation of the recommendations of the Roberts’ review into postgraduate funding, the PhD stipend is now at least £12,000 tax-free and this is considered to provide an adequate standard of living. In addition, students are eligible to claim other benefits such as family tax credits. The additional support through YDA was considered not to be required given the level of support now available”.

The position of Research Councils seem to be £12,000 is sufficient for all graduate students, whether they are a single person living in subsidised college accommodation, or a single parent with three hungry mouths to feed. They justify this by pointing to further government assistance, such as tax credits. Whilst it is true that graduate students are eligible to claim Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit, they are not eligible for Working Tax Credit, which can pay up to 70% of childcare costs, since graduates are not considered to be working. Instead, UK students can apply for a separate government initiative, the Access to Learning Fund, which is designed to support students “who need financial help to meet specific course and living costs that are not already being met from other sources”. Whilst overseas and EU students can apply for University’s Childcare Bursary Scheme, although not all colleges subscribe to that. Students at Christ’s, Pembroke, Peterhouse,

Queen’s, St John’s and Sidney Sussex cannot apply for a bursary towards the cost of childcare for pre-school age children. Admittedly, some of these colleges have their own sources of assistance for those experiencing financial hardship, but this is neither as transparent nor as simple as contributing to a central bursary scheme.

Support systems within the university have improved greatly in recent years; the appointment of a designated Childcare Information Officer, Cassie Marks, has provided students with a central point of information on social and financial assistance. Marks points to significant advances such as the University’s central nursery scheme, but she admits that there is “more we can do, both financially and practically”. She adds that “childcare costs are incredibly high in Cambridge and students with these extra costs need more funding, whether from the Government, who currently offer no direct support for graduate students, Colleges or the University”.

The government and the media fret about demographic and social problems caused by Britain’s low birth-rate, the high number of women putting off having children into their thirties or later, and the so-called ‘brain-drain’. So it seems ridiculous that research students are wading through complex financial regulations, enduring hours of form-filling, only to find that they are ineligible for certain tax credits, or that they find themselves in a college that does not subscribe to the Childcare Bursary Scheme. The overall impression is of a system that is over complicated, unequal and lacking in transparency. It is a great loss when our brightest students walk away from research careers because of a lack of support.



Hetal's Guide To Housemates – Survival Tips To Cope With The People You Live With

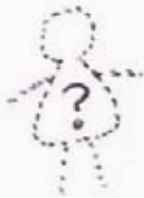
Hetal Kiran Patel

Shower Hog



As their name suggests, they spend ridiculous amounts of time in the shower, often the only one available to the whole house. Threaten to make them use a hose pipe in the garden instead if they don't come out quicker or try setting off the fire alarm while they are in there. This may not always work as the Shower Hog may just decide to stay in there while the house burns down. After all, they are in the bath and will probably survive in all that water anyway.

Invisible Man



These housemates are just simply never there. You suspect that no one is living in that room at all. It can be quite disconcerting when you do eventually see them and ask who they are and how they got into your house. They are either very busy at their department (vets/medics/scientists), out on field work (archeology and anthropology/SPSS) or doing something else (rower/party animal/serial one-night-stander/assassin)

Neat Freak



Most people have a normal and relaxed attitude to cleaning. Not the Neat Freak, however. It is almost as bad as living with your mother, worse actually as she would usually feed you as she tidies up. Rebel by making the place a dump and leave them to clean it for you, they will soon give up their nagging ways. If you happen to find a rat or other such vermin, you have gone too far. Strap on some rubber gloves and get cleaning yourself!

Party Animal



They like to have fun, as they are more than happy to tell you as they stumble into the house in the wee hours of the morning and throw up outside your door. Earplugs come in useful here too. Your options are as follows, you can either join in the fun and enjoy yourself or buy some horse tranquillisers to knock them out. Either option will wear off eventually.

The True Friend



These housemates are rare gems and as such, should be treasured. Fun times lie ahead with them and you can always rely on their support when things get rough. Also, if you yourself happen to fall into any of the categories listed above, they are likely to be more forgiving about it. However, that doesn't mean they won't tease you at every given opportunity but its worth it in the end. I hope!

Moving into a college house, as many graduate students will be doing this term, can be a daunting experience. This guide takes you through a range of possible housemates you could encounter and a few hints and tips on how to cope with them.

Nervous Wreck



This breed of housemate can either be the secretive, sly kind that will eventually turn into an axe-murderer and take out everyone in a quarter mile radius or be so skittish and spooked that a cheerful hello from you will send them into cardiac arrest. Both have the potential to self-destruct so caution is advised as they may take you down with them.

Nocturnal Vampire



They tend to be most active during the night. You may find that things in the kitchen or living room have moved when you come down in the morning. Comp-Sci's are a classic example of this but they can be found on almost every course here. However, if you suspect that your housemate is a real vampire, remember to lock the bedroom door at night and eat lots of garlic at dinner. Please try not to stake anyone through the heart unless you are absolutely certain they are a vampire. A strong indication would be waking up to find them hovering over you and about to bite down on your neck.

Homemaker



The single function of a Homemaker is to move in their respective partner and take care of them. You may start to notice a vase of fresh flowers on the kitchen table or new curtains hanging in the hallway. You will also get the sense that the Homemaker would be much happier if they had the entire house to themselves and their beloved and that you are getting in the way of their perfect and beautiful future together. Remember not to feel guilty about this, you pay the rent!!!

Food Stealer



If you find that the level of your milk has gone down dramatically since yesterday or that your secret stash of chocolate digestives has been disappearing faster than your broken diet days should allow, you may just be living with a Food Stealer. They usually live by the motto – why should I buy food when you have more than enough to go around. One trick to deter all but the most desperate of Food Stealers is to leave notes on your entire stash of food saying, “I licked/spat/sneezed on this”. It may also have the down side of putting you off eating it too though.

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