My research investigates whether similar emotion-driven attention biases exist in horses. The ambition will be that gauging these biases becomes part of the assessment of animal emotions, an important goal in animal welfare science.

Eyes convey an individual’s object of attention while items out of focus become blurred and indefinite as illustrated in this picture. Studying horses’ attentional response to environmental stimuli in emotional situations may contribute to a better understanding of animal emotions and ultimately promote animal welfare.

Sarah Kappel
PhD Researcher
Biological Sciences
First sight of PGR life

This picture was taken on the plane to London; after more than 30 hours of flying this was my first sight of Britain. The various landmarks, London Eye and the Thames can be seen quite clearly. It wasn't as rainy and cloudy as I thought it would be, instead it was sunny and the sight was clear. After landing, a brand-new life was going to start.

Assistant or competitor?

This picture was taken at Shanghai Museum of Glass.

With the rapid development of new technology I wonder what changes and opportunities the arts will face. Art can convey sentiment and perception by practice and creation, however, elements of art can be learned by a computer, and artificial intelligence can also create its own art, so in the future whose emotions will art express? Will it provide a new perspective to observe the world?

Jessica Yan
PhD Researcher
Codex (Art, Design and Technology)
In an age of perfectionism and competitive individualism with increasing pressure to be ‘liked’, my research considers an emerging digital ‘aesthetics of self’. In Self-Portrait from a Previous Selfie (2018), the democratisation of self-portraiture in popular culture (via the selfie), is linked to self-representation in contemporary women’s art. Through practice-led research, I use diverse forms of photographic and moving-image media, including Smartphones, to investigate how the curation and comparison of ideal versions of oneself impact on acceptance of the real, unedited self. My PhD project explores what the selfie says and why through issues of identity, performance and self, alongside the potential impact on socio-cultural attitudes. In using myself as both subject and object in an embodied arts practice, I question why we seem so keen to ‘shoot ourselves’ for public consumption and seek to define a new cultural metaphor.

Gail Flockhart
PhD Researcher
Art & Media
Shining a light on Myelin
The brain is alight with electrical impulse, firing from one region to another along extensive tracts. For my image, I wanted to represent this complex, delicate circuitry in a gross physical form. Pulsing brain activity shown by a tangle of fairy lights enshrouded by electrical tape. This tape representing myelin, an insulating and protective wrap that forms around brain fibres. Myelin is critical in ensuring efficient transmission through these fibres and maintaining effective communication across brain circuitry. If myelin becomes damaged or diminished, there can be dire consequences for the brain. Like frayed electrical wires, the circuit is lost. This plays a significant role in conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Alzheimer’s. My research investigates the what, why and how of myelin changes, to better understand these conditions and strive to improve lives and knowledge.

Verity F T Mitchener
PhD Researcher
Medical Studies
Going fishing: how suitable is the giant mud crab as a sustainable livelihood resource?

For many from coastal communities, fishing is the prime and sometimes only source of income. However, due to the increasing human population in India coupled with a growing demand for fishes and crabs in market, fish and crustacean stocks are declining, leaving fishers in a tough predicament. The aim of my interdisciplinary research project is to assess whether the mud crab Scylla serrata, an economically important species throughout South Asia, can serve as a sustainable livelihood resource for local communities in South West India and what limits fishers to undertake small-scale mud crab aquaculture that would provide more stable income. To fully assess the risks and opportunities, we apply both biological and social science approaches, aiming to inform local policy makers and contribute to the body of literature on Scylla serrata.

Elina Apine
PhD Researcher
Marine Sciences
My research originates from my friend’s mother and her experience of prosthetic breasts. After surgery to remove her breast cancer, my friend’s mother was provided with a silicone prosthesis to wear inside her bra. She rejected it, choosing to wear nothing. I was inspired to see how the look of, and emotional response to, the prosthesis could be improved. Speaking with other breast prosthesis owners taught me that I needed to address comfort: the common complaint is that prostheses are heavy, hot and sweaty to wear. In response, I developed a non-solid form that would allow air to circulate to create breathability and make it more lightweight by removing some of the material.

Realism is the long-held standard in prosthetic breasts, despite a broadening of styles in other prosthetics. I am working with women to design alternative, non-realistic prostheses that they will enjoy wearing because they are beautiful and comfortable.

Rosie Brave
Research Masters
Digital Art and Technology

LGBT+ History month | UK National Heart Month | Raynaud’s Awareness Month | Youth Leadership Month

**SPECIAL DAYS**

02  - Imbolc - Lughassad (Wicca/Pagan)
03  - Setsubun (Shinto)
04  - World Cancer Day (UN)
06  - International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (UN)
08  - Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
09  - Autism Sunday
10  - Tu B’Shevat (Judaism)
11  - World Pulses Day
12  - International Red Hand Day for Child Soldiers
14  - Saint Valentine’s Day (Christian)
15  - Nirvana Day (Jain)
16  - Meatfare Sunday (Christian)
17  - Transfiguration Sunday (Christian)
18  - Ash Wednesday (Christian)
19  - Intercalary Days begin (Baha’i)

**KEY**
- Diversity
- Health
- Faith
- Environment
- International
- Bank Holiday

2020

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16  17  18  19  20  21  22

23  24  25  26  27  28  29
My practice-led research interrogates the concept of domestication and the way that it is symbolically present in the everyday life of women in the Iranian city of Mashhad. My aim in this study is to provide an insight into the lives of Iranian women through their everyday rituals in the domestic environment. During the time I have lived in Iran, I recognized that domesticity is primarily considered to be, and performed as, a woman’s main duty. Iranian women continue to depend on men as providers and are socio-culturally constructed to think of themselves as inferior to them, thus leading to the oppression of women in their everyday lives. Such a construct leads women to think that the role of domesticity is primarily to be performed by them and that it is their main duty in everyday life. In this photo, the yellow washing gloves are decorated with artificial vivid pink nails which were glued to the gloves. This critiques the modern housewife whose appearance has developed progressively, while her social expectations have not changed.

Marjan Saberi
PhD Researcher
Art & Media
My research into the impact of storms on our coastlines means I am fortunate enough to spend a lot of time at the beach, often at first light or just before sunset. This picture was taken at Droskyn headland, Perranporth U.K. at last light on the 31st of January 2017. Following a period of high winds and large waves, a break in the weather produced this stunning combination of sea and sky. While it is not always easy collecting data during extreme weather, moments like this remind me why it is so important to understand and protect our coastal environment.

Oliver Billson
PhD Researcher
Marine Sciences
**Statement of Memory: Llanedeyrn 1**
The title refers to the Cardiff council estate where I lived as a child next door to a teenage girl who was murdered. The creative nonfiction book I am writing attempts to trace the histories of our two families at that time as they become locked in feuds and subject to poverty and tragedy.

The houses in this image are identical to hundreds of others on the estate. Families moved here from Cardiff docks or other parts of the city and left behind shared pasts. They moved to a place without street names, just districts named after long-vanished Welsh landscape markings.

But although cast in concrete, this place is not made of a substance that remembers nothing: every day the inhabitants leave their mark and what is left behind has a richness and emotional depth that quickly creates a new history imprinted on the estate.

Russell Evans
PhD Researcher
Creative Writing
**SPECIAL DAYS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Volunteers Week (1st-7th)</td>
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<td>03</td>
<td>Global Day of Parents (UN)</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>World Bicycle Day (UN)</td>
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<td>05</td>
<td>International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Agression (UN)</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>World Oceans Day (UN)</td>
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<td>World Environment Day (UN)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>World Day Against Child Labour (UN)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>International Albinism Awareness Day (UN)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>World Blood Donor Day (WHO)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Refugee Week 15th - 21st</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Men’s Health Week 15th - 21st</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (UN)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Guru Arjan Sahib Martyrdom Day (Sikh)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (UN)</td>
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<td>Sustainable Gastronomy Day (UN)</td>
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<td>World Refugee Day (UN)</td>
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<td>World Humanist Day</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>World Vitiligo Day</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>International Day of the Tropics (UN)</td>
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**While my eyes can still see, your smile will always reach my heart.**

Ageing should be a pleasant journey, however, obstacles are found on the way and usually associated with health. Our lifespan increases every year and along with it the number of people with visual impairments related to ageing. Our eyes are a vital part of our being, are the doorway to our soul, our feelings and emotions. They see and are seen. Such impairments affect an individual and dear family. I want you to perceive the ones you love smile and warming your heart. Therefore, my research aims to improve and develop efficient ways of screening and monitoring age-related macular degeneration, hoping to impact wellbeing for good.

**João Alhada Lourenço**  
**PhD Researcher**  
**Health Studies**
Many marine species have a life history stage where they exist as a member of the plankton. Some species, like copepods, spend their whole life in the plankton, whereas others, like barnacles, starfish, mussels and crabs, will only exist in the plankton during their larval stage, later settling onto suitable substrate and metamorphosing into their adult form. This photo shows a zoea: the larval stage of a crab, collected using a plankton net from Bigbury on Sea, South Devon. The spiny appendages on its body are thought to be used for swimming, buoyancy and protection against predators. Understanding how and where marine larvae disperse in the oceans when they are in the plankton allows us to better understand species distribution patterns, which play an important role in fisheries management and conservation agendas.

Molly James
PhD Researcher
Marine Sciences

KEY
- Diversity
- Health
- Faith
- Environment
- International
- Bank Holiday

SPECIAL DAYS
04  Asalha Puja (Buddhist)
09  Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
11  World Population Day
12  The Twelfth (Northern Ireland)
14  Malala Day (UN)
14  Bastille Day (France)
15  World Youth Skills Day
17  World Day for International Justice (UN)
18  Nelson Mandela International Day (UN)
24  Pioneer Day (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
28  World Hepatitis Day (WHO)
29  Waqf al-Arafa Hajj (Islam)
30  Eid al-Adha (Islam)
30  International Day of Friendship (UN)
30  Tisha B’Av (Judaism)
31  World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (UN)
31  Varalakshmi Vrat (Hindu)
The real essence of research is in the people. It’s moments like these, discussing work in a new café, in a new city, after a conference, when you realise how lucky you are being able to call these people friends as well as colleagues. In this case, at Chloe’s in the Seaport district of Boston, discussing how to teach and assess on an interprofessional programme combining Dental Surgery and Dental Therapy and Hygiene students, and how to show that teaching students from different courses together can overcome barriers to teamwork once out in practice. Boston, MA, 2018.

Dr Daniel Zahra
Lecturer in Assessment Psychometrics
An important part of our University is the value we place on being a diverse and inclusive community, where we learn and benefit from our rich variety of backgrounds and beliefs. This in part is why the University of Plymouth is such an enriching place to work and to study.

The front cover image is by Dr Rupert Jones, Associate Professor (Research), Clinical Trials & Health Research

Our research programme addresses prevention and management of chronic lung disease in global settings. The programme is called FRESH AIR. I took this picture in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan where we were investigating smoke exposure from yak dung fires in local people who spend up to 9 months of the year living in yurts heated by dung fires. Our work also teaches breathless patients to get fitter and stronger. This fleeting image of a local research doctor, Birmet, seemed to capture the fresh air and vitality of the mountains. Health and vitality are fleeting and fragile- we hope our research is keeping people well and energetic by preventing premature lung disease.

The image above is by Jennifer-Anne Crowther, PhD

Water droplets on a 3cm section of a window edge, as the sun rises behind, illuminating the scattered fragments. These minuscule details which can be missed when going about our daily lives are elevated to evoke a sense of awe, echoing sentiments of the artistic concept of the Sublime. The term refers to an experience of greatness elevated to evoke a sense of awe, echoing sentiments of the artistic concept of the Sublime. The term refers to an experience of greatness beyond all measure; inspiring feelings of grandeur and wonder, that can descend into anxiety and terror due to our inability to comprehend the experience. With a focus on memory and melancholy, my research is a reimagining of the traditional concepts of the Sublime for contemporary photographic practice. The aim of which is to explore the idea of the vast, untameable landscapes the Sublime is associated with, and to instead ground the experience within our everyday lives, a slowing down, thus visualising an extraordinary everyday.

Athena SWAN

The University of Plymouth has been a member of ECU and the Athena SWAN charter since 2009 and was recently awarded a Bronze charter mark for our work on tackling gender inequality in Higher Education.

Athena SWAN requires us to review equality data to enable us to review how our women and men are represented across our grades and able to progress through the University, including the identification of possible barriers within the working environment. We are also looking at intersectionality, including for example, the representation of female BME staff. You can find out more about our Athena SWAN work by visiting www.plymouth.ac.uk/equality.

The Forum for Race Equality and Diversity Awareness (FREDA):

- Is an open access network of people across the South West who have an interest in practice learning and development in the promotion of race equality, social justice and human rights
- Is committed to active and continual learning
- Designs and facilitates open learning events
- Develops resources to support practice development underpinned by the values and standards of FREDA
- Works in partnership with the University of Plymouth

FREDA activities are organised by a small working party of local practitioners, academics, students, service users and practice educators. We are currently a group of eight and meet about every six weeks on the University of Plymouth campus.

If you would like to come along to any of the working party meetings please leave your contact details with freda@plymouth.ac.uk and one of us will get back to you with information about the next meeting or event. You would be very welcome.

AccessAble

We are committed to promoting a positive workplace and study environment, free from unlawful discrimination for our employees and students on the grounds of disability and we are proud to partner with AccessAble to ensure our campus is accessible to all. Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, and can mean different things to different people.

We offer a range of guidance and support and ensure that we consult with employees or students to determine and make reasonable adjustments as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

A dedicated team in Disability Assist Services provide advice and support for current and prospective disabled students. For details of how to visit us, go to www.plymouth.ac.uk/travel

Stonewall

DIVERSITY CHAMPION

Our equality and diversity and anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies make it clear that discrimination or harassment on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender reassignment is unacceptable.

We work closely with our LGBT+ Staff Forum and we’re proud to be a member of the Stonewall Diversity Champions programme. LGBT+ student representatives are consulted on matters such as the development of the student handbook. We also work closely with local trans and non-binary support groups to develop policies and services to support trans and non-binary staff and students.

We engage with the wider LGBT community and recently hosted an exhibition of selections from the Plymouth LGBT Community Archive as well as supporting Plymouth Pride.

You can find out more about our LGBT Staff Forum by emailing LGBTForum@plymouth.ac.uk
The Doctoral College works with all areas of the University to enable each postgraduate researcher to reach their full potential and to ensure that all members of our community are offered the best possible experience. Supporting excellence and employability across all stages of the researcher journey, it leads the University’s strategy to offer world-class training and supervision, mentoring, and networking and development opportunities.

The Doctoral College embraces the University’s commitment to Equality and Diversity, which it strives to meet in the following ways: by respecting and celebrating difference, diverse views and experiences; by promoting freedom of speech and expression that does not harm or denigrate others; by understanding power dynamics and working to support those who are negatively affected by them; by working to eliminate all forms of discrimination, harassment & victimisation; and, by being open, transparent and accessible.

As Director of the Doctoral College, I understand that the negotiation of institutional systems, structures and languages is not equally easy for everybody, often for reasons of historic under-representation. It is important to me that we not only support researchers to make a difference in the world but also that, as a University, we try to transform the lives of researchers. This means considering each person holistically and enabling them to succeed in their studies and ambitions, whatever their lived experiences and circumstances. It also means recognising there are many different types of knowledge, that these are all intrinsically valuable and can be expressed in many different ways.

This calendar represents the core values of our vision – that is, that the creativity, resilience and innovation of a research community is achieved by advancing equality of opportunity for all its members and by embracing a multiplicity of voices and perspectives.

I am delighted to present the Diversity Calendar for 2019/2020 complete with images from the Doctoral College’s Images of Research competition; giving us a unique insight into the diverse world of research within the University of Plymouth.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work is often considered a ‘nice’ thing to do; a tokenistic acknowledgment that people are different and we should tolerate this. This is far from the truth. People’s differences should not be tolerated, rather they should be celebrated and embraced in everything that we do; our work within this field should never be tokenistic and instead should have real impact on oft-marginalised and discriminated against communities. True equality is achieved by facing up to the realities of discrimination within our society and listening when people tell us something is wrong.

Time and time again the voices of those most at risk are simply not heard; society tells us that we are over-reacting and that we should be grateful for what we have and societal expectations and institutional systems silence us from speaking out. Working at the University of Plymouth allows me to raise my voice and fight every day for better representation, better support and better systems that do not allow any voices or experiences to be silenced. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work is a privilege and is something I am incredibly proud to do. It is not easy; difficult conversations must be had and lessons must be learned but I feel confident that we can do this to ensure nobody ever feels silenced and that we can continue to celebrate all that makes us unique. This calendar is one small way of helping us to achieve that goal.

Professor Roberta Mock
Director of the Doctoral College and Professor of Performance Studies
University of Plymouth

Andrew Grace
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager
University of Plymouth