Working Life Research Theme

Annual Report

The Working Life research theme was launched at the start of the 2015/16 academic year. A series of seminars were held that year, ending in the Summer Term with a roundtable debate on “The Implications of Brexit for Employment Rights”. During 2016/17 a further series of seminars were held, again ending with a final one-day event, as follows:

23rd November 2016
*The collective labour of a sector: work and workers in classic motoring*
Dr Ödül Bozkurt (University of Sussex)

26th January 2017
*A burden on business? How small firms adapt to regulation*
Professor John Kitching (Kingston University)

22nd February 2017
*Entrepreneurial practice in pregnancy: a critical realist framework*
Professor Julia Rouse (Manchester Metropolitan University)

3rd May 2017
*Ethnicity and low wage traps: favouritism, homosocial reproduction and economic marginalization*
Dr Maria Hudson (University of Essex)

6th June 2017
*Mini-conference on "New Frontiers in Working Life”*
Professor Katie Bailey (University of Sussex)
Professor Clare Kelliher (Cranfield University)
Professor Debra Howcroft (University of Manchester)
Professor Rob Briner (Queen Mary, University of London)
Dr Louise Ashley (Royal Holloway)

A “journals workshop” was also held on 16th March 2017, with advice on all aspects of journal submissions given by a panel of colleagues who hold senior editorial positions (Neil Conway, Chris Grey, Dennis Tourish and Yingqin Zheng).

Attendances at the regular seminars were low, although the discussions were of a high calibre. The two broader events were better supported, and both worked really well.

Applications for seedcorn funding were requested in the Spring Term. A number of queries were made, and two formal proposals supported, from Ling Zhang and Andreas Chatzidakis.
Spending during the 2016/17 financial year was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel (staff)</td>
<td>432.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel (visitors)</td>
<td>332.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>440</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1,952.57</strong></td>
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I made a further attempt to initiate small discussions of seminal papers as well as a meeting of PhD students researching in relevant areas, but neither of these met with sufficient interest. As next year (2017/18) will be my third and final year running the theme, I would like to prioritise establishing a small PhD group, and also try to foster some stronger external links with policy-oriented bodies. One idea is for an impact event with several invited speakers (I am currently discussing this with other theme leaders). I also intend to hold a workshop on research funding where colleagues can receive advice at the very early stages of developing applications.

**Chris Rees**  
August 2017