



Abstracts

Hughes Hall Academic Evening
May 8 2014
7.30-10pm
Pavilion Room

Magical Maladies, Curses and Cures: The Problematising Representation of Disability in Harry Potter

Alice Potter (MPhil, Education)

- 7.35 - 7.55pm -

The Harry Potter books have been studied through many lenses, (i.e. feminist readings, religious readings), yet the role of disability in these books has been under-researched.

This research uses the conceptual framework of theories of disability to analyse the representation of this phenomenon in these texts.

Within the aim of increasing Inclusion in schools, it is important to consider wider influences; what messages concerning disability are being presented in popular media?

Schooling and the Experiences of *Thirunagai* in Tamil Nadu, India: A Quasi-ethnographic Study

Hema Letchamanan (PhD, Education)

- 7.55 – 8.15pm -

This talk will be based on a 3-week pilot study in Tamil Nadu conducted in April 2014. *Thirunagai* is the Tamil term for transwomen in Tamil Nadu, a southern state of India. According to the census done by the state's Ministry of Social Welfare, there are 30,000 transwomen in Tamil Nadu but non-governmental organisations (NGO) working on transgender rights in the state estimate the population to be over 100,000. They exist on the periphery of the society, often abandoned by family and engage mostly in classical dance, begging, and sex work. I aim to study the *Thirunagai* people's schooling and life experiences, and how schools can support gender variance such that they avoid poverty, violence and ill health. For this pilot study, I conducted life story interviews and autophotography with 10 *Thirunagai* in two districts in Tamil Nadu.

Shaping Investors' Rights and Powers: Mine, Yours or Ours?

Hugo García Larriva (LLM)

- 8.15 - 8.35pm -

Homer described the Chimera as a creature 'of divine stock, not of men, in the fore part a lion, in the hinder a serpent, and in the midst a goat, breathing forth in terrible wise the might of blazing fire'. The term chimera has come to describe any mythical or fictional animal with parts taken from various animals, or an organism containing a mixture of genetically different tissues, or in general, as a DNA molecule with sequences derived from two or more different organisms. As the Chimera, it has been argued that investment law regime contains elements and principles coming from different areas of law that are in constant tension. The status of investors under international law is a clear example. Are investors subjects of international law? Do bilateral investment treaties bestow direct rights on them? Can investors modify, transact or waive rights?

The Role of Technology in Providing Solutions to Improve Societal Well-being for the Elderly in the UK (A Project with the British Cabinet Office)

Michelle Low (MPhil, Technology Policy)

- 9.00 - 9.20pm -

Given the demographic trend towards ageing, my team and I are trying to identify the role of technology in public service transformation to help promote healthy ageing, social engagement and socio-economic inclusion.

Our team is currently researching the positive impact of technology on ageing. The horizon that our team is looking at is 2030, where technology will play a greater role in everyone's life and hopefully aid the elderly in ageing well.

My personal role in the team is to focus on the healthy ageing aspect where I have developed a technology selection matrix with criteria adapted from various research councils around the world. This matrix has been subsequently used to filter pioneering technologies to a few promising technologies where policies will be designed for their effective implementation in society. To understand the challenges in the design and implementation of the proposed policies, various stakeholders from the government to the elderly and academics have been interviewed.

Gender Identity Development in Children With Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia

Miranda L. Abild (MPhil, Psychology)

- 9.20 - 9.40pm -

Research on the topic of gender development consistently demonstrates prenatal testosterone exposure masculinizes later gendered behaviour. This shift toward male-typical is observed in the toy, playmate, and activity preferences of girls, and in the erotic partner preferences of women. However, the relationship between prenatal testosterone exposure and gender identity is less clear. While some research reveals reduced female gender identity in the context of prenatal testosterone exposure, this finding may not be consistent. This talk will review preliminary results examining this relationship together with an examination of factors which may play a role in gender identity development. Factors examined include feelings of gender typicality, gender contentedness, and felt pressure for gender conformity. The population (age 7 – 11) consists of those who have been exposed to high levels of prenatal testosterone (due to a condition known as congenital adrenal hyperplasia) who will be compared to their unaffected siblings.

***In Vitro* Induction of Regulatory T cells and Their Potential in Transplantation**

Jin Soek Lee (MPhil, Translational Medicine and Therapeutics)

- 9.40 -10.00pm –

Transplantation is now the treatment of choice for end-stage organ failure. However, its success is limited by the inevitable development of chronic rejection despite current immunosuppressive therapy. Specific white blood cells are involved in the rejection process, and here we investigate potential for modifying this response to prevent rejection. We specifically looked at cardiac transplantation using a mouse model and found a significant reduction in the progression of chronic rejection.

- Poster Presentation -

Cement Particle Packing: A Digitalisation Method

Mingzhi Wang (PhD, Engineering)
- 8.35-9.00pm (during drinks break) -

The initial microstructure construction two major micro-scale cement hydration models, namely HYMOSTRUC and CEMHYD3D, adopt a similar random sequential addition like method. However, packing fraction obtained with this method is much lower than the experimentally measured result of fresh cement paste. The aim of this research is to study packing modelling methods in order to construct a more realistic initial micro-structure for the cement hydration models. A digitalization method is applied after several tests.