



Break Time

THE SAPD EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Birth of Legends

The new SAPD ECR

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter for the new Early Career Researcher Association in SAPD. The ECR contains both the Post Graduate Research Association (PhDs) and the PostDoc Association. As we move forward, we hope that combining the two will allow for better communication at the University level and more knowledge transference within the School itself.

Our job is to provide both groups with support in their jobs and education, and a shoulder to cry on or a much needed coffee break and laugh. Your job is to let us know what support you need. The newsletter is just one way we will provide the information you need on up-coming activities, SAPD-specific trainings and career information.

You can always contact us with information to share, questions or just a general chat at:

pgr.association@reading.ac.uk (for PhDs)

grp.exo.sapdecr@reading.ac.uk (for PostDocs)

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Applications

We want to welcome the following new PhDs:

- *Kristen Ayris*
- *Tarry Bolger*
- *Rezoyana Rasha*
- *Raheem Aminu*
- *Amy Nicosia*
- *Groege Woodward*
- *Elliot Hills*
- *Arisa Takagi*
- *Sophie Cunningham*
- *Hamish McLean*
- *Arisede Chisaka*
- *Maxwell Dzudzor*
- *Emily Johnstone*
- *Dharmendra Pothuri*
- *Faisal Al-Otaibi*
- *Maurice Mantchombe*

Want to share your experience? Sign up to become a mentor for a new PhD by emailing the PGRA.

Open Research Champions

Watch out for these rising stars

The University of Reading has appointed three wonderful individuals as Open Research Champions at SAPD: Auvikki de Boon, Sophie Read and Marcello De Maria. The UoR website is a great starting point to familiarise yourself with OR tools and practices, but you might also want to check out the 12 things you can do to be open, the Open Research Handbook, the OR case studies, the Opening Research at Reading Blog, the range of opportunities for Open Access publishing, and the University OR Twitter account (@UniRdg_OpenRes). Questions? Get in touch with your OR champs at SAPD (marcello.demaria@reading.ac.uk).

Help us mapping the Open Research (OR) landscape in our university and take the first ever OR survey @UoR – You have time until November the 7th!
https://redcap.link/OR_Survey

Opportunities

PostDoc 0.5FTE position 14 month contract Robot Highways project (email Martin Lukac or see Campus Jobs posting)

Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships -

<https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships>.

RETF funding -

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/staffportal/news/articles/spsn-860366.aspx>

IFNH Funding - DEADLINE NOV 12th!!

Email the PGRA for more info. This is for sustainable development projects.



CONFERENCES

8-11 November and 29
Nov.-2 Dec.
*IAgrM Farm Management
Skills Programme*

November 23
*RSC Symposium on
AgriFood Sustainability*

November 23
EIT Food's Aquaculture Showcase

November 25-26
EIT Food 'It's all about data! Opportunities in the AgriFood Value Chain'



AFHEA- NOT JUST ANOTHER ACRONYM



The Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy is offered by the Graduate school to accredit professional recognition of your teaching. Such recognition is important as many employers expect new colleagues to have such accreditation or to be working towards it during their probationary period. Associate Fellowship status is recognised across the higher education sector in the UK, and increasingly internationally, as confirmation of knowledge, skills and experience gained in teaching and learning.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/reading-cqsd/Developing-and-enhancing/training-professional-development/cqsd-afheapgrpathway.aspx>

SAPD News

The EIT Food's Project - Integrating Precision Farming in Computer Games has won the EIT Food Impact Award! This project includes faculty and ECRs over several SAPD departments.





Organizations to be aware of

There are lots of organizations you should join. Many have free student or ECR membership rates. While this list is not exhaustive, it will give you a starting point. If you know of any others, please drop us a line and we'll include it in our next newsletter.

Institute of Agricultural Management

Development Studies Association

British Society of Animal Sciences

Crop Protection Association

The only 'political' organization we recommend is the **University and College Union, which is free for all ECRs** and a way to have greater protection against institutional exploitation. Membership is a way for us to keep in the know on new legal and Human Resource regulations and options.

Gold Stars and Brownie Points:

Congrats to the following members for presenting, publishing or otherwise being awesome! If you have news to share, send us an email for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Agnese Rondoni for publishing and submitting her Thesis.

Reham Morally for submitting her Thesis.

Heather Maggs for submitting a paper.

Tamisan Latherow for presenting at a conference.



YOUR SUPERVISOR

AND YOU

Any research degree involves a partnership between the student and their supervisor(s). There are responsibilities on both sides, which all parties should respect. Below are the key points to remember. More information can be found in the Welcome Packet and the SAPD PGRA website.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/PhD-programmes/apd-PostGraduateResearchAssociation.aspx>

For the Best Practices full guide, go here:

http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/apd-2017/PGR_supervision_good_practice_guide.pdf

The responsibilities of the supervisor include:

- giving guidance regarding all aspects of the project;
- helping students to carry out an analysis of training and learning needs, and ensuring they participate in appropriate training events;
- maintaining contact through regular meetings;
- being accessible to the student at other appropriate times when advice may be needed;
- giving advice on the necessary completion dates of successive stages of the work so that the thesis may be submitted within the scheduled time;
- requesting written work as appropriate, and returning such work with constructive criticism and in reasonable time;
- arranging as appropriate for the student to talk about the work to staff or graduate seminars;
- reporting in writing at least annually on the student's progress to the School Director of PGR Studies and the student (in line with designated University procedures);



YOUR SUPERVISOR

AND YOU

Continued:

The responsibilities of the supervisor include:

- advising on appropriate dissemination activities (including publication), external engagement, networking etc;
- when the thesis is submitted, sending a written report to the examiners via the Doctoral Examinations Officer in the Graduate School;
- preparing students for their viva, and advising on any subsequent corrections they may have to undertake;
- undertaking training and other development events to help undertake the role of the supervisor effectively.

A code of conduct is available with more information on your supervisor's responsibilities. We recommend reading through them to be familiar with the different aspects of your primary and secondary supervisor's responsibilities and if there are any specific questions. If you ever have an issue or concern, please reach out to the PGRA for advice. All inquiries will be handled in a confidential manner.

https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/pgr_supervisor_code_of_conduct_oct2019.pdf

Students also have responsibilities to make sure the PhD process is a smooth one. On the next page you will see the basic requirements. As above, if you have any specific questions or concerns, please reach out. Our job is to help facilitate your understanding and support you during inquiries. We can also explain the role of your Progress Report Monitor (PRM) and their place in the process.



YOUR SUPERVISOR

AND YOU

The responsibilities of the student include:

- adhering to the University's regulations governing research integrity, academic misconduct, and ethical standards;
- discussing with the supervisor preferred ways of working and agreeing a schedule of meetings;
- taking the initiative in raising problems or difficulties;
- agreeing and observing any necessary health and safety precautions;
- carrying out a Learning Needs Analysis and attending appropriate training and development events;
- carrying out research in an ethical way and in line with University procedures for Good Practice;
- maintaining the progress of the work in accordance with the stages agreed with the supervisor, including in particular the presentation of written materials as required in sufficient time to allow for comments and discussion;
- providing at least annually (as required in University regulations) a formal written report to the School, outlining progress during the preceding year, the contents of which should normally be discussed with the supervisor/s before submission;
- as part of the above, completing the survey on monitoring supervisory arrangements (submitted in confidence to the Graduate School);
- being honest when reporting on progress;
- deciding when he or she wishes to submit within the prescribed period of registration, taking due account of the supervisor's opinion, and informing the Doctoral Examinations Officer in the Graduate School;
- shortly before submission of their thesis, informing supervisor(s) of any special circumstances which they believe may have adversely affected their research;
- showing their supervisor(s) the final draft of their thesis before submission.

In the Know

CONTACTS FOR GETTING ADDED TO THE SEMINARS

AEM: LAWRENCE (L.G.) SMITH
ID: HENNY OSBAHR AND FERDOUSI RAHMAN
CS: MARK TAYLOR AND DR. ALEXEY MIKABERIDZE
AS: HOLLY HOLDSWORTH
SLM: STUART EDWARDS AND LAURA REEVES
PHD SEMINAR: JULIETTE SHILLINGS

APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MARKETING SEMINARS

28/10/2021

Kirsty Blair (University of Edinburgh, UK)

11/11/2021

Marcello de Maria (University of Reading, UK)

18/11/2021

Claudia Meier (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland)

25/11/2021

Michele Moretti (University of Pisa, Italy)

2/12/2021

Sheila Cooke (3LM, UK)

Seminars are scheduled on Thursday 13.00-14.00 (unless otherwise stated) on Teams.

International Development seminars

25/10/2021

Dr. Linie Manyozo (RMIT University, Australia)

8/11/2021

Dr. Amanda Caine (ID consultant)

15/11/2021

Dr. Admos Chimhowu (University of Manchester, UK)

22/11/2021

Dr. Emma McKinley (Cardiff University, UK)

29/11/2021

Amelia Bright (BSc ID project insights)

2/12/2021

Dr. Simona Grasso (SAPD and University College Dublin, IR)

Seminars are scheduled on Mondays, 13.00-14.00 (unless otherwise stated) on Teams.

In the Know

Sustainable Land Management seminars

8/11/2021

Stuart Edwards
Pest-parasitoid systems

22/11/2021

Elena Cini (PoshBee)
Bee health

29/11/2021

Dr. Eike Ludeling (University of Bonn)
Tree phenology and climate change

6/12/2021

Dr. Jane Memmott (University of Bristol)
Community ecology at farm scale

Seminars are scheduled on Mondays,
13.00-14.00 Frank Parkinson and
Teams.

PGRA Blog

Have some interesting research, but don't want to write a paper? Why not write a post for the new PGRA blog?

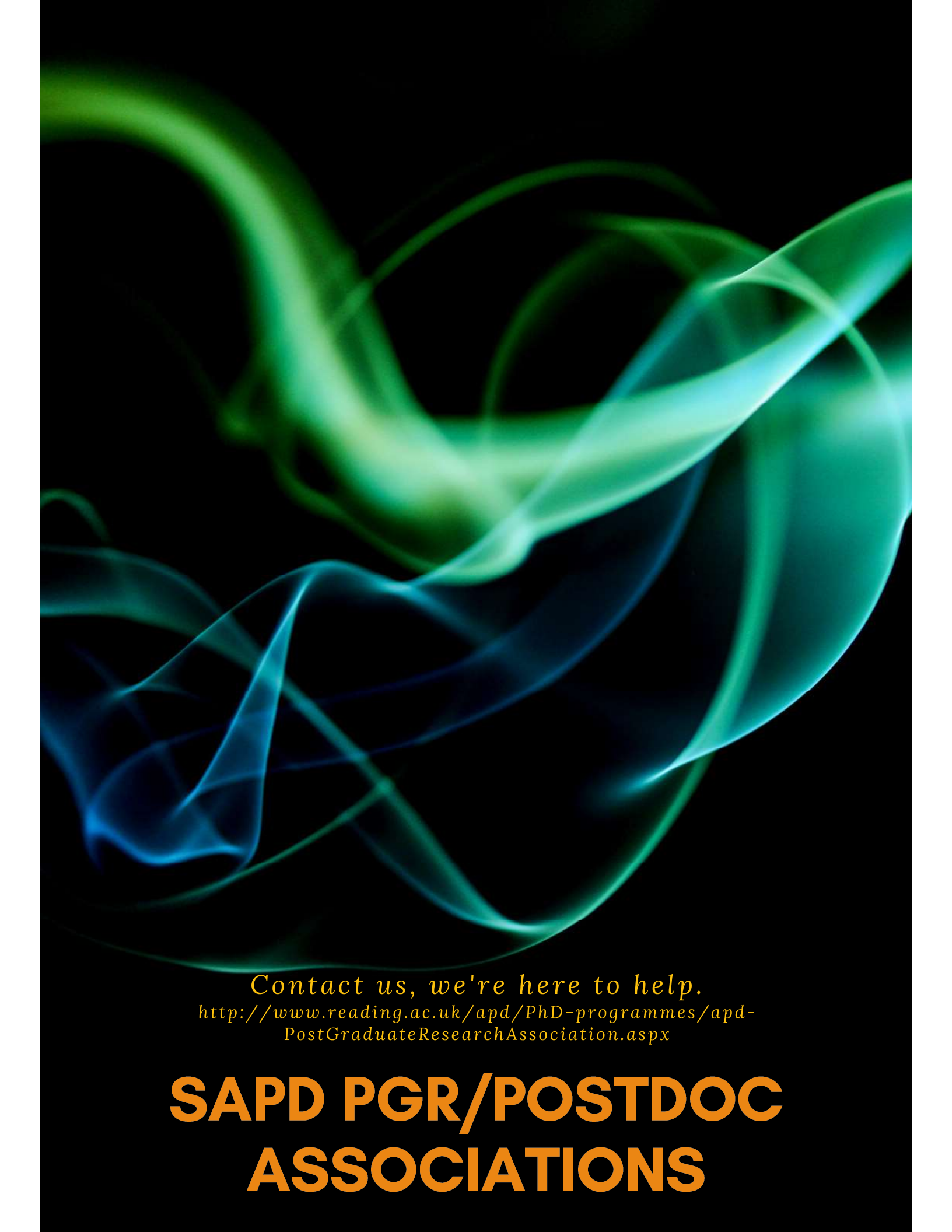
Any article on agriculture, the environment, or international development is acceptable. Articles should be between 800-1500 words and include references.

<http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/pgra/>

THURSDAY 2ND
DECEMBER
PALMER QUAD,
WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS
FROM 5PM ONWARD

UoR Christmas Tree
Lights Switch-on





Contact us, we're here to help.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/PhD-programmes/apd-PostGraduateResearchAssociation.aspx>

**SAPD PGR/POSTDOC
ASSOCIATIONS**