

The Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies

Newsletter, Spring 2011

Upcoming Events

Working in Publishing: 8th March

Enjoy unrivalled networking opportunities at this annual event. The morning offers panels of recruitment professionals and Brookes alumni providing advice, and the afternoon has speed-dating sessions with publishing companies allowing students to discover more about careers in the industry.

Bologna Book Fair:

28th - 31st March

Several students and staff will attend the annual Children's Bookfair in Bologna this year.

Oxford Literary Festival:

2nd - 10th April

The 2011 Festival hosts more than 550 speakers over 9 days and will include an OICPS event on 'Publishing the Future' on Sunday 3rd April at 12pm, Corpus Christi College. The panel, chaired by Angus Phillips, includes Victoria Barnsley, Cathy Galvin and Marcus du Sautoy.

London Book Fair and Publishing Alumni launch: 11th - 13th April

The Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies welcomes visitors to stand O580 and invites alumni to attend drinks on Tuesday 12th April from 4.30pm onwards. We will be hosting four seminars at the Fair on topics ranging from social media to greening the book.

Publishing Seminars and Digital Seminars, 2010-2011

Speakers this academic year have included Barbara Trapido, Toby Mundy, John Thompson and Richard Hart; forthcoming speakers include Christine Kieley and David Attwooll.

For more information on all events please see the website:

<http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/publishing/>

or contact Catherine Foley:
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Memories of Mainz

The chatter around 2010's Frankfurt Book Fair was a steady stream of 'Tablets this, Magic Books that' accompanied by an overarching, albeit nervous, chorus of 'All Hail the E-Reader.'

The digital frenzy in Frankfurt was certainly exciting and not a little overwhelming for a group of wide-eyed Publishing MAs. We were witnesses to the cutting-edge of global publishing. Having survived hours of rushed Q&A sessions and networking at the fair, many of us sought a change of scenery on our free day before returning to Oxford.

In keeping with the literary theme, we chose to visit the city of Mainz, home to the incomparable Johannes Gutenberg and some really good Fleischwurst.

I knew I liked the city the moment we stumbled into the Saturday Market jamming an already colourful town square with striped orange and green umbrellas. We gratefully took part in the tradition and, filled with a typical 'Mainzian' lunch, we moved on to our ultimate destination: the Gutenberg Museum.

As the daughter of an amateur bookbinder and full-on bibliophile, I was in a kind of nerd heaven. The museum felt like an exhibition of my own heritage. The building is unassuming, but its contents are astounding.

We walked through the history of our profession starting with ancient illuminated manuscripts filled with hand-painted lettering adorned in gold



Above: The Frankfurt Book Fair, attended by 32 students and 4 staff from OICPS in October 2010

Below: Ancient liturgy at the Gutenberg Museum

leaf. We moved along rows of presses revealing centuries of innovation, and gawked at Gutenberg Bibles – the books that incited cultural transformation.

What may have appeared to be an archaic heap of metal and ink to some in the museum that day, was, to those of us lucky enough to have attended the Book Fair, the very basis of the previous day's gargantuan assembly. The E-Ink of the Kindles we passed around in Frankfurt traces its ancestry back to the Gutenbergs, the Heidelbergs and the hot-metal Linotype machines.

It was jarring to think that our latest gadgets are literally the next 'generation' of publishing – an industry that has been fundamentally unchanged since the 1450s.

Grace Glendinning, MA



MA Alumni's company Jargon Media launch So.Me and Istanbul Review

Alumni **Miriam Johnson** and **Victoria Harben** (MA Publishing, 2008) have published So.Me Magazine through their editing and publishing company Jargon Media LLC (<http://www.jargon-media.com>). The magazine gives insight into the world of social media for professionals, enthusiasts, and users alike. The inaugural issue, published in November 2010, features an exclusive first-hand account of the original Facebook road trip, a poignant look at dealing with death in the Internet age, and an interview with the lead researcher for a study examining Twitter's impact on academia.

The magazine is available to purchase at <http://jargonmedia.magcloud.com>

Jargon Media was co-founded by Harben and Johnson in 2009 and several Oxford Brookes alumni are involved with Jargon Media projects, in web development, design, and editorial services. In November 2009, Jargon Media published its first book, *Royal Amber*, by Jeanette M. Harris.

Jargon Media's newest venture is an international literary magazine that will publish on 1 November 2011. *The Istanbul Review* creates a platform for dialogue between authors, new and established, and readers. It gives writers an opportunity to talk about their craft, showcase new work and discuss the philosophical implications of literature and its place in modern society. It was founded in 2010 by **Miriam Johnson, Hande Zapsu Watt** and **Victoria Harben**.

Right: So.Me Magazine

Below: The Istanbul Review



The World of Work: undergraduates deliver top tips on seizing the day

I am currently the Web Designer and Developer for Carnegie Publishing, a history publisher based in Lancaster. I have also worked in Journals Editorial at Taylor & Francis and as a freelance designer for a variety of small companies in Oxford. I chose to study Publishing at Oxford Brookes because I wanted to acquire skills directly relevant to the publishing sector.

The BA course did not disappoint, offering a substantive practical element that included opportunities to use software relevant to the industry as well as tuition on using copy-editing marks. The course laid a lot of the groundwork for skills I now use every day in typesetting, design and web development.

Having studied publishing (as opposed to say, English or Media Studies) certainly helped when going for interviews as it demonstrates a commitment to developing a career within the industry, something that interviewers often look for.



I would recommend that anyone studying publishing should try to grab any opportunity for work experience they can, as it really helps to round out your CV.

My tip for anyone interviewing for a job in publishing would be never to undersell yourself. I once had two interviews back to back. In the second, feeling a bit drained on a Friday afternoon, I abandoned the modest and self-effacing approach and when asked 'how are you with software?', I replied: 'Brilliant. I'm great.'

It made the panel laugh and helped break the ice. It made me realize that to stand out during an interview you need to show what you're good at and freely acknowledge what you need to improve on. (Also, I got the job.)

Chris Quinn (left), BA Publishing

I recently completed a two week work experience placement in the Publicity department at Bloomsbury Publishing. During the placement I was invited to sit in on editorial, marketing and publicity meetings. I was given a wide range of challenging tasks, and I even got to spend one evening working at a book launch! Bloomsbury placements are great because you get to work alongside interns in other departments and this helps you to network and meet new people. I really enjoyed my time at Bloomsbury and would definitely recommend it to any Oxford Brookes student that wants to experience working in a successful publishing house.

Pippa Hoggart, BA French and Publishing

www.brookes.ac.uk/publishing