

## EDITORIAL

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This issue of *Diffusion* includes seven research articles written by undergraduate students at the University of Central Lancashire. They focus on aspects of Astronomy, Astrophysics, Linguistics, History, Law and Nursing, each student demonstrating his/her outstanding ability to carry out a research exercise, to examine the evidence or findings and to convey the results or conclusions in a well-written, coherent argument.

It begins with two strong science papers, our first publications in the fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics. Nigel Clayton's 'Determination of the distance to the Galactic centre' explores the various ways of measuring the distance to the rotational centre of the Milky Way galaxy. The second, Philip Bradshaw's 'Modelling twisted flux tubes', is concerned with the physics of the solar system, in particular the structure of flux tubes, the magnetic fields of energy observed in the Sun's corona and elsewhere in the universe. Although highly specialised in content, these studies will undoubtedly appeal to a wider audience, for interest in the universe has found a popular following in recent years with the BBC's 'Stargazing Live' programmes and events.

From the science of the universe, we turn to the Humanities with Rachel Fearon's 'Pejorised or ameliorated? An exploration of the word *deaf*' and Jonathan Phillips's 'The Soviet military 1936-1945: devastation to victory'. Rachel's article is interdisciplinary in nature; it combines Linguistics with Deaf Studies to examine the various ways that deafness is described and how terminology itself affects present attitudes to and appraisals of this condition and deaf people. Jonathan Phillips, on the other hand, focuses on the past and Military History, drawing on a range of recent Anglo-American research to provide a detailed analysis of the transformation of the Red Army from Stalin's purges to the end of the Second World War.

Next, we have included two papers from the Lancashire Law School. David Murray's 'EU law rights and national remedies: an uneasy partnership?' highlights a very topical debate – UK membership of the EU, identifying the concerns over varying national remedies within EU law. Whilst the second law paper, Mandhlase Mwanza's 'The public/private divide: an outdated concept of governance in English law', continues to analyse the problems created by a legal system which draws a line between public and private, a topic previously explored in Rahela Akhter's study of 'The public/private divide in EU law', published in *Diffusion* Volume 4, Issue 1.

The final article in this issue is from Nursing; rooted in science it is also of immediate social concern: Shabib Al-Busaidi's 'Healthcare workers and hand hygiene practice: a literature review'. There have been an alarming number of recent deaths in hospitals, partly attributed to inadequate hand hygiene and Shabib's survey of research, which compares hand washing with alcohol hand-rubs and considers various ways of improving current practice, highlights the urgent need for reform.

In a world where a wealth of sources are available globally and can be accessed with relative ease, the sheer bulk of material now available for research means that individual studies have become increasingly refined and in-depth. However, in bringing together these diverse topics in one, multi-disciplinary journal, *Diffusion* continues to promote the value of a wider knowledge base and the importance of looking beyond the specialist field to appreciate the bigger picture.

In preparing this issue for publication, I am greatly indebted to the Lecturers (First Readers) who recommended these articles and supervised revisions, particularly in articles extracted from longer dissertations. Thanks are also due to the Second Readers and members of the Editorial Team (staff, students and graduates) who provided constructive comment and advice, and to the Student Editor, Tanya Bamber, for her help in the overall editing process.

I hope that readers of this issue will enjoy and learn from both the specialist subjects that most interest them and the articles which take them out of their comfort zones and into wider fields of knowledge.