

# Social Sciences Conference – 28 March 2024

*“Man Up”: How Social Psychology can help us understand the idea of “Toxic Masculinity”.*

Dr Nathaniel Schermerhorn, Department of Psychology

The phrase “toxic masculinity” frequently has been used in mass media and everyday conversations, leading to debates over what type of masculinity is or is not “toxic.” Psychological research on social identity and social identity threat can help us better understand why this debate has become complicated and polarizing. This discussion will give an introduction into how psychology informs our understanding of “toxic masculinity” as well as how the Psychology Department at the University of Essex is designed to help students understand and solve global challenges such as this.

*Psychoanalytic Criminology in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*  
Dr Chris Nicholson, Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

How can we learn about psychoanalysis through Robert Louis Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'? This innovative taster session introduces your students to the concept of psychoanalytic criminology, showing how it can be fruitfully applied to the novel and - surprisingly - how it is quite true that we can carry more than one personality within us. Students will also use psychoanalytic assessment from a criminological perspective to shed light on Hyde's murder of Sir Danvers Carew. Why does Hyde murder a complete stranger in the brutal and violent way that he does?

*Why are we scared of children?*

Dr Jessica Battersby, Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

This taster session introduces and analyses the figure of the ‘evil child’ in the horror genre. We will consider the rise in representation of evil children as a character and plot device used as a reliable source of fear. Deploying psychosocial perspectives in this workshop we will try to understand why it we’re scared and what this tells about children and childhood, popular culture, society, and indeed ourselves.

*The Media and the Public Sphere*

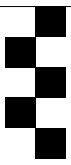
Dr Michael Bailey, Department of Sociology

This talk is broadly concerned with past and present debates about whether the media can be understood as a public sphere. Questions include: To what extent does the media strengthen the democratic process? What are the concerns about disinformation and fake news? Has democracy been hacked?

*What is happiness in the ‘language’ classroom?*

Dr Stamatia Savvani, Department of Language and Linguistics

How do we learn and how does happiness affect our learning? Is learning all about feeling happy all the time? In this talk, we will explore how stepping out of our comfort zone can be good for learning. What are some strategies for when learning gets difficult [and we get anxious] or too easy [that we get bored]?



University of Essex

*"I don't know what language I think in, they are just my thoughts." Understanding how we experience language.*

Dr. Tracey Costley, Department of Language and Linguistics

In this talk, we will look at how our understanding of language is changing and what this means for concepts such as bilingualism and multilingualism. We will look at a range of different examples, as well as think about our own practices, to see how these apply in everyday life and how and how they link to ideas of social justice and decolonisation.

*Experiencing interpreting and subtitling key skills*

Ignazia Posadinu, Chiara Fiori and Matilde Trucco, Department of Language and Linguistics

Have you ever wondered what it takes to interpret someone in another language or subtitle a film, for example? In this interactive session, we will discuss the constraints and techniques of effective subtitling, as well as the aspects of synchronicity and articulation in simultaneous interpreting.

*Sociology and the City*

Dr Jason Sumich, Department of Sociology

Description to follow

*Victims of crime and the Criminal Justice System*

Dr Daren Thiel, Department of Sociology

Description to follow