



SOCIAL SCIENCES MEDIA AND CULTURAL STUDIES

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS TO CULTURAL STUDIES NOW

Britain's greatest ever gathering of sociologists took place at UEL in April, when the 2007 Conference of the British Sociological Association, entitled 'Social Connections: Identities, Technologies and Relationships', was held at our Docklands campus.

Bruno Latour, Saskia Sassen and Lord Anthony Giddens were among the world-renowned speakers, and more than 500 research papers were presented. The packed programme included symposia, panels, lectures, exhibitions and papers focusing on new and developing interdisciplinary work in HIV/AIDS technologies, animal-human connections and architecture's relationship with sociology. ■

Our School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies unites the UK's largest centre for media, communications and screen studies with highly rated programmes in cultural studies, creative industries, innovation studies, social work, sociology, anthropology, social policy and international development. The School is rated among the highest in the UK for research in media, communications and cultural studies, and for sociology, the highest grade awarded to any modern university. With over 100 active researchers and 250 postgraduate research and masters students, we have a growing international reputation in fields as diverse as modernist literature and cinema, human evolution and urban development.

In July, Mica Nava, Professor of Cultural Studies, organised Cultural Studies Now, a major international conference which brought 500 delegates from 43 countries to UEL to explore issues as diverse as eco-politics, impacts of technology, feminism, art, race and ethnicity. Dr Marta Rabikowska, Senior Lecturer in Media and Advertising, won the Grand Jury Award at the European Association for Consumer Research Film Festival in Milan.

Many important books and research papers

were published by researchers in our School in 2007, including HIV in South Africa, by Professor Corinne Squire, Co-director of UEL's internationally-renowned Centre for Narrative Research.

Our Institute of Performing Arts Development has expanded rapidly, with programmes including Creative Writing, Dance, Music, Theatre Studies and World Theatre. Mayfest 07 attracted over 800 people to Docklands, and students produced shows at venues including Stratford Circus and Sutton House, where they performed in front of James Purnell, the new Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

We are also increasingly renowned for teaching and research in creative multimedia. In November, graduating students Geoff Gaviria and Matt Gibson won the prestigious British Interactive Media Association (BIMA) Award for an interactive online comic, Dead on Arrival, created as part of their Interactive Media degree.

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◀ Dance at our institute for Performing Arts Development

▼ Making the news: leading in media and communications

