Vision and Strategy

By 2015 UEL aims to be the leading modern university for research in the UK. UEL is an innovative academic community, delivering high-quality research that is impactful, intellectually stimulating, socially relevant and for the public good.

Research is the foundation of all that we do. The expertise of our academic staff is the core capital of our university and our research, entrepreneurship and professional practice is socially and culturally sensitive.

Research informs our teaching and underpins our understanding of the concerns of our students and their communities.

We actively engage and stimulate our students, communities and partners to help them better understand their place within the world, and to embrace the importance of knowledge and academic discourse.

We are recognised by the academic community throughout the world for our high-quality research, theory and practice, and for our innovation and vitality. To deliver our vision we focus our approach around six key objectives

1. Supporting a sustainable, vital and ethical research environment
2. Building our international research profile
3. Leading academic partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration
4. Producing high-quality, fully integrated, research and teaching
5. Maximising impact, commercialisation and dissemination
6. Developing each generation of researchers

Vice Chancellor: Prof John Joughin

Professor John Joughin
Our Research Themes

We are a university built on the solid foundation of a belief in social justice and the creation of opportunity for all. Our research reflects these values and our research themes reflect our common commitment across many disciplines to create new knowledge and to do research that has significant impact for society and culture. Our six research themes reflect the breadth and range of our research activity; highlight our strengths, and provide a focus for the development of our research capacity and for strategy and funding.

Many of the research issues we seek to address demand an interdisciplinary approach and we are adept at bringing multidisciplinary teams together to focus on complex projects. Our themes enhance our interdisciplinary approach, and our collaborative approach extends beyond traditional academic boundaries. Through our Research Institutes, Centres and Groups and supported by our Research and Development Support service (ReDS), we work with hundreds of public sector, business and community partners: from the UN, governments and multinational corporations to local schools, voluntary and community groups.

The breadth and depth of our work is outlined in more detail in this document, detailing our main inter-disciplinary strengths and evidencing our commitment to dealing with real-world issues. Our six current research themes are:

• Creative, Digital and Information Technology
• Politics, Culture and Society
• Children, Education and Lifelong Learning
• Sport, Health and Wellbeing
• Sustainability
• Social Equality and Justice, Human Rights and Security

This document shows our strategic commitment to encouraging innovation within and between disciplines and the value and impact of our work for partners across all sectors of society. The themes help guide our current strategic vision and investment strategies.
Creative, Digital and Information Technology

UEL’s Creative, Digital and Information Technology theme links together strengths in the development of new and creative approaches in software and computing, the application of information technology in health, neuro-psychology and rehabilitation, the creation of new algorithms for efficient production, control processes, and modelling in engineering, and the development and application of information technology within the social sciences, arts and archiving. Research in this theme is focussed on how to utilise digital and information technology in new and creative ways to help communities, and to facilitate productive commercial and social enterprise.

In the Arts we lead in the innovative use of digital technology in convergent media, film, music, video and installation art; the creation and support of integrated digital archiving services for museums and libraries; in the exploration and creation of prize winning digital music and site-specific sound installations and audio material for walking trails. We cultivate film-arts practice and new scholarly research relating to the moving image, addressing all aspects of moving image production, exhibition, and theoretical and historical research, by building links within and outside of traditional disciplines. We have excellent digital studios and facilities, using digital technology to develop new forms of art and culture. Our artists are prizewinning and work in partnership with many national and international creative centers, museums, and theatres. Our creative practitioners contribute original music recordings and documentaries to the independent music and film sectors, and artworks to the national and international gallery sector.

We are also leading in the application of information technology in the social sciences to inform policy. We are leaders in mapping and statistical analysis of crime-data and of population access to services, and use this expertise to inform local and national government policy. In education we lead in the development of web and social media solutions to enable those with intellectual disabilities to participate in decisions about their care. We are also centrally involved in large-scale studies on use of Technology Enhanced Learning to address social justice and public pedagogy issues.

In the field of health, neuropsychology and rehabilitation UEL has internationally leading research in using: robotics to rehabilitate stroke patients; motion capture technology to understand the physical exercise problems of children with haemophilia; eye-tracking and brain scanning technology (EEG, NIRS) to identify early attention and language problems in babies and children; brain scanning technology to inform understanding of risk and decision making; brain scanning and eye tracking to understand the emergence of problems in face and object processing and for screening for mental health problems; virtual reality technology for assessing individuals with potential neurological difficulties; and eye tracking and EEG to understanding individual differences in multisensory and sensory deprived processing including autism and synaesthesia. This work is leading the way in the development of new uses of digital technology to assess and intervene with those with difficulties.
In software, control and systems engineering, UEL are international leaders. We are at the forefront of the development of protocols, frameworks, methodologies and tools in cloud computing and in security. Our research uses “industry as its laboratory” and is focussed on applied software engineering in an industrial context, where distributed systems engineering and secure systems engineering are essential concerns. We contribute to the fundamentals of software engineering through our research on architectures, evolution, requirements and reuse. In control and systems engineering we focus on improving the integrated design of new frameworks for mass customisation in the consumer electronics industry; in creating flexible manufacturing systems in advanced production processes to deal with problems of scheduling of jobs and automated storage; & creating retrieval systems using non-traditional optimisation techniques such as adaptive genetic algorithms, artificial neural networks and fuzzy logic. UEL is also creating genetic algorithms to investigate the effects of earthquake forces; improving the modelling of geo-materials and flood defences; facilitating the standardization of European Telecommunication protocols for software defined radio and cognitive radio/networks; and making novel compensating current evaluation algorithms for power active filters.

Our researchers are at the cutting edge of their areas: using technology in creative ways to solve important social, economic, cultural and political issues. For more visit our key clusters in this area:

- Centre for Cultural Studies
- Centre for Geo-information Studies
- Centre for Performing Arts Development (formerly IPAD)
- Cognition and Neuroscience research group (CAN)
- Communications, Control and Electric Power Group (CCEP)
- Design, Materials, Engineering & Manufacturing Group (DMEM)
- Human Motor Performance Research Group
- Institute for Research in Child Development
- International Centre for Public Pedagogy
- Moving Image Studio Research Centre
- Raphael Samuel History Centre
- RIX Centre for Innovation in Learning Disability
- Software Systems Engineering Research Group
Lead academics in this theme include...

School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering: Abbas, Abdalla, Ahangar-Asr, Barchoush, Brimicombe, Chanerley, Jahromi, Jayaratne, Lota, Qureshi, Falcardin, Islam, Mouratidis, Naeem, Tartary, Tawil.

School of Psychology: Kushnerenko, Jansari, Jonas, Moore, Penn, Rivolta, Spillar.

School of Education and Communities: Bosanquet, Briggs (Stephen), Cole, Cooper, Czerniawski, Finch, Hingley-Jones, Kidd, Kolokithia, Li, Maisuria, Murray, Ravenscroft, Tennent, Weston.


Other Schools: Karathanasopoulos, Sampson (Alice), Turner (Duncan).

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA11 Computer Science and Informatics
- UoA15 General Engineering
- UoA22 Social Work and Social Policy
- UoA23 Sociology
- UoA34 Art and Design
- UoA35 Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- UoA36: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
This UEL research theme of *Politics, Culture and Society* encapsulates the breadth and depth of our groundbreaking work in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. Our research is focused on understanding **Social Change** in communities, and in understanding and reflecting diverse cultural issues that are directly relevant both to east London and the wider world. We explore the political and cultural processes and issues that are embedded within local and global societies.

This area captures the university's interdisciplinary strengths and our widespread partnerships with local and global organisations and showcases our direct impact on theory, practice and policy. We have particular strengths in anthropology; business and political economy; finance; social psychology; psychosocial studies and psychoanalysis; sociology; international development; politics; refugee; urban and gender studies; social work; art; performance; music; history; and cultural and media studies. The theme links with work in our parallel research theme of **Social Equality and Justice, Human Rights and Security**.

This theme captures research which is directly engaging with existing debates around the **processes of social change and urban regeneration**: issues that are of particular relevance to our students and non-academic partners. We continue to generate new theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches and have developed specific, internationally-recognised expertise in philosophical underpinnings of social change; complexity theory, inter-sectionality, international relations and environmental politics; micro-sociological approaches in science and gender studies; commons, utopia, contemporary capitalism and social movements; European politics; conflict resolution, migration and human rights, and social policy. We lead in research on issues around race, ethnicity and teacher identities in UK, US and European contexts.

Our distinctive approach is reflected in the implementation of **social change in practice**, for example through relationship-based reflective approaches to social work practice and policy; psycho-social approaches to understanding individuals, society and institutions; and inter-/multi-disciplinary perspectives on ‘practice-near research’. We undertake research in the social-sciences and also create synergies between art and design, art history and theory, cultural and media studies and the performing arts, including sculpture and installation; independent artists’ film and video; art practice and historical studies; engaging critically with identity, race and gender intercultural theatre, creative writing, urban dance, and music culture. This work is strongly embedded within the cultural and economic diversity of urban societies and in east London.

Our work has informed and influenced **policy-making processes** and decisions both in the UK and abroad. Together with colleagues from the partner organisations, our researchers undertake analysis and evaluation of policy and practice at citywide, local, national and international levels and use research to provide educational benefits that promote cultural engagement and produce new and important insights on cultural heritage. We have worked hard to enhance public awareness of and engagement with important social issues such as the unequal distribution of Olympic legacy...
Our work has contributed directly to **the development of new cultural and artistic resources** and allowed us to deliver educational benefits extending well beyond the traditional reach of a university, through our development and delivery of reusable teaching and learning resources. Commissioned research sponsored by external bodies is not only of direct use to those bodies, but often also delivers follow-on impacts including changes to and improvements in professional standards and best practices within commissioning organisations. Our collaborative, multi-faceted approach to research itself often delivers non-academic benefits by facilitating the development of mutually beneficial networks between our external partners. Our work often directly engages wider audiences in collaborative research projects or with research outputs through a combination of non-academic teaching and learning activities, training workshops and original artistic performances.

Our creative practitioners contribute original music recordings and documentaries to the independent music and film sectors, and artworks to the national and international museum and art gallery sector. We also curate and interpret other practitioners’ work as part of urban regeneration projects as well as contributing to the cultural and political agendas of museums, galleries and arts organisations. Our specialist cultural historians enhance the services provided by partners in the cultural heritage, information and museum sectors by providing expert information and pioneering new approaches to cultural history, notably in photography, fashion, textiles and visual culture.

Our historians also provide educational benefits to local schools, youth groups and communities through the development of multi-media public history ventures. A broader local, national and international audience benefits from our organisation of and contribution to cultural events and activities, including research-led DJ performances, memory walks and social dance gatherings. These original artistic and cultural contributions offer audiences new ways of experiencing and understanding the world, and enhance community integration and cultural engagement for a broadly conceived public.

Our strength in this theme is contained within a range of internationally recognised academic research groups, centres and Institutes each of which bring their skilled perspectives to this interdisciplinary theme. Clusters working in this thematic area include:

- Anthropology and Contemporary Worlds research group
- Centre for Cultural Studies Research
- Centre for Narrative Research
- Centre for Performing Arts Development
- Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging
- Centre for Social Justice and Change
- Centre for Social Work Research
- Centre on Human Rights in Conflict
- Feminist Research Group
- Higher Education Research Group
- Historical Justice and Human Rights research group
- London East Research Institute
- Moving Image Studio Research Centre
- Psychoanalytic Studies Research Group
- Psychology and Social Change Research Group
- Psychosocial Studies Research Group
- Raphael Samuel History Centre
- Teacher Education Research Group
Lead academics in this area include:

**School of Education and Communities:** Bernstock, Bosanquet, Briggs (Stephen), Cole, Cooper, Czerniawski, Hingley-Jones, Kidd, Kolokithia, Maisuria, Murray.

**School of Law and Social Science:** Andrews, Anthias, Ahearne, Bernstock, Bhattacharyya, Briggs (Daniel), Canon, Cudworth, De Angelis, Diamond, Dona, Ellis, Esin, Filtzer, Finch, Firth, Gilbert, Griffith, Hall, Halstead, Harper, Hobden, Hughes, Jamieson, Jensen, Jones, Korac-Sanderson, Li, Marfleet, Power, Poynter, Poros, Price, Radeljic, Robbins, Rustin, Sampson (Alice), Squire, Tamboukou, Tiwari, Tsilimpounidi, Voela, Windle, Wright, Woods, Wren, Yates, Yuval-Davies.

**Royal Docks Business School:** Fouskas, Roy-Mukherjee, Khalid.

**School of Psychology:** Anderson, Chase, Davidson, Dell, Finn, Jiminez, McGrath, Patel (N), Tribe, Tucker.

**School of Art and Digital Industries:** (Art and Design) Davey, Logue, Pinsky, Stockwell, Wilson; Abdu’Allah, Brauer, Eastwood, Smith, Memou, Checinska, Stephenson; (Performance, Music, Drama) Breed, Hingorani, Chapman, Katsouraki, McWatt, Ramos, Sotelo-Castro, J Thomas, Qualmann. (Communication and Culture) Humm, Nava, Gilbert, Lawrence, Morey, Radstone, Hardy, Hodgkin, Kempadoo, Vitali, Butler, Carr, Daniels, Dave, Goodman, Hardy, Maddison, Morey, Fisher, Sampson (Anthony), Sosa.

**School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering:** Alzakwani, Brimicombe, Li, Rupasinghe, Williams.

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA20 Law
- UoA22 Social Work and Social Policy
- UoA23 Sociology
- UoA34 Art and Design
- UoA35 Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- UoA36: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

This theme encapsulates UEL's cross-discipline expertise and research focussed on maximising opportunity, inclusivity, access to education, health and learning for children, parents and adults. We have international expertise in child development, infant neuroscience, learning and developmental difficulties, early years education, educational economics, child and government policy; teacher education; social work, child protection; physiotherapy; child health; youth development, youth crime and drugs; child mental health; child psychology and psychotherapy; legal protection; children’s rights; youth culture and street art; art rehabilitation and in helping children in conflict and post conflict situations as refugees.

We have expertise in research on the processes of, child neuro-psychology and health across the lifespan: from work on the impact of pre- and peri-natal risks on cognitive and social child development (prematurity, drug taking, poverty), on how inequality in access to ante-natal care impacts on child health; the impact of hydration on children’s thinking; expertise on early conceptual development, on developmental difficulties in intellectual functioning, perception and social development (including autism, down syndrome & prosopagnosia); the development of cultural identity, and on health and wellbeing in children and adolescents. We are also leading the way in exploring the impact of gradients of socio-economic deprivation on exposure to pre-natal risk factors and subsequent impacts on the neuro-cognitive development of babies.

We also have widespread expertise in child and pedagogy, educational policy and practice and the impact of government policies and evaluation, including criminality and crime prevention, and interventions with young people and minority ethnic communities; the delivery and economics of early childhood education and care and early intervention, nationally and internationally; lifelong access to learning; inequalities in pedagogies; and the development of teacher education and higher education, and on the processes of aging.

We have had significant impacts on safeguarding, policy-making and service-delivery within and beyond the UK. These include contributions to government and quasi-governmental policy-making bodies including the European Commission, the US Department of Homeland Security, the UK departments for Education, Health, Business, Innovation & Skills, the Cabinet Office, the Home Office, the Children’s Workforce Development Council, the Teaching Agency, NICE, Newham Council and Tower Hamlets Council. Our research expertise in self-harm, and in child protection and in early childhood education and care, teacher education, Higher Education and disaster education has been used to improve public service delivery in these areas. Our work has also contributed to the development of best practice guidelines on related learning issues used by national and local governments, think tanks, lobby groups and charities, schools, colleges and universities.

Many staff members are involved in commissioned and/or joint projects with these and other partners. Evaluation studies include, the Youth Inclusion Programme and Home Office evaluation of the Children’s Fund and Sure Start programmes. Other examples include our development of a
Targeted Mental Health in School Programme (TaMHS) for primary and secondary school children delivering teacher trainer programmes on wellbeing; and work for the Relate Institute, funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families longitudinal ‘train the trainer’ programmes on resilience for the Newham Resilience Initiative a programme on tackling teenage obesity for the Barking & Dagenham Primary Care Trust; work on screening and intervening to overcome SES-associated effects on brain activity, in partnerships with Tower Hamlets Children’s services and Acuity.

We work with children-at-risk from all over the world on issues including forced migration and refugee movements, violence and society, child protection and psycho-social assistance. Impacts include wide-ranging effects on national policies for orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda, working with Arab-speaking youth groups to challenge received notions of race, identity and ethnicity within visual culture and collaborating with national youth networks in participatory projects to widen the involvement of 15-20 year olds in museums and art galleries. We also have impact on understanding of forced migration and refugee movements, violence and society, child protection and psycho-social assistance, with a geographical focus on Central America and East Africa.

Our strength is contained within a range of internationally recognised academic research groups, centres and Institutes each of which bring their skilled perspectives to this interdisciplinary theme. Clusters working in this thematic area:

- Centre for Performing Arts Development
- Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging
- Centre for Social Justice and Change
- Centre for Social Work Research
- Cognition and Neuroscience research group
- Continuum Research Centre
- Higher Education Research Group
- Human Motor Performance Group
- Institute for Health and Human Development
- Institute for Research into Child Development
- International Centre for Public Pedagogy
- International Centre for the Study of the Mixed Economy of Childcare
- RIX Centre for Innovation in Learning Disability
- Teacher Education Research Group
Lead researchers in this theme include...

**School of Education and Communities:** (Stephen) Briggs, Czerniawski, Chadderton, Cole, Cooper, Edmonds (Casey), Finch, Kim, Kidd Lloyd-Reichling, Maisuria, Murray, Penn, Preston, Ravenscroft, Storan, Tennent, Weston.

**School of Psychology:** Birtles, Moore, Edmonds (Caroline), George, Gersch, Jansari, Jonas, Kushnerenko, Lam, Rivolta, Spiller, Vitkovich.

**School of Health and Biosciences:** Dagkas, Harden, Jamal, Netuveli, Drechsler.

**School of Law and Social Sciences:** Andrews, Briggs (Daniel), Dona, Minnion, Sampson (Alice).

**School of Art and Digital Industries:** Abdu’Allah, Davey, Stockwell, Smith, Logue, Checinska.

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA3 Allied Health Professionals
- UoA4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- UoA20 Law
- UoA22 Social Work and Social Policy
- UoA23 Sociology
- UoA25 Education
- UOA34 Art and Design: History practice and theory
- UoA35 Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- UoA36 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
UEL’s research in the theme of Sport, Health and Wellbeing is centred on exploring the factors that lead to a healthier and happier life in the face of deprivation and potential social exclusion, inequality, disability and disadvantage. We are committed to research in the context of post-Olympics legacy and engage in research in physical and mental health, and wellbeing, as well as newly emerging expertise in sport and exercise sciences and physical activity. The theme is mirrored by significant investment in health and sports facilities in East London by UEL. Use of our research by partners and external groups has led to improved understanding of and management of disease, prevention, diagnoses and treatment.

Our strengths in physical health, medicines, rehabilitation, mental health and wellbeing are longstanding and we lead in methodological innovation including qualitative methods in systematic review. We influence and analyse wider health landscapes, and have expertise in health economics and International health financing and on the development of urban resilience. We are leaders in understanding the challenges of creating and maintaining a healthy urban environment and in the dynamics of systems of social care in the UK and internationally.

We have widespread expertise in pharmacological and toxicological expertise at cellular and subcellular levels and in immunological research, particularly in diseases prevalent in the developing world, and in traditional and herbal medicines and their potential for treatment of cancer and wound healing. We are experts in motor development, rehabilitation and physiotherapy; the design and construction of orthotics, on the implication of haemophilia on childhood activity; and on stroke rehabilitation using robotics and brain scanning. We have widespread research expertise in the action and effects of use of alcohol, drugs and addiction, including specific expertise in e-cigarettes and in legal and illegal psychoactive drugs, including heroin, cannabis and ecstasy, and in exploring the links between alcohol, drug-taking, mental health and crime.

Our work on inequalities in health includes the detailed examination of access to antenatal care; the Well London programme and on a wide range of social issues around mental health. Our mental health expertise is extensive and world renowned and extends from person-centred counselling and coaching, through clinical psychology and psychiatry to brain scanning and neuroscience; including critical perspectives on psychopathology and diagnosis; psychiatric psychological and psychotherapeutic interventions; the neuro-anatomy and neurobiological markers of clinical depression; memory loss and amnesia; intrusive memories and post-traumatic stress. We have expertise in memory function and limitations and their impact on behaviour; psychopathy among prisoners; and long term psychological issues in chronic illness; and the impact of stigma across a wide range of populations. We have widely-used expertise in the rehabilitation of torture victims; and in the effective use of translators in health care settings.
We have expertise in **infant, child and adolescent health** and the impact of socio-economic deprivation; pre-natal risks; pre-term birth outcomes; child neuro-developmental disorders; and on how to promote behaviour change with children, adolescents and adults, including issues around hydration, nutrition and obesity. We also have expertise in understanding life-course outcomes and individual differences in multisensory and sensory deprived processing including Autism, Synaesthesia, Down syndrome and other intellectual difficulties.

Our work in **social work and health care** has contributed to paradigm changes re health and social care professional responses to people, for example who self-harm/have suicidal behavior, involving a shift from a ‘risk management’ to a ‘relational’ approach. We are also active in the **evaluation of social interventions** focused on sport including Fight for Peace Academies in London and Rio. We develop and lead research and evaluations of a wide range of community and health interventions including: the effectiveness of interventions in public health; the delivery of positive psychology interventions; community mental health, migration and impact on well-being, the effectiveness of drug maintenance programmes; health education in schools; the use of activity to promote wellbeing, and the role of family structure in promoting physical activity, to list a few amongst many.

Our researchers in **art and design** have developed innovative artistic instillations, films and videos that aim to **enhance health and well-being** in relation to obesity, sports performance and air pollution, social rehabilitation and climate change as part of collaborations with leading museums, external arts agencies and charities.

International research by UEL academics is used locally, nationally and internationally to inform changes in policy, service intervention and health system design, and to drive improvements in public health and wellbeing. Users include national and international governments, senior policymakers and administrators, health protection agencies and international and bilateral organisations such as the World Bank, World Health Organisation, Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, International Development Research Centre, and Department for International Development. Users also include charitable research organisations such as Arthritis Research UK. Findings of our research on the long-term effects of bleeding in the joints of people with haemophilia, for example, inform clinical guidelines and policy via the Haemophilia Outcomes Working Group, professional networks and Haemophilia Centres internationally.

Partners in mental health include organisations in the third-sector (e.g. National Children’s Bureau, Mind, Relate, Wave Trust, Place2be); local authorities (Newham, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham); health providers (e.g. East London NHS Trust), and national and international government agencies, (e.g. Department of Health [DoH], Department for Education [DoE], National Audit Office, Foreign Office, Amnesty International and the Red Cross). Additional users and beneficiaries of our research include parents and their children; clinical and health-related professionals and their patients; users of recreational drugs; people with brain damage; language and early years specialists; children’s services and charities (and, in turn, their users); the police; and commercial organisations including multinational suppliers of bottled water, e-cigarette manufacturers, eye-tracker distributors. Specific benefits include our contribution to debates about the legal classification of drugs and risks for adults and the unborn child associated with the use of
MDMA. UEL is a member of UCL-Partners.

Our strength is contained within a range of internationally recognised academic research groups, centres and Institutes each of which bring their skilled perspectives to this interdisciplinary theme.

- Applied Sport Sciences Research Group (ASSRG)
- Centre for Social Work Research
- Cognition and Neuroscience research group
- Drugs and Addictive Behaviours research group
- Family Therapy and Systemic Research Centre
- Health Promotion and Behaviour research group
- Human Motor Performance Group
- Infection and Immunity Research Group (IIRG)
- Institute for Health and Human Development
- Institute for Research into Child Development
- London East Research Institute
- Medicines Research Group (MRG)

Lead researchers in this theme include:

School of Health and Biosciences: Renton, Dagkas, Harden, Jamal, Bertotti, Hatherall, Netuveli, Rao, Tobi, Drechsler, Gibson, Turner, Corcoran, Ayoub, Seed, Outram, Hayes.


School of Law and Social Sciences: Briggs (Daniel), Windle, Rustin, (Alice) Sampson, Squire, Wright.

School of Education and Communities: Briggs (Stephen), Burck, Cooper, Singh.

School of Art and Digital Industries: Abdul'Allah, Eastwood, Pinsky, Smith, Stockwell.

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA3 Allied Health Professionals
- UoA4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- UoA22 Social Work and Social Policy
- UoA23 Sociology
- UOA34 Art and Design: History practice and theory
Sustainability

UEL's research in the field of Sustainability is development-led, targeting a series of national and international long-term social and environmental gains and linked to the urban and Olympic regeneration of East London. The UEL theme brings together our leading experts from a wide range of disciplines in engineering, architecture, biology, ecology, sociology, social policy, geo-informatics; with researchers creating practical solutions for current and future generations. We also engage with public understanding of issues around sustainability through the work of our leading artists.

Our work focuses on issues around the specific issue of sustainability, and also around the creation of more effective and efficient processes that may have longer-term benefits. This encompasses both social ecology and the technical optimisation of energy return. Our approach is to take a practice-based approach and critically evaluate each against each other, ensuring that long-term payback is environmental, economic and of social relevance. We have international research expertise in the areas of structural, material and coastal engineering and flood defences; energy efficiency, place-space architecture; urban resilience; green wheels, and novel solid state topologies for wind generators; efficiency in power line consumption; sustainable neighbourhood planning; relationships between social structure and urban space; landscape and urban ecology; biodiversity; habitat management, brown-field regeneration, peatland drainage and wetland agriculture, green roof research for water attenuation and biodiversity; peatland and carbon management; social, political and policy implications of urban regeneration and mega-events; and the utilization of geo-information mapping.

UEL also has interdisciplinary expertise in the contemporary topical questions of socio-economic change, within the horizon of social, economic and environmental sustainability. Issues include examination of: unsustainable aspects of economic globalisation; the development of commons; poverty, social cohesion; human wellbeing; international migration; gender and sustainable livelihoods. Sustainability issues have also been central to our artistic researchers creative production of artworks that engage with questions of ecology and eco-sustainability such as using recycled components to produce site specific installations that are themselves recycled after exhibition, or developing ingenious installations that invite audiences to question the impact of climate change and global warming on London’s monuments and our national heritage sites.

We have co-operation agreements with key organisations, such as the US Green Building Council, Russian Green Building Council, Verband Region Stuttgart, the German Climate Alliance, Institute Bruxellois Pour La Gestion de l’Environnement; and the Institute for Sustainability in the UK. As well as with local, national and international government and quasi-government agencies, NGOs and charitable foundations, small and medium-sized enterprises and major industry, planners and local development agencies, the European Commission, Inter-governmental organisations, media audiences and consumer groups.
Research has also been used by commercial organisations such as Aggregate Industries to explore the feasibility of waste resources exchange and re-use. Significant EU funding through the TURaS project supported our production of practical guidance on sustainable development, based on collaboration with a number of international businesses. Award-winning buildings resulting from our research include 'Water filtration in the Veneto' - to shape innovative strategies for building development and conservation.

Our communication of expertise in areas such as material and construction innovations has supported disaster relief development with international NGO's and charitable foundations such as the Institute for Sustainability and Article 25 in Burkina Faso, Haiti, and the Niger Delta. 'Public Realm' work articulates qualitative and political aspects of urban life, developing innovative platforms for communicating and evaluating the sustainability of the urban realm.

Work has involved designing and managing collaborations between local and international partners such as the US Green Building Council to work on local environment analysis tied to public space and sustainable neighbourhood planning. Local partners and beneficiaries have included Design for London, The London Mayor's Office and local Authorities in Camden, Newham, Southwark, and Westminster. The London Mayor's 'Manifesto on Public Space' put published research into direct practice in opposing private ownership of public space within new urban developments. UEL is a partner in 'Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability' (TURaS) project, a five-year, €6.8m EU funded scheme set up in 2012. TURaS brings together 28 European partners (9 Higher Education institutions, 11 local authorities and 8 SMEs) with urban communities and businesses to develop sustainable solutions to the challenges of climate change, natural resource shortages and rapid urban growth.

Our strength is contained within a range of internationally recognised academic research groups, centres and Institutes each of which bring their skilled perspectives to this interdisciplinary theme. Clusters working in this thematic area include:

- Built Environment Research Group
- Centre for Geo-information Studies
- Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging
- Centre for Social Justice and Change
- Communications, Control and Electric Power Group
- Design, Materials, Engineering & Manufacturing Group
- Environmental Research Group (ERG)
- London East Research Institute
- Place Research Lab (PRL)
- Sustainability Research Institute
Lead researchers in this theme include

**School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering** Abbas, Abdalla, Ahangar-Asr, Chandler Chanerley, Ciupala, Clarke, Connop, Fretton, Jahromi, Jayaratne, Kadas, Karthaus, Lindsay, Lota, Newport, Mann, Minton, Pace, Qureshi, Scott-Whitby, Segantini, Spencer, Tobe, Vande Berghe.

**Other Schools**, Brimicombe, Li, Poynter, Pinsky, Preston, Rustin, Sampson Slowak, Stockwell, Taticchi, Tsilimpounidi, Wilson, Cudworth, De Angelis, Filtzer, Firth, Hobden, Tiwari, & Wright.

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA11 Computer Science and Informatics
- UoA16 Architecture, Built Environment & Planning
- UoA15 General Engineering
- UoA22 Social Policy and Social Work
- UoA23 Sociology
- UoA34 Art and Design: History practice and theory
UES's research theme of Human Rights, Security, Social Equality and Justice brings together the expertise from across UEL of our internationally leading researchers in law and criminology; social policy; sociology; education; performing arts; and cultural studies, health sciences; psychology; and business studies. We have world leading expertise in conflict resolution; law and development; terrorism studies; post-9/11 depiction of Muslims; migration; youth crime and drug use; crime-data mapping and analysis; gendered structures, practices and ideologies; political consciousness; economic change and threats; new forms of legal and illegal income generation; peace building and conflict regulation in violently divided societies; migrant and refugee communities; ideologies and political projects that unite experiences, from nationalism to social cohesion; issues about human cooperation; psychosocial experience and the forces of social change; in women’s cultural rights; the rise of neoliberal capitalism, politics and community; the politics of media ownership and advertising; the neo-liberalisation of pornography; on the positive use of new technology to transform the lives of people with learning disabilities; the use and role of translators and using performance drama and sound art to facilitate conflict resolution.

We have leading expertise in issues around equitable access to finance, human rights, health and social care. We have high quality work in areas exploring culture and contexts, and analysing questions concerning the workplace, markets and performance of firms; international law, human rights in armed conflicts; and human rights in political, economic and social conflicts, with a special knowledge of the transition from authoritarian regimes. There are close connections between UEL staff and protagonists in contemporary social movements across the world, from the Arab “spring” and movements in East Germany, to the “occupy” movement in the United States. Work has made a critical contribution to the understanding of land use and dealing with the challenges of social and economic inequalities through drawing on Islamic jurisprudence.

We have expertise in issues of radicalization and the drivers of terrorism and the challenges of developing counter-terrorist policies through, for example, our contributions to the “Prevent Strategy” community engagement initiatives, which work with local black and minority ethnic groups. Central to our research is work developing an understanding the causes and contexts of inequality and working on culturally nuanced solutions. UEL research was amongst the first to chart the pathways from exclusion from school into crime, while at the same time, noting the apparent disintegration of the ‘gang’ and the emergence of the ‘lone player’ in local drug markets

We have international collaborations with scholars and NGOs around the world. Our work challenges assumptions about equality, gender, identity and conflict resolution and explores how human rights discourses and international law can at times fuel conflicts. UEL researchers provide training to employees of organisations, including the Amnesty International, British Council, MSF, Red Cross Save the Children Fund, UN Habitat and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization. Our research has also informed the development of Department of Health guidelines to improve care for elderly people with mental health issues in disadvantaged communities.
UEL research on the impact of torture has informed UN committee discussions about and, subsequently, the development of new international laws pertaining to torture survivors’ rights to rehabilitation; and UEL has made significant contributions to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, one of the most widely-used and internationally recognized sets of common principles in life-saving areas of humanitarian response; UEL contributed to the Calmer Framework for the British Red Cross, recently used to support oil company staff during a hostage-taking incident in Algeria.

Our researchers in performing arts are leading the way in the use of drama in conflict prevention in Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with the work notable for its exploration of the ways in which performance and audience participation can be used to transform fixed positions and relations. In the visual arts, researchers have produced artworks collaboratively with disadvantaged community groups and employed case studies drawn from art history or existing within contemporary visual culture to question racism and the enduring legacies of post-colonial ideas and racialised histories within the visual arts and fashion.

Other research has focused on the application of frameworks from critical whiteness studies and critical race theory to understand inequalities in ‘disaster education’, arguing that disaster education in various arenas (in terms of official education, citizenship education and informal education) is inequitable and unrepresentative. UEL research has explored the relationship between Critical Race Theory and Marxism within educational theory. Other work has examined race and education, including non-colour-coded racism. Other international work focuses on mixed economies of childcare, particularly on the growth of private for-profit provision and its impact on the viability, quality, sustainability and equity of early child-care. Our health research is concerned with the wider social determinants of health; and we have considerable methodological expertise in the evaluation of complex interventions in highly diverse populations. Our valuation research in India is influencing reform of health financing programmes for the ‘below poverty-line’ population.

UEL child neuro-cognitive psychology research has demonstrated some of the first evidence of socio-economic effects on infant brain development and exploring ethnic diversity and Britishness; the impact of socio-economic gradients on child language and cognitive development; perceptions of facial disfigurement.

Our strength is contained within a range of internationally recognised academic research groups, centres and Institutes each of which bring their skilled perspectives to this interdisciplinary theme.

- Anthropology and Contemporary Worlds research group
- Centre for Cultural Studies Research
- Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging
- Centre for Social Justice and Change
- Centre for Social Work Research
- Centre on Human Rights in Conflict
- Drugs and Addictive Behaviours research group (DAB)
- Historical Justice and Human Rights research group
- Institute for Research in Child Development (IRDC)
- Land and Human Rights research group
- Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity in Business
- Psychology and Social Change Research Group
- RIX Centre for Innovation in Learning Disability
Lead researchers in this theme include:

School of Law and Social Science: Ahearne, Andrews, Anthias, Bhattacharyya, Briggs, Cannon, Cudworth, De Angelis, Diamond, Dona, Ellis, Esin, Filtzer, Finch, Firth, Gilbert, Griffith, Hall, Halstead, Herman, Hobden, Hughes, Hyde, Jamieson, Jenson, Jones, Korac-Sanderson, Kraft, Kufour, Li, Lim, Marfleet, Pickering-Saqqa, Poros Power, Price, Radeljic, Richards, Robbins, Rustin, Sait, Salami, Sampson (Alice), Schwartz, Silke, Squire, Sriram, Strawson, Tamboukou, Tiwari, Tsilimpounidi, Voela, Windle, Woods, Wright, Yates, Yuval-Davies.

School of Art and Digital Industries (Art and Design), Pinsky, Stockwell, Wilson, Abdu’Allah, Eastwood, Smith, Memou, Brauer Checinska, (Music, performance and Drama) Breed, Hingorani, Chapman, Katsouraki, McWatt, Ramos, Sotelo-Castro, J Thomas, Qualmann; (Culture & communication) Humm, Nava, Gilbert, Lawrence, Morey, Radstone, Hardy, Hodgkin, Kempadoo, Vitali, Butler, Carr, Daniels, Dave, Goodman, Hardy, Maddison, Morey, Fisher, Sampson (Anthony), Sosa.

School of Education and Communities: Bosanquet, Briggs (Stephen), Cole, Cooper, Czerniawski, Hingley-Jones, Kidd, Kolokithia, Maisuria, Murray.

School of Psychology: Chase, Davidson, Finn, Harper, Jiminez, Tucker, McGrath, Patel (N).

Royal Docks Business School: Chandler, Sheikh, Adamson, Yerby.

School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering: Brimicombe, Li.

UEL have submitted our strong work from this theme in the Research Evaluation Framework (REF2014) in the following units of assessment:

- UoA3 Allied Health Professionals
- UoA4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- UoA20 Law
- UoA22 Social Work and Social Policy
- UoA23 Sociology
- UoA25 Education
- UoA35 Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- UoA36 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
Selected list of research clusters

- Anthropology and Contemporary World Research Group
- Applied Sport Sciences Research Group (ASSRG)
- Built Environment Research Group
- Centre for Cultural Studies Research
- Centre for Geo-information Studies
- Centre for Innovation Management & Enterprise
- Centre for Narrative Research
- Centre for Performing Arts Development
- Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging
- Centre for Social Justice and Change
- Centre for Social Work Research
- Centre for the Study of States, Markets & People (STAMP)
- Centre on Human Rights in Conflict (CHRC)
- Cognition and Neuroscience research group
- Communications, Control and Electric Power Group (CCEP)
- Continuum Research Centre
- Design, Materials, Engineering & Manufacturing Group
- Drugs and Addictive Behaviours research group (DAB)
- Environmental Research Group (ERG)
- Feminist Research Group
- Health Promotion and Behaviour research group (HPB)
- Higher Education Research Group
- Historical Justice and Human Rights research group
- Human Motor Performance Group
- Infection and Immunity Research Group (IIRG)
- Institute for Health and Human Development
- Institute for Research in Child Development (IRDC)
- International Centre for Mixed Economies in Childcare
- International Centre for Public Pedagogy
- Land and Human Rights research group
- London East Research Institute
- Medicines Research Group (MRG)
- Moving Image Research Centre
- Moving Image Studio Research Centre
- Noon Centre for Equality and Diversity in Business
- Place Research Lab (PRL)
- Psychology and Social Change Research Group
- Psychosocial Studies Research Group
- Raphael Samuel History Centre
- RIX Centre for Innovation in Learning Disability
- Software Systems Engineering Research Group
- Sustainability Research Institute
- Teacher Education Research Group
- The Islamic Banking & Finance Centre
Detailed strategic objectives

1. Supporting a sustainable, vital, and ethical research environment
   1.1. Building existing areas of research excellence, identifying opportunities and investing in new areas with potential
   1.2. Improving the vitality, quality, scope, and size of UEL’s research output
   1.3. Ensuring research is sustained through external research grants
   1.4. Actively attracting, retaining and developing staff and increasing the proportion of staff engaged in high quality research
   1.5. Investing in research and dissemination infrastructure (labs, IT, exhibition spaces; etc)
   1.6. Removing barriers, providing efficient administrative support, and ensuring effective management.
   1.7. Championing good practice, integrity and the highest ethical standards; embodied in effective governance systems, processes and practices, embracing the UK Concordat to support research integrity.

2. Building our International research profile
   2.1. Supporting Institutes, centres and groups in developing their international and world leading profiles.
   2.2. Leading the way in our disciplines and engaging our academic peers; increasing the recognition of UEL research as international and world-leading and opening access to our work.
   2.3. Fostering world-wide academic networks; supporting overseas visits, sabbaticals and visiting experts
   2.4. Hosting leading international research conferences, events and exhibitions and communicating our work effectively.

3. Leading academic partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration
   3.1. Leading the way in creating novel multi-centre collaborations with top universities nationally and around the world
   3.2. Aligning research themes with our expertise; and with national and European funding priorities
   3.3. Fostering new and innovative intersections and interactions between disciplines and with third and public sector partners.
   3.4. Working with partners to improve effectiveness of practice, services, delivery, methods and techniques
   3.5. Creating new knowledge exchange opportunities and building the East London, regional and national knowledge economy

4. Producing high quality, fully integrated, research and teaching
   4.1. Recruiting enquiring students who are inspired by our research expertise
   4.2. Ensuring teaching is delivered by knowledgeable academics with international research reputations; creating curricula that showcase and reflect our professional research and practitioner expertise
   4.3. Providing the research and analytical skills that make our students distinctive and competitive in the employment market
   4.4. Embedding UG students in research, providing experience of professional research through internships, placements, project supervision

5. Maximising Impact, commercialisation & dissemination
   5.1. Communicating our research effectively and widely to all, giving clear messages about its public good and benefits. In line with the UK concordat for engaging the public with research
   5.2. Fostering a responsive culture, and adapting to opportunities and to immediate economic, social and political challenges
   5.3. Engaging with business and other non-academic partners to understand their needs and develop solutions that help them prosper
   5.4. Driving economic benefit through innovation, enterprise and consultancy (e.g. spin out companies; patents etc.)
   5.5. Working with external partners to identify employers’ needs; creating placement and employment opportunities for our students

6. Developing each generation of researchers
   6.1. Creating an integrated community where research is not done in isolation and where UEL staff actively help each successive research generation
   6.2. Enacting the UK Concordat to support the career development of researchers and develop careers through research mentoring and training from doctoral student to professor; ensuring professional ethical standards and integrity; and enabling researchers to achieve their personal research goals
   6.3. Giving expert support and professional training so that our PG students and ECRs have the right skills and expertise to embark on a successful career in research in line with UK Concoridats.
   6.4. Providing high quality postgraduate supervision; engaging PGRs in world-wide networks and exposure to good practice
   6.5. Providing a vital, creative and supportive postgraduate community, reflected in high levels of PGR student satisfaction
The intensely creative and diverse music scene that unfolded in GRZQWRZQ1HZ<RUNEHWZHHQ the decline of disco and the emergence of house music is an era which until recently has been largely unaccounted for. That is until talented historian Dr Tim Lawrence turned his attention to WKLVYLEUDQWSHULRGRI1HZ<RUN City's history.

Dr Lawrence's latest research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, charts the LQƃXHQFHRI1HZ<RUNőVGRZQWRZQ music culture in the first half of the 1980s and has led to the near completion of his latest work, Life and Death on the New York Dance Floor: A History 1980–85.

"At the start of the '80s disco music production ground to a halt following a backlash against the genre and major record companies had backed out of dance music due to concerns over commercial viability. The field became open for independent labels and artists. It was a time when music was growing out of WKHVWUHHWVRIGRZQWRZQ1<& rather than coming out of the corporations", explains Lawrence.

"For me, the 1980–85 period was one of the richest and most exciting times in dance PXVLFFXOWXUHLQ1HZ<RUN What was surprising to me as I was researching this time was how energised and interesting the interactions were between previously discrete genres of music. The fusion of different music scenes, such as disco, hip hop, electro and dub, forged a complex network that cut across race, gender, and sexuality.

"The idea of discrete sonic scenes becoming fused dates back to the '60s and this re-emerges in the early '80s. These epochs also resonate with what is happening today. My students on the Music Culture programme are much less aligned to one specific genre of music than they used to be, which is largely due to the practice of downloading. Music is becoming hybrid and open to unusual combinations."

Dr Lawrence is meticulous in his research, drawing on hundreds of original interviews with protagonists, sustained documentary research, economic and social history and cultural theory. It is important to Dr Lawrence that his work remains accessible.

"I work with narrative; these are stories. I want the people I interview to read my book and feel that it's come from their experience. You don't have to be part of the academic world to read my work."

Dr Lawrence's research has had significant ramifications outside of academia. In particular, Lawrence co-founded, with Cloud Sound System, which KDVEHHQRUJDQLVLQJ1HZ<RUN Loft-style parties with legendary dance pioneer David Mancuso in London. "The Lucky Cloud venture has grown out of my research and is something that reaches beyond the lecture theatre. Through Lucky Cloud, we are finding out how this type of dance culture resonates today."