

Highlights 2008-09

EVENTS



ICA4 Textile Futures Salon What Future for Living Textiles 23 & 24 Oct 2008

We secured £5000 sponsorship from Unilever, which enabled an international line up of speakers. Over 300 delegates attended - members, students, industry and academics from the UK, Europe and US. A cross UAL student competition formed part of our evening sessions - publicised via the intranet and e-invites. ICA Podcasts were set up for each event - to be added to the website.

A Second Life Exhibition took place in the Digital Studio & Brandon and Nash room. For further information visit: www.tfrg.org.uk



Do You See a Future Career in Design Research? July 2009

This event was attended by over 20 MA students from Chelsea, LCF and CSM.

It followed member suggestions to promote research careers as an option, and was designed in conjunction with Jo Heeley, Jane Harris and Itamar Ferrer. Current PhD students and Research Associates submitting research proposals talked animatedly about the different stages of their research careers. A pack with speaker profiles, how to apply for PhDs, along with different award schemes was produced.

For further information visit : www.tfrg.org.uk



TFRG member workshops July and Oct 08, March and July 09

The July session was led by Futurist Dale Russell who gave an inspiring presentation. Attended by 20 members we explored current thinking regarding the Unit and how it should progress. The format is a mix of speaker presentations and brainstorming.

The next one taking place in September will continue to scope a collaborative Textile Futures research bid.

ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY



TFRC Consultancy Launch Oct 23rd 2008, at the ICA

Over 70 businesses attended including Harrods, Channel 4, Selfridges, Ove Arup and many more. We've since followed up meetings with companies including: Gucci Group PPR; Puma; Samsung; Ecco Leather; Arup; Pentland Group and Hammersons.

We're scoping a number of KTP/research ideas with Arup and Gucci, in consultation with Brent Holder, Davies St. The current climate has led us to adopt a strategy that combines research and consultancy initiatives, finding funding avenues driven by the company's 'business needs'.
see research activity



First contract secured Scottish Enterprise, Nov 08

Jane Harris was invited by Scottish Enterprise to develop and deliver a presentation on her own practice and Textile Futures for the Scottish textile industry and associated academics – delivered November 08.

This proved an important test, to try out the consultancy business model and payment infrastructure we've established, supported by Monica Hundal in the Innovation Centre and staff at Davis Street.

A feature on the Consultancy appeared in **Halo, Issue 7**, April/May 09.



Futurist & Visiting Prof. Dale Russell mentors Mentor and advisory role

Visiting Professor Dale Russell has been advising the consultancy, as well as working with Unit Members as a collective. Dale's been very generous in letting us tap into her commercial expertise giving us advise on engaging with companies.

This has been invaluable in getting the 'pitch' right at meetings and in general Dale has been a great mentor.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Studentships



Neals Yard PhD ongoing-

Lead supervisor Becky Earley (Kay Politowicz took on this role in Becky's absence). Co Supervisors Jane Harris and Philip Delamore.



Gucci PhD Scholarship – 'Sustainable Technology for Future Luxury'

£10,000 per year for three years, hosted by CSM and supervised cross TFRG. The scholarship will be promoted to a UAL MA student audience by Gucci at a TFRC event, Nov 2009.

Scholarship to be advertised Nov 09. Interviews will take place Jan/Feb 2010, for commencement Sept 2010.

Grants and Awards



Audi Foundation Award – 'Metabolicity' Sept 08-09.

Recipient Rachel Wingfield. Bi monthly supervision & steering group meetings with Rachel Wingfield, Audi, Martin Woolley and Jo Heeley have taken place. The future of Metabolicity and a public presentation hosted by Audi Foundation will be discussed in the final steering group meeting, with Audi Foundation, October 2009. An opportunity will be arranged for Rachel to present the work to the Unit 2009/2010.

Various outcomes are scheduled in particular for London Design week, Itamar will update everyone.

Press is currently being targeted for coverage of Audi Foundation Award/Metabolicity.

www.metabolicity.com



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

AHRC Grant – 'What Are Textiles Now & Future' -

at the July 09 workshop the idea was floated to put in a collaborative bid, drawing on the 'clustered' Unit expertise e.g. smart, digital, sustainable, biomimetics. Initial thoughts on outputs include: An essay series, journal papers, exhibition (with commissioned works). Jo Heeley will run a workshop end September to develop an outline bid.

AHRC Grant – Kerri Wallace, 'Motion Response' mentored by Jane Harris. Industry partners Speedo and Cambridge University, Sept 09.

AHRC Knowledge Transfer Fellowship –

Kate Goldsworthy, bid support Jo Heeley & Jane Harris, Nov 09.

AHRC Grant – Kathy Schicker, 'Photonic Textiles', mentored by Jo Heeley & Jane Harris. Industry partners Arup, 2010.

AHRC Speculative Grant – Co design project –

Caryn Simonson, Andrew Sides and Jane Harris. This has evolved from the Second Life project. Various discussions have been held, further bid development is on hold until early 2010.

THE FUTURE 2009 /10

What's Next?

Sept 09: TFRG Workshop led by Jo Heeley – in relation to cross Unit AHRC Funding bid 'What Are Textiles, Now & Future' (working title).

Nov 09: Gucci PhD Scholarship Event 'What Future for Sustainable Luxury' CSM Innovation Centre (date tbc).
Speaker presentations to include: Gucci PPR; Suzanne Lee – Bio Couture; Philip Delamore – Customising Fashion; Carole Collett – Biomimetic Textiles; Becky Earley – Upcycling Fashion

Jan 2010: Further 'Research Future' workshop for BA students (unable to accommodate BA for previous MA event – yet there is clearly interest in research and 'what it is').

Jan 2010: Presentation from Rachel Wingfield on 'Metabolicity' (date tbc)

The Unit's external presence at ICA has been very successful. Changes at the ICA mean that there is no longer a new media space and other spaces for events are under consideration. Any good ideas, let us know. tfrg@tfrg.org.uk

Website Development

Jan 09: Development of TFRC website portal for PhD studentships and related information.

Feb 09: Development of TFRC PhD Blog in conjunction with research students. Through the blog and regular skype meetings a collective student research environment has evolved as has interest in the Unit in supporting potential PhD projects.

The website is undergoing an overhaul. Itamar Ferrer and a colleague, programmer Mariangela Radaelli, have been working on two key issues: 1. enabling the site to function smoothly 2. integrate the Research & Consultancy offer, incorporating TFRC graphics. This work is ongoing.

Redesignation:

Currently TFRC has funding until Dec 09 (as do all other Units and Centres). We are anticipating some kind of redesignation process 2009 / 2010. Jo Heeley is funded until Dec 2009.

Jane Harris has participated in a series of meetings with the CUDG (Centre Unit Directors Group) to explore areas of common ground and future collective initiatives with UAL Units and Centres.

Other:

TFRC Members Meetings: - July 08 / Sept 08 / March 09 / July 09 / Sept 09

TFRC Management Meetings: - July 08 / Nov 08 / Sept 09

UAL Unit & Centre Responsibilities: - Annual Report & Budget March 2009 - Redrafted Report May 09.

Staff Management:

Director: Dr Jane Harris (0.2 TFRG)

Associate Directors: Becky Earley, Frances Geesin, Carole Collet

Research & Enterprise Consultant: Dr Jo Heeley (Funded by Heif4 & CSM)

Admin:

Anna Holland – May 08 - Jan 2009 (assisted in creating industry database, ICA 4 event and Consultancy Launch).

Itamar Ferrer - Feb 2009 to present