

UCL Mathematical & Physical Sciences newsletter

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MATHEMATICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Faculty Focus - June 2020

Coronavirus - Faculty Update

Update from Dean of Faculty

The Faculty and University is starting to open for research outside of COVID 19. The Chemistry department will be the first department in the faculty that will start to re-open. Once lessons have been learned from this we will look to open buildings for other experimentally based departments in the faculty (MSSL, LCN, Earth Sciences, Chemistry (KLB), IMD, Physics). These departments have all submitted requests to UCL to be opened and have started to put detailed risk assessments in place.

[Read in full on the MAPS Website](#)



News, Announcements and Updates

William Fleming MacLehose (1967-2020)

The MAPS Faculty were shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Bill Maclehorse at the age of 52. Bill was a historian of Medieval medicine and lecturer in the



Department of Science and Technology Studies, and a much loved colleague. You can find a [full tribute to him on the STS website](#), and can also sign an [online book of condolences](#) for those who wish to share their memories of him.

MAPS Caring Fund during Coronavirus

In an effort to support carers facing extraordinary challenges during these times, the MAPS Faculty is adapting the MAPS Caring Fund pilot to the current circumstances. To apply for this financial assistance please read the [online guidelines](#) and submit your application online by 10 June 2020 using the form at <https://bit.ly/MAPSCaringFund>



Solar Orbiter to pass through the tails of Comet ATLAS

The European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter, which carries instruments proposed, designed and built at UCL, will cross through the tails of Comet ATLAS during early June in a chance encounter flagged to ESA by a team from the UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory (UCL MSSL).

[Read the full story on the MAPS website](#)

Professor Chris Rapley CBE

announced as Chair of the ESSC

The European Space Sciences Committee (ESSC), the Expert Committee on Space Sciences of the European Science Foundation (ESF), has selected Professor Chris Rapley (UCL Earth Sciences) as its incoming Chair.

[Read the full story on the MAPS Website](#)



Research and Funding



COVID-19 and the environment

UCL Open: Environment is an open scholarship, interdisciplinary journal, now opening a call for papers concerned with the effects on the environment of the COVID-10 pandemic. Papers should be strongly interdisciplinary either in terms of the author's skill sets or subject matter. Discussion and research papers are equally welcome.

For more information [visit the UCL Open: Environment website](#)

New £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups

A new £40M fund to invest in the UK's most promising early stage clean growth ventures was today announced by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and CCLA as part of an initiative supported by UCL academic, Professor Chris Rapley CBE.

[Read more on the MAPS Website](#)





Capturing public perceptions of COVID-19 to inform planning

A new European-wide study to understand the perceptions, needs and priorities of the public affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency has been launched by a team from UCL and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Italy.

[Read the full story on the MAPS Website](#)

MAPS in the Media

Should British schools be re-opening?

Professor Christina Pagel appeared on Sky News, discussing school re-openings as part of her work with Independent SAGE. You can read [her twitter thread on the subject](#), or [watch the interview here](#).



Coronavirus: government advisory groups should include a wider range of experts

The Covid-19 pandemic is a complex issue that requires more than simply medical expertise to solve, meaning the lack of disciplinary diversity on advisory groups is cause for concern, writes Dr Erman Sozudogru (UCL Science & Technology Studies).

[Read on The Conversation](#)

The new science of volcanoes

Forty years after the Mount St Helens eruption galvanized volcano researchers, they are using powerful new tools to spy on the most dangerous mountains. Professor Christopher Kilburn (UCL Earth Sciences) says this is bringing us into the golden era of physical volcanology.

[Read: Nature](#)



Events

UCL Undergraduate Open Days

The UCL Undergraduate Open Days will now be taking place virtually over the course of a week, from **Monday 29 June to Saturday 4 July**. There will then be a repeat of these events from **Monday 20 July to Saturday 25 July**.

We currently intend for our planned open day on Saturday 12 September to take place in person as in previous years.

For more information, visit the [UCL Undergraduate Open Days website](#).

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Bullying and Harassment: Taking collective responsibility

UCL MAPS and Engineering EDI have produced a short video, including an introduction from the provost, discussing how we all need to act to prevent bullying at UCL. You can [watch the video here on MediaCentral](#). This has been released in advance of the 'Calling Time on Sexual Misconduct' conference, taking place virtually at UCL on 17-18 June.

For more information and to register, [visit the EDI website](#). To report cases of Harassment or bullying, visit the [UCL Report & Support page](#).



Public Policy

The importance of planning during the COVID-19 crisis

The unprecedented challenge presented by the COVID-19 crisis has seen many people in the MAPS faculty engage in public policy related activities. UCL Public



Policy has produced [a range of resources to help to explain what public policy is all about](#) and to provide advice on how to get engaged with this area.

[Read more on the MAPS Website](#)

Training and Development

Coursera now available for UCL staff

Coursera is an online platform providing courses on a wide variety of subjects, created in partnership with universities around the world. Many are free but additional features are available for a fee such as quizzes and certification.

During the Covid outbreak, Coursera is offering free access to these premium features to universities for a limited period and UCL has set this up for our staff and students.



To take advantage of this limited time offer, go to [UCL's Coursera page](#) and sign up using your UCL email address by 31 July 2020. You must complete your learning by 30 September 2020. It is possible that this offer might be extended beyond July but no further information is available at this stage. Please note that UCL isn't a formal partner of Coursera and does not currently offer courses on the platform.

Submit your news: what would you like to hear about?

If you have any upcoming events that you like to be promoted to MAPS Faculty staff [please let us know](#).

Feedback on the faculty newsletter

Thanks to those who completed the UCL MAPS Internal Communications Survey. We have tried to take your comments on board when putting this newsletter together. We are keen to make sure that this addresses your needs so [please let us know](#) how we can continue to improve.



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