

# Professorial Lectures

2019





Robert Gordon University presents its 2019 Professorial Lectures from a selection of its leading academics from various disciplines. An engaging lecture series based on a wide range of topics, each is free to attend and is open to everyone.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to attend any of the following lectures, please email: [Professorial.lectures@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:Professorial.lectures@rgu.ac.uk)

Wednesday 23 January 2019

**'SELF-MANAGEMENT OF LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS: WHOSE ROLE IS IT ANYWAY?'**

Wednesday 20 February 2019

**'DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN BUILT HERITAGE'**

Wednesday 20 March 2019

**'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: THE EMPLOYABILITY JOURNEYS OF GENERATION Z'**

Wednesday 24 April 2019

**'THE RIGHT STUFF': NON-TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR SAFETY'**

The Sir Ian Wood Building | Robert Gordon University  
Garthdee Campus | Garthdee Road | Aberdeen | AB10 7GJ

# 'SELF-MANAGEMENT OF LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS: WHOSE ROLE IS IT ANYWAY?'

**BY PROFESSOR KAY COOPER**

Professor of Allied Health Professions at Robert Gordon University

**WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2019**

6pm followed by refreshments

The Sir Ian Wood Building | RGU's Garthdee campus  
Garthdee Road | Aberdeen



Kay Cooper is Clinical Professor of Allied Health Professions, an innovative position jointly funded by RGU's School of Health Sciences and NHS Grampian, with a remit to develop research capacity and capability across the Allied Health Professions and to facilitate clinical academic partnerships.

A physiotherapist with a passion for ensuring patients receive care based on the best available evidence, Professor Cooper's research focuses on supporting people to live well with long-term conditions, often by harnessing one of the most powerful, accessible and free "interventions" in the healthcare arena – being physically active.

Professor Cooper will explore self-management of long-term musculoskeletal conditions such as low back pain, now the world's leading cause of disability.

Drawing on her own and others research in the field, her lecture will consider issues including the role of "self" in self-management, the power of physical activity and what prevents many of us from using such a powerful tool for managing (and preventing) long-term health conditions.

The lecture will present the case for personalised self-management, where people with chronic musculoskeletal conditions are supported in a manner appropriate to their individual needs in order to live well. It will consider why there are still improvements to be made in this field and how research and practice might consider doing things differently to advance this increasingly important area of healthcare.

# 'DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION IN BUILT HERITAGE'

**BY PROFESSOR RICHARD LAING**

Professor of Built Environment Visualisation at Robert Gordon University

**WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2019**

6pm followed by refreshments

The Sir Ian Wood Building | RGU's Garthdee campus  
Garthdee Road | Aberdeen



Richard Laing is Professor of Built Environment Visualisation at RGU's Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment. His research concentrates on the subject of visualisation and its use within public evaluation of open space, built heritage and urban design.

Recent years have seen the rapid development of digital tools which can be used to record, present and document the built heritage. While a great deal of research has concentrated on the improvement of devices and software, work at RGU has tended towards using the tools to explore methods of community engagement. This can be regarded as an important pathway to demonstrating and encouraging the use of research findings in practice, and has formed a key strand of explorations across the past 10 years.

Projects have included studies which looked at a wide range of buildings and artefacts, including ruins, monuments, streets, industrial buildings and examples of heritage suggested by the community, or which might not usually be covered by formal legal protection.

Engagement has included work with community groups, schoolchildren and through open meetings. This has often led to new ideas being proposed, and has been especially useful within the promotion of tourism in community planning.

Professor Richard Laing will present a highly visual and accessible overview of that work, and will discuss how the methods signal ways to connect people and heritage, and support wider participation in discussion and debate.

# 'SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: THE EMPLOYABILITY JOURNEYS OF GENERATION Z'

**BY PROFESSOR HEATHER FULFORD**

Professor of Enterprise and Social Innovation at Robert Gordon University

**WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2019**

6pm followed by refreshments

The Sir Ian Wood Building | RGU's Garthdee campus  
Garthdee Road | Aberdeen



Heather Fulford is a Professor at RGU's Aberdeen Business School, where she is Director of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and the Link Coordinator for the undergraduate and postgraduate business and management programmes in the university's partner institution in Zurich, Switzerland.

Professor Fulford's recent research has been devoted to collaborating with small businesses, third sector organisations and economic development agencies across the North of Scotland to prepare young people for the world of work. This research activity has been supported by funding from the Scottish Funding Council, the Medical Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council.

In her lecture, Professor Fulford will consider issues such as the contrasting contexts facing many in the future young workforce, including geographical, social, economic and personal contexts.

She will also explore the complexities common to many of their employability journeys and the challenges of assessing the impact of employability support interventions, and reporting the real difference made.

She will conclude by reflecting on the rapidly changing nature of work and the workplace, and consider the needs of young people as they prepare to enter, and thrive in, that changing world.

# 'THE RIGHT STUFF': NON-TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR SAFETY'

**BY PROFESSOR RHONA FLIN**

Professor of Industrial Psychology at Robert Gordon University

**WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2019**

6pm followed by refreshments

The Sir Ian Wood Building | RGU's Garthdee campus  
Garthdee Road | Aberdeen



Rhona Flin is Professor of Industrial Psychology at RGU's Aberdeen Business School. Her research examines human performance in high risk work settings such as healthcare, aviation and the energy industries, with studies focusing on leadership, safety culture and team and cognitive skills.

Analyses of major accidents have revealed that in addition to technical expertise, practitioners also require particular cognitive and social skills - non-technical skills - to complement their technical expertise. To improve the safety and efficiency of task performance, especially in higher risk settings, frameworks have been identified for training and rating the required behaviours.

The lecture will draw on the research undertaken to determine the non-technical skills for safety-critical occupations and will highlight how this approach is now used in practice in aviation, surgery and the energy sector.