

## Cyberpsychology: understanding life in the digital era

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**Start date** 24 June 2016 **End date** 26 June 2016

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Dr Nothando Ngwenya **Course code** 1516NRX087

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Nothando has always had an interest in behaviour and therefore studying psychology was always going to be an interesting aspect of her life. Having gained a PhD in health psychology at Staffordshire University, she pursued a career using applied psychology within palliative and end of life care. She is still involved in teaching and supervising psychology in the Department of Psychology at University of Cambridge whilst conducting research in palliative care for patients with cancer. Over the last year, Nothando has also been involved in the ethical review of research as a member of the NHS research ethics committee.

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## Course programme

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**If you have a laptop please bring this to the course. If you are unable to please do let us know and email [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk)**

### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Session 1 – Cyberculture

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 Session 2 – Principles of Psychology Online

10:30 Coffee

11:00 -12:30 Session 3 - Human-Computer Interaction

12:30 Free

13:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 Session 4 – Computer-mediated communication

18:30 Dinner

20:00 Session 5 – Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

## **Sunday**

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 Session 6 - Internet Research Methods

10:30 Coffee

11:00 Session 7 – Critique on the field of Cyberpsychology

12:30 Free

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch.

## **Course syllabus**

### **Aims:**

The course aims to provide you with an introduction and a basic understanding of how humans interact with technology and in online environments

### **Content:**

Cyberpsychology looks at the different aspects and ways that humans interact with the internet technologies including emotions and behaviours.

Cyberpsychology has a very broad scope and considers questions such as, how the internet affects our behaviour because of anonymity, how do the effects influence us to make friends and other relationships online, how do we explore our personal and social identity in the social spaces on the internet and what are the psychological consequences of the interactions and engagement with emerging technologies such as 3D immersive environments populated by synthetic entities? There will also be time to explore individual participants' interest in cyberpsychology and address learner's needs.

### **Presentation of the course:**

The course will have a combination of lecture style teaching, whole class discussions and small group work.

### **Outcomes:**

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- identify key psychological concepts relevant to the virtual world
- critique the field of Cyberpsychology
- apply appropriate psychological research methods to the Internet
- evaluate your their learning in Cyberpsychology and plan your future learning needs.

## Additional Information:

Please do bring your laptops with you for this course. If you are unable to please do let us know and email [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk)

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Attrill, A. (2015). *Cyberpsychology*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Attrill, A. (2012). Self-disclosure online. In Zheng Yan (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of cyber behavior*. Ing publishers: New York.

Fullwood, C., Melrose, K., Morris, N., & Floyd, S. (2013). Sex, blogs and baring your soul: Factors influencing UK blogging strategies. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 64(2), 345-355.

Howard, M.C, & Bradley, J.S. (2015). An Analysis of More Than 1,400 Articles, 900 Scales, and 17 Years of Research: The State of Scales in Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 18(3), 181-187.

Ngwenya, N. B., & Mills, S. F. (2014). The use of weblogs within palliative care: A systematic literature review. *Health Informatics Journal*.

Norman, L.K. (2008). *Cyberpsychology: An Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction*. Cambridge University Press: New York.

Orchard, L., Fullwood, C., Galbraith, N., & Morris. (2014). Individual differences as predictors of social networking. *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication*, 19(3), 388-402.

## Website addresses

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 19 May 2016