

## CASSIS Newsletter

### Toulouse workshop, July 2014

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Toulouse workshop, Jul 2014

Auckland workshop, Jan 2015

CASSIS showcase at UCL IoE alumni event

CASSIS team at

The second CASSIS workshop took place in July 2014 and was hosted by Professors Laurence Simonneaux, Jean Simonneaux and their research team at the Ecole Nationale de Formation Agronomique, France. During this week-long workshop each group presented their progress to date, focused on



developing further our theoretical framework including the exploration of ethical frameworks and building cartographies for exploring controversial issues and finally, we learnt more about the issue of 'wolves as pest animals' in France through our colleagues presentations and field trips. Field trips that took place during this time allowed us to see at first-hand how sheep and cow grazing is managed in Florac and the Pyrennes, and saw Pyrennean Mountain dogs guarding flocks of sheep against wolves.

This workshop provided the opportunity to the Auckland team (Bev France & Sally Birdsall) to present and publish papers with their French colleagues (Laurence Simonneaux, Jean Simonneaux, Amélie Lipp and Michel Vidal) whilst in Toulouse. You can find these publications in In L. Simonneaux, J. Simonneaux, A. Legardez (eds), *Revue Francophone du Developpement Durable* (4), Octobre 2014.



## Auckland workshop, January 2015

Our third workshop took place in Auckland, NZ during January 2015 and was hosted by Associate Professor Beverly France and her research team at the University of Auckland. During this workshop, the team has discussed and developed a list of methodologies for collecting data of students' perceptions of nature, risk and the three socioscientific issues we are focusing on. Whilst in Auckland, the group also had the opportunity to experience predator-free islands and saw both the trapping mechanisms in action and the resulting birdlife that occurs (Tiritiri Matangi).

What is significant is both during our Toulouse workshop, and whilst at New Zealand, that the junior researchers within the team have been mentored by the more experienced members especially in the development of their PhD projects. A strength of this project is that all of the doctoral and masters' projects are allied to the focus of identifying opinions about mammalian pest control in each country's ecosystems and these parallel research projects amplify the impact that this project will make.



## Presenting CASSIS at the Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland meeting provided our group with the opportunity to present the rationale, aims and initial research of the CASSIS project to the Auckland research community at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.



**DISCUSSION OF A SOCIOSCIENTIFIC ISSUE**

Join a group of interested people to

- unravel a variety of complex socioscientific issues
- discuss ways in which this complexity can be researched
- present and reflect on a range of methodologies to collect and analyse data about these socioscientific issues.

*We invite you to share the first stage of our research in a small group setting so that there is interaction between us all.*

Auckland Museum Auditorium Lobby  
20 January 10:00am - 1:00pm  
followed by lunch and time to view museum exhibits

Find out more at <http://muse.soton.ac.uk/projects/cassis/>

**CASSIS**  
Communication about Socioscientific Issues

A 3-year EU-funded project under the International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

University of Southampton  
Institute of Education, London UK  
Ecole Nationale de Formation Agropêcheuse France  
The University of Auckland, NZ

**AM**  
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

## CASSIS Symposium accepted at ESERA 2015

Our team has had four presentations accepted as part of a symposium at the next European Science Education Research Association (ESERA) conference, which is taking place at Helsinki (31.08-4.09. 2015).

### Building a cartography about an SSI/SAQ

1. *Theorising the building of a cartography of SocioScientific Issues (SSIs) /Socially Acute Questions (SAQs)* by Beverly France, Sally Birdsall & Laurence Simonneaux
2. Mapping controversies: pre-service teachers' mapping of a controversial socio-scientific issue by Joanne Nicholl, Andri Christodoulou, Paul Davies, Marcus Grace & Ralph Levinson
3. *Does the analysis of local press allow the building of a map of the controversy about the re-appearance of the Wolf in Lozere?* by Michel Vidal, Laurence Simonneaux & Jean Simonneaux
4. *Unravelling the SSI/SAQ of 1080 possum control using Actor-Network-Theory (ANT)* by Sally Birdsall, Beverley France & Kathryn Garthwaite

## Showcasing CASSIS at UCL Institute of Education's Alumni event

The UCL IoE Science PGCE Alumni event was held at the Institute of Education on the 19th March 2015. Students from the last 5 years of completing their PGCE were invited back to share their experiences and reconnect with the Institute of Education. During this event, CASSIS was showcased as one of the International Projects that staff members are involved (Ralph Levinson, Paul Davies, Joanne Nicholl). There was interest from the teachers in being involved in the research and the overall event was a success both in terms of raising the profile of the CASSIS project and making connections with Secondary schools for future research.

Researchers from the I2C on this project:  
Ralph Levinson  
Paul Davies  
Jo Nicholl

**UCL**  
**CASSIS Research Project**  
Communication About Socio-Scientific Issues (SSIs)

This project is bringing together researchers from the UK, New Zealand and France to develop tools for discussing SSIs in the classroom. The context is the potential conflict that can arise when people's views about agriculture, sustainable practices, animal welfare and conservation intersect.

**The UK Issue**  
The controversial badger cull is a method aimed at reducing the number of badgers in order to control the spread of bovine tuberculosis (bTB). Whilst the spread of bTB is not considered to be a risk to human health, the disease is affecting cattle.

**Killing me won't stop TB**

**Would you be interested in trialing some materials to help students engage with this issue?**

This four-year project is just going into its second year where we are looking to work with schools from Summer 2015

Interested? It would be great to hear from you.  
Please contact Ralph Levinson at:  
ralph.levinson@ioe.ac.uk