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MARCH 23**PROFESSOR KATHERINE PEARSON TO CHAIR
LONDON CONFERENCE AT THE BRUNEL INSTITUTE
FOR AGEING STUDIES****March 23, 2011**

The Dickinson Schools of Law of the Pennsylvania State University Professor Katherine Pearson has been invited by the [Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies \(BIAS\)](#) to help chair a conference on “[Detecting and Preventing Financial Abuse of Older Adults](#)” on March 25, 2011 at Brunel University in London.

Under the leadership of Professor Mary Gilhooly, BIAS was developed as a Collaborative University Research Network in 2007 to encourage cross-disciplinary research activity. Formed in response to challenges ignited by population changes, BIAS aims to lead in the development and definition of strategic directions for research in the field of gerontology.

The purpose of the New Dynamics of Ageing conference in March is to disseminate cutting-edge findings on elder financial abuse. The research is unique in its focus on what cues trigger intervention by banks, health care professionals, and social workers. In turn, the research will be used to stimulate implementation of better response by professionals, including possible training in decision-making.

“I have been tracking the progress of Professor Gilhooly’s team for the last year, and I’m thrilled to be part of the launch of their major study,” said Pearson. “Financial abuse of older adults is a growing world concern, and yet until now there has been surprisingly little examination of what triggers protective action by banks and other professionals who are on the front lines. I’m considering Brunel’s study as opening new grounds for reform, including law reform.”

Professor Pearson is a nationally recognized elder law expert and from 2009-2010 was a U.K.-U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she studied law and aging policy matters. She draws upon experiences of the law school’s Elder Protection Clinic in her most recent book, *The Law of Financial Abuse and Exploitation* (2011).

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