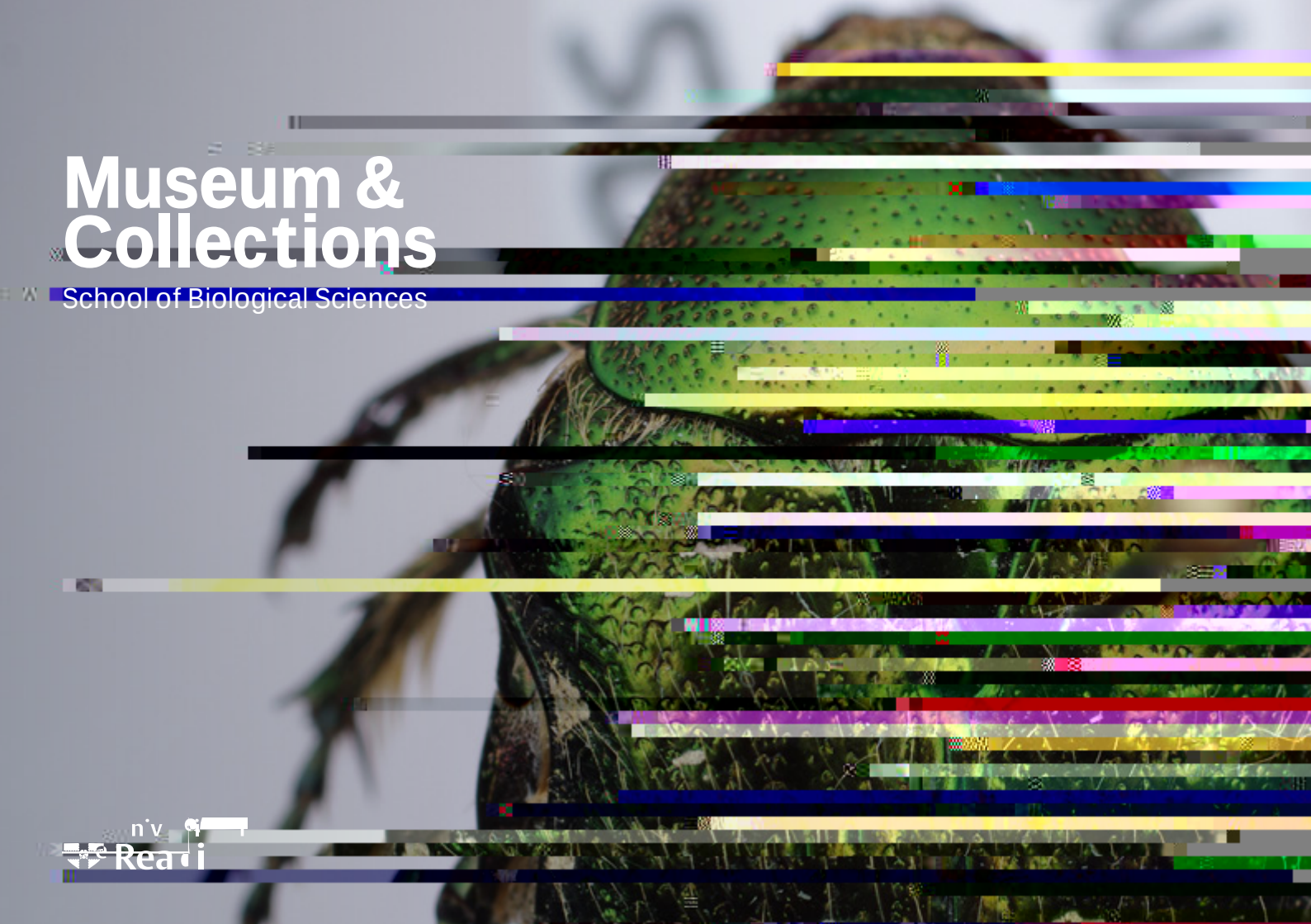
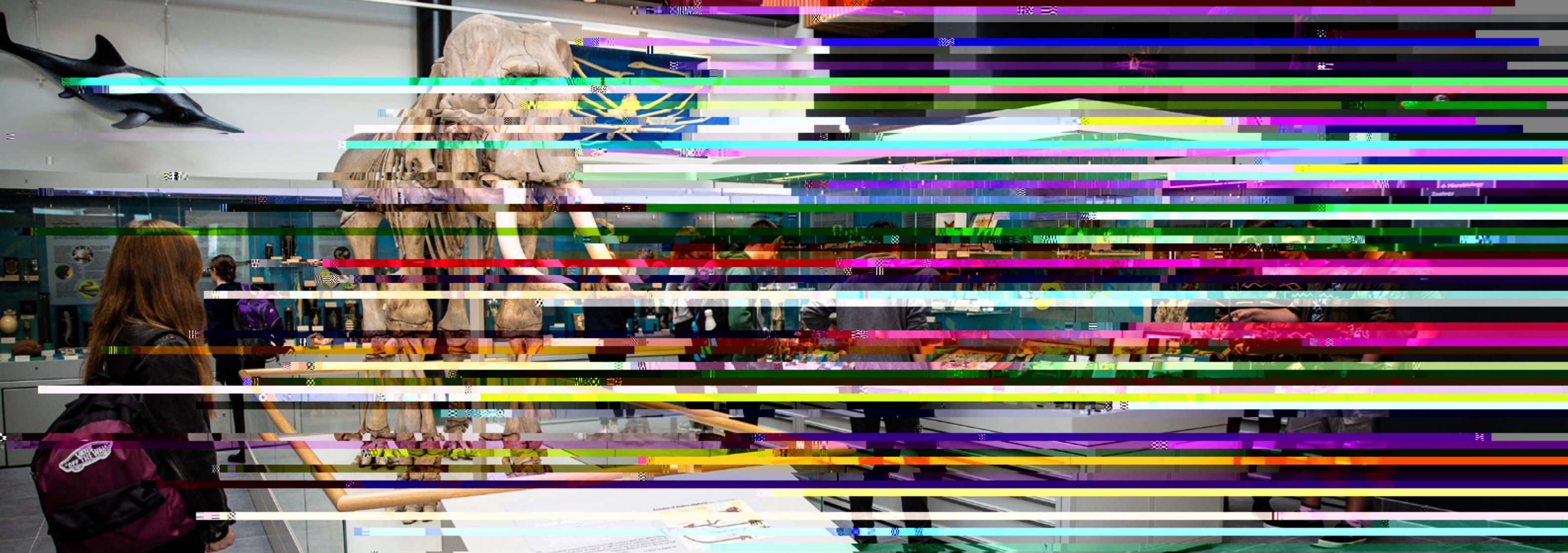
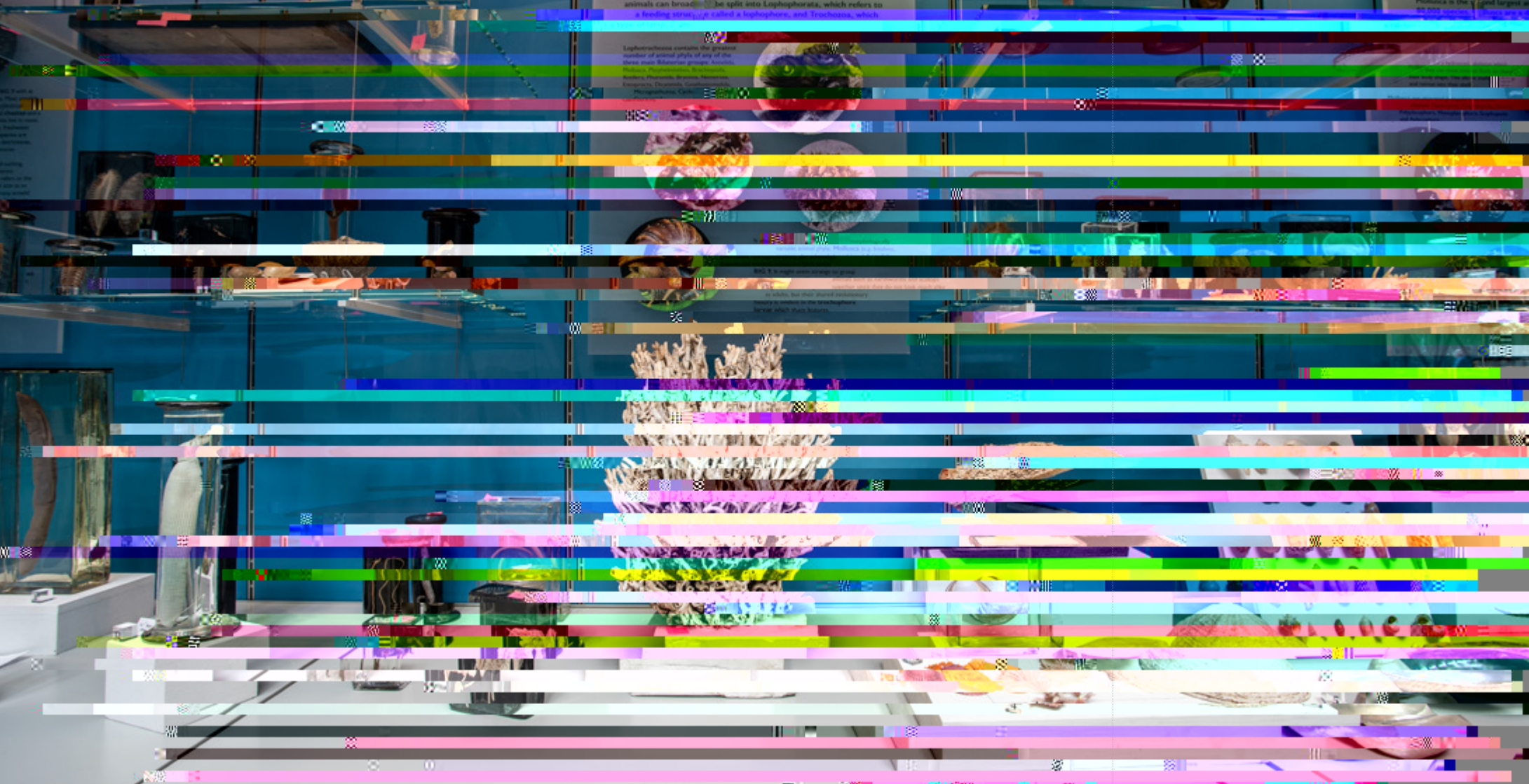




Museum & Collections

School of Biological Sciences





Our Museum & Collections

The Cole Museum of Zoology

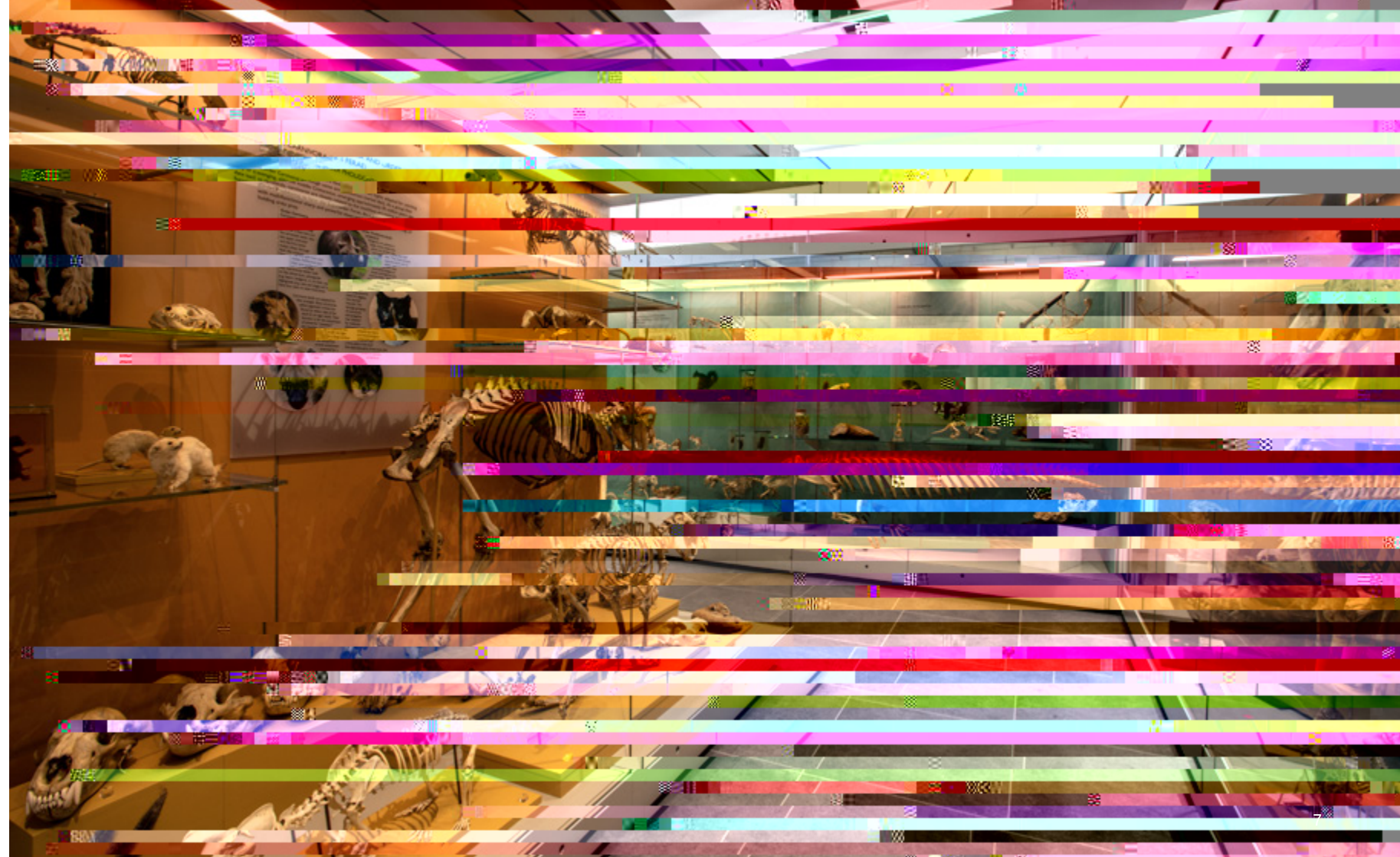
on animal diversity, evolution and adaptation, that is used to support taught undergraduate modules and research.

Professor Amanda Callaghan has been curator of the museum since 2005, and is passionate about maintaining its relevance.

The collection was started in 1907 by Professor Francis Cole to teach zoology, with specimens rather than just books and lectures. It contains over 3,500 animal specimens including complete skeletons, whole animals in

The Cole Museum was redesigned and moved in 2020, during the covid pandemic, into the new state-of-the-art Health & Life Sciences building. The new display is focused

coming here and using the specimens. In most museums they are behind glass and you can't access them, so the students



Volunteering at the Cole Museum

Our volunteers take their zoological knowledge out to the wider community by running “pop-up museums” at University events. Previous volunteers have gone on to work at natural history museums throughout the country, including London,

Volunteering at the Herbarium

Our volunteers help process new specimens, catalogue current specimens, and check for insect pest attacks. Established volunteers also help with social media and outreach activities. Our volunteers are helping move, pack and label new Herbarium

Previous volunteers have gone on to PhDs, jobs in environmental consultancy and in other herbaria and museums.

Volunteering at the Herbarium has allowed me to gain additional plant knowledge via discussions with

to the materials themselves, which has reinforced the learning during the Part 1 Plant module.

Fluid Preservation



Teaching and Research Specimens

Working in the Cole Museum

I have learned so much and gained a new interest and appreciation for fossils. To have access to such a vast collection has been a unique and wonderful opportunity. I have acquired many new skills from the

Zoology graduate Rashmi Mistry

project studying the Ichthyosaur in the collection, presenting her work at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Utah in 2016.



Italic Insects

In this light the ITALIC project (Integrated Teaching and Learning Insect Collections) was launched in 2021, with funding from the university's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Projects scheme.

ITALIC volunteers are developing a new teaching focused collection of insect specimens, curated by and for students, and they will also be looking to enhance use

insect collections in undergraduate teaching, research and outreach.



It has been amazing to see how the ITALIC project has developed - and it's all thanks to the dedicated team of truly passionate volunteers, drawn from multiple levels of study

CREDIT
who has kindly supplied the image here and on the front cover.

Herbarium

Flying Start



reading.ac.uk/biologicalsciences