

PhD and other Research Study Opportunities



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Welcome

We hope that this prospectus will provide you with all the information that you need to encourage you to pursue research at Ulster University. Through this prospectus, we hope that you will be inspired by our track record in producing graduates who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in advancing knowledge and making breakthroughs of relevance to the economic, social and cultural development of society. We will provide you with development opportunities which will not only help you in your future careers but enable you to integrate fully into our research culture and environment.

All of our research students are supported strongly by their supervisory teams so you will be guided through the research process. You will also be attached to one of our six faculties and our dedicated Research Graduate Schools (RGS) will support you with day to day matters relating to your research. The University's Department for Research and Innovation co-ordinates the management and monitoring of such things as student admission, financial support and assessment.

At Ulster, we are very successful in attracting high quality research students, and in ensuring that they graduate within a reasonable time period – normally 3 or 4 years for full-time PhD students. But one reason why the University is so popular is because of its flexible approach to study. You can study full-time or part-time and some projects involve collaborations with industry or the health

and social care sector or with leading overseas research institutions. If you wish to remain overseas when carrying out your research, we can even make arrangements for you to study part-time under our Distance Research Study Framework and we will allocate you a supervisor from your home country to support you.

Ulster University welcomes applications from home and overseas students. We promise that you will receive a training in research that is among the best available. We will ensure that you are integrated into our research community and we will give you the best possible support to ensure success in your chosen research degree programme.

What's on offer?

We have a number of research degree programmes on offer and the full regulations can be found by following the links at the end of each synopsis below.

Scholarships are available for PhD and MRes programmes and you can find details of funding opportunities on our website throughout the year: ulster.ac.uk/research/phdresearch-degrees/current-opportunities

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

You can study for a PhD on a full-time (3 years) or part-time (6 years) basis. By the end of your programme, it is hoped that you will be leading the research in your chosen field and will be significantly contributing to knowledge in the field. We have various routes to obtaining a PhD. For example, in some areas you can submit a practical element as part of your submission, such as a piece of art or a musical composition. ulster.ac.uk/research/phdresearch-degrees/whats-on-offerx

Similarly, if you have a body of research already published, you can apply for the PhD by Published

Work which is a one-year programme pulling together themes from your existing publications.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

If you choose to apply for an MPhil, you will evaluate a chosen subject and present a thesis showing an understanding of the significance and context of the work. The MPhil lasts for 2 years (full time) or 4 years (part time). ulster.ac.uk/research/phdresearch-degrees/whats-on-offer

Master of Research (MRes)

The MRes is a great introduction to research study and is a one-year programme for those interested in going on to a career in research or even as preparation for a PhD. These programmes are covered in full later in this prospectus.

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

The MD is for those who have held a qualification registrable with the General Medical Council for at least three years. Again, the full details of this programme can be found in this prospectus.

Higher Doctorates

We offer a number of Higher Doctorates for members of staff or graduates of the University in recognition of distinguished contributions to scholarship or original research. Full details on how to apply for the degrees of Doctor of Science (DSc), Doctor of Letters (DLitt), Doctor of Fine Art (DFA) and Doctor of Music (DMus) can be found via the following link: ulster.ac.uk/research/phdresearch-degrees/whats-on-offer

What do you need to apply?

You will need to have a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree (or equivalent) in an area relevant to your chosen project to be able to apply for the PhD, MPhil or MRes programmes. Our other research programmes have different entry criteria which are detailed separately. If you have obtained an undergraduate degree from a non-UK institution, we can advise you on how it compares to the UK system. Again, more details on what you need to apply can be found under the Regulations for each programme.

How do I apply?

Ulster University welcomes applications from all sections of the community and from persons with disabilities. It is University policy to assess all applications using academic criteria and on the basis of equality of opportunity and you should be assured that reasonable adjustments will be made should you require them.

Once you have selected your chosen project, you are advised to make contact with the named supervisor on the project as they will be able to guide you in writing your research proposal. You should then apply using our online application system: ulster.ac.uk/applyonline

You can create a login for the system and then work on pulling together all the required information over a period of time – it is not a quick process so give yourself plenty of time.

What happens next?

Once you have submitted your application, the University will consider your application and begin the shortlisting process. If you are successful in this, you will be invited to interview. During the scholarship competition in particular, the timeframe for considering applications, ranking students and then making offers can seem like a lengthy process but we will write out to you as soon as possible with

an outcome. You can find details of scholarships on offer and associated deadlines and timeframes via this link: ulster.ac.uk/research/phdresearch-degrees/current-opportunities

If you are successful, full-time funded students are expected to register in September of each year, while part-time students may commence at any point throughout the year.

If you are unsuccessful, and feel that your application has not been dealt with fairly, you can write to the department for Research and Innovation to request an appeal.

Fees

You can view the tuition fees for each programme at: ulster.ac.uk/finance/fees. You should note that all fees increase slightly each academic year. Also, our international or overseas fees would apply to you if you are from outside of the UK or EU.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you feel you need more guidance through the application process, you can seek help from staff in the Department for Research and Innovation:

Kate McMorris (c.mcmorris@ulster.ac.uk) is based in Jordanstown and will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding the application process and, in particular, any queries you might have in relation to international student visas and immigration. Tel: +44 (0)28 9036 6232.

Eileen Shannon (e.shannon@ulster.ac.uk) is based in Coleraine and can help you with applications for research study. Her area of expertise is in dealing with issues relating to self-funding students, although she can help with general queries too. Tel: +44(0)28 7012 4455.

Tracey Grissam (t.grissam@ulster.ac.uk) is based in Coleraine and is our expert on any scholarship related queries. Tel: +44(0)28 7012 3511.

If you want to know more about the project areas or how to frame your research proposal, which is part of your application, you can either contact the named supervisor on the project directly or the Head of Research Graduate School:

- Faculty of Arts
Dr Lisa Fitzpatrick
T: +44(0)28 7167 5105
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- Faculty of Art, Design & the Built Environment
Professor Neil Hewitt
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- Faculty of Computing and Engineering
Dr Sonya Coleman
T: +44(0)28 7167 5030
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- Faculty of Life and Health Sciences
Professor David Hassan,
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- Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr Una O'Connor Bones
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Disclaimer

The information provided in this prospectus is correct at the time this page was published, but the research programme is subject to continuing development and the University reserves the right to make changes at any time before or after a candidate's admission. As much notice as possible will be given of such changes.

Art and Design

**Contact: Professor Karen Fleming
Art & Design Research
Institute Director**

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**Link to priority Research Degree Topics
riad.ulster.ac.uk/artdes_topics.php**

General Description

Research Institute for Art and Design Art (RIAD) is one of the largest Research Institutes at Ulster University, with more than 50 academic staff actively engaged in research, teaching and academic enterprise. Ulster's Art and Design research, including architecture, is in the global premier league with a research environment for staff and research students that was assessed to be 100% internationally excellent/world leading in the most recent nationwide assessment, the REF2014. Research students are members of the RI and of 5 interconnected clusters that are driven by shared research interest in themes that are of value to society, culture and the economy. The REF2014 also recognised Ulster's focus on practice and applied research in over 70% outstanding impact, the highest accolade. Research staff at Ulster achieved highest percentage of world leading publications within the University and the 3rd highest rating in the UK sector as a whole. Over 75% of staff research publications are world leading or internationally excellent. These researchers are included in supervision teams and support their students to develop their dissemination and research funding plans. Students have opportunities to co-author publications with staff when appropriate. Belfast campus research students are located in the burgeoning Cathedral Quarter. RIAD is closely linked to cultural and creative infrastructure regionally and nationally. External esteem for Ulster art and design research extends across the discipline areas of Art, Architecture and Design and marks Ulster's strategic engagement with the public and private creative and cultural industry.

Art and Design PhD Research at Ulster University has a history of three decades and represents the largest Art and Design doctoral cohort of any institution on the island of Ireland, also comparing very well with UK institutions in track record and size. All-Ireland research engagement is ensured through our partnership in GRADCAM (Dublin), NI Gradschool and research projects with other institutions.





Research Clusters and Activity

Research Students are members of the Research Institute for Art and Design. Under the Director of the Research Institute, 5 Research Clusters were established in 2010: Art Conflict and Society, Art and Context, Creative Ecologies, Space and Place, and Future and Virtual Worlds.. There is an annual Research Institute away day and occasional seminars, Visiting lecturers and events throughout the year. The Research institute also has cross cutting interest in archives and ephemeral art practices.

Research students are aligned to a cluster that provides an additional intellectual and critical environment for their research studies. The research publications emerging from the subject are evidence of the University's reputation as a centre of international research excellence in the field.

The interdisciplinary nature of contemporary art and creative industries means that postgraduate study within the Art and Design subject area also frequently involves teamwork, is cross-disciplinary, or conducted in collaboration with researchers from outside the centre, including partners in other institutions, industrial networks and international collaborators. Cross-Faculty and interdisciplinary topics are welcomed.

Preparing an Art, Architecture or Design doctoral application

At present over 50 PhD students work in key art and design areas in both full-time and part-time modes. We welcome applications that fit within the proposed priority themes. Applicants should develop their own proposals in response to the advertised themes. The proposal of approximately 1500 words should include:

- **A working title** giving a clear indication of the intent of the project, directing attention to the central issue that will be addressed and compatibility with the chosen theme.
- **An overview of the research.** The proposal should be grounded in existing literature and the proposal must reflect some of the major debates and issues. A PhD is an original piece of research, so the proposal must demonstrate that the research will lead to a contribution to the field, that the specific focus has not been studied before, or that a new perspective on an issue is being taken.
- **Research Design.** The proposal will outline a methodology to achieve the research perspective taken including indicating if this will be a PhD with practice. Why was this methodology chosen and how is this viable within the timescale of a PhD (normally 3 years full time)? What (if any) fieldwork is anticipated? What people, archives, organisations, subjects and other off-campus resources will be used? The proposal should be achievable within the available resources.

Decisions on admission rest upon the suitability and quality of the applicant, strength and focus of their proposal in response to the advertised themes, and the current availability of appropriate supervisors. Support for other areas of research may occasionally be available and it is strongly recommended to discuss this before submitting an application.

Research Facilities

Researchers benefit from the community of peers in the Faculty Research Graduate School, headed by Professor Neil Hewitt. The Research Graduate School has administrative responsibility for all aspects of the art and design PhD researchers' progress from initial application through to final examination including an annual conference and other events.

The majority of Art and Design Research doctoral students are based in the Cathedral Quarter, Belfast Campus. The refurbishment of the University's Belfast campus provides Art and Design with a purpose-built environment that follows over 160 years of art and design education in Belfast. The Belfast PhD suite is a purpose built space with adjacent study, editing and meeting spaces. Research facilities for students at Belfast include a recently built research student home base with workspaces, networked computing, access to inter- and intranet, printing and scanning facilities. The Belfast campus accommodates state of the art Library, containing a substantial collection of material on Art and Design in the form of books, journals, periodicals, videos, CD-ROMs, a 35mm slide collection, and it offers access to a wide range of e-publications. The campus also has workshop production facilities for: ceramics/embroidery/wood/metal/plastic/silver and jewellery/textiles print/weave/knit/stitching/felting/ fashion/ photography/animation/video/printmaking. Architecture is growing area for research and practice. General and specialist computing laboratories provide access to Macs, PCs, and workstations with connections to the Internet. Specialist clusters of computers are located throughout the campus.

Staff Research Areas

The full list of researchers in art, architecture and design can be found here:
riad.ulster.ac.uk/staff.php

Patricia Belford

Senior Research Fellow and Honorary Fellow of The Royal College of Art, specializing in printed textiles spanning the disciplines of architecture, science and craft.

Dr Kyle Boyd

Lecturer in Interaction Design, Belfast School of Art. Boyd's main research areas include Social Media, Usability, Eye tracking, Healthcare Informatics and Interaction Design. Exploring these areas his research is to consider the aging population and reduce social isolation in older adults by using current social media technologies.

Dr Susanna Chan

Lecturer in Art History and Theory. Her research focuses on contemporary art, and issues of identity, gender and 'race' in visual culture and cultural discourses, addressed mainly through postcolonial, feminist and post-structuralist theories.

Dr Yuanyuan Chen

Lecturer in Animation History and Theory. Her research interests include Asian animation, animation history and theory, experimental animation, modernism and postmodernism in cinema, non-fiction animation, verisimilitude and authenticity in animation.

Pauline Clancy

Lecturer in Art and Design, Belfast School of Art.

Paul Clarke

Reader in architecture and educator with experience in using documentary filmmaking and the professional interview as research methods. His research interests are centred on the reflexive and reflective processes and practices in architectural design: including that of architectural pedagogy, the agency of urban narratives in the reciprocal relationship between a building and a city, and in particular the role and value of hand-drawing and the sketchbook in contemporary creative practice.

Maureen Collins

Lecturer in Marketing for Textile Art, Design and Fashion, Belfast School of Art.

Brian Connolly

Associate Lecturer in Sculpture and Multimedia Arts whose works often relate to 'place' or context. He employs a wide range of artistic processes, including Performance Art, Public Sculpture, Installation Art, and collaborative projects.

Janet Coulter

Senior Lecturer in Fashion Design, Belfast School of Art.

David Coyles

Architect and Lecturer. David is principal investigator on the AHRC funded Cartographies of Conflict research project. His research investigates the political use of architecture, with particular focus on military and paramilitary contexts. David leads the Space and Place research-cluster within the Research Institute for Art & Design and is Course Director of the Master of Architecture.

Jonathan Cummins

Associate Lecturer in Time-based Media. He is a visual artist, filmmaker and curator. He has particular expertise in using documentary film practices to investigate sensitive and challenging societal issues including imprisonment, political prisoners, relationships, contested spaces and ethics. He also has experience in research concerning curation and gallery contexts.

Dr Cathy Dalton

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Belfast School of Art.

Lindesay Dawe

Lecturer in Architectural Technology, Belfast School of Architecture.

Dr Kaylynn Deveney

Associate Lecturer in Photography. Kaylynn's research interests include documentary practice conducted within a fine art context, and photographic investigations of our notions surrounding home.

Rachel Dickson

Associate Head of School of Belfast School of Art. As a practicing artist, research interests explore ideas of memory, the role of women, the narrative of objects and the pace between art and craft. Pedagogic research interests include student engagement, student success, transition, induction, peer mentoring, student employability, and assessment and feedback.

Professor Willie Doherty

Professor of Video Art who exhibits photographic and video installations internationally. He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1994 and 2003. His research interests include the investigation of

new strategies for narrative within contemporary video art that embrace the spatial possibilities of installation inside and outside of the gallery and that take account of the legacies of mainstream cinema and experimental film.

Professor Karen Fleming

Director of the Research Institute Art and Design and welcomes research applications related to ethics in contemporary art practices, creative industries, contemporary and historical textile art; textiles and culture-particularly relating to linen and linen diaspora; craft and applied art; art, craft and science. Fleming's own practice is established in exhibiting work nationally and internationally, creative industry, curation, published papers and cross-disciplinary sci-art collaboration concerning the haptic and tactically in science and medical education.

Dr Clare Gallagher

Lecturer in Photography. Her research examines everyday domestic practices and experiences. Her current focus is 'women's work' and where women find room for ingenuity and resistance to expectations about home.

Alison Gault

Lecturer in Textile Art, Design and Fashion Course (KNIT). Recent research has focused on fibres and fabrics for Health and well-being with knitted products solutions for diabetics and she is interested in the synergies between education, research and industry.

Dr Saul Golden

Lecturer in Architecture, Belfast School of Architecture.

Dr Adrian Grant

Research Associate in Conflict Cities, Belfast School of Architecture.

Ken Grant

Lecturer in Photography with research interests in photographic research into the representation of and definitions of working class communities in the UK. His research context includes challenges the accepted/authorised recent histories of youth culture and social resistance. He has particular research expertise in the use of portraiture and observed documentary photography and in long-term community documentary research.

Ailbhe Greaney

Lecturer in Photography, Belfast School of Architecture, with research interests including place, diaspora and home.

Mathew Haycocks

Lecturer in Interior Design, Belfast School of Architecture.

Bruce Ingman

Lecturer in Illustration, Belfast School of Art.

Dr Adriana Ionascu

Lecturer in 3D Design, School of Architecture and Design with research interests in ceramics, design. Research with practice considers artefacts as discourse, object and user performance rituals and pedagogical research considers the role of drawing in contemporary art education.

Ciaran Mackel

Associate architecture lecturer and an award winning architect. His research interests include applying outcomes of archival research Belfast regeneration and a thematic narrative approach to practical project proposals. His regeneration studies of Belfast find longitudinal outcomes of short term or site limited regeneration policies that have international application.

Dr Justin Magee

Senior Lecturer in Product Design. He was Director of Academic Enterprise for 5 years and retains strong commercial engagement, entrepreneurship and enterprise activity. As a practicing product designer, he has an interest embracing the wider 'field of product and transport design issues. His main research interests and publications relate to clinical applications and unmet needs through product design, transformational design and digital modelling/animation.

Professor Greg Maguire

Professor of Animation at the Belfast School of Art. His main areas of interest are in digital characters and tools for animation. He has been instrumental in the launch and development of Walt Disney Feature Animation, Electronic Arts, and Digital Domain. His filmography includes, Walt Disney's Dinosaur, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Star Wars: Clone Wars, Happy Feet, Terminator Salvation and Avatar.

Dr Joseph McBrinn

Reader in History of Design and Applied Arts. His research centres primarily on the intersections of Queer Theory and Design History. He has written widely on art and design from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries covering topics such as Design Reform; Modern Craft; National Romanticism; and Contemporary Craft. He has a particular interest in textiles and especially

the histories of embroidery and tailoring. He is currently engaged in three book projects that deal with sewing and masculinity; fashion and national identity; and the history of design in Ireland.

Liam McComish

Senior Lecturer in Digital Imaging, Belfast School of Art.

Mary McIntyre

Reader in Fine Art, researching a broad range of fine art disciplines, specialising in lens-based media. Her research interests include fine art photography's relationship with the history of painting, the place and meanings of landscape with contemporary fine art practice and the development of lens-based fine art media in relation to traditions of cinema.

Dougal McKenzie

Lecturer in Painting. He has an established international reputation for research with practice, focusing on narrative painting and historiography. His use of painting practice positions this work as contemporary visual research in the face of proliferating Internet and digital information. Layers of contemporary and historical references forming his new representations question the veracity of historical narratives. McKenzie uses practice in his research to create paintings that can be read as part documentary and part fiction, filtered through a digital and collaged process of transformation.

Professor Ian Montgomery

Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment and was previously Head of School for Art and Design. He currently supervises in the Design and Communications areas. Ian is interested in research applications in the fields of graphic design, information design, design perception, and corporate identity. He has had academic papers published in the areas of 'graphic design perception' and design appropriateness'.

Michael Moore

Reader in Fine and Applied Art and teaching on the BA Hons Ceramics, Silver Smithing and Jewellery course, Michael welcomes research questions within the Applied Arts and their relationship to the broader context of visual art practice. Current PhD supervision includes investigations focussing on new technologies, hybrid practices and sustainability in the applied arts. Michael's research practice is mainly studio based, examining the surface interrogation of 3D objects, the role of 2 and 3-dimensional drawing in studio practice and a more recent examination of food culture and the role of the applied artist. Michael is Creative Ecologies Research Cluster Leader.

Cara Murphy

Associate Lecturer in Silversmithing and Jewellery. Murphy's research explores function throughout the medium of silver, both practically and conceptually. Her research applies design methodologies to the creation silver ware, which frequently incorporate collaborative practices. Murphy's concept of the silver landscape for the table explores the interaction of the user with the piece.

Peter Neill

Lecturer in Photography. Research interests include photography and World War 1 contemporary photography, Irish Photography. Recent publications include re-imaging and modern memory of the Great War.

Dr Karen Nickell

Lecturer History and Theory for Textile Art, Design and Fashion. Karen researches the history and practice of embroidery in Ireland, the social, cultural and symbolic meaning of cloth, the connections between professional and amateur practices, and the creative possibilities of textile arts and crafts in society.

Dr Aisling O’Beirn

Associate Lecturer in Sculpture. Current work examines spatial politics by investigating technologies and theories behind space exploration. It is an extension of previous work on the politics of place, but still riddled in uncovering tensions between disparate forms of official and unofficial information. It manifests variously as sculpture installation, animation and site-specific projects.

Louise O’Boyle

Lecturer in Art & Design, Belfast School of Art. Her research centres on the relationship between Arts, Health and Wellbeing. Recent and current research involves challenging attitudes towards mental ill health and the promotion of emotional wellbeing through socially engaged practices; and creating visual narratives informed by bioethical discourses on end of life care in the articulation of patient narratives as they live through the process of dying. Her pedagogical research focuses on the construction of value-based praxis in Higher Education learning and teaching.

Catherine O’Hara

Lecturer in Marketing for Textile Art Design and Fashion, Belfast School of Art.

Alec Parkin

Lecturer in Computer Animation at the Belfast School of Art. His areas of interest are in digital 3D animation and visual effects. Other interests include 3D digital sculpture, 3D printing, Virtual Reality, real-time rendering, stop motion aesthetic within CG 3D animation, cloud rendering alternatives for individuals and small studios, interactive games & animation in learning & teaching.

Professor Martin Parr

Professor of Photography, Belfast School of Art.

Dr Tanja Poppelreuter

Lecturer in the History and Theory of Architecture at the Belfast School of Architecture. Her doctoral thesis *Das Neue Bauen für den Neuen Menschen* (The New Architecture for the New Man) discusses disparate ideologies prevalent during the 1920s in Germany that sought to reform and renew mankind with the help of architecture. Her research interests focus on the perceptions and development of architectural space in early 20th-century architectural design as well as on German-speaking architects who fled the Nazi regime during the late 1930s. She has won the Milka Bliznakov Research Prize 2016 to conduct research on European women architects in American exile after 1939.

Terry Quigley

Lecturer in Creative Technologies and Design. His main areas of interest are the application of Design Principles and Design Thinking to find meaningful solutions to problems across multiple domains such as Health Design, Teaching & Learning, Information Design and Brand. He is interested in collaborative methodologies and approaches to problem solving and often works as part of interdisciplinary teams towards developing effective frameworks which maximise the effectiveness of design related interventions. His work explores visual aesthetics, interaction design, graphic and web /app solutions.

Doris Rohr

Doris Rohr, Associate Lecturer in Fine Art (Drawing and Painting). Rohr’s research is practice-based and concerns visual thinking, drawing and ecology.

Dr Jenny Russell

Associate Head of School, Belfast School of Architecture.

Ralf Sander

Reader in Fine Art, School of Art and Design. His work manifests itself variously as sculpture, installation, video, collaborative – and site-specific projects. He examines developments in contemporary sculpture.

Professor Paul Seawright

Head of Belfast School of Art, Professor of Photography. His research interests include the relationship between art and documentary, photography and conflict, photography and the city and the place of photography in contemporary art. He is interested in practice centred research proposals that address these areas and particularly invites applications to join the research team investigating the relationship between photography, conflict and human rights.

Daniel Shippides

Lecturer in Art and Design. Research topics he considers are performative/experimental spatial narrative through practice based art research, urban/rural and landscape studies, intervention, installation, collaboration. His research pursues a creative and often collaborative relationship to space which incorporates the experiential. Research exploring spaces often with a physical engagement to produce ‘landscape’ (both rural and urban) artworks based on that experience. This research should seek to draw from, document, reflect experiences of “being there” whilst also linking to socio-historical contexts – articulating a societal engagement with place.

Jill Spratt

Lecturer in Advertising, Design and Branding, Belfast School of Art.

Professor Peter Walker

Professor of Architecture and Head of the Belfast School of Architecture. Peter has published research on the process of sustainable design in architecture (with the Egyptian Housing and Building Research Council); on contractual arrangements for architectural commissions; on architectural design management (specifically knowledge, value and risk management); and on the changing relationship of the architectural profession to society, consumers, contractors and developers.

Dr Louise Wallace

Associate Lecturer in painting. Her painting, collage and drawing practice explores domestic psychologies, nostalgia and the uncanny. She is interested in language – the vernacular, idioms and stream-of-consciousness processes – as a means of deconstructing narrative to reveal the poetic.

Dr Thomas Woods

Lecturer in Produce and Furniture Design, Belfast School of Architecture.

Donovan Wylie

Lecturer in Photography. He is a member of Magnum Photos and was shortlisted for the Deutsch Borse Photography prize 2010. His research interests include forms of photographic representation, the photographic medium in the context of art, photography and history, cinema and photography, literature and photography. He is interested in practice centred research proposals that address these areas.

I am in the final year of a 'with practice' PhD at the school of Art, Design & the Built Environment, Ulster University. Being awarded a fully funded DEL scholarship has given me the luxury of time to immerse myself in Belfast's vibrant art scene, to fully explore my research area, to travel for study trips and conferences and develop my confidence as a researcher. The PhD training programme and regular supervision contacts have provided the direction and support necessary to ensure that I deliver a quality thesis in a timely manner. While doing a PhD is guaranteed to be hard work and stressful at times I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working at Ulster University and feel it has put me in a better position to sustain a full time career as an artist and academic in the years to come.

Jacqueline Wylie

The Research Graduate School of the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment has helped me greatly in negotiating the process, rules and regulations relating to my PhD studies. For me as a foreign student, The RGS has been invaluable in making me feel at home at this university. The RGS has also always been instrumental in leading debates and organising events that connected us to interdisciplinary discourse and linked us to international developments in the PhD with Practice field.

Halina Grazyna Sander

Masters of Research (MRes) in Arts

Contact Details:
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General Description

The overall educational aim of the MRes programme in the Faculty of Arts is to provide graduate students with an understanding of research methods, and training in appropriate skills such as communication, self-management and planning, by

- facilitating sustained individual and independent enquiry within a creative, intellectual, and intuitive territory at postgraduate level;
- fostering the development of trans-disciplinary learning, transferable and generic skills for further research and/or for professional employment, as well as life-long learning;
- promoting dedicated pathways towards advanced levels of research and professionalism in the Arts and Humanities.
- ensuring that those students who move on to work as researchers outside the university system will have the skills necessary to meet the needs of the public services, the professions, and of employers generally.

The Course comprises four modules worth a total of 180 credits:

- CUS828: Research Methods and Skills (20 credits)
- CUS829: Research Context (20 credits)
- CUS830: Research Development (20 credits)
- CUS831: Main Research Project: Dissertation (120 credits)

In addition, you must complete 40 Professional Development Credits

The general educational objectives are that the programme will assist students inter alia to:

- develop expertise in the research process and the role that issues relating to the utility of research play in this process;
- be aware of the means to engage successfully in funded research;

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- be familiar with aspects of research management;
 - develop relevant communication skills, including oral and written presentation of research findings, report and dissertation writing and preparation of grant applications;
 - develop expertise and experience in information handling and retrieval;

About this Course:

Each student accepted on this programme is assigned two research supervisors who will

- oversee the student's progress with his or her research project
- agree with the student at the start of the course a regular schedule of meetings that is reviewed on a monthly basis
- be the student's primary point of contact in all matters relating the course
- in consultation with the relevant module co-ordinator, ensure that the student attends an appropriate range of Research Training sessions.

It is common practice for research students in the Faculty to have two supervisors, and the same applies for MRes students. The main reason for this is that supervisors may complement each other's expertise and experience, and this benefits the student. The first supervisor is usually the person whose interests and experience most closely match your project, and who takes the key role in guiding your studies.

Biomedical Sciences

**Contact: Professor Tara Moore
Director of Biomedical Sciences
Research Institute**

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E: t.moore@ulster.ac.uk

General Description

Biomedical Science at Ulster University has an outstanding record of success in research, having been awarded the highest possible rating in RAE1996 and 2001, and ranked first place in terms of research power in RAE2008. In REF2014, we were judged to be among the top five universities in terms of research power (out of 92 UK submissions) with 100% four star rating for our research environment.

All postgraduate students become members of the Biomedical Sciences Research Institute (BMSRI) and all research is managed by the BMSRI Director. The mission of the BMSRI is to “conduct pioneering strategically focused research into personalised nutrition & medicine and the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease including cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, osteoporosis and visual deterioration”.

The BMSRI is composed of staff and students from the Biomedical Sciences School and the School of Pharmaceutical Science & Pharmacy Practice. It is the largest Research Institute within Ulster University and supervision for postgraduate degrees is available in all of the research areas listed below. Further details of projects can be obtained from Professor Tara Moore, Director of the BMSRI, or from the Faculty of Life & Health Sciences Research Graduate School website.

Biomedical Science Research Groups

The activities of the BMSRI are currently organized within distinct Recognised Research Groups (RRGs): Diabetes; Food & Health (through the Northern Ireland Centre for Food & Health – NICHE); Genomic Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences & Practice; Precision Medicine; and Vision Science. At Ulster University’s Coleraine campus, biomedical sciences research is undertaken in our Centre of Molecular Biosciences and our Saad Centre for Pharmacy and Diabetes. Clinical translational research is also undertaken at our award winning Clinical Translational Research & Innovation Centre (C-TRIC)

at the Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry/Londonderry, and at our Wellcome Clinical Research Facility at the Belfast City Hospital (partnership between Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast and Belfast City Hospital).

Multi-disciplinary collaboration between the RRGs is strongly encouraged and is widespread with research into, for instance, anti-diabetic and anti-oncogenic aspects of nutrition, the genomics of vitamin receptors and cancer, imaging of neo-vascularisation, the interaction between diet, diabetes, dementia, vision, hypertension and vascular disease. In practice, the RRGs collaborate both internally and internationally on a range of prioritized multi-disciplinary themes in: ageing, drug discovery, personalized medicine and genomic medicine. The BMSRI has strong collaborations with regional and global pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies and many of our graduates and postgraduates are employed in the pharma, diagnostics and health care sectors.

Research Facilities

The BMSRI offers a “state-of-the-art” research environment for high profile researchers to undertake internationally agenda setting research in strategically prioritized areas of biomedicine. This research environment earned Biomedical Sciences at Ulster a No. 1 ranking in RAE2008, and was again rated as 100% “world-leading” in REF2014.

Our research is carried out in well-equipped laboratories allowing the latest methods to be applied to individual projects. Our entire infrastructure is managed as Core Facility Units (CFUs) with equipment and laboratories dedicated to: advanced molecular bioimaging/microscopy, bioinformatics and computational biology, cell biology, chemical analysis, genomics, proteomics/metabolomics (include Mass Spectrometry & NMR analysis), transgenics, physiology, pharmacology. The BMSRI research infrastructure also includes centralized resources for: clinical research & human intervention studies/ trials; the use and storage of

mammalian cells and tissues; and in vivo studies in animal models that replicate human disease.

The BMSRI uses its estate of equipment, specialist laboratories, infrastructure and internationally recognized biomedical expertise to offer clinical & translational services to Academic Researchers and Business.

The BMSRI routinely engages in collaborative research with some of the world's leading pharmaceutical and biomedical companies and through the support of Ulster's Office of Innovation, the University has established a track record of success in the commercialization of its research outcomes.

At C-TRIC, clinicians, academics and businesses in the life and health sector can collaborate to facilitate the research, development and launch of innovative health technologies, medical devices and therapeutics. In addition to high-spec capabilities such as FLOW cytometry and tissue culture, C-TRIC's hospital location also permits direct access to NHS diagnostic laboratories and Clinical Research Nurses, and its on-site office of the Western Trust's Research and Development department provides access to expertise in research governance and healthcare economics.

The expansion of biomedical research during the last 10 years and more has led to the construction of the £14.5M Centre for Molecular Biosciences (CMB) at the Coleraine campus. This expansion in research infrastructure later led to the creation of a number of “virtual” centres of excellence which are housed within the CMB building, i.e., the Centre for Functional Genomics (CFG), the FEI Centre for Advanced Bioimaging (CFAI) and the Centre for Nutrition & Bone Health whose overall aim is to develop a new “all-Ireland” expert research capability focused on nutrition and bone health, particularly targeted at identifying strategies to prevent osteoporosis.

The SAAD Centre for Pharmacy and Diabetes provides contemporary and state-of-the-art facilities to support our diabetes and metabolomics research activities, as well as facilities for mass spectrometric and NMR analysis. This building also provides infrastructural support for our newly launched pharmacy/pharmaceutical sciences courses and associated research activities. These include: the formulation and production of antimicrobials for pharmaceutical applications; health promotion in community pharmacies; and the discovery and development of novel therapeutics such as anti-cancer agents, luminescent and nanoparticle sensors, bioimaging, photo/sono-dynamic therapy, and polymeric and nanoparticle drug delivery systems.

Autumn 2013 saw the launch of an £11.5 million collaborative project between the BMSRI, C-TRIC and the Western Health and Social Care Trust. The Stratified Medicine Research Group, located at C-TRIC, aims to identify how subtle differences in measured biomarkers or medical images can be used to divide patients into groups based on their risk of developing specific diseases or their response to particular therapies. Research focuses on degenerative diseases of ageing with shared genetic, lifestyle and dietary determinants, including hypertension, diabetes, inflammatory disease, mental health, cancer and eye disease. Taken together, these facilities make Ulster University one of the UK's leading personalised or precision medicine research centres.

Staff Research Areas

Abdel-Wahab, Y Dr

(Reader in Biomedical Sciences)
Discovery, targets and action of antidiabetic drugs from natural resources, Antidiabetic actions of structurally modified peptides, Glycation of pancreatic islet peptides and proteins, Stem cell and gene therapy in diabetes.

Anderson, R Professor

(Professor of Vision Science) Non-invasive assessment of the visual system using chromatic and achromatic measures of spatial acuity and the relationship between structural and functional measures of visual integrity, the separation of neural and optical limits to both foveal and peripheral.

Banat, I Professor

(Professor of Microbiology) Environmental Biotechnology, Research Industrial Microbiology.

Beirne, R Dr

(Lecturer in Optometry) Human visual psychophysics in ageing and ocular disease, Clinical studies of human visual function (which have focused on the normal short-wavelength visual system, how it is affected by age and the changes that can occur in the ocular diseases of glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration).

Bjourson, AJ Professor

(Professor of Genomics) Genomics based personalized medicine, Molecular biology and pharmacogenomics.

Callan, B Dr

(Lecturer in Pharmaceutics) Polymeric drug delivery systems for targeted drug release, Supramolecular chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry Bioimaging.

Callan, J Professor

(Professor of Pharmaceutical Science)
Supramolecular chemistry, Luminescent sensors, Nanoparticle sensors, Polymeric and nanoparticle drug delivery systems, Photodynamic therapy.

Dooley, JSG Professor

(Professor of Microbiology) Developing a greater understanding of the biology of human and animal pathogens, such as: Improved molecular techniques for diagnostic microbiology and epidemiology, Pathogenic mechanisms of *Cryptosporidium* species, Role of protozoa in the ecology of pathogenic bacteria (e.g., *Campylobacter* species).

Flatt, PR Professor

(Professor of Biological & Biomedical Sciences)
Insulin secretion, Pancreatic islet cell function and demise, Antidiabetic drugs, Gene therapy, Brain and gut peptides, Glucose homeostasis Insulinoma and obesity.

Gallagher, A Professor

(Professor in Public Health Nutrition) Human Nutrition, Obesity and development of risk factors for disease, Physical activity and health, Health effects of plants and plant components, Dietary salicylates, Determination of low calorie sweetener intakes (and relationship to health).

Gault, V Professor

(Professor of Experimental Medicine) Development of novel long-acting incretin mimetics, Metabolic factors regulating expression and activity of 11beta-HSD1 Insulin signalling and neuronal activity in diabetes/obesity.

Gill, C Dr

(Senior Lecturer) Effect of diet on cancer (with specific interests in dietary components and colorectal cancer - especially phytochemicals in fruits, vegetables and seaweed including, brassica, olive oil, and berries), Gut microflora, Faecal water toxicity and the implications for colon cancer risk.

Hack, C Dr

(Lecturer in Process Biotechnology) Process Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Biotransformations.

Hill, A Dr

(Lecturer in Dietetics) Investigation of diet and glycaemic control in the management of diabetes, Pregnant women and relationship to pregnancy outcomes, Investigation of relationships between diet and glycaemic control in those who develop gestational diabetes.

Irwin, N Dr

(Lecturer in Pharmacology) Therapeutic development of human peptide hormones, Glucose homeostasis in ageing, Hormonal regulation of feeding/obesity.

Lees Murdock, D Dr

(Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences) Epigenetic reprogramming, in particular: Methylation dynamics in the mouse oocyte, Establishment of paternal imprints in male primordial germ cells, Methylation of various classes of repeat sequences in the mouse germ line, Post-transcriptional control of DNA methyltransferases and DNA methylation reprogramming, Role of DNA methylation in stem cell plasticity.

Little, J Dr

(Lecturer in Optometry) The developing visual system and the impact of intellectual disability on vision, Investigating how the structure of the eye impacts on functional vision, Testing the vision of children with and without special educational needs and complex visual problems, The measurement and assessment of ocular biometry in children with Cerebral palsy.

Lowery, C Dr

(Lecturer in Medical Microbiology) The development of rapid molecular techniques for diagnostic microbiology and epidemiology (with a major focus on difficult to culture pathogens, particularly the protozoan parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*).

Magee, PJ Dr

(Lecturer in Human Nutrition) Phytoestrogens, soy and vitamin D in breast and prostate cancer.

McAnena, L Dr

(Scientific Officer) Folate and related B vitamins; Dietary minerals; Polyunsaturated fatty acids; Food product development

McCann, M Dr

(Lecturer in Nutrition) Nutrition and bone health B-vitamins and disease prevention, Appetite control, satiety and food intake.

McCarron, P Professor

(Professor of Pharmaceutics) Nanoparticles and nanomedicines, Photodynamic therapy, Topical hydrogel drug delivery systems for wound management, Patent technologies for transdermal drug delivery.

McClelland, S Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences) The isolation and characterization of bioactive peptides and small molecules from amphibian skin secretions

and reptile and arachnid venoms (using QTOF MS/MS de novo sequencing of peptides, Edman degradation sequencing, Fmoc solid phase peptide synthesis and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry), The application of chromatography and mass spectrometric technologies to the analysis of a range of molecules in biological matrices (e.g. the quantitation of licit and illicit drug compounds in human hair samples).

McClelland, J Dr

(Lecturer in Optometry) Refractive Error development in neurologically impaired children, Epidemiology of refractive error in different populations, Visual function in children with cerebral palsy.

**McClenaghan, N Professor**

(Head of School of Biomedical Sciences) Bioengineering pancreatic beta cells, Stimulus-secretion coupling mechanisms, Beta cell metabolism Ionic modulation of islet cell function, Signal transduction pathways, Apoptosis and mechanisms of beta cell demise and destruction, Novel beta cell drug targets, Actions of new insulinotropic antidiabetic agents, Insulinotropic drug desensitization.

McGilligan, V Dr

(Lecturer in Stratified Medicine) Inflammatory & Cardiovascular Disease; inflammatory signalling pathways in risk prediction, diagnostic test and therapy development

McHale, AP Professor

(Professor of Medical Biotechnology) The therapeutic application of electric and ultrasonic fields in the treatment of cancer, the application of modified ultrasonic fields in areas such as site-specific delivery of active cancer chemotherapeutic agents, In site-specific delivery of genes for applications in gene therapy approaches to the treatment of cancer.

McKay, B Dr

(Scientific Assistant) Identification of genetic markers of disease, e.g., cancer, diabetes and eye disease, to improve prediction and prognosis; Epigenetic modifications underlying various diseases; Molecular effects of traumatic stress, e.g., DNA damage and repair.

McKenna, DJ Dr

(Lecturer in Haematology) Role of microRNAs in disease; prostate cancer and tumour hypoxia; epigenetic regulation; serum biomarkers; cardiovascular disease; public engagement in science.

McKerr, G Dr

(Senior Lecturer) Neuroregeneration in primitive animals, Atomic force imaging of the living cell surface, Advanced microscopical techniques, e.g., dualbeam cryo-technology), Tumour biology, Cell ion signalling, Developmental neurobiology, Single receptor site pharmacology.

McKillop, A Professor

(Professor of Biomedical Sciences) Clinical biochemistry and diabetes proteomics, Cellular glucose handling and metabolism, Pancreatic beta-cell peptides and proteins, Mechanisms of insulin resistance and diabetes pathogenesis, Glycation of insulin and other key regulatory proteins, Structural and functional characterization of novel biomolecules, Insulin receptor dysfunction and novel treatments for diabetes.

McMullan, G Professor

(Professor of Microbiology) Microbiology, Biotechnology, the use of genomic information to provide a deeper understanding of how microorganisms function, the exploitation of microbial genomic information to study the expression of proteins within bacterial cells, the identification of cellular signalling mechanisms within bacteria that cause hospital acquired infections (e.g. *Ochrobactrum anthropi*), and the role of the microbiome in human gut health.

McNulty, HM Professor

(Professor of Nutritional Science) Folate and metabolically related B-vitamins in disease prevention: neural tube defects; cancer; cardiovascular disease; cognitive function Food folate analysis and bioavailability, Food fortification, Micronutrient requirements/ recommendations for humans.

McSorley, E Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Human Nutrition) Nutrition and autoimmune disease, Dietary modulation of immune

function, Nutrition and pregnancy, n3 PUFAs, Vitamin D, Marine derived bioactives, Mercury toxicology.

Mitchell, C Professor

(Professor of Tissue Regeneration) The morphological, cellular and molecular determinants of pattern formation in the vasculature, Angiogenesis, Investigating determinants of wound healing, In-vivo microscopy.

Moore, T Professor

(Professor of Personalised Medicine) Ocular immunology, Disorders of the ocular surface, associated genetics and immunological responses, Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for disorders of the ocular surface, Optimization of gene therapy for use in treatment of Corneal Dystrophy and assessment of potential therapeutic approaches.

Mulhern, MS Dr

(Lecturer in Food Science) Vitamin D in health and disease; Influence of nutrition on cognitive development and immune function; Nutritional status during pregnancy; Agri-food farm-to-fork research; LC-PUFA, selenium, iodine requirements for health.

Naughton, PJB Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Medical Microbiology) Clinical microbiology, Gastrointestinal disease.

O'Hagan, B Dr

(Scientific Officer) Nano systems biology; Bioimaging.

Naughton, V Dr

(Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences) Physiology and path physiology of gastrointestinal tract and the role of the microbiome in human gut health.

O'Harte, FPM Professor

(Professor of Endocrinology & Metabolism) Structurally modified peptides in therapy and drug development, Role of regulatory peptides in control of feeding and obesity, Incretin hormone analogues in diabetes therapy, Structure-function activity of peptides, Hormone receptor modelling and NMR, Glucagon receptor antagonists in diabetes therapy.

Owusu-Apenten, R Dr

(Lecturer in Food & Nutrition) Bioactive peptides as nutraceuticals and medical foods, Dietary protein, Redox reactions and chronic disease.

Pentieva, K Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences) Micronutrient requirements and recommendations for intake in humans B-vitamin status, homocysteine and disease Food folate: bioavailability Food folate analysis, Food fortification, functional foods Micronutrients and antioxidant status, Micronutrients and toxicity.

Pourshahidi, LK Dr

(Lecturer in Food Science/Research Fellow) Vitamin D requirements for health; Nutritional attributes of cow's milk from farm to fork; Coffee and health (risk-benefit approach); Consumer understanding of food portion sizes; Assessment of body composition; Obesity as an inflammatory condition.

Saunders, KJ Professor

(Professor of Optometry and Vision Science) The impact of neurological impairment on the developing visual system, The improvement of vision care for children with special needs and the epidemiology of myopia.

Singh (Née Nigam), P Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Biotechnology) Industrial and Applied Microbiology.

Sittlington J, Dr

(Scientific Assistant) Sports and exercise nutrition; Nutrition and disease prevention; Understanding health behaviour in relation to 1) infant feeding, 2) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and 3) adolescent smoking; Qualitative research strategies.

Strain, JJ Professor

(Professor of Human Nutrition and Director of the Northern Ireland Centre for Food & Health) Maternal fish consumption, Riboflavin, blood pressure and gene-nutrient interactions.

Ternan, N Dr

(Lecturer in Microbiology) Proteomics Biochemistry and enzymology of thermophilic Geobacilli, Molecular and cell biology of metabolizing microorganisms, Investigating the catalytic activities of novel microbial enzymes, Investigating stress responses in human pathogens (e.g., Clostridium difficile) and the role of the microbiome in human gut health, The development of nanostructured coatings to prevent biofouling of medical devices, The development of in situ treatment processes for reducing infective load in healthcare environments.

Thompson, P Dr

(Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology) Biological activities of the nuclear vitamin D receptor (VDR) and the mechanisms through which it mediates the wide range of physiological responses to its cognate Vitamin D ligand, Gene regulatory pathways and molecular mechanisms that mediate the plethora of physiological responses to the lipophilic nutrient vitamin D.

Walsh, CP Professor

(Professor of Genetics) DNA methylation, Epigenetics, Fertility, Transgenic mice Stem Cells.

Ward, M Professor

(Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics) Homocysteine and cardiovascular disease, Dietary influences on plasma homocysteine, Folate requirements in different population groups, Folate bioavailability.

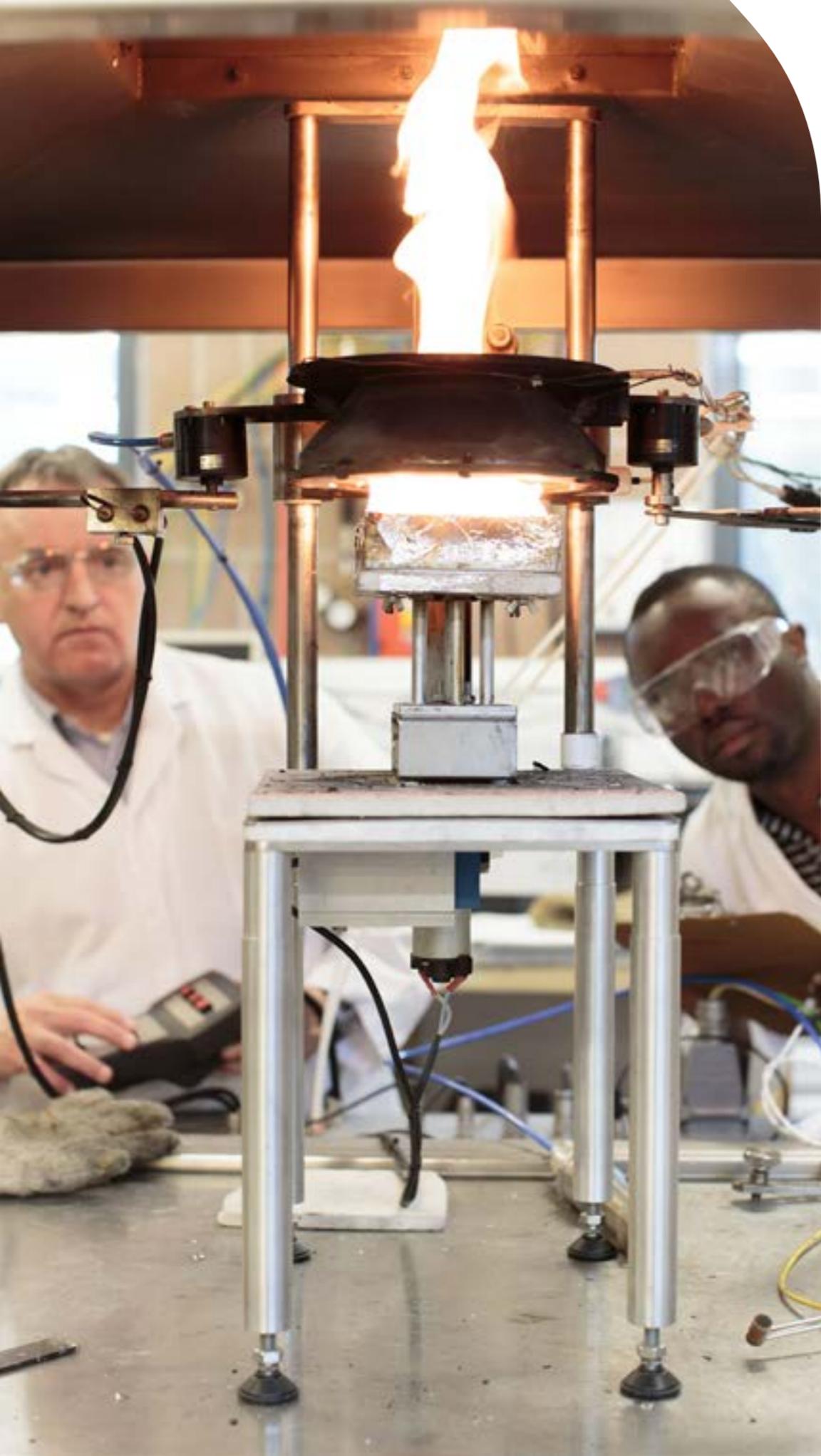
Webba da Silva, M Dr

(Reader in Pharmaceutical Chemistry) DNA sequence analysis, DNA complex structures, Structure of Nucleic Acid Quadruplexes, Modulation of Gene Expression through Quadruplex, Folding Design and Engineering of Functional Biomolecules.

Yeates (née McAfee), Alison Dr

(Research Fellow in Nutritional Biochemistry) Food chain nutrition and impact of animal derived foods on human health; Fatty acid metabolism and biochemistry; Maternal fish consumption; Impact of iodine, selenium and LC PUFA on cognitive development and genetic modifiers.

My name is William Crowe and I'm a final year PhD student in the School of Biomedical Sciences at Ulster University, Coleraine. I previously completed a BSc in Human Nutrition with a Diploma in Industrial Studies at UU which I thoroughly enjoyed. I applied for a PhD as I have an interest in the nutritional immunology research which is being conducted at the University and I was aware of the advanced laboratory facilities available. Throughout my PhD I've been provided with continuous support and guidance by my supervisors and the staff at the University. I've also received many opportunities to further enhance my professional development in the form of teaching experience and presenting my work at conferences which will aid in my pursuit of a career in academia or industry.



Built Environment

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Research Institute**

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General Description

The Built Environment Research Institute is Ulster University's principal focus for research activities relating to the sustainable development, management, regulation and conservation of the built environment. The quality of the research in the Built Environment was recognised as 100% world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of the research environment and research impact in REF2014. The main areas of research activity are carried out within distinct research groups, which also collaborate in joint research activities. The Recognised Research Groupings within the Unit of Assessment are:

- **Fire Safety Engineering Research and Technology Centre (FireSERT)**
- **Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST)**
- **Centre for Research on Property and Planning (RPP)**
- **Hydrogen Safety Engineering and Research (HySAFER)**
- **Studies Allied to Built Environment Research (SABER)**

Research Facilities

Postgraduate research opportunities are available within each research group and detailed information including project titles and supervisors is available at the following link: beri.ulster.ac.uk/

Based at the Jordanstown campus, the Built Environment Research Institute seeks to provide its research students with a lively and stimulating environment for their studies. Extensive experimental laboratory research facilities, established over many years of investment and complemented by high end computational facilities, are available within each of the research centres. The fire research building provides a unique series of laboratories for the study of fire safety engineering science. Research facilities for the Centre for Sustainable Technologies provide a state of the art environment for the study of energy systems and markets, renewable energies and energy

technologies. There is a strong practical focus on the delivery of low carbon building solutions with technical performance and social acceptance being tested on instrumented houses.

All of the research groups have active involvement in both national and international programmes with networks involving a wide range of visiting researchers and scholars.

Centre Profiles

Fire Safety Engineering Research and Technology Centre (FireSERT)

The Fire Safety Engineering Research and Technology Centre (FireSERT) seeks to improve building practices and reduce the human and economic costs of unwanted fires. The Centre performs and supports field and analytical research on the performance of construction materials, components, systems and practices and identifies and quantifies the fundamental processes underlying the initiation, propagation and suppression of fires.

FireSERT's research areas and services to industry include: structural fire engineering; fire dynamics; behaviour of construction components in fire; human behaviour in fire; fire simulation modelling; evacuation modelling; fire safety engineering design; risk assessment; safety audits; fire testing and product development. Research in FireSERT is focused on the areas of Fire Dynamics and Materials, Structural Fire Engineering, Fire Modelling and Human Behaviour in Fire.

Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST)

The Centre for Sustainable Technologies carries out multi-disciplinary research to create, develop, improve, demonstrate and evaluate emerging, existing and alternative sustainable renewable energy, building design, construction materials and environmental modification technologies. Extensive

computational facilities and well equipped laboratories enable research to be undertaken at the forefront of the field.

CST undertakes both fundamental and applied research in the areas of: Advanced Glazing, Thermal Energy Storage, Advanced Heat Pumps, Techno-Economic Assessment of New Power Plants, Assessment of Future Energy Demands, Biomass and Bioenergy, Solar Thermal and PV Systems.

Centre for Research on Property and Planning (RPP)

The Centre for Research on Property and Planning focuses upon the evaluation of property market performance, investment decision-making and analysis, computer-assisted valuation models, the application of GIS, the reform and modernisation of planning policy, strategic spatial planning, land use planning and urban sustainability, the appraisal of urban regeneration initiatives, housing and land use policies, systems of land and property taxation, econometric analysis, user-requirements and facilities management.

RPP undertakes research in the following areas: Property Market Analysis, Valuation, Housing, Property Taxation, Corporate Real Estate, Emerging Markets, Property Investment, Urban Regeneration, Planning Sustainability and Development, Transportation Analysis and Modelling, Modernisation and Reform of Planning Legislation, Planning Policy and Processes, including Community Engagement, Community Planning, Civic Leadership and Marine Spatial Planning, Infrastructure Investment, Infrastructure Resilience and Urban Security.

Hydrogen Safety Engineering and Research (HySAFER)

The HySAFER Centre is an international team of researchers working in an emerging multi-disciplinary area of hydrogen safety science

and engineering. The thrust in research is on computational fluid dynamics (CFD), in particular on development and validation of large eddy simulation (LES). Generic research topics include but not limited to hydrogen under-expanded jets, dispersion in the open atmosphere and enclosures, spontaneous ignition of sudden hydrogen releases into air, under-ventilated jet fires and self-extinction phenomena, interaction between fires and structures, coherent deflagrations, large scale non-uniform deflagrations and transition from deflagration-to-detonation, detonations and blast waves, thermal protection of high-pressure hydrogen storage.

Pre-normative research includes practically the whole spectrum of hydrogen and fuel cell applications and infrastructure, including safety of hydrogen-powered vehicles, stationary fuel cell systems for production heat and power, refuelling stations, tunnels, garages and car parking.

Studies Allied to Built Environment Research (SABER)

SABER a new research centre within BERI formed in January 2015 was created to stimulate a research environment across a wide range of areas within the Built Environment. Areas of research include BIM, bridge scour, built environment education, concrete, engineered timber performance, environmental health, extreme weather, geopolymers, geotechnics, health and safety, hydraulics food security, nano / micro / macro-scale material characterisation, noise impacts procurement, resilience of critical infrastructure, road surface materials and tribology, sustainability in the built environment, waste water and sewerage treatment. Being a new research centre, SABER members are actively developing networking and opportunities for joint research proposals and publications with other universities around the world.

Staff Research Areas

Professor A Adair

(Property Performance Measurement, Infrastructure, Wealth Creation Strategies and Regeneration)

Recent projects include global infrastructure financing Strategies and property performance measurement.

Professor F Ali

(Structural Fire Engineering, Numerical Modelling and Thermo-structural Response in Fire)

Recent projects include performance of steel and reinforced concrete structures in fire using experimental and numerical modelling methods of research. The work focused on reducing explosive spalling of concrete under fire.

Mr M Anderson

(Biomass, Building Physics, Building Services and Design)

Recent projects include smart monitoring systems for homes, development of new biomass fuels and fuel recovery form anaerobic digestion fibre.

Professor J N Berry

(Real Estate Economics, Regeneration, Property Development and Finance)

Recent projects include measurement and benchmarking of regeneration performance; financing vehicles in regeneration; development appraisal, risk analysis, and option pricing of mixed use developments; real estate markets and value creation; special purpose vehicles for financial contraction and distressed property assets.

Dr N Blair

(Spatial planning policy, cross-border strategic planning)

Recent projects include rural restructuring on the island of Ireland, cross-border planning on the island of Ireland for local economic development, housing and neighbourhood statistics, impact of the Review of Public Administration (RPA) on cross-border spatial on the island of Ireland, entrepreneurship in planning education, planning in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr K E Boyce

(Response and Evacuation Behaviour of People in Fire)

Recent projects have involved characterisation of building occupancies, evacuation capabilities, response and behaviour of the physically and mentally impaired, investigation into the evacuation experiences of those evacuating WTC towers on 9/11, characteristics of merging behaviour on stairs, attitudes and concerns of people with disabilities regarding life safety options, investigation of circumstances and behaviours in dwelling fires in NI.

Dr S L Brennan

(Safety of Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies)

Recent projects include installation permitting guidance for small stationary and fuel cell applications and simulation of large scale hydrogen jet fires.

Dr S Choi

(Structural Fire Engineering)

Recent projects include understanding of intumescent coating in fire, in terms of numerical and experimental approaches. The work focused on developing a design method of intumescent coating to be applied for structural steelworks.

Dr P Davis

(Property valuation, investment, development and asset management)

Specialises in providing research, consultancy and training solutions for property taxation in developing/ transitional jurisdictions, the creation of property market indices and advising Housing Associations on investment and development strategy. Research projects include urban security, resilience, disaster recovery on critical infrastructure protection.

Dr R Eadie

(Construction Management and Procurement)

Recent projects include production of an e-procurement e-capability maturity model for construction organisations and AI techniques in procurement in construction.

Dr P W Griffiths

(Low Carbon Buildings, Thermal Energy Storage)

Recent projects include thermal energy storage in PassivHaus dwellings, thermal comfort in refurbished dwellings, phase change material energy storage and transport.

Dr M Haran

(Real Estate Development & Investment, Regeneration, Infrastructure Investment and Finance)

Recent projects include the development of a commercial property performance index for Northern Ireland in collaboration with MSCI, an exploration of innovative financial models for funding regeneration, an evaluation of the role of listed real funds within a multi-asset investment portfolio as well as leading the RICS commissioned research examining the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in addressing the global infrastructure investment gap.

Dr L Hemphill**(Sustainable Development & Urban Regeneration)**

Recent projects include urban governance; sustainability indicators and measurement within urban regeneration projects; RICS commissioned research into international property valuation standards and practice in emerging and established markets; and an international comparative review of residential property measurement practice and standards

Professor N J Hewitt**(Heat Exchanger, Heat Pump and Refrigeration System Design)**

Recent projects include new heat pump and refrigeration technologies and the integration of new and renewable energy in buildings.

**Dr M J Huang****(Renewable Energy, Heat pump and refrigeration)**

Recent projects include building-integrated photovoltaics, renewable energy development for buildings; heat pump system optimization and development of numerical simulation models for renewable energy systems.

Dr Y Huang**(Clean Technologies with Fossil Fuels and Biomass, Process Modelling and Techno-economic Analysis)**

Recent projects include techno-economic analysis of clean coal power plants, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) with fossil fuels, biomass combustion and gasification systems and the application of trigeneration and energy storage.

Dr T J Hyde**(Advanced glazing and insulation systems, solar thermal technologies, energy efficient buildings)**

Recent projects include the development of advanced low heat loss vacuum glazing systems, concentrating photovoltaic evacuated glazing, retrofitting of vacuum and insulation systems into buildings and development of a flat evacuated solar collector suitable for building integration.

Dr M Keenan**(Housing, Housing Management, Housing Policy, Older People, Race)**

Recent projects include the housing needs of older people in Northern Ireland, specifically in relation to a role of Home Improvement Agencies; social housing allocations in Northern Ireland; sustainable communities in Ireland and the identification of shared future neighbourhoods.

Dr L C Lim**(Global real estate market, valuation, property tax policy and assessment)**

Recent projects include institutional benchmark for international real estate investment; review of policy on location of public sector jobs; property tax assessment in transitional countries; valuation process improvement and reengineering. RICS commissioned research into international property valuation standards and practice in emerging and established markets; and an international comparative review of residential property measurement practice and standards.

Dr B J Magee**(Materials/structures/highway engineering)**

Recent projects include investigating the performance of innovative composite materials such as high performance glass reinforced concrete and basalt fibre reinforced materials and the suitability of geopolymers for concrete applications in the highway environment.

Dr D Makarov**(Fire and Explosion Safety, Hydrogen Safety Science and Engineering, Computational Fluid Dynamics)**

Recent and ongoing projects include development of European installation permitting guidelines for indoor hydrogen usage, digital and numerical tools for European hydrogen and fuel cell research infrastructure, safety strategies for onboard hydrogen storage, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Model Evaluation Protocol for safety analysis of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Research interests concentrate at fundamental and applied research for hydrogen safety – hazards assessment using CFD; developing models for Large Eddy Simulation (LES) of safety-related problems; hydrogen releases and combustion including fires, deflagrations and detonations.

Dr N C McConnell**(Response and Evacuation Behaviour including Psychological and Neurobehavioural Impact of People in Fire)**

Recent projects involved determining the attitudes and concerns of people with disabilities regarding life safety options in multi-storey buildings and investigation of circumstances and behaviours in dwelling fires in NI. Capabilities, response and behaviour of occupants in entertainment facilities to initiating evacuation. Development of fire safety programme for the older adult. Other projects involve psychological/neurobehavioural impact of being involved in a domestic fire incident and evacuation experiences of those involved in the WTC towers on 9/11.

Dr M McCord**(Property Market Analysis, Investment and Econometrics)**

Recent projects include innovative financial modelling and investment portfolio and fund analysis, infrastructure and real estate finance, energy performance and property tax, spatial

econometric market analysis, property valuation and housing market affordability.

Professor S McGreal

(Property Market Analysis, Regeneration and Housing)

Recent projects include financing regeneration, PPPs, benchmarking of performance returns in regeneration areas, housing market sales performance, rental markets, housing and neighbourhood statistics.

Mr S. MacIntyre

(Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning)

Recent projects and publications include a book chapter examining Environmental Protection and its Relationship with Spatial Planning together with research into the impact on house prices of factors such as religious segregation, amenities and energy performance.

Professor V Molkov

(Hydrogen Safety Science and Engineering, Fire and Explosion Safety)

Recent projects include fundamental and industry-driven studies in safety, including explosion-free composite tanks with for storage of gas at high pressures, dynamics of pressure and thermal effects from blast waves, modelling and large eddy simulation (LES) of hydrogen releases and dispersion indoors, radiation from hydrogen jet fires, coherent deflagrations, deflagrations of localised mixtures, deflagration-to-detonation transition, etc.

Dr J Mondol

(Solar Energy, Energy Efficient Buildings)

Recent projects include building integrated photovoltaics, solar hot water storage, concentrating photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, household energy efficiency study, modelling of solar energy systems.

Dr M E Murphy

(Construction Innovation Management)

Recent research projects include an investigation into the impact of stakeholder competencies on the environmental management of BIM-generated infrastructure construction projects and an evaluation of stakeholder actions at the cost estimation stage of infrastructure projects; both projects are being undertaken a means to determining potential sector improvements.

Professor A Nadjai

(Structures in Fire, Fire Dynamic, Material and Protection)

Recent research projects include Experimental Investigation on Sprinkler Performance Clear Space During Fire, flash over and smoke movement in compartment, facade glazing system in high rise building, fire protection for steel structures, localised and travelling fire in large compartment, experimental & numerical and design of composite flooring system.

Dr P Millar

(Civil Engineering: Land Surveying and GIS)

Recent research projects include non-contact evaluation of highway surfacing textures, GIS based highway condition surveys, 3D modelling of asphalt surfacings using close range photogrammetry and laser, race track surface texture properties and tyre/road interfacial studies.

Dr P Pimenidou

(Catalysis, Gasification, High Temperature CO2 Capture, Emissions' Control)

Previous research involves emissions' reduction from biodiesel- diesel combustion using high oxygen storage capacity nanocatalysts. On-going research in renewable energy includes new catalysts and optimised energy storage materials.

Mr G Rafferty

(Spatial Planning, Governance and Community Engagement)

Research specialisms in the role of spatial planning, regeneration and urban governance in post-conflict societies/'contested space', and evaluating collaboration and partnership working. Recent projects include the role of planning in peace-building, planning reform and modernisation, and the evolving nexus between community planning and spatial planning on the island of Ireland.

Dr H Ritchie

(Spatial Planning and Energy Policy)

Previous research on the cross border Research and Development Funding Programme for strengthening the All-Ireland Research Base on Planning and Energy Storage. Ongoing research on stakeholder engagement in marine spatial planning and understanding planning law.

Dr M Smyth

(Renewable Energy Systems, Building Services)

Recent projects include solar energy collectors; low cost integral solar collector storage systems, Hybrid PV-Thermal collectors, Building Integrated Solar Thermal Systems (BISTS) and low concentration systems. Other areas of interest include, building energy analysis and efficiency, thermal storage and PCMs, Small scale Anaerobic Digesters, energy and the wine industry.

Dr B Solan

(Geotechnical Design & Scour Failure of Arch bridges)

Current projects include a study of the geotechnical failure modes of historic bridge structure (arches) when subject to pressurised flow under extreme weather event storms. Other ongoing work is the application of granular anchors to the remediation on slopes and the impact of subgrade types on the noise and vibrations generated from rigid and flexible pavements.



Dr W D H Woodward

(Highway Engineering)

Recent projects include the development of early life properties of highway surfaces, use of Warm Mix Asphalt in Ireland, asphalt surfacing distress, 3D modelling of asphalt surfaces using stereo photogrammetry and 3d laser techniques, tyre/road interface properties, race track surface properties.

Dr A Zacharopoulos

(Renewable energy, Building integrated solar thermal/PV systems, Energy efficient buildings)

Recent projects include development of a concentrating PV evacuated glazing module, building integration of solar thermal systems, a low cost solar concentrating PV/thermal system for Tanzania.

Dr J Zhang

(Fire Dynamics and Material Flammability)

Recent projects include development of innovative materials for curtain wall facades, nano-enhanced lightweight steel skeleton/dry wall systems, carbon fibre based materials for modern aircrafts fuselage, ignition and fire spread of buildings due to large-scale deflagrations, computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and soot modelling in fires.

Looking back over the course of my career, I can categorically state that my PhD from Ulster has opened many doors in terms of career/professional development and commercial success through winning consulting commissions. The skills I gained were specific (in my subject area), but often when I reflect, it is the general skills that have added most value to my career over time – for example, the ability to see the bigger economic picture, the ability to analyse and summarise complex sets of data, the ability to write reports and present in a succinct manner and the ability to influence stakeholders in projects. For these reasons I highly recommend a PhD as a foundation for career success.

*Dr Connel Bottom MRICS FRSA
Partner, Bernard Williams Associates
PhD Graduate 1997*

found the Ulster University Research PhD program perfect. The support and guidance from my faculty advisors were terrific, and I was able to plumb my topic to a rich level of analysis under their tutelage. Moreover, I've been pleased to see the dissertation topic, "24-hour cities and commercial real estate investment performance," picked up as a fresh area of follow-on research in academic journals and in the industry at large."

*Hugh F. Kelly, PhD, CRE
Clinical Professor of Real Estate
Schack Institute of Real Estate,
New York University and
2014 Chair, The Counselors of Real Estate
Ulster graduation - 2011.*

For me, completing a PhD at Ulster University was transformative. A PhD trains you to think differently. It acted as a springboard to my career path, greatly developing both my analytical and personal skills. The quality and dedication of my supervision remains unrivalled. My experience opened the door to amazing opportunities and a wide network of global real estate professionals, many of whom I now count as friends. Almost twenty years on I continue to benefit and still consider the University my second home.

*Dr Brenna O'Roarty
Founder, Executive Director
RHL Strategic Solutions
Graduated 1996*

Business & Management

Contact: Professor Barry Quinn
Head of Research Graduate Centre
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Ulster University Business School

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Contact: Professor Paul Humphreys
Research Institute Director
Business and Management
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General Description

In the 2014 REF, the Business and Management Unit of Assessment has 98% of its research recognised as international in terms of originality, significance and rigour. This is a major improvement compared to the 2008 RAE, when the score was 85%, and places the UoA in the upper quartile relative to its peers.

The Ulster University Business School provides opportunities for PhD study on a full-time and part-time basis in a range of topic areas linked to the Faculty's research strategy. The Faculty offers a number of Department of Employment and Learning and VCRS grants to students wishing to carry out research on a full-time basis.

PhD supervision is available within the research groups listed below.

Accounting and Finance

Within accounting and finance the group focuses on efficiency and performance measurement and the analysis of structural change in the financial sector. Current areas of research include: public sector accounting; charity accounting; performance measurement in NFPOs; banks and credit unions.

Marketing

Research interests fall into two main areas: (i) SMEs with particular emphasis on the marketing/entrepreneurship interface; and (ii) the 'front' end of the marketing channel, the point of contact between retailer and consumer. Current areas of research include small firms' marketing theory and practice; SME internationalization; marketing communications; services marketing; SME marketing; qualitative research methodology; factors influencing the performance of SMEs; innovation; knowledge management; strategic marketing; decision-making in entrepreneurial firms; networking as a marketing competency; the role of the internet

in entrepreneurial firms' marketing; strategy and international business; financial services marketing; internet marketing; direct marketing; public sector marketing; bank marketing; customer marketing; internet banking; motivation for foreign direct investment; customer value and competitive value.

Operations

This group has consolidated its work in the development and application of quantitative and systems based ideas and models. A major interest for members of the group has developed around the implications for a range of organisations of the total quality management philosophy. This is reflected in research work that is focused on supply management and business process improvement. Current areas of research include: electronic commerce and the role of intermediaries, the outsourcing decision-making process, supplier development strategies, early supplier involvement in the design process, supply chain dynamics, public sector procurement and knowledge/innovation management assessment tools.

The research of this group also covers a wide spectrum of issues impinging on the management of human resources within the private and public sectors. The areas researched include NI trade unionism and labour history, labour economics, gender and equality issues, employee relations and employee involvement and participation.

Staff Research Areas

Accounting and Finance

Professor Joan Ballantine:

Capital Investment Appraisal in private sector/SMEs; Performance measurement and management in the public sector; The simultaneous implementation of performance improvement initiatives and their impact on organisational change; Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems and the role of the Management Accountant; Strategic Enterprise Management Systems and Performance Measurement and Management. Gender diversity in the public sector; Pedagogical issues in Accounting Education; Apprenticeships: applications and relevance in Northern Ireland: A longitudinal study.

Mr Anthony Wall:

Sustainable Public Procurement.

Professor Ann Marie Ward:

Earnings management/earnings manipulation in credit unions; Intrinsic/extrinsic motivation of volunteers within credit unions; Disclosures within credit union financial statements; Corporate governance within credit unions; Revaluations within UK plcs; Derivative accounting within UK plcs; Lease accounting within UK plcs Marketing.

Marketing

Dr Laura Bradley:

Corporate and consumer use of social media; Marketing related issues within the Social Economy; Mobile Banking; Innovation and Marketing within the Retail Financial Services Sector.

Dr Peter Bolan:

Golf Tourism; Social Media in Business; Mobile Apps (in Business, particularly tourism); Film Tourism(marketing and development); Media Impact on the Consumer.

Professor Stephen Boyd:

Tourism Development; Event-based Tourism; Sustainable Tourism Planning and Management. Food tourism; Rural tourism, trails and routes.

Dr Amy Burns:

Sensory evaluation; Innovative food development; Food and consumer issues (health, economics issues and contemporary trends); Developments in the food industry.

Professor Mark Durkin:

Marketing/technology interface; use of social media in customer relationship management; use of technology-enabled delivery in retail banking; marketing education; exploring an alternate pedagogy for marketing education in the digital environment; SME-Bank relationships; enhancing relational effectiveness between SMEs and Banks.

Dr Damian Gallagher:

The role of Social Relationships in Relationship Marketing; The marketing of SMEs; Entrepreneurship/marketing in Small Sports Club.

Dr Alison Hampton:

Entrepreneurship (gender, minority, ethnic and family business); SME Business Growth and Development/Strategy; Networks and Networking in Entrepreneurial Firms; Entrepreneurial Learning (within the entrepreneurial contexts noted above).

Dr Lynsey Hollywood:

Food marketing; Food choice/consumer behaviour; food tourism

Dr Karise Hutchinson:

Retail Internationalisation; International branding issues for retailers; SME/small business management; Retail Branding; Retail supplier relationships and rural retailing.

Dr Pat Ibbotson:

E-Supply Chain Management; E-CRM in SMEs; online consumer behaviour; digital marketing and social networks; mobile and location based e-business; the role of ICTs in SME internationalisation; MIS development in SMEs; mobile and apps development in small firms.

Dr Sharon Loane:

SME Internationalisation; International Entrepreneurship; Issues in entrepreneurship (Cross-National Studies); The internationalization of SMEs in the creative industries; The role of founding entrepreneur(s) in the internationalization of SMEs; The effect of team entry and exits in the international SME.

Professor Pauric McGowan:

Entrepreneurial Marketing in Practice within ENVs and SMEs; Minority Entrepreneurship, including issues of gender in these contexts; Technology Entrepreneurship, focusing specifically on the challenges facing high-tech ENVs and SMEs seeking strategic, marketing-lead growth, including innovation and global entrepreneurship; Networks

and networking in entrepreneurial new venturing and for venture growth; Entrepreneurship Learning/pedagogy, including the facilitating of an entrepreneur's learning, issues of self-efficacy and developing the entrepreneurial manager; Entrepreneurial renaissance, recovering from business failure.

Dr Aodheen McCartan:

The creative process in advertising; advertising media in a digital age; effective advertising in a not-for-profit context; advertising agencies and their clients; the impact of digital mediation on marketing communications; exploring the interface between in-house and agency roles in digital marketing; the impact of digital technologies on small firm marketing.

Dr Richard Mitchell:

SME branding; Retail branding; Entrepreneurial branding; SME marketing, particularly in small sports clubs.

Dr Sharon Ponsonby-McCabe:

Cultural brands and branding (e.g. what underpins the perpetual popularity of cult/iconic/heritage/historic/retro branded entities); Marketplace cultures (e.g. the nature and practices of various kinds of consumer culture groupings including tribes/communities/subcultures of consumption).

Professor Barry Quinn:

Small firm innovation (in food or retail contexts); Small firm internationalisation (in food or retail contexts).

Professor Elaine Ramsey:

Impact of culture on online shopping behaviour; Entrepreneurship and Innovation; E-CRM in SMEs; Online Gambling and Consumer Behaviour. Public sector innovation; Business sustainability and change management; Digital marketing management.

Dr Danielle McCartan-Quinn:

SME marketing; tourism marketing.

Dr Adrian Devine:

Event planning/management; event tourism; sports tourism; social media and events; tourism planning and development.

Operations

Dr Michael Brennan:

Strategic development in technology intensive organisations and healthcare; Business model innovation in new technology-based firms; Corporate entrepreneurship and academic entrepreneurship.

Dr Trevor Cadden:

Outsourcing and Supply Chain Management.

Dr Brendan Galbraith:

Management and innovation in University Science parks and Incubators; technology platforms and online intermediaries for knowledge transfer and innovation; high-tech SME innovation adoption – knowledge, process and policy perspectives; leveraging users and user communities for co-creation and business model development; social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Professor Paul Humphreys:

Outsourcing and Supply Chain Management.

Professor Ronan McIvor:

Outsourcing and Supply Chain Management.

Professor Rodney McAdam:

Performance measurement and business process improvement; the role of Lean and/or Six Sigma in private, public or SME organisations; The impact of

Knowledge Management, transfer and exchange on innovation; Total Quality Management in private, public and small organisations; Innovation management processes in organisations; Management and innovation in Technology Transfer and University Science Park incubators.

Dr Judith McKnight:

Innovation; Networks and Networking in SMEs; Social Network Analysis; Horizontal Collaboration

Dr Sandra Moffett:

Knowledge and Innovation Management; Business Process Improvement; Rich Internet Applications: Development and Deployment for Web 2.0; The Systematic Development of Management Information Systems; The Effects of Human Computer Interaction in Software Engineering Applications; Performance Measurement and Metrics.

Dr Martin McCracken:

Exploring strategic human resource development, the evolving role of HR professionals, understanding organisational change.

“Completing a PhD in the Ulster University Business School has been a fantastic experience - the opportunities and support offered are particularly excellent. I would highly recommend it to anyone contemplating a PhD in business.”

Matthew Kearney
(*part-time, final year*)

“I can honestly say that doing a PhD at Ulster University has been a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable learning experience. I’ve learned so much about myself whilst developing my skills as a researcher and it’s opened up so many other additional opportunities and new networks. As a practitioner for many years it’s refreshing to have an opportunity to get involved in a piece of work which offers the potential to make a contribution to both theory and practice. It’s a lot of hard work but so worth the rewards. I’d recommend it to anyone prepared to commit to it.”

Bernadette Best
(*full-time, second year*)

“After completing my undergraduate degree and a master’s degree it was a clear choice to continue my academic journey with Ulster University. The University and the doctorate programme enable me to develop my knowledge theoretically and practically along with the opportunity to excel in my research field. The PhD process has taught me vital skills and confidence to pursue an academic career in the future. Personally I would describe the PhD experience with Ulster as challenging, enriching and rewarding, with a high level of support and guidance from my supervisors, faculty staff and other PhD students”.

Stella So (*full-time, final year*)

Celtic Studies

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General Description

Celtic Studies is an area of high importance at Ulster University with research in the subject being carried out within the Irish and Celtic Studies Research Institute.

In REF 2014 the Irish and Celtic Studies Research Institute was assessed as having:

- 100% outstanding or very considerable impact in research
- 66% of overall research world-leading or internationally excellent
- 90% of research environment internationally excellent or world-leading

The subject has a high income stream, and staff and student support arrangements and postgraduate training are excellent. The Institute is committed to fully supporting its postgraduate students.

The research infrastructure provided by the University is of a high quality. The Institute has a Director who is responsible for the day-to-day running and management of the subject area. There is also a Faculty of Arts Research Committee and a Faculty Research Graduate School. A Pro-Vice-Chancellor has special responsibility for research matters in the University and a Research Department oversees and administers all aspects of research provision. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor meets with the Director of the Research Institute on a regular basis to discuss strategy and priorities and to assess progress.

The main objective of the Institute is to foster and develop a vibrant research culture and ethos in all aspects of its work. This is reflected in a variety of ways, such as the number of high-quality publications by members of the group, externally-funded research projects, the organization of conferences and colloquia, international collaborations, and the large number of research students and research degrees awarded.

The Institute has close ties with the scholarly Societies, *Societas Celto-Slavica* and *Societas Celtologica Nordica*. Members of the Institute occupy the positions of President and Vice-President of these Societies respectively and edit their academic journals. The Institute also runs a series of research seminars on various aspects of Celtic Studies at which papers are presented by members of the Institute, including research students, and invited guests. Members of the Institute edit *Studia Celtica Upsaliensia*, *Studia Celto-Slavica*.

Specialisms include medieval Irish language and literature, textual scholarship, the transmission of *senchas* and historical verse, voyage literature, the Gaelic manuscript tradition, bardic poetry, place-names research, dialectology, lexicography, stylistics, minority languages, language policy and planning, the syntax and semantics of the verb in Irish, 18th and 19th century Irish language, literature and learning with particular reference to Ulster, modern and contemporary Irish literature, Scottish Gaelic literature from the eighteenth century to the present time, creative writing, Gaelic literature in translation, applied language studies (CALL, digitization, language corpora) and Irish folklore.

Postgraduate supervision is available in almost all aspects of Irish and Scottish Gaelic language and literature and in a range of subject areas in the other Celtic languages. Students are of central importance to the research culture of the subject: they maintain close contact with their supervisors and other staff; they are allocated dedicated space; and they are closely integrated into the fabric of the subject as a whole.

In addition, Ulster is a partner in the new collaborative Doctoral Training Centre in the Celtic Languages, Literatures and Cultures, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for the period 2014-19. A consortium of 12 higher education organisations across the UK will award doctoral

studentships and support the training of students in a new, collaborative fashion. The Consortium Members are the universities of Aberdeen, Bangor, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oxford, Swansea, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, the University of the Highlands and Islands/Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies; the Centre is managed by the University of Glasgow.

Students are enabled in an unprecedented way to partake of shared supervision and resources across these universities, and to engage with partners outside the higher education sector.

The Institute has generated significant funding and is engaged in a number of prestigious scholarly projects. On-going projects include the following:

- Languages for the Future: Northern Ireland Languages Strategy (DENI-funded project)
- Stories of the Sea: A Typological Study of Maritime Memorates in Modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic Folklore Traditions (AHRC-funded project)
- Concise Irish-English/English-Irish Dictionary (RCUK-funded project)
- The History of Celtic Studies Project
- POOLS and Tools for CLIL Teachers
- *Celtologica-Nordica*, *Celto-Slavica* and *Celto-Indica Studies*
- Displaced Poets: Migrant Writing from the Margins in a Scottish Gaelic Context – 1780–1930 and beyond (RCUK-funded project).

Research Facilities

Resources in Irish and Celtic Studies

Research students in Irish and Celtic studies are allocated dedicated space to carry out their research and they have access to computers, library carrels, and the Language Resource Centre. The University and Institute have materials on first and second language acquisition and learning; data banks on errors and error analysis; Modern

Irish lexicographical data; a collection of Irish manuscripts of 18th and 19th century texts relating to south-east Ulster; the Enrí Ó Muirgheasa library collection containing important works from the period 1880-1940. The University also collaborates with a number of other Universities on minority language research, corpus linguistics and other projects.

Internet Resources

This guide contains pointers to Internet resources of interest to students and staff in Irish Studies at Ulster. It is not a comprehensive list but is intended to help you begin exploring the Internet: General Irish and Celtic Studies Sites, Irish and Scottish Place-names, Language, Newspapers and Magazines, Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias, Media, Literature, Electronic Journals (mainly table of contents only), Celtic Culture, Electronic Databases, Music, Discussion Lists, Booksellers and Publishers, Institutions specialising in Irish, Gaelic and Celtic Studies.

Princess Grace Irish Library (PGIL)

EIRData 2000 is an extensive set of electronic literary text files dealing with Irish literary authors and their works in all periods, and is a tribute to Irish achievements in literature as well as testament to the Princess Grace's attachment to her Irish roots. The project is conducted by the University under the aegis of the Princess Grace Foundation (Monaco) with funding dedicated for the purpose by the Ireland Fund Princess Grace Memorial Library in Monaco. PGIL EIRData is an ambitious Internet project in Irish studies comprising an extensive set of digital records dealing with Irish literary authors and their works in all periods. It is the most comprehensive reference source of its kind in any medium, thus providing a robust and uniquely flexible platform for future advances in Irish cultural informatics.

Staff Research Areas

Mr Niall Comer

Mr Comer is Lecturer in Irish at Magee and formerly Irish Language Technologist in the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He is President of Comhaltas Uladh, the Ulster branch of Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League) and is working on a doctorate on the place-names of Coleraine and surrounding areas.

Dr Fiontán De Brún

Dr de Brún's main research interests are in 20th century Modern Irish literature, the Irish Revival, cultural history, film and creative writing. He has written widely on Modern Irish literature, and is the author of the monograph *Seosamh Mac Grianna: an Mhéin Rúin* (2002). He is also editor of *Belfast and the Irish Language* (2006). Dr de Brún is in addition a creative writer in Irish and has won a number of awards for his works.

Dr. Liz Doherty

Dr. Doherty lectures in traditional music at the Magee campus. As a traditional arts consultant she has worked on various national and international projects, and was a Traditional Arts Specialist with the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon (2005-2008). Her research fields include Cape Breton fiddle music, Irish traditional music, Performance – fiddle Safe Trad (Performance Injury Prevention project) and Traditional arts industry.

Dr Maxim Fomin

Dr Fomin has research interests in Early Irish and Sanskrit. He has written a number of scholarly papers on the question of kingship in early Ireland

and India and was Assistant Editor of the AHRC-funded eDIL project, the digitization of the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of the Irish Language. Lecturer in Humanities, he is a founding member and Secretary of Societas Celto-Slavica and is co-editor of the Society's academic journal.

Dr Art Hughes

Dr Hughes has written on various aspects of Irish and the other Celtic languages, including work on the Irish revival in Belfast in the 18th and 19th centuries, Irish place-names, the dialects of Ulster Irish, bardic poetry and the influence of the Irish language on Ulster English. He is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Celtic Linguistics* and is Celtic languages and literature review editor for *Seanchas Ard Mhacha*.

Mr Iain MacPherson

Mr MacPherson is a lecturer in Scottish Gaelic and Director of the research project 'Displaced Poets: Migrant Writing from the Margins in a Scottish Gaelic Context, 1780-1930 and beyond'. He has written and presented the acclaimed film *Iompaireachd nan Gaedheal* which had its world premiere at the Belfast campus in 2007. Mr MacPherson is also a creative writer and has published a number of poems in Scottish Gaelic. He was formerly Lecturer in Scottish Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye.

Dr Nioclás Mac Cathmhaoil

Dr Mac Cathmhaoil is Lecturer in Irish at the Magee campus. A specialist in Ulster Irish of the 18th and 19th centuries, he was awarded his doctorate in 2010 for a thesis on the author and scribe Muiris Ó Gormáin which will soon be published. He is currently working on editing a number of bardic poems.

Professor Séamus Mac Mathúna

Professor Mac Mathúna is Professor Emeritus and has published widely on various aspects of Irish

language and literature. His research interests include medieval voyage literature, Irish linguistics, bardic poetry, minority languages, and Irish lexicography. Founding President of Societas Celto-Slavica, he is joint editor of the Society's scholarly journal, sits on the Editorial and Management Boards of the Dictionary of Modern Irish (Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge) based in the Royal Irish Academy, and is consultant editor and external reader for the academic series *Studia Celtica Upsaliensia*. Chair of the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise's Celtic Studies Sub-Panel, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Member of the Royal Irish Academy. With Professor Ó Corráin, he is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Collins Concise Irish Dictionary.

Ms Nóilín Nic Bhloscaidh

Ms Nic Bhloscaidh is Lecturer in Irish at the Belfast campus. She has a Masters in Early Irish from University College Galway and is presently completing her doctoral dissertation on loan words in Irish.

Dr Gearóid Ó Domagáin

Dr Ó Domagáin is RCUK Fellow working on the Concise Irish-English/English-Irish Dictionary. He was awarded his doctorate on the present state of Irish in the parish of Gort a' Choirce, Co. Donegal, in 2009. He is course director for the MA in Modern and Contemporary Irish at the Belfast campus.

Dr Caoimhín Ó Dónaill

Dr Ó Dónaill has research interests in Early Irish and in the application of technology to the study of Modern Irish. He is Ulster's representative on the Tools for CLIL Teachers, has been a researcher on the research project *Linking Dictionaries and Texts*, is Irish Language Technologist for the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning, and has published an edition of *Talann Étair* in the *Maynooth Monograph Series* of the Department of Old Irish.

Dr Malachy O'Neill

Dr Ó Néill was appointed to a Lectureship in Irish at the Magee campus in 2008. His doctorate – an edition of *An Leabhar Eoghanach* – was awarded in 2007. Formerly editor of *An tUltach* (2007-10), Dr Ó Néill is Irish language editor of *Dúiche Néill*.

Dr Frank Sewell

Dr Sewell has research interests in Modern and contemporary writing in Irish, bilingual writing in Ireland, translation, creative writing, and international aspects of Irish literature, especially Russian and Slavonic links. He has written extensively on all of these areas and has received a number of prestigious awards for his work, including the Arts Council Literature Award in 1999 and 2001. He is author of *Modern Irish Poetry: A New Alhambra* (Oxford: OUP, 2000), published in 2001 and *Selected Poems: Seán Ó Ríordáin*. Yale University Press 2014.

Dr Peter Smith

Dr Smith has research interests in both modern and medieval Irish, Irish folklore and folk song, and sociolinguistics. Among his publications is a *Bibliography of Irish literature relating to South-East Ulster* and a number of articles in peer-reviewed publications on Irish historical verse. He published *Three Middle-Irish Historical Poems Ascribed to Gilla Cóemáin: A Critical Edition of the Work of an 11th-Century Irish Scholar*, 2008, and *Politics and Land in Early Ireland: A Poem by Eochaid Úa Flainn. Éitset áes ecna aibind*, Berlin: Curach Bhán Publications, 2013.

Dr Iwan Wmffre

Dr Wmffre is Lecturer in Brittonic and Celtic Studies. He is a specialist on Breton and Cornish, Welsh place-names, and Celtic phonology and sociolinguistics. In addition to having published a number of academic articles in scholarly journals, he is author of *Language and Place-names in Wales: The Evidence of Toponymy in Cardiganshire* (Cardiff,

2003) and *The Place-names of Cardiganshire* (Oxford, 2004) and *Dynamic Linguistics: Labov, Martinet, Jakobson and other precursors of the dynamic approach to language description* Peter Lang 2013 and *A Dynamic Description of Lampeter Welsh: Volume 1*, Bangor, 2013.

I graduated from Ulster University in 2012 with a first class Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Irish Language and Literature. I gained invaluable experience during the course of my studies while researching for my undergraduate dissertation and while researching for a Masters of Research. I graduated with distinction for my thesis entitled 'Tradisiún an Cheoil ar Oileán Thoraigh' in 2013.

At present I am a graduate student researching for my PhD thesis entitled 'The Irish of An Tearmann, Co Donegal' under the supervision of Professor Ailbhe Ó Corráin and Dr. Peter Smith. I intend to carry out a comprehensive linguistic analysis of the Irish dialect of An Tearmann, Co Donegal in its terminal phase. This important dialect has not been previously linguistically investigated. There is a very small number of native speakers remaining in the parish of An Tearmann and it is important that this is recorded and archived for a number of reasons.

Póilín Uí Ghallachóir
PhD Student

Cinematic Arts

Contact:

Dr Murat Akser

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Background

Cinematics Arts at Ulster University is a new and vibrant area of research that combines theory and practice of moving image arts in the new digital media age. Applicants can propose practice-based research topics, cinema studies related research questions or focus on the uses of alternative media practices that involve moving image.

Proposals are welcomed in a wide range of areas relating to staff research interests. Current priority topics are listed below:

- **Contemporary Filmmaking Practice**
- **Modern and Contemporary Cinema**
- **Alternative, Amateur and Resistance Media**

Applications for practice-based research are especially welcome, as are interdisciplinary projects. The MRes (Arts) is offered in Cinematic Arts for students wishing to undertake a preparatory year before commencing the doctoral programme.

All research students, i.e., those registered for MPhil and PhD degrees, are members of the Faculty of Arts Research Graduate School. Postgraduate rooms with computing and study facilities are available for students on the Coleraine and Magee campuses, and annual series of research seminars offer students opportunities to engage with current research in their discipline.

Research staff are members of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute, and PhD candidates are associate members. Postgraduate students are encouraged to participate in the wider research community and to develop their skills and experience by presenting at research seminars within the University as well as at national and international conferences.

Current research students have been successful in achieving financial support from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) with additional assistance



from sources such as the Standing Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD) and Ulster University's Library Travel Fund.

Research facilities and groups

The University libraries have extensive resources relating to drama and theatre and contemporary Ireland, including the TransGender Archive, CAIN, and the John Hewitt Collection amongst others. The campus is a train or bus journey from the Linenhall Archives and PRONI in Belfast, and the National Library and National Archives in Dublin.

The historic Foyle Arts Building on the Magee campus in Derry was converted in 2003 to provide a multi-disciplinary arts complex, housing the School of Creative Arts, which includes Drama, Music, Design, Cinematic Arts and Creative Technologies. Drama facilities include two flat-floored studio spaces, a dance studio, teaching rooms and staff office accommodation. The building also houses music recital and practice rooms, a Mac Lab and music technology editing suites.

Staff research areas

Contemporary Filmmaking Practice

Projects will investigate an aspect of one or more of the following areas of professional practice in filmmaking: Screenwriting; directing, documentary narration, and digital storytelling. Under this heading we would particularly encourage projects that seek to generate knowledge with a potential application to the Creative Industries. Projects undertaken will combine both traditional PhD thesis and a practice-based response to ideas surrounding emerging modes of digital filmmaking.

For this area applicants should have experience in Film Production and a background in practice-based research.

Modern and Contemporary Cinema

Proposals are sought which investigate any aspect of 20th- or 21st-century film practice. Areas of staff expertise include in particular: MENA cinemas, cinemas of the global south, film historiography, post-9/11 horror film, otherness, marginalization and rurality, representations of the US heartland. Enquiries and applications are welcome in any aspect of the field.

Alternative, Amateur and Resistance Media

Alternative and resistance media is an interdisciplinary area of study attracting interest from areas such as social media, digital technologies, cultural studies, and international politics. At the moment we are especially interested in applications in the following subject areas: alternative media use, social movement media, radical media mobilization, diasporic use of social media mobilization, anti-globalisation/occupy movements and media, amateur media in conflict

and reconciliation, citizen journalism, alternative technologies of masking (zello, vpn), soccer fan media, hacktivism, temporal control, visibility and immediacy in social media protests, and digital protest art.

Communication

Contact Details:**Dr Anne Moorhead****School of Communication****T: 028 90368905****E: a.moorhead@ulster.ac.uk****For more information about Communication research, visit our research web-site at:****socsci.ulster.ac.uk./comms/research/com-index****General Description**

Ulster University has the longest-established academic department in Communication in the UK. The School has pioneered the development of undergraduate and masters degree programmes in this field, and has a successful record of research student supervision. There is a vibrant research tradition in Communication with staff producing work of national and international excellence, attracting research funding of some £900,000 in the past three years. The Communication research thrust takes place across three main sub-areas. These are Interpersonal Communication, Health Communication and Counselling and Organisational Communication.. Research supervision is available within each of these areas.

Interpersonal Communication research

focuses on research in workplace communication, uncertainty management, and developing skilled communication in a range of contexts. In addition, it studies groups and relational communication, which focuses on the areas of intercommunity communication, communication post-terror attacks, communities of practice, and forgiveness and reconciliation.

Health Communication and Counselling

Current health communication themes include: communication technologies within healthcare, obesity communication, cancer communication, social media in health communication, health PR and promotion, and well-being within the workplace. Current counselling themes are counselling services, post-traumatic growth and secondary trauma.

Organisational Communication research

Organisational Communication research spans a wide range of areas, including: auditing internal and external communications; the role of communication in facilitating change; the use of the internet as a promotional tool; public relations in Ireland; the adoption and implementation of PR evaluation systems; the power of advertisement

'likeability' in predicting campaign success; and the use of new media technologies in political communication.

Research Facilities

- Purpose-built Communication Skills Centre, used for teaching and research, comprising a suite of 12 rooms (6 x 2-room laboratories) all of which are equipped with the latest digital CCTV recording facilities to enable video-recording and analysis of dyadic and group interactional episodes.
- Studio-based CCTV with the full range of sophisticated video-audio equipment, related computer-mediated analysis facilities, and portable video-audio recording equipment. Range of specialist computer-mediated systems to facilitate the fine-grained coding and analysis of verbal and nonverbal interaction.
- Fully-equipped computer laboratories with integrated facilities for the design and production of advanced communication materials, together with sophisticated video-audio recording equipment, and related computer-mediated facilities, which enables fine-grained coding and analysis of verbal and nonverbal interaction.

Students and staff have 24-hour access to a large library of books, journals and IT resources. A team of technicians, library and computing staff provide support and training all year round. Doctoral students have designated rooms with computers, networking and a social space and access to state-of-the-art equipment and studios. These facilities and support are available for research fellows and visiting scholars.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Jill Hendron

Dr Hendron is a lecture in Counselling at Jordanstown. She has published in the areas of vicarious impact, resilience, clergy psychological wellbeing, counselling practice and Emotional Intelligence. She is particularly interested in the impact upon individuals through helping those who have been impacted by crisis and in the complexities associated with the grief process. Also included in her research interests is the use of Emotional Intelligence abilities as a resilience tool. Jill is an accredited Emotional Intelligence trainer and assessor and an accredited Compassion Fatigue specialist.

Dr Maggie Long

Dr Long is a lecturer in Counselling and an associate member of the Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRiSS). Her research interests include mental health, with a specific focus on self-harm and suicide. She employs an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and researching mental health that draws on sociology and psychology. She is particularly interested in sociological concepts such as help-seeking, labelling, stigma and deviance in relation to mental health. She has a keen interest in promoting the link between research and practice in the field of counselling in Northern Ireland.

Dr Aodheen McCartan

Dr McCartan has published in the areas of marketing, business communication and cross-community communication. Within the areas of marketing and business communication, she has engaged in research in small firm marketing, focusing on how owner-managers use the process of networking to further their businesses. She

is presently engaged in research in the financial services sector, exploring the nature of relationships between banks and businesses and to what extent online communication, including social media, can improve service quality. She is also researching in the field of advertising, examining the concept of likeability and its impact on effectiveness.

Dr Conor McGrath

Dr McGrath teaches public relations and lobbying. He has published in the areas of: lobbying strategy and tactics; the regulation of lobbying around the world; the historical evolution and development of the lobbying industry; lobbying as a form of political communication; and public affairs as an organisational function. Recent projects include newspaper coverage of Northern Irish politics; fictional representations of lobbying and PR; and media coverage of lobbying and PR. He is also working on the professionalisation of the lobbying industry, lobbying in Northern Ireland, and British political communication.

Dr Anne Moorhead

Dr Anne Moorhead is a Lecturer in Health Communication. Her research interest is in Healthcare Communications, in particular, communication technologies in healthcare within the areas of obesity and mental health, including social media. Dr. Moorhead has led multidisciplinary national and international research projects and teams, and has extensive publications. She is a member on different committees, including the Executive Committee of the Association for Healthcare Communications and Marketing (AHCM) UK, research committee for the European Association for Communication in Healthcare, and Vice Chair of Office of Research Ethics Committees for Northern Ireland, NHS Research Ethics Committee. She is a Board member and Section Editor for the Journal of Medical Internet Research, the leading e-health peer reviewed journal.

Dr Phil Ramsey

Dr Ramsey's research focuses on media policy and public service media in the UK. He has published on subjects that have included: BBC Online policy in relation to the BBC's Public Purposes; BBC Radio Ulster; and the move online of BBC Three. Related research interests have focused on political communication in the UK, especially on government communication under New Labour. In this field he has published on subjects such as public relations and politics, the work of the Government Communication network, and on public sphere theory in light of deliberative democracy and agonistic pluralism.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies at Ulster University. While I really enjoyed the process of reading around my topic area of crowd behaviour and football supporters in first year, the hands on experience of conducting fieldwork in second year has been fantastic. I have travelled to Hungary, Greece, Romania, Faroe Islands and Finland to research the fandom culture around the Northern Ireland international football team. Ulster University has been fantastic in supporting me in my PhD research, funding my fieldtrips abroad.

My skills as a researcher have developed throughout my PhD, thanks in no small part to the excellent guidance provided by my supervisors, and the training and support available from the University. The PhD office also provides a great atmosphere and a fantastic learning environment with other students. I feel much more confident in my own abilities now than when I started out as a result of all of this support, and I would recommend Ulster University to any student at any level of study. I've enjoyed my PhD so much that I only wish I could go back into first year and start it all over again!"

John Bell PhD student

Studying a PhD can seem daunting at first as it is an individual piece of work, however you are never alone in your journey to completion. The shared office environment provides opportunities for shared learning, collaboration and most importantly support and team spirit. Supervisors are always on hand as experts in your area to guide you through the process with additional support and funding available for conferences, fieldwork and access to professional academic training.

Susan Armstrong PhD student

Computer Science

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**For further information on the Computer
Science Research Institute or the
Research Graduate School, please click
one of the links below:**

**Computer Science Research Institute -
compeng.ulster.ac.uk/csri.php**

**Research Graduate School -
compeng.ulster.ac.uk/rgs/**

General Description

The Computer Science Research Institute (CSRI) comprises research active academic staff from three Schools in the Faculty of Computing and Engineering: Schools of Computing and Information Engineering (at Coleraine), Computing and Intelligent Systems (at Magee), and Computing and Mathematics (at Jordanstown), together with approximately 30 research associates and research fellows, and around 90 doctoral research students.

Computer Science is a highly competitive discipline, involving all of the leading universities. Computer Science at Ulster continues to be in the top 25% in the UK for research power, ranked 21st out of 89 UK universities in the recently published national assessment of research quality, REF2014 (Research Excellence Framework – www.ref.ac.uk), with 90% of our Research Environment being rated as world-leading or internationally excellent. The recognition by REF2014 of Ulster's research excellence in Computer Science provides a strong foundation for the activities of our expanding Research Institute. State-of-the-art research facilities are provided by a number of significant strategic initiatives - these include leading-edge robotics laboratories in the Intelligent Systems Research Centre, two Centres of Excellence in Point-of-Care Sensors and Computational Neuroscience, and leadership of the EPSRC-DST funded India-UK Advanced Technology Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks (IU-ATC), involving collaboration with leading academic institutions in the UK and India and partnership with BT Research Laboratories. CSRI's research directions are strategically aligned with EPSRC Industry Sectors: Healthcare, Software and Telecommunications, and EU Information Society Technologies initiatives in empowerment of the citizen through ICT, e-governance, healthy aging and independent living, and biologically inspired information systems. PhD students in CSRI are supported by experienced academic supervisors within a carefully monitored progression process. Funding is available to enable students to present their research at workshops and international

conferences, and to engage in training programmes to develop their research skills. Students are also encouraged to participate actively in regular research seminars organised by the Research Groups and to interact with our many international visiting researchers.

Research in CSRI addresses the following strategically significant areas:

Artificial Intelligence and Applications

(AIA) Research Group (at Jordanstown)

The main research themes in artificial intelligence and applications focus on aspects of Knowledge and Data Engineering: these include machine intelligence; semantic analytics; machine learning and pattern recognition; temporal reasoning; probability and uncertainty reasoning; intelligent decision support; information retrieval. Applications include work on video analytics and scenario recognition; bioinformatics and complex networks; ambient intelligence; and software complexity metrics; text mining to extract argumentation structure and application to document reuse and software defect analysis.

Information & Communication Engineering (ICE) Research Group (at Coleraine)

Research in Information & Communication Engineering is focused on knowledge and data engineering, telecommunications network management, cloud computing, image processing and computer vision, healthcare systems modelling and games development. Strong collaborations exist with interdisciplinary research groups to facilitate research in medical and biomedical imaging applications, and with healthcare trusts and national and international partners for research in healthcare management systems. Through leadership of the India-UK Advanced Technologies Centre for Next Generation Networks (IU-ATC), there are strong connections with the telecommunications industry, including BT-funded EPSRC CASE studentships and research student internships.

Intelligent Systems Research Centre (ISRC, at Magee)

The Intelligent Systems Research Centre, established in 2007, represents a significant commitment to leading-edge research infrastructure. The Centre provides a state-of-the-art research environment, including laboratories for bio-inspired and neuro-engineering, brain-computer interfacing, computational neuroscience, cognitive robotics, and instrumentation, along with facilities for research in ambient intelligence and wireless sensor networks. The Centre has an extensive array of leading-edge robotic devices and a newly-installed MEG scanner, and focuses on research in cognitive robotics, computational neuroscience, biologically inspired computation, wireless technology/ambient intelligence, and brain-computer interfacing.



Smart Environments Research Group (SERG, at Jordanstown)

Research within CSRI in smart environments and ambient assisted living incorporates networked environments (structure and sensors in buildings, clothing and personal devices) and intelligent processing (data mining, pattern recognition, decision support, context prediction, data fusion, and multimodal interaction). Much of the research focuses on behavioural monitoring (through environmental and biometric sensors) and activity recognition, with application to assistive technologies for smart homes, independent living, and healthcare monitoring and diagnosis. Research is supported by new laboratory facilities for deployment of sensing technology in connected health care, including body scanner, eye-tracking, and other state-of-the-art devices.

“I started my PhD at Ulster University in September 2009 and successfully defended my thesis in December 2012. The experience of studying at Ulster University was extremely positive. The faculty of Computing and Engineering has lecturers and professors who are experts in their fields. There were many stimulating seminars and presentations given by both internal and external speakers. Many social events were organised by the Faculty that enabled networking with other PhD students. I was encouraged and supported to present and publish my work, and I got an amazing experience of attending several very good conferences. My supervisors were excellent: they were experts in their areas and gave me great support along the way. Doing a PhD away from home was not easy in many ways, but I could not ask for a better environment for undertaking my postgraduate research study.”

*Dr. Anna Jurek – PhD graduate (AIA)
(Since graduating, Anna has worked as a Research Associate and is currently a KTP Associate, working collaboratively between industry and Ulster University)*

“Life as a graduate student at Ulster proved a very positive experience, and enabled me to develop academic research skills and gain valuable experience of working within multidisciplinary environments. Graduate students at Ulster are supported and encouraged by their supervisors, the wider academic environment, and the external experts they collaborate with. I left Ulster with a strong vision and a skill set which has subsequently helped me secure employment within both industry and academic sectors.”

*Dr. Kathy Clawson – PhD graduate (ICE)
(Since graduating, Kathy has worked in industry and as a Research Associate at both Queens University Belfast and Ulster University. She is currently a Lecturer in Computing at Middlesbrough College)*

I am a final year PhD student studying at the Intelligent Systems Research Centre at the Magee Campus. I have been very fortunate to complete my research within the robotics lab of the ISRC which is one of the best equipped in the EU, with state-of-the-art facilities. My supervisors have been extremely supportive and have strong research backgrounds which in turn has helped me greatly to develop as a researcher. The PhD experience is challenging and difficult at times but is always extremely interesting and rewarding and over the PhD program has been a great experience for me to date.

Emmett Kerr – currently a year 3 PhD student (ISRC)

“Completing my PhD at Ulster provided me with many exciting experiences and challenges. My supervisors continuously encouraged and provided me with many opportunities to become involved in multidisciplinary research and teaching activities. As a graduate student I embraced the wider academic environment, publishing and presenting my research at a number of international forums. This allowed me to gain valuable experience which has been vital to the progression of my career in academic research. On completion of my PhD I had a clearer vision of my career path and the skills with which I could achieve it.

*Dr. Ian Cleland – PhD graduate (SERG)
(Since graduating Ian worked as a Research associate on a number of research projects at Ulster University. He is currently a Research Fellow within the Connected Health Innovation Centre (CHIC) at Ulster.)*

Creative Technologies

Contact:

Dr Brian Bridges

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General Description

Research within the School of Creative Arts & Technologies is coordinated within the UoA35 Research Cluster, involving staff in Cinematic Arts, Creative Technologies, Drama and Music. Within the Cluster, support is prioritized for four interdisciplinary Research Groups: Creative Arts and Health; Creative Arts and the Digital; Engaging with the Past; and Creative Practice-as-Research. Individual subjects and staff then prioritize specific projects that they will offer to supervise within and between these Research Groups, or, where appropriate, with colleagues in other fields and disciplines.

Proposals are welcomed in a wide range of areas relating to staff research interests. Current priority topics are listed below:

- **Embodied Models in Interaction**
- **Embodied Models in Digital Music (or Digital Arts) Interaction and/or Performance**
- **Sentiment analysis for digital creativity systems**
- **Advanced online virtual learning environments**

Applications for practice-based research are especially welcome, as are interdisciplinary projects. The MRes (Arts) is offered in Creative Technologies for students wishing to undertake a preparatory year before commencing the doctoral programme.

Research Facilities

The historic Foyle Arts Building on the Magee campus in Derry was converted in 2003 to provide a multi-disciplinary arts complex, housing the School of Creative Arts, which includes Drama, Music, Design, Cinematic Arts and Creative Technologies. The building houses music recital and practice rooms, two Mac Labs and two music technology studios (one of which is a spatial audio

studio with variable 7.1, 5.1 and octophonic setups available). Creative Technologies is also based in the modern MH building, which offers some additional Mac workstations and houses staff offices.

All research students, i.e., those registered for MPhil and PhD degrees, are members of the Faculty of Arts Research Graduate School. Postgraduate rooms with computing and study facilities are available for students on the Coleraine and Magee campuses, and annual series of research seminars offer students opportunities to engage with current research in their discipline.

Research staff are members of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute, and PhD candidates are associate members. Postgraduate students are encouraged to participate in the wider research community and to develop their skills and experience by presenting at research seminars within the University as well as at national and international conferences. Creative Technologies as a subject is active in hosting conferences and festivals and students will have the opportunity of gaining valuable experience in contributing to the development and running of such events.

Current research students have been successful in achieving financial support from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) with additional assistance from sources such as the Standing Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD) and Ulster University's Library Travel Fund.

Staff Research Areas

Supervision is available in the following areas:

Technology and the Arts/Technological Arts Practices/Digital Arts; Interaction Design; Online Learning Environments; Intelligent Multimedia; Electroacoustic Composition and Sonic Arts/ Sound Art; Digital Musical Instruments; Data-mining in context of Arts Organisations.

Doctor of Medicine

Details of the regulations for the degree are at:

ulster.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/71501/Handbook.pdf

Duration and Mode of Attendance

Full-time - not exceeding three years

Part-time - not exceeding five years

The Programme

This is research-based degree which is equivalent in level to a PhD. Research students are expected to pursue an investigation of a specific aspect of a subject in depth, with the advice of a member of staff with similar research interests and the experience to provide guidance at the appropriate level. A specialist advisor may also be identified, who may be a researcher in the area at the student's place of work.

The programme of work is structured to enable the student to acquire competence in the methods of research and scholarship, and to produce a thesis demonstrating originality and sustained independent effort. During the study period, the student may attend courses in research methodology and will undertake an investigation as described above.

Examination is by submission of a research thesis which makes a significant contribution to knowledge in the field.

Entry Conditions

Applicants are required to have held a medical degree registrable with the General Medical Council for at least three years.

Miscellaneous

The university has a RAE Grade 5* Biomedical Sciences Research Institute and a RAE Grade 4 Nursing Research Institute (with many primary care related research programmes), so expert support is available for a wide range of possible research topics. The Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Primary Care has links with active researchers in the health service and can provide advice and support as well.

Assistance with obtaining funding is also available. The HSC R&D Division is a particularly suitable possible source of funding for salary replacement as well as fees and research costs.



Drama

Contact: Dr Lisa Fitzpatrick
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General Description

Research within the School of Creative Arts & Technologies is coordinated within the UoA35 Research Cluster, involving staff in Cinematic Arts, Creative Technologies, Drama and Music. Within the Cluster, support is prioritized for four interdisciplinary Research Groups: Creative Arts and Health; Creative Arts and the Digital; Engaging with the Past; and Creative Practice-as-Research. Individual subjects and staff then prioritize specific projects that they will offer to supervise within and between these Research Groups, or, where appropriate, with colleagues in other fields and disciplines.

Drama is a research-intensive subject at Ulster, with staff working in a wide range of areas within and across the discipline. In Ref 2014, Unit of Assessment 35 (Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts) nearly 60% of research outputs and 100% of the impact of our work on policy and creative practice was rated 4* (world-leading) and 3* (internationally excellent). The impact of our research was judged to be 90% 4*, one of only a handful of Units of Assessment to achieve this score across the whole Higher Education sector.

Research interests in Drama focus collectively on performance in a post-conflict environment, particularly applied performance, and gender, conflict and performance; methodologies of theatre practice, and Irish drama. Individual specialisms are indicated below, but recent staff research projects include: Theatre for Young Audiences; Rape and Performance; Applied Theatre and Post-Conflict Societies; Theatre and Ritual; Storytelling.

Applications for practice-based research are especially welcome, as are interdisciplinary projects. The MRes (Arts) is offered in Drama for students wishing to undertake a preparatory year before commencing the doctoral programme.



Research Facilities

The University libraries have extensive resources relating to drama and theatre and contemporary Ireland, including the TransGender Archive, CAIN, and the John Hewitt Collection amongst others. The campus is a train or bus journey from the Linenhall Archives and PRONI in Belfast, and the National Library and National Archives in Dublin.

The historic Foyle Arts Building on the Magee campus in Derry was converted in 2003 to provide a multi-disciplinary arts complex, housing the School of Creative Arts, which includes Drama, Music, Design, Cinematic Arts and Creative Technologies. Drama facilities include two flat-floored studio spaces, a dance studio, teaching rooms and staff office accommodation. The building also houses music recital and practice rooms, a Mac Lab and music technology editing suites.

Drama enjoys close working relationships as colleagues and collaborators with professional creative partners in theatre, film, community cultural development throughout the region and the island of Ireland. Staff are active members of international research networks, such as SCUDD, TaPRA, IFTR, ATHE (US), ADSA (Aus/NZ), ITDC and ITYARN. They have also been prominent contributors to international festivals and professional artists associations, such as the International Community Arts Festival (ICAF), International Culture Arts Network (ICAN), the INDRA Congress, Northern Ireland Theatre Association and Theatre Forum Ireland.

All research students, i.e., those registered for MPhil and PhD degrees, are members of the Faculty of Arts Research Graduate School. Postgraduate rooms with computing and study facilities are available for students on the Coleraine and Magee campuses, and annual series of research seminars offer students opportunities to engage with current research in their discipline.

Research staff are members of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute, and PhD candidates are associate members. Postgraduate students are encouraged to participate in the wider research community and to develop their skills and experience by presenting at research seminars within the University as well as at national and international conferences.

Current research students have been successful in achieving financial support from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) with additional assistance from sources such as the Standing Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD) and Ulster University's Library Travel Fund.

Current and most recent research theses supervised in Drama:

- Interactive online dramaturgy / Digital Storytelling and Border Areas;
- Storytelling and Conflict in Contemporary Northern Ireland;
- Community theatre in Northern Ireland since the Good Friday agreement;
- Actor training in Ireland;
- Liminal space on the contemporary Northern Irish stage;
- Working class theatre in Ulster;
- The role of the dramaturg in new writing in contemporary British theatre;
- Theatre and Children's Rights in Northern Ireland;
- Site-Specific Performance and Community Performance in Post-Conflict Northern Ireland.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Giuliano Campo (Lecturer)

I would welcome practice-based theatre projects in particular. My work is in actor training; the legacies of Stanislavsky and Grotowski; theatre history and theories: theatre anthropology; Commedia dell'arte; European theatre; art as vehicle.

Dr Tanya Dean (Lecturer)

Dr Lisa Fitzpatrick (Senior Lecturer)

My current work is on violence in representation, which addresses the following issues: violence and subjectivity; strategies for performing violence; ethics of spectatorship; staging vulnerability; gender and violence. I work mainly in contemporary Irish theatre and Canadian theatre. I would particularly welcome applications in topics relating to gender and performance, and violence and drama/ theatre / performance.

Dr Matt Jennings (Lecturer)

My current work is concerned with Community Arts and Conflict Transformation; Applied Drama, Community Development and Cultural Policy; Arts and Management; Arts and Health; Performance and Disability, and Applied Drama in Nursing and Community Care. I would welcome applications in these areas.

Dr Tom Maguire (Senior Lecturer)

My current work is focused primarily on Theatre for Young Audiences, and includes projects alongside professional practitioners and my own practice. I continue working more broadly on contemporary British and Irish theatre and drama and specifically on storytelling and performance. Much of my work connects performance analysis and applications of drama processes, including enabling spectators with disabilities and promoting well-being and health.

Education

Contact Details:
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Research Coordinator,
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General Description

The School of Education at Ulster University has an established tradition of innovative development and research and offers supervision within a diverse range of research areas.

The research strategy of the School of Education focusses on Education in Society.

Mission:

To undertake quality research in education that contributes to, and has an impact on, scholarly knowledge, professional practice, and society, at local, national, and international levels.

Aims:

To facilitate social change and improve educational practice in a range of contexts and settings.

The PhD programme is an important part of the overall research environment within the School and we welcome applications to the PhD programme from interested individuals. Successful applicants will be joining a rich and vibrant unit that places a great emphasis on collaborative work and the sharing and development of ideas through regular research seminars, conferences and other events. They will particularly benefit from being able to learn from and share ideas with a range of other research students and academics working in related areas. In the application, applicants will be expected to illustrate clearly how they intend to interpret their chosen topic in terms of a clear set of aims and objectives and an appropriate research methodology.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate person listed for an informal discussion about their ideas before submitting the online application.



Research Facilities and Research Groups:

Our research agenda is based around the following three core themes:

- **Education and Conflict**
- **Children, Young People and Adults: Educating for Inclusion**
- **Teacher Education and Pedagogical Practice**

Education and Conflict is long standing research theme within the School. It is led by the UNESCO Chair, Professor Alan Smith, though his involvement with a number of international organisations, including UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and DFID. Research work related to building greater social cohesion through education in the Northern Ireland context features strongly with researchers working in the fields of history education, the promotion of good relations through informal education, the use of ICT to foster inter-cultural learning, and using GIS systems to monitor young people's social movements beyond their own immediate environs, in the context of divided communities. Proposals which examine the Northern Ireland educational experience in this field are welcomed but so, too, are in-depth or comparative studies based on work in conflicted situations in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Improving outcomes for children, youth and adults has been a research focus in the School over an extended period of time, with an emphasis on Special Educational Needs, inclusive education and social marginalisation. This work has generated a strong inter-disciplinary profile and strong partnerships have been established across health, welfare, social policy and youth justice domains inside and outside the University. Research proposals in the fields of SEN; all aspects children's welfare; and access to information, information literacy and inclusion are particularly encouraged.

The Teacher Education and Pedagogical Practice strand focuses on learning and teaching issues which both emanate from, and inform, the School's teacher education programmes, its TESOL programme, its work in continuing education and its Library and Information Management (LIM) activities. The School has had a long commitment to researching the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning, encouraging the seamless application of ICT innovation to curriculum and practice. Research in this area includes the creation of learning communities linked through technology at primary, second, and tertiary levels, on-line learning and the creation of e-portfolios to enhance teacher creativity and reflection and the investigation of the potential use of iPad technology in Teacher Education. Research proposals in the fields of teacher education and pedagogical practice; TESOL; and LIM are particularly encouraged.

Staff Research Areas:

Dr David Barr

Dr Barr wrote his PhD on the role of computer technology in language learning and teaching, which has since been published as a research monograph. As part of this project, he carried out work at the Universities of Cambridge and Toronto. He is also a leading expert in computer-assisted language learning, serving as associate editor for two leading international journals in the area, and is a member of the WorldCALL steering committee: a seven- person advisory group with representatives from all over the world to support the development and direction of computer-assisted language learning internationally.

Dr Jessica Bates

Dr Jessica Bates has teaching and research expertise in Library and Information Management. Her research interests relate to information and social inclusion, information-seeking behaviours in a range of contexts and settings, school and academic libraries, and improving library and information services.

Professor Linda Clarke

Professor Linda Clarke's key research interests, which lie in teacher education are built around her teaching and leadership in Ulster and also her leadership and support roles in some of the key education bodies: The Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (for which she is the Northern Chair <http://scotens.org>), the UK Teacher Education Group (new book, Teacher Education in Times of Change and the British Education Research Association (SIG Convenor for BERA Teacher Education and Development (<https://www.bera.ac.uk/group/teacher-education-and-development>)). Her professional expertise has also involved research and development work on Local and Global Citizenship, the use of ICT to enhance teaching and learning including the use of tablet

computers, and teaching science in primary and post primary schools.

Dr Helen Hou

Dr Helen Hou's research interests include online communities of practice and student teachers' learning, ELT methodology, e-pedagogy and teacher education, educational technologies in the language classroom, Chinese learners, and qualitative research methodology and design.

Dr Aideen Hunter

Dr Aideen Hunter has teaching and research expertise in the teaching of Geography and Religious Education, integrated education and shared education. She is also interested in the main concepts and concerns of contemporary educational theory and practice in both Northern Ireland, the UK and internationally.

Dr Tracy Irwin

Dr Tracy Irwin has worked with a range of adult learners, including disaffected youth, women returners, the long-term unemployed as well as with male and female prison inmates. Her research interests reflect this range and she has published articles relating to prison learning. She is also interested in all aspects of educational disaffection, social exclusion and educational inequalities. Her teaching focuses on initial teacher training for lecturers and trainers working in Further Education (FE) and the adult learning sector.

Dr Jackie Lambe

Dr Jackie Lambe has teaching and research expertise in Art and Design. Her interests include ICT for teaching and learning; special education; distance learning as well as art and design education.

Dr John Milliken

Dr John Milliken's teaching and research interests include: strategic aspects of education; leadership and managing change in post-primary education; pedagogy and curriculum in post-primary education; organisational issues in integrated education; and use of ICT in education.

Dr Alan McCully

Dr Alan McCully's research interests are in the fields of History Education, Citizenship and the teaching of controversial issues, particularly as these relate to educational responses to conflict and peace building. He is currently investigating themes relating to education and peace building, namely the integration of peace building into education (and vice versa) including the role of teachers in peace building in Uganda.

Dr Sam McGuinness

Dr Sam McGuinness's research interests lie in the areas of educational leadership and educational policy generally. He has published on policy issues in Northern Ireland associated with the effects of the accountability agenda on schools and their leaders, and the growth and development of area learning communities. His current work involves the effects of distributing leadership in a faith school, and also on leadership development programmes north and south of the border.

Dr Una O'Connor

Dr Una O'Connor's research interests lie in the areas of special education and inclusion, citizenship, and the wider role of education in children's lives. She has researched and published on various aspects of special education, combining pupil, teacher and parental perspectives. She has been involved in evaluations of citizenship in formal and non-formal settings. Her current work involves an interdisciplinary approach to explore education through social, cultural, health and political perspectives.

Dr Jacqueline Reilly

Dr Jacqueline Reilly's research interests lie broadly within the area of education for social justice. She has researched and published on various aspects of this, including education for local and global citizenship, human rights education and training, and peace education, particularly with a focus on issues of identity and divided societies. Current interests include the potential application of psychological theories of social cognition to the teaching of history in divided societies.

Dr Stephen Roulston

Dr Stephen Roulston is interested in the use of technologies to support learning and teaching. He has written on the innovative use of VLEs in schools, and has undertaken research on the use of mobile devices such as GPS trackers and their value in educational settings. He is involved in developing the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in classrooms, and has investigated their value in enhancing learning, as well as the barriers to implementation of those and other technologies in schools.

Dr Barbara Skinner

Dr Barbara Skinner has particular research interests on TESOL teacher education, TESOL classroom practices and pedagogy, teacher talk and classroom interaction, and threshold concepts in teacher education.

Professor Alan Smith

Professor Alan Smith is holder of the UNESCO Chair in Education at Ulster University. His work includes research on education and the conflict in Northern Ireland, young people's understanding of human rights and the development of social, civic and political education, alongside research on the role of education in peace building in conflict affected societies around the world, education and social cohesion, the role of education in reconciliation and analysis of aid to education in fragile and conflict affected situations.

Having studied elsewhere for my Undergraduate and Master's degrees, I was a total new-comer to Ulster University at PhD level. Upon starting here I was (as every new PhD student is) anxious about what lay ahead. However, within the first few days I realised I was in a very supportive and creative learning environment. I have had an academically stimulating experience so far with invaluable and consistent support from my supervisors, other academic staff and my fellow students. I would definitely recommend doing a PhD in Education at Ulster University.

Sarah Hodgett

After completing my MSc in Library and Information Management at Ulster University I was keen to continue studying here. I am now in the final year of my PhD and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I have had a fantastic team of dedicated supervisors who have guided me throughout my study, and I have also felt supported by the other academic staff and students in the school. The training opportunities have been great and I have been able to share my work and network with others at many events and conferences. I have gained and developed a wide range of skills and this will help me progress in my career in the future. Based on my experiences, I would highly recommend a PhD in Education at Ulster University.

Christine McKeever

English

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General Description

The English subject at Ulster University is based on the Coleraine campus and forms part of the School of English and History in the Faculty of Arts. It is a vibrant and diverse centre for the study of English literature and culture and hosts an active and thriving body of postgraduate students. Individual scholars within the department are engaged in an extensive range of research fields which maintain and enhance the broader scholarly practice of English Studies across the globe, from Early Modern, Eighteenth Century and Victorian literature and culture, through to Modern, Contemporary, and Creative Writing, as well as Critical Theory. Several of the researchers working in these areas also distinctively contribute to a significant focus on the study and intellectual endorsement of Irish Literature, which is also strongly and widely represented in the department's teaching practice.

The value of the department's research as a whole is further nationally and internationally recognised by the numerous monograph publications produced by English staff with scholarly presses, as well as the frequent output of articles in highly ranked academic journals. The department also regularly supports and hosts major conferences and symposia, as well as the appointment of eminent visiting scholars. This is most recently evident in the appointment of Pulitzer Prize-winning Irish poet, Paul Muldoon, as Visiting Professor (2010-14) to the School of English and History. During 2011/12, Professor Muldoon delivered a series of creative writing workshops for the department's undergraduate students, as well as a public reading of his work, and a lecture on the poetry of Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop for the English Research Seminar series.

Research in the department is largely managed and administered by the Arts and Humanities Research Institute (AHRI). Staff in English comprise one of four Research Clusters, alongside History, Music, and Languages, which constitute the AHRI. The Institute encourages and sustains an energetic research



culture across all four subjects and offers an interdisciplinary environment to scholars working in a variety of different research areas. In order to consolidate existing links, attract further funding, and encourage collaboration across the Faculty within Irish Studies, the Institute launched the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies in 2013.

Research Facilities

Postgraduate supervision in English is available from all staff in the department and within individual members' specialist areas of interest (see Staff Research Areas).

Postgraduate research facilities in the Faculty of Arts have recently been upgraded to include a dedicated and shared postgraduate office suite on the Coleraine campus. The Central Library in Coleraine has also undergone recent refurbishment to include extensive computing facilities, as well as a range of specific study areas. In addition, the library has valuable holdings relating to book history, as well as archival resources pertinent to Celtic Studies, Irish and local writing.

Postgraduate students embarking on a PhD/MPhil in English will be allocated two supervisors for the duration of their studies. As part of their course of study, students will also partake in internally accredited Research Methods modules run through the Research Graduate School. These modules are designed to offer both training in specific research methodologies pertinent to individual students' research areas, as well as advice more generally on the practicalities of completing a higher degree by research. Students can, for example, opt to take modules which will assist them in writing up their thesis, preparing work for publication, presenting work at a conference, and preparing for their final viva examination.

In addition to this research training, all postgraduate students will be offered teaching experience in the second year (full-time) or fourth year (part-time)

of their course of study. Students who take up this opportunity will be allocated paid teaching hours on modules run by the department. Much of this teaching experience comprises seminar tutoring on introductory first year modules, or second year modules which closely match the student's own research area.

The department of English also runs an English Research Seminar Series throughout semesters 1 and 2. Postgraduate students are invited to join staff at these seminars in order to further familiarise themselves with the range of research interests within the department, as well as engage in informal scholarly debate and dialogue with scholars from both within and without Ulster University. Postgraduate students will also have the opportunity of formally presenting their work at these seminars. Postgraduate students within the Faculty of Arts are further asked to nominate representatives to serve on the Postgraduate Student-Staff Liaison Committee and the Research Graduate School Board. This provides all postgraduates with the opportunity of voicing any individual or collective concerns they might have relating to any aspect of their studies, as well as provide a forum for postgraduate students to comment on the broader research policies of the Faculty which may concern them.

Staff Research Areas

Below is a full list of English staff members and their main research interests. Staff actively welcome and encourage enquiries from students hoping to pursue postgraduate study in their respective research areas and can be contacted via the email addresses supplied below.

Professor Richard Bradford

(rw.bradford@ulster.ac.uk)

Professor of Literary History and Theory Literary Biography; Questioning Theory.

Dr Stephen Butler

(s.butler@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in contemporary British, American and World fiction; role of literature in a globalised multicultural landscape; representation of minority cultures and subcultures in literature; interdisciplinary relationship between literature, philosophy and psychology; genre literature: crime writing, science fiction, fantasy.

Dr Kate Byrne

(k.byrne@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Victorian Studies and Women's Writing Nineteenth-Century Literature and Disease; the History of Medicine; Victorian Women's Writing and the Body; the Gothic; Adapting Victorian Fiction for the Screen.

Dr Frank Ferguson

(f.ferguson@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Irish Studies Ulster and Scottish Literature; Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Literary Studies; Romanticism; Literary Antiquarianism; National Literary Identity Formation; Book History.

Dr Tim Hancock

(tc.hancock@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Modernism Love Poetry; Poetry of Mina Loy; Modern Poetry and Autobiography; Contemporary Poetry from Northern Ireland.

Professor Jan Jedrzejewski

(jp.jedrzejewski@ulster.ac.uk)

Professor in Victorian Studies Literature and Religion in Victorian Britain; Victorian Literature and the Visual Arts; Victorian Literature and Politics; Victorian Writers and Continental Europe; the Literature of Victorian Ireland; the Victorian Novel.

Dr Andrew Keanie

(aj.keanie@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Romanticism Romantic Poets, including biography and criticism; T.S. Eliot.

Dr Kathleen McCracken

(kl.mccracken@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Creative Writing and American Literature Contemporary Irish Poetry; Contemporary Writing and Masculinity; Authorship and the Inscription of the Autobiographical/ Subjective; Beat Literature and its Legacy in Popular Culture; Native American Literature and Culture.

Dr Willa Murphy

(w.murphy@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Irish Studies and American Writing Nineteenth-Century Irish Novel; Nineteenth-Century American Writing; Irish Women's Writing; Eighteenth- and Nineteenth Century Theology.

Dr Kevin De Ornellas

(k.deornellas@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Renaissance Studies Shakespeare and Renaissance Studies; Early Modern Women's Writing; James Shirley; Mid-Twentieth-Century Drama; Noel Coward; Arnold Wesker.

Dr Frank Sewell

(f.sewell@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Creative Writing Twentieth-Century Irish Poetry.

Dr James Ward

(jg.ward@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Eighteenth-Century Studies Literature and Politics in the long Eighteenth-Century; Jonathan Swift; Waste, Refuse and Rubbish in Literature; Adaptations and Appropriations of Eighteenth-Century Texts in Fiction and Film.

Dr Kathryn White

(k.white@ulster.ac.uk)

Lecturer in Modern Irish writing in English; Samuel Beckett Studies; Literature and Cultural Identity; Literature and Gender.

'I loved the variety that the Ulster University English course afforded me, which allowed me to sample a great range of literature before I chose to specialise. I enjoyed my time studying English at Ulster University, so when I applied for my Masters and, later, my Doctorate it was naturally my first choice.'

Rebecca Agar

'I was really nervous when I first came to UU. I am a mature student, and thought I would feel really isolated. But the staff in the department were so welcoming and friendly and now, six years later, I'm on the last year of my PhD! Thanks UU!!!'

Carolann North

A person wearing a blue jacket is seen from the side, looking down at a piece of surveying equipment mounted on a boat. The equipment includes a yellow and black device with a screen and buttons. The background shows a bright, overcast sky and a body of water.

Geography and Environmental Sciences

**Contact: Professor Adrian Moore,
Acting Director of Environmental Sciences
Research Institute**

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General Description

Research in the environmental sciences is key to sustainable economic and social development through influencing and supporting the regulation and assessment of the impact of human activity on the environment and also to considering the relationships between environment and society, including heritage.

Through this research we help society manage and adapt to the effects of climate change, pollution, natural hazards, land use change and waste on land and water environments, including related societal issues and maritime heritage. We influence policy, management, techniques and technologies and key examples of the research are: understanding the spatial and temporal variability in coastal geomorphology and ecology and mechanisms for sustainable coastal management; aftershock modelling tool to inform humanitarian emergency planning and response; freshwater quality risk assessment and integrated ecological modelling for policy implementation and management; the co-production of local heritage initiatives to enhance community sustainability and peace building; the effects of past and future climate change on sea levels and densely populated coastal zones and; investigating and modelling the coastal landscape in order to understand human adaptation to sea level change and exploitation of marine resources and to document and conserve the archaeological record.

The main beneficiaries of the research are companies, organizations and local and central government agencies concerned with policy development and delivery in the environmental sector and local and international Non-Governmental Organizations and community groups.

Research Areas

Centre for Maritime Archaeology

The CMA brings together science and the humanities to investigate evolving maritime and freshwater cultural landscapes - extending from riverine and lacustrine environments to the open ocean, with emphasis on coastal and nearshore archaeology. It recognises that coasts are complex, dynamic, open systems whose archaeology is influenced by a range of interacting variables. Current concerns over the influence of climate change and sea level rise are particularly pertinent at submerged and subaerial coastal archaeological sites.

The work is based on a wide range of techniques, including sonar mapping of the seabed to identify and evaluate wrecks, mapping of archaeological finds, modelling past sea level change, etc., along with the standard archaeological methods. Recent research led to the discovery of a buried and forgotten 17th-century town of international importance adjacent to Dunluce Castle on the north coast of Ireland. In addition, the work led to the development of school and community based archaeological initiatives, changes in school curricula and significant investment in heritage preservation and tourism.

Coastal and Marine Systems

Coasts are complex environments and the science underpinning this research focuses on understanding the spatial and temporal variability in coastal geomorphology and ecology and the linkages between them, as well as developing mechanisms for sustainable coastal management. The group's work contributes directly to the societal debate on responding to the impacts of future climate change and sea-level rise and contributes to sustainable coastal management, locally and internationally. The research currently helps to advise local authorities and European and other international organizations particularly on

natural environment-human interactions. Coastal geomorphic change is described at timescales from millennia to seconds, with a focus on the decadal to centennial scale, and spatial scales of a few metres on a single beach, to regional and global comparisons of coastal landforms. The results of this research are used to develop societal approaches to Coastal Zone Management within the context of evolving legislative drivers at national and European Union level. The ecological research extends from the coastal to the subtidal marine environments and includes functional ecology of the benthos and the interactions between geomorphology and ecosystem processes at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. Understanding these interactions informs future conservation and management decision making on the conservation of priority habitats at a European and International levels. The group continues to successfully attract funding from the Natural Environment Research Council, EU programmes and research charities.

Freshwater Sciences

The broad aim of research in this area is to understand the behaviour of rivers and lakes in catchments in order to model their important physicochemical and biological properties. There are three research themes: catchments and river quality, including groundwaters; fate of chemicals in lakes and; lake ecology. The group co-operates with UK and Irish end-users of the research and its research in all the three areas supports the management of rivers and lakes, particularly the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the effects of climate change on water resources. The focus of this research is freshwater quality risk assessment and management.

Staff members have research funding histories from UK Research Councils, EU (including H2020 and INTERREG), charities and national and international government department. The four highest-ranking recent papers from the group have an average journal impact factor of 5.00. Some of this research formed one of the REF2014 impact case studies, which showed a significant influence on Irish

government water policy relating to the European Union's Water Framework Directive and Waste Directive compliance.

Quaternary Environmental Change

The main aim of research in this area is to better understand the processes of large-scale and long-term global change that occurred during the Quaternary. An important aspect of its work concerns understanding the nature and timing of past glaciation because of the complex linkages between ice ages and the global climate system. The group conducts research on reconstructing Quaternary ice sheets, ice-marginal fluctuations, ice-sheet dynamics, bedform generation and other landscape changes using terrestrial and marine remote sensing techniques, sedimentary analysis and cosmogenic isotope surface exposure dating. Quaternary climatic changes also left an imprint in deep water sediments and one of the lines of research within the group includes the study of deep sea cores in relation to the alternation of glacial and interglacial cycles. Understanding the processes and timing of these changes provides support for evaluating and managing how the Earth may respond to climate and environmental change in the future.

Society and Environment

This interdisciplinary group investigates the interconnections between the environment, society and space. Key priorities are the analysis of marginalised groups and divided societies, as well as exploring the dynamics of conflict and peacebuilding. Other research focus on knowledge exchange between experts and knowledge users and in particular on the social and institutional contexts that enable and hinder effective knowledge exchange and the links between the latter and community resilience and sustainable development. Research is also conducted on fuel poverty. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have been used to create an area-based model that has been used by government and local authorities to target intervention strategies for

those experiencing high levels of fuel poverty. The beneficiaries of the work include community groups, local and central government and national and international Non-Governmental Organizations.

Recently, group members have led and participated in six UK Research Council funded projects. They have included the development of an aftershock forecasting tool to inform humanitarian emergency planning and response activities in real-time after a large earthquake and community-led heritage projects to enhance the sustainability of vulnerable and contested communities in the Western Isles of Scotland. Recent PhD projects include: community vulnerability to earthquake hazard; community-led environmentally friendly behavior; fisher communities and well-being; socio-cultural dimensions of household energy use; environmental dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; geoscience-humanitarian knowledge exchange; place and belonging in Palestinian Refugee Camps and; education for sustainable development.

History

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General Description

We offer a strong and serious research environment for our postgraduate community. History at Ulster has consistently produced 4* (world-leading) and 3* (internationally excellent) research. In REF2014 almost 50% of our publications and over 75% of the impact of our work on policy and practice beyond Ulster was rated at these levels.. Historians at the University have always seen a thriving community of postgraduate students, both full-time and part-time, as contributing to the overall research culture of the subject. They have organized a number of national and international conferences at which research students have presented papers. Research students are also encouraged to attend, and present papers at, historical conferences in Britain and Ireland and beyond. History at Ulster have also won funding, fellowships and other support from many national and international bodies; and staff are members of key organizations, such as the Royal Historical Society.

In the second year of studies, PhD candidates are supported to take a small number of seminar classes to develop their teaching skills. We also run a lively staff-postgraduate seminar, which provides a supportive context for testing ideas. All staff supervisors are research active as measured by submission to the Research Assessment Framework (2014).

Research Facilities

As part of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts, History seeks to provide its research students with the best possible facilities for their work. Postgraduate rooms are available on all campuses, with computer access including email and Internet. The University has a range of research materials. These include the files of major newspapers, such as the Times, New York Times, Irish Times, Guardian and some local papers. There is a good collection of the British cabinet papers and conclusions for the period 1916-1945 and other British official papers, as well as the personal library of Sir James Headlam Morley, historical adviser to the British delegation

at the Paris Peace Conference. The library has one of the most extensive collections of microfilms of American material in Britain and Ireland. It is particularly strong on the history of African-Americans, including slavery and Civil Rights and on the history of radicalism, both right and left-wing. History staff and postgraduates work closely with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Linen Hall Library, Derry Central Library, and the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, all of which have extensive holdings. As well as Irish materials, the Public Record Office in Belfast has impressive manuscript collections of imperial and diplomatic figures. The library has extensive online holdings of journals and archives.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Gabriel Guarino

(Early Modern History)

The Spanish expansion and its socio-cultural influence in Europe and the Americas, with special emphasis on the viceregal courts of Italy and the New World; Cultural history of European princely courts; Civic rituals and political communication in early modern Europe.

Dr Kyle Hughes

(British History)

Interests in modern British-Irish connections. Current projects include a book on Ribbonism in Ireland and Britain.

Professor Don MacRaid

(British and Irish History)

Has recent completed ESRC and ARHC projects on, respectively, Irish names and migration, and the English in North America. Current projects include a study of Ribbonism in Ireland and Britain and a study of English immigrants in the Anglo-world.

Dr Leanne McCormick

(Modern Irish Social History)

Recent projects have included a study of female sexuality, family planning, and abortion in 20th century Northern Ireland. She is currently working on a major AHRC-funded project on poverty, gender and Irish migration in North America.

Dr Robert McNamara

(Modern International History)

Recent projects have included the White Redoubt in Southern Africa and the Great Powers 1960-1980.

Dr Emmet O'Connor

(Irish History, Labour History)

Recent projects have included a new biography of Liverpool-Irish labour leader Jim Larkin. Interests are in Irish labour history, at home and transnationally.

Dr Andrew Sneddon

(Early Modern Irish History)

Recent projects include studies of witchcraft in 17th and 18th century Ireland.

Professor Ian Thatcher

(Russian and East European History)

Recent projects have included a study of the Mezhraionka, and of the first Russian State Duma. He is currently researching the history of the Russian Provisional Government 1917.

I came to Ulster University having gained both my BA (First Class) and MRes (Distinction) from the University of Stirling. My PhD was part of a larger project funded by the AHRC: 'Locating the Hidden Diaspora: The English in North America in Transatlantic Perspective, 1760-1950', which was led by my supervisor, Professor Don MacRaild.

I found Ulster University a fantastic place. The university consistently offered me great support in my studies and working there allowed me to gain a greater understanding of the Irish dimensions of my research. Overall, the university provided a great environment in which to develop the skills required to work in academia and, as a result of the skills I gained over the three years, I am now an ESRC-funded postdoctoral researcher on a project exploring British and German expatriates in Asia, which is led by Dr Tanja Bueltmann of Northumbria University.

History PhD graduate, Lesley Robinson

Law

Contact: Professor Cath Collins

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General Description

The Law School, rated 4th in the UK for research in Law REF 2014 and first for impact in Law, is committed to developing its research profile and environment. The Head of School is Dr Eugene McNamee.

The School espouses a commitment to socio-legal and multidisciplinary studies as well as supporting doctrinal research. It welcomes applications for post-graduate study by research in a wide range of areas including commercial law, intellectual property law, law and media, law and technology, law and medicine, socio-legal studies, access to justice, social security, employment, legal innovation, administrative justice and judicial review.

For research on transitional justice, and more broadly human rights, public international law and conflict resolution, see also the [Transitional Justice Institute](#).

The School provides an extremely supportive environment for post-graduate students in terms of supervision, methodological training, ongoing financial support for conference attendance/fieldwork etc., and financial support for post-graduate led research initiatives.

Each year, a limited number of funded PhD scholarships are available for law students. The School also encourages applications from self-funded students or students funded from other sources, to start in October or, possibly, at other times of year. UK PhD programmes are normally three-year, research intensive projects in which the relationship with a small team of supervisors is key. All prospective students are therefore encouraged to contact a staff member with relevant expertise in the area of the proposed course of research for advice on honing the academic content of their application. For details on the practicalities of the application process, student support, funding opportunities, research expertise of staff members,

and suggested PhD projects, see the Law section of the Research Graduate School (Faculty of Social Sciences) website: socsci.ulster.ac.uk/gradschool/.

Ulster University Law Clinic

The School of Law is home to the Ulster University Law Clinic (ulster.ac.uk/lawclinic/) – an in-house, public facing law clinic staffed by postgraduate students on the LLM Clinical Legal Education under the supervision of Law School staff. The Clinic is led by Dr Grainne McKeever (member of UK Social Security Advisory Committee) and Dr Esther McGuinness. The Ulster University Law Clinic has established an international reputation for its work in the area of access to justice. It has won several national prizes for its innovative approach to research-driven education and pro bono work, providing free legal advice to the public in social security and employment law. In 2014 the Clinic was nominated for a global Innovating Justice award, on the basis of its strong potential to deliver concrete justice results, and the Head of the Law School was awarded a 2014 Fulbright Public Sector Award to develop the Clinic's innovative model of meeting unmet legal need through innovative graduate legal education.

Clinic staff have secured funding for socio-legal research and have also secured prestigious Department of Justice scholarship funding for the LLM in Clinical Legal Education. Law School and Clinic staff members are especially keen to support research projects in the areas of socio-legal studies, access to justice, social security, employment, and judicial review. The work of the Clinic is underpinned by the research of our PhD students working on areas including welfare reform and devolution, children's rights and special educational needs tribunals, employment law, poverty and the social control of women. Our PhD students have published several working papers and peer reviewed publications; secured socio-legal research funding; and won a number of prizes and awards for their work, including the highly prestigious Modern Law

Review Scholarship, awarded to Orla Drummond for her research on child participation in special educational needs tribunals.

Clinic staff and students have been active in their engagement with policy makers, community groups, pro bono networks and the legal professions, and the work of the Clinic and its staff and students continues to have significant influence on access to justice developments in Northern Ireland and beyond.



Life and Health Sciences, Master of Research (MRes)

**Contact: Professor David Hassan,
Head of Research Graduate School**
T: +44 (0)28 9036 6666
E: d.hassan@ulster.ac.uk

General Description

The Master of Research Programme (MRes) offered by the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences provides a one year foundation to research suitable for those who wish to proceed to enrol for a PhD programme, but at the same time allows those who decide not to proceed to obtain a qualification recognised in its own right.

The overall educational aim of the MRes programme is to provide graduate students with knowledge and understanding of research methods, training in appropriate technical skills and scholarship skills, such as critical thinking and the capacity to write in the style of their discipline, along with advanced study in areas of their discipline.

The function of this programme is to provide students with a range of research-related skills and the capacity to proceed to PhD programmes. Undergraduate programmes do not necessarily provide enough of these skills, and there is a national and an international trend towards requiring completion of a Masters degree prior to entry to PhD programmes.

The overall structure allows for several pathways in areas of Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Psychology and other disciplines. This is a research degree where initial training in discipline areas and research methods is followed by research project preparation and scholarship skills training, and then by completion of the research project and the dissertation. Students apply for and are accepted onto approved projects put forward by the pathway staff team. Inclusion of a project on the advertised list for an academic year indicates that the named supervisors have undertaken to offer support of research project preparation in Semester 2 linked to research project supervision in Semester 3. The overall programme takes 12 months to complete through full-time study, with dissertation submission being required in September.

The overall structure consists of five related elements. These are:

Advanced study in discipline:

30 credit points (through one or two modules) are completed that are appropriate to the discipline and planned research project topic. These are normally selected from MSc modules taught on the campus where the student and planned project are located.

Advanced research methods:

30 credit points (through one or two modules) are completed that are appropriate to the discipline and planned research project methodology. These are normally selected from MSc modules taught on the campus where the student and planned project are located.

Scholarship skills:

This is a 30-credit module taken by blended learning, usually in Semester 2. It covers critical thinking skills and scholarly writing skills and is focussed on materials from the student's discipline area.

Research project preparation:

30 credit points. The student is in contact with the project supervisory team throughout the year. Usually in Semester 2, directed training to develop specific skills for the conduct of the research project is undertaken and assessed.

Completion of research project and dissertation:

Work on the project may begin in Semester 2 (or even earlier) but is completed and assessed through dissertation submission in Semester 3, the summer period. Projects undertaken are typically in similar areas to those being undertaken by PhD students in the research group to which the supervisors are attached, but they are of a scope and level appropriate for the MRes.

The programme is administered by the Research Graduate School. A leader is appointed from the relevant research institute for each named pathway. For each student, the pathway leader ensures that the assessment load is appropriately distributed across the three semesters.

Linguistics

Contact: Dr Raffaella Folli
Head of School of Communication

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General Description

Linguistics at Ulster University has a strong research focus and a lively research atmosphere. Research students are valued members of the research community and rapidly become part of an active research group. They take part in regular staff-student seminars where current research is presented and debated. The group regularly organises international conferences and in recent years it has become very active in the development of research on linguistic interfaces and multilingualism.

Work in the linguistics group spans a range of areas in the discipline from syntactic and semantic theory to applied linguistics. Particular strengths are in the areas of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, microvariation, linguistic interfaces, first and second language acquisition, bilingualism, language variation, language change, talk-in-interaction and language policy and planning. The group also works in investigating experimentally a range of syntactic, semantic or pragmatic phenomena, with different measures and in different types of population; typical adults, children, and individuals with language disorders. While students and staff work on a wide range of languages, some take advantage of the opportunity to work on a selection of interesting local language varieties including Belfast English, Irish English in general, Irish and Ulster Scots. Another key research area involves the application of discourse and conversation analysis to understand issues of culture, identity, communication and interaction.

Students study in a variety of modes and we welcome applications for PhDs by full-time, part-time and part-time distance study.

The linguistics group forms a section of the School of Communication and students in relevant fields benefit from interaction with staff and students in areas such as interpersonal communication, counselling and political communication, as part of the wider Communication group. There are also close links with Speech and Language Therapy. The



group has a regular programme of visiting speakers and visiting scholars who join the department for longer periods. Students are encouraged and aided to present their own work at international conferences, to take part in international summer schools, and to become part of the international research community in their various areas of specialisation by spending a semester of study in other universities in the world with which the unit has connections.

Research Facilities

There is a well-equipped phonetics laboratory, good computer facilities and excellent facilities for video and audio recording for those working in relevant areas.

Staff Research Areas

Professor Alison Henry

Best known for her work on Belfast English and microvariation in syntax, she also works on language acquisition, language disorders and the interface between syntactic theory and sociolinguistics.

Dr Raffaella Folli

Dr Raffaella Folli's specialist area is syntax, and particularly the lexicon-syntax interface, within the Minimalist framework. She is also interested in language acquisition, language processing and in the study of syntactic deficiencies in aphasia. She has worked and published on a range of languages including English, Italian, Greek and Persian.

Dr Anthea Irwin

Dr Anthea Irwin's main research areas are sociolinguistics and discourse analysis. She has two key foci: linguistic construction of identity, particularly in conversational interaction; and linguistic and multimodal constructions of individuals and groups, particularly those who are marginalised, in the media.

Dr Philip McDermott

Dr Philip McDermott's research focuses on the relationship between the state and linguistic minorities. A focus of his previous research has been in the area of language policy and planning for (and by) migrant communities. He has a specific interest in the perception of minority languages in public places, the ways that government and communities deal with linguistic diversity and the manner in which multilingualism and bilingualism are dealt with in policy contexts.

Dr Jacopo Romoli

Dr Jacopo Romoli's research interests are on formal semantics and pragmatics for natural languages, language processing and language acquisition. More specifically, his current research focuses on Presuppositions, Scalar Implicatures, Free choice inferences, Neg-raising phenomena, Assertability constraints, and the scope interactions of nominal quantifiers and modals.

Dr Karyn Stapleton

Dr Karyn Stapleton's research interests are in the areas of discourse analysis, social interaction, interpersonal pragmatics and identity. Her core research involves the application of discourse analytic approaches to issues of culture, politics, community and identity, particularly within the Northern Irish context.

Dr Christina Sevdali

Dr Christina Sevdali specialises in synchronic and diachronic syntax. She is particularly interested in the change in the history of Greek, especially changes in the complementation system (infinitives and subjunctives) and the diachrony of quirky subjects. On the more theoretical side, she is interested in subjects, Case, passivization and datives cross-linguistically.

Dr Catrin Rhys

Dr Catrin Rhys specialises in Conversation Analysis with an emphasis on social interaction with language disordered participants. She has a particular interest in interactional adaptation/compensation in language impairment. She is also interested in the interface between interaction and the linguistic system the interface between discourse and prosody.



Media Studies

Contact: Professor Jan Jedrzejewski

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For general information about the Centre for Media Research and other research activities.

Contact: Carol Kyle

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General Description

Ulster University has pioneered the development of Media Studies in higher education, introducing one of the first media studies degrees in the UK and Ireland in 1978. Media Studies has also been at the forefront of research during the last thirty years and in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), it was ranked as the tenth best Media Studies research department in the UK. In the 2014 REF, the research profile for Media Studies shows that 60% of all work has been judged as being of 'international excellence'; within this proportion, 21% is judged as having the highest accolade: 'world leading'. The unit also scored highly in the Impact section of the REF, with 100% of its impact case studies scored at 4*/3*.

The Centre for Media Research (CMR)

In 2003, Media Studies was awarded a £3.1 million grant from SPUR (Support Programme for University Research) to set up the Centre for Media Research and research is now conducted through the CMR. These research activities include historical studies and practice-related research in film, TV and photography; media policy and regulation in Ireland, the UK and internationally; the press in Ireland, Britain and internationally; archives and archiving; digital media and the internet. See the website at arts.ulster.ac.uk/media/cmr.

The Centre's research has a number of focuses:

Visual History: Film, TV, Photography:

This strand of research explores the history of film, television and photography in neglected areas of Irish and British visual and media culture; it assesses the social and cultural importance of these media and how their histories have impacted upon the present.

Digital Cultures, Creativity and Pedagogy:

This strand considers national and international creative industries and creative work in digital media. There is a special concern with the issues facing the development of creative industries in regional, national, and international settings.

Media Policy:

The Centre aims to provide an informed voice on contemporary matters of public concern, including the maintenance of national and regional cultures in the face of media globalisation, and to contribute to the public policy agenda in Northern Ireland, the UK and beyond. The Centre seeks to enhance public discussion of the media through authoritative, evidence-based research on media regulation, strategies of support for local media production, and the study of different audiences, including questions of media literacy.

Research as Practice

One area in which the CMR has been in the forefront of developments is in research with media practice and a number of PhDs have been completed successfully utilising elements of critical practice in digital media and in photography. There is also a particular interest in the theory and practice of documentary filmmaking.

Print and Broadcast Journalism

Journalism is a particular strength of Media Studies provision at Ulster University and currently we offer one of the country's top industry-accredited postgraduate courses in print and broadcast journalism. This quality is also reflected in journalism research. A particular strength has been research in the local journalism industries in Northern Ireland, the coverage of war and conflict generally and new and emerging forms of journalism.

The Centre runs regular seminars and events in these areas and welcomes collaborative ventures with other scholars and media organizations.

Research Facilities

Facilities include a specialist Multi-Media Resource Unit (MMRU), which contains a large and unique collection of Irish film and television materials. There are also sound and television studios, editing facilities, a specialist computer lab and photographic facilities on the Coleraine campus. The Centre for Media Research is housed in a purpose-built suite of offices, close to computer labs, screening rooms and the MMRU. These offer further up-to-date facilities for research in comparative film studies, digital technologies and archiving.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Stephen Baker

Lecturer in Media Studies with an interest in film and television representations of the working class; media representations of Northern Ireland and alternative media. His publications include *The Propaganda of Peace: The Media and Conflict transformation in Northern Ireland* (Intellect Books, 2010) (with Greg McLaughlin); 'The Alternative Press in Northern Ireland and the Political Process' in *Journalism Studies* Vol. 6 No. 3, 2005 and 'Vampire Troubles: Loyalism and Resurrection Man' in Barton, Ruth and Harvey O'Brien (eds.) *Keeping it Real: Themes and Issues in Irish film and television* (London: Wallflower Press, 2004).

Dr Gail Baylis

Lecturer in Media Studies with an interest in photographic history in Ireland and Wales and in issues of gender and visual culture generally. She has written on domestic photography, visual culture in Britain, on photographs of nineteenth-century Welsh women ironworkers and on photography and cultural memory.

Mr Lee Cadieux

Lecturer in Media studies is a filmmaker and animator. His research is focused on new media, the creative industries and emergent technologies in the areas of film, animation, comics and games. He has made a number of documentaries and animation films and has published internationally on the potential of new media to film and animation arts.

Professor Sarah Edge

Professor of Photography and Cultural Studies, with an interest in feminism, the media and identity and photography. She is the author of a number of articles on the representation of gender and national identity in Northern Ireland in film and television as well as articles on contemporary and historical photography. Her research interests include post feminism, feminism and popular culture and early photographic history in Britain and Ireland. She is currently preparing material for publication and related art practice on the photographic collection of Arthur J Munby 1828-1910.

Alan Hook

Lecturer in Interactive Media whose research interests lie in digital media and game play. His research is primarily practice-led and focuses on new and emerging digital media and their dialogues with and use in creating playful narratives. His research gravitates towards a praxis-driven investigation into games and play, with an interest in Pervasive and Alternate Reality Gaming. He has recently co-authored the Alternative Reality Game [in]visible Belfast the pervasive game IMAKILLER and is currently working on a number of projects that explore the pedagogic potential of gaming.

Helen Jackson

Lecturer in Interactive Media Arts and Director of Academic Enterprise for the faculty of Arts. With nearly 10 years experience in the digital media content field, her areas of expertise primarily involve practice-led research into interactive media devices and their associated cultures, for which she has received national and international recognition. Previous projects include: the contextualisation of recent developments in narrative and new media thinking; investigations into hypertext and hyperreading and their implications for digital literacy and knowledge construction in online

environments; and exploration of media art practice where interaction is concerned with subjectivity and creativity, visualization and interpretation.

Dr Colm Murphy

Senior Lecturer in Media Studies and Head of School, Media, Film and Journalism. He has a research interest in digital media, journalism, media management and regulation issues. His research interests are in the state's role in the development of digital media industries; management of media companies; the media's use of Freedom of Information legislation and international press freedom issues.

Dr Robert Porter

Lecturer in Media Studies, with an interest in contemporary social, political and cultural theory: aesthetics and politics. He is the author of *Ideology: Contemporary Social, Political and Cultural Theory* (2006), *Deleuze and Guattari: Aesthetics and Politics* (2009) and (with Iain Mackenzie); *Dramatizing the Political: Deleuze and Guattari* (2011). Currently he is co-editing (with Iain Mackenzie and Benoit Dillet) *The Edinburgh Companion to Poststructuralism* (forthcoming, 2012). He has published work in journals and edited collections such as: *Contemporary Political Theory* (2007), *Political Concepts* (2005), *Social Semiotics* (2003), *Post-structuralism and Politics* (2002), *Ideology after Post-structuralism* (2002).

I chose to do an MRes and a PhD in media studies at Ulster University as I had such a great experience there as an undergraduate. I knew how dedicated and helpful the lecturers were and my PhD supervisors were unbending in their support and advice throughout the postgraduate process. As well as regular supervision, Ulster University also provided a range of additional training courses for postgraduate students in a variety of other useful areas, such as teaching, project management and getting published. We also had sessions at the beginning of each semester which helped with planning and motivation as well as the practical elements of postgraduate study, such as organising the research process and preparing for the viva. The university also runs a postgraduate symposium every year which gives students a chance to network and present their work in a familiar environment.

Dr. Stephen Baker
Lecturer in Film and Television Studies

Music

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General Description

Research within the School of Creative Arts & Technologies is coordinated within the UoA35 Research Cluster, involving staff in Cinematic Arts, Creative Technologies, Drama and Music. Within the Cluster, support is prioritized for four interdisciplinary Research Groups: Creative Arts and Health; Creative Arts and the Digital; Engaging with the Past; and Creative Practice-as-Research. Individual subjects and staff then prioritize specific projects that they will offer to supervise within and between these Research Groups, or, where appropriate, with colleagues in other fields and disciplines.

Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts are research-intensive subjects at Ulster, with staff working in a wide range of areas within and across disciplines. In Ref 2014, nearly 60% of research outputs and 100% of the impact of our work on policy and creative practice was rated 4* (world-leading) and 3* (internationally excellent). The impact of our research was judged to be 90% 4*, one of only a handful of Units of Assessment to achieve this score across the whole Higher Education sector.

Ulster University is one of only a handful of UK HEIs (and the only one on the island of Ireland) to bring together Music, Dance, Drama, Design and Creative Technologies in a dedicated multi- and interdisciplinary space. The subjects are all based in the £3M state-of-the-art facilities located in the Foyle Arts Building on the Magee campus. Research supervision capacity in the subject has increased dramatically over the last few years, above all in the areas of historical musicology, Irish traditional music, jazz, music and image, popular music, musical theatre and opera studies. There are also dedicated, well established PhD programmes in Performance and Composition respectively. Each discipline (Musicology, broadly defined; Composition, both acoustic and electroacoustic; Performance) accounts for about a third of the current graduate-student population.





All these subject areas benefit from increasingly close links with our Research Centre for Creative Technologies, which opened in 2011. The Centre has acted as a focal point for staff and research student activity cutting across musical performance and sound design, for externally funded projects (e.g. by NESTA), for conference and symposium activity (e.g. 'Imagine Create' in 2011 and 'Inclusive Creativity' in 2012), and for institutional partnerships (e.g. with GradCAM and SmartLab).

More generally, the department is firmly committed to creative practice as an integral part of its research activity: recently submitted and ongoing doctoral studies include work on the music of Rachmaninov; on contemporary jazz piano and guitar performance and on drum kit and percussion techniques in musical theatre; on recent developments in 'straight ahead' jazz drumming, creative applications of technology in solo electric guitar performance, technology interfaces for disabled musicians, contemporary works for prepared piano, and Highland piping traditions; on rhythm perception in language-impaired children, music in film, the history of sound art, the history of show bands, issues of cultural heritage in opera; and analyses of tuning in traditional Irish fiddle music and of microtonality in jazz.

Research Facilities

The physical resources of the Centre reflect the research interests of Music staff, focusing especially on composition, performance, and music theatre: a media lab featuring 25 Apple iMac workstations supporting leading-edge music composition, audio processing and non-linear video editing; software applications including Logic Pro, Reason, Ableton Live, Max, Sibelius and Final Cut Studio; a traditional recording studio combining both analogue and digital, based around a Sony DMX R100 recording console, Genelec monitoring, Quad Core Apple Mac Pro, Logic Pro and a selection of processing tools from TC Electronic, Focusrite, TL Audio and Drawmer (the studio has full access to the School's microphone complement which includes models from DPA, Neumann, AKG, Soundfield, Beyerdynamic, Sennheiser and Shure); a second studio with an intermedia suite based around a Genelec 5.1 surround sound system, Quad Core Apple Mac Pro, Tascam FW1884 and a selection of software applications including Waves Gold and Maya; a third studio with a pre-production suite based around Digidesign Pro Tools, Genelec monitoring and an Apple G5, supporting in addition Final Cut Pro; a selection of professional mobile digital recording devices including digital still cameras, HD video cameras, portable monitoring and a range of audio recording equipment suitable for field recording; a recital room equipped with harpsichord, chamber organ and two grand pianos; two black-box theatre studios. Campus facilities include an extensive library stock (including a large CD and DVD collection) and a competitive range of electronic resources.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Brian Bridges

Lecturer in Creative Technologies

Brian Bridges is an experimental composer whose interests lie in the interaction between theories of auditory perception and composition in the fields of microtonal and electroacoustic music. His pieces have been programmed at festivals and events in the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Cuba, Ecuador and China. He has undertaken composition studies in Ireland with Donnacha Dennehy, Roger Doyle and Jürgen Simpson (Trinity College Dublin) and Victor Lazzarini (Maynooth), in addition to private studies in the US with Glenn Branca and Tony Conrad. He is a founder-member of the Dublin-based Spatial Music Collective, a group supporting the performance of new electroacoustic and mixed-media works by Irish and international composers. In addition to composition and technology, Brian also has interests in contemporary American experimental music and the New York Downtown scene.

Dr Liz Doherty

Lecturer in Irish Traditional Music

Liz Doherty is a fiddle player from Bunrana, Co. Donegal with particular research interests in the fiddle music of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. She lectured in Irish traditional music at University College, Cork 1994-2001 and has been a guest lecturer and research fellow at various universities and institutions throughout Europe, North America and Australia; in 2001 she was Edwards Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Arts at Marshall University, West Virginia. As a performer she has toured the world as a solo artist and as a member of various band (Nomas, Bumblebees, Riverdance, String Sisters) as well as having several CD recordings to her credit. She

acted as Traditional Arts Advisor to the Arts Council of Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon 2005-2007 and continues to work in a consultancy capacity in the area of traditional arts and with various boards and institutions (ITMA, Cultúrlann Uí Chanainn, etc.). Liz has served as chair of the International Council for Traditional Music (Ireland: www.ictm.ie) and as director of the biggest ever edition of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (Derry and Donegal, 2012).

Dr Linley Hamilton

Lecturer in Music

Professor Frank Lyons

Professor of Music

Frank Lyons has developed an international profile as a composer and researcher with performances of his works having been given in Australia, Japan, China, the United States, South Africa, and Europe, and broadcast by the BBC, RTÉ and ABCFM by artists such as the Ulster Orchestra, Smith Quartet, Ensemble Noszferatu, Darragh Morgan, Mary Dullea and Carlos Bonell. He has been invited Composer-in-Residence at the Share Music Summer School in Hjo, Sweden and the Shell Darwin International Guitar Festival in Darwin, Australia. A groundbreaking piece, *Rush*, for violin and live electronics featuring the Wired Ensemble and Darragh Morgan, was shortlisted for a British Composer Award. In 2005 the Australian guitar virtuoso Alan Banks brought out a CD which included Frank's *Mnemonics* for solo guitar, and 2008 saw the release of Frank's own new CD, featuring the works *Blitzed*, *Dazed by the Haze* and *Rush*, all for violin and electronics, performed by Darragh Morgan. Recent and current research projects have included large-scale installations; other areas of interest include more traditional composition, improvisation with live electronics, music technology and disability, late 20th and 21st century music and popular music performance.

Dr Adam Melvin

Lecturer in Popular and Contemporary Music

Adam Melvin is a composer, saxophonist and researcher. He studied music at Queen's University Belfast and composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Academy of Music, London. His work has been performed throughout the UK, Ireland, mainland Europe, the United States and Japan by artists including the Composers' Ensemble, Psappha Carla Rees, Duo X, Kathryn Tickell, Kuljit Bhamra, Tom Arthurs and the Juice vocal trio, and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3. A great deal of his recent practice has involved collaborative work with the visual arts, including projects for Glasgow's Mackintosh Gallery and a residency at CESTA in the Czech Republic. He was previously Manson Fellow in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music and Musician-in-Residence at the Yehudi Menuhin School. He has given research papers on music and moving image, site-specific performance and collaborative practice at major conferences in the UK and America.

Dr Laurence Roman

Lecturer in Composition

Laurence Roman studied composition at the University of Birmingham, the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and the University of York. He lectures predominantly in Composition and Orchestration. His research interests include the combining of music with other performance media; he worked for eight years in West End theatre and still occasionally freelances in this area. His compositions for the stage and concert hall have been performed internationally, his opera *Isabella* and the *Pot of Basil* featuring at the 2006 Buxton Festival. His orchestrations have been recorded by leading symphony orchestras and are available on general release. In 2008 Laurence's *Concertino for Viola and Orchestra* was premiered by the South Bank Sinfonia and 2009 saw his opera *Ulysses* premiered in London by the combined forces of Ulster University and the broader Derry and Donegal communities.

Dr Shaun Ryan**Lecturer in Music**

Shaun Ryan completed his doctoral work (on the piano music of Gershwin) at Ulster University. He has a national reputation as a choral conductor, having worked with Trinity College Dublin chapel choir, the Dublin Gospel Choir, Larne Choral Society, Donegal Youth Choir, and the Ulster Youth Choir. He has also given papers at various conferences; his research interests include the 19th and 20th century piano literature, choral music, community music, and the Kodály method.

This uniquely flexible programme allowed me to explore cross-disciplinary interests in music technology within the context of more traditional areas of music performance, and to engage with academic research at the highest level. This was a unique opportunity to work with some of the brightest minds in academia throughout the island of Ireland, and to attend a series of exciting research conferences across Europe. I completed and successfully defended my doctoral thesis in 2012. The same year I acquired an academic position in the United States.

I am now a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Music and Technology at Stevens Institute of Technology in the greater NYC area. I work with exceptional industry and academic faculty that have collaborated with the likes of David Bowie, Iggy Pop and Alicia Keys. I now engage in academic research with graduates from Ivy League institutions on the door-step of the greatest city in the world.

To put it simply, I'm in my dream job, and I have the postgraduate programmes in Music at Ulster University to thank for it.

Ricky Graham

Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials and Bioengineering

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General Description

Materials Research at Ulster University has jumped from 17th to 11th in the UK national league table for research excellence and in its research submission the Assessment Panel found strong evidence of world class research, supported by internationally leading research. In fact 95% of the staff are judged to be of international standing. The Assessment Panel for this highly competitive and economically important discipline were looking at scientific discovery and engineering innovation at some of the strongest academic institutions in the UK including Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield and Imperial. The outcome for Ulster is a reward for the strategic focus in nanotechnology and advanced materials research and provides a strong foundation for future growth of this young and dynamic Institute.

The Engineering Research Institute (ERI) is a materials-oriented research institute, with a focus in both structural and functional materials as well as polymers. These disciplines include specific topics in nanotechnology, engineering composites, metal forming, sensors, tissue engineering, clean technology and connected health, surface science and plasma technology. This unit currently has 23 research active staff; 20 post-doctoral students and 45 research students.

Research students have a chance to train on some of Europe's best facilities and interact with international companies such as Unilever, Seagate Technology, Analog Devices, Bombardier, AVX Ceramics, Boston Scientific, GSK and Medtronic as well as USA and Asia based Academic Institutions. Research students are also encouraged to attend, and present papers at international conferences throughout the world as well as participate in all forms of technology transfer.

Engineering Composites Research Centre (ECRE)

Three dimensional weaving of reinforcements for carbon fibre composite components; optimisation of resin transfer moulding processes; modelling and finite element analysis of three dimensional structures for fibre reinforced composites; short fibre reinforced advanced engineering thermoplastics; instrumented impact analysis and fracture mechanics of polymers; polyurethane elastomer and elasto-plastic power transmission belts; tyre tread retreading and recycling. A new collaborative centre called the (Northern Ireland Advanced Composites and Engineering Centre) NIACE has been set-up to link with industry led composite projects.

The Engineering Composites Research Centre has received funding under the Technology Development Programme, EU, DTI, InvestNI, EPSRC and industry. Research supervision is available in: processing and performance of long and short fibre reinforced thermoplastic composites; interpenetrating networks and polymer blends; textile reinforcement modelling, design, manufacture and analysis; thermoplastic reinforced cement and rubber technology.

Advanced Metal Forming Group (AMFoR)

In-process characterisation of material behaviour during forming processes; optimisation of forming processes; finite element modelling of interactions between machine, tool and work-piece; computer-aided design of metal forming machines and tools; computer integrated manufacture of sheet metal parts. Research supervision is available in metal forming including: process modelling and finite element analysis; material property performance characteristics during forming; characterisation of coating and lubricant performance during forming.

The Nanotechnology and Integrated Bioengineering Centre (NIBEC)

NIBEC is a multi-disciplinary research centre which combines skills in engineering, science, informatics and medicine in order to enhance the development of devices and systems which have applications in the engineering and healthcare sectors.

The Internationally leading research, which is both applied and fundamental, is conducted in a purpose-built facility which supports an impressive array of sophisticated modern equipment, making it one of the premier nanotechnology and bioengineering facilities in Europe.

Staff have pioneered advances in medical instrumentation, medical sensors, diagnostic systems, biomaterials, coating technologies and other areas of healthcare and related technology. These advances have already had a large impact on society via technology transfer, consultancies and the setting-up of a range of spin-out companies.

NIBEC offers leading edge research and development facilities to enhance the potential for growth in a range of expanding markets, including healthcare, electronics and clean technology.

The centre has numerous collaborations throughout the world and thus attracts projects, students and interest from a broad range of countries.

Key themes of NIBEC's current research are:

- Healthcare Sensor Systems and Connected Health: Sensors, Vital Signs Monitoring; Point-of Care Monitoring and Integrated intelligence based platforms.
- Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine: The surface science of biomaterials and their biological interface, focusing the surface modification of substrates to act as bio-active scaffolds.

- Clean Technology: The development of engineering and materials principles to address sustainable environmental issues.
- Nanomaterials and Plasma Technology: The growth, fabrication via plasma technology and characterisation of nanostructures to enhance devices.

Key Underpinning Topics

Surface Science: Thermal barrier coatings on advanced composites; the metallization of advanced ceramics; the evolution of the typography of materials under controlled plasma etching conditions; studies of self-assembled monolayers on surfaces and organic-inorganic multi-layer systems; deposition of DLC and related wear coatings using novel carbon sources; the deposition of carbides and nitrides; surface segregation phenomena in doped electro-active ceramics and the surface modification of selected polymers; the characterisation of transition metal doped metal oxide catalysts including examples used for the selective or the total oxidation of organics and studies of hydrogen exchange phenomena on catalytic metal surfaces.

Research supervision is available in: the characterisation, modification and processing of the surfaces of advanced materials including studies of the metallisation of ceramics and related systems,, thin-film thermal barriers and protective coatings, plasma-based surface treatments and the response of materials to hostile working environments.

Plasma Technology: Plasmas including plasma diagnostics; micro plasmas and ICP plasmas. Plasma processing of advanced materials and devices is central to many of the research activities within the Centre, across most research groups. The Plasmas and Nanofabrication Group aim to integrate studies of complex technological plasmas with nano-materials processing and device fabrication, in collaboration with other groups. Through detailed plasma characterisation and new plasma

system designs we aim to enhance the control and application of materials processing to advanced nano-scale device fabrication. Research focuses mainly on two technological gas chemistries, namely: chlorine-based and hydrocarbon based.

Applications: Implantable medical devices, sensors and biosensors, bio-chips, magnetic storage, MEMS, Si and III-V fabrication.

Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering:

Bioengineering research in the form of Biomaterials will of course strongly integrate with the areas of nanotechnology. New strategic research now moves from the general areas of medical devices and thick film devices, to developing focused disciplines studying bio-surface based tissue engineering.

Healthcare Sensing Systems and Connected Health:

Sensors thrusts will move away from general electrode based devices and hence focus on point of care based Microsystems; IDE devices; microfluidics; optical biosensing and electrode-protein interface theory. Much of this work is underway and also the basis of a new funding bids associated with the complete area of Connected Health.

Clean Technology Photocatalysis: This area focuses on the fundamentals and applications of light activated semiconductor materials. A range of methods are employed to produce nanostructured photocatalytic materials including sol gel, electrochemical and plasma techniques. Advanced surface analysis is utilised to acquire key physicochemical information on the materials. Applications of photocatalytic materials include water and air purification, surface cleaning and decontamination, solar driven water splitting (to yield hydrogen and oxygen) and dye sensitised photovoltaic cells.

Nanotechnology: This area specialises in underpinning many of the above disciplines with interests in nanoscience; nanofabrication (carbon nanotubes and graphene); nanocharacterisation (AFM/Nanoindentation studies; nano-templating and the integration of the biology and nanotechnology interface.

Research Facilities

The Engineering facilities at the university include the Nanotechnology and Integrated Bioengineering Centre (NIBEC); the Engineering Composites Research Centre (ECRE) and Advanced Forming Group (AmFOR).

Engineering Composites Research

Centre (ECRE) facilities comprise of a Computer Jacquard controlled power loom, three dimensional weaving design system, vacuum bag and autoclave processing equipment, resin transfer moulding machine, extrusion and computer controlled injection moulding, extensive mechanical test laboratory, sophisticated thermal analysis facility; CAD/CAM.

The Advanced Forming Group (AmFOR)

facilities comprise of a Forming technology laboratory, friction and lubrication test equipment, DNC press brake, vibration analysis equipment including Fast Fourier analyser. Data logging equipment, 60 tonne hydraulic press/punch, research TIG welding equipment.

Nanotechnology and Integrated BioEngineering Centre (NIBEC) Vacuum deposition,

reactive ion etching and photolithography in a Class 2 Clean Room, screen printing, electron beam and thermal evaporation, HRTEM; FIB, maskless lithography; Interferometry; Plasma Spectroscopy; Microwave CVD Nanotube facility; Microplastics/ Microfluidic facility; Filtered Cathodic Vacuum Arc systems, sputtering system, low pressure CVD, AFM, Scanning

Tunnelling Microscope, Nanotube fabrication, Microplastics, Tally step, Dynamic Contact Angle Analysis System, TEM, Nitrogen Pulsed Dye Laser, Confocal Microscopy and Confocal Micro-Raman Spectroscopy system, Electrical Impedance Spectroscopy, electrical, optical, mechanical and semiconductor test facilities, low vacuum SEM and EDX bulk analysis. The facilities also include a new cell-culture and micro-biology laboratory. Cell Biology Laboratory (full microbiology analysis); RF sputtering of Bioceramics, IR Spectroscopy, Sintering and sputtering target fabrication, Cell surface interaction systems, XRD, Electrical Impedance Spectroscopy, UV-VIS, Atmospheric Plasma Modification Systems, Screen Printing, Nanoparticles Laboratory; UV curing and particle analyser.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Edward Archer

Aerospace composites; Materials for wind energy; 3D weaving; Polymer processing; Composite recycling.

Dr George Burke

Tissue Engineering; Cell Biology and the study of cell-surface interactions with a focus on cell biology.

Professor Tony Byrne

Photocatalytic purification of water, solar water splitting, photoelectrochemistry, self-cleaning/ decontaminating surface coatings, nano-structured photocatalytic materials, clean technology, electrochemical sensors and biosensors.

Dr Phillip Catherwood

Wireless Systems; RF Antenna design and wireless based medical devices.

Professor James Davis

A Professor of Biomedical Sensors, he has wide ranging interests in bio- and electrochemical sensors. He has also expertise in general chemistry based applications including anti-infection surfaces; micro-fabrication and associated areas of microbiology.

Professor Omar Escalona

Cardiology bio-instrumentation and electrophysiology.

Dr Dewar Finlay

His main area of research interest is in Healthcare Technology with a particular focus on computerized electrocardiology.

Dr Daniel Goldenring

His research focuses on medical devices, with a particular interest in biomedical signal processing for computerised

Professor Eileen Harkin-Jones

Bombardier-Royal Academy of Engineering Chair in Composites Engineering is an international leader in polymer engineering and free surface plastic moulding processes

Dr Alistair McIlhagger

Engineering composites; polymer and composite processing; and applications and testing and technical textiles.

Dr Alan Leacock

Advanced Metal Forming with a specialisation in Finite Element analysis and computational modelling.

Dr Patrick Lemoine

Nano-tribology and the characterization of nanoscale dimensions using AFM and Nanoindentation.

Professor Paul Maguire

Plasma technology – microplasmas, plasma processing and properties of thin film coatings and microstructure changes in the films. Integrated devices with microfluidic systems and data analytics.

Dr Davide Mariotti

Dr Mariotti areas of expertise include: Non-Equilibrium Processes & Nanoscale Engineering: Nanoscale engineering by self-organization mechanisms; Plasma reaction kinetics; Science and technology of atmospheric-pressure microplasma; Silicon nanocrystals synthesis and properties. These can be applied to Drug delivery & bio-imaging; Energy storage; Nanoelectronics & memory

devices; Nanofabrication & nanomanufacturing and Photovoltaics.

Dr David McCracken

Engineering Design; CAD and metal forming research.

Professor James McLaughlin

Healthcare Sensor Systems – Connected Health: the development of vital signs / point-of-care diagnostic systems via improved fabrication, microfluidics, integrated electronics and smart decision making algorithms. Characterisation and processing of sensor materials: such as diamond like carbon, carbon nanotubes, nano-scale devices, plasma based sensors, and micro and nano-based sensor fabrication.

Professor Brian Meenan

Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering with an emphasis on the surface science (characterisation and fabrication) of bio-ceramic coatings on medical devices.

Professor Pagona Papakonstantinou

Professor of Advanced Materials. She specialises in the fabrication and functionalisation of low dimensional carbon based nanomaterials (including graphene, carbon nanotubes and diamond nanorods), the characterisation of their unique physical and physicochemical properties and the demonstration of these materials in biological sensing and energy areas.

Dr Justin Quinn

Engineering Composites: Polymer and Composite processing and appliances; Technical textiles.

Nursing and Health Research

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General Description

Postgraduate Research Education within the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences is organised and delivered through the Institute of Nursing and Health Research www.science.ulster.ac.uk/inhr/. The Institute is well known nationally and internationally for providing high quality research training, which is relevant to nursing and health practice. Nursing at Ulster University is in the premier league of universities in the UK and in terms of 4* research (i.e. research that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour) we are ranked among the top 3 universities. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 results show that 96% of nursing and health sciences research at Ulster University is of international excellence or 'world leading' and 100% of our research impact and 100% of our research environment are also recognised and world leading or internationally excellent. One of the aims of the Institute of Nursing and Health Research is to train high calibre researchers who can work independently and who can contribute towards the advancement of knowledge in nursing and health sciences and the delivery of health services. We offer excellent supervision and support. Below is a list of our current doctoral supervisors and their areas of expertise.

Research Facilities

There is excellent infrastructure of supervision and support for students both off and on campus. The Research Graduate School supports and monitors postgraduate research education in the Faculty. It is responsible for ensuring high quality supervision. One of the key roles of the Research Graduate School is to organise student conferences, usually at three crucial points during the doctoral programme (at three months, at the end of the first year and prior to submission of the thesis). Regular seminars are also organised by the Institute of Nursing and Health Research at which staff and students present their research and discuss methodological



and other issues. The emphasis is on promoting a culture which values research. The Institute of Nursing and Health Research provides a unique experience for doctoral students who wish to develop their research skills and knowledge in order to make a significant contribution to knowledge in their chosen fields. Within the Institute of Nursing Research there are 5 Research Centres:

- Centre for Health and Rehabilitation Technologies
- Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Managing Chronic Illness Research Centre
- Centre for Maternal, Foetal and Infant Research
- Person-centred Practice Research Centre

In addition, the Institute of Nursing and Health Research is supporting the development of programmes of research in mental health nursing (as part of a University-wide development in mental health research), nursing and health sciences education and health promotion. The purpose of the centres and evolving programmes is for members to focus on their selected areas of expertise and to support each other, share ideas and resources in order to promote research in their fields, locally, nationally and internationally. MPhil and PhD supervisors are drawn mainly from these groups. We invite applicants to make contact with the relevant Centre leader and/or postgraduate tutor if they want to discuss a project for their study.

The Research Centre leaders:

Centre for Health and Rehabilitation Technologies

Head of Centre: Professor Suzanne McDonough
E: s.mcdonough@ulster.ac.uk

Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Head of Centre: Dr Laurence Taggart
E: l.taggart@ulster.ac.uk

Managing Chronic Illness Research Centre

Head of Centre: Professor Vivien Coates
E: ve.coates@ulster.ac.uk

Centre for Maternal, Fetal and Infant Research

Head of Centre: Professor Marlene Sinclair
E: m.sinclair1@ulster.ac.uk

Person-centred Practice Research Centre

Head of Centre: Professor Tanya McCance
E: tv.mccance@ulster.ac.uk

Staff Research Areas

Professor Owen Barr

o.barr@ulster.ac.uk

Physical and mental health of people with learning disabilities, Attitudes towards people with learning disabilities, Community care, The role of genetics in health care.

Dr Rosario Baxter

rbs.baxter@ulster.ac.uk

Children's nursing, Medical ethics and law.

Dr Pauline Black

p.black@ulster.ac.uk

Critical Care, ICU delirium, family involvement in care.

Ms Jackie Casey

j.casey2@ulster.ac.uk

Seating & postural control interventions for children and young people; Design of equipment to meet the needs of disabled children and their carers; Virtual reality with children; DCD in children.

Professor Vivien Coates

ve.coates@ulster.ac.uk

Self management of diabetes mellitus, People's management of chronic illness in general Research relating to nurse education.

Dr Wendy Cousins

w.cousins1@ulster.ac.uk

Health Psychology, Children and Young People, Organizational communication, Mental Health, Qualitative Methodologies .

Professor Helen Dolk

h.dolk@ulster.ac.uk

Epidemiology, Womens health, Congenital abnormalities.

Dr Orla Duffy

od.duffy@ulster.ac.uk

Speech and language therapy.

Dr Patricia Gillen

p.gillen@ulster.ac.uk

Midwifery research and women's health.

Dr Jackie Gracey

jh.gracey@ulster.ac.uk

Management of low back pain within physiotherapy; exercise and advice in the management of low back pain; cancer related fatigue and the role of exercise.

Dr Mary Hannon-Fletcher

mp.hannon@ulster.ac.uk

Macromolecule damage (DNA, lipid and carbohydrate), antioxidant and micronutrient, including folate and related B-vitamins, status in health and disease.

Dr Ciara Hughes

cm.hughes@ulster.ac.uk

Physiology, cell biology and complementary medicine.

Dr Sinead Keeney

sr.keeney@ulster.ac.uk

Cancer Prevention, Attitudes to Cancer, Suicide and Self Harm, the Delphi Technique and Consensus Methodologies.

Professor George Kernohan

wg.kernohan@ulster.ac.uk

Evidence-based practice, Quantitative, cost-effective and health systems analysis, Health informatics and expert systems.

Dr Daniel Kerr

dp.kerr@ulster.ac.uk

Acupuncture, low back pain, musculoskeletal disorders, patient advice and education.

Dr Greg Kelly

gp.kelly@ulster.ac.uk

Sensory Integration, Sensory Processing and Autism.

Dr Dianne Liddle

sd.liddle@ulster.ac.uk

Non-pharmacological management of musculoskeletal disorders; exercise and health; health care incorporating the perceptions and expectations of the service user.

Professor Suzanne Martin

s.martin@ulster.ac.uk

Community care policy and practice; electronic assistive technologies; ageing in place; Supported housing options.

Professor Tanya McCance

tv.mccance@ulster.ac.uk

Person-centred nursing/practice, practice development research, nursing outcome indicators, caring in nursing.

Professor Eilis McCaughan

em.mccaughan@ulster.ac.uk

Needs assessment in cancer care, Gender issues in cancer, Evaluation of nursing interventions .

Professor Suzanne McDonoughs.mcdonough@ulster.ac.uk

Physical activity and health care technologies used for musculoskeletal and neurological rehabilitation.

Dr Sonyia McFaddens.mcfadden@ulster.ac.uk

Radiation dose, medical imaging, dose optimisation, protocols, DNA damage, interventional radiology.

Dr Helen McGarveyh.mcgarvey@ulster.ac.uk

Preoperative nursing and the care of patients undergoing surgery, Therapeutic value of nursing, Telematics applications in nursing.

Professor Sonja McIlfratricksj.mcilfratrick@ulster.ac.uk

Palliative and end of life care; Family care giving and supporting carers, Palliative care and chronic illness.

Professor Hugh McKennahp.mckenna@ulster.ac.uk

Health Care Policy, Nursing and midwifery workforce, Theory generation and testing, Primary care research.

Dr Derek McLaughlindf.mclaughlin@ulster.ac.uk

Mental health, Addictions.

Dr Oonagh McNallyo.mcnally@ulster.ac.uk

Biology, Student learning, E-learning.

Dr Joe McVeighj.mcveigh@ulster.ac.uk

Non-pharmacological management of rheumatic diseases, particularly fibromyalgia syndrome.

Dr Vidar Melbyv.melby@ulster.ac.uk

Emergency care, vulnerable people.

Dr Kevin Moorekd.moore@ulster.ac.uk

Gerontological nursing, role of support workers in health and social care, psychological assessment in the post-stroke period, person-centred nursing for mental health clients.

Dr Fidelma Moranf.moran@ulster.ac.uk

Respiratory diseases with special interest in bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis and the respiratory management of neuromuscular disease; non-invasive ventilation; outcome measurement including dynamic lung function and sputum.

Dr Brenda O'Neillb.oneill@ulster.ac.uk

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, pulmonary rehabilitation, exercise, rehabilitation after critical illness, oxygen therapy, bronchiectasis, patient education and self management.

Professor Kader Parahooak.parahoo@ulster.ac.uk

Research/evidence dissemination and utilisation, Evaluation of interventions, Risk taking behaviours.

Dr Alison Porter-Armstronga.porter@ulster.ac.uk

Community care policy and practice; caregivers; assistive technologies and pressure care mapping.

Professor Assumpta Ryanaa.ryan@ulster.ac.uk

Gerontological nursing and the care of older people, family care giving, community care for older people, impact of entry to care on older people and their families, health and social care in rural areas.

Professor Marlene Sinclairm.sinclair1@ulster.ac.uk

Midwifery, Birth technology, Evidence-based practice.

Dr Paul Slaterpf.slater@ulster.ac.uk**Dr May Stinson**md.stinson@ulster.ac.uk

Seating; postural management; pressure ulcer prevention; the use of technologies including pressure mapping to prevent the development of pressure ulcers.

Dr Laurence Taggartl.taggart@ulster.ac.uk

Mental health and people with learning disability, Assessment, treatment and management evaluation of people with learning disabilities, Service provision development, Alcohol use and people with learning disabilities.

Dr Iseult Wilsoni.wilson@ulster.ac.uk

Musculoskeletal, low back pain, shoulder pain, musicians' playing related disorders.

Dr John Winderrj.winder@ulster.ac.uk

3D visualisation, 3D modelling, application of medical imagery in surgical planning and patient assessment.

My name is Mu'ath Tanash, I am a 2nd year PhD student at Institute of Nursing and Health Research (INHR), Ulster University with a BSN from Jordan University of Science and Technology - Jordan, and MSN in advanced nursing from Glasgow Caledonian University, UK. Currently, I am working on research project entitled "Identifying Supportive Care Needs for Jordanian Patients Presenting with an Acute Coronary Syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes: Developing and Evaluating a Novel Intervention" and I am supervised by Prof. Donna Fitzsimons and Prof. Vivien Coates. My aims are to promote developing secondary prevention strategies in Jordan by reducing gaps between individuals and Jordanian healthcare system, and hopefully to contribute to build nursing science in the area of chronic diseases management worldwide.

As any doctoral student, I wish to become a successful educator and researcher after my graduation. I am proud that I am undertaking my PhD at INHR, because it has a strong multi-disciplinary research teams that have the capabilities and expertise to push forward my project and turn my dream into reality.

Mu'ath Tanash

My name Aminkeng Leke and I am from Cameroon. I completed an undergraduate degree in in Medical Laboratory Sciences (2007) followed by a masters degree in Chemical Pathology (2010) both from the University of Buea-Cameroon. I am currently undertaking a PhD project entitled: "The use and safety of Anti-infectives in pregnancy, with special reference to Cameroon

Prior to starting my PhD at ulster I had numerous opportunities to be exposed to other university cultures around the world. But I must say that my experience at ulster has been life changing. I have been very impressed by the genuine concern and warm reception from my fellow students alongside the excellent organization, supervision arrangements, and spirit of collaboration that exists within the Institute of Nursing and Health research. If I had to do it all over again, it would definitely be at INHR.

Aminkeng Leke

Title of project: Advance care planning and dementia in the long term care sector. An exploration of family carers' and professional staffs' perspectives

I am a PhD Student within the INHR undertaking a study examining the perspectives of Health Care Professionals and Families of people with dementia residing in nursing homes towards Advance Care Planning. I am a nurse by background, who has specialist nursing practice qualifications in palliative care and dementia care. I have found studying with the institute a challenging yet rewarding experience, benefiting greatly from the expertise and experience of my supervisory team. The environment within the INHR is a conducive and stimulating one that enables those interested in research to reach their potential.

Esther-Ruth Beck RN



Politics and International Studies

Dr Kristian Lasslett

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General Description

Traditionally, the Politics and International Studies research cluster has maintained a strong focus on research in Irish politics and, while that continues, the research portfolio has developed to explore larger questions of identity, ethnic conflict and conflict transformation. Related areas where members of staff are active researchers and where supervision is available are the politics of the European Union, gender politics, community relations, political parties, peace processes and leadership, memory studies, conservative thought and the politics of constitutional change in the United Kingdom with special reference to England and Englishness.

The Politics and International Studies research group is located within the Institute for Research in Social Science which is one of the University's Research Institutes created to concentrate on the highest quality research. The Institute supports a vibrant research environment through a range of activities. The research environment within the Institute is interdisciplinary and orientated toward producing research that has real life impact. It places a premium on the inclusion and development of research student.

Research Environment and Facilities

The Faculty Research Graduate School provides dedicated support to students throughout the research period including research training and development opportunities. Office space and computer rooms are available to all PhD students. A team of IT technicians provide further support. All students have access to a range of excellent library resources including databases and software. There are excellent collections of primary and secondary materials on Irish politics, the politics of Northern Ireland and British politics, including newspapers, pamphlets and political ephemera. Research areas such as political theory, policy-making, European politics, gender studies, conflict transformation are all well-resourced. Students may also gain

access to the resources of INCORE - International Conflict Research. INCORE was founded through an agreement between the United Nations University and Ulster University to establish a research and training centre devoted to further understanding of ethnic conflicts and their transformation.

In collaboration with other research units and the Research Graduate School, we offer additional academic support to enhance the student experience including:

- A methodological master-class series led by senior researchers
- A seminar series
- Postgraduate writing workshops
- Biannual research student away days
- Financial support to attend relevant national and international conferences, seminars and workshops
- Processes to encourage joint publications between students and staff

Staff Research Areas

Dr Fidelma Ashe

Fidelma Ashe is an expert in gender studies and has published widely in this area. She has a strong interest in gender and conflict transformation and has collaborated with researchers from a range of American, Canadian and Australian universities to produce critical and comparative research in this area. She is also an expert on studies of masculinities and her book, *The New Politics of Masculinity* was published by Routledge (2007). Her other research interests include gender and ethno-nationalist conflict; feminist theory; gender, sexuality and transformations from ethnic conflict; and gender and violence.

Dr Máire Braniff

Máire Braniff lecturers in Sociology and her research expertise lies at the nexus of peace, justice and truth-recovery. In her work she explores competing and conflicting narratives, relationships of power and victimhood in a comparative and conceptual way. Her areas of expertise include conflict resolution, legacies of violent conflict, memory and commemoration, victimhood and peace agreements in the following areas: Balkans, Northern Ireland, South Caucasus and South East Asia. She has published articles on these fields in leading journals. Her monograph was published by IB Tauris in 2011 "Integrating the Balkans: from Conflict to EU Expansion". Máire has two co-authored books: "Inside the Democratic Unionist party: from Protest to Power" (OUP) with Tonge et al and "Conflict as Commemoration" with McDowell (Palgrave). She is an Academic Friend of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). Her research activities on anniversaries and historical wrongs, connecting commemorative communities and children of political violence have all received funding from the AHRC's Care for the Future theme.

Dr Jonny Byrne

Jonny Byrne has conducted research in the areas of ethnic conflict and conflict transformation. He is currently working on a research project mapping public policy around Northern Ireland's 'peace walls' and has conducted research into policing, political protest and ethnic politics. He has received significant amounts of external funding to support these areas of critical research and has produced a number of academic publications.

Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan

Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan is the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Impact. Her primary research interests lie in the areas of political elites, peace processes, public policy and the politics of divided societies. Recently published books include Gormley-Heenan, C. & Lightfoot, S. eds. (2012) *Teaching Politics and International Relations*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; Aughey, A. & Gormley-Heenan, C. (eds). (2011). *The Anglo-Irish Agreement: Rethinking Its Legacy*. Manchester: MUP; and Gormley-Heenan, C. (2007) *Political Leadership and the Northern Ireland Peace Process: Role, Capacity and Effect* published by Palgrave Macmillan. She is currently working on a research project mapping public policy around Northern Ireland's 'peace walls'. She has been awarded a number of prestigious research grants.

Ms Grainne Kelly

Grainne Kelly's teaching and research interests are in the inter-disciplinary field of peace and conflict studies. She has a particular interest in reconciliation theory and practice, both in Northern Ireland and internationally, and has published widely in this area, including: *Progressing Reconciliation and Good Relations in Post-Agreement Northern Ireland* (2012) and *Reconciliation: rhetoric or relevant* (with B.Hamber), (2005). Her research interests include: reconciliation as an aspect of peacebuilding; reconciliation theory and practice; intergroup relations following violent

conflict; liberal peacebuilding; storytelling and oral history as dealing with the past mechanisms; the role of philanthropy in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes; analysis and evaluation of peacebuilding practice; theories of change in peacebuilding; Northern Ireland politics.

Dr Duncan Morrow

Duncan Morrow lectures in Politics and has wide-ranging expertise in the area of community relations. In 2002, he was appointed as Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council where he championed the concept of a shared future and developed the Council's role in research and active learning, in policy development and work on key issues such as interfaces, parading and regeneration and in work with victims and survivors of conflict. Over 9 years the Council became the leading funding agency for inter-community work taking a lead role in both the IFI Community Bridges Programme and the EU PEACE fund. Since his return to the University in 2011, he has also been appointed as Chairman of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Tackling Sectarianism, Scottish Government, 2012-13. He has been awarded a number of research grants to support his research.

Dr Cillian McGrattan

Cillian McGrattan is the author of *Northern Ireland, 1968-2008: The Politics of Entrenchment* (Palgrave Macmillan 2010); and *The Northern Ireland Conflict* (Oneworld, 2010) (with Aaron Edwards). His second monograph was published in October 2012, *Memory, Politics and Identity: Haunted by History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); and an edited collection appeared in December 2012, *Everyday Life after the Irish Conflict: The Impact of Devolution and North-South Cooperation* (Manchester University Press, 2012) (co-edited with Elizabeth Meehan), together with numerous articles and book chapters. He is currently writing a book on the politics of trauma (Routledge, forthcoming). His research interests include ethnic conflict; nationalism; peace building

and conflict resolution; Irish politics; the politics of trauma; political responsibility; democratization processes.

I completed my PhD in Politics at Ulster between 2011 and 2015. Throughout the course of the PhD I was always impressed by the collegial atmosphere of the department and the level of support given to doctoral students both by supervisors and the Research Graduate School. I developed both my skills as a researcher and writer and was able to present my research at a number of academic conferences including an international conference in New Zealand. I feel much more confident in my own research and teaching abilities, and I would recommend Ulster University to any student at any level of study.

Claire Pierson

Psychology

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Postgraduate Tutor for Psychology

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Professor M Stringer, Director of
Psychology Research Institute

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General Description

The Psychology Research Institute offers supervision of research leading to a PhD degree in four main areas of psychology on either a full-time (3 years) or part-time (6 years) basis. Research students will work within one of these areas and quickly become part of an exciting and productive research group that addresses important theoretical and translational research questions. There will be opportunities to engage with fellow students, staff and researchers in formal research seminars and informal discussions. We also expect our research students to develop their research skills and academic networks by collaborating with researchers in other UK and international universities and research centres.

Research students on our programme are supported by a range of general and specific training programmes through the Researcher Development Programme to help develop research skills and employment prospects. There are currently over 60 research students being supervised by staff in the Psychology Research Institute.

The research areas are

- **Peace, Conflict and Equality**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Behavioural Neuroscience;**
- **Psychological Epidemiology and Mental Health**

Postgraduate research is located within the Psychology Research Institute. The Institute aims to be a leading centre for applied psychological research drawing upon our cutting edge expertise in statistical methodology and theoretical research. Researchers are committed to multi-disciplinary approaches to help address complex health and social issues and have developed extensive collaborative partnerships with international centres of excellence to produce findings which have real benefits for society.



Research Facilities and Research Groups:

The School of Psychology and the Psychology Research Institute are well resourced to support students using a range of experimental and non-experimental research methods. The Institute also hosts the Research and Statistics Summer School which runs annually and provides training in a range of contemporary research methods and statistics. In addition, the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing is located in Psychology. The centre was established in 2011 with the aim of increasing our understanding of mental health through research conducted in Northern Ireland. It aims to improve the quality of life for people with mental health problems and their carers through excellent research evidence that informs and influences policy and practice. The centre adopts a multi-disciplinary approach to mental health research and is able to draw on a considerable range of skills and expertise in health services research and population health sciences.

Staff Research Areas:

Professor Gary Adamson

Statistical modelling; Psychological Epidemiology; Mental Health and Addictions; Early Life Events and Mental Health.

Dr Cherie Armour

Childhood sexual assault, and intimate partner violence, nosology of PTSD in the DSM-5.

Dr Robert Bones

Precision teaching and sport; Precision teaching and learning; Stimulus equivalence and transfer of function; Evolutionary psychology.

Professor Brendan Bunting

Statistical modelling; psychology and health.

Dr Noel Brick

Cognitive sport psychology, and attentional focus and cognitive control during endurance activity.

Dr Claire Campbell

Intergroup relations and social cognition.

Dr Tony Cassidy

Health Psychology: Child and Family Psychology: Psychosocial aspects of stress, coping and health: Psychosocial aspects of child and family health.

Dr Kieran Coyle

Attention and memory; sleep disturbance; stress and human performance; alcohol effects on memory and psychomotor performance.

Professor Gerry Cunningham

Clinical Psychology and systemic psychotherapy.

Dr Lynn Dunwoody

Cancer, chronic illness, physical activity, rehabilitation, complementary therapy, palliative care.

Dr Edel Ennis

Seasonal Affective Disorder; Individual difference, with particular emphasis on personality, emotional intelligence and attachment and their relevance to understanding various behaviours, e.g. deception, work burnout and engagement.

Dr Finola Ferry

Health economics

Dr Andrea Furey

Social identity theory; prejudice; segregation; cross-community contact.

Dr Stephen Gallagher

Autism; Gerontology.

Professor Melanie Giles

Attitudes and attitude change. The application of social cognition models to Health Psychology. Child and family health. Student engagement, employability and peer mentoring.

Dr Colin Gorman

Forensic mental health, assessment and treatment of individuals who have committed violent and sexual offences.

Dr James Houston

Mental health, cannabis and psychosis.

Dr Mickey Keenan

Experimental Analysis of Behaviour, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Stimulus Equivalence and Creativity, Autism, Parent Training.

Dr Eun-Mee Kim

Behavioural neuroscience, models of psychological disorders.

Dr Karen Kirby

Psychology and Health, Psychosocial Predictors and Prevention of Chronic Disease, in particular Type 2 Diabetes and Coronary Heart Disease. Public Health Research. Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

Professor Gerry Leavey

Access to and acceptability of mental health services.

Professor Julian Leslie

Behavioural neuroscience, experimental analysis of behaviour, applied behaviour analysis, stimulus equivalence.

Professor Christine Liddell

Psychology among ethnic minorities, psychology and culture, psychology and the environment, landscape psychology.

Dr John Mallett

Multivariate statistics, measurement models, missing data analysis, health psychology in particular, healthy ageing, positive psychology and mental health.

Dr Donal McAteer

Psychological therapy evaluation; therapy process, the therapeutic relationship, and therapist factors' influence on therapy outcome; mental health; well-being in isolated community populations and their access to mental health services; qualitative methods.

Dr Orla McBride

Addiction, the development of problematic alcohol use, latent variable modelling.

Dr Claire McDowell

Evidence based education, Autism, Childhood feeding disorders.

Dr Adele McKinney

Effects of alcohol consumption on cognition, Neuropsych assessments, Mental health.

Dr Marian McLaughlin

Attitudes and Attitude Change, Sexual Health, Oral health, Palliative Care in Parkinson's Disease and Child and Family Health and Well-being.

Dr Frances McLernon

Forgiveness, intergroup conflict, group processes.

Dr Robert Millar

Career development and choice behaviours, careers guidance practice, adolescent concerns and worries, locus of control in the career context.

Dr Jamie Murphy

Dimensional and continuous representations of psychosis; psycho-social etiology of psychosis; trauma-psychosis mechanisms of association; lay/professional attitudes towards 'severe mental illness'.

Dr Samuel Murphy

Mental Health in Northern Ireland, Ergonomics, Psychological and physical risk factors for school children's neck, upper back and low back pain; Musculoskeletal disorders in Agriculture.

Professor Siobhan O'Neill

Health Psychology; psychosocial aspects of cancer; older people; informal care; qualitative and qualitative methods and behavioural epidemiology.

Professor Gillian Robinson

Research methodology; social attitudes; policy development and implementation in a comparative context; gender and security; and cross-community marriage.

Dr David Shaw

Behavioural neuroscience, experimental analysis of behaviour, behavioural pharmacology, anxiety and olfaction.

Professor Mark Shevlin

Latent variable modelling, psychosis, PTSD and trauma.

Dr Victoria Simms

The development of mathematical thinking and reasoning, specifically in young children.

Dr Liz Simpson

Health psychology; Women's health issues; Cognition memory, perception and the underlying Event related potentials (EEG); Nutrition; Psychoneuroimmunology.

Professor Maurice Stringer

Intergroup conflict, group processes, psychology.

“Completing my PhD at the School of Psychology was a really enjoyable experience and provided me with the necessary foundations to begin my academic career. The supervision I received during my PhD exceeded my expectations with endless support and guidance throughout the entire process. The staff are internationally recognised academics in their respective areas and place a strong emphasis on student career development by holding a range of networking events, training seminars and providing opportunities for students to attend national and international conferences. Whilst undertaking my PhD I had the opportunity to visit and participate in research projects with an international university and develop collaborative links with other institutions in my field at an early stage of my research career which was an amazing experience!

There is an excellent Researcher Development Programme that offers multiple training seminars designed to develop interpersonal and communication skills necessary for a career in academia. Fortnightly postgraduate research seminars are held that enable students to develop their skills in presenting their research in a supportive environment and provides a platform to receive informative peer feedback. There are also regular qualitative and quantitative workshops held that facilitate your research skills and provide specialised training in your chosen research methodology. The School of Psychology is a lively and highly motivating environment of research activity with wide range of facilities that enable students to carry out high quality research with a strong support base from the faculty, academic and support staff and students.”

Dr Siobhan Murphy, Research Fellow

“There are many reasons why I would recommend Ulster University for postgraduate study. The School of Psychology at Ulster combines world-leading, innovative research with a close-knit, community atmosphere. The academic supervision I have received has truly been first class. I enjoy an excellent working relationship with both of my primary supervisors. They are always on hand to offer advice, support and guidance. They have also given me numerous opportunities to get involved with ongoing research projects, and co-author a number of peer reviewed publications outside the scope of my doctoral thesis.

Undertaking a PhD is about more than simply writing a thesis, it is a platform to develop a wide range of skills that are desirable for a career in academia and beyond. Ulster University has provided me with the facilities and resources to develop these skills. For example, since beginning my PhD I have gained teaching experience in seminars/tutorials, attended and presented research at various conferences, and travelled abroad to attend research methodology courses. The general facilities and support staff have also helped me greatly in the day-to-day aspects of conducting a PhD. Overall, I believe the School of Psychology at Ulster is a fantastic place to begin a career in academia.”

Eoin McElroy, PhD student

I started studying for my PhD in Psychology at Ulster University in September 2010 and was awarded my PhD in January 2014. The experience of studying at PhD level at Ulster was a highly positive experience and one I will take with me for the rest of my life. Doing a PhD was transformative in many ways for me. I was encouraged to present at conferences and publish papers, and was given opportunities to teach and contribute to other research projects. I also had access to great facilities including on-going specialist training events, libraries, high-quality IT services, and as my subject was in a specialist area, the School of Psychology also arranged access to workshops and brought in experts from other Universities. The process of doing a PhD taught me many vital skills for my future career as a Research Fellow, including managing an on-going project, handling data, communicating orally and in writing to a variety of audiences and managing my time and prioritising tasks. As a result, the skills attained have provided me with the necessary foundations to build a successful career in academia and have been fundamental for both my professional and career development. Last, but, by no means least, the supervision I received at Ulster was outstanding and I am indebted to my supervisors for their continued support, motivational discussions, enthusiastic advice and professional guidance over the three years of studying and since I have completed. The PhD journey was a challenging and often difficult experience, but it was made easier by the excellent support and encouragement I received from my supervisors and Ulster University.

Dr Tara O'Neill, Research Fellow



Social Policy, Criminology, Public Policy and Social Work (SCPS)

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Institute for Research in Social Sciences
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Further details on research themes, postgraduate programmes, staff research interests, events, publications and contact details are available at:
socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/

General Description

Social Policy, Criminology, Public Policy and Social Work (SCPS), is a substantial multi-disciplinary, cross campus research unit with members working on a range of methodological, theoretical, empirical and policy related issues.

SCPS distinguishes itself through a long-standing commitment to researching and shaping governance, policy and practice in divided societies dealing with the legacies of violence and conflict. This focus is being expanded and enriched through strategic diversification into new applied research streams that inquire into, and confront, challenges presented by racism, inequality, economic marginalisation, institutional reform and the crimes of the powerful. The unit also aims to address blind-spots and lacunas in governance, policy and service delivery which conflict and transition can create, in areas such as gender, disability, ageing, health, criminal justice and ethnic minorities. These streams are enhanced through transnational research that draws on growing international linkages to better understand how regional and global distributions of power, wealth, infrastructure, resources and knowledge, impact on governance, policy and practice on a variety of scales.

The unit's research priorities are supported by a vibrant, aspirational culture that supports scholars to develop and pioneer innovative methodologies, analytical tools, and theoretical concepts that can rigorously build evidence based, conceptually rich understandings of the complex processes that shape institutional reform, governance and service delivery. We embrace interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research that harnesses diverse tools and approaches to enhance field-specific challenges.

Through these efforts SCPS has developed an international reputation for:

- Pioneering theoretical ideas that change the way in which policy, administration, criminology and social work are conceptualised.

- Developing cutting-edge research methodologies which produce unique, internationally significant data-sets.
- Designing a range of innovative analytical tools that help reform and guide social practice.
- Disseminating research outputs to a range of stakeholder groups in order to strengthen, and critically reflect upon, policy and practice.

The strength and rigour of SCPS' research has been registered in successive research assessment exercises. In the most recent research assessment exercise, 'REF 2014', seventy percent of SCPS' research has been graded world-leading or internationally excellent, with a 160% increase in world-leading research since the 2008 assessment exercise. SCPS ranks 12th in the UK for outstanding research impact (4*) and 20th for world-leading research (4*).

SCPS draws its funding from a range of prestigious, peer-reviewed sources including the ESRC, AHRC, British Academy, and Leverhulme Foundation. SCPS also hosts a number of major research centres including ARK, INCORE, ISCI and CPS.

- ARK (ark.ac.uk) is a unique collaborative research centre jointly administered by Ulster University and Queens University. It aims to produce evidenced-based policy by ensuring that research is shared, that there is greater use of existing research and information, and by facilitating critical debate and effective collaboration between civil servants, academics, civil society and businesses.
- ISCI (statecrime.org) is the first international research centre devoted to the study of state crime. It is jointly run by Ulster University, Queen Mary University of London, Harvard University, and the University of Hull, and houses the international journal State Crime, the Pluto Press state crime book series, and a unique digital platform, the State Crime e-Testimony Project.

- **INCORE** (incore.ulst.ac.uk) was established in 1993. The International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) combines research, education and comparative analysis. INCORE addresses the causes and consequences of conflict in Northern Ireland and internationally and promotes conflict resolution management strategies. It aims to influence policymakers and practitioners involved in peace, conflict and reconciliation issues while enhancing the nature of international conflict research. It co-ordinates the varied peace and conflict-related activity across the University – encompassing work in disciplines such as politics, policy studies, history, international affairs, sociology, geography, architecture, communications and social work, as well as in peace and conflict studies.
- **CPS (Centre of Policing and Society)** is a premiere hub for research, training and education focused on policing in post-conflict societies. Drawing on a core team of interdisciplinary scholars, and thriving links with the criminal justice sector, CPS works on a wide range of themes including accountability, community policing, public order, paramilitarism, interfaces, parole, restorative justice, comparative international policing, community relations, politics of divided societies, radicalisation and change culture.

Post-Graduate Research and Learning Environment

It is increasingly recognized that a thriving community of postgraduate students contribute to the overall research culture and assist in social regeneration initiatives. SCPS aims to enrich the postgraduate experience by strengthening research training, enhancing the research environment and promoting interaction between post-graduate researchers and staff across the disciplines. Our work is guided by a commitment to developing a supportive and collaborative environment where postgraduate students are involved in all aspects

of the unit's life, including academic events, public engagement, publishing and training.

In pursuit of this objective SCPS has developed, in collaboration with other units and the Research Graduate School, a range of initiatives designed to enhance the student experience. They include:

- A methodological master-class series led by senior researchers from the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Postgraduate writing workshops, seminar series, and conferences.
- Student led reading groups that examine key theoretical frameworks and policy debates.
- Interdisciplinary supervision teams that employ a group-supervision approach.
- Research student away-days that cover a range of theoretical, methodological and analytical themes.
- Supporting students to attend relevant conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Encouraging collaborations between students and staff that produce outstanding research and/or impact.

In addition to unit level support, research students have access to a range of facilities and services provided by the Faculty Research Graduate School (RGS). All full time research students in the Faculty of Social Sciences are provided with access to a desk, storage and IT facilities (hardware, software and technical support) in shared office space on their home campus. On admission, in addition to the University induction, students receive face to face induction into the Faculty RGS by the Head of RGS, and are introduced to the RGS secretary.

Throughout their period of study the RGS:

- acts as a hub for information,
- financially administer Research Training Support Grant funds for students with funding,

- provides advice, organisation and general support for research students and supervisors, and organises regular social events.

At induction, research students are advised to meet individually with subject librarians who provide ongoing support throughout the period of study, in addition to the excellent online researcher support available at library.ulster.ac.uk/research/.

Students are expected to participate in the University Research Development programme (informed by the Vitae Research Development Framework), which offers generic and research skills training; students may also participate in the University's Doctoral Innovation Programme. The latter includes an opportunity for those who successfully complete the required assessment to receive certification from the Institute of Leadership and Management of a Level 5 unit in Project Management. Teaching opportunities are available to research students and are supported by the Research Development Programme's courses for Postgraduate Tutors and Demonstrators, Introduction to Teaching and Learning and First Steps to Supporting Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (details at http://www.ulster.ac.uk/staffdev/Research_Training/controller.php).

Part time students are inducted in the same way and may request access to a desk and IT facilities on a shared or temporary basis. They are also invited to avail of all other training and support available to full time students.

Research Groups within SCPS

SCPS research is currently structured through a number of core groups:

- **Social Policy Group**
- **Criminology and Justice Group**
- **Public Policy Group**
- **Social Work Group**

Social Policy Group

Within this research group there is a focus on achieving a better understanding of some of the most difficult social problems we face and contributing to new knowledge in a range of areas including social theory, poverty and disadvantage, health and social care, disability, race and migration and the governance and delivery of welfare. The causes and policy response to social welfare issues is often contested and is linked to contrasting perspectives on the relationship between the state, families and individuals, and voluntary action. Work in this research cluster focuses on issues central to these debates. We also aim to make our research influential in bringing about change, and therefore to communicate findings effectively to a range of audiences and engage actively with policy makers and practitioners.

Research themes include:

- Policies for addressing poverty and disadvantage
- Analysis of social policy making under devolution in the UK
- The development of adult social care policy in Northern Ireland – including the social care workforce
- The role of civil society actors in social policy and the policymaking process.
- Victorian social theory
- The relationship between the vulnerable in society and the state
- Disability, work and poverty
- Health and social care structures and impact on delivery of care
- Migration, race and social policy
- Abortion policy and the legal reform of abortion in Northern Ireland

For further information on the social policy group please contact Dr Ann-Marie Gray (am.gray@ulster.ac.uk).

Criminology and Justice Group

The administration of justice is a sensitive process shaped by complex power dynamics rooted in wider sets of social relationships. The investigation and prosecution of crime takes place through institutions and agencies, mandated to enact contested policies and political agendas. Contention involves a fluid social constellation of actors from civil society, government and the private sector, which leads to a range of policy and practice challenges for the criminal justice system.

Equally states themselves are perpetrators of crimes, which are often exposed and censured through national and international networks of civil society, and by official agencies of accountability.

SCPS research is distinguished by its critical approach to the administration of justice, and its recognition that states themselves can be perpetrators of significant deviant conduct.

Key research themes include:

- Prisons and Northern Ireland
- Children and women's rights within the criminal justice system
- Policing, human rights and accountability in a national and transnational context
- Truth recovery and the past
- International state crime and human rights
- Resistance and justice-making from below
- Terrorism, security and intelligence handling
- Crime mapping
- Environmental criminology
- Cyber-crime

For further information on the crime and justice cluster please contact Dr Johnny Byrne (j.byrne1@ulster.ac.uk).

Public Policy Group

Governance amounts to a system of social coordination established through rule setting and rule observation by policy actors. Public services are delivered in complex governance spaces which frequently involve multiple organisations. In the current era of austerity greater significance has fallen on the use of performance management as a tool for disciplining the actions public services professionals. Professional judgement competes with managerialism in the shaping and delivery of services. The emergence of a 'compliance' culture is characterising professional working life in key public services. A tension exists between performance measured by internal organisational concepts of efficiency and external recognition of social impact.

Key research areas of interest include:

- Governance and performance in health services
- Control of professionals including doctors
- Governance and performance in social services
- Governance, performance and oversight over the police
- Policy implementation
- The evaluation of performance and social impact
- Understanding institutions in the contemporary delivery of public services

For further information on the public policy group please contact Dr Gordon Marnoch (gj.marnoch@ulster.ac.uk).

Social Work Group

Social work research seeks to provide a knowledge base to support the social work profession in its roles of protecting and supporting the most vulnerable in society. Research applications are welcomed in relation to either of the social work research themes.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health problems and positive mental health are key issues in contemporary society. How individuals seek help and the pathways they follow through services is a primary research focus for this cluster. Past research has included social media and the mental wellbeing of young men; statutory mental health social work; community integration of former long-stay hospital patients; loneliness amongst older people; and the mental ill health effects of the Northern Ireland Troubles. Another primary strand within this cluster is on resilience. Past studies have included resilience of child protection social workers and of clergy (in relation to Emotional Intelligence); current studies include resilience of family carers and the development of resilience amongst social work students. Prospective research students should contact Professor Brian Taylor (bj.taylor@ulster.ac.uk).

Decision, Assessment, Risk and Evidence Studies

This research cluster undertakes research, teaching and organisation development to support social work and allied human service professions in:

- professional judgement and shared decision making;
- assessment processes and tools to inform decisions;
- risk assessment and management in practice and organisations; and
- creating and using evidence to inform practice and policy.

Research includes studies of professional judgement in child protection, protection of vulnerable adults and the justice sector; developing the Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool for the health and social care of older people; older people's conceptualisation of elder abuse and neglect; risk communication in dementia and in physical disability services; change processes in intimate

partner violence programmes; and supporting the development of the Social Care Governance Workbook, the North-South Child Protection Hub and the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Information Hub. Prospective research students should contact Professor Brian Taylor (bj.taylor@ulster.ac.uk).

'I have recently completed extensive fieldwork in India and England on state-corporate crime. Throughout the research process I have received impeccable support and advice from my supervisors who have ensured seamless transition through all the assessment stages. The Research Graduate School is another welcomed asset. It has provided valuable support through financial assistance, as well as the provision of training programmes that have equipped me to face numerous challenges. More generally, the Institute for Research in Social Sciences and the Transitional Justice Institute, cultivate an invigorating and stimulating research environment for scholars, with a regular menu of events, workshop, conferences and international speakers. The PhD research culture is supportive, stimulating and amiable, one where exchange of ideas, as well as knowledge sharing, is prioritised. Thanks to my supervisors' guidance I have been able to present at academic conferences, publish a journal article in a top criminological journal and participate in an International Tribunal in the International Court of Justice' -

Dawid Stańczak
Third year PhD candidate

'I am a PhD student at the School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy at Ulster University, conducting research on urban contention and mega-projects. During the past two years I've received outstanding support from my supervisors. This has helped me progress my research and also improve my personal and academic skills. The Research Graduate School is always there to aid doctoral students. Through the school's assistance I have been able to obtain extra funding for fieldwork, and travel to present at international conferences and summer schools. The university also offers a wide range of outstanding research training courses which further complement the students' personal and professional career development'.

Alfred Burballa Nòria,
Second Year PhD candidate

"Entering the second year of my PhD, I can really say that I have enjoyed my experiences to date at Ulster University. It's a big decision to commit to undertaking doctoral studies and it is important to find a program that is relevant and challenging. The School of Criminology, Political Science and Social Policy fosters a stimulating research environment that offers many opportunities to engage in both international and local research debates and events. My own research in illicit drugs has an international focus but as an overseas student I've really benefited from the chance to learn much more about Northern Ireland and to consider how my work might have an impact locally. With support from the Research Graduate School I have been able to present a paper at an international conference in my first year which has enabled me to test ideas and engage with the international policy community in my field. Most importantly, the support from my supervisors has been excellent, making the process both enjoyable and worthwhile."

Vanessa Gstrein
First year PhD candidate



Sport, Physical Activity and Health

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General Description

Research in sport and exercise science is conducted through the Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute (SESRI) and is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of staff and postgraduate students, which represents research quality at national and international levels. Given the applied nature of the research conducted by SESRI, we have developed a range of research collaborations at the international, national and local levels involving governing bodies of sport, hospitals and medical facilities and practitioners, local and national government and other key stakeholders in sport, exercise and physical activity. Within the group, funding has been secured from a variety of sources including a range of prestigious research councils and charitable foundations, the European Commission, the European Social Fund, the Department of Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland) and from commercial partners through Co-operative Awards in Science and Technology (CAST) studentships and fully funded studentships. Research within SESRI encompasses three distinct fields: physical activity and health; the social sciences of sport; sports science and medicine. Research in these fields is conducted within 3 discrete research centres (see below).

Research areas include:

- Adolescent lifestyle and health.
- Health benefits of physical activity.
- Social sciences of sport including sport for development and peace; sport and migration; sport and inclusion; pain and injury in sport; sport and identity politics; sport and disability (intellectual and physical) and sport management.
- Sport and exercise psychology, physiology and biomechanics.
- Sport technology.
- Sports medicine and physiotherapy

Research Facilities

SESRI is comprised of three research centres that conduct research related to sport, exercise and physical activity from a range of disciplinary perspectives. The Centre for Sport in Society brings together colleagues from across the university who conduct social scientific research on sport. The work currently being undertaken within the group explores a range of themes associated with the cultural, political, social, economic and historical import of sport in a variety of local, national and international contexts. These themes and contexts include analyses of: sport labour migration; sport, the Irish and identity politics; sport and diaspora; sport and equity (gender and disability); pain and injury; physical education and sport; international comparative sport policy, the public governance and management of sport and sport federations and their sustainable role in civil society; sport for development and peace.

The Centre for Physical Activity and Health uses epidemiological and empirical methods to investigate the role of physical activity and exercise in the prevention and treatment of chronic disease and the promotion of psychological well-being. A major strength of the group's work is the multi-disciplinary approach to research. Our research includes lifestyle intervention studies, investigations of the underlying systemic and cellular mechanisms and epidemiological cohort studies. This work has contributed to the evidence base for recent public health physical activity recommendations and is cited in recent national and international guidelines.

Research in the Centre for Sports Science and Sports Medicine aims to further our understanding of the learning processes, mental imagery processes and biomechanical principles governing sport and exercise performances across the spectrum ranging from beginner to elite performer levels. Key disciplines include cognitive and behavioural psychology and biomechanics. The centre also conducts research in the area of sports medicine,

particularly acute soft tissue injury management; ankle sprain prognosis and rehabilitation; cryotherapy and recovery.

Sports science and experimental exercise and health research activities are largely facilitated in three world class well-equipped laboratories in physiology, biochemistry and biomechanics at the University's Jordanstown campus, along with a 'field-lab' in the new Sports Facility. Researchers also enjoy access to other departmental laboratories in the University as well as facilities in local hospitals. All postgraduate students in the area are provided with an individual workspace in a postgraduate study room.

Staff Research Areas

Dr Chris Bleakley

Sports Injury: Research focuses primarily on the prevention and clinical management of sports injuries. In particular, we are interested in developing evidence based preventative and rehabilitation techniques for acute soft tissue injuries. Future research will examine epidemiological patterns of injury in sport and delineate modifiable risk factors.

Dr Gavin Breslin

Sport and exercise psychology with a focus on two areas: 1. cognitive explanations of motor skill acquisition. This research aims to get a better understating of the role of visual perception and action during learning through laboratory based studies 2. Physical activity and psychological well-being in marginalised groups, this research aims to establish effective interventions for increasing physical activity, reducing sedentary behaviour and improving well-being in children and adults.

Dr Paul Darby

Sociology of Sport: Current research focuses on sports labour migration; the role of football academies in West Africa; the sport for development and peace movement; the politics of sport in Africa and sport and transnational identities.

Professor Gareth W Davison

Exercise, Health and Disease. Current research interests include cellular and peripheral free radical production in exercise, health and disease. In particular our laboratory is interested in the by-products of DNA, lipid and protein oxidation and the effects of antioxidant supplementation in exhaustive exercise and diabetes mellitus. We have

used the novel method of Electron Spin Resonance spectroscopy to quantify free radical generation during exercise of varying intensity and duration, and would envisage applying this tool to future projects within exercise and pathology.

Professor David Hassan

Research interests focus upon the relationship between sport, politics and national identity. Future research will examine sport and national identity in the Irish Borderlands alongside a more focussed investigation into the role sport plays in the projection of identity for women on the island of Ireland.

Mr Paul Kitchin

Dr Kitchin's research examines how sport can use business principles to achieve sustainable growth. He is also interested in examining the professionalisation in the management of sport, particularly small to medium not-for-profits entities across the Britain and Ireland.

Dr Katie Liston

Sociology of sport, health and exercise, sport and gender, physical education, sociological theory, sport in Ireland and national identity. Dr Liston's future projects will include an examination of the sport, race and ethnicity nexus in Northern Ireland as well as ongoing collaborative work on sport and migration.

Dr Jacqui Mair

Dr Mair's research focuses on the health benefits of low-volume high intensity exercise training in adult and older populations, and the impact technology can have on delivering, managing and reviewing exercise prescription. She is also interested in the role of physical activity and sedentary behaviour on health status across the lifespan, and how wearable and mobile technology can be used to promote healthy behaviour.

Dr Conor McClean

Exercise metabolism and biochemistry in healthy and clinical populations. Current research includes the effects of ingesting high-fat meals on parameters of cardiovascular health and the protective role exercise may confer. We have also examined the effects of short and long term exercise interventions in pre-diabetic populations (Impaired glucose tolerance) with specific focus on changes in oxidative stress, glycaemic control and arterial stiffness. The group is also interested in the use of antioxidant supplementation as a potential prophylactic to exercise-induced muscle damage.

Dr Andrea McNeilly

The effects of brisk walking and antioxidants in the prevention of metabolic disturbances associated with obesity and impaired glucose tolerance (which predisposes individuals to an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus). Recent research has focused on the use of technology to enable individuals to complete brisk walking at the required intensity and dietary intake patterns in different populations including athletes.

Dr Richard Metcalfe

Exercise Physiology/Exercise and Health; My strand of research examines the impact of time-efficient high-intensity interval training (HIT) on human health and metabolism, with the overarching aim of providing an alternative/adjunct to current exercise recommendations for the general population. I am interested in the impact of HIT on insulin sensitivity and other disease biomarkers, as well as the effects on skeletal muscle signalling pathways linked to these beneficial adaptations. In addition, it is known that different individuals exhibit tremendous variation in the ability to adapt to the same relative exercise stimulus. I am interested in the molecular basis for this variability with a particular focus on skeletal muscle metabolism.

Professor Marie Murphy

The effects of walking on cardiovascular & metabolic health. Prof Murphy's research has focused on the effects of brisk walking (accumulated, short and long bouts, varying intensities) on health. In addition she is interested in the evidence base for the development of physical activity guidelines. In particular our group is interested in intervention studies with sedentary but healthy and diseased populations (e.g. obese and diabetic), which attempt to alter health risk by incorporating brisk walking into daily life.

Professor Eric Wallace

Sports biomechanics/engineering; This research aims to gain a better understanding of the relationship between swing mechanics, physical fitness and equipment technology for a range of golfers of different skill levels. The effects of different club parameters and player physical characteristics are examined using laboratory-based and field tests of performance. Biomechanical analysis is undertaken along with computer modelling.

My name is Andrew Morrison and I'm a PhD student at Ulster University. Having previously worked for the Professional Golfers Association in the Education department, I was looking to develop the research in the area of golf biomechanics. I chose to apply to do my PhD at Ulster as I knew their biomechanics facilities were second to none, and had previously followed the golf biomechanics research coming out of the department. The support I have received from my supervisory team has been excellent, and has helped me progress through my PhD and develop my research skills in preparation for a job in academia.



Transitional Justice Institute

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General Description

The Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) has rapidly become internationally recognised, since its inception in 2003, as a leading centre in developing the field of transitional justice – broadly, the study of law in societies emerging from authoritarian rule or conflict. The TJI supports research in transitional justice and more broadly in human rights, public international law and conflict resolution. TJI is led by Director Professor Rory O’Connell and Associate Director Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin (joint appointment with University of Minnesota).

The Transitional Justice Institute is the Research Institute for Law. In REF 2014, Law at Ulster is ranked 4th in the UK overall. It is ranked 1st for impact with 100% of our impact rated as world-leading.

TJI is a law-led multidisciplinary research centre focusing on transitional justice, human rights, international law and peace and conflict. While rooted within law, TJI actively engages in and supports multidisciplinary research. As well as legal scholars, the Institute is home to scholars with backgrounds in fields of gender studies (Dr Fidelma Ashe, Dr Catherine O’Rourke, Eilish Rooney), peace and conflict studies (Professor Brandon Hamber) and political science (Professor Cath Collins, Prof Louise Mallinder, Dr Kris Brown).

For information about the other areas of Law teaching and scholarship at Ulster, including socio-legal and doctrinal research, see Law: ulster.ac.uk/law/law-research/.

TJI has an active, enthusiastic and strongly multinational group of funded doctoral students working on topics such as memory, victim identity and reparations in Northern Ireland; masculinities and gendered violence; civil society involvement in transition and peacebuilding; peacebuilding prospects in the Middle East; Colombian conflict and transitional dynamics, and equality and institutional reforms in transitions.

Social media: [follow @TJI_ on twitter](#) or [like on Facebook](#).

Each year, a limited number of competitive funded PhD scholarships are available for students. The School also encourages applications from self-funded students or students funded from other sources, to start in October or, possibly, at other times of year. UK PhD programmes are normally three-year, research intensive projects in which the relationship with a small team of supervisors is key. All prospective students are therefore encouraged to contact a staff member with relevant expertise in the area of the proposed course of research for advice on honing the academic content of their application. For details on the practicalities of the application process, student support, funding opportunities, research expertise of staff members, and suggested PhD projects, see the Law section of the Research Graduate School (Faculty of Social Sciences) website: socsci.ulster.ac.uk/gradschool/.

Research

TJI has placed research emanating from Northern Ireland at the forefront of both local and global academic, legal and policy debates.

The innovative research produced by TJI researchers has received funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, the Leverhulme Foundation, the Nuffield Foundation, the Royal Irish Academy, and the UK Socio-Legal Studies Association.

TJI authors have won prizes including the American Society of International Law Certificate of Merit (Professor Ní Aoláin), the Hart SLSA Early Career Award (Professor Louise Mallinder); Basil Chubb Prize for best PhD in an Irish university (Dr Catherine O'Rourke); and Fulbright awards (Professor Ní Aoláin, Professor Siobhán Wills). TJI researchers are involved in a range of collaborative research projects with institutions in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, North America and Latin America, and serve on the editorial boards of several international scholarly journals.

In addition to their scholarly work, TJI researchers actively engage with policymakers and civil society, both within Northern Ireland and internationally. TJI researchers work with the American Society of International Law, the Open Society Foundation, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women, Association of Human Rights Institute, as well as numerous Northern Ireland based organisations. TJI espouses an 'active research' model, wherein engagement with institutions, policy-makers and communities (internationally and locally) generates research, and research generates engagement and impact.

Thematic Areas and Research Led Teaching

TJI pursues its research agenda through theoretical and empirical work that seeks to transform and develop the theory and practice of transitional justice. The Institute's research interests are currently structured around the following four broad research themes:

- **Dealing with the past; Cluster leader Professor Louise Mallinder**
- **Gender, conflict and transition; Cluster leader Dr Azadeh Chalabi**
- **Northern Ireland: local and global perspectives; Cluster leader Dr Anne Smith**
- **Theory, Method and Evaluation; Cluster leader Professor Cath Collins.**

For more details on these see: transitionaljustice.ulster.ac.uk



ulster.ac.uk/research