

## **Research Environment (REF5)**

### **UoA 20: Law**

#### **a. Overview**

The Law submission for the University of Ulster is led by the research structures, processes and outputs of the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI). Since RAE 2001 the law unit rapidly developed from having a nascent research focus to being an established institutional configuration with local and international research power. In 2002 a standalone School of Law was established. In 2003, funding of £4.2 million from Atlantic Philanthropies and the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) enabled the creation of TJI, capturing and maximising existing research strengths in a peace agreement context where members of the School of Law were engaged in cutting-edge legal and policy thinking. Past and present scholars at Ulster were key actors in reshaping Northern Ireland's post-conflict political and legal order (e.g. McWilliams: co-founder Women's Coalition, negotiator Good Friday Agreement and NI Human Rights Chief Commissioner, Dickson: first NI Human Rights Chief Commissioner, Ní Aoláin: Irish Human Rights Commissioner, O'Loan: Police Ombudsman for NI). Consolidation of research strengths makes TJI an international leader as a centre of research and policy excellence in conflict and post-conflict transitions. Major contributions to the field are outlined in s.5. Scholarly success is exemplified by the Institute's results in RAE 2008; Law at Ulster experienced the fastest rise of any law unit in the UK, with 90% of research activity scoring in the internationally recognised category 2\* and above (from 37<sup>th</sup> ranked place in 2001 to 13<sup>th</sup> in 2008 out of 67 Law Schools).

The TJI is one of 15 Research Institutes created by the University of Ulster to provide sustained support for the management of research activities. Institutes engage in research, teaching, and administrative functions. TJI has equal status with the School of Law within the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Institute and School cooperate closely and have significantly overlapping membership. In tandem with transitional justice (TJ) scholarship, researchers in TJI and the School of Law engage in socio-legal and doctrinal legal analyses. TJI is the primary vehicle through which research leadership in law operates at an intellectual level, as well as a staff-development level. To facilitate staff research interests in other areas of legal analyses, TJI supports a Law and Society research group within the School of Law. This group is led by a research coordinator and is funded from the TJI Research Strategy budget.

From its inception, TJI has been committed to multidisciplinary research. In addition to recruitment policies outlined below, the University's Research Institute structure enables this by bringing together scholars from multiple disciplines with common research interests through an Associate Researcher mechanism. TJI draws researchers from politics, Celtic studies, sociology, social policy and criminology, and they are central to TJI's scholarly and policy mechanisms. Most TJI staff, including those from non-law backgrounds, are returned in this law submission; only a small number of non-law researchers are submitted to other panels. Inter-disciplinarity and multi-disciplinarity are reflected in the individual profiles of researchers in the TJI/ Law submission.

TJI has an integrated and sustaining relationship with the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at the university (<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk>), which is associated with the United Nations University. This relationship is underpinned by the dual TJI/INCORE membership of the INCORE director (Hamber), and by the Faculty based Inter-Institute Peace and Conflict Cluster, structurally bringing together researchers working on peace and conflict research.

The strengths of TJI's research concentration result in a unique 'law led' interdisciplinary entity. This tracks broader trends in law and society research internationally. TJI was the first scholarly research and policy entity in the TJ field to structurally engage with interdisciplinary theory building, practice and policy thereby setting a new modality of research in the TJ field (cf. (2007) 3(2) *International Journal of Law in Context*). The Institute's research interests are structured around broad themes: dealing with the past; gender, conflict and transition; Northern Ireland: local and global perspectives; and theory, method and evaluation. These themes grew directly from TJI's intellectual vision of conceptualising TJ as a broad and overlapping interdisciplinary field. In the past decade our research themes have developed in response to changing strategic objectives and adjusted to emerging in-house and recruited expertise. The streams are not simply clusters of scholars within the Institute, but areas where TJI decided further expansion and revision of the field was necessary. These streams provide the framework in which we host exploratory workshops, invite Visiting Fellows, seek external funding for new research project, and establish research collaborations. Research streams

also contribute to sustained relationships with governments, NGOs and international entities involved in Northern Ireland (NI) and beyond. Each research stream is led by a young researcher developing long-term research leadership capacity at TJI (Smith, Mallinder, O'Rourke, Moyo). Membership of the research streams is not static, and TJI researchers work concurrently within different or multiple streams.

## **b. Research strategy: Evaluation of RAE 2008 Research Strategies**

TJI researchers played a founding role in defining the contours of the TJ field, and continue to shape its contemporary preoccupations (cf. field's founder Teitel, *Transitional Justice* (OUP 2000)). TJI is dedicated to examining how law and legal institutions assist (or not) political transitions. The Institute's aims are: to build a theoretical and practical understanding of the role of TJ, and the underlying relationships between justice, peace and democracy; to examine the role of international and domestic legal systems and institutions in facilitating transitions; to make links between NI and international experiences, so as to benefit both NI and other contexts; to inform policy makers involved in peacemaking in local and international institutions; and to make visible and critically examine gendered experiences of transition. The Institute has established authoritative analyses of rapidly developing legal controversies in NI for the benefit of a global audience. TJI brings comparative experiences and international influences back to NI.

In RAE 2008, strategic goals drawn from the Institute's 2006-8 Strategic Plan included:

- Delivering high levels (quality and quantity) of academic outputs
- Producing practical outputs for a range of non-academic audiences
- Maintaining and developing a sustainable research environment
- Consolidating and developing work within the research streams
- Increasing research income
- Engaging in further international research networking
- Supporting early career researchers to become established scholars
- Continuing diffusion of social science methodologies in the university's legal research

Since 2008, we have implemented two further strategic plans, supported by University and Faculty strategic plans. Our success in achieving some strategic goals is addressed elsewhere (e.g. scholarly outputs; impact documents; and measures taken to ensure sustainability, support for ECRs, and deepen our international networking). Strategic goals were exceeded by deepening praxis with international institutions (e.g. UN Women), advancing regional expertise through appointments, and maintaining research funding levels beyond national averages. A 2009 mapping exercise for the research streams developed concrete activities, e.g. enhancing our networks in the Middle East and North Africa and creating a new stream on theories, methodologies and impact. This change reflects the interests of interdisciplinary TJI researchers in diverse theoretical and methodological approaches and corresponds to greater awareness within the TJ field of the need to interrogate the impact of TJ for victims and societies.

### ***Main Research Objectives and Activities, 2013-18***

Parallel with impact objectives (see impact template), our strategic objectives until 2015 include:

- Produce publications which consolidate and advance TJI's academic and intellectual leadership in the field of Transitional Justice with relevance to NI and other post-conflict sites
- Deepen innovative multi-disciplinary research through new partnerships and research collaborations with an emphasis on new and cyclical conflict sites
- Maintain support to staff advancing TJI's research agenda through the Institute's research support mechanisms and processes for integrating community and institutional praxis
- Support ECRs to develop through the TJI's research support mechanisms and encourage external relationships and policy connections for ECR research
- Facilitate staff participation in international conferences and conference/seminar delivery at the TJI with a focus on under-represented communities and new conflict and transition sites
- Develop other institutional and comparative collaborations particularly with those engaged in policy-oriented research in conflict and transition settings
- Support individual staff members garnering indicators of esteem and furthering the scholarly impact of their work, particularly through encouraging leadership in community, philanthropic, and institutional entities working on transitional justice and related scholarly issues
- Continue to address the sustainability of the TJI, including minimising administrative burdens generally and in particular on senior researchers

- Consolidate and enhance post-graduate programmes e.g. by developing studentships for non-EU doctoral students, specifically students from conflict zones

### **Monitoring Attainment of Strategic Targets**

TJI Director (Rolston) and Associate Director (Ní Aoláin) have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Institute, for implementing decisions of Management and Faculty Boards; and for ensuring that University reporting requirements are met. The Management Board comprises the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), the Research Office, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, TJI Directors, Head of School of Law, and Research Graduate School. TJI discusses progress towards fulfilling its strategic objectives with the Management Board. TJI is concurrently an integral part of and reports to the Faculty Board. The inclusion of representatives of different university departments enhances TJI's capacity to maximise its research support from the University. In addition, the Social Sciences Faculty Research Forum consisting of the Dean, TJI Directors, Research Graduate School, and directors of other faculty research institutes provides a cohesive coordinating mechanism for research and planning. All REF related assessment and oversight is channelled through the TJI, and the Directors function as REF submission leaders for the unit of assessment, with sustained engagement by the Law/TJI Professoriate. TJI also has an External Board with members drawn from international institutions (ICC and UN Women) and scholars in the International Law, Human Rights and TJ fields. The External Board gives strategic, funding and research support advice to the Institute. Board members also contribute to teaching, conferences and partnerships with other institutions.

### **New and Developing Initiatives**

A number of externally funded research projects are ongoing (post 2013). These include: AHRC, 'Amnesties, Prosecutions and the Public Interest in Northern Ireland'; British Academy, 'Assessing Gender Harms and Remedies in Post-Conflict Societies'; ESRC, 'Lawyers, Conflict and Transition'; Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, 'Northern Ireland: Democracy and Social Change'; Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, 'Political Capacity Building: Advancing a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland', British Academy, 'Release of Political Ex-Prisoners in South Africa and Northern Ireland'; SLSA, 'Understanding Costs and Benefits in Feminist Engagement with International Law' and SLSA 'The Role of Databases in Transitional Justice Research'. These projects enable us to build on existing research strengths, to reach new TJ actors and expand our global networks (e.g. Cambodia, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, South Africa, Chile), and to develop innovative methodologies, such as database research. Numerous funding bids are in final stages of preparation/awaiting funder decision: AHRC Care for the Future (collaborative bid with partner within UU, international academics and non-academic users); European Commission FP7, 'Reconceptualizing the Role of the Media in Conflict and Peacebuilding'; ESRC Future Leaders Scheme; Leverhulme Mid-Career Fellowship, and British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship.

TJI researchers have monographs in progress: Brown, *Marshalling Memory: The Politics of Commemoration in Divided Societies* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014); Ní Aoláin, *Gender and the Law of Occupation* (under review); McEvoy & Mallinder (eds), *Routledge Major Works in Transitional Justice* (Routledge); O'Connell, *Europe, Law and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2014); Moyo, *Gender and Transitional Justice in Post-colonial Africa* (under review); Campbell & Ní Aoláin, *The Paradox of Democratic Transition* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). Several major conferences are planned e.g. Gender & Conflict Conference (2013). In 2015, TJI will co-host a conference for PhD students resulting from 2013 revision of our postgraduate programme.

### **c. People, inc: (i) Staffing Strategy and Staff Development**

The Institute in tandem with the School of Law fosters a positive research environment, focused on research success and nurturing collective outputs, collaborative work and celebrating research success. Membership of the Institute is criteria and performance based, requiring inter alia sustained research outputs, SSRN publication evidence, and conference participation.

TJI's recruitment objectives strongly emphasise interdisciplinarity. This was supported by targeting Research Council UK postdoctoral fellowships at both lawyers and non-lawyers (e.g. political science, anthropology, gender studies) and appointing non-lawyers in subsequent professorial recruitment strategies (e.g. political science). External appointments are supported by the recruitment of non-law researchers from within UU as TJI members and associates. Recruitment strategies complement other strategic objectives by hiring international researchers to build ties with scholars and practitioners in critical partnership jurisdictions (e.g. Wills/Ireland,

Teitel/US, Collins/Latin America, and Moyo/Southern Africa) and to enhance our links with praxis in NI and elsewhere (e.g. McWilliams returned as a TJI associate post term as NI Human Rights Commissioner). Newly recruited academic staff are required to be research active.

The demographic profile of submitted staff shows a consolidation of research strength. Staff include a significant number of early career researchers (3 of 22, Mallinder, Moyo and O'Rourke). 14 are women. 17 are British or Irish, and 5 are non-nationals. 3 staff members are on fixed-term contracts. There are 6.9 professors, 2 readers, 2 senior lecturers, and 9 lecturers. 4 professors are part-time at 20%-30% contract (rolling), with one having a primary affiliation to University of Minnesota and one with a primary affiliation to New York University, but with sustained, long-term TJI institutional and research connection. Six staff had periods of maternity or adoptive leave.

A consistent feature of a unit of researchers with strong international profiles is staff turnover due to international lawyers' high mobility, and their attractiveness to other institutions. Our active research model enables staff to undertake secondments to national and international institutions (e.g. O'Rawe: NI's Coroner's Office; Connolly: newly established ICRC offices NI). Departed or seconded staff retain connections to the University through career breaks, institutional collaborations, Visiting Professorships, seminar and conference participation, and Ph.D. examination. The cluster structure of research at TJI enables core research activity to maintain vibrancy with research leaves, fieldwork, maternity or other absences or departures.

Staffing strategy strongly emphasises building on our research stream strength, drawing in young researchers and 'growing' their research capacity. Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are given particular support, aided by structural provision from the University's Research Office. This includes making targeted funds available to enable ECRs' reduced teaching loads. Senior academics mentor ECRs through University probation mechanisms, TJI's research review processes, a culture of paper reading and feedback, and a strong tradition of collaboration between young and established researchers, including doctoral students (e.g. Rooney & Swaine, Ní Aoláin & Hamilton, Campbell & Connolly, Campbell & Turner, Campbell & Alvarez, Ní Aoláin & O'Rourke, Bell & O'Rourke). TJI research funding also supported external mentoring with leading international academics on a one-to-one basis. In terms of succession planning, ECRs are given opportunities to build their CVs e.g. appointing ECRs as research streams coordinators with devolved research budgets enabling them to develop independent programmes of research. This cycle two ECRs have obtained promotion (Mallinder - Reader, and O'Rourke - Senior Lecturer).

***Developing the Research Careers of All Staff:*** TJI is committed to developing the research careers of all staff including research assistants and postdoctoral researchers and implements a number of measures in addition to the support for ECRs. TJI is led by a Director (Rolston) & Associate Director (Ní Aoláin), enabling our professorial staff to share research leadership and allowing professors capacity to advance their own research agendas in each research cycle. The University policy on research leave states that research-active staff can take one paid sabbatical of one semester's duration once every five years and that sabbaticals are to be promoted among Research Institute staff, especially for the most productive researchers (e.g. Ní Aoláin 2011 study leave for a fellowship at Institute of Advanced Studies, Israel; Wills 2013 study leave to be Ariel F. Sallows Chair at University of Saskatchewan, Canada; and McWilliams 2013 to enable North African field work). Ulster is committed to the principles of the Concordat on the career development and management of Contract Research Staff. It has introduced policies to support contracted research staff. TJI adheres to these policies e.g. Research Associates register for Ph.D. cost-free (Connolly, O'Rourke). Two post-doctoral fellows received permanent lectureships on completion of fellowships. The Institute has not had any Category C staff 2008-13.

***Maintaining Research Quality and Integrity:*** TJI has a number of processes for supporting research in progress. In the early part of the REF cycle bi-annual research reviews were undertaken with TJI and Law researchers. Towards the end of the cycle we moved to once yearly review. Reviews provide sustained and supportive oversight of colleagues' research and impact activity and identify areas of support needed. Year round, researchers exchange feedback on work in progress through informal lunchtime seminars and reading draft publications. TJI has an established practice of senior researchers co-authoring with junior colleagues. In doing so, TJI researchers adhere to the university's Guidelines on Authorship and Publication. All published outputs are reviewed by TJI/Law Professors. Consistent external review of published outputs was an integral part of our REF strategy, engaged from beginning to end of the research cycle.

Located in a geographically peripheral region to the United Kingdom, international networking

and bringing world-class research scholars to the University is a priority for TJI. Participation at national and international conferences is part of the Institute's membership criteria. To facilitate this, each staff member is given a research budget and additional funding for conferences and research support can be sought on request. The Minnesota Partnership supported by both Universities has enabled nine members of staff and three Ph.D. students to spend periods of research time at the University of Minnesota Law School (range from 1-4 weeks) and access its library resources (UN Depository library) and connect with faculty. The University's Higher Education Innovation Fund has also supported fieldwork (e.g. Rolston, Chile 2012).

The University has a rigorous and user-friendly research governance policy and a Guide to Research Governance and Research Ethics. It has a Research Ethics Committee and a network of Filter Committees at School, Faculty and Research Institute levels to review student and staff applications for ethical approval. ECR O'Rourke is a member of these Committees. Regular audits are held to monitor compliance with research governance. Storage equipment and spaces are provided for safe keeping of research data and technical support facilitated for database.

**(ii) Research students:** In conjunction with the School of Law, TJI recruits of diverse and highly accomplished doctoral students, many attracted to the Institute as a result of the reputation of the researchers and the dynamism of the research environment. Ph.D. students are members of the Faculty's Research Graduate School (RGS) – a dedicated School for graduate research students in a mechanism receiving strong approval in a 2005 QAA audit. The RGS organises yearly multidisciplinary 'panel' hearings (involving all supervisors and other researchers) for students to monitor progress, provide feedback, and prepare for viva. The International Office addresses particular needs of international students. Based on their subject area and supervisors, admitted students become TJI affiliates on admission to the RGS. All students are housed in a high quality designated Ph.D. working space at TJI. Students are fully integrated into the research life of the Institute and form a key element of research vibrancy. Many take leadership roles (e.g. SSRN co- editors, conference organisation, co-authoring with TJI researchers, consultancy). Ph.D. students have participated in conferences and other events, and benefited from the Minnesota Transitional Justice Partnership spending research periods in residence at a top 20 US law school.

**Studentships and Prizes for Doctoral Students:** Doctoral students from EU countries who reside in the UK have benefited from competitive studentships towards their tuition fees and maintenance from the NI Dpt. for Employment and Learning. Students from UK, EU and overseas students have benefitted from the competitive Vice-Chancellor's Research Scholarships (VCRS) for tuition fees and maintenance. TJI has received one scholarship from the Federal Government of Nigeria Education Trust Funds. Fieldwork is supported by the Recurrent and Research Support Grant attached to DEL and VCRS studentships, and funding from the RGS. TJI research funds augment these sources (field sites include Bosnia, East Timor, Liberia, Colombia, and the Basque region) and support for national and international conference participation (e.g. Law and Society Association, International Studies Association, SLSA). External funding received from Alexandria University Faculty of Law, the Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University SAIS and Society for Latin American Studies. Doctoral students have been awarded the Modern Law Review prize and the Basil Chubb Prize of the Politics Studies Association of Ireland for the best PhD thesis (produced in an Irish university) in any field of politics (Drummond & O'Rourke).

**Training for Postgraduate Research Students:** All doctoral students are required to participate in University's Researcher Development Programme. This offers research and employability training to early career researchers, contracted research staff and doctoral students. The Research Graduate School and TJI can also fund doctoral students to participate in external training programmes, where appropriate. Ph.D. students may teach for six hours per semester.

**Contribution of Submitted Staff to Doctoral Programme:** All submitted staff supervise doctoral students. As successfully supervising doctoral students is a criterion for promotions, ECRs are encouraged to supervise PhDs as part of a supervisory team with senior colleagues. All staff seeking PhD supervision must undertake the appropriate university training courses. Recruitment strategies for doctoral students enable research active staff to identify projects they wish to supervise on the Research Graduate School and TJI website. As a result, PhD recruitment is focused around gaps that have been identified within our research streams. This fully integrates our doctoral researchers into the Institute's research environment.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

**Research Funding:** The current research spend in TJI/Law is £1.9 million which is four times the national UK average. Major and prestigious external funding has been received following competitive applications to: Atlantic Philanthropies, NI Department of Employment and Learning, Nuffield Foundation, Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council, British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA), NI Community Relations Council, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Medico International, European Union Peace III funding, Marie Curie Framework 7, International Development Research Centre, Felzer Institute, and Bucknell. Competitive bids for consultancies have resulted in TJI being awarded funding from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, the Committee for the Administration of Justice/British Irish Rights Watch, UN Women and the OHCHR. TJI deliberately seeks out non-traditional community funding sources (e.g. Bridge of Hope).

Our high success rate in obtaining research funding has contributed substantially to the volume and quality of our outputs. For example, the SPUR funding supported the creation of a vibrant research environment in TJI in which researchers produced ten monographs. Several of these were published by prestigious university presses and were awarded prizes (e.g. Bell received the 2009 Hart Socio-Legal Book Prize). TJI researchers also produced a large number of influential journal articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals including International Journal of Transitional Justice, International & Comparative Law Quarterly, Journal of Law and Society, Legal Studies, Modern Law Review, Journal of Human Rights Practice, Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, Contemporary Social Science, Human Rights Law Review, African Journal of Legal Studies, Memory Studies, and International Journal of Law in Context. Several of externally funded research projects have enabled researchers to work in partnership with international scholars and research users (e.g. the Sustainable Peacebuilding Project funded by Marie Curie Framework 7 enabled TJI researcher to work within a large research consortia of scholars from Austria, Turkey, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Belgium). Resource intensive database and archival research was also enabled by such long-terms and sustained funding relationships.

**Strategies for Generating Grant Income Appropriate to the Discipline:** The University Research Strategy encourages all research active staff to generate grant income from prestigious sources appropriate to their discipline. To support this, the University provides access for staff to ResearchProfessional.com and the Research Office assists staff by identifying funding opportunities, providing support in preparing funding applications, and providing funding for the creation of international networks from which collaborative funding bids can be developed. Within TJI, strategies to support funding applications include internal reviews ensuring quality of funding applications; the provision a TJI Research Handbook detailing funding opportunities for research projects, collaborations, training, networking, and fellowships; administrative support on developing project budgets; and collaborative applications between senior researchers and ECRs. TJI researchers share successful applications with colleagues.

**Infrastructure:** TJI is housed in architecturally striking 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings at the Jordanstown and Magee campuses. Both sites have dedicated seminar and PhD rooms, and individual offices for research staff, administrators and visiting fellows. The buildings' calibre greatly assists the positive research ethos and the capacity to host multiform research gatherings. Built into the establishment of the Institute (DEL & AP) was dedicated funding to support a full-time highly qualified Administrator (Lisa Gormley LL.M., MBA) and 1.5 secretarial staff. The University's commitment to the sustained maintenance of the research environment is evidenced by commitment to fund these positions as permanent posts. TJI researchers also benefit from technical support from staff in other university departments, particularly IT and libraries.

The University Research Strategy stipulates that research institutes will be allocated research funding from QR and indirect costs from external funding. The Law submission to the Research Assessment Exercise (2008) led by TJI obtained an outstanding result. This result translated into a significant £668,808, which is allocated to the TJI by the Research Office to support a range of research activities among TJI and Law Researchers. The University's Research Office funds exceptional projects deemed particularly important on a competitive basis each semester. In 2009-10, the TJI received support for the following strategic initiatives: Transitional Justice Partnership with the University of Minnesota and the SSRN Transitional Justice Institute Research Paper Series. In 2011 further funding from the University's Office of Innovation 'Research Impact Awards' was received to enhance the impact of ongoing research on Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland and Transitional Justice in the Middle East and North Africa. The

Research Office has also developed research policies on issues such as research ethics, data management and archiving, and intellectual property which are implemented by TJI.

**e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

TJI has developed as a respected institution which functions as a collaborative collection of researchers, with an institutional impact among scholars, students and policymakers. In its early years, the TJ field was primarily focused on transitions from repressive regimes. TJI was the first scholarly or policy body to systematically apply the frame and language of TJ to the range of issues post-conflict, and in particular to the challenges of implementing TJ within democratic states. The impact of such foundational influence has clearly played a part in reframing the nature of the post-agreement environment in NI and elsewhere. Scholars from TJI were among the first to link analyses of the use of emergency law, in comparative context, to War on Terror 'innovations' (see Campbell & Connolly, Ní Aoláin); to identify that a 'piecemeal' approach to the past was at play in NI rather than a vacuum (see Bell, Campbell & Ní Aoláin); to define what a 'holistic' approach might look like – a template followed closely in the Consultative Group on the Past Report (see Campbell & Turner). Furthermore through its work on dealing with the past, TJI has innovated by connecting acknowledgement, accountability, remembering, and institutional reform in combined ways (see Hamber 2010). A particular and internationally recognised contribution of TJI has been sustained gender analysis by interdisciplinary scholars – making it a pioneer in this hitherto neglected area, nationally and internationally. This research revealed the complexity of criminalising sexual violence within conflict situations; addressed the wide range of harms experienced in conflict situations by women, including political marginalisation and socioeconomic harms; and analysed the impact of conflict on familial relationships. Researchers in TJI have also used innovative or risky methodologies including conducting fieldwork in conflict zones. Among our key contributions are the creation of several large-scale open access databases by researchers in TJI and INCORE providing a unique resource for scholars and practitioners in the fields of TJ and conflict transformation.

**Interdisciplinary Research:** Transitional justice is an interdisciplinary field of research. Research at TJI is both interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary, with scholars co-authoring and writing across disciplinary boundaries. This has been supported institutionally by targeting core and associate appointments at both lawyers and non-lawyers. Currently the membership of TJI comprises lawyers, political scientists, sociologists, psychologists and social policy scholars. Within the Institute interdisciplinary research is explored in particular in the Theory, Method and Evaluation research stream. The innovative research environment is also demonstrated by TJI artistic collaborations with Rita Duffy, Cahal McLaughlin, and David Turner - all visual artists, thematically focused on issues of change and conflict. Collaborations include large-scale public art expositions and scholar/artist led art-exhibitions (cf. <http://www.ulsterquakerservice.com/Our-View.pdf>) addressing under-represented groups in NI. Externally, interdisciplinarity is pursued through research collaborations and visiting scholars. As well as hosting respected legal scholars and TJ practitioners, via our visiting scholar programme TJI welcomed researchers in political science, history of art and design, and criminology. Visiting scholars are listed on the TJI website.

**National and International Academic Collaborations:** TJI engages in sustained collaborations with other institutions, all of which contribute to our research environment. TJI and the Minnesota Law School have a longstanding Transitional Justice Partnership supporting an academic exchange programme between staff and students from multiple faculties at University of Minnesota (UofM) and TJI (from 2003). Outputs include: Special Issue of the *Minnesota Journal of International Law* on Exceptional Courts and *Guantanamo and Beyond* (Cambridge University Press CUP 2013); international conference on gender and conflict in May 2012 (co-sponsored by the ASIL), and a further conference on Gender and Conflict during November 2013 in Belfast to showcase the *Gender and Conflict Handbook* (OUP 2014). Both universities contribute to funding the partnership and the Robina Foundation provides substantial funds via the University of Minnesota. The partnership advances TJI's profile in North America, offers capacity for partnering on various academic activities and generally raises our US profile.

The TJI and Netherlands Institute of Human Rights' collaboration on *Transitional Jurisprudence, The ECHR and Other Regional Human Rights Approaches to Transition* resulted in a monograph (CUP, 2011) with multiple contributions from scholars in both institutions. A collaboration with Prof. Twining, who held a Leverhulme Emeritus Professorship at TJI, resulted in a symposium funded by British Academy and Twining (ed), *Human Rights, Southern Voices* (CUP 2009). A new collaboration is developing between TJI and the Transitional Justice programme at the Hebrew University (TJ@HU). This has resulted in a joint conference in Jerusalem in December 2012 and a group student and faculty visit to TJI (June 2013). Ní Aoláin and Teitel are Board members of the TJ@HU programme. In addition to institutional collaborations, research projects led by TJI researchers foster international collaborations (e.g. 2011-2013 project funded by the Nuffield Foundation, Mallinder and Hadden convened an Expert Group of interdisciplinary scholars and

practitioners from around the world to draft the Guidelines on Amnesty and Accountability).

**Collaborations with Research Users:** TJI often partners with research users in research design, implementation and dissemination. For example, TJI developed a research project with the Committee for the Administration of Justice and British Irish Rights Watch to monitor and evaluate the work of public inquiries into conflict-related deaths in NI. The collaboration resulted in a jointly published report. Mallinder and colleagues are advancing an AHRC funded knowledge exchange project with Healing Through Remembering (HTR), the leading TJ NGO in NI. Engaging with research users is a core part of TJI's outreach and public events programme. For example, a 2011-13 collaboration with NGO and civil society groups in NI including Relatives for Justice, the Pat Finucane Centre, WAVE Trauma Centre, Charter NI and the Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium resulted in the 'TJ@theCoalFace' seminar series. TJI researchers also engage with research users through consultancy projects (e.g. UN Food and Agriculture Organisation; UNESCO; International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture; NI Human Rights Commission). Many TJI staff sit on the steering committees, or executive boards of international organisations, including the Open Society International Women's Board; Khulumani (South Africa); Fambul Tok (Sierra Leone); Christian Aid (Ireland); Securing Europe Through Counter-Terrorism: Impact, Legitimacy and Effectiveness; the IUCN Environmental Law Commission Specialist Group on Water and Wetlands; and Ní Aoláin and Rolston are on UN's Roster of Experts. Within NI, TJI and the School of Law is represented on the boards of the NI Law Centre; Healing Through Remembering; Relatives for Justice; the Policing Board; Hanna's House, NI Council for Ethnic Minorities; Committee on the Administration of Justice; Bridge of Hope; NI Human Rights Festival; NI Commission for Children and Young People's budget analysis project; Londonderry Inner City Trust; Buildings Preservations Trust; APEX Housing; and the Afro community support organisation of Northern Ireland (ACSONI). O'Connell edits the blog RightsNI, founded by CAJ and Amnesty International NI. These collaborations enrich our research environment by deepening our relationships with users, inspiring us to develop research questions with real-life relevance, enabling us to test the applicability of theoretical assumptions on how TJ concepts are understood and used on the ground and the impact that TJ processes have for those who work within them, participate with them as victims and witnesses, and for transitional societies as a whole.

**The TJI and Law Seminar Series:** TJI seminar series has consistently allowed engagement and knowledge exchange with local actors who are interested in TJ advancing policy praxis. The Law series is focused on engagement with practitioners interested in local legal issues.

**Contributions to Journal Editorship and Preparation:** Researchers at TJI regularly peer review journal articles from across multiple disciplines. These include: Global Society; International Journal of TJ; International Studies Perspectives; Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers; World Politics; Comparative Political Studies; J. Latin American Studies; J. African Law; Melbourne J. Int'l L; J. Human Rights; Ethical Theory and Moral Practice; & Global Journal of Political Science and International Relations. We are represented on the editorial and advisory boards of International Journal of Transitional Justice, Journal of Human Rights and Welfare, Israel Law Review, Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Rights Law, State Crime, Race and Class and Migrant Rights Now.

**Contribution to Professional Associations or Learned Societies, and Developmental Disciplinary Initiatives:** TJI researchers have founded and lead networks of TJ scholars (e.g. Teitel & Ní Aoláin co-founded the American Society for International Law Interest Group on TJ and the Rule of Law and served as chairs, Mallinder is now Vice-Chair). Bell was a founding member of the London TJ Network. Beyond transitional justice, Ní Aoláin is on the Executive Committee of ASIL and Chair of the 2014 ASIL/ILA Annual Meeting. O'Connell is a member of the UK team of Bologna Experts, coordinated by the British Council. TJI researchers are also fellows of the Higher Education Academy.