



## Centre for Social Informatics



The Centre for Social Informatics (CSI) was established at Edinburgh Napier University in the late 1990s by Professor Elisabeth Davenport. Since then researchers within the group have developed a distinctive body of work that reflects a shared interest in socio-technical interaction at different levels of organisation, and at different stages in the system life cycle. This work has also considered methods to support research in these areas. The Centre provides critical perspectives on, as well as analysis of, ICT trajectories, socio-technical and organisational issues with particular focus on:

- ▶ Democratic digital engagement
- ▶ e-Government
- ▶ Information policy
- ▶ Information seeking behaviour and use
- ▶ Knowledge management
- ▶ The Information Society
- ▶ Online communities
- ▶ Open data and open government

Our research is funded by a variety of bodies including: charities e.g. the Carnegie Trust for Scotland; companies; government agencies, e.g. Skills Development Scotland; professional bodies, e.g. the Archives and Records Association (ARA) and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP); and the UK research councils, e.g. Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

In the latest UK assessment of research (REF2014) the Centre continued to demonstrate its research excellence with 74% of research output submitted to Unit of Assessment 36 judged to be world-leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*). The research environment also attracted a high score: 90% 4\* and 3\*.

**Dr Hazel Hall, Professor:** Hazel leads the research in the Centre. Her main research and teaching interests lie in information sharing in online environments.

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**Dr David Brazier, Lecturer:** David's research focuses on the information interactions of users in online environments web search and e-government platforms, with particular interest in information seeking behaviours and information literacy.

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**Pritam Chita, Lecturer:** Pritam's research uses Activity Theory to explore facets of project management.

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**Peter Cruickshank, Lecturer:** Peter's main area of research is the information practices involved in the use of Internet technologies for participation in democratic processes, particularly at the hyperlocal level.

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**Dr Wegene Demeke, Lecturer:** Wegene's research focuses on the interactions between technology and society, including the adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and the impacts that they have on society.

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**Callum Egan, Researcher:** Callum is a Research Fellow who focuses on digital media design.

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**Dr Laura Muir, Associate Professor:** Laura's research interests include information seeking behaviour and human-centred design of information systems and services.

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**Dr Bruce Ryan, Researcher:** Bruce's research interests are around the use of ICT in (hyper)local government, with a focus on Scottish Community Councils, and participatory budgeting in Brazil and Scotland.

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**Dr Frances Ryan, Researcher:** Frances' research focuses on human information behaviours related to sharing and evaluating information in online environments, especially in relation to reputation and identity.

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**Dr Colin Smith, Associate Professor:** Colin's research examines the relationships between ICTs, innovation and organisational change, particularly in the contexts of e-government and e-democracy.

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**Dr Ella Taylor-Smith, Researcher:** Ella's research within the Centre for Social Informatics focuses on the use of online and offline spaces in democracy and collaboration. Her wider interests include social informatics, social media, identity, transitions, and digital skills.

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**Dr Gemma Webster, Lecturer:** Gemma's main research interests lie in the field of human computer interaction, health care, older adults, and community and assistive technologies. She is keen to establish collaborative partnerships that involve 'real-world' environments, problems, and partners.

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**Najla Alamri:** Najla is a part-time PhD student based in the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at King Abdulaziz University. Her research explores interactive education for female students in Saudi Higher Education.

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**Leo Appleton:** Leo's main research interests are based around the role, value, and impact of libraries. For his PhD, he investigates the value and impact of UK public libraries in the Information Society.

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**Iris Buunk:** Iris is exploring the influences of social media tools on tacit knowledge sharing practices between employees within public sector organisations.

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**John Marshall:** John's research focuses on work-based learning environments (WBLE) for fostering industry-relevant skills and optimal economic performance. He is currently completing his MScR in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and is an associate member of the CSI team.

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**Lyndsey Middleton (née Jenkins):** The primary focus of Lyndsey's PhD is workplace learning and innovation. She is interested in workplace learning development, innovation in the workplace, innovative work behaviours, and information behaviours related to learning, career decision making, and associated influences.

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**Lynn Killick:** The focus of Lynn's research is the future of the population census and its role in informing the good society. This work has been undertaken as part of a wider project that examined information and its role in society as part of the AHRC-funded *Informing the Good Society* (InGSoc) project.

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**Marina Milsosheva:** Marina's research focuses on developing theoretical insight and enhancing the career information literacy and career decision-making skills of young people. She is currently completing her MScR in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and is an associate member of the CSI team.

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**Rachel Salzano:** Rachel's PhD research focuses on the ways in which culture influences the use of public library resources in immigrant and refugee populations. This work will help public libraries tailor programmes and resources to more effectively serve their communities.

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**Katherine Stephen:** Katherine's research is focused on the measurement and development of meta-skills, in particular in the workplace. She is interested in information behaviours and practices and how they relate to metacognitive knowledge, experiences and regulation.

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#### Recent PhD completions:

**Dr Alicja Pawluczuk:** *Youth digital culture co-creation: measuring social impact in Scotland*

**Dr Frances Ryan:** *Reputation management in a digital world: the role of online information in the building, management, and evaluation of personal reputations*

**Dr John Mowbray:** *The role of networking and social media tools during job search: an information behaviour perspective*

- Appleton, L., Hall, H., Duff, A. & Raeside, R.** (2018). UK public library roles and value: a focus group analysis. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 50(3), 275-283. doi:10.1177/0961000618769987.
- Brazier, D., Walton, G., & Harvey, M.** (2019). An investigation into Scottish teenagers' information literacy and search skills. *Information Research*, 24(1).
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- Cleverley, P., & **Muir, L.** (2018). Using Knowledge Organization Systems to automatically detect forward-looking sentiment in company reports to infer social phenomena. *Knowledge Organization*, 45(2), 152-169. doi:10.5771/0943-7444-2018-2-152.
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- Egan, C., Thompson, R., & O'Dowd, A.** (2019). The Lions' Gate: towards a permaculture-inspired blended space. In: *Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop on Computing within Limits (LIMITS '19)*. ACM, New York, NY, Article 7, 8 pages. Doi:10.1145/3338103.3338110.
- Hall, H., Cruickshank, P. & Ryan, B.** (2019 in press). Closing the researcher-practitioner gap: an exploration of the impact of an AHRC networking grant. *Journal of Documentation*. doi:10.1108/JD-12-2018-0212.
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- Middleton, L., Hall, H., Muir, L., & Raeside, R.** (2018). The interaction between people, information and innovation: information literacy to underpin innovative work behaviour in a Finnish organisation. In: *Proceedings of the 81st Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 55(1). doi:10.1002/pa2.2018.14505501040.
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- Mowbray, J. & Hall, H.** (2019 in press). Networking as an information behaviour during job search: a study of active job seekers in the Scottish youth labour market. *Journal of Documentation*.
- Pawluczuk, A., Webster, G., Smith, C.F., & Hall, H.** (2019). The social impact of digital youth work: what are we looking for? *Media and Communication*, 7(2). doi:10.17645/mac.v7i2.1907.
- Ryan, F., Hall, H., Cruickshank, P. & Lawson, A.** (2019). Build, manage and evaluate: information practices and personal reputations on social media platforms. Paper presented at *Conceptions of Library and Information Science 10 (CoLIS10)*, Ljubjana, Slovenia, 16-19 June 2019.
- Taylor-Smith, E., & Smith, C.F.** (2018). Investigating the online and offline contexts of day-to-day democracy as participation spaces. *Information, Communication & Society*. doi:10.1080/1369118X.2018.1469656.