



## Centre for Social Informatics



Since the late 1990s, researchers in the Centre for Social Informatics (CSI) have developed a distinctive body of work to reflect a shared interest in socio-technical interaction at different levels of organisation, and at different stages in the system life cycle. They also consider 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 a focus on:

- ▶ Democratic digital engagement
- ▶ e-Government
- ▶ Information behaviour and practices
- ▶ Information and digital literacy
- ▶ Information and knowledge management
- ▶ Information policy
- ▶ The Information Society
- ▶ Online communities
- ▶ Technology and policy development
- ▶ Work-based and organisational learning

The Centre's 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 last UK assessment of research (REF2021) the Centre continued to demonstrate its research excellence. For Unit of Assessment 34, 76% of the Centre's submission overall was judged as internationally excellent (3\*) or world-leading (4\*). The components of Impact and Research Environment attracted high scores: Impact 100% at 3\* and 4\*; Environment 90% at 3\* and 4\*.

**Dr David Brazier, Lecturer:** David researches information interactions in online environments, web search, and e-government platforms, focusing on information seeking behaviours and information literacy. [d.brazier@napier.ac.uk](mailto:d.brazier@napier.ac.uk) • @BrazierPhD [www.napier.ac.uk/people/david-brazier](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/david-brazier)

**Dr Pritam Chita, Lecturer:** In his research, Pritam uses Activity Theory to explore project management. [p.chita@napier.ac.uk](mailto:p.chita@napier.ac.uk) • @Strat\_Info\_Mgmt [www.napier.ac.uk/people/pritam-chita](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/pritam-chita)

**Dr Peter Cruickshank, Associate Professor:** Peter's main research interest is information practices in the use of Internet technologies in respect of identity, and participation in democratic processes. [p.cruickshank@napier.ac.uk](mailto:p.cruickshank@napier.ac.uk) • @spartakan [www.napier.ac.uk/people/peter-cruickshank](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/peter-cruickshank)

**Dr Elisabeth Davenport, Emeritus Professor:** Lizzie established the CSI in the late 1990s and led the work of the group until her retirement in 2008. She continues to be involved in the group as Emeritus Professor. [e.davenport@napier.ac.uk](mailto:e.davenport@napier.ac.uk)

**Dr Brian Detlor, Visiting Professor:** Brian's research interests lie at the intersection of users, information, and information systems, with a focus on digital literacy. He is based at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada. [detlorb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:detlorb@mcmaster.ca) • @briandetlor <https://www.degroote.mcmaster.ca/profiles/brian-detlor>

**Dr Khristin Fabian, Research Fellow:** Khristin's research focus is ICT in education, including user engagement in online learning, and the adoption and evaluation of learning technologies. [k.fabian@napier.ac.uk](mailto:k.fabian@napier.ac.uk) • @khristinfabian <https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/khristin-fabian>

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**Dr David Haynes, Lecturer:** David's research concerns the regulation of the digital environment, with a focus on privacy and risk and knowledge organisation systems to improve information governance and online safety. [d.haynes@napier.ac.uk](mailto:d.haynes@napier.ac.uk) • @jdavidhaynes [www.napier.ac.uk/people/david-haynes](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/david-haynes) <https://davidhaynes.co.uk>

**Dr Debbie Meharg, Associate Professor:** Debbie researches the impact of technology on policy issues, especially as related to gender. [d.meharg@napier.ac.uk](mailto:d.meharg@napier.ac.uk) • @dmeharg [www.napier.ac.uk/people/debbie-meharg](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/debbie-meharg)

**Dr Bruce Ryan, Senior Research Fellow:** Bruce's main research interests are ICT in government, patients' information use/non-use, and information literacy research. [b.ryan@napier.ac.uk](mailto:b.ryan@napier.ac.uk) • @bruce\_research [www.napier.ac.uk/people/bruce-ryan](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/bruce-ryan) • [www.bruceryan.info](http://www.bruceryan.info)

**Dr Frances Ryan, Lecturer:** Frances' research focuses on information sharing and use in online environments, especially as it relates to everyday life and 'lived' or real-world experiences. [f.ryan@napier.ac.uk](mailto:f.ryan@napier.ac.uk) • @francesryanphd [www.napier.ac.uk/people/frances-ryan](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/frances-ryan) <https://francesryanphd.com>

**Dr Colin Smith, Associate Professor:** Colin's research examines the relationships between ICTs, innovation and organisational change. [cf.smith@napier.ac.uk](mailto:cf.smith@napier.ac.uk) @Col\_Fergus • [www.napier.ac.uk/people/colin-smith](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/colin-smith)

**Dr Ella Taylor-Smith, Senior Research Fellow:** Ella researches the use of online and offline spaces in democracy. She is also interested in digital skills/careers and creative research methods. [e.taylor-smith@napier.ac.uk](mailto:e.taylor-smith@napier.ac.uk) • @EllaTasm [www.napier.ac.uk/people/ella-taylor-smith](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/ella-taylor-smith)

**Dr John Paul Vargheese, Lecturer:** JP's research focuses on the application of persuasive technologies and behaviour change interventions to address interdisciplinary challenges in areas such as health and social care and human factors in cybersecurity. [J.Vargheese@napier.ac.uk](mailto:J.Vargheese@napier.ac.uk) <https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/jp-vargheese>

**Dr Gemma Webster, Lecturer:** Gemma's main research interests lie in the field of human computer interaction, with a focus on health care, older adults, and community/assistive technologies. [g.webster@napier.ac.uk](mailto:g.webster@napier.ac.uk) • @GemmaDucat [www.napier.ac.uk/people/gemma-webster](http://www.napier.ac.uk/people/gemma-webster)

**Aleksander Bielinski:** In his Skills Development Scotland/ESRC-funded doctoral study, Alex is investigating the use of machine learning and natural language processing to enhance labour market intelligence.

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**Maria Cecil:** In her Skills Development Scotland/ESRC funded doctoral research, Maria is exploring gendered information landscapes and their impact on routes into, and through, apprenticeships. She will take up the +3 component of her 1+3 doctoral study at Edinburgh Napier University in 2022/23 following completion of her MSc(R) in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Edinburgh in 2021/22.

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**Thokozani Kachale:** In his doctoral study, Thoko is adopting an organisational evolutionary approach to investigate the interactions of information systems and organisational strategies, using a range of methods of data collection.

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**John Marshall:** John's Skills Development Scotland/ESRC-funded doctoral research is concerned with work-based learning environments for fostering industry-relevant skills and optimal economic performance.

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**Marina Milosheva:** In her Skills Development Scotland/ESRC-funded doctoral study, Marina is developing theoretical insight on the enhancement of career information literacy and career decision-making skills of young people.

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**Rachel Salzano:** Rachel's doctoral research on perceptions of the role of public libraries, and the use of their services by forced migrants in the UK, develops enhanced understanding of cultural factors as determinants of information behaviour and use.

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**Katherine Stephen:** Katherine's Skills Development Scotland/ESRC-funded doctoral research centres on metaskills development in the workplace, tacit knowledge, experiential learning across disciplines and industries, and information literacy as a capacity to work within a dynamic, socio-technological process.

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**Natalie Wangler:** Natalie is working on a doctoral study on the links between levels of trust in digitisation and democratic thinking.

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**Marianne Wilson:** In her Skills Development Scotland/ESRC-funded doctoral research Marianne is exploring the ethical and effective application of artificial intelligence dialogue systems to support the delivery of careers guidance in Scotland.

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#### Recent PhD completions:

**Dr Najla Alamri:** *Enabling female student interaction in synchronous virtual classrooms in Saudi Higher Education* (2022)

**Dr Pritam Chita:** *Obstacles and opportunities in implementing large-scale agile project management: re-positioning activity theory as an analytical tool* (2022)

**Dr Peter Cruickshank:** *Evaluation of engagement with hyperlocal e-participation systems by citizens and representatives* (2021)

**Dr Leo Appleton:** *The 21st century public library in England and Scotland: epistemic, community and political roles in the public sphere* (2020)

**Dr Iris Buunk:** *Social media as facilitators of tacit knowledge sharing practices amongst public sector employees* (2020)

**Dr Lyndsey Middleton:** *Exploring the development of innovative work behaviour of employees in multiple workplace contexts* (2020)

**Dr Alicja Pawluczuk:** *Youth digital culture co-creation: measuring social impact in Scotland* (2019)

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**Chita, P., Cruickshank, P., Smith, C.F.** & Richards, K. (2020). Agile implementation and expansive learning: identifying contradictions and their resolutions using an Activity Theory perspective. In V. Stray, R. Hoda, M. Paasivaara & M. Kruchten (Eds). *Proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Agile Software Development, XP 2020* (pp. 3-19). Springer. DOI:10.1007/978-3-030-49392-9\_1

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**Haynes, D.** & Robinson, L. (2021 available ahead of print). Delphi study of risk to individuals who disclose personal information online. *Journal of Information Science*. DOI:10.1177/0165551521992756

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**Milosheva, M., Hall, H.** & Robertson, P. & **Cruickshank, P.** (2022). New information literacy horizons: making the case for career information literacy. In S. Kurbanoglu, S. Špiranec, Y. Ünal, J. Boustany & D. Kos (Eds.) *Information literacy in a post-truth era: 7th European Conference, ECIL 2021 (online), September 20–23, 2021, revised selected papers* (pp. 239-252). Springer.

**Salzano, R., Brazier, D., Hall, H., & Webster, G.** (2022 forthcoming). What are public libraries for? Culture as a determinant of conceptualizations of public library services for forced migrants. In: *Proceedings of the 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, October 29 – November 1, Pittsburgh, USA.

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**Stephen, K., Hall, H., Brazier, D. & Smith, C.** (2022 forthcoming). Collaborative learning of metaskills through peer conversation: an intervention study. Paper presented at *International Conference on Organisational Learning, Knowledge and Capabilities 2022*, September 7-9 2022, Trollhättan, Sweden

Widén, G., Ahmad, F., Nikou, S., **Ryan, B., & Cruickshank, P.** (2021). Workplace information literacy: measures and methodological challenges. *Journal of Information Literacy*, 15(2), DOI:10.11645/15.2.2812

Williams, R., Cloete, R., Cobbe, J., Cottrill, C., Edwards, P., Markovic, M., Naja, I., **Ryan, F.**, Singh, J. & Pang, W. (2022). From transparency to accountability of intelligent systems: Moving beyond aspirations. *Data and Policy*, 4(c7). DOI:10.1017/dap.2021.37

**Wilson, M., Cruickshank, P., Gkatzia, D., & Robertson, P.** (2022). Opportunities and risks for the use of artificial intelligence in career development practice. *Journal of the Institute for Career Education and Counselling*, 47(1) (pp. 48-57). DOI: 10.20856/jnicec.4807