Since the late 1990s, researchers in the Social Informatics Research Group 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 Social Informatics Research Group 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 Social Informatics Research Group’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 Social Informatics Research Group 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*. 
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(bit.ly URLs are links to institutional web-pages.)
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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. maria.cecil@napier.ac.uk • @MScRMaria • https://bit.ly/maria_cecil

Drew Feeney: Drew’s doctoral studies centre on developing user-led approaches to supporting digital literacies, with a focus on older adults and the digital challenges they face. Drew is examining these challenges from both systematic and practical perspectives, to develop new methodological processes to support ongoing digital literacy formation in this key section of our population. andrew.feeney@napier.ac.uk • https://bit.ly/drewfeeney

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Lijuan Luo: In her doctoral study, Lijuan is adopting activity theory to address a knowledge gap by providing a new analysis of the integration of international and intercultural dimensions into academics’ experiences of internationalisation at home (IaH) in the computing and engineering discipline. L.Luo@napier.ac.uk • https://bit.ly/lijuanluo

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Collins Ovie: Collins’ doctoral studies focus on the privacy and security risks faced by employees when working from home. He is investigating employers’ and employees’ attitudes to privacy and security issues, through a digital literacy lens. collins.ovie@napier.ac.uk • https://bit.ly/collinsovie

Rhonda Rathburn: In her SGSAH ARCS funded doctoral research, based at the University of Glasgow and in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University and the National Library of Scotland, Rhonda is exploring how to engage with, and represent, excluded and non-participant communities in the evaluation and assessment of library services in Scotland. 2832984R@student.gla.ac.uk • @RhondaRathburn • https://bit.ly/rhondarathburn

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. k.stephen@napier.ac.uk • @MetaskillsPhD • https://bit.ly/katherine_stephen

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Recent PhD completions

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

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