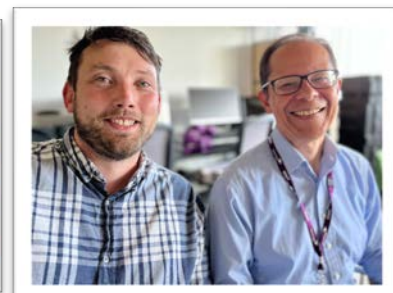




Social Informatics Research Group



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*.

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 • @BrazierPhD • <https://bit.ly/davidbrazier>

Dr Pritam Chita, Lecturer: In his research, Pritam uses Activity Theory to explore project management. p.chita@napier.ac.uk • @Strat_Info_Mgmt • <https://bit.ly/pritamchita>

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 • @spartakan • <https://bit.ly/petercruickshank>

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

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 • @briandetlor • <https://bit.ly/briandetlor>

Dr Khristin Fabian, Lecturer: 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 • @khristinfabian • <https://bit.ly/khristinfabian>

Dr Hazel Hall, Emeritus Professor: Hazel's main research interests are information behaviour and use, online communities and collaboration, library and information science research, and impact. Hazel led the research group between 2009 and 2022. h.hall@napier.ac.uk • @hazelh • www.hazelhall.org

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 • @j davidhaynes • <https://bit.ly/jdavidhaynes> • davidhaynes.co.uk

(bit.ly URLs are links to institutional web-pages.)

Dr Diane Rasmussen McAdie (was: Pennington), Professor: Diane's current areas of focus are ethical cataloguing, non-textual metadata, social media, and online health information provision. d.mcadie@napier.ac.uk • @infogamerist • <https://bit.ly/dianemcadie> • infogamerist.blog

Dr Debbie Meharg, Associate Professor: Debbie researches the impact of technology on policy issues, especially as related to gender. d.meharg@napier.ac.uk • @dmeharg • <https://bit.ly/debbiemeharg>

Dr Bruce Ryan, Senior Research Fellow: Bruce's main research interests are ICT in government, and information literacy. b.ryan@napier.ac.uk • @bruce_research • <https://bit.ly/bruceryan> • 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 • @francesryanphd • <https://bit.ly/francesryan> • francesryanphd.com

Dr Rachel Salzano: Rachel is a new lecturer in the Applied Informatics Subject Group, having recently earned her PhD. Rachel continues to research information practices and public libraries, alongside teaching responsibilities. r.salzano@napier.ac.uk • @LibraryGryphon • <https://bit.ly/rachelsalzano> • www.librariansanslibrary.weebly.com

Dr Colin Smith, Associate Professor: Colin's research examines the relationships between ICTs, innovation and organisational change. cf.smith@napier.ac.uk • @Col_Fergus • <https://bit.ly/colinfsmith>

Dr Ella Taylor-Smith, Senior Research Fellow: Ella is currently involved in research around gender balance in IT/STEM, work-based learning, and student experience in higher education. e.taylor-smith@napier.ac.uk • @EllaTasm • <https://bit.ly/ellataylor-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 • <https://bit.ly/jpvargheese>

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. aleksander.bielinski@napier.ac.uk • @pecuniafactorem • <https://bit.ly/aleksanderbielinski> • blogs.napier.ac.uk/aleksander-bielinski

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>

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. t.kachale@napier.ac.uk • @ThokozaniKacha3 • <https://bit.ly/thokokachale>

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>

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. j.marshall2@napier.ac.uk • @JohnMarTweets • <https://bit.ly/jommarshall>

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. m.milosheva@napier.ac.uk • @marinamilphd • <https://bit.ly/marinamilosheva> • mari-milo.github.io

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

Natalie Wangler: Natalie is working on a doctoral study on the links between levels of trust in digitisation and democratic thinking. natalie.wangler@napier.ac.uk • @Natalie_Wangler • <https://bit.ly/nataliewangler>

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. m.wilson2@napier.ac.uk • @marianne_clare • <https://bit.ly/mariannewilson>

Recent PhD completions

Dr Rachel Salzano: *The influence of culture on perceived use of public libraries by forced migrants in Scotland and England* (2023)

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 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)

- Alhayan, F., **Pennington, D.** and Ayouni, S. (2023). Twitter use by the dementia community during COVID-19: a user classification and social network analysis. *Online Information Review*, 47(1), 41-58. DOI: [10.1108/OIR-04-2021-0208](https://doi.org/10.1108/OIR-04-2021-0208).
- Bielinski, A.**, & Broby, D. (2023). Machine learning and the optimal choice of asset pricing model. In S. H. Jafar, H. Kannan, H. El-Chaarani, S. Moturi, & N. Gupta (Eds.), *Artificial intelligence for capital markets* (pp. 91–127). CRC Press. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.1201/9781003327745-7/machine-learning-optimal-choice-asset-pricing-model-aleksander-bielinski-daniel-broby>.
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- Fabian, K.**, Smith, S., **Taylor-Smith, E.**, & **Meharg, D.** (2022). Identifying factors influencing study skills engagement and participation for online learners in higher education during COVID-19. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 53, 1915–1936. DOI: [10.1111/bjet.13221](https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.13221).
- Feeney, A. J.** (2023 in press). “New Clicks” - developing user-led digital literacies in older adults within Scottish public libraries. *Proceedings of the 9th European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL 2023)*, Krakow, Poland, 9th-12th October 2023.
- Hall, H., Ryan, B., Salzano, R.** and **Stephen, K.** (2022), From a network model to a model network: strategies for network development to narrow the LIS research–practice gap, *Journal of Documentation*, 79(3), 757-783. DOI: [10.1108/JD-04-2022-0088](https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-04-2022-0088).
- Harvey, M., & **Brazier, D.** (2022). E-government information search by English as a second language speakers: the effects of language proficiency and document reading Level. *Information Processing and Management*, 59(4), Article 102985. DOI: [10.1016/j.ipm.2022.102985](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ipm.2022.102985).
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- Kachale, T.**, Demeke, W., Chrysoulas, C., & Romdhani, I. (2023 in press). An exploratory qualitative study of middle managers' lived experiences in contribution to strategic alignment at a public university. *Proceedings of the 11th World Conference on Information Systems and Technologies (WorldCist'23)*, Lodz, Poland, 26th-28th March 2023.
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- Salzano, R., Brazier, D., Hall, H.**, & Webster, G. (2022). What are public libraries for? Culture as a determinant of conceptualizations of public library services for forced migrants. In: *Proceedings of the 85th annual meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 59(1), 276–286. DOI: [10.1002/pra2.752](https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.752).
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