



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



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*.

Centre for Social Informatics Research staff

Dr Hazel Hall, Professor: I lead the research in the Centre. My main research and teaching interests lie in information sharing in online environments. Other themes in which I maintain an active interest include social computing/media, online communities and collaboration, library and information science research, and research impact. I am interested in making contact with others who conduct similar research, and in facilitating connections for those who would like to take advantage of my extensive network of contacts to link with the academic communities at Napier, in Scotland, and in the UK.

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Peter Cruickshank, Lecturer: My main area of research is the adoption and use of Internet technologies for participation in democratic processes, particularly at the hyperlocal level. I teach in the area of information security, with particular interests in the cultural and organisational factors that underpin security. These two areas encompass concepts of identity and information behaviour.

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Dr Wegene Demeke, Lecturer: My 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. My main areas of interest are: the effects of information on society; ICT as a driver of change; and the disruptive effect that Big Data and the Internet of Things exert on organisations.

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Dr Laura Muir, Associate Professor: My research is focussed on user-centred design of information systems and services. I am interested in expanding my network and discussing research collaborations with others.

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Dr Bruce Ryan, Researcher: My research and personal interests coalesce around the use of ICT in (hyper)local government with a focus on Scottish Community Councils. Facets of these interests include: the technologies that are (and could be) used in such contexts; the means by which elected representatives learn to deploy technology and to process information; the formation of human networks around such matters; and how hyperlocal governments 'learn'.

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Dr Colin Smith, Lecturer: In my research I examine the relationships between new ICTs and strategic innovation and organisational change, particularly in the contexts of e-government and e-democracy. I am interested in collaborations around my core research interests. These include: the evaluation of the contribution of the Internet to the role played by political parties in contemporary democratic practices; the assessment of digital delivery platforms for public services; and the exploration of the implications of new web-based technologies for parliamentarians.

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Dr Ella Taylor-Smith, Researcher: My research within the Centre for Social Informatics focuses on the use of online and offline spaces in democracy. My wider interests include: social informatics, social media (especially images), eParticipation, identity, and transitions.

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Dr Gemma Webster, Lecturer: My main research interests lie in the field of human computer interaction, health care, older adults, and community and assistive technologies. I am an experienced multidisciplinary researcher, keen to establish collaborative partnerships that involve 'real-world' environments, problems, and partners.

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Centre for Social Informatics research students

Najala Alamri: I am a part-time Napier PhD student based in the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at King Abdulaziz University. My research explores interactive education for female students in Saudi Higher Education. N.Alamri@napier.ac.uk | <https://www.napier.ac.uk/people/najla-alamri>

Leo Appleton: My main research interests are based around the value and impact of libraries. For my PhD I am investigating the value and impact of UK public libraries in the Information Society, and their role in citizenship development. In addition I am interested in the role that public libraries play in the generation and exchange of intellectual, social, and transactional capital.

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Iris Buunk: In my doctoral work I am exploring the influences of social media tools on tacit knowledge sharing practices between employees within public sector organisations. I am interested in discussing opportunities regarding post-doctoral research on tacit knowledge and online knowledge sharing practices as related to social media affordances and e-learning.

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Lyndsey Middleton (née Jenkins): I am interested in workplace learning development, innovation in the workplace, innovative work behaviours, and information behaviours and use as related to learning, career decision making, and associated influences (personal, context and environment). The primary focus of my ESRC-funded PhD is workplace learning and innovation, and I would be interested in collaborations on this or any of my other research interests.

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Lynn Killick: The focus of my PhD 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. My particular area of interest is the use of research and application of evidence in non-academic environments. I am open to discussions about future collaborations on similar themes.

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John Mowbray: My research interests include networking as an information seeking behaviour, social networks, social media, job search, and employability. I explored these themes in my ESRC-funded PhD completed in early 2018.

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Alicja Pawluczuk: I am passionate about participatory digital storytelling and community development. My PhD research focuses on digital youth, informal education, and social impact evaluation in Scotland. I am interested in learning about similar projects, and I am keen to network with researchers exploring the role of digital media in youth development.

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Frances Ryan: For my doctoral research I am investigating the role of online information in personal reputation management in the context of everyday life information seeking and human information behaviours and use. I am interested in collaborations on these (and related) interests. I am also keen to discuss opportunities for post-doctoral research projects based on the output of PhD thesis or similar themes.

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Recent and forthcoming publications from CSI

- 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).
- Buunk, I., Smith, C.F. & Hall, H.** (2018). Tacit knowledge sharing in online environments: locating 'Ba' within a platform for public sector professionals. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.
- Cleverley, P.H., Burnett, S. & **Muir, L.** (2017) Exploratory information searching: a study of user satisfaction and task performance. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 68(1), 77-96.
- Hall, H., Cruickshank, P. & Ryan, B.** (2018). Long-term community development within a researcher network: a social network analysis of the DREaM project cadre. *Journal of Documentation*, 74(4), 844-861.
- Hall, H., Cruickshank, P. & Ryan, B.** (2018). Practices of community representatives in exploiting information channels for citizen democratic engagement. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.
- Middleton, L., Hall, H., & Raeside, R.** (2018). Applications and applicability of Social Cognitive Theory in Information Science research. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.
- Middleton, L.** (2018, October). How do we use information to help us learn to innovate in the workplace? A case study of a Scottish University. Poster to be presented at *Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) 2018*, Kraków, Poland, 9-11 October 2018.
- Mowbray, J., Hall, H., Raeside, R. & Robertson, P.J.** (2018). Job search information behaviours: an ego-net study of networking amongst young job-seekers. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.
- Mowbray, J., Hall, H., Raeside, R., & Robertson, P.** (2017). The role of networking and social media tools during job search: an information behaviour perspective. *Information Research* 22(1).
- Pawluczuk, A., Webster, G., Smith, C.F. & Hall, H.** (2017). Digital culture co-creation: capturing the social impact of small-scale community projects. Paper presented at *Ways of being in a digital age review conference*, Liverpool, 10-11 October 2017.
- Pawluczuk, A., Webster, G., Smith, C.F. & Hall, H.** (2017). Evaluating the social impact of youth digital culture co-creation: let's participate and play. Paper presented at *Make Believe – The 2017 British Human Computer Interaction Conference*, Sunderland, 3-6 July 2017.
- Pawluczuk, A., Smith, C., Webster, G., & Hall, H.** (2018). Social impact evaluations of digital youth work: tensions between vision and reality. Paper to be presented at *Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) 2018*, Kraków, Poland, 9-11 October 2018
- Ryan, F., Cruickshank, P., Hall, H. & Lawson, A.** (2018). Blurred reputations: Managing professional and private information online. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*.
- Taylor-Smith, E., & Smith, C.** (2016). Non-public eParticipation in social media spaces. In: Gruzd, A., Jacobson, J., Mai, P., Ruppert, E., Murthy, D. (Eds.) *Proceedings of SMSociety '16*. ACM.
- Taylor-Smith, E., & Smith, C.** (2018). Investigating the online and offline contexts of day-to-day democracy as participation spaces. *Information, Communication & Society*.