Research Presentation Day (RPD)
4 December 2021
10am to 2.30pm – via Zoom

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RPD Purpose

This is the 21st year of Graduate Women Scotland's RPD, and our second year hosting a virtual conference. In today's world, we believe it is imperative that the voices and work of female researchers are lifted-up; therefore, the purpose of the day is to highlight to a general audience the important work being conducted by some of Scotland's women PhD students.

Additionally, the RPD provides these PhD students with a friendly space in which to practice discussing their work in more general terms. This ensures that, as they grow as researchers, their work will continue to have a wider impact.

GWS Purpose

Graduate Women Scotland promotes the advancement of women and girls globally and locally. We advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels. GWS is part of the University Women of Europe and Graduate Women International.

RPD Schedule

Time	Panel	Name	Title
9.45	Room Opens		
10.00-10.05	Welcome	Dr Rachel Marsh President – Graduate Women Scotland	
10.05-10.30	Demonstration	Maria Insa Iglesias	Visualisation in Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality
		Q&A and Adjudicator's remarks	
10.30-10.35	Break		
10.35-11.35	Sciences	Emilie Lambourg	Pain and Analgesia in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease
		Marwa Waly	Development of Integrated Sustainable Industrial Waste Management Plan
		Kathryn Burton	Development of Optical Nanobiosensors for the Detection of Illicit Drugs
		Q&A and Remarks	
11.35-11.40	Break		
11.40-12.40	Social Sciences	Elysha Ramage	Not Going to University and Social Class
		Erin Rennie	Feminist Social Media Activism and Online Abuse Against Women and Girls
		Oluwatomisin Dada	Brexit and Social Care in Scotland: An Exploration of the Perceived Impact on Workforce Sustainability
		Q&A and Remarks	

12.40-13.20	Lunch Break and Poster Presentations	Linda Nicholson	Understanding the Lived Experience of Formal and Informal care for Older People with Dementia
		Anfaal Ahmad-Khan	The Nature of Accountability & Capital: 'Adapting' & 'Enduring' in the Chipursan Valley
		Q&A and Remarks to take place during the session	
13.20-14.20	Humanities	Toni Benedetti-Martin	Body Stigma & Representation: Incorporating health taboos into screenwriting
		Sarah Gharib Seif	Beyond the 'Jihadi Bride': The complicity of British media and governments in the co-constitution of colonial, racialized, and gendered narratives of the women who joined the Islamic State
		Alison Spence	Restoring material properties to digitised archives
		Q&A and Remarks	
14.20-14.25	Closing Remarks		
14.25-14.50	Demonstration This talk includes **distressing themes and images**.	Irene Ros	Performing Stragismo and Counter-spectacularisation: Italian Right-wing Terrorism and Its Legacies
		Q&A and Remarks	

*Please note that this schedule is tentative, and while all efforts will be made to keep to this schedule, some panels may begin at an earlier time than noted.

Adjudicator

Ailen Geraghty

Ailen is a graduate English teacher from I.E.S Lenguas Vivas "Juan Ramón Fernández" (Buenos Aires, Argentina), where she completed her specialisation in English Literature and Gender Studies. She obtained her MLitt in Crossways in Cultural Narratives at the University of St Andrews, Adam Mickiewicz University and University of Santiago de Compostela in 2017. Ailen has been working in the teaching of English as a foreign language for 13 years at different levels and in different parts of the world. Currently, she works in Higher Education with international students as an English and study skills tutor and adviser. Her focus is on helping students of all nationalities clearly disseminate their ideas and research to both an academic and wider audience.

(Speakers and bios on the following pages)

<u>Speaker Bios and Research Abstracts</u>
(In alphabetical Order, one speaker per page)

Anfaal Ahmad-Khan

University of Glasgow – School of Accounting and Finance

Anfaal is a third year Accounting and Finance PhD student at the University of Glasgow.
She received a first class BAcc, Bachelor of Accounting and Finance degree from the University of Glasgow in 2018. She was then awarded the Wards Trust Scholarship to pursue research exploring ecological accountabilities in Northern Pakistan.

Title: *The Nature of Accountability & Capital: 'Adapting' & 'Enduring' in the Chipursan Valley*

This paper explores the ecological nature of accountability. Through conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Chipursan Valley, a remote valley in Gilgit-Baltistan (a Northern province of Pakistan), this study explores the interesting interrelationship between weather, accountability, and capital. Nature-stories coupled with a series of focus groups with the women in the 11 villages scattered throughout the valley revealed that extreme weather and living conditions give rise to two survival mechanisms: 'adapting' and 'enduring' both of which are essential to maintain a livable life in this remote valley. These mountainous women share deep, spiritual attachments with their surrounding Nature(s) which characterize unique forms of ecological accountability and local financial practices in the valley. We find that the flow of local capital is hindered by the extreme weather conditions and difficult geographies of the valley making it difficult/almost impossible for capital to be penetrated and 'performed' (Aitken, 2007). This presents a new economic representation of capitalism; one in which capital is subjugated to nature. Ultimately, we illustrate that Nature is the greater, powerful, reigning force in the Chipursan Valley, controlling both the economic and social facets of everyday life.

Toni L. Benedetti-Martin
Glasgow Caledon University – Glasgow School of Business and Society)

Toni is a screenwriter with a partiality for writing illness and differently-abled narratives. Having studied the Master of Arts in Television Fiction Writing at Glasgow Caledonian University in 2018/19, and comparing her own work to the academic assignments therein, she has taken on the task to investigate the unusually quiet 'space' serious, acquired illnesses takes up in British television drama. She is an advocate of Depression awareness, a budding Tarot enthusiast, and frontwoman of a local Metal band.

Title: *Studying 'Body Stigma & Representation: Incorporating health taboos into screenwriting'*
Pursuing a Doctorate in Philosophy, in the second of three-year study

This research concerns the absence of the chronically ill body in contemporary British television drama, primarily as a symptom of limitations in screenwriting practices. This gap silences the experience of ill-health, something uniquely and totally unifying among all people, and maintains the taboo around the inclusion of body stigma in television drama. Volumes of studies show the power of screen narratives constructing cultural codes, particularly in making elements of a society 'invisible' or 'other.' This can only serve to contribute to the isolation of the newly diagnosed sufferer of long-term illness, which this research aims to prove need not be the case.

This project aims to elucidate how screenwriters conceive the role of ill-health in narrative for television drama in Britain, and determine how this can impact screenwriting practice to include more varied representations of health in British TV drama going forward. Writers with little-to-no personal experience of sickness are inevitably going to be less aware of sickness as a facet of life, and, by association, as a potential tool for their narratives. Such writers lack time, information, and navigation within the illness-experience inside the industrial demand of television drama production, and this project will generate new original knowledge so that this need never be the case again. Alternatively, writers with more in-depth knowledge and understanding of long-term illness experiences are more likely either to be inspired to write a narrative involving health stigma, to recognise illness as a vehicle for narrative structure, and to handle and authenticate the fictional narrative logic in ways that will resonate more deeply with the non-fictional experiences of the audience. Yet the lack of representation on screens suggests little room exists for such insightful work. To evidence this, the project will interview screenwriters, commissioners and producers of British television drama to identify the tension between creativity and constraint in producing television drama.

The intention is for this to benefit the common good by disseminating diverse and accurate information that embraces and destigmatises natural, though disruptive, bodily processes.

Kathryn Burton

University of Dundee – Centre for Forensic Science

Kathryn is a second year PhD researcher at the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science at the University of Dundee. She completed her Master of Chemistry at the University of St Andrews specialising in Medicinal Chemistry. This is Kathryn's first public speaking event in relation to her current research, which is concerned with the development of nanobiosensors which will be used by forensic investigators to identify illicit drugs.

Title: *Development of Optical Nanobiosensors for the Detection of Illicit Drugs*

Drug misuse causes many problems around the world and is often linked with criminal activities. At the scene of a crime, forensic investigators are tasked with collecting all material relevant to the crime in question. Correctly identifying substances as drugs at the scene of the crime can be difficult especially if the substance is spilled onto the surface or in unmarked bags. There are two types of testing which can be carried out on the substance   presumptive testing and confirmative testing. Presumptive testing is generally carried out in the field by either police, in the case of, for example, a stop and search, or by forensic investigators at a crime scene. Presumptive testing should always be followed up with confirmatory testing in a laboratory as false positives and negatives are common with current presumptive tests. My research plans to develop new methods of presumptive testing for illicit drugs including cocaine, synthetic cathinones and opioids, using nanoparticles and a biological component to create a device known as a nanobiosensor. The increasing interest and development of nanomaterials and nanotechnology helps create solutions to the problems that current detection and analytical techniques may have when analysing illicit drugs. I am exploring whether nano sensors can detect very low quantities of drugs selectively. Current presumptive tests are based on chemical reactions between the sample and the indicator being used and most commonly change colour in a specific way that indicates that a particular drug may be present. Many of these tests are very old and non-specific. In my work so far, I have linked zinc quantum dots to gold nanoparticles which were then linked with a piece of DNA called an oligonucleotide aptamer receptor. The receptor binds selectively to cocaine, and when cocaine is present and bound to the receptor, it causes the zinc quantum dot-gold nanoparticle hybrid to fluoresce within two minutes. The nanobiosensor is very sensitive and selective to cocaine under laboratory conditions.

Oluwatomisin Patience Dada
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh – School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management

Oluwatomisin graduated from Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Chemistry in 2012. She also holds a Master of Science degree in International Business Management from Edinburgh Napier University, United Kingdom. Her final dissertation on Cross-cultural Differences in the Perception and Attitudes towards Obesity between the United Kingdom and Nigeria in 2018 was awarded a distinction grade. She has many years of work experience in several areas of the social care sector in Scotland. These include care for adults with dementia, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups with complex needs, migrants and refugees, support for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and learning disabilities, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse as well as gender-based violence. Oluwatomisin's current research interests are focused on an exploration of the perceived impact of Brexit on the social care workforce sustainability in Scotland. This involves a combination of both qualitative and qualitative research techniques to explore multiple stakeholders' views and contexts on how the changes in immigration policies and regulations would affect the Scottish social care labour market following the UK's Withdrawal from the European Union.

Title: *Brexit and Social Care in Scotland: An Exploration of the Perceived Impact on Workforce Sustainability*

Scotland, like most Western nations, has an ageing population necessitating many workers to provide care and support with everyday living. A significant proportion of the social care workforce in the UK is made up of nationals from European Union (EU) countries. This has been largely facilitated by the 'freedom of movement' policy of the EU which allows citizens of member states to migrate to, live and work in any member state without any requirement for visa or work permits. However, the outcome of the 2016 EU referendum eventually led to UK's Withdrawal from the EU (Brexit) on 31st January 2020 with a transition period which ended on 31st December 2020. A major implication of Brexit is the formal end to the freedom of movement policy and its replacement with 'a firm and fair' immigration system that 'prioritises the skills a person has to offer, not where they come from.' However, it is expected that post-Brexit policy changes would have some knock-on effects on the social care labour market in the UK. For example, most frontline social care roles are classed as 'low-skilled' and would not meet the criteria for immigration under the new point-based immigration system.

Employing a combination of qualitative and qualitative research techniques, this study explores the perspectives of some relevant stakeholders on how the Scottish social care workforce would be impacted by these policy changes. This involves in- depth semi-structured interviews of 'social care managers' in some selected adult social care organisations located across Scotland as well as online surveys of EU nationals who are frontline staff in these organisations.

Preliminary findings from this study highlight the concerns of the stakeholders about the effects of restrictive immigration policies on the sustainability of the workforce considering the perennial problem of labour shortages in the sector in the face of an increasing demand for social care. Nonetheless, they recommend some measures to mitigate this risk including the addition of frontline care work to the Shortage Occupation List, a special visa for migrant care workers and increased professionalisation of care work as well as improvement of working conditions of care workers to attract more locals to the sector.

Maria Insa-Iglesias
Glasgow Caledonian University, School of Computing

Maria Insa-Iglesias is a final year PhD student at School of Computing, Glasgow Caledonian University (Glasgow, Scotland). She took her BEng (Hons) in Industrial Design and Product Development at Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain). In 2017 she received an Erasmus+ opportunity at Glasgow Caledonian University to do her final bachelor thesis project as part of the European Project Semester Programme. After a year working in the industry, she was awarded a studentship to start a PhD in Visualisation in Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence.

Her research project aims to develop a suite of Visualisation tools combined with Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) experiences that make data accessible and understandable by allowing domain users to immerse themselves in their data. Combining the immersive experience with Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology aims at enabling domain users to augment their capabilities and decision-making when performing complex tasks in the physical world without requiring AI expertise. She has presented her work at research journals such as Elsevier and IEEE. Her main interest is discovering new systems in which humans and AI collaborate to gain superior insights and social impact, making them accessible to everyone.

Title: *Visualisation in Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality*

The human perception capabilities are strongly conditioned to visual stimulus. This has resulted in the use of computer-based Visualization (VIS) to allow domain users to understand complex datasets and obtain insights. Extracting useful information from such datasets is a big challenge. Most domain users lack the perception capabilities to simplify and transform this data into a more accessible form to extract insights. Combining VIS with AR/VR technologies could enable domain users to explore data in 3D, a more natural way compared to traditional 2D VIS representations. This combination could enrich the existing world by delivering immersive experiences. Moreover, introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) into this combination would enrich domain users' insights and decision-making when performing complex tasks in the physical world.

This research project aims to develop a suite of VIS tools combined with AR/VR experiences that make data accessible and understandable by allowing domain users to immerse themselves in their data. Finding the most valuable visualization and interaction techniques, according to data type and analysis task, in combination with AI technology would enable domain users to augment their capabilities.

Two case studies have been developed to demonstrate the applicability of the proposed research. The first case study is an AR/VR system combined with VIS and AI technology that allows domain users to easily detect anomalies for structural assessment. Users will be able to analyse physical environments through 3D Reconstructions from image/sensor data, not being physically present without requiring AI expertise. The second case study is a Minecraft virtual environment combined with an AI component that aims at supporting and guiding people with disabilities to complete a task towards a goal and interact socially. This game prototype is designed to facilitate an environment where people in congregations, with and without disabilities, could engage and grow spiritually creating more inclusive communities. These case studies propose human-AI collaborative systems that can perform complex tasks to collectively gain superior insights.

Emilie Lambourg
University of Dundee – Department of Population Health and Genomics

Emilie is currently completing a PhD in Epidemiology & Biostatistics in the 'Population Health and Genomics' department at the University of Dundee, under the supervision of Dr Samira Bell and Prof Lesley Colvin. She holds a Pharmacy Doctorate from Aix-Marseille University France, and a MSc in Health Data Analytics from Imperial College London. Emilie is passionate about medical research involving the analysis of healthcare data with a goal of improving patient outcomes. After being involved in a number of systematic reviews and meta-analyses, she is currently conducting pharmacoepidemiological data linkage studies exploring the safety of analgesics in patients with chronic kidney disease, using statistical methods for causal inference.

Title: *Pain and Analgesia in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease*

It has been estimated that 1 in 10 people in the world is affected by chronic kidney disease (CKD). These individuals are more likely to suffer from pain than the general population. This can be explained by multiple factors such as the comorbid conditions associated (diabetes, cardiovascular diseases) or more specific pain conditions related to kidney dysfunction, with musculoskeletal pain being most frequently reported. Experiencing chronic pain can lead to subsequent depression, insomnia, decrease in social interactions and daily activities, and greater healthcare costs due to a higher use of other medical resources. Moreover, it is very challenging to treat pain in patients with a reduced renal function as they are at an increased risk of side effects, drug interaction and toxicity. The fear of side effects combined with a lack of proper guidelines can leave physicians reluctant to prescribe analgesic treatments, affecting the quality of life of patients with CKD. On the other hand, if analgesics are prescribed inappropriately side effects are a serious risk for patients with CKD. Our work has involved conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses to summarize current knowledge on this topic. We found that 60% of patients with CKD suffer from pain, with a slightly lower prevalence in kidney transplant recipients. Nerve pain was found in around 10% of patients with CKD. Being overweight or having diabetes was associated with an increased risk of suffering from that type of pain.

We also observed that opioids are very frequently prescribed to patients with CKD. Indeed, over a year half of them receive at least one opioid prescription. Being exposed to opioids was associated with an increased risk of mortality, hospitalization and fracture. A greater risk was found when higher doses were prescribed.

There is a need for more studies involving patients with CKD to find effective and safe pain management strategies specifically tailored to this vulnerable population. Their pain must be assessed and treated in order to improve their quality of life but it is important to ensure that the right analgesic at the right dose is chosen in order to avoid life-threatening side effects.

Linda Nicholson
University of Dundee – School of Applied Life Sciences

I currently teach health sciences, ungraduated level, at the University of the Highlands and Islands. My background is in nursing, with over thirty years of experience as a general nurse and mental health nurse. I completed the MSc in Advanced Nursing Practice at UoD in 2015 and pursued my specific area of interest, dementia, at PhD level. I am committed to achieving high quality care for older people, particularly for people with dementia (PwD). Hence, the reason for undertaking this research is to hear the voice of PwD about aspects of their care.

Title: *Understanding the Lived Experience of Formal and Informal care for Older People with Dementia*

Dementia is a rising global issue with an estimated 50 million people living with dementia, and the number is predicted to double every 20 years (WHO, 2019). There is similarly an ongoing rise in the number of people with dementia living in Scotland, with currently over 90,000 people, set to rise to 164,000 by 2036 (Alzheimer's Scotland, 2019). This means that caring for people with dementia (PwD) poses a significant burden on society, families and care services (WHO, 2019). Consequently, radical solutions are necessary. One key solution to providing optimum care for PwD and reducing care costs is by using the person-centred care approach (PCC). However, it is not well understood how people with dementia experience formal care services, from their perspective. Hence, this research explores PwD experiences of care, from their perspective, and how far these care experiences are person-centred (PCC).

Aims and Objectives
    1. Understand how PwD experience formal health and social care
    2. Explore and determine how this fits with the principles and current practices of PCC.
    3. Explore and identify the challenges and facilitators required for delivering formal PCC

Methods
    Qualitative research design using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).
    Semi-structured interview guide.
    Audio-record interviews either online or by telephone
    Transcribe interviews verbatim after the interview.
    Analyse the interviews using IPA.

Results
    Eight PwD had a variety of care experiences. Some were person-centred, some not so person-centred.

Discussion / Conclusion
    There were variations in the way that PwD experienced care services indicating that there are barriers and facilitators in achieving PCC for this group.

Elysha Ramage

University of Glasgow – School of Economics

Elysha is a part time 3rd year Economics PhD student at the University of Glasgow. My undergraduate degree was in Psychology and she has an MSc in Career Guidance and Development. She works professionally as a Careers Coach and is a practitioner-researcher.

Title: *Not Going to University and Social Class*

Abstract: In the past fifty to sixty years (Carpentier, 2018) there has been a rapid expansion in participation in higher education meaning that it is no longer a preserve of the elite. However, despite this expansion there remains a gap between the most and least privileged in terms of higher education participation. Research shows consistently that despite attempts at widening access this gap still exists globally (O.E.C.D, 2018, Chowdry et al., 2013, Carneiro and Heckman, 2002, Schindler and Lorz, 2012). There are many prescribed benefits for participating in higher education that policy makers are keen to extoll such as improved earnings, better health and social capital (Montenegro and Patrinos, 2014). Indeed, the starting point for most economic studies of educational choice is based on human capital theory which suggests that, given there is a graduate wage premium, and in the presence of either perfect capital markets (or, in this case, government-funded low interest loans) it is irrational for qualified young people not to choose higher education. That they do so requires examination of other influences which affect their decision and its consequences. This longitudinal qualitative project brings in career decision making theory and aims to investigate the choices of qualified Scottish young people and seeks to uncover the process of decision making which led them to choose an alternative post-school route to university. Eleven school leavers, not choosing to go to university were interviewed on their decision-making choices and post-school plans. The data from the first cohort of interviews was analysed using thematic analysis and key themes identified were as 'university as a risky investment', 'incentives of alternative choice', 'university as an informed choice', 'interaction with information sources' and 'impact of rural location'. Key conclusions so far, were that the decision-making process was complex and unique to each participant. However, participants were making a choice rational to them and their context, with the information they had, but often their information was based on vivid anecdotal accounts from key individuals in their support networks and commonly held perceptions

Erin Rennie

Glasgow Caledonian University -- Glasgow School for Business and Society

Erin is a third-year PhD student from Glasgow Caledonian University in the Social Sciences department. She graduated from Stirling University with a MSc in Gender Studies (Applied) where she researched the nature of online abuse against women sharing their stories of sexual violence on social media through the #MeToo movement. Her current PhD research focuses on women's experiences of and responses to online abuse encountered during their engagement with activism that raises awareness of and challenges men's violence against women and girls.

Title: *Feminist Social Media Activism and Online Abuse Against Women and Girls*

Abstract: My research explores women's experiences of online abuse triggered by their involvement in social media activism that raises awareness of and challenges men's violence against women and girls. It is already known what characterises online abuse against women (e.g., name-calling, discriminatory comments, doxing, personal attacks, revenge pornography and threats of sexual violence and death), however, there is a lack of research into women's lived reality of online abuse. Like previous feminist researchers, I conceptualise online abuse as an extension of offline misogyny and as a form of men's violence against women and girls. Online abuse is a part of the continuum of violence women experience in their lives. Like offline violence against women, it has been posited that online abuse aims to silence women and thus exclude them from the online space. Within the context of activism that challenges men's violence, I argue that despite social media being heralded as an unprecedented opportunity for freedom of speech and engagement with activism, online abuse punishes women for speaking out and attempts to disrupt the discourse about male violence and limit women's disclosure of violence.

While there has been an increasing body of research focused on online abuse directed at women and feminist activists specifically, there is a lack of research into how women are impacted and subsequently navigate the online space. My research aims to address this gap by exploring women's lived experiences of online abuse triggered by their activism. The research uses a feminist methodology with mixed methods (online survey and semi-structured interviews) and explores how women understand the abuse they experience, how it impacts them on and offline, and how they respond to it. The emerging themes include women's fear, women's online safety, risk of offline escalation, safety work, emotional labour, women's resilience, and women's resistance. The findings of this research will contribute to the growing body of feminist research in this area and influence policy to benefit women in the pursuit of gender equality.

Irene Ros
University of Edinburgh and the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Irene Ros is a mother of two, a theatre and performance practitioner, and a AHRC-SGSAH funded PhD student with the University of Edinburgh and the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, with the project 'Performing Stragismo and Counter-spectacularisation: Italian Right-wing Terrorism and Its Legacies'. Her work has always been inspired by politics, gender equality and the media, with a focus on the results of globalisation on people and places. Her practice includes engaging with small communities, and creating the conditions for empowerment. She ran the Italian company Ursa Maior between 2002 and 2012, working as artistic director, director and producer. She is the co-founder of the charity Cut Moose, a collaboration dedicated to producing thought-provoking performances that highlight under-represented perspectives on contemporary narratives.She graduated with distiction from the MA Performance Design and Practice at Central Saint Martins (University of the Arts, London) in 2018.

Title: *Performing Stragismo and Counter-spectacularisation: Italian Right-wing Terrorism and Its Legacies*

During the so-called Years of the Lead (1969-1980), Italy suffered the largest number of terrorist attacks in Europe. Historian John Foot defines Italian collective memory as 'divided'; although the judicial processes often determined who was responsible for the attacks, the identity of the instigators, perpetrators and the motivations behind this political violence are still a reason for dissent. What did contribute to shaping the Italian 'divided' memory?

With this interdisciplinary project between Italian studies and Theatre and Performance studies, I interrogate the model of spectatorship established by Italian live performance in the 70s, and I ask if this model influenced the way Italian citizens experienced right-wing political violence.

I argue that, by analysing right-wing bombing attacks as performances, we can understand more about the terrorists' agenda and about the reaction that the terrorists expected from the 'audience'. By comparing this expected reaction to the people's response to the attacks, I theorise counter-spectacularisation, as a set of different performative strategies employed in response to the attacks, especially in the context of their highly politicised commemorations.

My research is informed by a participatory practice, which interrogates the memories of a group of Italian women who were young adults in the Seventies - and have no personal involvement in the attacks - and edit these memories into a multimedia work. The practice supports my project by encompassing under-represented narratives and exploring what media and cultural products helped the participants, in retrospect, to make sense of that period of time. Through which models are collective trauma and collective memory elaborated and how are they transmitted intergenerationally? My practice interrogates the media itself, by asking how moving images can address memory gaps in an ethical and respectful way.

This project believes that the relationship between an audience and a live performance is interdependent on the relationship between people and society, and suggests employing theatre and performance studies to better understand the functioning of European democracies.

Sarah Gharib Seif
University of St Andrews – School of International Relations

Sarah's doctoral research focuses on the (re)production and perpetuation of colonial, racialised and gendered constructions of women who joined the Islamic State through media and government narratives in the Anglosphere, with a particular focus on the United Kingdom. Sarah's research interests include postcolonial, decolonial and feminist approaches to International Relations, critical approaches to terrorism, the politics and creation of narratives and discourses, the intersections of gender, race and religion, and the colonial nature of citizenship. Sarah received her undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of St Andrews and holds an M.A. in International Peace and Security from King's College London. She previously worked as a researcher on Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Leading to Terrorism at the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA), with a focus on the intersections of gender and terrorism, and of DDR and counter-terrorism. She also previously worked as a geopolitics and social media intelligence analyst.

Title: *Beyond the 'Jihadi Bride': The complicity of British media and governments in the co-constitution of colonial, racialized, and gendered narratives of the women who joined the Islamic State*

The question that lies at the centre of this project is not just about how both media and government actors in the Anglosphere can continue to create and perpetuate racialised and gendered narratives about the women who joined the Islamic State (IS), but is also about examining how both structures are complicit in the construction of these narratives that allow them to justify their actions. These actors have created and produced narratives about the women who joined IS in a manner which perpetuates the dominant cultural order, and in which dominant and colonial representations of gendered and racialised identities are sustained. This normative emancipatory critical terrorism research project will examine the portrayal of these women through a critical discourse analysis of British media sources, and government outputs. Furthermore, through postcolonial, decolonial, feminist, and critical race theoretical positionings, building on the work of Said, Fanon, Du Bois, Mohanty, and Spivak, this project will assess the role of the media and the government in othering these women through discourse and practice, based on long-standing colonial, racialised, and gendered perceptions of 'us' vs. 'Other'.

In 2015, the so-called 'phenomenon' of women traveling to join the Islamic State seemed to have taken over the news, with regular mentions of disbelief of why they would decide to leave their ideal Western lives to join a barbaric terrorist group. Media portrayals of the 'jihadi brides' typically assume that they were forced into it by men in their lives, describing a gendered and racialised ideal where these 'innocent young women' are seduced into joining IS, unaware of the implications of their actions. Simultaneously, we have also seen decisions by governments to abdicate responsibility for their citizens, sometimes going as far as to strip them from their citizenships and leave them stateless, based on the idea that they are aggressive threats to national security. This project seeks to interrogate the relationship between the media and the government, as complicit arms of the state, in the (re)production of these narratives, and their justification for the actions of the state.

Alison Spence
Information Studies, University of Glasgow

Alison is a doctoral student in Information Studies at the University of Glasgow and a professional archivist. During her career, a key priority has been the development of user-orientated online catalogues, enabling users to successfully navigate collection lists and understand what information the records contain. She has been involved in delivering several digitisation projects. She has welcomed digitisation's facility to widen access to written and visual archival data but is critically aware that the digital output often fails to present documents as tangible objects. Alison's doctoral research addresses the challenges of digitising and describing documents in ways which communicate both contents and structure digitally and allow users to make richer use of digitised archives.

Title: *Restoring material properties to digitised archives*

Collection digitisation has become a key priority for UK archive services, following Covid-19-related service restrictions and the significant growth in digital activity across society. Services are using scarce financial and organisational resources to deliver once in a generation digitisation of high demand and fragile collections. However, the cost-efficient digitisation methodologies which they employ prioritise written content. They ignore the material properties of tactile, three-dimensional archival documents, whose texture, sound and even smell captivate the attention of those who encounter them in person. A document's physical form, materials and scars from wear and tear provide evidence for how and why the document was created and used and contextualise its written content. When these material properties cannot be perceived accurately in digitised versions of documents, users miss out on vital information. Catalogue entries could compensate for the deficiency by describing material properties fully, but most only contain basic information.

This doctoral project asks how archival records can be understood as material objects in the digital environment. Existing digitisation methodologies and online catalogues are being analysed. A case study based on archival records from the West of Scotland's textile industry will investigate ways to digitise and describe key material properties. The study focuses on pattern and dye books, which combine written instructions with textile swatches to describe the exact output required from the manufacturing process. These materially-complex records are studied by a diverse community of researchers and creative practitioners. This community will be asked about the ways in which they access and use these records and invited to provide feedback on the project outcomes.

The project aims to provide data and evidence on material-rich digitisation approaches for archive services delivering digitisation at scale with limited financial, technological and staff resources. Its outcomes will support users to scrutinise digitised documents as material objects and apply digital tools to gain new insights into the records and the world they testify to.

Marwa Waly
Glasgow Caledonian University - School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment

Marwa's curent research investigates the development of an integrated sustainable industrial waste management plan with a focus on the application of wastewater treatment using constructed wetlands. She has eleven years of experience in the academic field and held the position of senior instructor teaching and designing different civil engineering courses for multinational universities. Marwa is dedicated to developing sustainable research contributing to society and economic development. Her research interests are in various areas related to topics of environmental resources management, water engineering, project management, and sustainability.

Title: *Development of Integrated Sustainable Industrial Waste Management Plan*

Abstract: Wastewater treatment and waste recycling contribute to achieving United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals (SDGs), calling for equality, earth protection, and ensuring better life by the year 2030. Large amounts of wastewater effluents are generated from industrial activities containing several contaminants which require considerable amounts of energy and cost for treatment. Nowadays, global interest is to move toward sustainable treatment systems supporting the UN SDGs with positive environmental, economic, and social outcomes. Constructed Wetlands (CW) technology is set out to model the natural wetlands purification and preservation of water in a promising and sustainable approach. CWs are progressively used for treating variety of wastewaters with few applications in petroleum produced water treatment. Hence, this PhD research proposes novel CW systems to treat the produced water which is the largest wastewater source generated through drilling activities and introduce waste materials used as filter media for the designed systems.

In this study, eight different laboratory-scale CW models were constructed with different configuration types of flow direction, vertical (VF), and horizontal flow (HF) to test the efficiency of treating produced petroleum water. Three different waste materials were used as main filter media for the CW systems: mineral aggregates, shredded tires, and plastic. The study investigated the removal rate of the Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), oil and grease (OG), and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) from the produced water. The experimental results showed that the three used filter materials had a good potential for contaminant removal, and their efficiency ranked in the order of aggregate, followed by plastic and shredded tires. All systems were effective at removing contaminants with average removal efficiencies of 50% TSS, 30% TDS, 50% OG, and 40% for TPH. The results of these tests can be used to promote the recycling of waste materials as filters in addition to the possibility of reusing the treated water for agricultural purposes and irrigation.