

# Interdisciplinary Research HE Sector Day

## Speakers' Biographies – in agenda order

*Please note that further information is to be added shortly.*

**Professor Michael Wilmore** (Executive Dean - Faculty of Media and Communication, Bournemouth University)

Professor Michael Wilmore's academic career spans more than twenty-five years, several disciplines, and positions both in the UK and Australia. He has held posts as Associate Dean (Learning Innovation) at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, and Associate Dean (Education) at the University of Adelaide, initially in the Department of Anthropology, but for the majority of time in the Department of Media, including more than three years as Head of Department.

His experience in university leadership encompasses extensive work on curriculum development, information and communication technology projects, collaborations with industry and other education providers, as well as finance and workload management.

He has been an active researcher on a number of projects funded through competitive research grants. Each has involved extensive interdisciplinary and industry collaborations, ranging from media organisations in Nepal to the antenatal department of a large hospital. His research interests primarily concern development and health communication, but he has also completed educational research and a project on fieldwork practices in archaeology, which was his first area of study as an undergraduate at the University of Exeter.

To read more: <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/mwilmore>

**Dr. Louise Mansfield** (What Works Centre for Wellbeing / Brunel University London)

Dr. Louise Mansfield is Deputy Director of the Brunel Centre for Sport, Health and Wellbeing (BC.SHaW) in the College of Health and Life Sciences. Her research focuses on gendered inequalities in sport, physical activity and fitness across the lifespan. The health and well-being aspect of her research dovetails with projects she has managed exploring the physical activity and health legacies of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Since 2008 she has co-directed and led research for the Department of Health and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport through the Youth Sport Trust.

To read more: <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/people/louise-mansfield>

**Charlotte Lester** (Higher Education Advisor: Research Policy, Higher Education Funding Council for England)

Charlotte Lester is a Policy Advisor at the Higher Education Funding Council for England where she manages interdisciplinary research and public engagement with research policy. Prior to this Charlotte worked in higher education research management working for Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield. Across her career, Charlotte has worked on a variety of projects including interdisciplinary research initiatives, the creation of a new research institute, the National Student Survey and digital projects. Earlier in her career she trained in Archaeology and Conservation at Cardiff University and worked for the British Museum's Africa Programme.

**Dan Licari** (Innovate UK / KTN Creative, Digital & Design)

TBC

**Ben Sharman** (UK National Contact Point - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies)

Ben Sharman is the UK National Contact Point (NCP) for Horizon 2020's Societal Challenge Six: Europe in a Changing World, which aims to foster a greater understanding of Europe, by providing solutions to support inclusive, innovative and reflective European societies in the context of unprecedented transformations and growing global interdependencies; and the NCP for Embedding Social Science and Humanities across Horizon 2020, a role exclusive to the UK which seeks to support Horizon 2020's aim of fully integrating SSH in each of the framework's pillars and specific objectives. Ben works for the UK Economic and Social Research Council, and has previously worked on ESRC's India portfolio, notably as Assistant Coordinator of the EU-India Platform for Social Science and Humanities Research (EqUIP).

**Professor Alan Lester and Debbie Foy-Everett** (Sussex)

Alan Lester:

Alan Lester is Director of Interdisciplinary Research, Professor of Historical Geography, and Co-Director of the Colonial and Postcolonial Studies Network.

To read more: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/profiles/114412>,

Debbie Foy-Everett works with Professor Lester as the Sussex Research Initiatives Manager (Research Development)

To read more: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/profiles/28111>

Together, they administer Sussex Research, which promotes and facilitates research within and across traditional disciplines. It catalyses interdisciplinary research programmes by providing support for activities ranging from sandpits, through pump-priming activities and discrete pilot studies, to major investments in research capacity. It undertakes responsibility for approving, regulating and

supporting interdisciplinary research centres that combine strengths across departmental and school units.

To read more: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/sussexresearch>

#### **Jordan Graham** (Research Professional)

Jordan Graham has been a Client Services Administrator at \*Research for nearly two years. Her role in the Client Services team is to ensure a smooth roll out of the \*Research Professional product and has successfully implemented the subscription across the globe.

Jordan completed her studies in Sociology at the University of Westminster before joining \*Research. Currently, Jordan is responsible for the roll out of the \*Research Professional product including training, client queries and general support, while also raising the product profile on social media.

#### **Ehsan Masood** (Research Professional)

Educated in applied physics at Portsmouth Polytechnic and Science Communication at Birkbeck, University of London, Ehsan Masood is Editor in Chief of \*Research Fortnight, the world-leading provider of research policy and practice news.

His previous roles have included Nature as both a writer and Chief Commissioning Editor, as well as Opinion Editor of the New Scientist and Communications Director for LEAD International. Ehsan has also written for Prospect Magazine, The Times, The Guardian and Le Monde, as well as advising the British Council on science and on cultural relations. He is chair of trustees of The Muslim Institute.

#### **Christopher Ferguson** (Piirus)

Christopher John Ferguson is a research professional, writer, musician and entrepreneur. He holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh and has several years' experience in research administration.

In addition to holding a seat on the Board of Trustees at Queensferry Sports & Community Hub, he is a member of the Future Leaders Network at Entrepreneurial Scotland and correspondent for Piirus.ac.uk.

#### **Professor Adele Ladkin** (Bournemouth University)

Adele Ladkin is Professor of Tourism Employment in the School of Tourism, Bournemouth University, UK. Professor Ladkin's research interests and publications are in the areas of labour migration, tourism employment, and labour issues in the tourism, hospitality and conference industries. This includes the role of education in developing human capital for tourism workers and human resource issues. It has always been the 'people' side of the tourism industry that interests her, in relation to education, employment, and employee well-being. Adele is currently working on a multidisciplinary research project 'Family Rituals 2.0' funded by the EPSRC, exploring the evolving

nature of family rituals in the digital age and the use of technology to support the work-life balance of mobile workers.

To read more: <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/aladkin>

**Dr. David Hutchinson** (Portsmouth) - *Interdisciplinary research: Adventures in Science*

Dr David Hutchinson recently began a new role as Innovation and Impact development manager for the Faculty of Technology at the University of Portsmouth. Until the end of May, he was manager of the University of Portsmouth Environment Network, having joined the University in 2010 to help establish this network. UPEN now represents the skills and expertise of over 250 academics from across the University that relate to Sustainability and Environment, and it's success has been recognised through the recent decision by the University to establish nationally and internationally recognised cross-discipline thematic areas that address key issues facing society, of which sustainability and environment is now one. He is also a regional ambassador for the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement and a founder board member of Future South, a collaboration of Business, Local Government and regional Universities, which works to deliver a low carbon Economy for our region.

David served as Environment and Health science coordinator from 2012 to 2016 for two RCUK research programmes: Environmental Exposure and Health Initiative (EEHI) and Environmental & Social Ecology of Human Infectious Diseases (ESEI). The combined funding for both programmes was ~£17M, originating from a range of funding partners from UK research councils and government departments. As Science Coordinator, he worked closely with the funded researchers, the funding agencies and end users to help achieve the programme vision of the establishment of truly interdisciplinary teams of researchers, conducting high quality state-of-the-art innovative research, feeding into policy and practice.

**Dr. Justine McConnell** (TORCH, University of Oxford)

Justine McConnell is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at TORCH, and Bowra Junior Research Fellow in Humanities at Wadham. After degrees in both Classics and English, and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Northwestern University, she came to Oxford initially as a Leverhulme Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama (APGRD). Her research has focused on the reception of classical literature since the nineteenth century, and her current project explores contemporary African, Caribbean, and ancient Greek oral poetics, with a particular focus on the syncretization of myth and modes of storytelling in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Caribbean literature.

To read more: <http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/justinemcconnell.html>

**Professor John Vinney** (Vice-Chancellor, Bournemouth University)

Professor Vinney's career to date has been a mix of both industrial and academic experience. In industry, Professor Vinney has been involved with designing warships and submarines through to minimising the structural weight of satellites. The common theme throughout his career has been a focus on structures and the ways in which they impact on overall systems and products. Latterly, John has focused on aerospace design and have worked with Airbus UK to deliver development programmes in structural design of lightweight structures.

To read more: <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/jevinney>