



Nottingham Trent
University



UNIVERSITY OF
GIBRALTAR

2026

UoG - NTU Doctoral Research Conference

Research Conversations Across Disciplines

LOCATION
ONLINE

DATE
26TH FEBRUARY

TIME
10:30 – 16:30 (GMT+1)

Register For Free



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Conference Overview

The University of Gibraltar (UoG) and Nottingham Trent University (NTU) are partnering to deliver a one-day, online PhD Candidate-led conference with the theme 'Research Conversations Across Disciplines'. This event has been developed to support collaboration, networking, and knowledge exchange between doctoral researchers across the two universities. The conference will provide a forum for doctoral researchers to explore and communicate the value and significance of their research to audiences beyond their immediate field.

By engaging with peers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, presenters will reflect on the broader relevance and potential transferability of their work, including insights related to research questions, methodological approaches, and theoretical frameworks. In doing so, the conference promotes meaningful academic dialogue and supports a deeper understanding of how research can inform thinking and practice within and beyond disciplinary boundaries.



Aim and Focus

The conference aims to provide a shared platform for PhD Candidates to present their research and engage in meaningful discussion with peers from a wide range of subject areas. By bringing together doctoral researchers at different stages of their studies, the event supports mutual

learning, critical reflection on the research process, and the exchange of ideas and perspectives. It also creates opportunities for participants to explore and discuss how individual research projects may relate to, inform, or complement one another, even when situated within different disciplinary contexts.

A further aim of the conference is to support the clear and effective communication of research to broad and diverse audiences. Presentations will speak to the focus, purpose, and significance of each research project, while situating the work within wider academic, professional, or societal contexts. In doing so, the conference encourages participants to reflect on the relevance, impact, and potential transferability of their research, highlighting how research insights, methods, and approaches can resonate beyond an individual field of study.

What to Expect

The conference will consist of a series of four themed sessions, bringing together research presentations by doctoral researchers from both the University of Gibraltar (UoG) and Nottingham Trent University (NTU), representing a wide range of disciplines. Each session will include dedicated time for questions and discussion, enabling attendees to engage directly with presenters and to explore connections across different areas of research.

Alongside the formal presentations, the conference will also provide opportunities to engage with poster presentations developed by PhD Candidates. These posters will be available for viewing during breaks, allowing participants to explore additional research beyond what is covered in the oral presentations and to continue discussions beyond the Research Presentations.

As the day is quite full, we encourage all attendees to manage their screen time in line with their screen and/or sitting tolerance and access needs – take as many breaks as needed, in addition to those provided in the programme, and attend from a space that is comfortable for you. We are not recording any of the sessions, so we hope that as many of you as possible will keep your screens on; by the same token you are not required to do this if it's not comfortable for you. We will have closed captions for all sessions, and attendees will be able to use the Chat function and/or the microphone to ask questions and offer feedback.



Research Presentations

Research presentations form the core of the conference programme. Doctoral researchers will deliver concise 10-minute presentations, with each themed session comprising four or five presentations. This format is designed to allow a wide range of research to be showcased while ensuring sufficient time for questions, discussion, and exchange of ideas. Presenters will outline the focus, methodological approach, and significance of their research. Presentations are intended to be accessible to an interdisciplinary audience. Emphasis will be placed on sharing work in progress, reflecting on the research process, and highlighting how individual projects contribute to wider academic, professional, or societal conversations.



Electronic Posters

The conference will include a poster element hosted online via Padlet. Poster presentations offer an alternative format for sharing research, enabling participants to engage with projects in a flexible and self-directed way. The Padlet will remain accessible throughout the conference, allowing attendees to view posters, read accompanying summaries, and leave comments or questions. This format supports asynchronous engagement, encourages reflective discussion, and enables conversations to continue beyond the live sessions, further enhancing opportunities for exchange and collaboration.

Researcher Development and Engagement

Participation in the conference provides doctoral researchers with visibility, offering a platform to showcase their work within an academic environment. Presenting to a diverse academic audience contributes to the development of research communication skills, particularly in articulating the purpose, significance, and broader relevance of their work to researchers beyond their immediate discipline. Engaging with a wide range of research projects also exposes participants to different approaches, perspectives, and methodologies, encouraging reflection on potential areas of overlap, transferability, and collaboration. In this way, the conference supports the enrichment of the doctoral research journey, fostering connections and conversations that may inform future research directions and collaborative opportunities.



Conference Programme

- 10:30-10:40** Welcome to the UoG-NTU Conference
- 10:40-11:40** **Session 1: Policies and Challenges**
- 10:40-10:50** **Hannah Revill**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
The same virus, different stories: Navigating everyday life with HIV/AIDS for the LGBTQI+ community
- 10:50-11:00** **Tamsin Greaves**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Green Power – Red Flags: an interdisciplinary discussion by women living with the aftermath of gender-based abuse.
- 11:00-11:10** **Callum Buntrock**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Transforming Behaviour through Feminist Evolutionary Moral Psychology: Building Empathy and Equal Relationships in Perpetrator Programmes
- 11:10-11:20** **Natalie Muirhead-Davies**
PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
 Bridging gaps in marine conservation: tools, challenges, and opportunities for the UK Overseas Territories with a case study on Gibraltar
- 11:20-11:40** Q&A
- 11:40-12:00** **Break**
- 12:00-13:00** **Session 2: Consumer behaviour and information systems**
- 12:00-12:10** **Yasser Aldwish**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
 Saudi cashless banking – consumer behaviour and barriers
- 12:10-12:20** **Hanae Qabil**
PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
 Unveiling Barriers to the Adoption and Usage of Anthropomorphized Text Chatbots: An Application of the Throughput Model
- 12:20-12:30** **Sue Paul**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
 Paper industry workers during the Industrial Revolution

- 12:30-12:40 **Caroline Moss-Gibbons**
PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
Illuminating the Path: Creating a finding aid for researchers based on information-seeking behaviour across disciplines
- 12:40-13:00 Q&A
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break – Poster Session**
- 14:00-15:00 Session 3: Environment, Education, and Communication**
- 14:00-14:10 **Amy Swift**
PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
Monitoring Coral Ecosystem Health: A Framework for Policy and Conservation
- 14:10-14:20 **Saima Khan**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Immersive Education for Children on Water Sustainability
- 14:20-14:30 **Hannah Burrows**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Constructing a 'Child Friendly' City: Conceptualising and practicing Child Friendly Nottingham with adult stakeholders
- 14:30-14:40 **Chloe Johnson**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Participatory Research with Autistic Children and Young People (CYP): What Methods Facilitate Meaningful Engagement?
- 14:40-15:00 Q&A
- 15:00-15:20 Break**
- 15:20-16:20 Session 4: Social interactions**
- 15:20-15:30 **Bethany Maxwell**
PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
Integrating social science into conservation: Understanding human dimensions of Gibraltar's Barbary macaque management and monitoring
- 15:30-15:40 **Sarah Curtis**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
Language of adults with Down Syndrome and overlaps with symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease
- 15:40-15:50 **Michelle Dodd**
PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University
The role of synchrony, adaptation and connection in autistic and non-autistic social interactions

- 15:50-16:00 **Pedro Romero**
 PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar
 When Research Takes a Turn: A Serendipitous Stroke-Related Case
- 16:00-16:20 Q&A
- 16:20-16:30 **Closing remarks**

Abstracts

Hannah Revill

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: *The same virus, different stories: Navigating everyday life with HIV/AIDS for the LGBTQI+ community*

Abstract: This paper explores the lived experiences of HIV/AIDS for the LGBTQI+ community, focusing on the more routine and slightly mundane issues that influence everyday life and using queer and feminist theory as theoretical foundations. To investigate this issue, 25 participants took part in an individual semi-structured online interview, and five subsequent follow-up interviews were conducted. Thematic analysis was conducted on the interview transcripts which produced four themes: (1) Control, (2) Identity, (3) Relationships and (4) Mortality. Other findings included the surprising normality or banality of contemporary life with HIV, the diverse range of experiences and diagnosis acting as a catalyst for personal change. In terms of interdisciplinary applications, this paper incorporates concepts from politics, sociology and healthcare. The findings contribute to these various disciplines by highlighting the experiences of this community with the aim of reducing stigma and demonstrating how HIV has become manageable and normalised on a day-to-day basis.

Tamsin Greaves

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: *Green Power – Red Flags: an interdisciplinary discussion by women living with the aftermath of gender-based abuse.*

Abstract: Ten women in the Women's Art Hub, in a park, in Mansfield, north of Nottingham in the East Midlands, UK. They chat, laugh, drink tea, draw, stitch, read a poem and cut lino. They are preparing an exhibition to take place at Mansfield Museum. It will advocate for an end to gender abuse, raise awareness of danger signs of unhealthy relationships, and explore recovery journeys. This paper shares the story of Green Power and questions why it is needed in twenty-first century Britain. The data generated as part of my doctoral thesis, Art Cares, and reflections collected in a research journal are used to explore participants' healing paths facilitated by creativity and togetherness in a safe space. The learning is structured using psychiatrist Judith Herman's stages of recovery, my experience as Community Project Officer at Mansfield and learning as post-graduate researcher in Arts and Humanities at Nottingham Trent University.

Callum Buntrock**PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University****Talk Title:** *Transforming Behaviour through Feminist Evolutionary Moral Psychology: Building Empathy and Equal Relationships in Perpetrator Programmes*

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to support frontline professionals working with perpetrators of domestic abuse by providing them with an updated evidence-based model of work for an existing Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) which delivers material to those using unhealthy behaviours in relationships in order to reduce the frequency and severity of instances of abuse, building upon existing progressions on theory of change enabling improved perpetrator and survivor outcomes and statistically meaningful data collection. Using a mixed method design, existing literature will be explored, integrating existing feminist criminological theory such as that of power and control with a moral evolutionary psychological perspective to create a holistic method of assessment which will allow for greater understanding of all domestic abuse perpetration, irrespective of gender and the nature of the perpetrator/ survivor relationship cross-culturally.

Natalie Muirhead-Davies**PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar****Talk Title:** Bridging gaps in marine conservation: tools, challenges, and opportunities for the UK Overseas Territories with a case study on Gibraltar

Abstract: This research examines how marine conservation can be made more practical and effective in the UK's Overseas Territories, using Gibraltar as a case study. The UKOTs are recognised as containing globally important biodiversity but face persistent challenges, including limited funding, small teams with limited capacity and resources. In addition to these limitations, the UKOTs are required to align with UK and international obligations. Drawing on a literature review, practitioner survey, and assessment of conservation tools, the study identifies key barriers and opportunities for improving management in resource-constrained contexts. An existing marine conservation tool was adapted to better fit Gibraltar's environmental, institutional, and operational realities, demonstrating how established frameworks can be reshaped for local relevance. The findings highlight pathways for enhancing conservation governance under constraint and provide transferable insights for other small or under-resourced jurisdictions. More broadly, the work contributes practical guidance and conceptual understanding applicable across environmental and policy contexts.

Yasser Aldwish

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: Saudi cashless banking – consumer behaviour and barriers

Abstract: This study examines the determinants of continued cashless payment usage in Saudi Arabia, with a particular focus on how financial innovation influences the frequency of cashless transactions after adoption. It explores the role of consumer behaviour in shaping sustained usage and seeks to understand the conditions that encourage individuals to rely more consistently on cashless payment methods. The research will use a primary questionnaire-based survey to collect data from consumers across major Saudi cities, followed by statistical analysis to evaluate the factors that drive post-adoption behaviour. While centred on Saudi Arabia, the study aims to offer insights relevant to digital payment usage in other markets and to support policymakers and financial institutions in promoting wider and more consistent cashless payment practices.

Hanae Qabil

PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar

Talk Title: Unveiling Barriers to the Adoption and Usage of Anthropomorphized Text Chatbots: An Application of the Throughput Model

Abstract: Anthropomorphized chatbots, designed to simulate human-like interactions, have transformed customer service by enabling real-time support across e-commerce platforms. Despite these benefits, adoption barriers persist, often shaped by cultural differences. Cross-cultural research on consumer resistance to these technologies remains limited, particularly in emerging markets. This study addresses this gap by proposing a conceptual framework that integrates variables from Innovation Resistance Theory, which explains why consumers resist new technologies, and Status Quo Bias, the tendency to prefer existing solutions, within the Throughput Model of decision-making, which examines how perception, information processing, and judgment influence consumer adoption intention. A quantitative study using a statistical modeling approach will empirically test this framework in Morocco and the UK. By combining cultural, cognitive, and emotional perspectives, the research provides theoretical insights into consumer decision-making processes and practical implications for marketing and business strategies, supporting effective implementation of AI-based customer service solutions across diverse cultural settings.

Sue Paul**PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University****Talk Title:** Paper industry workers during the Industrial Revolution

Abstract: The focus of my research is the migration of paper workers within England during the industrialisation of the industry: who migrated, where they moved from and to, when and how they chose to do it, and their motivations. My study is rooted in genealogy. The history of migration is truly cross-disciplinary necessarily encompassing insights from a diverse range of fields: sociology, anthropology, human geography, economics, history and cultural studies. Additionally, the study of papermaking sits within the disciplines of historical geography, economic history, technology, industrial relations and industrial history.

Caroline Moss-Gibbons**PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar**

Talk Title: Illuminating the Path: Creating a finding aid for researchers based on information-seeking behaviours across disciplines

Abstract: PhD research across disciplines is about novelty and taking 'the path less trod'. Librarianship is about helping people find their way through the undergrowth on that path. My research is about understanding the information-seeking behaviours across disciplines, and creating finding aids that are approachable, accessible and context-sensitive - to put the 'hidden gems' in their path. To achieve this I need to engage in meaningful cross-sectoral dialogue with researchers, to ensure that their needs are actually met. My research focus is developing an open cloud-based portal bringing together in one place detailed information about disparate, varied and vulnerable materials held in the UK Overseas Territories, providing links and place-based context not previously available to researchers. Integral to the portal will be multiple access points based on the results of my information-seeking behaviours research, that resonate with a range of disciplines – be it biodiversity research, or cultural and heritage-related fields.

Amy Swift**PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar****Talk Title:** Monitoring Coral Ecosystem Health: A Framework for Policy and Conservation

Abstract: Coral ecosystem engineers such as gorgonians, sea pens and colonial scleractinians play an important role in supporting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem function, yet their slow growth and sensitivity to disturbance make them highly vulnerable to human and environmental pressures. Developing effective, non-destructive monitoring tools is essential for assessing their condition and guiding management. The research combines ecological evidence, local ecological knowledge and policy requirements to establish a framework for evaluating coral distribution, health and vulnerability in Gibraltar. By standardising health indicators and testing low-cost imaging technologies, the project provides practical methods suitable for small territories or resource-limited regions. The resulting framework is designed to be adaptable, offering a model that can inform monitoring programmes in other coastal areas and potentially in other ecosystems including the deep-sea. Through its transferable methodology, the research aims to strengthen the link between ecological assessment, environmental policy and long-term monitoring.

Saima Khan**PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University****Talk Title:** Immersive Education for Children on Water Sustainability

Abstract: My multidisciplinary research focusses on how immersive theatre-based education on water sustainability for primary school children, based at cultural heritage site can support Nottingham's Carbon Neutral 2028 ambitions. Using the theatre-based experience 'A Temple to Water' delivered at Victorian era's engineering marvel, 'Papplewick Pumping Station', as a case study - the project works collaboratively with children and teachers to understand how their experiences shape meaningful environmental learning. Early findings show that while water topics in the primary curriculum are often fragmented and abstract, the Papplewick experience offers rich, story-led, hands-on encounters that nurture values, behaviours and a sense of stewardship. By combining observation, focus groups and interviews, the study demonstrates how cultural and historical spaces can complement formal teaching and contribute to wider agendas such as UK NetZero 2050, UN SDGs, and UNESCO's Greening Education goals. The project highlights practical, transferable approaches, experiential learning, co-production and place-based methods - that can inform interdisciplinary conversations on sustainability, climate change, education and community engagement.

Hannah Burrows

PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar

Talk Title: Constructing a 'Child Friendly' City: Conceptualising and practicing Child Friendly Nottingham with adult stakeholders

Abstract: Launched in 1996 (UNICEF, 2009), UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative has resulted in substantive international and multi-disciplinary research field. Reviews of recent literature identify existing knowledge of Child Friendly Cities as technocratic and 'top-down': focused on issues of strategy (Pia & Bezboruah, 2025), implementation (Rahmawati et al., 2024) or construction (Cordero-Vinueza et al., 2023). This study contributes to broader PhD project examining children's conceptions of Child Friendly Nottingham, currently underrepresented in more recently published literature (Han & Kim, 2018). Theoretically informed by Childhood Studies and generational accounts of childhood (Leonard, 2016; Alanen & Mayall, 2001), this study seeks to examine how hidden assumptions underlying key normative values, such as 'child', 'childhood' and 'child-friendliness', inform the practices and decision-making of adults, in the construction and practice of a Child Friendly City. This presentation will share initial findings from semi-structured interviews with adults on their perspectives and experience of Child Friendly Nottingham.

Chloe Johnson

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: Participatory Research with Autistic Children and Young People (CYP): What Methods Facilitate Meaningful Engagement?

Abstract: While Participatory Research offers opportunity to amplify the voices of autistic Children and Young People (CYP), meaningfully engaging them is a complex process, complicated by communication differences and inaccessible research methods. To consider how this demographic can be best supported, we conducted a systematic literature review to explore the approaches, methods and outcomes of school-based participatory research. Following screening, studies which met pre-identified eligibility criteria ($n = 22$), and studies identified through backward citation ($n = 2$), were synthesised. Our findings indicate that autistic CYP can meaningfully contribute to participatory research, especially when methods align with their visual and systemisation strengths. Serving as a brief guide toward inclusive practice, this presentation critically examines both traditional and creative methods, offering preliminary insights for interdisciplinary researchers seeking to engage autistic CYP non-tokenistically. These insights are also valuable for researchers working with CYP who face communication challenges, where language-based methods may be inaccessible.

Bethany Maxwell

PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar

Talk Title: Integrating social science into conservation: Understanding human dimensions of Gibraltar's Barbary macaque management and monitoring

Abstract: Conservation issues arising from human–wildlife conflict increasingly highlight the limitations of management approaches grounded solely in ecological science. In contexts such as Gibraltar, where Barbary macaques live alongside humans, there is a critical need to embed social science to understand the socio-cultural dynamics that influence coexistence. This PhD research employs a multidisciplinary framework to investigate how attitudes, behaviours, and governance structures shape macaque management outcomes. Survey data from Gibraltarian residents reveal a complex interplay between cultural value, tolerance, and perceived risks, demonstrating that effective interventions must account for these aspects. Complementary behavioural observations at two key tourist sites illustrate how varying human presence and activity differentially affect macaque behaviour, reinforcing the importance of site-specific strategies. Ongoing stakeholder interviews further examine institutional perspectives and collaborative capacity. Additionally, this study evaluates the role of citizen science in strengthening monitoring and public engagement. By integrating social inquiry with behavioural ecology, this project advances a more holistic approach to macaque conservation and human–wildlife coexistence.

Sarah Curtis

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: Language of adults with Down Syndrome and overlaps with symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease

Abstract: Adults with Down Syndrome (AwDS) are 8.5 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's Disease (AD) than the general population (Alzheimer's Research UK, 2024). Yet, how the language difficulties AwDS experience overlap with symptoms of AD remains underexplored. This research examines the sound, meaning, and discourse abilities of 25 AwDS, using picture naming, storytelling, and cognitive assessment tasks and compares this to the language profiles of patients with AD from an existing database. Preliminary findings show that both AwDS and individuals with AD experience word-finding difficulties, meaning errors, and challenges with connected speech (Neitzel et al., 2024; Vigo, Coelho and Reis, 2022; Diez-Itza, 2021). These similarities may delay AD diagnosis in AwDS, highlighting the importance of developing dedicated diagnostic tools for early detection of AD in AwDS. This could significantly enhance quality of life and improve patient outcomes for AwDS by avoiding delayed intervention and care.

Michelle Dodd

PhD Candidate: Nottingham Trent University

Talk Title: The role of synchrony, adaptation and connection in autistic and non-autistic social interactions

Abstract: In a world where misinformation about autism is widespread, shaping the narrative through autistic-led research that reflects our lived realities and priorities has never been more important. My PhD contributes to this by exploring how autistic and non-autistic people express and interpret social connection in online conversations. Across three studies, I examine facial synchrony and social adaptation, such as behaviours individuals employ to control how they come across to others, in pairs of autistic, non-autistic, and mixed partners. This work combines psychological, sociological, and physical perspectives with innovative statistical methods applied to both new and existing datasets. It challenges deficit-based assumptions and highlights the mutual, dynamic nature of human interaction. This project aims to address factors that contribute to social disconnection among autistic people while offering broader insight into how humans build connection despite differences. Ultimately, it seeks to inform more inclusive practices in education, employment and wider society.

Pedro Romero

PhD Candidate: University of Gibraltar

Talk Title: When Research Takes a Turn: A Serendipitous Stroke-Related Case

Abstract: Serendipity has a way of interrupting research exactly when we think we know where we're heading. Most PhD projects are not built for surprises, yet during my fieldwork on psychedelic-assisted therapy for people affected by gambling harm, I witnessed something I could not ignore. A participant who had lived for four years with post-stroke sensory and mobility loss regained feeling and movement after the very first psilocybin dose. I found myself thinking: Is this bigger than my original study? Could this matter for the millions living with long-term stroke effects? And how on earth do I convince my supervisors to let me look further into it? If I am already falling behind on my original research timeline. In this presentation, I explore how early-career researchers can meet serendipity with curiosity and turn these moments into opportunities for better science. Perhaps serendipity is not a distraction, but maybe it is the way science moves forward.