‘The Girl-The Woman: Beyond Global and Generational Borders’ research project brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers who share an interest in how being a girl and a woman is constructed across times, places and cultures. The project aims to be a truly collaborative cross-disciplinary venture, consolidating current Queen's-based research while being open to and welcoming of scholarship on this theme taking place elsewhere. Schools currently involved in the project are Politics, International Studies & Philosophy, English, History and Anthropology, Nursing and Midwifery, Modern Languages and the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering (SPACE). The project focuses on two key themes: Global Girlhood and Generational Borders. For more information on this research project, please follow this link.

This symposium will follow directly on from our first event on the experience of girls and girlhood, to explore the construction of female identity through the idea of generational borders. This will be understood in its broadest terms to include the contextual determinants of the transition from girlhood to womanhood, the voice and experience of girls living in transition and the relationship between different generations of girls/women, specifically how girls and women experience and understand the same context. This will illuminate what it is to be a girl and a woman in particular social, cultural and political contexts. These contexts include rural life and farming, sexual and reproductive health, and living in a conflict society.

Thursday 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 2014

1.45pm Registration & Welcome

2.00pm – 3.30pm \textbf{Panel 1: Generational Borders and ‘The Rural’}

This panel will reflect three genres in rural studies: Dr Voyce brings a focus on agriculture and the cultural norms of family farming, Prof Little from a rural geography perspective looks at human/environment relations and the body while Ms Ferguson takes a cultural geography perspective, focusing representations of the rural. In all of these cases, the transition from girlhood to womanhood will be of central interest.
Dr Malcolm Voyce (Macquarie University, Australia)
‘The Intergenerational Exchange of the Farm in Australia: Daughters and Family Provision Contests’

Ms Sara Ferguson (Queen’s University, Belfast)
‘Escape from the Country? The challenges encountered by young rural woman in their transition from girlhood to womanhood’

Prof Jo Little (University of Exeter)
‘Nature, discipline and the performance of youthful and ageing bodies’

3.30pm – 4.00pm Refreshment break

4.00pm – 5.30pm Panel 2: Generational Borders in Reproductive Health
The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queens has a long standing record in maternal and child health research with a focus on identifying and supporting the needs of vulnerable groups at different stages of their reproductive pathway. This panel will focus on the theme of transitions, looking at the impact the transition to sex can have on girls when they are unprepared and important research considerations during the normal and more difficult transitions to motherhood. This panel will highlight the importance of a partnership approach with young women.

Ms Michelle Templeton (Queen’s University, Belfast) & Members of a Young People’s Research Advisory Group
‘Exploring Sexual Readiness: why the participation of young people in research is crucial’

Dr Jenny McNeill (Queen’s University Belfast)
‘From here to maternity’: women’s experiences of childbirth past and present

Professor Fiona Alderdice (Queen’s University, Belfast)
Complex pregnancy: what do women need to optimise well-being during pregnancy and childbirth?

6.00pm onwards Reception

Friday 23rd May 2014

10.15 am – 10.30am Registration/Arrival

10.30am – 12.00pm Panel 3: Generational Borders in Conflict
While it is accepted that girls and women suffer as much, if not more than men in conflict, they are often portrayed as victims or passive recipients of the consequences of conflict and conflict transformation. They are marginalised and invisible as agents, historically assigned an essentialised identity as passive and private. Yet this one dimensional view marginalises the experiences and voices of girls and women, and obscures how they negotiate and act publicly in conflict and conflict transformation settings, challenging stereotypes about their agency, transgressing social norms and shaping (as well as being shaped by) their environment. This panel will examine issues of generational borders in conflict societies, particularly focusing on agency and voice.

Dr Maria Deiana (Queen’s University, Belfast)
“We had to do it all over again, de nouveau”: feminist narratives and times of conflict in the post-Yugoslav space’
**Dr Victoria Montgomery (Queen’s University, Belfast)**
‘The Arab Spring in Egypt: Honour Based Violence and Making of Women’

**Ms Philippa Read (University of Leeds)**
“A Tall Man With Very Light Eyes...”: female trauma responses in Annie Vivanti Chartres’ ‘The Outrage’

12.00pm-1.00pm  
**‘Generational Borders in the Context of Theatre’**  
Paula McFetridge, Artistic Director, Kabosh Theatre Company

Drawing on an extensive theatre archive, Paula takes us through powerful representations of girls’ and women's experiences enacted in different Kabosh's productions. The keynote address will close the symposium by presenting generational borders in the context of theatre: from the battle against the stigma of women and girls living in sheltered accommodation and the female experiences of social exclusion, to the remarkable lives of women leaders from around the world. The keynote will be accompanied by live performances from the plays.

1.00pm – 2.00pm  
Networking Lunch

2.00pm  
Close
Speaker Biographies

Dr Malcolm Voyce is an Associate Professor of Law at Macquarie University, Australia. Dr Voyce graduated with a Bachelor of Law from Auckland University in 1971. After several years of commercial law practice in Auckland and London, he completed an MA and PhD at London University in 1982. In 1986, he took up a position at Macquarie University where he is now an Associate Professor. He is a joint author of The Guide to Estate Planning (CCH 2004). In 2001 he completed a Doctorate at Macquarie University on Estate Planning issues concerning farming inheritance and divorce. He is widely published in international journals in Estate Planning and in 2001; he was awarded an Outstanding Teachers Award from Macquarie University.

Prof Jo Little is Professor of Geography and Gender at the University of Exeter. She has researched and published extensively on gender issues in a rural context. Her early work focused on issues of employment and inequality in the countryside and explored issues surrounding rural women’s access to the labour market. More recently her research has considered issues of sexuality and the body in the performance of rural gender subjectivities. Jo also works on rural violence and on the relationship between gender, community and family violence. Amongst her recent publications, are ‘Pampering, Well-being and Women’s Bodies in the Therapeutic Spaces of the Spa’. Social and Cultural Geography, 2014 and ‘Transformational Tourism, Nature and Wellbeing: new perspectives on fitness and the body’. Sociologia Ruralis 2012.

Sara Ferguson Whilst completing my undergraduate degree in Geography at Queens University Belfast, I was faced with the task of completing a dissertation in a topic area of my choice in 2009. Bewildered, but aware I wanted to do it in something which had a contemporary relevance in rural areas, I found myself trawling through recent copies of farming newspapers. My choices soon became narrowed down to two options; the badger cull debate or ‘PPS21: Sustainable development in the countryside’. Having chosen the latter option; it was through my research on the potential impact of this planning policy statement, that I became aware of two things; that I had an undiscovered passion for planning, and that I had specific interest in the challenges young adults encountered when living in a rural environment. Upon completion of the dissertation, I achieved a first class honours degree classification in 2010. Following a period of illness for two years, whereby I was confined to spending a large majority of my time in the home; the challenging rural realities became readily apparent to me. Upon recovery, I decided to return to Queens to pursue my passion, and applied for a MSc in Environmental Planning in 2013. For the thesis component of the course, I placed my focus upon the challenges young rural people encounter in their transition into adulthood and how planners could help address these challenges - titling the piece of work “Escape from the Country”. Completing the MSc with a distinction; and achieving a total of five awards for my efforts, including two for my thesis project, I have since returned to Queens yet again to complete my PhD. The PhD is a multi-disciplinary research project between the School of Planning and the Centre of Public Health; and focuses upon the health impacts of dispersed settlement patterns, with a specific focus upon physical activity. The difficulties of being physically active in the countryside will yet again draw awareness to the challenges encountered by young people in these settings; this time with an emphasis being placed upon their health status.
Ms Michelle Templeton graduated from Queen’s University Belfast in 1995 with a degree in psychology and took up a post in education working with young school leavers with little or no formal qualifications. During this time she qualified as an NVQ Assessor and obtained a counselling degree from the University of Roehampton, London. She returned to Queen’s School of Psychology in 2008 to complete a Master of Philosophy research degree and was awarded a DEL Scholarship in 2012 to commence interdisciplinary PhD study. This has provided a unique opportunity to enrich her educational experience by becoming involved in two dynamic working networks across two disciplines. As such, she benefits from being a member of the Maternal and Child Health research cluster in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Centre for Children’s Rights at the School of Education. Her PhD study aims to explore young people’s and sexual health service providers’ discourses around the concept of (hetero) sexual readiness.

Dr Jenny McNeill is a Lecturer in Midwifery Research in the School of Nursing & Midwifery, Queen’s University Belfast. Jenny is a registered midwife and has been employed in both clinical and research positions since registration. Jenny’s PhD was entitled ‘Down’s syndrome screening: the perspective of women and midwives in Northern Ireland’ and her key research interests focus on public health throughout the reproductive period including antenatal screening, Down syndrome screening, the role of midwives in public health, public health in midwifery education, antenatal and postnatal interventions to improve maternal and fetal outcomes and models of antenatal care. Jenny has published in leading midwifery journals and presented at national and international conferences within these subject areas.

Professor Fiona Alderdice is a psychologist with a Chair in Perinatal health and Well-being within the School of Nursing & Midwifery at Queen’s University, Belfast. Prof Alderdice’s work in maternal and child health research dates back to 1992 when she worked under the directorship of Sir Iain Chalmers at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) in Oxford. She was later awarded a MRC HSR training fellowship in 1998 to support her work on complex pregnancy. Prof Alderdice’s current research interests include: women’s experiences of complex pregnancy (e.g. HIV, diabetes, psychosocial risk), follow up of infants admitted to neonatal intensive care and perinatal psychology.

Dr Maria Deiana is a post-doctoral research fellow within the School of Politics, International Studies & Philosophy at Queen’s University, Belfast. Maria’s area of expertise lies at the intersection of international politics and gender studies. Her research engages with theoretical debates on citizenship, cosmopolitanism and human rights; dynamics of conflict transformation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, the relationship between gender, ethnicity and nationalism. Empirically, she is interested in feminist activism and spaces for citizenship enactments, with a focus on Northern Ireland, the Former Yugoslavia and other post-socialist contexts. Her research interests also include: feminist theory, postcolonial and post-socialism studies.
Dr Victoria Montgomery is a Research Fellow within the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen’s University, Belfast. Her research interests lie in the inter-related areas of identity politics – specifically minority religious expressions and mobilisations of identity – multiculturalism, integration and citizenship, and of course the impact and consequences of such minority identity expression and mobilisation at both the national and transnational levels. She has convened panels at international conferences on the themes of religious minority expressions of identity and gender and multiculturalism, and is the author of, ‘Multicultural Ireland?: Muslim Women and Integration in Ireland’, Irish Political Studies (2013). She is also the administrator for the Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics, a research centre within the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen’s University, Belfast.

Ms Philippa Read is a PhD student in the French department at the University of Leeds. Philippa also did her undergraduate degree and Masters by Research in French at the University of Leeds. She was awarded the White Rose Doctoral Research Studentship for a research project, looking at classical influences on modes of female heroism in First World War French and Belgian discourse. She is a convener for the ‘Legacies of War’ seminar series at the University of Leeds and is also a member of the International Society for First World War Studies online team, and secretary for the Imperial War Museum’s North Post-Graduate Research Network.