

Queens' 24 International Summer School Programme

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| Programme Topic: Identity and Intergroup Relations in Divided Societies | Academic Lead: Dr Danielle Blaylock Dr Cathal McManus | Date: Weeks 2 & 3 |
| Topic Summary <p>This two-week module will bring together inter-disciplinary perspectives on the causes and consequences of division and conflict, and the processes that can be used to promote social cohesion. Students will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from key governmental, NGO, and community groups in Northern Ireland to discuss how the experiences from here might be applied to other contexts experiencing social division and polarization.</p> | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand how identity can be both a cause and consequence of conflict- Examine processes that can contribute to social division and polarization- Explore identity-based interventions designed to enhance social cohesion- Assess how experiences from a divided society like Northern Ireland can be applied to other contexts- Gain an understanding of the legacies of conflict and political division | | |



| Monday 24th June | | | |
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| Time | Session/Activity | Academic Lead | Location |
| 9.30am - 11.00am | Identity as a Cause and Consequence of Conflict This session will build an understanding of the development, maintenance, and reduction of conflict between social groups. The session will consider how one's own position in the social hierarchy influences intergroup responses and how threat and emotions may be experienced on behalf of one's group. | Dr Blaylock | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 1pm | From Social to Political Identity This session will explore social identities which are embedded within a real world complicated by history, culture, and power differentials; specifically, those which are often viewed as central to the self – ethnicity, nationality, and religious and political affiliation. | Dr Blaylock | |



| Tuesday 25th June | | | |
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| 9.30am - 11.00am | An Introduction to Political Extremism in the 21st Century This session will explore the rise of political extremism in the 21st century and introduce students to concepts such as Othering and polarisation. The session – a combination of traditional lecture and group discussion – will provide an overview of these concepts and give the students an opportunity to reflect on how they manifest in contemporary society | Dr McManus | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | Group Discussion – Polarisation in Contemporary Society The aim of this discussion is to get participants to think about their understandings of polarisation in society and how the programme has so far impacted their knowledge and understanding. We will use their experiences from field trips and lectures (Week 1) to generate a discussion on how political polarisation manifests itself. | Dr McManus | |
| 12.30pm – 2pm | Lunch | | |
| 2pm – 3.30pm | Case Study 1: Polarisation in the United States This interactive session will examine the issue of political polarisation in the United States by examining a range of social and political issues that have helped to sow and reinforce division. Issues such as race, immigration, religion, demographic change and socio-economic disadvantage will be explored. | Dr McManus | |



| Wednesday 26th June | | | |
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| 9.30am – 11.00am | Ideological Attitudes and Intergroup Behaviours The aim of this session will explore the psychological and social foundations of ideological belief systems which motivate intergroup behaviours. Together we will discuss how group-based beliefs and perceptions of threat can motivate more extreme belief systems and behaviours. | Dr Blaylock | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | Looking Left and Right – How do the Extremes Appeal? What do the Left represent? As society becomes increasingly polarised, many voters turn to the political extremes on either the left or the right. These sessions will examine what each represent and why they appeal. This session will examine the political left by exploring the political priorities of figures such as Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (in the US) and Jeremy Corbyn (UK) and, political movements such as Podemos in Spain and Syriza in Greece. | Dr McManus | |
| 12.30pm – 2pm | Lunch | | |
| 2.00pm – 3.30pm | The Rise of the Populist Radical Right Building on the previous discussion, in this session we will be examining the rise of the populist radical right. As well as developing our previous analysis of Donald Trump, we will examine the campaigning of groups such as UKIP in the UK and the growing electoral influence of Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany. The focus will be on how these groups explain social inequalities and the types of policy/ies they advance. The session will seek to examine why the Populist Radical Right have tended to enjoy more electoral success in the West than their left-wing alternatives. | Dr McManus | |

| Thursday 27th June | | | |
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| 9.30am – 10.30am | Group Mobilisation and Collective Action This session will examine how particular groups seek to mobilise and organise in order to advance political change/reform. We will analyse traditional forms of mobilisation such as Trade Unions right through to online campaigns that seek collective action across national boundaries. | Dr McManus | |
| 10.30am – 11.00am | Break | | |
| 11.00am – 12.30pm | Group Mobilisation and Collective Action Developing the discussion in the morning session, this workshop will look at how mobilisation and collective action can move from peaceful protests to more violent manifestations as polarisation intensifies. This will examine a range of case-studies ranging from lone-wolf attackers inspired by online mobilisations through to armed militias such as the Proud Boys | Dr McManus | |
| 12.30pm – 2pm | Lunch | | |
| 2.00pm – 3.30pm | Group Mobilisation and Collective Action Guest Speaker on Group mobilisation – Extreme Right in the UK. | Guest Speaker | |



| Monday 1st July | | | |
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| Time | Session/Activity | Academic Lead | Location |
| 9.30am - 11.00am | Divided Societies / Northern Ireland This session will examine the historical roots of the conflict in Northern Ireland with a particular focus on the events of the 1960s. We will discuss how and why a movement seeking political change in the form of Civil Rights brought about a political crisis that polarised society to the point of violence on the streets and, ultimately, the reintroduction of militancy to Irish politics. | Dr McManus | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 1pm | Divided Societies / Northern Ireland This session will examine the search for peace in Northern Ireland. It will explore elite level efforts to find a political settlement and examine how and why the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement came about. | Dr McManus | |



| Tuesday 2nd July | | | |
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| 9.30am - 11.00am | Socialisation of Young People in Divided Societies This session will compare and contrast factors underlying the development of social categories in children across divided societies. We will also consider the role of social norms, families, and peers in perpetuating or ameliorating division in society | Dr Blaylock | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | Education as a Source of Division For children and young people, the division within Northern Ireland is most pronounced within a system that mirrors the divides within society. In this session, we will walk through the nature of the fragmented education system and discuss the direct and indirect effects on children's attitudes and behaviours. | Dr Blaylock | |
| 12.30pm – 2pm | Lunch | | |
| 2pm – 3.30pm | Young People as Active Agents of Division and Peace Children and young people are often singularly portrayed as victims of political conflict. In this session we will explore young people as active agents, capable of resiliency in the face of adversity and as key stakeholders in peacebuilding. | Dr Blaylock | |

| Wednesday 3rd July | | | |
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| 9.30am – 11.00am | Interventions to Promote Social Cohesion In this session we will discuss movements out of conflict and division by focusing on the way in which social categorisation and a sense of shared identity can be used to frame interventions to foster and promote social cohesion. | Dr Blaylock | |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Break | | |
| 11.30am – 12.30pm | Education as a Source of Inclusion Building on the morning session, we will explore how theoretical frameworks have been applied to various interventions to foster and promote social cohesion; specifically, within the education system. | Dr Blaylock | |
| 12.30pm – 2pm | Lunch | | |
| 2.00pm – 3.30pm | Guest Speaker Education as a Source of Inclusion – Shared Education and Integrated Education | TBA | |

| Thursday 4th July | | | |
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| 9.30am – 11.30am | <p>Thinking towards the future – Democracy in the 21st Century</p> <p>Guest Speaker/s This session will look at the challenges facing liberal democracies and how these can be met by political reform. How can our political institutions better represent the different and often polarised voices of contemporary society.</p> | TBA | |
| 11.30am – 12pm | Break | | |
| 12pm – 1.00pm | <p>Group Work</p> <p>Emphasis of this session will be preparing discussions/questions to be addressed to NI politicians in the panel discussion.</p> | Dr Blaylock & Dr McManus | |
| 1.00pm - 2.00pm | Lunch | | |
| 2.00pm – 4.00pm | <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Peace-building at the grassroots: issues and initiatives This session will examine the work being carried out at more localised levels within Belfast to address issues associated with sectarianism and ongoing polarisation. Whilst the work of high-profile politicians to advance the peace process is well documented, the work that is on-going at a grassroots level is less appreciated. This panel will bring together a group of community activists to discuss on-going issues and initiatives designed to address the legacy of polarisation and conflict. The panel will include ex-combatants who will discuss their transition out of conflict and the important work they have done to advance peace initiatives in their communities.</p> | TBA | |