



POWER, STRUGGLE, & TERROR

Annual Postgraduate Research Conference



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**THE SENATOR
GEORGE J. MITCHELL
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE,
SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

22 June, 2022 | 9:00-.17:00
Moot Court, Queen's Law Building

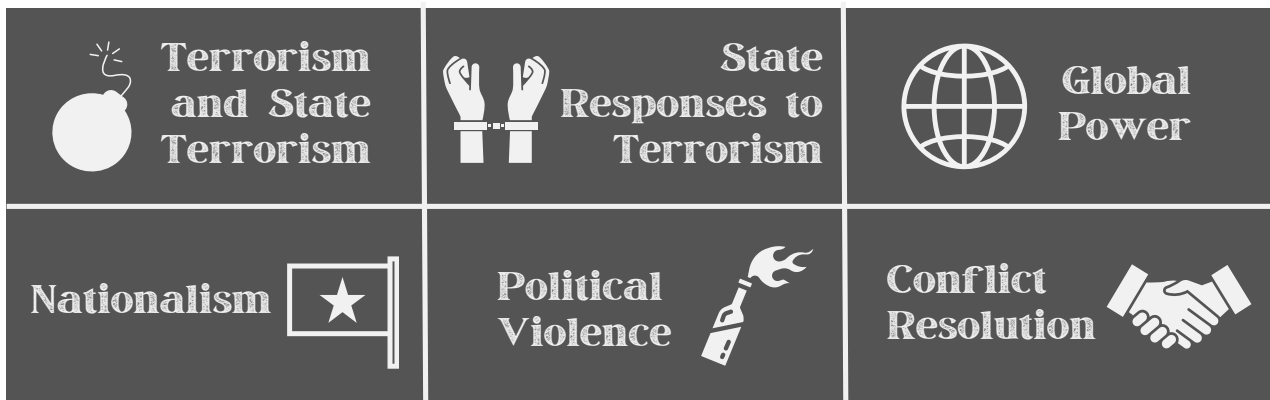
Conference Vision

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security, and Justice hosts an Annual Postgraduate Research Conference organised by a small committee of students affiliated with the Institute. Focused on a broad theme related to peace, security, and justice chosen by the student committee, the conference is entirely student-led.

The Annual Postgraduate Research Conference provides a platform for postgraduate students and researchers, from Queen's University Belfast and beyond, to showcase their research to a wide audience and to build networks with researchers from across the world.

This year's topic is 'Power, Struggle, and Terror'. Through presentations, discussion and a virtual exhibition, we will tackle major questions relating to state and non-state violence raised by the recent events in Ukraine, Kabul, and around the World.

This conference tackles themes including:



Acknowledgement

We are pleased to acknowledge financial support for this year's conference from the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security, and Justice and from the Postgraduate Led Initiative Fund, provided by The Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast

supported with funding by



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

THE
**GRADUATE
SCHOOL**

Programme

9:00 - Registration

9:30 - Keynote Speaker: Dr Tim Wilson, University of St Andrews

10:20 - Virtual Exhibition Introduction

10:30 - Break: Tea and coffee

10:45 - Panel One: Terrorism and State Responses to Terrorism

12:30 - Lunch

13:15 - Panel Two: Challenging and Redefining Global Norms

15:00 - Break: Tea and coffee

15:15 - Panel Three: Counterterrorism in the 20th-21st Centuries

16:45 - Closing Remarks: Professor Richard English, Director, Mitchell Institute, Queen's University Belfast



Keynote Speaker

Dr Tim Wilson

Director of The Handa Centre for the
Study of Terrorism and Political Violence
University of St Andrews



"Sharpening our analytical tools at the slaughterbench of history. How should we study political violence in the 21st century?"

9:30-10:20

Dr. Wilson will provide some thoughts on future trends in political violence but also what we can learn from the past. He will also reflect upon why, in practice, meshing the analysis of anti-state and state violence has proven so challenging.

Biography

Dr Tim Wilson's research interests and media appearances range widely over the past, present and future of terrorism and political violence. He is especially interested in why such horrors take the particular forms that they do. His first book *Frontiers of Violence* – an ambitious comparison of violence in the contested borderlands of Ulster and Upper Silesia between 1918 and 1922 – was nominated for the Royal Historical Society's prestigious Whitfield Prize in 2010. *Killing Strangers: How Political Violence Became Modern* appeared in September 2020. Both were published by Oxford University Press. He has been director of the The Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence since September 2016.

Panel Details

PANEL ONE: 10:45-12:30

Terrorism and State Responses to Terrorism

Chair: **Kathryn Cribbin, Queen's University Belfast**

Mauro Lubrano, University of St Andrews: Choosing What (not) to Do Next: A Preliminary Theoretical Framework on Strategic Innovation in Terrorist Organisations.

Travis Frain, Edge Hill University: State Responses to Terrorism: A Comparative Approach Exploring Statutory Support for Survivors of Terrorism Across Eight Different Nations.

Rachael Thomas, Queen's University Belfast: 'In No Mood to Compromise': Margaret Thatcher, the British Government, and the Northern Irish Hunger Strikes, 1980/1981.

Jennifer Dowling, Leiden University: How the 'Internal Brakes' Limited Violent Escalation from the Provisional IRA in Post- Good Friday Northern Ireland.

Brendan McKee, Queen's University Belfast Responding the Nationalist Terrorism: Quebec and Northern Ireland.

PANEL TWO: 13:15-15:00

Challenging and Redefining Global Norms

Chair: **Professor Kieran McEvoy, Queen's University Belfast**

Sarah Edgcumbe, University of St Andrews: The Political Violence of Erasure in Times of Conflict and Peacebuilding.

Mohammed Al-Ashmar, University of St Andrews: Syria and Russia: Synergistic Violent and Authoritarian Approaches to Counterinsurgency.

Panel Details

PANEL TWO CONTINUED:

Nada Ahmed, Ulster University State Crimes and the Arab Spring.

Mark Barrow, University of Cambridge: Syrian Citizen Journalists and Communication Technologies: Tools in Evading State Repression.

Andreas Moeller, King's College London: Examining the Role of Ideology in Perpetration of Mass Atrocities During the Bosnian War (1992-95).

PANEL THREE: 15:15-16:45

Counterterrorism in the 20th-21st Centuries

Chair: **Darren Colbourne, Queen's University Belfast**

Eleanor Williams, Queen's University Belfast: Why is Intelligence Sometimes Unethical when Countering Terrorism?

Stella Attah, Queen's University Belfast: Accountability as Strategic for Counterterrorism Efforts Against Boko-Haram in Nigeria.

Michael Livesey, University of Sheffield: The Conceptual Archive: A Useful Tool for Genealogising Counterterrorism Practises?

Leah Rea, Ulster University: This House Ought not to Legislate in Such a Mood: Examining Parliamentary Scrutiny of Government-introduced Antiterrorism Legislation.

Conference Organisers

Each year, a committee of post graduate students associated with the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, is established to co-ordinate and deliver the Annual Postgraduate Research Conference. This year's Conference Committee included 6 students at various stages of their studies and from a wide range of disciplines.

Darren Colbourne



Darren is a second year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. His research evaluates the identity of student movements, with a primary focus on the People's Democracy movement in the US and Northern Ireland. He utilizes group-theory and comparative analysis to examine PD's role within the wider New Left milieu, putting their ideology into conversation with that of the Students for a Democratic Society.

Kathryn Cribbin



Kathryn is a part-time first year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. Her research evaluates co-operation between the Irish and Northern Irish police against cross-border paramilitary threats, 1956-2021 and whether it was effective. Kathryn currently works within the Higher Education sector and has written articles exploring the experience of PhD students in the blog WonkHE.

Daryll Galloghly



Daryll is a part-time first year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. His research focuses on Political Violence in South Armagh in the early 1920s, with particular interest on The Altnaveigh Massacre of 1922.

Conference Organisers

Brendan McKee



Brendan is a second year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. His research explores the relationship between substate nationalism and secessionism, with a particular focus on the experiences of nationalist politics in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales since 1998. Prior to this, he has worked for the International Development Research Centre and written for The European Network journal.

Rachael Thomas



Rachael is a third year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. Her research explores responses to the 1980/81 Northern Irish Hunger Strikes in the United Kingdom and the United States, with a particular focus on the cities of Birmingham and Boston. She has also studied at the University of Edinburgh, where she co-founded and was co-editor of the blog, 'Writing the Troubles'.

Eleanor Leah Williams



Eleanor is a third year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. Her research analyses whether state intelligence during the conflicts in Northern Ireland and Colombia were ethical, and the impact such actions had on the respective peace processes. She has also presented her research on the intelligence war in Northern Ireland in national and international conferences as well as on the US podcast SpyCast.

Speaker Biographies

Panel One: Terrorism and State Responses to Terrorism 10:45-12:30

Mauro Lubrano, University of St Andrews



Mauro Lubrano is a PhD Candidate at the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews. His research project investigates the processes of strategic innovation in terrorist organisations and seeks to understand the 'why' and 'how' of the changes in the strategies that terrorists adopt. He is also interested in the relationship between technology and terrorists' decision-making, anti-technology extremism, and insurrectionary anarchism. He has been published in *Terrorism and Political Violence* and is currently working on a book on the anti-technology movement, due in 2024. He was a Research Associate at the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a Research Assistant at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

Travis Frain, Edge Hill University

Travis Frain is a PhD Candidate at Edge Hill University in Lancashire, UK. His research primarily focuses upon the development of Islamism as a political ideology during the latter half of the Cold War, and Anglo-American foreign policy responses and understanding of the threat. He has worked in counterterrorism for a number of years and was recently elected as National Chair of UK Counter Terrorism Policing's Youth Advisory Group. In addition to his work in preventing radicalisation, he also campaigns for improved support to victims of terrorism and founded the pressure group Survivors Against Terror in 2018, leading to the publication of several reports influencing government policy. In recognition of his work, he was named a 2021 Young Leader in National Security Fellow by the Counter Extremism Group and he was presented with the National Crimebeat Award by Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick in 2022



Speaker Biographies

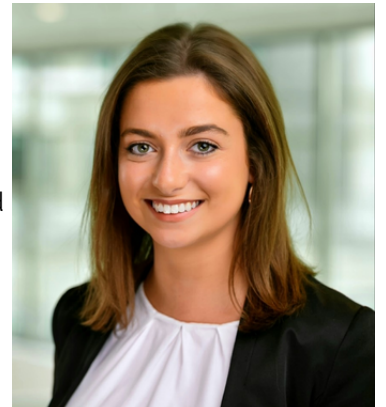
Rachael Thomas, Queen's University Belfast



Rachael is a third year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. Her research explores responses to the 1980/81 Northern Irish Hunger Strikes in the United Kingdom and the United States, with a particular focus on the cities of Birmingham and Boston. She has also studied at the University of Edinburgh, where she co-founded and was co-editor of the blog, 'Writing the Troubles'.

Jennifer Dowling, Leiden University

Jennifer Dowling is a PhD candidate within the Terrorism and Political Violence research group at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Her current PhD project is on 'non-involvement' in terrorism and understanding why the majority of individuals who radicalise to extremism do not go on to become involved in terrorism. Her research is centred on better understanding potential barriers and factors that might have a protective effect against terrorist involvement. Jennifer has worked as the Associate IT editor for the journal *Perspectives on Terrorism*. She also worked as a researcher at the International Centre for Counter Terrorism in The Hague as well as at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs. During her time as a researcher, she worked on a range of projects related to the reintegration and rehabilitation of former violent extremists and on counter-terrorism strategic communications.



Brendan McKee, Queen's University Belfast



Brendan is a second year PhD candidate in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics. His research explores the relationship between substate nationalism and secessionism, with a particular focus on the experiences of nationalist politics in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales since 1998. Prior to this, he has worked for the International Development Research Centre and written for *The European Network* journal.

Speaker Biographies

Panel Two: Challenging and Redefining Global Norms

13:15-15:00

Panel Chair: Professor Kieran McEvoy



Kieran McEvoy is a Professor of Law and Transitional Justice in the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast. He is the Theme Lead for Rights and Social Justice at the Mitchell Institute. Kieran's research interests include transitional justice; human rights; political imprisonment, restorative justice, and conflict resolution. He has written or edited six books and over fifty journal articles and scholarly book chapters and has conducted research on transitional justice in Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, Colombia, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, Italy, Cambodia, Chile, Israel, Palestine as well as Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Sarah Edgcumbe, University of St Andrews

Sarah Edgcumbe is a PhD candidate with the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. Her research focuses upon the marginalisation of Romani people from peacebuilding in conflict-affected environments in Europe and the Middle East, as well as Romani conceptions of peace and everyday resistance to liberal peacebuilding outcomes. Her broader research interests are the intersection of conflict, displacement, identity, marginalisation, and resistance. Sarah has experience working, conducting research, and volunteering among marginalised groups of people in Afghanistan, France, Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan, Kosovo, Palestine, and Sudan.



Mohammed Al-Ashmar, University of St Andrews



Mohamad Al-Ashmar is a PhD candidate with the Centre for Syrian Studies in the School of International Relations at University of St Andrews. His research focuses on the political economy, civic spaces, forced displacement and diaspora, migration, security, and other peace and development issues in fragile and conflict-affected countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. He previously worked as Policy Fellow at the European University Institute (MED Programme), and Research Fellow at the Syrian Centre for Policy Research in Beirut. Currently, he works as Principal Consultant and Development Lead for several INGOs, UN programmes, and development cooperation agencies in the Middle East Region.

Speaker Biographies

Nada Ahmed, Ulster University



Nada Ahmed is a PhD candidate with the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University. Her research focuses on the narratives of perpetration in transitional justice mechanisms after the Arab Spring. Prior to this, she has worked as a legal and human rights researcher and with human rights lawyer Negad El Borai as a legal researcher, where she authored *The Prisoner's Handbook: a Q & A about prison rules and regulations in Egypt*. She did a non-resident fellowship with the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP).

Mark Barrow, University of Cambridge

Mark Barrow is a PhD candidate in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge. His research primarily focuses on the interplay between peace-building, civil society, and communication technologies. His focus is on how social media both aids and hinders peace building initiatives coordinated by civil society organisations. He has previously written on the role of communication technologies in conflict zones, particularly their impact upon freedom of expression and information flow. He was also elected to Bangor's Student Union following his undergraduate degree at Bangor University, which included one term as Student Union President.



Andreas Moeller, Kings College London



Andreas Moeller is a PhD candidate in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. His research centres on the motivations and agency of low-level perpetrators of mass atrocities during the Bosnian war (1992-95) to better understand dynamics of perpetration in mass atrocity and genocide contexts. His doctoral research is funded through an AHRC studentship through the London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP). Prior to this, he was awarded a Cambridge European Scholarship to study for an MPhil in Modern European History at the University of Cambridge.

Speaker Biographies

Panel Three: Counterterrorism in the 20th-21st Centuries 15:15-16:45

Eleanor Williams, Queen's University Belfast



Eleanor Williams is a third year PhD Candidate with the school of History, Anthropology, Philosophy, and Politics at Queen's University Belfast. Her research analyses whether state intelligence during the conflicts in Northern Ireland and Colombia were ethical, and the impact such actions had on the respective peace processes. She has also presented her research on the intelligence war in Northern Ireland in national and international conferences as well as on the US podcast SpyCast.

Stella Attah, Queen's University Belfast

Stella Attah is a social development worker and a master's student at Queen's University Belfast. A recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship, she is studying Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. She also served as a Programs Officer at ARDA Development Communication Inc, a leading non-profit organization in Nigeria, where she used participatory design methodologies and storytelling to provide platforms for advocacy. Stella's work has centered on conflict mitigation and peace promotion, undertaking interventions that ensure affected communities have a seat at the table when discussions are taking place about paths to peace and combatting ongoing insurgency, terrorism, and banditry across Nigeria.



Michael Livesey, University of Sheffield



Michael Livesey is a second-year PhD candidate at the University of Sheffield, and Research Assistant on the Civil War Paths project. His PhD explores the genealogy of counter-terrorism practices in 1970s Britain/Northern Ireland: combining quantitative analysis of a new dataset of British political discourse on Northern Ireland 1920-1984, with qualitative analysis of UK Government documents from the National Archives. Michael will also be coming to Queen's as a visiting student this summer, where he is conducting spatial analysis of 1970s peace walls – using the 'space syntax' method to measure their impact on levels of spatial integration across the city. Before starting his PhD, Michael worked in the UK Parliament researching transport policies for the Shadow Cabinet.

Speaker Biographies

Leah Rea, Ulster University



Leah Rea is a PhD candidate in the Transitional Justice Institute at Ulster University. A recipient of the Department for the Economy scholarship, she is studying the relationship between constitutional conventions and wider parliamentary procedure and the progression of human rights in Northern Ireland. She recently was accepted into the FEPS Young Academics Network for its 8th cycle, where she aims to examine the development of language rights as cultural rights in the constitutional arrangements of the EU.

Prior to her PhD studies, Leah worked within a constituency office in North Belfast and at the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. Leah's research interests focus on compliance with international human rights law within devolution, constitutionalism within conflict transformation, state responses to intra-state conflict including legislative responses, and the operation of parliamentary procedures and processes designed to facilitate ethno-national divisions in a post-conflict state.

Closing Remarks Speaker: Professor Richard English

Richard English is Director of the Mitchell Institute, and a Professor of Politics in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University. His research focuses on political violence and on nationalism, his books including the award-winning studies *Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA* (2003) and *Irish Freedom: The History of Nationalism in Ireland* (2006). He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2019 he was awarded the Royal Irish Academy's Gold Medal in the Social Sciences.



The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice

Established in 2016, the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice responds to the unprecedented global challenge of building a peaceful, inclusive and secure world by bringing together the unparalleled expertise at Queen's University Belfast, on these issues.

Under the leadership of Professor Richard English, the Institute brings together researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and peace-builders from diverse backgrounds and international locations who share their multiple perspectives and work collaboratively to solve specific problems associated with the GRI's priority themes:

- How can societies emerging from conflict resolve lingering grievances?
- How can they establish peace on a daily basis?
- How can the competing demands of justice, peace and security be reconciled?

Our Mission

Global Challenge: Building a Peaceful, Inclusive and Secure World. The Mitchell Institute engages this challenge through four priority themes:

Legacy: Embedding peace processes in everyday life.

How do peace processes become embedded in daily life following political settlement?

The Policy and Security of Institutional Peace Building: Ensuring just and ethical responses

How and can we ensure just and ethical responses to a diverse range of security risks?

Rights and Social Justice: Establishing international norms

How do we establish international norms of human rights in local cultures?

Religion, Arts and Peacebuilding: Shaping approaches to peace-building in many cultures

How do values and beliefs in different cultures shape approaches to peace-building?

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice

Impact

The Institute works at the interface of theory and practice. An Institute priority is knowledge exchange between academics and practitioners, with a key goal being the cross-fertilization of ideas on conflict transformation, peace-building and social justice. We host regular workshops, conferences and civic conversations encouraging participation from all sections of society. We believe our civic engagement strongly enhances the impact of our research.

Senator George J. Mitchell



After serving with distinction in the United States Senate, Senator Mitchell presided over the peace negotiations in Northern Ireland, that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. He established the principles on non-violence to which all parties in Northern Ireland had to adhere. His personal intervention with the parties was crucial to the success of the talks.

From 2009 to 2011, Senator Mitchell was the United States Special Envoy to the Middle East.

"I believe there's no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. They're created and sustained by human beings. They can be ended by human beings. No matter how ancient the conflict, no matter how hateful, no matter how hurtful, peace can prevail."

- Senator George J. Mitchell

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice

CONTACT US



The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice,
Queen's University Belfast, 18-19 University Square, Belfast, BT7 1NN



mitchell.institute@qub.ac.uk



go.qub.ac.uk/mitchell-institute



+44(0)28 9097 3609 / 1346



[@QUBMitchell](https://twitter.com/QUBMitchell)

