



Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

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Queen's University research into COVID-19 continues; Handy Helpers recognised; major grant to support wireless communications development; 'Beyond Coronavirus' event; conservation partnership to help endangered monkeys; Annual Equality and Diversity Lecture; and celebrate with us at the Winter Graduations!

Survey finds pandemic had a major impact on children's experiences and rights

A global survey of children's views and experiences of life under COVID-19 has found that the pandemic had wide-ranging impacts on children's experiences and rights.

The 'Life Under Coronavirus' survey was designed by researchers from Queen's University Belfast with children, for children aged between 8 - 17 years and available in 27 different languages, alongside an easyread version.

More than 26,000 children from 137 countries across five UN regions participated in the global survey.

The survey was designed in the spirit of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Child (UNCRC).

For more information on the results, click [HERE](#)



Research with Impact:

Social impacts of COVID-19 are the focus of new global policy collaboration

Queen's University Belfast is playing a key role in a £2m collaboration, to better exploit the power of policy and research to help mitigate the biggest social impacts of COVID-19 and accelerate the UK's recovery from the pandemic.

The global collaboration is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO) is a collaboration between Queen's University Belfast, lead partner University College London, Cardiff University, the University of Auckland and the University of Oxford, with prominent think tanks including the International Network for Government Science (INGSA), and academic news publisher The Conversation.

Through this collaborative network, the IPPO will give UK policymakers easy access to resources, evidence and analysis of global policy responses to COVID-19. This will enable them to make better decisions on how to address the immediate social, economic and public health impacts of the pandemic.

Education with Social Purpose:

Handy Helpers Recognised

The Queen's University Students Union's Handy Helpers Treepits Project, in collaboration with Wildflower Alley Residents and Belfast City Council, was Highly Commended in the 'Greening the City' category at the recent 2020 Healthy Cities Awards Ceremony.

The WHO Belfast Healthy City Awards recognise the work done by groups across the city to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Belfast.

The awards have marked the achievements of some of the most innovative, inclusive and interesting healthy living and space projects in our city.

Well done to all involved!



Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: **European grant of £1.7m for Queen's researcher to develop new generation of wireless communications**

A researcher at Queen's has been awarded £1.7m (€2 million) funding to lead a five year project underpinning wireless communications as far ahead as the mid-2030s.

Dr Michalis Matthaiou, Professor of Communications Engineering and Signal Processing, at the Institute of Electronics Communications and Information Technology (ECIT), is the first academic in Northern Ireland to receive the prestigious and highly competitive European Research Council Consolidator Grant, which aims to tackle big scientific questions at research centres across Europe.

Wireless communications have changed the way we live, work and communicate over the past two decades and new generations of faster wireless technologies are being designed.

COVID-19 restrictions, which have seen many more people work and learn from home, have accelerated demand for the new technology to become available.



"Over the next 15 years, we are going to need hundreds or thousands more antenna elements to transmit data and we are going to see that demand on a much wider range of frequencies. The challenge is that the electromagnetic theory modelling – the type of physical interaction which occurs between electrically charged particles - and manufacturing development of these antenna structures is becoming increasingly complex and challenging."

Dr Michalis Matthaiou, Institute of Electronics Communications and Information Technology (ECIT),
Queen's University Belfast



Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: **'Beyond Coronavirus: Vaccination and the COVID-19 pandemic**

Queen's University Belfast is delighted to host Professor Sheena McCormack, Clinical Epidemiologist, to deliver a keynote address 'Vaccination and the COVID-19 pandemic' on **Thursday 14 January 2021 at 12.00pm.**

Professor McCormack, is the Clinical Project Lead for the COVAC trials at MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL.

The event will also feature commentary by Dr Mark Flear, School of Law, Queen's University with Ann Watt, Director, Pivotal Public Policy Forum facilitating a Q&A discussion.

Professor Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University will deliver opening remarks, with Professor Stuart Elborn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University concluding the event.

To register, please click on the image below.

The poster features a dark background with a blurred image of a virus particle. On the left is the Queen's University Belfast logo. The text is centered and reads: **BEYOND CORONAVIRUS: VACCINATION AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**. Below this, it lists **PROFESSOR SHEENA MCCORMACK** from the MRC Clinical Trials Unit, UCL, and **DR MARK FLEAR** from the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. It also mentions reflections from Dr Mark Flear and a Q&A session chaired by Ann Watt, with contributions from Professor Ian Greer and Professor Stuart Elborn. The event is on **12:00-1:30PM, THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021**. A registration link is provided: **REGISTER: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/beyond-coronavirus>**. On the right side, there are two portrait photos: the top one is of Professor Sheena McCormack, a woman with short brown hair, and the bottom one is of Dr Mark Flear, a man in a dark jacket.

Queen's University has been at the heart of supporting global efforts to understand the COVID-19.

To learn more about our efforts to develop solutions that will benefit our society here in Northern Ireland, across the UK and globally, please click **HERE**

"The incredible united effort by the Queen's community in response to COVID 19 demonstrates our commitment to delivering positive impact on society. We are enormously proud of the collective strength and determination to make a difference to those who need it most."

Professor Stuart Elborn, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences,
Queen's University Belfast

Sustainability:

Queen's in conservation partnership to protect critically endangered monkeys

A Queen's University Belfast academic is part of a collaboration which has enabled the trial re-introduction of a critically endangered species of monkey at a World Heritage Site in northern Vietnam.

Dr Ryan Rabett, a senior lecturer in Human Paleoecology at Queen's, and his team on the SUNDASIA project contributed resources and expertise to help bring about the release of three captive-born Delacour's langurs (*Trachypithecus delacouri*) inside the Tràng An World Heritage Site.

Queen's University, Bournemouth University and the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences partnered with local NGOs, businesses and government on the project, which has immediate and wider implications for biodiversity in the region.

Equality and Excellence:

Queen's University hosts Annual Equality and Diversity Lecture

Queen's recently hosted the University's Annual Equality and Diversity Lecture entitled 'Tilting the Lens: A New Perspective'.

This year's keynote speaker was Sinéad Burke, writer, educator and disability advocate. Through her company, 'tilting the lens', Sinéad works towards accelerating systemic change within the domains of education and design, by focusing on accessibility as a vehicle for creativity, innovation and social justice.

The Equality and Diversity lecture series is part of Queen's mission to promote greater equality and diversity in the workplace, particularly with regards to ensuring equality of opportunity and respect for diversity across the University and the wider community.

You can watch the lecture click on the image of Sinéad below



Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students: Winter Graduations!

Today ends the winter graduation season, with 18 virtual ceremonies having taken place since Monday 14 December.

Each ceremony was streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube allowing students, their families and friends to join the celebrations. While the ceremonies are a little different than normal, we are delighted to be able to mark the wonderful achievements of our students and are in awe of their amazing efforts to get to this point.

To read about some of our inspirational students, click on the links below.

- **Inspirational student overcomes illness to graduate with First Class Honours**
- **Proud mum of six overcomes adversity to graduate with First Class Honours in Nursing**
- **Wife hails hero husband as he graduates with a Master's in International Relations from Queen's**
- **Ashleigh celebrates graduating with PhD from Queen's Management School**
- **Diane graduates from Queen's with dream degree in History**
- **Master's student finds unique way to diagnose health problems in cats**

If you wish to watch back any of the winter graduation ceremonies, please click on the image below. Enjoy!

