

SCOTTISH GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ARTS & HUMANITIES

Sgoil Ceumnachaidh na h-Alba airson Ealain agus Daonnachdan

Annual Report

2020—21

The Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) launched in 2014. The world's first national graduate school for the Arts and Humanities, our mission is to work together to inspire researchers who are talented, caring, ethical and reflective professionals with a demonstrable commitment to generating and mobilising knowledge across a range of scholarly, professional and public communities.

SGSAH is a partnership of 16 Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), sharing our resources to enrich the doctoral training environment and enhance the doctoral experience. Working with our supporters in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, we support positive connections and productive networks locally, regionally and globally to provide outstanding opportunities for doctoral researchers in Scotland.

Members:



Funders:



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Director's Welcome



This is our first annual report, and we're delighted to bring to you news of the exciting work we have been involved with since last September.

However, 2020-21 has also been a strange and difficult year, most notably for the PhD researchers in our community, who have found their access to archives and fieldwork sites taken away, their opportunities for knowledge exchange and impact curtailed, and their developing professional networks stalled, in addition to a range of personal challenges brought about by COVID-19.

It's also been my first full academic year as Director of SGSAH, and - like everyone else - I regret missed opportunities, including to travel around Scotland to meet our members, partners and doctoral researchers in person. Our training and development activities, including our Summer School, have all been delivered online. While there is inevitable loss in this, we've also made our delivery more accessible across Scotland, as well as to non-academic and global audiences.

Despite all the challenges, our PhD researchers have nonetheless taken forward a stimulating range of innovative projects, including in partnership with external organisations, through our CDA and ARCS studentships, our research internships and our artists' residencies. This year for the first time we've also worked closely with four of our own research interns to progress our EDI, internationalisation, GREEN/GRADUATE and alumni initiatives. In September, we launched a new website to showcase our doctoral researchers' activity.

We also look forward to significant developments for 2021-22, including our SFC-funded Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme. This scheme will enable us to substantially enrich collaborations between Scotland and Europe, and showcase Scotland's world-leading research excellence in the Arts & Humanities.

More on that in next year's report, but until then, and for more regular updates, please do sign up to our [monthly newsletter](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and keep an eye on our [website](#) and developing online [research showcase](#).

Professor Claire Squires, Director

October 2021

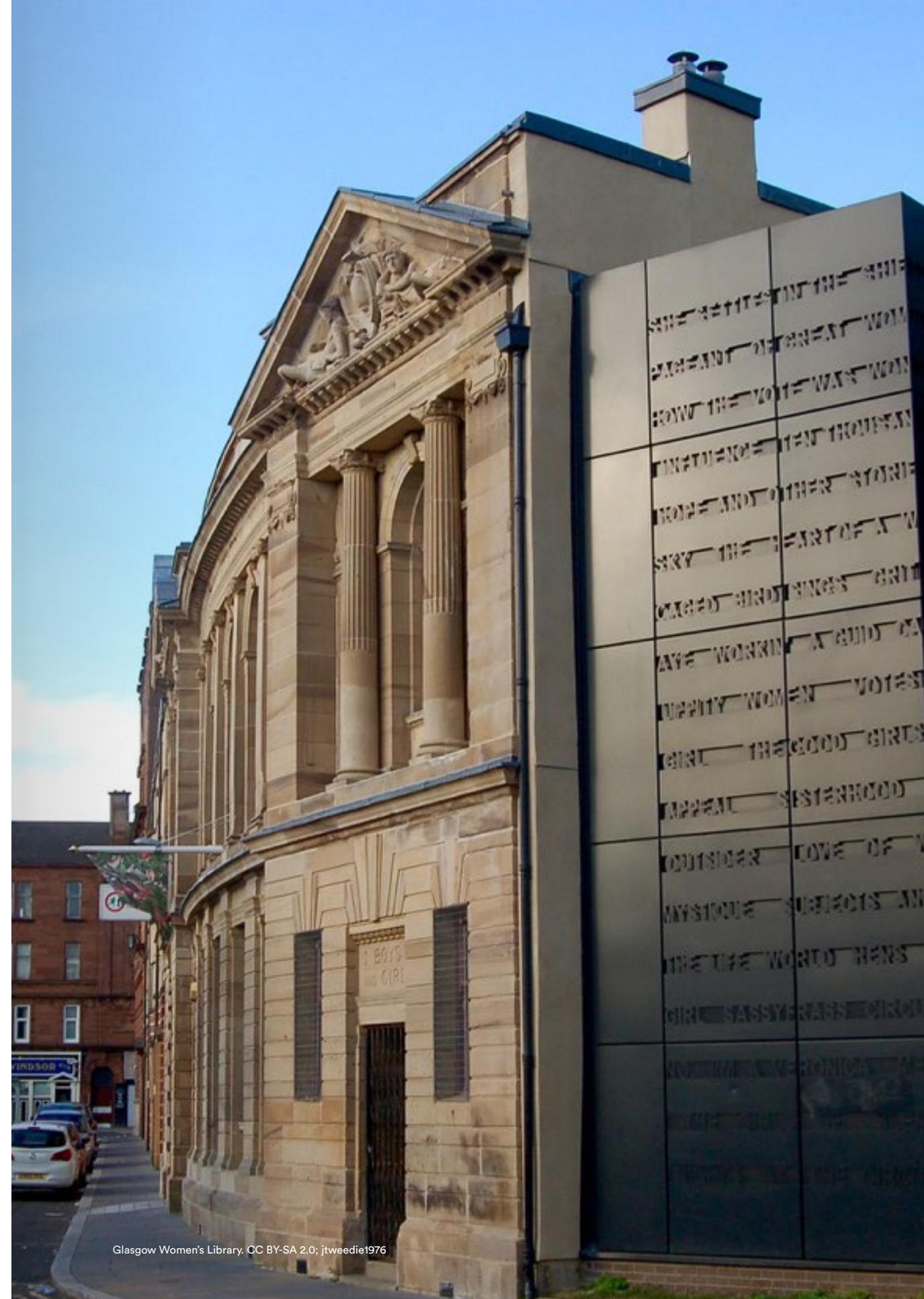
“SGSAH has adapted extraordinarily well to the challenges of the past year and continues to build on its much acclaimed success, offering an impressive array of training and research opportunities to support and develop the next generation of Arts and Humanities researchers in Scotland.”

Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh,
Chair of the SGSAH Board

Research

With the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), SGSAH funds doctoral research across the full range of Arts & Humanities disciplines. New projects funded in 2020-21 include examinations of the cello's unique history among traditional instruments in Scotland, the queer woman reader in the long 19th century, and the methods for and impact of using immersive technologies and storytelling techniques in museums. Our PhD researchers work with world-leading academics, frequently in cross-HEI supervisory teams, creating the best possible training environments.

Through our Collaborative Doctoral Awards and Applied Research Collaborative Studentships, some of our PhD researchers also work in partnership with external organisations, including Creative Carbon Scotland, Edinburgh International Television Festival, Glasgow Women's Library and the Shetland Arts Development Agency. We further support our researchers to conduct their research and present it to a range of audiences, and enable PhD researchers across Scotland to work with each other with funding to design and run their own training events.



Partnership PhDs



Image c. Liam Crouse

Liam Crouse

Collaborative Doctoral Award

A Hebridean Folklore Macroscopic: 170 years of Gaelic Oral Culture in the Outer Hebrides

HEI:

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, University of the Highlands and Islands

Partner Organisation:

Tobar an Dualchais

Uist-based PhD researcher Liam Crouse is bringing new approaches to contextualising and unlocking stories from Hebridean folklore.

Based in the Outer Hebrides, Liam is studying the folklore of Uist with the aim of analysing, unlocking and contextualising his partner organisation Tobar an Dualchais' ('Kist o' Riches') collection of Gaelic-language recordings. His PhD applies new approaches and scholarship from the field of computational folkloristics to these digitised Gaelic oral collections which have been made publicly available through Tobar an Dualchais. Liam has an academic background in Celtic Studies, Archaeology and Gaelic-language publishing and worked for several years with Ceòlas Uibhist, a community heritage organisation, helping to preserve, promote and research Uist's Gaelic heritage. Liam says about his research "Since moving to the islands in 2015, I am beginning to grasp the sheer breadth, depth and import of this community's cultural endowment. This PhD project is such a great opportunity to be able to explore these subjects in partnership with two organisations at the forefront of Gaelic cultural development."





John Knox House, Edinburgh. Image c. Mike McBey

Catriona Schofield

Applied Research Collaborative Studentship
 The Literature House in the Digital Age:
 New Directions for Literary Heritage

HEIs: Edinburgh Napier University &
 University of Edinburgh

Partner Organisation: Edinburgh UNESCO City
 of Literature

Catriona Schofield's doctoral project is linked to the Literature House development on Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

Working with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh Napier University and University of Edinburgh, this PhD examines how technology can play a part in repurposing Edinburgh's historic John Knox House as a public 'Literature House' and centre for Scottish writing. As part of her research, Catriona is exploring how the Literature House can use digital innovation to create a truly unique experience for a wide range of audiences. Catriona comments "My background is in English Literature and Museum Studies so this research project sits right at the intersection of my interests. The Literature House is an exciting new initiative for Edinburgh and I'm so happy to be on board - it's the kind of place I'd love to explore as a visitor, which means that getting to actually help make it happen is amazing! I can't wait to see it develop over the next few years."





Image c. Hannah Imlach

Engagement Fund

SGSAH's Engagement Fund exists to support our funded doctoral researchers to carry out their research and make it available to a range of different audiences.

Projects supported in 2021 include Hannah Imlach's Moth Kota at RSPB Loch Lomond. Moth Kota is an experimental shelter-sculpture designed around the behavioural cycles and sensory world of Lepidoptera. Hannah, who is a practice research PhD candidate within Human Geography at the University of Edinburgh, created the artwork as a space for multi-species encounter.

Her research explores the potential for site- and species-responsive sculpture to connect audiences with forms of wildlife which are hard to detect or often overlooked. Hannah hosted a series of public events at the Moth Kota in July alongside her conservation partners.

Cohort Development Fund

The SGSAH Cohort Development Fund is open to doctoral researchers across our 16 member HEIs, enabling them to identify gaps in current training provision and work collaboratively to address these.

By supporting researchers in this way, SGSAH aims to develop sustainable peer networks, build capacity among the student body to deliver their own training and improve on their grant writing skills.

Funding awarded within 2020-21 has been for online delivery and examples include FIELDWORK, a three-part series examining how

sites and field-based research practices have emerged in the environmental humanities; how to organise and coordinate successful virtual events in the time of COVID-19 and climate crisis; and People and Land: Indigenous Research In Scotland, an interdisciplinary event engaging with indigenous methodologies centred on the theme of Land.

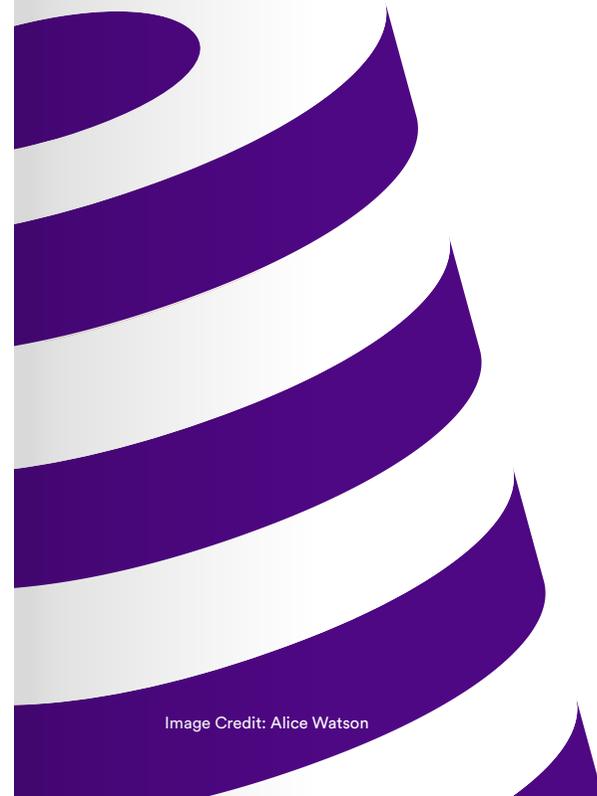


Image Credit: Alice Watson

Exploring multidisciplinary approaches to Indigenous methodologies: Scotland and beyond

31 May - 4 June 2021

indigenousscot@gmail.com

Celtic Research Group University of Glasgow UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



Image c. Hannah Imlach

Events and Training

SGSAH's events and training may have been online only in 2020-21, but the opportunities offered to doctoral researchers across Scotland have been wide-ranging, innovative and ingenious.

Delivered by our Discipline+ Catalysts, our Knowledge Exchange Hubs and in various partnerships, our training has also included our flagship Summer School, whose daily Keynotes are open to audience members all around the world.

Our programming has included sessions relating to Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and social justice, climate crisis and the environmental humanities, interdisciplinarity within and beyond the Arts & Humanities, well-being and knowledge exchange.

Discipline+ Catalysts

SGSAH's 11 Discipline+ Catalysts continue to provide world-class doctoral training, supporting students at a disciplinary level and also promoting interdisciplinary research skills.

In 2020-21 the 46 online training events, including a two-part workshop – “Ethnographic Research Methods for Arts and Humanities” - hosted by the Cultural & Museum Studies Catalyst. The opening workshop provided participants with a range of ethnographic approaches in the arts and humanities, followed by a second workshop where doctoral researchers were able to test out methods relevant to their own fieldwork experience. Participants valued the opportunity to explore new methods, including “participating in communities by providing a new space for

community interaction, and then observing [how] the community interact within that space”.

The History Catalyst staged an online session – “Archives and Special Collections for Scottish History” - which provided introductory training to documents and rare books collections, alongside the diversity of collection types. According to participant feedback, doctoral researchers appreciated the engaging nature of the workshop, as well as information on the diversity of collections.

Image c. Taylor Wilcox



Knowledge Exchange Hubs



V&A Dundee c. Ronnie Fleming

“Ideas are the lifeblood of the BBC... we are hugely keen for this reason to work with researchers in Scotland, and help them develop the skills to work with us in the future”

Ian Small, Head of Public Policy and Corporate Affairs,
BBC Scotland and SGSAH KE Hub Advisory Group representative.

SGSAH's Knowledge Exchange Hubs are focused on training and networking to aid researcher's future career paths outside academia as well as to facilitate research with external partners and sectors. The Hubs, focused on the themes of Heritage, Cultural Economies, and Citizenship, Culture & Ethics, work in direct collaboration with multi-sectoral partners across the UK including the BBC, British Council, Scottish Parliament, National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland. The Hubs are led

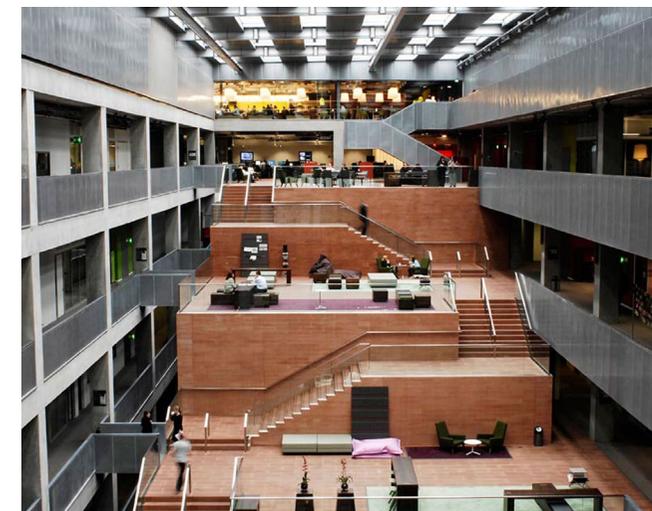
jointly by external partners and specialist academics, and work to implement an ongoing programme of professional skills training and help build meaningful connections between doctoral researchers and sectors outside of academia.

The Hubs create and co-ordinate at least seven events each year with participation from around 700 doctoral researchers. In 2020, the Hubs came together to deliver a collaborative one-day symposium featuring ten external speakers (including from the

V&A, Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights, Children 1st and Built Environment Forum Scotland) to explore the cross-cutting issue of how research feeds into policy. From our external partners' perspectives, collaboration with current researchers can be vital for their organisations' future.

Our KE Hubs host a wide range of events each year, including an annual workshop on pitching research ideas to the media.

Image c. BBC



“a really enjoyable and enlightening take on the relevance of humanities to modern society, and their ability/duty to influence public debate”

Summer School participant

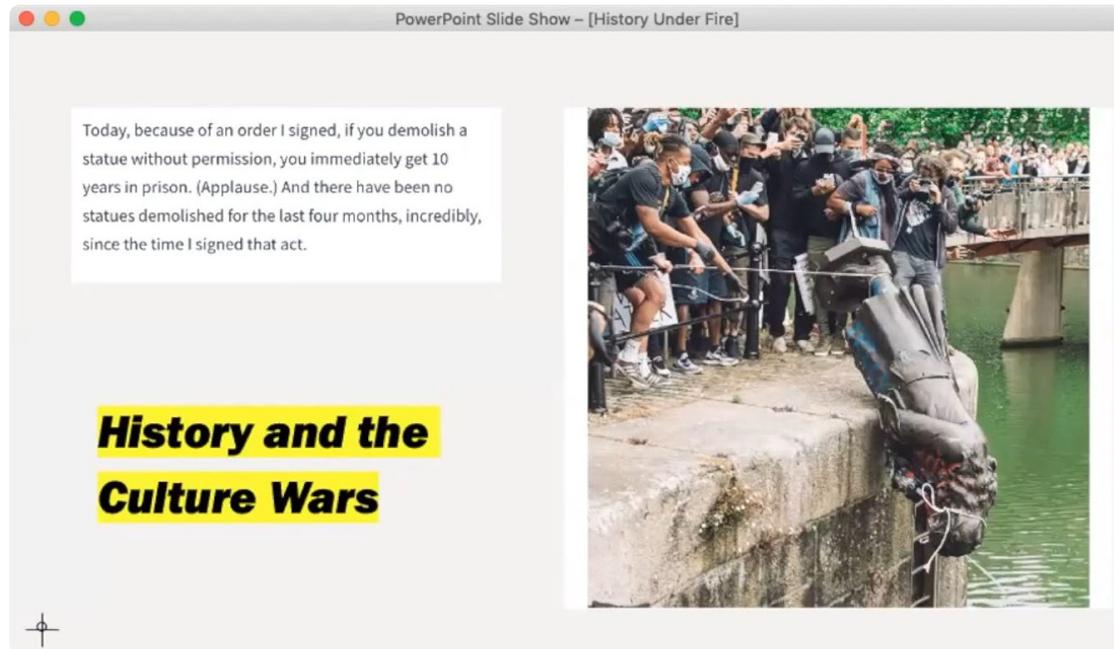


Image Credit: Charlotte Lydia Riley

Summer School

“Such a great event, well-organised, super knowledgeable and professional, in addition to being kind and encouraging”

Summer School participant

559 people attended our online summer school of talks and workshops

559

5415

We curated 5415 minutes of workshops and talks

48

48 workshops/sessions open to audiences worldwide



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SCOTTISH GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ARTS & HUMANITIES
Sgoil Cheumnaich na h-Alba airson Falain agus Daonnachdan



Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
Sgoil Cheumnaichean Saidheans Sòisealta na h-Alba



Partnership Training and Events

SGSAH continues to work in partnership to deliver innovative training opportunities for doctoral researchers across Scotland.

This year, we joined forces with the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS) to support interdisciplinary programmes including five Black History Month talks in October 2020, celebrating the history, achievements and contributions of black and minority ethnic people from across Scotland. In partnership with SGSSS we also ran nine Spring into Methods workshops which supported interdisciplinary and in-depth approaches to research methods for arts, humanities and social science doctoral researchers.

Other successful partnership programmes included Homestretch wellbeing workshops in collaboration with the University of the West of Scotland (January–March 2021) and the Practice Research Assembly with the University of Dundee (November 2020–July 2021).

“I’ve been considering submitting an application for a practice-based PhD for years but find it overwhelming and give up each time! These sessions have been so valuable and encouraging – a fantastic, thought-provoking and inspiring series of events.”

Practice Research Assembly Participant

‘Practice-...’

Increasingly the term ‘practice-...’ has become much more common in doctoral studies

- practice-led
- practice-based
- practice-focused
- practice-informed

Researching through Practice
6.11.20

Joyce Yee
SGSAH



Design Researcher, Dr Joyce Yee, giving a keynote presentation on *Researching through Practice*



Writer and Critical Theorist, Dr Isabel Waidner, giving a reading of their novel *Sterling Karat Gold*



Connecting Globally and Locally

SGSAH is firmly embedded in Scotland, demonstrated via our partnerships with external organisations who provide an excellent set of artist residencies and research internships.

We also connect globally, evidenced this year through our first International Summer School, and the opening out of our AHRC and SFC-funded studentships to applicants from across the globe.

At the same time, we're keenly aware of climate crisis and the need for our operations to be environmentally sustainable. Our GREEN/GRADUATE initiative is developing our thinking and activity in this area.

Research Internships and Artist Residencies

SGSAH's award-winning Research Internship and Artist Residency programme funds PhD researchers in the Arts & Humanities in Scotland to spend up to three fully-funded months at a partner host organisation, working in a wide variety of contexts.

The programme aims to give researchers the chance to make a tangible difference to organisations through a research placement, whilst developing their skills, networks and experience.

This year, SGSAH supported 28 doctoral researchers to take up internships and residencies across multiple sectors in Scotland, the UK and across the world. Host organisations worked with varied from major festivals to the NHS, and from the Scottish Parliament to an artificial intelligence lab in Japan. All the placements shared the aim of giving researchers the chance to make a real difference to an organisation whilst developing skills, networks and experience to help take them to the next stage of their careers. Placements and residencies have resulted in the creation of a diverse range of cultural and creative products including a new reading group for cancer sufferers, a research report on effective human engagement for virtual events and a site-specific installation of interactive street furniture.



Gladstone's Land, Edinburgh. Image c. NTS

Lindsay Middleton

Project: Food Tour and Redesign of the Gladstone's Land Property

HEIs: University of Glasgow & University of Aberdeen

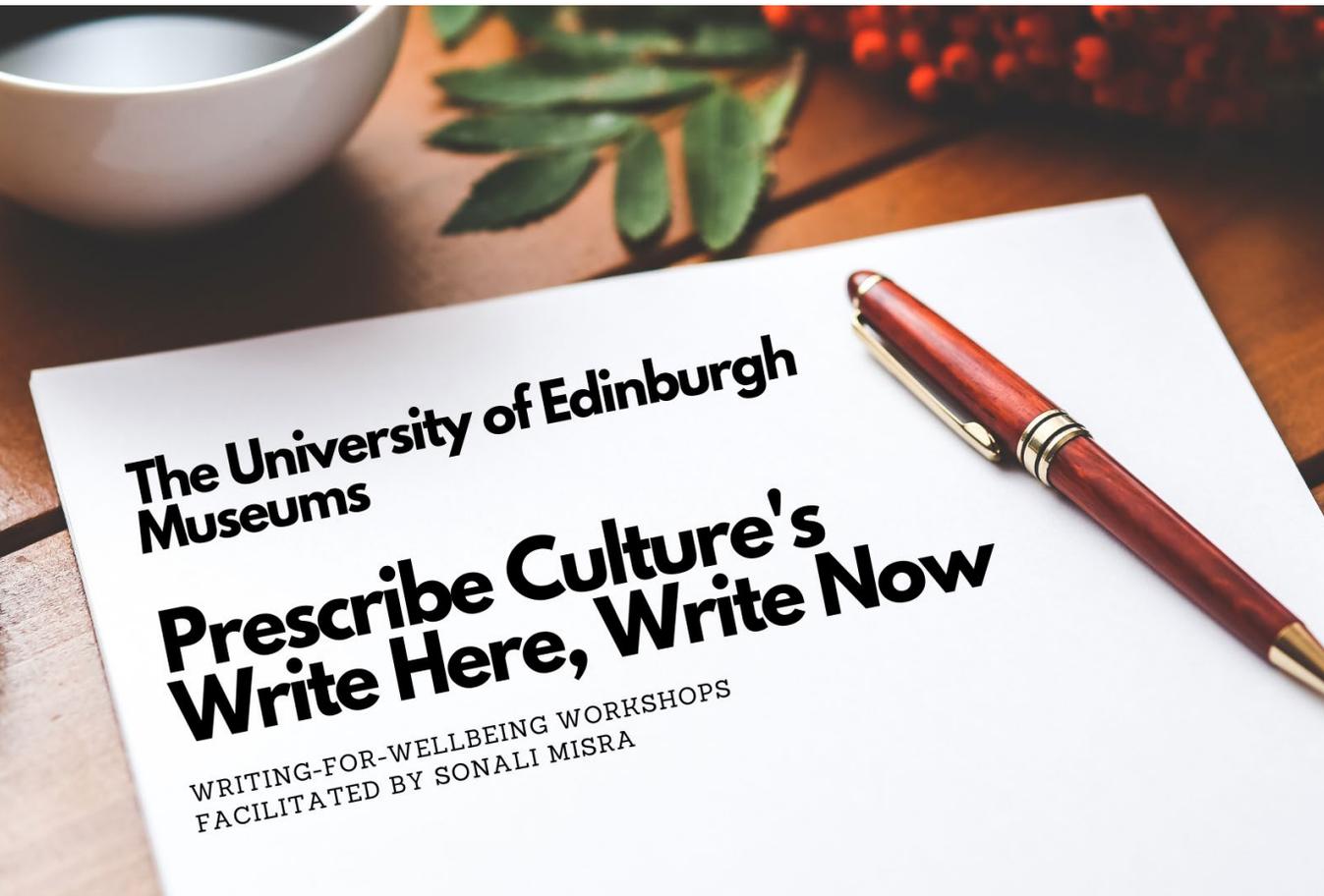
Internship Host: National Trust for Scotland

Lindsay worked with the National Trust for Scotland to create a sensory tour of Edinburgh's Royal Mile building, Gladstone's Land.

As a SGSAH-funded researcher, Lindsay took up the opportunity to create her own 3-month internship to boost professional skills, knowledge and experience in the heritage sector, where she aims to work in the future. In partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, she developed a project examining their interpretation materials around food within the Gladstone's Land property, which has recently reopened to the public for the first time following a £1.5m restoration. The project included a "Tables Through Time" tour, telling the story of changing tastes in food in Edinburgh's Old Town and the impact of trade, class and fashion on people's diets.

Lindsay comments, "As I am interested in a career in food-related heritage, the SGSAH internship programme gave me a fantastic opportunity to undertake a period of paid work experience with a national organisation to help integrate research into the heritage sector through interpretation materials. The placement also gave me a valuable chance to work directly with NTS curators, managers, staff members and volunteers, creating contacts networks in my research area for the future."





Sonali Misra

Project: Artist-in-Residence for Prescribe Culture

HEI: University of Stirling

Residency Host: The University of Edinburgh Museums



Sonali is a published author, magazine co-founder and PhD researcher. Born and brought up in India, she completed her undergraduate degree in English at the University of Delhi and Master's in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh.

Her PhD analyses the impact of British publishing upon India's publishing industry and its writers. In 2021, Sonali was awarded funding by SGSAH to undertake an artist residency with The University of Edinburgh Museums' Prescribe Culture programme, a mental health and wellbeing initiative. Her residency involved developing a six-week writing-for-wellbeing workshop series inspired by the Museums' collections, and she facilitated three sets of workshops to people with low-level mental health concerns.

Sonali commented that, "I am inquisitive about social prescribing and utilising heritage within a wellbeing capacity, and this placement allowed me to develop my knowledge of the field in a professional setting. I am confident the skills and experience I gained will prove highly applicable and valuable in my career."





Image Credit: Shu Lea Cheang

GREEN/GRADUATE

In 2020-21 SGSAH launched the GREEN/GRADUATE initiative as both an operational and strategic platform for addressing the climate emergency. Across the year, we staged four events. These included a workshop in March 2021, and a hackathon in August 2021, which brought together doctoral students whose research engages with climate change. The latter session was one of our 'interdisciplinary incubator' events, where we promote the importance of interdisciplinary research skills for addressing global challenges. The hackathon was highly successful,

with participants valuing the opportunity to engage with other researchers from across the arts and humanities, social sciences, and STEM.

In partnership across the sector, we also co-hosted a launch event for the Scottish Arts & Humanities Alliance (SAHA) in December 2020, and one of our Summer School Keynotes was a pop-up The Dear Green Bothy event with the University of Glasgow, featuring a panel of PhD researchers showcasing their work within the environmental humanities.

Building on these events SGSAH will be staging a range of events during COP26 in November 2021. At an operational level we are currently working with our GREEN/GRADUATE research intern to develop a series of guidelines for doctoral researchers and training providers on reducing the environmental impact of their research and training activities.

Still image from Leanne Gonczarow's film *On reflection* – her contribution to The Dear Green Bothy pop-up event.

International Summer School

This year, SGSAH delivered its first ever "Global Scotland" themed International Summer School, which ran alongside our annual Summer School in June 2021. The programme was aimed at Arts and Humanities doctoral researchers across Europe and the globe, as well as our communities in Scotland. There were 15 workshops, talks and events over 5 days with international partners including Universities of Hamburg and Mainz, Germany; ACORN Foundation, Mumbai; Shiv Nadar University, Delhi; Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

Participants at the Compound 13 Lab, Dharavi, Mumbai workshop on waste, work and survival in a global South megacity found it "extremely useful" and an "absolutely outstanding showcase, the best of its kind".



Alumni Development

SGSAH has funded hundreds of PhD projects since our inception in 2014 and our alumni are making an impact in their chosen fields all over the world. We want to maintain relationships with our global network of students and graduates and connect our community, in order to:

- help celebrate and promote the achievements by those involved
- invite alumni to contribute to SGSAH training and events for current students and potentially give them an avenue to keep engaged with the community
- create links for potential future ideas and collaborations and
- facilitate evolving contacts and networking, anywhere in the world

To aid this we have launched a Research Showcase website (sgsahresearch.com) to include profiles for all the SGSAH-funded cohort of researchers every year. The site will be a dynamic, accessible and visual online showcase of our alumni, to help us and you to keep in touch and potentially work together on areas of mutual interest in the future. We have also recently established a new alumni networking resource on LinkedIn; if you're one of our alumni or current students please do connect with us there!

Achievements from our recent alumni in 2020-21 include:

- Dr Harry Josephine Giles secured a publishing deal from Picador for their book, *Deep Wheel Orcadia*, which draws on their SGSAH-funded PhD research in Orkney
- Dr Tim Craven received a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Awards in the Poetry category
- Dr Maja Zeco & Dr Luca Nascuiti launched a collaborative online residency inspiring the public to explore their local environments through storytelling, walking and listening
- Dr Aaron McGregor launched a new online database dedicated to the earliest known sources of Scottish fiddle music indexing around 3500 tunes taken from the earliest manuscripts

Interconnected Scotland 2021

Scotland and its researchers have connections with people, ideas, and communities around the world and across time.

SGSAH launched its online research showcase, *Interconnected Scotland*, in September 2021 to share the diverse, exciting and pioneering work of arts & humanities doctoral researchers in Scotland.

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The Sick Apple: Female Mental Illness in New York Women's Literature, 1920 - 1945



I, Highland Warrior. Identity Nuances



Digital Memory and Photographic Memory - New Media Art, Archives and Exhibiting for a Future Life.



'I'm not a gatekeeper, I'm a fangirl': Scottish Women as Cultural Leaders



Are we wasting water in Scotland?



Learning French and Spanish under the Scottish 1+2 policy



The wilder or the manicured? Exploring public perceptions of park landscapes in Chinese urban environment



Rethinking material knowledge through the formative drive in art objects



About Us

Professor Claire Squires, Director

Claire is the Director of the SGSAH and is responsible to the Board for the overall vision and development of a world-leading and innovative national graduate school, targeted to the particular needs of doctoral students in the Arts and Humanities. Alongside her role as Director, Claire is Professor in Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling and Director of the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication.

Dr Craig Martin, Deputy Director

Craig joined SGSAH in July 2020. He is based at the University of Edinburgh, where he is Reader in Design Cultures. His interdisciplinary research addresses the cultural and social study of design in its broadest sense, with particular focus on informal design practices, the ethics of design, and mobilities. He has a long-standing involvement with SGSAH including as co-lead of the 'Creative Arts and Design' panel and Discipline+ Catalyst. In his capacity as Deputy Director, Craig has a particular responsibility for overseeing the work of the Catalysts.

Monica Callaghan, Head of Operations and Strategy

Monica is responsible for implementing, overseeing and developing all of SGSAH's operational strategies and processes. Monica joined us from The Hunterian where she was Head of Education and brings with her extensive leadership and strategic management experience within the cultural sector and a long-term commitment to learning and development.

Lindsay Wilson Administrator

Lindsay leads the SGSAH administrative team. She is our key contact for students, providing advice and guidance on funding and training opportunities. Lindsay brings experience of EU funded research projects and university finance to her role with SGSAH.

Helen Kendrick Partnerships and Placements Manager

Helen joined SGSAH in 2019 from a Creative Economy role at The Glasgow School of Art. She is responsible for our partnership strategy, knowledge exchange (KE) and careers' related training for Scotland's national graduate school for arts and humanities. She also manages our extensive internship programme.

Jordan McNally, Administrative Assistant

Jordan joined SGSAH in 2019 and leads on the organisation and delivery of SGSAH's many events. Jordan is responsible for providing administrative support across the full range of our work, ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Mariam Jack, Media and Communications Administrator

Mariam joined SGSAH in March 2020. Her main role is to support the implementation of SGSAH's communications strategy. She supports the social media profile of SGSAH and contributes to a range of digital outputs and campaigns, including website content, video recordings, press releases and newsletter publications.



SGSAH group photo, Millport 2021



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PhD Blog:
sgsahblog.com

PhD Research Showcase:
sgsahresearch.com

