



**PEER-LED
INTERDISCIPLINARY
METHODOLOGY
MASTERCLASS**



16 October 2026
Trent Building
University of Nottingham



We are delighted to welcome you to this M4C CDF-funded Methodology Masterclass!

This peer-led one day event will bring together speakers and participants from a range of disciplines, including:

Linguistics
Theology
Literature
Policy
Dance
AI

The event will feature talks, Q&A, & interactive workshops, with space available for networking & informal discussion throughout the day!

WE HOPE YOU
ENJOY!

HERE'S A LITTLE INFO ABOUT YOUR M4C-FUNDED PPP ORGANISERS

4 PHD RESEARCHERS FROM
4 DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

Rene
Bonifacio

is exploring Indigenous languages, language ecology & documentation identity, multilingualism, & sociolinguistics.

Syed
Peeran

explores reproductive futures in contemporary Anglophone Indian science fiction.

Michelle
Buckley

explores the history of dance, particularly British ballet, & its social constructs in the past, present, & future.

Rob
Nield

explores Romantic poetry across social, cultural, & linguistic boundaries.

PPP

9:30-10:00	REGISTRATION & COFFEE
10:00-10:15	WELCOME FROM ORGANISERS
10:15-11:15	QUESTIONAIRES & INTERVIEWS
11:15-11:45	COFFEE BREAK
11:45-12:45	ARCHIVES & PRACTICE-AS-RESEARCH
12:45-13:45	LUNCH
13:45-14:45	HISTORICAL & NARRATIVE CRITICISM
14:45-15:15	LITERARY CRITICISM
15:15-15:45	COFFEE BREAK
15:45-16:45	POLICY ANALYSIS & AI IN RESEARCH
16:45-17:00	CLOSING REMARKS
17:00-18:00	DRINKS & NETWORKING!

**All presentations
will be in the
Great Hall**

**All food, drink, &
networking will be in the
Senate Chamber**

**Stay for a drink
at the end to reflect,
share ideas, & continue
making connections!**



Milo Coffey

Swansea University

Questionnaires & Interviews

ASKING QUESTIONS: THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS

Questionnaires and interviews are among the most frequently used tools for data collection, particularly in the social sciences. However, this ubiquity does not equate to simplicity; designing an effective questionnaire or interview schedule requires more than just common sense. In this talk, I draw on my experience of using both of these methods in a variety of research settings and on a range of different topics to discuss what makes a good question, i.e. one that generates informative, meaningful and useful data. I outline some of the challenges and pitfalls that must be faced when designing and conducting questionnaires and interviews, but also aim to show how, when done right, both of these methods can be invaluable sources of information for researchers. This is then followed by a short workshop, in which the audience will have the opportunity to consolidate and put into practice some of the concepts raised in the talk.

More about Milo...

Milo Coffey is a PhD researcher and Wales Graduate School for the Social Sciences scholar at Swansea University, Wales. His research is focused on the interface between lexical semantics and healthcare communication, specifically how synonymy impacts patient understanding of medical terminology. He has previously worked as a research assistant on a project led by Professor Tess Fitzpatrick (Swansea University) and funded by HEFCW (now Medr), which aimed to investigate patient understanding of words used in cancer communication, and with the Welsh Government as a PhD intern to develop an evaluation plan for the CAMHS In-Reach to Schools initiative.



Michelle Buckley

Coventry University

Archives & Practice-as-Research

CLASS ETIQUETTE: DISCOVERING ORDER IN THE ARCHIVE

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) was formed during a period of growing interest in the professionalisation and regulation of work, including dance teaching. Imagine the horror of discovering that the plumber down the street was the one teaching you how to chassé across the floor! Such absurdities, at least in the eyes of those advocating professional standards, called for the codification and standardisation of dance teaching, ensuring that teachers could offer what was considered correct guidance. But how do you record something that disappears as soon as it is performed?

Despite its ephemerality, dance has played a persistent role throughout history: as an embodied language shared between communities, a means of displaying power and diplomatic dominance at court, and a way of navigating the social rituals through which a Lizzy Bennet might encounter her Mr Darcy. Dance has always been there, but those who practised and taught it rarely stopped to record it. And when they did, the resulting traces could be as delicate as lace: beautiful and intricate, yet full of holes.

This workshop explores some of the practical difficulties and frustrations of building an archive from scratch, while considering how archival materials have shaped my approach to the history of the ISTD. Through specially selected archival sources, we will explore what happens when we bring the archive into the body: how reactivating historical instructions can reveal assumptions, values, and experiences that written records alone cannot fully capture. Together, we will consider how embodying the archive might reshape the histories we tell.

More about Michelle...

Michelle is a professional dancer based in London, with nearly two decades of international performance experience across ballet, contemporary dance, musical theatre, and opera. She is currently undertaking an AHRC M4C-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award with C-DaRE at Coventry University and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD). Her research explores the history of dance pedagogy through the creation and reactivation of the ISTD archive, with a particular focus on empire, identity, and gender. Michelle is also a member of the TV PhD 2026 cohort, supported by the TV Foundation to explore new ways of bringing her research to life across digital and media platforms.



Victoria Bird

University of Nottingham

Historical & Narrative Criticism

WHEN METHOD MEETS METHOD: COMBINING HISTORICAL, TEXTUAL, AND NARRATIVE CRITICISM

Doctoral research rarely rests on a single methodology, and each approach carries its own questions, assumptions, and forms of evidence. How can distinct methodologies be integrated to strengthen research?

In this session, I will show how I combined historical, textual, and narrative approaches in researching the contested ending of Mark's Gospel. The ending raises several distinct questions, each requiring a different method. Which ending is earliest? What do the endings reveal about their historical contexts? How does each ending shape the interpretation of the Gospel as a whole?

The first part of the session focuses on textual and historical criticism: which ending is earliest, and which best fits the Gospel's historical context? The second part turns to the narrative-critical questions that emerge from this earlier work. How does each ending affect the portrayal of Jesus' resurrection and how readers understand it?

More about Victoria...

Victoria Bird is a PhD student in Theology whose research examines the different endings of the Gospel of Mark and how they shape the narrative and its interpretation. Her work involves a methodological approach that integrates narrative and historical perspectives. Her broader research interests include New Testament textual criticism, the reception history of the Bible, and the historical contexts of the first and second centuries CE.



Rob Nield

University of Birmingham

Literary Criticism

REIMAGINING LITERARY THEORY FOR LABOURING-CLASS AUTHORS

Robert Bloomfield, a London shoemaker, and James Hogg, a Borders shepherd, grew up in acute rural poverty and child labour, with very limited access to education. They became two of the bestselling poets of the Romantic period, only to fall acutely out of critical favour as the period was re-assessed by later literary theorists.

In this talk, I will discuss the challenges previous and current frameworks of literary history have posed, and continue to pose, for recovering authors from socially marginal backgrounds, and how my research is looking to create a theoretical path forward for these figures within a broader canon of British Romantic poetry.

This will include more general insights around the difficulties and opportunities of a PhD thesis looking at authors who are not well served by current theoretical frameworks, the practical problems of researching authors who are rarely considered together, and how to position disagreement with existing academics or consensus in the field.

More about Rob...

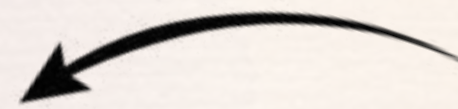
Rob Nield is a PhD researcher at the University of Birmingham, working on British Romantic Poetry in English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic. His thesis, *Glories Overthrown*, examines nostalgia in Romantic poetry across social, cultural, and linguistic boundaries. He is in receipt of AHRC funding via the Midlands4Cities consortium.



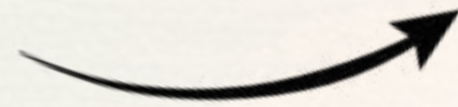
Xena Lewis
 University of Nottingham
 Policy Analysis & AI in Research

More about Xena...

Xena Lewis is a doctoral researcher at the University of Nottingham. Her research focuses on sucrose crystallisation and the development of imaging and data-analysis methods for studying crystal growth. Her work combines laboratory experiments with computational methods for data collection and analysis. Faced with extensive literature during her PhD, Xena explored AI tools as a practical way to work through sources more efficiently. She began using Google NotebookLM to organise literature, compare ideas across texts and produce source-linked summaries. At the conference, she will demonstrate how she used the platform and reflect on its practical benefits, limitations and responsible use.



JOINT PRESENTATION



VERIFYING POLICY DOCUMENTS AND USING AI IN RESEARCH

Investigating policies, e.g. language planning and policy documents, can be daunting. Problems may arise if you cannot find the exact physical and online documents you need, or if the policymakers and implementers do not have official documents to show you. In our talk, we will offer practical solutions to resolve this concern using sociolinguistics as a lens.

We also understand that using AI in research is often restricted by universities due to ethical concerns. The second part of our talk will demonstrate how you can use AI to support your analysis without replacing you as the main character of your project.



Rene Bonifacio
 University of Nottingham
 Policy Analysis & AI in Research

More about Rene...

Rene is a fourth-year PhD researcher in Linguistics (Modern Languages) at the University of Nottingham. He advocates for Indigenous minority language maintenance and conservation. Hence, his project focuses on how language planning and policy influence Manobo people's repertoires, practices, attitudes, and ideologies in the multilingual ecology of Lumintao Barangay in south-central Philippines.



TAKE A LOOK AT EULAN PENG'S SHOTS FROM CHC 2.0 LAST MONTH.
WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE EULAN BACK FOR PPP!
BE SURE TO FOLLOW @chronocraft



MORE FROM THE CHC TEAM



That's right! The cool cats behind today's PPP and last month's CHC 2.0 are bringing you a PODCAST!

We'll be chatting about all things cultural heritage and beyond, including... just what is cultural heritage?! We'll be joined by guest speakers from the field sharing insight, and also just having a laugh at the lighter side of life...

We can't wait to bring you CULTURAL HERITAGE CHATS!

Keep watch of our website & socials for the official launch!

KEEP FOLLOWING
FOR
CHC NEWS:

www.culturalheritageconference.org

www.linkedin.com/company/cultural-heritage-conference

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

AND THE CHC PODCAST:

www.youtube.com/@chcpod

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