



Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association

Postgraduate Network Conference 2024

Edinburgh Napier University

Merchiston Campus

30th August

We invite postgraduate researchers and practitioners working within media, communication and cultural studies to propose contributions for the **2024 MeCCSA PGN conference**. The one-day conference will be held at Edinburgh Napier University, just twenty minutes from the centre of historic Edinburgh. Participants will be welcomed to share, hear and experience research in a variety of forms, on the theme of **identity**.

Conference theme:

Identity is – and always has been – at the heart of research. This conference will be a safe and inclusive space in which to present new, exciting, and challenging findings and work-in-progress related to the broader theme of identity, and the many forms this might take and the ways in which it manifests in research.

Participants are urged to interpret the conference theme creatively. However, we also wanted to share some possible ways that 'identity' might be interpreted. None of these are restrictive but may be used as a starting point if useful.

- **Researcher identity, positionality, and reflexivity:** Researchers are often asked to consider their identity as a part of methodological work. We therefore welcome proposals from researchers discussing their use of identity-centric methods, such as autoethnography, and

sharing reflexive practice. However, we would also welcome reflection on these methods, and how calls to *identify* have affected your movement through academic spaces.

- **Giving identity voice:** Identity can be difficult to speak about, especially given that there is a long history of unrepresented identities in academia, and in wider culture. In recent years, the internet, for instance, has created new spaces for representing identity, calling for representation, and formatting new identity. How does your research make use of – and create – new ways of articulating identity? How have you engaged with *silences in the archives*? What identity work would you like to shout about?
- **[Mass] identity:** Identity does not have to be individually considered. Cultures and communities form personal identity, but also possess particular associations, traits and habits which create them as distinct, identifiable entities. We welcome research into how identity might manifest at scale.
- **Beyond-human identity:** Identity does not have to be human, either. Cultures, communities, places, animals and objects can all have distinct identities of their own. There is fruitful discussion to be had about where these beyond-human identities come from, how they change, and its effect on existence and engagement.
- **Identity as doing:** Identity is not always who we are, so much as what we do. Conducting research makes us into researchers, but just as legitimately, we can find identity as gamers, photographers, skateboarders, [any identities people want me to shout out?]. What acts make you who you are? We welcome both research into how doing shapes identity, and how what you do shapes your research position.
- **Identity in your area of study:** The way identity is discussed, shown and felt varies between discipline, interests and topics. We therefore welcome discussions of identity with a clear and specific focus on your specific corner of the cultural research realm. That might be identity on the internet, identity in the archives, linguistic identity, or anything else.

Submission process:

In recognition of the many interpretations of identity and identities, we want to provide a range of ways in which to share research at the conference. So, in your proposal, you will be asked to indicate one of five different forms of sharing your ideas.

- **Paper presentation:** A twenty-minute presentation, given in a panel. The traditional conference set up.
- **Lightning talk:** A five-minute presentation, given in quick succession with other lightning talks.
- **Poster:** A display of visualisations, available to be viewed all day, with a slot for presenting these works.
- **Installation:** For practice-based or creative researchers, there will be space to present an object of your research. This might be physical, but we are also interested in audio installations, film, or anything other form you might feel is relevant. We will discuss their display with you.
- **Workshop:** An hour workshop, sharing your research, methods, or other learnings in an interactive and educational way.

Once you have chosen your proposed topic and form, please submit an abstract of around 300 words and a short biography of no more than 100 words.

The deadline for proposals is: 14th June, 2024

Conference details:

The conference will be held at Edinburgh Napier University's Merchiston Campus on **Friday August 30th**.

If you have any questions or require any further clarifications, please contact the 2024 MeCCSA PGN conference team at **meccsapgnconference2024@gmail.com**.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

All the best,

Ashley, Cate, Judith, Nelson

The 2024 MeCCSA PGN conference team