



# SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/arts](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/arts)

In 2010, the Departments of Communication and Media, Architecture, English, Music and Philosophy joined together to form the School of the Arts.

These five broad disciplines provide a range of excellent programmes that routinely attract very high levels of student satisfaction. They share a fascination with creativity, imagination and culture; they are concerned with questions about how we might shape our future, and about the importance of creativity and imagination in the way we understand the world – where we have been, where we are, and where we might be going.

The School combines internationally leading research with excellent teaching, which develops the skills of communication, critical reflection and problem-solving that are essential for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers. This is the place to engage your imagination, sharpen your analysis and enhance your grasp of the world around us.

**The Departments in the School are:**

- Architecture
- Communication and Media
- English
- Music
- Philosophy



# CITY IN FILM

Since 2006, Dr Julia Hallam from our Department of Communication and Media has been engaged in projects on film research focused on Liverpool which produced, by design, a popular new public film archive and database and developed mapping techniques as a way of organising and displaying cultural resources.

Sustained engagement throughout this period with the North West Film Archive, the City Libraries, National Museums Liverpool and subsequently the new Museum of Liverpool ensured that Julia's work has had deep and lasting impact on museum exhibitions, public screenings and curatorial and cataloguing practices in Liverpool and beyond.

**Mapping the City in Film is a unique project that explores the relationship between film, memory and the urban landscape. The project is a partnership between the Department of Communication and Media and the School of Architecture.**

The AHRC-funded 'City in Film' project examined the ways in which cities have been recorded and represented on film since the early days of cinema. The project has brought together and documented more than 1,700 films made about Liverpool between 1897 and 1984 and created an online database.



**The City and the Moving Image: Urban Projections, edited by Richard Koeck and Les Roberts (London: Palgrave 2010).**

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/architecture/research/cava/cityfilm](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/architecture/research/cava/cityfilm)

## RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM

For some people, having the right to display religious symbols, such as crucifixes, niqābs and karas in public, at work and at school is extremely important. As our communities and workplaces become more culturally diverse, an increasing number of high profile discrimination cases over the rights of individuals to wear these religious symbols have led to controversy and debate.

Dr Daniel Hill and Dr Daniel Whistler from the Department of Philosophy at Liverpool employed an innovative combination of both theoretical and participatory methods in community based research to study philosophical literature and the use of symbols to create meaning.

This research brought together religious and secular communities to investigate anxieties, and to further look into how concepts are employed by religious and legal practitioners and policy makers.



When, if ever, is it acceptable to prohibit the use of religious symbols?

*Over half of the participants involved in the research claimed that the process had 'changed the way they thought' about issues surrounding religious discrimination.*

**Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester, recommended the report as a resource "to be widely used to promote religious literacy in our common life."**

**For more information, visit: [philosophyreligion.wordpress.com](http://philosophyreligion.wordpress.com)**

# ACOUSTICS RESEARCH UNIT

The Acoustics Research Unit (ARU) focuses on airborne sound and structure-borne sound in fields such as engineering acoustics, building acoustics, audio caustics, psychoacoustics, human vibration and environmental noise.

Building acoustics research at Liverpool feeds into new test procedures developed by R&D teams of Boeing, Seattle, for the control of vibration-induced noise in aircraft.



Anechoic Chamber

*In 2009, Professor Carl Hopkins, Head of the ARU, led the UK delegation to the ISO/TC43/SC2 plenary session on building acoustics in South Korea.*

ARU research forms the basis for three new International Standards (ISO 16283 Parts 1, 2 and 3), on the field measurement of sound insulation in buildings

The research of the Unit informs building regulations in 24 European countries to check that the required level of sound insulation is achieved in buildings.

The regulations are particularly important for the UK construction industry as there are approximately 35,000 field sound insulation tests per annum, providing a direct income of approximately £10 million per annum for acoustic consultants. This is in addition to income of approximately £53 million that UK consultants earn using these Standards in building acoustics.

For more information, visit: [www.liverpool.ac.uk/architecture/research/acoustics-research-unit/about](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/architecture/research/acoustics-research-unit/about)

## BRITISH ART AND TRADITION: EXPLORING AN ECLECTIC CULTURAL HERITAGE

Dr Alexandra Harris researches English art and literature in the period 1930-45, and has used her work to demonstrate how artists and writers have opened up new dialogues between past and present, and between English tradition and international modernism. She has traced a broad shift away from explicit radicalism and towards new relationships with landscape, locality, inheritance and tradition.

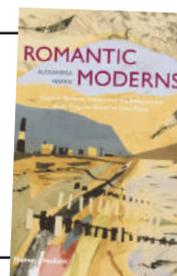


Speaking alongside National Trust Director Fiona Reynolds in a Nightwaves special (BBC Radio 3 April 2012), Alexandra urged the vital importance of literary history in understanding attitudes to landscape and, in a programme on the 'well-being agenda', its policy implications.

*“If only all cultural analysts had her style, scope, and concision.”*

*Clive James*

*Romantic Moderns: English Writers, Artists and the Imagination, from Virginia Woolf to John Piper* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2010): was the winner of the 2010 Guardian First Book Award.



[www.alexandraharris.co.uk](http://www.alexandraharris.co.uk)

Dr Harris is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and in June 2011 was selected as a BBC Radio 3 'New Generation Thinker'. In subsequent years an unprecedented three further colleagues from our English Department have been chosen as representatives of the AHRC New Generation Thinkers programme.

# IMPACTS08 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Impacts08 was a joint initiative between the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University, evaluating the impact of culture-led regeneration in the city.

*“Impacts08 set the ‘Gold Standard’ for measurement of comprehensive cultural projects.”*

*Kris Donaldson,  
CEO, World Cities of  
Culture Organisation*

The programme, commissioned by Liverpool City Council, assessed the social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of Liverpool’s status as European Capital of Culture on the city, its people and its wider effects on the North West. It examined the progress and impact of Capital of Culture from the period of the bid through to the preparation stages, 2008 and beyond.

The ‘Liverpool Model’ is now an international reference point for both academics and policy-makers, with regard to cultural impact research and assessment.

The Impacts08 programme highlighted that Liverpool’s historic stereotypical image, often associated with social deprivation, has been replaced by a renewed emphasis on the city’s contemporary culture and creative assets as a result of its year as European Capital of Culture. Impacts08 laid the foundations for the Institute of Cultural Capital (ICC).

For more information, visit: [www.impacts08.net](http://www.impacts08.net) [www.iccliverpool.ac.uk](http://www.iccliverpool.ac.uk)



Informing  
the political  
debate around  
the value of  
culture and  
events



Influencing planning for the London 2012 Olympic Games, the Cultural Olympiad, and the Future European Capitals of Culture programme

**IMPACTS08**  
European Capital of Culture Research Programme