Pluralism in Crisis

Approaches from the Social and Natural Sciences

November 2010
Pluralism in Crisis
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This programme, funded by the Institute for Advanced Studies, run from April 2010 to August 2010. The programme team members were:

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Note:
The Scottish Universities Insight Institute is a development from the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), funded by the University of Strathclyde as a pilot from January 2009. Now a formal partnership of five Scottish universities (Dundee, Edinburgh, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde), we have become the Scottish Universities Insight Institute. As the “Pluralism in Crisis” programme was funded in a period before the name change, this report refers to the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS).
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1. Programme purpose and approach

a. Background

The programme sought to create a dynamic interdisciplinary forum for public and scholarly debate over whether and when diversity and complexity are a source of strength or weakness in crisis situations. It focused on a number of current issues drawn from ecology, development, conflict, religious and social cohesion and other fields.

One argument for a broad multidisciplinary review of the resources offered by pluralism was presented by the widespread perception that multiculturalism was experiencing difficult times. In the past twenty years, a number of prominent supporters of multiculturalism had proposed a revised pluralism to account for the observed propensity of determinedly multicultural systems to collapse under stress. Increasingly diverse states had appeared to lose solidarity and political will in the face of competing multiculturalist discourses and, in various regions of the world, some ethnic federations had disintegrated in protracted conflict. The optimistic multiculturalism of the late twentieth century had been equally challenged in the wake of global economic and ecological crises, and under the pressures created by ongoing conflicts over values. These global phenomena had, some claimed, altered attitudes towards sharing, entitlement and competing values, stoking tensions between religious, ethnic and political groups at the national level. Pluralists faced practical and intellectual challenges from those who doubted both its effectiveness and justice, and this programme examined the resources pluralists had recently offered to promote the development of policies that would be sensitive to the new tensions, and to address the divergent policy contexts in which the limits of pluralism were under debate.

This IAS programme examined pluralist approaches from across the social and natural sciences in order to understand the roles of diversity, complexity, scarcity and resilience in successful pluralist systems. While some contributors looked to the natural world for insight into the responses of diverse and complex systems under pressure, other participants explored various methods available to policy-makers, practitioners and theorists for describing and understanding pluralist systems.

The programme built on an exploratory workshop, Beyond Diversity: Resituating Pluralism, which was held in Cornell University in May 2009.

b. Core questions

- What kinds of pluralism exist? How do they differ between and within disciplines? How do problems of pluralism manifest themselves in different disciplines?
- What can pluralist theories in different disciplines give to and take from one another?
- What challenges to pluralism can we approach in new ways by thinking in terms of multiple ‘languages’, ‘ecologies’, ‘stories/narratives’ or ‘systems’? What are the implications of framing pluralism in these ways?
- How can a theoretical understanding of pluralism be applied by those working in policy or practice? Can pluralistic approaches cast light on ‘wicked problems’ and their resolution?
• Can pluralism provide effective responses to scarcity and surplus?
• How can pluralistic theory apply to systems and actors that are not pluralist?
• Is it most effective to put in place protection for pluralism before, during or after a threat to plurality?
• Do contemporary pluralisms provide criteria for achieving justice in normative contests over values? Do they provide effective means with which to address environmental, ecological or systemic conflicts?
• Who are the relevant actors in pluralist systems?
• Do contemporary pluralisms provide criteria for achieving justice in normative contests over values? Do they provide effective means with which to address environmental, ecological or systemic conflicts?

c. Objectives

• Collaborative publication, for example through special issues of journals focused on politics and pluralism and on ecology.
• Development of an international network of scholars, practitioners and policy-makers to pursue longer-term research collaborations, and preparing grant applications to support this work.
• Further analysis of the overarching features and themes that apply to pluralist theories across subjects and disciplines.
• Engagement with national and international policy-makers, opinion-formers and practitioners to establish how the group’s scholarly activities can be incorporated into governmental and non-governmental thinking and practice.
• Establish a common vocabulary across different scholarly disciplines and policy groups to address issues of both cultural and biological diversity.
• To expand the scholarly foundation of pluralism to include the humanities as well as social and physical sciences.

d. Format

Three workshop sessions: a two-day session in May, another two-day session in June and a three-day session in July. The May and June workshops allowed North American participants to join the discussion via video and telephone links, while the July session brought all participants to Glasgow. (For more details, see section 3 below.)

Each session was loosely structured to maximize freedom for wide-ranging discussion, using cross-cutting themes or disciplinary case studies to frame the issues. Experts were invited to give short introductory presentations to provide material for discussion, with participants from other disciplinary backgrounds invited to provide a first response.
e. Interdisciplinarity

The programme brought a global team of academics together with representatives from international organizations, national and international policy-makers and diversity specialists for a rigorous examination of key contemporary challenges faced in policy-making for biodiversity and multicultural societies.

In addition to this sectoral diversity, a variety of disciplines were represented, including: political theory, economics, chemical engineering, international development, organisational studies, philosophy, religious studies, education, ecology, archaeology, biology, accounting and finance, public policy, ethics, anthropology, political science, history, psychology, mechanical engineering, war and peace studies, community relations, mathematics, sociology, zoology, immigration, conservation and law. Participants were challenged to understand pluralism in unfamiliar situations and to apply their own disciplinary techniques and strategies to the situations presented.

Sessions were deliberately structured to concentrate minds on the demands of the dialogue between the natural and social sciences, both of which have tended to treat diversity, pluralism and behavioural constructs such as resilience in distinctive ways. A number of participants were chosen for their ability to cut across natural and social sciences, while others brought a particular knowledge of the treatment of the programme themes in disciplines – such as anthropology, psychology and accounting – which offered distinctive resources for a reformulation of both pluralism and our understandings of the relationship between the methods and objectives of the natural and social sciences.

2. Outputs and outcomes

a. Areas explored

In May, faced with the challenges of working across such a wide range of disciplines and divergent subject areas, workshop participants established the grounds for a consensus that would distinguish the fact of *plurality* from *pluralism*. Pluralism involves an interpretative or methodological choice, which may be (some would argue will be) implicit in a descriptive pluralism. Pluralistic ways of thinking involve some ability to integrate information about disparate and often conflicting values or phenomena, an integrative complexity which may be measured. Some versions of pluralism will require a respect and understanding for opposing perspectives, a point which, even when accepted, nevertheless inevitably raises both theoretical and practical problems. Pluralistic features may be attributed to an agent, or to a social or ecological system, though this will provoke disagreement across disciplines with regard to the nature of agency – what it is and to whom it can be accorded – and any theory of agency ought properly to be defended accordingly.
The workshop concurred on the value of functional comparisons between pluralistic social systems and natural ecologies, particularly in raising paradigms for measuring diversity in systems and in addressing the dynamics of relations between parties to a pluralistic arrangement. There was also a vigorous debate over the value of encompassing perspectives in which the division between the social and the natural is less distinct than it is in traditional western approaches, such those offered by indigenous belief systems and certain branches of ecology and evolutionary biology.

In June, participants heard presentations from an international gathering of scholars addressing the management of contemporary ecological, economic, political, cultural and social crises with the help of pluralist methods as practised in their respective disciplines. Comparisons were drawn between pluralist analyses and methodologies across a number of disciplines in the natural and social sciences, and the foundations were laid for a more rigorous investigation of how a comparative or synergistic approach might provide solutions to those wicked problems for which traditional approaches had failed. The encounter laid out parallel grounds in natural and social contexts for the investigation of the adaptability and resilience of complex communities under stress, and explored pluralist community-based models for intervention to prevent violent radicalisation, to promote stability after violence is stemmed and to provide for the development and welfare of vulnerable populations. The relationship between approaches to diversity and pluralism in the natural and social sciences proved the object of recurrent discussion, in respect to the nature of evidence, method and theoretical objectives, and similarly with regard to the practical goals properly associated with pluralism.

The July workshop had three distinct stages. Firstly, it allowed for continuation of the interdisciplinary audit of pluralism and pluralist approaches that had taken place during the first two workshops. This involved further exploration of key theoretical and philosophical questions, and advanced the programme’s examination of the viability of cross-disciplinary application of specific pluralist methodologies. Secondly, it included closer investigation of some of the real-life crises for which pluralist responses had been mooted, incorporating experience and expert advice from policy-makers and practitioners. Thirdly, it provided an opportunity for the assembled group to consider and commence collaborative research and publication initiatives and to agree the future direction of this global initiative.

b. Emerging issues

- **Plurality** and **pluralism** ought to be distinguished by reference to a more sophisticated terminology that applies across social and natural sciences; the conflation of these terms continues to obstruct analysis and interdisciplinary communication.
- Dialogue about the utility of pluralist discourse is inhibited by other linguistic difficulties. Further study is required to identify problems arising from contrasting uses of particular words, phrases and concepts and to provide guidance on how they can be overcome.
- Given that the relevant actors in pluralist systems or solutions vary according to context, a new cross-disciplinary focus on the nature of agency will aid both the interdisciplinary conversation and dialogue between academics and practitioners in the fields of ecological and cultural diversity.
There was an overall willingness to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, but agreeing the terms of such dialogue gave rise to some epistemological difficulties, for example, agreeing which ‘ways of knowing’ would be acknowledged as legitimate.

The ability to assess and measure functional diversity was not universally accepted across disciplines, and a parallel divergence appeared over bias based on normative approaches to pluralism and diversity in biological, economic and social contexts.

Pluralists working across the social and natural sciences advance a range of resources for the understanding and resolution of conflict – beyond simple tools for the allocation of a surplus of resources. The functionality of pluralism in resource-scarce contexts holds particular promise, having been overlooked in much social science material and having been treated in simplistic ways in much material on biodiversity.

It was unclear how pluralist systems could respond to intolerance towards the notion of pluralism.

The identification of roles for agents who bridge communities in conflict has received some theoretical attention in both natural and social science contexts, and deserves further empirical study. Some evidence suggested that involving intermediaries who have a connection with each of the opposing groups in a conflict can be effective in its resolution. Similarly, involving agents who can help to bridge conceptual of disciplinary gaps (‘two-way’ windows) can assist in achieving effective multidisciplinary collaboration and dialogue.

The value of an interdisciplinary conversation focused on the nature of resilience was underscored by a number of participants.

Parallel assumptions about the nature and role of energy in both natural and social science material on contemporary economic, ecological and social crises suggests another focus for the conversation advanced in this programme.

c. **Instances of pluralism**

The programme included presentations and discussions on a number of instances of pluralism:

- In **anthropology**: the inclusion of different cosmologies, ways of knowing and understandings of reality in pluralist discourse.
- In **complex networks**: the dynamics of crisis on complex social networks and the arrangements which provide improved resilience in crisis.
- In **conservation, ecology and environment**: exploring coupled-natural responses to environmental crisis and exploring the strategies of indigenous peoples in dealing with environmental change.
- In **economics**: the risk associated with a system of global financial arrangements based on a single set of economic principles and the value of a more diverse system.
- In **engineering**: issues relating to security and supply of natural and physical resources.
- In **interreligious dialogue and encounter**: the dynamics of division, cohesion and mediation dialogue with fundamentalist religious groups.
- In **political philosophy**: the various manifestations of and approaches towards pluralism and their effects on societies and political systems.
- In **post-conflict stabilization**: the importance of empowering emerging or historically excluded groups to influence post-conflict negotiations.
• In professional regulation and global capital: the establishment of regulatory frameworks that allow for the global flow of capital while satisfying the diverse cultural, legal and ethical expectations of participating professionals.
• In social policy: capacity building and empowerment of minority groups in the democratic process.
• In zoology: examining the effects of crisis on non-human social groups.

d. Added value, impact and outputs

The most immediate value of the programme was to provide an opportunity for a diverse group of scholars, policy-makers, practitioners and others to come together to discuss the many varied forms of pluralism that exist. This provided a unique vehicle for sharing pluralist theory and techniques across disciplinary boundaries, exploring areas of convergence and divergence and understanding the importance of both. It afforded participants the chance to look beyond their own disciplinary boundaries and to consider new pluralist approaches, ultimately reconfiguring these initial disciplinary boundaries. This will enrich and sharpen the work of individual participants.

The group agreed to pursue a number of collaborative ventures. Firstly, the group will continue to communicate via email lists and a Google group. This will preserve the relationships which began during the course of the programme. By these means, individuals can communicate with the whole group or some of the group, addressing questions which arise in the course of their work or seeking collaborators for future activities. The value of this is clear, although its impact will only be measurable after sufficient time has passed to allow these relationships to develop.

The group agreed a number of concrete outputs:

• Continued communication and collaboration via Google group and email lists (ongoing)
• A Dropbox account for the sharing of publications and other documents (created July 2010)
• An application to a number of British funding schemes for academic networks, to support continued and enhanced meetings of the group (Autumn/Winter 2010)
• A commitment to organise a follow-up conference in Montreal in summer 2011
• An application to the Social Science Research Council (USA) to explore some of the issues covered in the programme (Autumn/Winter 2010)
• An application to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK) to pursue knowledge exchange and application between the social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, policy and practice (Spring 2011)
• An edited volume of participants’ work, taking the form of a reader for the study of differing approaches to and applications of pluralism (Autumn/Winter 2010)
• Discussion with the editors of Ecology and Society and The Journal of Human Ecology for a special issue exploring the transferability of pluralist techniques between disciplines (Summer/Autumn 2010)
• An approach to Proceedings of the National Academy to discuss a possible special issue (Winter 2010.
• An article submitted to Action Research describing the dynamics of the group’s conversation over time (Spring 2011)
• A co-authored article exploring the ramifications of denying the distinction between ‘human’ and ‘natural’ in our responses to complex policy problems (Spring 2011)
• An approach to international magazines offering co-authored articles on pluralism and its application to contemporary global problems (Winter 2010)
• An application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a network grant to provide support for the continuation of the group (Winter 2010)
• An application for funding for a collaborative research project focused on the role of alternative peace-making actors and communities in post-conflict reconciliation efforts
• An application to the Institute for Social Sciences (Cornell) to fund subsequent research and collaboration activities (Spring 2011)
Annex 1: Programme activities

a. Programme activities

On 24 and 25 May 2010, the group assembled for the first time for a two-day workshop entitled *Framing Pluralism*. This involved two distinct gatherings of scholars, one at IAS in Glasgow and the other in Cornell University. There was a shared agenda between the two gatherings, with the Cornell group joining the discussion via video link-up on the afternoon of both days. One additional participant joined the conversation via a telephone link from Canada.

The second gathering of the group took place on 23 and 24 June 2010. Again, this involved one group gathering in Cornell and another group gathering in Glasgow, with discussions enabled by video link-up. Two additional participants joined the conversation via telephone link, one from Canada and the other from Alaska.

The final workshop brought all participants together at IAS for three days on 27, 28 and 29 July. This was an intensive session which allowed the group to build upon its previous discussions. The first day allocated time for in-depth exploration of some of the issues that had arisen in May and June. On the second day, the group was joined by a group of policy-makers and practitioners, who were asked to provide advice on how pluralism arose and was addressed in their work. This was followed by an evening lecture by Glenn Plumb of the US National Park Service, who explained the coupled human-natural approach taken by the Service in responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The third day allowed participants to reflect further on issues which had already arisen and to plan future activities.

Agendas for each of these three workshops appear below. The promotional flyer for Glenn Plumb’s public lecture is also reproduced below.

The organisers faced a tight timescale between workshops, during which we had to distil key points from the discussions and draw up the agenda for future sessions, involve additional participants whose expertise would enrich future sessions, and communicate with participants about the format, content and their roles in future sessions. A number of participants were asked to prepare short presentations outlining the challenges to pluralism in their own disciplines, and others were asked to respond to these presentations. Members of the programme team provided advice and guidance where appropriate.

Most of this communication took place via email, either through direct communication between the programme team and individual participants or via the group email list. Members of the programme committee spoke regularly by telephone or in person, and occasional in-person meetings took place with other participants. A Google group was also established during the programme, allowing easier discussions and sharing of papers. Workshop programmes and general information were hosted on the IAS website.
b. Overview of workshop topics

Workshop one: Framing Pluralism, 24-25 May 2010

Introduction to Framing Pluralism
What is pluralism? Do we need common terminology? For what purposes?

Video link – Discussion 1: Defining pluralism
Transatlantic introductions, with emphasis on ideas for models/tools/resources for pluralism from both natural and social sciences

Discussion 2: Justice tests for pluralist thinking

Discussion 3: Effectiveness tests for pluralist approaches
Lessons from natural and social sciences

Discussion 4: Translating academic approaches to cultural and biodiversity into practice

Look ahead to workshop 2

Workshop two: Pluralist responses to crisis, 23-24 June 2010

Introduction to Pluralist Responses to Crisis
Recap of workshop one. Aims and objectives of workshop two. George Wilkes

Discussion session 1
Presenters: Sheila Dow (economic systems) and George Wilkes (post-conflict stabilization programming)
Respondent: Victoria Harrison
Chair: Darragh Hare

Discussion session 2
Presenters: Gina Netto (capacity building in the voluntary sector) and Ernesto Estrada (complexity, networks and crisis)
Respondent: David Lusseau
Chair: George Wilkes

Discussion session 3
Presenters: Ken McPhail (professions and global capital) and David Lusseau (diversity and resilience in behaviour and societies)
Respondent: Tony Crook
Chair: Sheila Dow

Reflections on policy
Jane Morgan
Discussion session 4  
Presenters: Raffaella Ocone (security and supply) and Victoria Harrison (interreligious dialogue/encounter)  
Respondent: Tony Crook  
Chair: David Lusseau  

Pluralism in the policy process  
How can our work be related to policy? How should we present it to policy-makers?

Discussion session 5  
Presenters: and John McKernan (professional regulation) and Bernd Blossey (conservation of plant diversity)  
Respondent: Sheila Dow  
Chair: Tony Crook  

Discussion session 6  
Presenters: Karim-Aly Kassam (resilience and adaptation – ethnic peoples and environmental change) and Patrice Brodeur (Islam and pluralism)  
Respondent: Satoshi Ikeuchi  
Chair: Bernd Blossey  

Pluralism in the field  
How can our work impact upon practice? How should we present it to practitioners?

Summing up and next steps

Final workshop, 27-29 July 2010

Discussion session 1: Diversity and ways of knowing  
Chair: Karim-Aly Kassam

Discussion session 2: Communities  
Chair: Victoria Harrison

Discussion session 3: Managing plurality, conflict and risk  
Chair: George Wilkes

Policy/practice engagement sessions

Session 1: Plurality, economics and markets  
Chair: Sheila Dow  
What untapped resources does a pluralist economics offer in a time of financial crisis? An exchange between academics, policy-makers and practitioners, covering strategic diversity in enterprise, finance, and the management of supply and demand.
Session 2: Plurality, ecology and the environment

Chair: Bernd Blossey
Does bio-diversity increase the resilience and adaptability of ecologies? What are the impacts of cultural diversity on bio-diversity? An inter-professional, interdisciplinary dialogue on the behavior of ecologies under stress, on the utility of diversity measurement, and on the lessons held out for conflict and coexistence between human groups by experience in the rest of the natural world.

Session 3: Plurality, values and society

Chair: Darragh Hare
Is multiculturalism in crisis? An exchange between policy-makers, professionals, community representatives, and a range of academics focused on the challenges of developing diversity-related policy in government and legal contexts, in international standard-setting bodies and other associations, and in the local community.

Day 3

Discussion session 1: Resilience and adaptation

Chair: David Lusseau

Discussion session 2: Publications

Chair: Karim-Aly Kassam

Discussion session 3: Future collaborations – next steps

Chair: George Wilkes

Summing up agreement of next steps
Annex 2: Public lecture details

Chain of Consequences in a Coupled Human-Natural System: The Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Glenn Plumb

Public lecture given on Wednesday 28th July 2010, 6pm
Location: Institute for Advanced Studies, James Weir Building, 75 Montrose Street, Glasgow G1 1XJ

Abstract

In May 2010, the US Department of the Interior established a Strategic Sciences Working Group with the objective to rapidly assess how the Gulf of Mexico oil spill may impact the ecology, economy, and people of the Gulf of Mexico. The Working Group is treating the region of potential impact as a coupled natural-human system, and is conducting interdisciplinary scenario building that incorporates physical, chemical, biological, economic, and socio-cultural consequences; and how these consequences interact in shaping the possible trajectories of the overall system.

About the speaker

Glenn Plumb is Chief of the Branch of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources at Yellowstone National Park. He is a member of the US Department of Interior’s Strategic Sciences Working Group currently assessing the ecosystem impact of the Gulf Spill. Dr Plumb is trained as a wildlife biologist, and received the National Park Service Director’s 2006 Award for Natural Resource Management.
Annex 3: Biography of participants

Professor Patrice Brodeur

University of Montreal

Holder of a Canada Research Chair on Islam, Pluralism, and Globalisation at the Faculty of Theology and the Sciences of Religions at the University of Montreal (Canada) since 2005, Brodeur investigates the dynamics of power and multiple identities within intercultural, interreligious, inter-civilizational, and inter-worldview dialogues, especially between Muslims and non-Muslim Westerners. He received research grants from the United States Institute of Peace and the Canadian Government, among others. He has published over twenty articles in a variety of scholarly journals and chapters in academic books mostly in the field of Religious Studies.

Charles Burgess

Cornell University

Charles Burgess is a lifelong resident of the highlands overlooking the Mohican Valley in what is now Albany county, upstate New York. He holds an Associate's Degree in Wilderness Recreation Leadership from North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, New York, a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology, with a minor in Linguistics, from the State University of New York at Albany, and (in about three weeks will hold) an MA in Archaeology from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Charles’ work emphasizes the importance of place in founding a person's- and a people's- identity. By seeking to understand ancient conceptions of and relationships to place, Charles strives to communicate the profound human need to invest themselves in their places: to be stewards rather than owners, and neighbors rather than simply “others.” By applying the lessons of the past- the challenges faced and the solutions developed in overcoming them- to the challenges of today- sovereignty, climate change, food security, and others- it is hoped that we may be better equipped to face these challenges, and overcome them with even greater success than had our ancestors.

Dr Tony Crook

Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews

I first visited the Min area of Papua New Guinea in 1990, and have undertaken over three years of fieldwork study with the Ankaiyakmin, Ningerum and Telefolmin peoples, focusing on knowledge-practices, gardening, ancestor cult ritual and the impacts of the Ok Tedi mine. A monograph Anthropological Knowledge, Secrecy and Bolivip, Papua New Guinea: Exchanging Skin (British Academy/OUP 2007) takes up and analyses the 'Min problem'—the Min peoples are renowned for their secret male initiation rituals and have proven to be one of the most enigmatic cultures in anthropological experience. This study, however, argues that all-along the root of this long-standing interpretative impasse has been in Anthropology's view of secrecy and knowledge. This insight into Min knowledge-practices—by which 'knowledge' is a water-like substance that circulates between people, plants and the land—has been the basis for understanding Ningerum claims over the damaging effects of the Ok Tedi mine which are, however, unmeasurable by science. More recently, these Melanesian cosmologies of the earth have led to an interest in the cultural history informing contemporary preceptions and responses to climate change.
Professor Sheila Dow  
*University of Stirling*  
Sheila Dow is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Stirling, Director of SCEME and an advisor on monetary policy to the UK Treasury Select Committee. She has worked previously as an economist with the Bank of England and the Government of Manitoba. She has published in the areas of methodology, the history of economic thought (especially Hume, Smith and Keynes), money and banking, and regional finance. She has published a range of pieces on pluralism, including ‘Structured Pluralism’, *Journal of Economic Methodology*, 11(3), 2004, 275-90 and ‘History of Thought and Methodology in Pluralist Economics Education’, *International Review of Economics Education* 8(2), 2009, pp.41-57.

Professor Ernesto Estrada  
*Department of Physics Institute of Complex Systems, Strathclyde University*  
My research is devoted to understand the organisational principles and dynamics of complex systems at different size scales. I am interested in the development and application of mathematical and physical concepts to study complex systems ranged from small organic molecules and proteins to "giant" complex networks.

Katja Frimberger  
*Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow*  
Katja Frimberger is a language and drama teacher wanting to explore the relational and embodied aspects that underlie multicultural encounters. She is especially interested in understanding the embodied ways people experience and construct notions of self- and otherness. Currently undertaking PhD studies at the Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow, Katja is developing a collaborative performance project with international students, exploring how German dramatist Bertolt Brecht’s theory and practice of *estrangement* may provide an embodied, ethnographic approach for intercultural education.

Darragh Hare  
*Centre for Applied Ethics and Legal Philosophy, University of Glasgow*  
My interest in pluralism can be roughly divided into two discrete disciplinary threads. Firstly, I have an interest in pluralism with respect to public policy development, and in particular the ways in which diverse attitudes, sensibilities, interests and values contribute to the development of robust policy within democratic systems. Secondly, I have an interest in pluralism in the context of several issues in applied ethics. These include: cultural and ethical conflicts arising from the globalisation of economic or political ideologies or professional codes; international development, specifically the prioritisation of international aid in regions affected by difficult socio-political conditions; the role of conscientious objection in professional practice; and the purported tensions between religion and liberal democracy.

Dr Victoria Harrison  
*Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow*  
Victoria S. Harrison is Reader in Philosophy and Director of the Centre for Philosophy and Religion at the University of Glasgow. She came to Glasgow in 2005 from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Previously she taught at Birkbeck College (University of London), the University of Notre Dame’s
London Centre, the Muslim College (London), and Kingston University. Her publications include: *The Apologetic Value of Human Holiness* (Kluwer 2000) and *Religion and Modern Thought* (SCM 2007). Her current work is concerned with theories of religious and ethical pluralism and the relevance of these to inter-religious dialogue and situations of conflict.

**Dr Satoshi Ikeuchi**  
*Associate Professor, University of Tokyo and Visiting Fellow, University of Cambridge*

Satoshi Ikeuchi is Associate Professor at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo. He specializes in Middle East politics and Arab-Islamic Thought. His studies focus on the contemporary religious trends in the Arab world. He has an interest in Islamic political thought and its impact on and implications for the evolution of international society and its norms. How can pluralist societies accommodate Muslim identity politics and what kind of norms in international society can be constructed facing with assertions of Islamic legal political norms?

**Professor Karim-Aly Kassam**  
*Cornell University*

Dr. Karim-Aly S. Kassam is International Associate Professor of Environmental and Indigenous Studies in the Department of Natural Resources and the American Indian Program at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. Dr. Kassam holds a PhD in Natural Resource Policy and Management from Cornell University (USA), an MSc in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics (UK), an MPhil in Islamic Studies from the University of Cambridge (UK), and a BA in Economics from the University of Calgary (Canada). Dr. Kassam’s objective is to seamlessly merge teaching with applied research in the service of communities. Dr. Kassam’s research focuses on the complex connectivity of human and environmental relations, addressing indigenous ways of knowing, food security, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change. It is conducted in partnership with indigenous communities in the Alaskan, Canadian, and Russian Arctic and Sub-Arctic; the Pamir Mountains in Afghanistan and Tajikistan; and the rain forest in the south of India. By investigating the relationship between biological diversity and cultural diversity, he seeks to expand the foundations of the notion of pluralism.

**David Lundie**  
*Centre for Culture, Creativity and Faith, University of Glasgow*

David Lundie is a PhD student attached to the AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society project ‘Does RE Work? An analysis of the aims, practices and models of effectiveness in Religious Education in the UK’ at the University of Glasgow. This interdisciplinary project draws on ethnographic and theological approaches to generate a rich mapping of religious education’s complexity in secondary schools. David’s interests include the philosophy of education, issues in embodiment and moral education, and the politics of plurality in education. He is currently working on the issue of estrangement and encounter with the other, drawing on ethnographic observations in two schools in areas of inter-community confrontation.
Dr David Lusseau  
*I Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Aberdeen*  
I am interested to understand how the behaviour of individuals influences the dynamics of their population. Under this broad research umbrella I focus my research effort on two primary threads: 1) Conservation Behaviour – applications for the management of non-lethal use of wildlife. This research includes understanding human-wildlife interactions as socioecological systems which form interesting case studies to study the evolution and dynamics of complex adaptive systems. 2) Socio-ecology: Understanding factors influencing the way in which con-specifics interact and what drives the evolution of resulting social structures and dynamics.

Heather Moquin  
*Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow*  
I am in the final stages of a PhD within the Faculty of Education at the University of Glasgow. My research considered the integrated contexts of the Canadian Arctic and academia. I analyzed contemporary writings by Inuit and non-Inuit authors on the broad themes of research, colonization and pedagogy, and wrote my thesis as a conversational text between these writings. A main consideration of this work was the questioning of rigid concepts of identity, and my research led to an articulation of pedagogies considered as ideal for overcoming rigid understandings of difference. Previous to my doctoral studies, I worked within Inuit representative institutions within Canada on projects which focused on Inuit perspectives of climate and environmental change. I am interested in diverse or ‘alternative’ ways of knowing as they facilitate connections across constructions of difference.

Dr Gina Netto  
*School of the Built Environment, Heriot Watt University*  
Dr. Gina Netto has a theoretical, empirical and scholarly interest in issues related to ethnicity, including equal access and treatment within public services, identity negotiation and participation in civic society. She has published her work in a wide range of peer-reviewed international journals. She has a wider interest in gender and disability and the position of other vulnerable groups. She has led and managed a number of funded projects for public bodies including the European Commission, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Arts Council, Communities Scotland, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, local authorities and voluntary organisations. Her research interests into ethnicity has cut across a wide sweep of policy areas, including housing and homelessness, health promotion, social care, employment and the arts. Gina was formerly a Commissioner with the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, an independent body working to safeguard the rights and welfare of everyone with a mental illness, learning disability or other mental disorder. As Chair of its Equality and Diversity Group (2002-2007), she established links and networks with a number of bodies working across the equality strands.

Professor Raffaella Ocone  
*School of Engineering, Heriot Watt University*  
Raffaella Ocone, FRSE, holds the Chair of Chemical Engineering in the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Heriot-Watt University where she was the Academic Head of Chemical Engineering from 2002 to 2007. Before joining Heriot-Watt University, she was a Reader in Chemical Engineering in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Nottingham, Lecturer at the University of
Naples, Italy, and Visiting Professor at Louisiana State University, USA and the University Claude Bernard in Lyon, France. She has more than 20 years of experience in modelling complex systems, spanning from the hydrodynamics of solid/gas suspensions, to complex reaction networks. Recent work includes the modelling of biological systems. She has an interest in the teaching of ethics to engineers and she is the Chair of the Royal Academy of Engineering Teaching Ethics working group. Raffaella has been the coordinator of the Athena Research Project awarded to Heriot-Watt University and aimed to recruit and retain women in SET. She has experience in the realm of the public understanding of science; this has included initiatives that bring the importance of science and engineering to wider audiences including school children.

John McGroarty
School of Law, University of Glasgow
John P McGroarty BA (Law) LLM, is presently a full time PhD research student at Glasgow University School of law, his PhD is entitled, ‘Judicial Activism and the European Court of Human Rights; analysis of judicial activity (activism and restraint/deference) by its judiciary’. He is the editor of the ECtHR case law journal of the Scottish Human Rights Law Group, and is a Visiting Law Lecturer at the university of the West of Scotland. He has also served as a Director of a legal Charity from 2002-2009, and has fourteen years experience in the voice and data telecommunications industry, mainly at director level.

Professor Ken McPhail
Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Glasgow
My particular interest in the workshop lies in exploring whether notions of pluralism can help to make sense of crisis and change within contemporary capitalism and the operation and regulation of global financial systems. I envisage three specific areas that could be usefully explored: the professions; global regulatory institutions and finally, corporate governance.

Dr Jane Morgan
University of Strathclyde
Jane Morgan is on secondment from the Scottish Government to the University of Strathclyde. She is Director of the Scottish Universities Insight Institute Institute (a development from the institute for Advanced Studies) hosted at the university and Visiting Professor, School of Government and Public Policy. Jane has worked in the civil service for nearly 30 years, focusing on economic development policy. Before joining the civil service she obtained a PhD and lectured in Politics.

Dr Gareth Mulvey
Scottish Refugee Council
Gareth Mulvey is the Research Officer at Scottish Refugee Council. He is currently conducting research on refugees’ feelings towards British citizenship and is about to begin a longitudinal study on refugee integration. He completed a PhD in 2009 on British immigration Policy under Tony Blair and has past research experience examining experiences of poverty as well as a large ESRC study on the meaning of work for two expanding areas of the Scottish economy.
Catriona Prebble  
*Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations*

Originally a geographer, Catriona Prebble worked in forestry, both in the Tropics and in Scotland, before taking a Masters in environmental studies to broaden her scope of interest. This learning is now being applied to her role as the Green Agenda Officer for the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the main umbrella body for the third sector in Scotland. The diversity of organisations and their respective interests which make up the voluntary sector can, perhaps, be described as pluralism in practice. One of the goals of SCVO's green agenda is to engender a better understanding of the relevance of environmental issues - and climate change in particular - across this spectrum of organisations and to seek to identify appropriate ‘hooks’ with which it makes sense for them to engage, acknowledging that these may be social or economic rather than necessarily ‘green’. In this context, one area of current interest is the policies and legislation being developed as a result of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. Of particular note is the proposed Public Engagement Strategy: how can the participation required and means for action on climate change be effectively conveyed when there is, clearly, no one solution appropriate for the diversity of Scotland’s individuals and institutions? And what is the voluntary sector’s part to play?

Dr Sunny Townsend  
*University of Strathclyde*

I am a theoretical ecologist interested in the dynamics and stability of populations and communities. One major thread of my PhD work was on the ecosystem stability-complexity debate. Nature is made up of large, complex and dynamic ecosystems and ecologists would like to understand how this complexity persists. Analogously, pluralists would like to understand the roles of diversity and resilience in successful pluralist systems.

Dr George Wilkes  
*St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge*

Dr George R. Wilkes is Director of the Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making Programme, and a Fellow of St. Edmund’s College, Cambridge. He has lectured at Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leuven and Birmingham Universities, and has worked with a range of international non-governmental organisations with an interest in human rights and intercultural dialogue. His research addresses a range of debates about contemporary religious and political pluralisms, particularly in relation to conflict resolution, military ethics and Jewish thought.
# Annex 4: List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr George Wilkes</td>
<td>St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darragh Hare</td>
<td>Centre for Applied Ethics and Legal Philosophy, University of Glasgow</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Karim-Aly Kassam</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Bernd Blossey</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Ken McPhail</td>
<td>Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Glasgow</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof James Conroy</td>
<td>Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Carl Knight</td>
<td>University of Johannesburg</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Glenn Plumb</td>
<td>Yellowstone National Park</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jose Liht</td>
<td>Department of Divinity, University of Cambridge</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Victoria Harrison</td>
<td>Department of Philosophy, University of Glasgow</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Raffaella Ocone</td>
<td>Department of Chemical Engineering, Heriot Watt University</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Patrice Brodeur</td>
<td>Faculty of Theology, University of Montreal</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Jason Reese</td>
<td>Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Strathclyde</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frances Hume</td>
<td>Scottish Interfaith Council</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>Nosheena Mubarak</td>
<td>CBI Scotland Council</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>Dr Gareth Mulvey</td>
<td>Scottish Refugee Council</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>Prof Sheila Dow</td>
<td>Department of Economics, University of Stirling</td>
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<td>Morgan Ruelle</td>
<td>Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University</td>
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<td>Jennifer Shirk</td>
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<td>Charles Burgess</td>
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<td>Dr Tony Crook</td>
<td>Department of Anthropology, University of St Andrews</td>
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<td>Prof Ernesto Estrada</td>
<td>Department of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde</td>
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<td>Dr John McKernan</td>
<td>Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Glasgow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr David Lusseau</td>
<td>School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen</td>
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<td>Dr Satoshi Ikeuchi</td>
<td>Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Tokyo</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Dr Gina Netto</td>
<td>School of the Built Environment, Heriot Watt University</td>
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<td>Dr Jane Morgan</td>
<td>Department of Government, University of Strathclyde</td>
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<td>Rev Brian Smith</td>
<td>UNESCO Scotland</td>
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<td>Dr Zulfikar Hirji</td>
<td>Department of Anthropology, York University</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Dr Heather Moquin</td>
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<td>Dr Nasar Meer</td>
<td>School of Social Sciences, University of Southampton</td>
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<td>Oliver Escobar</td>
<td>School of Media, Communication and Sociology, Queen Margaret University</td>
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<td>Dr Heather Rea</td>
<td>Edinburgh Beltane, University of Edinburgh</td>
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<td>Catriona Prebble</td>
<td>Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations</td>
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<td>Frances Burns</td>
<td>Department for International Development, UK Government (retired)</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>Tanveer Perez</td>
<td>BEMIS Scotland</td>
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<td>Mariangela Palladino</td>
<td>BEMIS Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Bradwell</td>
<td>Church of Scotland Society, Religion and Technology Project</td>
<td>UK</td>
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<td>John McGroarty</td>
<td>School of Law, University of Glasgow</td>
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<td>Richard Karugurama</td>
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<td>Farah Shafiq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tara Lotstein</td>
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<td>David Lundie</td>
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<td>Katja Frimberger</td>
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<td>Humaira Irfan Khan</td>
<td>Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow</td>
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