

Crucible 2026



Mark Butcher

Email: Mark.Butcher@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/mark-butcher/>

I began my research journey through an HND in biomedical science at Ayrshire College, as a mature student. My experience there left me inspired and really instilled the notion that a career in academia could be something of great interest to me.

I went on to obtain a BSc in Biomedical Science from the University of the West of Scotland, which led to my formal introduction to biofilm research as part of a Unilever-funded post investigating marine biofilm development and modelling. This opened the door to another biofilm-focused role, this time on wound models, and an industry funded MRes on fungal-driven prosthetic joint infections.

Interestingly, it wasn't until after almost 3 years of research conducted in the Glasgow Dental Hospital that I would begin researching oral biofilm models. Over the course of my Haleon-funded PhD at University of Glasgow, I continued to conduct biofilm research but with a consideration towards "real-life" conditions and ex-vivo analysis, where the overall microbiome and micro-environment became a much greater focus. Finally, this led me to my current position at GCU, as a knowledge transfer partnership associate, looking to integrate microbiome research outputs into the consumer health company Haleon, to drive product research and development.



Godwin Enemali

Email: Godwin.Enemali@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/godwin-enemali/>

Dr Godwin Enemali is a Lecturer in Electronic Engineering at the Department of Engineering of Glasgow Caledonian University. His research theme is sensing for the common Good, focused on designing sensing systems that reveal what the human eye cannot see both in the environment and in the human body.

Godwin's research career began with a first-class degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in Nigeria, followed by an MSc and PhD in Electronic Engineering at the University of Edinburgh. As a postdoctoral researcher there, he led the electronics and data acquisition work on two major projects imaging aero-engine exhaust emissions using laser sensing, working with partners such as Rolls-Royce and international partners in Spain. His work has been recognised with a Global Talent Endorsement from the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Since joining GCU in 2022, Godwin has combined teaching, PhD supervision and research leadership. He is now applying the same sensing expertise to health technology, co-developing a wearable, AI-driven headset to help predict epileptic seizures. He is passionate about communicating engineering research clearly, and about working with partners outside academia to help that research create real-world impact.



Winfred Ingabire

Email: Winfred.Ingabire@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/winfred-ingabire-2/>

Dr Winfred Ingabire is a Lecturer in Computing in the Department of Computer Science at Glasgow Caledonian University. She joined GCU after completing a PhD in Computing at the University, where her research focused on applying neural networks and machine learning to complex real-world challenges. Her academic background also includes a Master's degree in computer engineering from Oklahoma Christian University, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Rwanda.

Winfred's research interests span artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, wireless communications, predictive modelling, and digital smart systems. She has contributed to interdisciplinary projects in both academia and industry, applying AI-driven approaches to areas including smart cities, localisation systems, agriculture, animal monitoring, and health analytics. Her work has been published in leading international journals and conferences, reflecting her commitment to advancing innovative and impactful research.

Before joining GCU as a lecturer, Winfred worked as a Research Associate and Postdoctoral Researcher in AI and Data Science at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and previously held teaching and research positions at the University of Rwanda. A Fellow of Advance HE, she is passionate about supporting student success, fostering collaborative research, and developing practical AI solutions that deliver societal and economic benefits.



Rebecca Johnson

Email: Rebecca.Johnson@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/rebecca-johnson/>

Dr Rebecca Johnson is an academic psychologist with topic expertise in the areas of developmental and social psychology. Rebecca's primary research area of interest is youth experiences of mental health stigma, with a broad focus on children and young people's mental health and their meaningful inclusion across the research process. Her doctoral research designed and psychometrically evaluated a youth stigma measurement tool, informed by participatory research methods.

In terms of methodological expertise, Rebecca draws from participatory, creative and transformative research methods to centre the voices of young people across the domain of health research, with a focus on the concepts of power-sharing, epistemic injustice, and adultism in research with youth. Her work extends to methodological writing and best practise, including recently publishing several chapters in *A Comprehensive Guide to Adolescent Involvement in Health Research*.

Outside of mental health stigma research, Rebecca also has an interest in youth mental health help-seeking, student belonging, the impacts of social media and AI wellbeing tools on stigma processes, and intersectional stigma.



William Johnston

Email: William.Johnston2@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/william-johnston/>

I am a Lecturer in Biomedical Science at Glasgow Caledonian University and an HCPC-registered Biomedical Scientist. My background spans NHS diagnostic microbiology, clinical research and higher education. I completed my PhD in Oral Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Glasgow before undertaking postdoctoral research at GCU, where I was appointed as a lecturer in 2024.

My research focuses on biofilms, which are communities of microbes that attach to surfaces, and their role in oral and other infections. I am particularly interested in understanding how normally balanced microbial communities shift towards disease, why they become difficult to treat and how we can develop more effective therapies. My work combines realistic laboratory models with new technologies and collaborations across academia and industry.

My current projects include Chipp3d Tooth, funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences, which is developing a 3D-printed "tooth-on-a-chip" model of gum disease. I also investigate approaches that disrupt microbial communication, break down biofilms or harness beneficial microbes.

Alongside my research, I teach and supervise students across GCU's Biomedical Science programmes. I serve on the editorial boards of Critical Reviews in Microbiology and Anaerobe, and received SULSA's Best Early Career Researcher Prize in 2023.



Ross Kincaid

Email: Ross.Kincaid@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/ross-kincaid-2/>

Dr Ross Kincaid is a Research Fellow whose research uses implementation science and health psychology to understand and address key health challenges within a stretched NHS. His research focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating innovative and pragmatic health interventions, primarily within HIV prevention and sexual healthcare.

Ross' research informs policy through the Scottish Government's HIV Transmission Elimination Strategy. He is a Co-Investigator on the Scottish ePrEP Clinic research programme, a continuation of his doctoral research, which has developed, validated and piloted the ePrEP Clinic: a digital clinical care pathway for repeat HIV prevention medication (PrEP) provision. He is also the Principal Investigator on the Scottish Government-funded PrEP Persistence project, which aims to identify priorities for interventions to support PrEP persistence and reengagement across Scotland.

Ross is a member of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and has led research outputs for national clinical audits, including the British HIV Association (BHIVA) audit on HIV partner notification and testing of children. He works closely with NHS partners, policymakers and third-sector organisations, including Terrence Higgins Trust and Waverley Care.



Melissa Mesek

Email: Melissa.Mesek@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/melissa-mesek/>

Dr Melissa Anne Mesek is a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. Her PhD research on the empowerment of women technology entrepreneurs in the Scottish and Indian entrepreneurial ecosystems laid the foundations for her expertise in gender equality, entrepreneurship, and public policy. Her research focuses on the intersections of entrepreneurship as a vehicle for socio-economic inclusion, minority communities, entrepreneurial ecosystems, public policymaking, and international contexts. She has also published on innovative qualitative research methodologies, with a particular interest in feminist methodologies to understanding women's lived experiences.

Before entering academia, Melissa founded and ran her own international venture for six years, experience that continues to inform her research and teaching. In 2025, she founded Preserving Futures, a community initiative operating across two cities in Scotland which provides a space for alternative economic models, community enterprise, and sustainable practices to flourish. Melissa teaches across innovation management, social and corporate entrepreneurship, as well as sustainability management. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and actively engages in pedagogical research, bringing innovative, research-led approaches and real-world experience into the classroom.



Kate Mitchell

Email: Kate.Mitchell@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/kate-mitchell/>

Following a BSc in Biological Sciences with Honours in Microbiology & Infection from the University of Edinburgh, Kate Mitchell undertook an MSc in Modern Epidemiology at Imperial College London. She then completed a PhD in immuno-epidemiology back at the University of Edinburgh, for which she used mathematical modelling to understand the development of protective immunity to *Schistosoma haematobium* parasitic worms. After completing her PhD in 2010, Kate worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and then at Imperial College London. In these roles she undertook mathematical modelling to understand the transmission of HIV and other STIs (including syphilis) among 'key' populations (such as men who have sex with men and female sex workers), and to identify effective and cost-effective interventions to reduce new infections. She has worked on a number of settings including southern India, Nigeria, China and the United States. She has also contributed to several systematic reviews.

Kate became a lecturer in Public Health at GCU's London campus in 2023. She is interested in using modelling to inform strategies to reach Scotland's target of zero HIV transmissions by 2030. She is also keen to develop methods to identify ways to reduce disparities in infectious disease burden.



Farhad Sadeghineko

Email: Farhad.Sadeghineko@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/farhad-sadeghineko-2/>

Farhad is a Lecturer and Researcher in Digital Construction within the Construction and Built Environment Department. He completed his PhD at GCU in 2020, focusing on the development of semantically enriched 3D retrofit building models using Semantic Web technologies. Farhad's research explores how digital technologies, including Building Information Modelling (BIM), digital twins, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, can improve the way buildings are designed, constructed, managed, and maintained. His work focuses particularly on digitalisation and automation of information management, building performance, sustainability, and safer and more efficient asset and facilities management topics.

He previously led the DEAM research group at the BEAM Centre and has held programme leadership roles for postgraduate programmes. He is currently the programme leader for the BSc Building Surveying. His research achievements include securing Innovation Voucher funding and contributing to externally funded projects supported by BE-ST and Erasmus Mundus. He has published in international journals and conference proceedings on digital construction, BIM, semantic technologies, digital twins, regulatory compliance, and laser scanning. Farhad has supervised more than 120 undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations and contributes to PhD supervision as DoS and 2nd Supervisor. His ten years of previous professional experience in architecture, design, and construction continue to shape his industry-facing approach to research and teaching.



Colin B Shore

Email: Colin.Shore@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/colin-shore/>

Dr Colin Shore is a Research Fellow at Glasgow Caledonian University, with a background in exercise science, physical activity, health and wellbeing, and health services delivery research. His research interest focus on exploring novel approaches to, improving physical activity and health; improve health and wellbeing; and how evidence-based approaches can be translated into healthcare and community settings.

Colin completed his PhD in Physical Activity for Health at the University of Stirling in 2020, which examined the delivery, uptake, and adherence of exercise referral schemes in Scotland. His subsequent research has included Stroke rehabilitation, digital approaches to physical activity, in older adults, diabetes care, use of drones in healthcare delivery, and public health interventions including sleep and nutrition.

Colin joined Glasgow Caledonian University in 2024 and currently coordinates the PRACTISE feasibility study. PRACTISE is investigating whether a personalised physiotherapy programme supported by digital exercise can increase rehabilitation time following stroke.

Alongside his research, Colin is currently involved in research supervision of one PhD and two MSc students. His longer-term ambition is to develop an independent programme of exercise rehabilitation research that brings together rehabilitation science, including mechanistic, behaviour change, and implementation approaches to produce interventions that are effective, equitable and practical for patients and health services.



Niamh Smith

Email: Niamh.Smith@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/niamh-smith-2/>

Dr Niamh Smith is a researcher at Glasgow Caledonian University working at the intersection of public health, systems thinking, and co-creation. She currently leads delivery across several EU-funded, multi-institutional projects, including SUPER, Datavysts and Health CASCADE, and is also Chief Operating Officer of CASCADE social enterprise, a spin-out which translates research into practical tools and resources.

Niamh's research focuses on understanding and addressing complex health challenges through systems-based and participatory approaches, with particular interests in urban environments, health, and implementation. Following a first-class MA (Hons) in Geography and an early career in secondary education, she completed a PhD examining the health and wellbeing impacts of urban blue spaces. Her doctoral research resulted in five first-authored peer-reviewed publications and contributed methodological advances in systems-based co-creation.

Alongside her academic work, Niamh is passionate about making research accessible and useful beyond academia. She has contributed to policy engagement, public-facing communications, conference presentations, and media coverage, and has supported the translation of evidence into policy and practice through collaborations with organisations including Obesity Action Scotland and Greenspace Scotland.

Niamh is driven by research that is collaborative, impactful, and capable of creating meaningful change in the real world.



Rowan Munro Sweeney

Email: Rowan.Sweeney@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/rowan-sweeney/>

Dr Rowan Sweeney is a Lecturer in Criminology and Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences. Rowan joined GCU in 2025, having previously been a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Gloucestershire. Prior to this she held teaching and research positions at York St John University and Northumbria University. She was awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy in 2021.

Rowan completed her PhD in Criminology in 2023 at York St John University, which examined the production, and exclusion, of restorative justice knowledge(s) in criminology. Prior to that, she completed a BA (Hons) in Criminology and Politics and a MSc in Applied Social Research both at the University of Stirling.

Rowan is a critical criminologist focused on advancing awareness, understanding, and application of 'alternative' responses to harm and conflict. Her research spans criminology, sociology, and knowledge production to critically interrogate dominant criminological paradigms and evidence alternatives that centre marginalised perspectives. Her primary focus is on developing innovative practical evidence of restorative and relational approaches in justice, community and organisational settings.

Rowan is the Director of the international Restorative Justice Pedagogy Network (RJPN) and is the co-founder and co-leader of the European Restorative Universities Network (ERUN).



Victoria Walker

Email: Victoria.Walker@gcu.ac.uk

Research Online: <https://researchonline.gcu.ac.uk/en/persons/victoria-walker/>

Dr Victoria Walker is a Lecturer in Human Resource Management in the Department of People and Organisations at Glasgow Caledonian University, having joined the University in 2021. An early career researcher, her work focuses on employee well-being, financial well-being, in-work poverty, low pay, and socially responsible HRM, particularly within hospitality and social care settings. She has published in leading journals, including the Journal of Business Ethics and Economic and Industrial Democracy.

Victoria is the Departmental Research Lead and serves on the University Research Committee. She is involved in several research networks within GCU, including the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit, and the Responsible Business Research Group. Externally, Victoria is a member of the Social Policy Association Employment Policy Group, and the Global Hospitality Research Alliance.

In 2026, Victoria was awarded the prestigious Mick Marchington Applied Research Grant for early career researchers. Her funded project explores the use of Earned Wage Access within the social care sector, examining the implications of financial technology innovations for workers and employers and developing practical guidance for HR professionals.

Victoria holds a PhD in Human Resource Management from the University of Strathclyde, is a Fellow of Advance HE and a member of the CIPD.



Crucible cohort:

- Dr Godwin Enemali (SSE)
- Dr Victoria Walker (GSBS)
- Dr Rowan Munro Sweeney (GSBS)
- Dr Rebecca Johnson (SHLS)
- Dr Kate Mitchell (GCU London)
- Dr Melissa Mesek (GSBS)
- Dr Winfred Ingabire (SSE)
- Dr Farhad Sadeghineko (SSE)
- Dr Ross Kincaid (SHLS)
- Dr William Johnston (SHLS)
- Dr Mark Butcher (SHLS)
- Dr Niamh Smith (SHLS)
- Dr Colin Shore (SHLS)
- Dr William Johnston (SHLS)



Crucible organising team:

- Prof Carol Emslie (SHLS) - Crucible Lead
- Prof Frederike van Wijck (SHLS)
- Dr Chiara Cipollari (RKES)
- Karen McDairmant (RKES)
- Dr Gianna Cassidy (SSE)
- Prof Simon McKerrell (GSBS)
- Prof Neil McHugh (Yunus Centre)
- Dr Michael Tong (SSE)
- Nick Bibby (RKES)
- Roland Fazekas (RKES)