



NIHR ARC East of England
**Fellowship
Supervisors**



Supervisor Contact Directory

This directory lists academic staff from partner universities who have expressed interest in supervising incoming Research and Impact Fellows. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact potential supervisors when developing their proposals.

Each entry provides brief information about the supervisor and their areas of expertise. Clicking on a supervisor's name will also take you to their university profile page, where you can learn more about their work and determine who may be the best fit for your project.

Applicants to the Impact Fellowship are also encouraged to connect with an Impact Advisor (see page 22), who will work alongside the academic supervisor as part of the supervisory team. Engaging with both an academic supervisor and an Impact Advisor early in the application process can help strengthen proposals and ensure they are both competitive and impactful.

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Susan Walker

Associate Professor, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Qualified in medicine in 1990 (Queen University, Belfast). Worked as a General Practitioner with an interest in women's health until 2008. Member of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health since 1998. I was a recipient of an ESRC PhD studentship and awarded PhD (University of Cambridge) in 2010 with a thesis "The effect of gendered body image on contraceptive outcomes". Employed by Anglia Ruskin University from 2009 to present. Current role involves research and some teaching. I am the Director of the MD(Res) programme for doctors undertaking doctoral study. I have supervised eight doctoral students to completion (7 PhDs, 1 x MD) and currently supervise 3 PhD, and 2 Professional Doctorate students.

Research interests: Contraception; women's health; sexual health; primary care; health inequalities; qualitative methods; survey methods.

Get in contact: susan.walker@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Helen Keyes

Associate Professor of Psychology; Head of School of Psychology, Sport and Sensory Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I have worked in Higher Education for 15 years as a Psychology lecturer, researcher and senior leader. I have served as a Director on the Board of Governors for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) and on the Board of Governors for ARU Peterborough.

Research interests: Public wellbeing, behaviour change, road safety, environment.

Get in contact: phaedra.longhurst@aru.ac.uk

Professor Kristy Sanderson

NIHR ARC East of England Mental Health over the Life Course Theme Lead

About: Began career as a registered psychologist working in a clinical research unit for anxiety disorders, and worked on a range of research studies in mental health while doing my PhD. Then moved through a series of research fellowships in public mental health and epidemiology.

Research interests: Public mental health; workforce health and wellbeing; mindfulness; sleep and fatigue.

Get in contact: kristy.sanderson@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Gavin Bowen-Metcalf

Senior Lecturer in Genetics and Developmental Biology, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Senior Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, within the field of Genetics and Developmental Biology. Experience also includes employment as a HCP within the NHS (Dept. of Surgery and Oncology), Clinical Scientist in the medical devices industry, and Consultant in the medical regulatory industry. I completed my translational research training at Imperial College London, earning a MRes in Oncology and Cancer Biology and a joint multidisciplinary Doctorate in Clinical Medicine (Molecular Oncology) and Biomedical Engineering. Further postgraduate training included a Pathology PDRA at the Barts Cancer Institute, London, in collaboration with the Department of Pathology at University College London. My research focuses on Non-coding RNAs (e.g. MicroRNAs) and their roles in cancer development, spread, and therapeutic resistance. I am also actively researching other key areas of cancer including diagnostic approaches (including diagnostic inertia), novel natural therapeutics, and Neuro-Oncology relationships, e.g. Motor Neurone Disease and Neuro/CNS Cancers.

Research interests: Non-coding RNAs, e.g. microRNAs; Neoplastic Transformation; Metastasis; Therapeutic resistance; Neuro-Oncology; and Natural cancer therapeutics.

Get in contact: gavin.bowen-metcalf@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Naim Abdulmohdi

Director of Quality Improvement Research and Senior Lecturer in Critical Care, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am an experienced academic with more than 25 years of clinical, teaching, and research experience in critical care nursing. I am a university-based researcher with an honorary contract to conduct clinical research, focusing on patient safety, quality of care and workforce issues. I have extensive experience supervising research staff and students at various stages of their research and serving on multiple funding committees. I am dedicated to supporting colleagues in developing successful academic careers alongside their professional practice. As a mixed-methods researcher, I have strengths in quantitative analysis and data integration. I will be interested to support fellow on the following areas: Support for treating people away from acute care and Support for the health and care workforce.

Research interests: Patient safety; quality of care; staff wellbeing and resilience; clinical decision making.

Get in contact: naim.abdulgohdi@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Yonghong Peng

Professor of Artificial Intelligence, Deputy Dean for Research and Innovation, Anglia Ruskin University

About: My research on "AI in Biomedical Science and Health Innovation" concern both the technological advancement and the responsible applications of Artificial Intelligence, aiming to enable human-AI co-development and develop AI that support the evolving human value in the AI era.

Research interests: Artificial Intelligence to enable precision medicine and healthcare. Safety and Securities of AI in human-centred applications.

Get in contact: Yonghong.Peng@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Robin Gowers

Senior Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University

About: As the first in my family to attend university, I discovered the transformative power of education, which inspired my journey into academia after working as an economic consultant in the private sector, where I applied principles of incentives and risk management to real-world challenges. I am looking to work on projects that leverage economic tools for health impacts, such as my current supervision of PhD research on preventative measures to rehabilitate drug users in Sierra Leone, aligning with priorities in primary prevention and reducing health inequalities.

Research interests: Incentives, market forces, risk management, health economics, behavioral economics, resource allocation, workforce retention, preventive health, health inequalities, evidence-based practice.

Get in contact: Robin.Gowers2@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Danielle Tucker

Reader, University of Essex and Academic Knowledge Mobilisation Lead, ARC East of England

About: I have undertaken a range of academic research projects, contracted evaluations, consultancy and knowledge transfer partnerships, working with local councils, social enterprises, healthcare charities and social care community interest groups across Essex and South Suffolk. I am a British Academy Innovation Fellow, where I have partnered with organisations to transfer knowledge from academic research to practice-based toolkits.

Research interests: Organisational change, policy implementation; human resource management practices; meaning making; collaboration; integrated care; trust; communication; creation of shared meaning.

Get in contact: dtucker@essex.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Elizabeth Kirk

*Associate Professor in Psychology and Deputy Head of School Psychology, Sport and Sensory Sciences
Anglia Ruskin University*

About: I completed my PhD in 2010 and have held lectureships at the Universities of Hertfordshire, York and now Anglia Ruskin. I am a developmental psychologist and my interests are parent-child interaction and perinatal mental health and wellbeing. My current research focuses on infant crying and individual differences in adult stress responses.

Research interests: Parent-infant interaction; perinatal mental health; body image in pregnancy; infant crying.

Get in contact: elizabeth.kirk@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Phaedra Longhurst

Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University

About: In June 2025, I was awarded my PhD in Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University. Informed by my lived experience as an autistic person, my PhD involved a mixed-methods investigation into positive body image in autistic adults. My independent research also focuses on better understanding the prevention and treatment of eating disorders and poorer mental health, more broadly, in neurodivergent communities. I am currently a lecturer of psychology at ARU, where I teach postgraduate clinical child psychology.

Research interests: Body image, eating disorders, mental health, neurodivergence, autism, prevention and treatment, psychometrics, mixed-methods research.

Get in contact: phaedra.longhurst@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Lida Efstathopoulou

Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire

About: I am a Research Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire and the Programme Coordinator of the ASCENT programme. Prior to this project, I was a Researcher in Residence in Adult Social Care, hosted by the Hertfordshire County Council. Previous projects include research and service evaluations in community mental healthcare (adult, children and young people's services). My research interests are in the field of health and care research, and specifically in the areas of mental healthcare, social care, and research capacity building.

Research interests: Community mental healthcare, social care, qualitative research methods, research capacity development.

Get in contact: l.g.efstathopoulou@herts.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Nicholas Pugh

Professor of Molecular Biology and Director of Research, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am a researcher and lecturer, specialising in platelet biology. I have followed a traditional academic career path, completing a PhD at Imperial college, followed by Post docs at Cambridge University. I was appointed senior lecturer at ARU in 2013, and have now progressed to Professor. I am research active, having secured grant funding from the British Heart Foundation. I have little clinical experience, but my recent work is looking at autoantibodies in autoimmune disorders such as thrombocytopenia.

Research interests: Thrombosis; haemostasis; platelets; autoimmunity.

Get in contact: np24@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Richard Vytniorgu

Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire

About: I followed a fairly conventional route into academia, with an initial period after my doctorate working in research impact before pursuing postdoctoral work. In my early twenties I worked as a domiciliary care assistant.

Research interests: PPI; inclusive research methods; creative methods; LGBTQ+ inclusion; gay men's health and wellbeing; ageing in place.

Get in contact: r.vytniorgu@herts.ac.uk

Professor Annie Heiderscheit

Professor of Music Therapy and Director of the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I have conducted and collaborated with interdisciplinary teams on research in a variety of clinical settings with individuals across the lifespan and their families, from critical and intensive with infants through older adults, mental health, eating disorders and substance use disorders, to community-based settings. My research has focused on the use of music therapy and music-based interventions to address the complex needs of patients and their families. I currently direct a research institute comprised of fourteen researchers and I actively collaborate on research with colleagues in the US and UK, as well as part of an international consortium.

Research interests: Music therapy, music-based interventions, non-pharmacological interventions, guided imagery, and family-centred care.

Get in contact: Annie.Heiderscheit@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor David Pearson

Professor of Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I completed an MA in Psychology at the University of Edinburgh, followed by a PhD at the University of Aberdeen. I have voluntary sector experience working with neurodivergent adults, and as a nursing assistant in a head injury rehabilitation ward. My research has looked at trauma memory and the role played by mental imagery during clinical disorders.

Research interests: Memory; mental imagery; eye movements; hallucinations; environmental effects on mental health.

Get in contact: david.pearson@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Clare Strongman

Research Fellow, Vision and Eye Research Institute, Anglia Ruskin University

About: My background comes from maths and computing via sports science and physical activity, and I was previously involved with GP referral schemes and the local falls prevention services as a practitioner within the community. I also work with sight loss charities such as CamSight, RNIB and Guide Dogs delivering training and physical activity interventions. My research is mixed methods, covering diverse areas such as human movement variability, vision science, quantitative biomechanics, but also creative qualitative methods, PPIE, and lived experiences of people with disabilities.

Research interests: Accessibility, biomechanics, vision, lived experience, diversity.

Get in contact: clare.strongman@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Irfan Bashir

Senior Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Before joining ARU as a Senior Lecturer, I have served in the capacity of Pharmaceutical Engineering KTP Associate on an Innovate UK project. My work focused on optimising processes for liposomal drug delivery, nano-emulsions, and nanocellulose formulations, contributing to cutting-edge advancements in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, and cosmeceutical sectors. My specialities include clinical interventions for drug addicted patients, poisoning management and nanoparticles for cancer therapy.

Research interests: Drug addiction, cancer, ante-natal care, poisoning management, formulation development.

Get in contact: irfan.bashir@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

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Dr. Niek van Veggel

Senior Research Fellow, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I became an academic after a few years in veterinary practice. My area of focus soon shifted to human-animal interactions and evidence-based practice and after completing a social science doctorate, I am now a senior research fellow working on NHS projects and leading human-animal interaction work.

Research interests: Nature-based interventions; animal assisted interventions; assistance dogs; animal therapy; disability; mental health; education.

Get in contact: nieky.van-veggel@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Andrew Atkin

Associate Professor in Behavioural Epidemiology, University of East Anglia

About: My undergraduate degree (Loughborough University) was in Physical Education and Sport Science, from which I moved into public health-related research, focussing on physical activity and sedentary behaviour. My primary research interest lies in understanding the distribution, determinants and health benefits of physical activity across the life course.

Research interests: Physical activity, sedentary behaviour, epidemiology, public health, data pooling and harmonisation

Get in contact: a.atkin@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Luca Buzzatti

Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy and Course Director, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I previously worked as a Band 6 MSK Physiotherapist before commencing my PhD in 2017. I have been researching various areas for the last 9 years, including motion analysis using Dynamic CT images and rehabilitation. I am passionate about statistics, interdisciplinary collaborations and helping others develop in their interests.

Research interests: MSK Rehabilitation; Physiotherapy; Systematic Review; Statistics; Dynamic CT.

Get in contact: luca.buzzatti@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Sharon Geva

Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Neuroscience, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I have completed an MSc in Neuroscience and PhD in Clinical Neuroscience. Since then, I have been conducting research with various adult and paediatric clinical populations, aiming at improving understanding of brain damage and its consequences to behaviour, as well as developing better diagnostic tools.

Research interests: Stroke; aphasia; cognition; prognosis; diagnosis; neuroscience.

Get in contact: sharon.geva@aru.ac.uk

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ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Tabish Zaman

Senior Lecturer Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I entered academia following my PhD in healthcare, which examined how technology shapes clinical practice and professional identity. My early collaborations with healthcare practitioners and voluntary organisations gave me first-hand insight into the challenges of service delivery, and this continues to inform my applied research and supervisory approach.

Research interests: Digital transformation, healthcare innovation, professional identity, organisational change, technology adoption, entrepreneurship, resilience, turbulent context, fragile setting.

Get in contact: tabish.zaman@aru.ac.uk

Professor Keziah Latham

Professor of Optometry, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am an optometrist whose principal role has been in academic research and teaching, but I also practice in primary care and in low vision. My main interests are in supporting people with sight loss, and in vision assessment in all its forms.

Research interests: Visual function; visual assessment; low vision; visual impairment; outcome measures.

Get in contact: keziah.latham@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Jennifer Saxton

Assistant Research Professor, University of Cambridge

About: My journey into academia followed on from a research assistant post at UCL in childhood obesity in 2005. After completing a global health PhD I left academia for several years working in a health consultancy company and pursuing freelance opportunities. I missed academic research and returned to it in 2019. I currently work in the field of children's mental health. Over the years I have volunteered at a charity and a primary school to promote children's literacy.

Research interests: Mixed methods; Public Health; Mental Health; Epidemiology; Intervention studies; Children and Young People; Inequalities.

Get in contact: jcs230@cam.ac.uk

Dr. Naowarat Lewis

Associate Professor, Anglia Ruskin University

About: With a background in applied statistics, I have developed video-based learning tools to support midwifery students and am interested in exploring quantitative methods for professional healthcare.

Research interests: Educational technology

Get in contact: naowarat.lewis@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Oladapo Akinlotan

Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am a registered mental health nurse, earth scientist, an experienced healthcare practitioner and university academic with more than 13 years of teaching and researching in the United Kingdom.

Research interests: Mental Health Nursing, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Population and planetary Health, Climate change and health, Health Geography/GeoHealth, Health Inequalities, Earth Sciences

Get in contact: oladapo.akinlotan@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Arooj Fatima

Senior Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am a Senior Lecturer with over nine years of experience in academia. My research interests lie in the areas of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data science. I am passionate about advancing these fields through both research and teaching, with a focus on real-world applications and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Research interests: Machine Learning, DataScience, Artificial Intelligence.

Get in contact: arooj.fatima@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Robert MacKinnon

Senior Lecturer - Audiology, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Cambridge undergraduate, Nottingham PhD, Clinical training as clinical scientist at Addenbrookes (sometimes overlapping!) - clinical and translational research unifying physics / human behaviour and clinical intervention.

Research interests: Audiology, Hearing, Noise Exposure, Tinnitus, Hyperacusis, Dizziness, Balance.

Get in contact: robert.mackinnon@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Ben Bowers

Assistant Professor of Primary Care and Deputy Theme Lead for ARC Palliative and End of life, University of Cambridge

About: I am a clinical academic community nurse, leading a programme of research to understand and improve dying care at home. I focus on clinically important questions, ones that will help with person-centred care and joined up healthcare delivery. I started on my research journey as a ARC Fellow in 2017 and am keen to support aspiring clinical academics across disciplines.

Research interests: Palliative care; end of life care; mixed methods; qualitative; patient and families experiences; patient safety; engineering systems design; primary care; community care.

Get in contact: bb527@medschl.cam.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Mohammad Najlah

Professor, Anglia Ruskin University

About: My journey into academia began after completing my pharmacy degree in Damascus and was shaped by early experience in clinical settings and humanitarian work during the Syrian conflict. This foundation inspired my transition into pharmaceutical research, where I have since built a translational career focused on drug delivery innovation, academic leadership, and industry collaboration.

Research interests: Nanomedicine, Drug Delivery, Liposomes, Pharmacy Practice, Translational Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Innovation.

Get in contact: mohammad.najlah@aru.ac.uk

Haniya Syed

Lecturer in Public Health and Leadership, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am working as a Lecturer in Public Health and Leadership for the School of Medicine at Anglia Ruskin University. My background is in dentistry and Public Health. I have recently submitted my PhD, which focuses on women's mental health and the impact of climate change. I teach Public Health across the School of Medicine and Allied Health, along with teaching experience in the Healthcare Management course. I am currently supervising MSc Public Health students and have done so for the past 2 years for the School of Allied Health. I am a published author with publications in various reputable journals and have also published book chapters.

Research interests: Broadly, her focus is Climate change, Women's health, Mental Health, Inclusion health, systems leadership.

Get in contact: haniya.syed@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Hussein Al-Ali

Senior Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University

About: My journey into academia began with a PhD that investigated the classification of circulating tumour cells in prostate cancer. I have since held the position of postdoctoral research fellow at Brunel University of London. At ARU, I became a senior lecturer and a research group leader, continuing with my CTC research and collaborating with research institutions and pharmaceutical companies to evaluate the efficacy of anti-cancer treatments. In 2024, I was awarded the VC award for Outstanding Research Impact for advancing a novel anti-cancer antibody from 'bench to bedside'.

Research interests: Novel cancer therapies, CTC, Imaging Flow Cytometry, AI and machine learning in cancer.

Get in contact: hussein.al-ali@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Sharon Morein-Zamir

Professor, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I have been in academia since my undergraduate focusing on the intersection between psychiatry, cognitive neuroscience and experimental psychology. More recently I have focused on mental health, taking a holistic approach looking at service provision, training and the impact of policy. I focus primarily on hoarding and lead the UK Hoarding Research Network.

Research interests: Hoarding, impulsivity, compulsivity, ADHD, OCD

Get in contact: sharon.morein@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Nicola Hancock

Associate Professor Physiotherapy/Neurorehabilitation; Associate Pro Vice Chancellor for Innovation, University of East Anglia

About: A previous stroke team lead in East Anglia, I completed my PhD at UEA in 2014. Extensive experience of stroke research and innovation leadership, including leadership of major service initiatives and supervision of pre-doctoral and doctoral candidates. A member of the European Life After Stroke task force and author on past UK national clinical guidelines for stroke.

Research interests: Stroke and Acquired Brain injury: rehabilitation technology, recovery of movement after stroke, personalised care.

Get in contact: n.hancock@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Sarah Hanson

Associate Professor in Community Health, University of East Anglia

About: My primary research focus is preventative health and poverty, working closely with community partners. This includes research and commissioned work such as food and housing insecurity (including hoarding), health literacy (e.g. in cancer prevention) and working with under-researched groups. I am especially interested in taking an Asset Based approach to Community Development and focusing on what makes us well (salutogenesis).

Research interests: Inequalities; under-researched groups; community based.

Get in contact: s.hanson@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Maria Garraffa

Associate Professor in Speech and Language sciences, University of East Anglia

About: I have a PhD in Cognitive Science, teaching first at Edinburgh University on Human Neuroscience, now Associate Professor at UEA working mainly on language disorders in both children and adults. Current project on benefits of reading, children living in conflict areas and multilingualism for the society.

Research interests: Language and Learning disorders, Family policy, Global Health.

Get in contact: m.garraffa@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Tamara Backhouse

Research Fellow, University of East Anglia

About: I worked for many years as a care home worker (care assistant) before completing degrees in psychology and sociology. My PhD research examined the management of dementia-related behaviours in care homes. Post-PhD my research has focused on family, care home and home care settings, with a particular interest in personal care assistance (help with daily activities such as washing, dressing, and going to the toilet) for people living with dementia.

Research interests: Dementia; social care; care homes; home care; hospital care; personal care assistance; family carers.

Get in contact: Tamara.Backhouse@uea.ac.uk

Professor Christopher Burton

Dean of Health Sciences, University of East Anglia

About: My research programme concentrates on stroke but includes other long-term conditions, focusing on acute care, rehabilitation, and palliative care. I have a cross-cutting programme of work around (de)implementation across a range of clinical and policy contexts. Research methods include clinical trials, process evaluation and realist evaluation/synthesis. My professional background is nursing, and I am committed to the coproduction of research to ensure implementation and impact.

Research interests: Stroke; Nursing; Implementation; Realist Synthesis/Evaluation.

Get in contact: chris.burton@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Mapa Prabhath Piyasena

Deputy Director VERI, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am an ophthalmologist with experience in public health ophthalmology, evidence synthesis and health sector policy review. I am pursuing a research and academic career pathway in global eye health, in tackling avoidable blindness and vision impairment globally.

Research interests: Global eye health, diabetic retinopathy, vision impairment, blindness, systematic reviews.

Get in contact: Mapa.Piyasena@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Laura Abbott

Professor, University of Hertfordshire

About: I began my career as a Registered Nurse and Midwife before moving into lecturing, which led to an academic path focused on researching the experiences of pregnant women and mothers in the criminal justice system, using qualitative methods to influence policy and drive social change.

Research interests: Maternal health, Criminal justice, midwifery, prison, pregnancy, birth, inequalities.

Get in contact: labbott@herts.ac.uk

Dr. Anne-Marie Burn

Senior research associate, University of Cambridge

About: I'm a Chartered Psychologist and mixed methods researcher with expertise in coproduction and qualitative methods. Before I went into academia, I was a carer for people with disabilities. I have worked in lots of different areas including disability, dementia and now children's mental health.

Research interests: Health services improvement; intervention development/evaluation; qualitative research; children and young people, mental health; public health; health inequalities.

Get in contact: amb278@cam.ac.uk

Dr. Juliet Usher-Smith

Associate Professor of General Practice, University of Cambridge

About: I completed a PhD in physiology as part of my medical degree and then moved into applied health research in 2009. Since then, I have held a number of academic posts within the Primary Care Unit at the University of Cambridge alongside working as a GP. My research focuses on optimising the implementation of risk stratified medicine to promote prevention of disease.

Research interests: Risk stratification; cancer; screening; prevention; NHS Health Checks; risk communication; implementation.

Get in contact: jau20@cam.ac.uk

Dr. Cara Booker

Senior Research Fellow, University of Essex

About: I am a social epidemiologist who has been in academia for the past 17 years. I came to the UK straight after finishing my PhD and have always been in academia.

Research interests: Adolescence; mental health; social determinants of health; young people; underserved populations; familial relationships; digital technology; longitudinal analyses.

Get in contact: cbooker@essex.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Angus Holford

Senior Research Fellow - Prospective Co-Lead for Prevention and Early Detection in Health and Social Care theme.

About: I went through my first degree in Economics at Lancaster during the late-2000s financial crisis as debates over austerity and public finances raged. I was originally interested mainly in educational outcomes, and wanted to help understand what works and what the tradeoffs are. I obtained funding for a PhD and was attracted to the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex as an institution committed to informing public policy. I've stayed ever since with an increasing emphasis on children and young adults' health.

Research interests: Public health; food and nutrition; schools; children and young people; impact evaluation; quantitative research.

Get in contact: ajholf@essex.ac.uk

Dr. Joanna Anderson

Assistant Research Professor, University of Cambridge

About: I have a background in clinical psychology and child and adolescent neuropsychology. After completing my PhD in 2004, I have balanced my time between academic research and clinical practice working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. As a mixed-method researcher, I specialise in the development, evaluation, and implementation of complex interventions.

Research interests: Adolescent mental health, school mental health, intervention development and evaluation, data linkage.

Get in contact: jpa44@cam.ac.uk

Dr. Robert Goudie

Group leader - MRC Investigator, MRC Biostatistics Unit, University of Cambridge

About: I am an academic statistician/data scientist. My clinically-related interests come from my interest in research using detailed hospital electronic health records (e.g. CUH's Epic) to understand and improve healthcare.

Research interests: Hospital electronic health records, statistics, data science.

Get in contact: robert.goudie@mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk

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ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Havovi Chichger

Professor in Biomedical Science, Anglia Ruskin University

About: In 2011, I earned my doctorate in physiology from University College London, which focused on studying the role of renal and small intestinal glucose transport across the epithelium in metabolic syndrome and diabetes. As a Postdoctoral Fellow at Brown University, my research developed into vascular dysfunction in settings of disease including respiratory disease. During her Post-Doctorate, I was awarded significant funding from the American Heart Association, published several peer-reviewed articles and participated in numerous clinical and basic research conference presentations (including invited and peer-reviewed oral presentations) on renal glucose transport, endocytosis, vascular function and respiratory disease.

Research interests: Cardiovascular disease; metabolic disease; vascular injury; cell signalling mechanisms.

Get in contact: havovi.chichger@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Claire Hooks

Associate Professor Midwifery and Women's Health, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Before becoming an NHS midwife in 2001, working in a range of midwifery care settings, I completed a biomedical science degree. In 2010, I journeyed into academia, originally alongside clinical practice, where I have had a range of experiences; teaching and supporting students in theory and practice, both UG and PG, completing a professional doctorate, undertaking health related funded research projects and research supervision.

Research interests: Women's health; advanced practice; midwifery; military affiliated women; drug addiction and women's health.

Get in contact: Claire.hooks@aru.ac.uk

Professor Margaret Greenfields

Professor of Social Policy, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Initially training as a lawyer working in community law settings working largely on housing/homelessness; family law and immigration, then moving into legal policy working for a number of NGOs with an emphasis on family law, support for women and girls who had experienced domestic and sexual violence, child protection and kinship care issues. I have subsequently worked extensively with members of minoritised communities including LGBT+ populations; asylum seekers, same-sex parents and individuals with complex immigration statuses. I subsequently moved to academia full time after completing a PhD in the legal/family law experiences of Travellers. My research is centred on the interface of policy development and enactments impacting health and social care delivery to under-served groups.

Research interests: Inclusion Health; working with minoritised communities at risk of health and exclusion including refugees and asylum seekers; Gypsies, Travellers and Roma; LGBT+ communities; people experiencing homelessness ; minority faith group members.

Get in contact: margaret.greenfields@aru.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Catherine Guelbert-Thick

Honorary Visiting Fellow, Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am a mature ProfDoc graduand. I have 40 years experience of working in the NHS as a general manager and a management consultant specialising in leadership development at director and board level. I have worked at every level of the service and been instrumental in the implementation of several large scale change management programmes.

Research interests: Health, Housing, leadership.

Get in contact: cg88@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Ellice Parkinson

Senior Advisor - Evaluation Team, Health Innovation East

About: I have worked in dementia research for over ten years and completed my PhD in the hydration care of older people living in care homes, including those living with dementia. I have experience working in the NHS, academia and voluntary sector. I have experience using a range of research methods, including those for clinical trials and in qualitative research. I have experience conducting meaningful PPIE and using inclusive research approaches to involve people who might previously have been excluded from taking part in research. I currently work as a senior advisor in the Evaluation team at Health Innovation east, working to evaluate the impact of innovations deployed in health and care systems, to assess their real-world impact.

Research interests: Dementia, hydration, care homes, innovations, health technology.

Get in contact: ellice.parkinson@healthinnovationeast.co.uk

Dr. Meghana Wadnerkar Kamble

Lecturer in Psychology, University of East Anglia

About: I am an applied developmental psychologist based in the UK, with a background in practice and leadership in paediatric clinical psychology internationally. I am a Chartered Psychologist and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. My research is in family-centred interventions in intellectual and developmental disabilities. This expands into women's health and health inequalities via collaborations.

Research interests: Intellectual and developmental disabilities, family communication and wellbeing, siblings and disability, and family-centred interventions.

Get in contact: m.kamble@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Adam Wagner

Health Economist/Statistician (methodologist), University of East Anglia and Theme lead of Measurement of Health and Social Care, ARC East of England

About: I developed into a quantitative researcher, following an interest in pursuing applied work with mathematics and computer science. Following a PhD in medical statistics and working as an applied medical statistician, I did an MSc in Health economics at UEA in 2015. I now seek to combine health economic and statistical skills in economic evaluation and health service research. I have no exclusive clinical focus, but have worked in areas such as learning/intellectual disabilities, mental health, and more recently, cystic fibrosis.

Research interests: Health economics; statistics; methodology.

Get in contact: adam.wagner@uea.ac.uk

Professor Carl Philpott

Professor of Rhinology & Olfactology, University of East Anglia

About: After completing an MD in olfactory threshold testing, my research and clinical interests led me apply for a senior lecturer post at the University of East Anglia in 2010. As head of the Rhinology & Olfactology research group, I have led numerous projects with £4.75 million of funding to date, focused on chronic sinusitis and smell and taste disorders.

Research interests: Smell and taste disorders, chronic rhinosinusitis, clinical trials, patient advocacy.

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Dr. Chrysi Leliopoulou

Deputy CD, Associate Professor in Nursing Sciences, University of East Anglia

About: My academic career spans over 22 years started as haemato-oncology nurse at UCL, then worked as a research fellow at the Marie Curie Research Centre at the Royal Free Medical School. Then moved into teaching at Middlesex University where I held various educational management roles. My passion is inclusivity and equity in health care, workforce development and nurses mental health and wellbeing.

Research interests: Advanced practice, workforce development, emotional intelligence.

Get in contact: C.leliopoulou@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Dan Robbins

Senior Lecturer, Lead for Undergraduate Medicine Research, Lead of the Biomechanics, Optics, Robotics and Imaging Research Group (BORI), Anglia Ruskin University

About: I am a clinical biomechanist, anatomist and medical statistician with a background in neurophysiology and corrective exercise. My career spans NHS clinical roles (including intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring and outpatient diagnostics), academic leadership and research supervision. As Lead of the Biomechanics, Optics, Robotics and Imaging (BORI) Research Group at Anglia Ruskin University, I focus on applying and refining quantitative methods to investigate musculoskeletal and vascular function, biological signal interpretation, and research methodology. My work integrates clinical insight with statistical precision to support robust, reproducible health research.

Research interests: Statistics and quantitative analysis; signal processing; research methods; literature reviews; biomechanics and ergonomics; product assessment and validation.

Get in contact: dan.robbins@aru.ac.uk

Lauren Schumacher

Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire

About: I am an academic psychologist, specialising in health psychology.

Research interests: Digital health behaviour change; user experience (UX); sexual health.

Get in contact: l.schumacher@herts.ac.uk

Dr. Zarnie Khadjesari

Associate Professor in Health Sciences, University of East Anglia

About: I am an implementation scientist and digital health researcher, working in applied health research for over 20 years. My journey into academia has been driven by a commitment to bridging the gap between evidence and practice, using innovative methods to address real-world challenges in population health. My research is funded by a Cancer Research UK Fellowship (2024–2030) to optimise the uptake of weight-management interventions through digital technologies.

Research interests: Implementation science, digital health, population health, prevention.

Get in contact: z.khadjesari@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Professor Lee Smith

Professor of Public Health, Anglia Ruskin University

About: After several years as working as a GP Exercise Referral Specialist, I undertook a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science, then an MSc in Physical Activity and Public Health, and finally a PhD in Epidemiology. I am currently the Professor of Public Health at Anglia Ruskin University. I am mainly interested in supervising the theme "Primary prevention of ill health and prevention of escalation of health needs".

Research interests: Epidemiology; public health; health behaviours; systematic reviews and meta-analyses; evaluation.

Get in contact: If you wish to get in touch with Professor Lee Smith, please contact the Research Capacity Development team arceoe.rcd@uea.ac.uk who will facilitate an introduction.

Dr. Emma Kaminskiy

Associate Professor of Psychology, Anglia Ruskin University

About: Before returning to postgraduate study and academia, I worked for 10 years in various roles in the private sector, including HR and research consultancy. I returned to study a MSc in Organisational Psychology before completing my PhD that examined shared decision making for psychiatric medication management. I have worked as an academic for over 10 years and have been involved in applied health services research in different NHS settings.

Research interests: Mental health services; qualitative methodology; participatory approaches; service evaluation and design.

Get in contact: emma.kaminskiy@aru.ac.uk

Dr. Naoko Kishita

Associate Professor in Dementia and Complexity in Later Life, University of East Anglia; Academic Career Development Lead, ARC East of England

About: I have over 15 years of research and clinical experience in mental health care, with a particular focus on older adults and family carers. I trained as a clinical psychologist at Waseda University, Japan, and completed a PhD in Psychology at Doshisha University, Japan. Following this, I undertook a postdoctoral fellowship in Ireland in 2013 and relocated to the UK in 2014. My research focuses on using technology to deliver psychosocial interventions, with the goal of improving accessibility and equity in care (<https://iact4carers.com/>).

Research interests: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, late-life mental health, dementia, family carers.

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Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Research and Impact Fellowship Supervisors

Dr Jo Hodgekins

Clinical Associate Professor, University of East Anglia

About: Jo completed her PhD in 2009 and qualified as a Clinical Psychologist in 2012. Jo is a Clinical Associate Professor at University of East Anglia with expertise in developing and evaluating psychological interventions to support social and functional recovery for people with lived experience of psychosis, across the lifespan.

Research interests: Psychosis, severe mental illness, postpartum psychosis, psychological interventions.

Get in contact: j.hodgekins@uea.ac.uk

Supervisor Contact Directory

ARC East of England Impact Advisors

Ben Jackson

Senior Advisor, Health Innovation East and Implementation Bridging Role, ARC East of England

About: Specialise in providing effective implementation support, assisting individuals and/or organisations in the process of implementing novel innovations, new pathways or technology. This includes technical expertise, strong communication skills, and a proactive approach to problem-solving. These skills were demonstrated in a recent acceptability and feasibility project, which established a fully remote Atrial Fibrillation detection pathway in secondary care. Over 1,200, at higher risk of AF patients accessed a free opportunity to test their heart rhythm via a smartphone application. Working alongside the Applied Research Collaboration, utilise knowledge to help build the implementation capacity within the research community across the East of England, including facilitating and leading education workshops, identifying opportunities for adoption of promising research and offering 1-2-1 support to research fellows.

Research interests: Health and wellbeing; population health management; physical activity; behaviour change; workforce development.

Get in contact: ben.jackson@healthinnovationeast.co.uk

Dr. Jyothika Kumar

Senior Advisor, Health Innovation East and Knowledge Mobilisation Bridge Support, ARC East of England

About: I started my career as a mental health researcher. I have a PhD in Psychiatry from the University of Nottingham, and after a few years working as a Research Fellow, I moved out of academia to work in R&D within the NHS. My roles primarily involved management and delivery of research studies, primarily within mental health and community care settings. At Health Innovation East, my role as a Senior Advisor involves working on a wide range of projects, with a focus on implementation of evidence based innovations within health and care systems. I also provide Knowledge Mobilisation support to the East of England ARC. I am very interested in health equity and inclusion in research. I continue to be involved in academic collaborations and I work in a voluntary capacity at Mental Health Research UK.

Research interests: Mental Health; neuroscience; community care; health equity; digital health; inclusive research.

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Supervisor Contact Directory

Other NIHR ARC EoE researchers are available to supervise. You can explore our other researchers and their interests via the [Researchers page](#) and the [Theme Leads and Deputies page](#).

This document will be periodically updated.

For any other queries, please contact the Research Capacity Development team
[arceoe.rcd@uea.ac.uk].