

# **FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES**

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## Connected Solutions

Classics · Culture, Media & Creative Industries · Digital Humanities · English  
Film Studies · History · Languages, Literatures & Cultures · Liberal Arts  
Music · Philosophy · Theology & Religious Studies

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# CONNECTED SOLUTIONS

More than ever since the pandemic, there has been a powerful need, felt by many even if difficult to name, to bring humanistic and relational values back to the heart of national and international strategy and development.

After all, vaccines are only a solution to the pandemic if people are willing to take them, and it's imperative we understand the human, cultural, and media-related reasons for the different ways diverse communities respond in such moments.

Likewise with climate and environment issues: scientific evidence is essential but it is rarely the motivator for the mass of individual decisions across the population that are needed for real collective action, but a keen understanding of rhetoric, media, and representation will help.

And, crucially, with global tech leaders calling for a pause in the development of AI, the major challenges for our digital future are being recognised not as technical but as ethical, social and human.

Furthermore, the arts and humanities not only underpin the creative economy, but they also enable it to become more innovative, sustainable, and inclusive into the future.

This is the time to recognise and realise the huge potential of Arts and Humanities expertise to help us respond resourcefully and effectively to things that matter.

We bring expertise and methods that are informed conceptually, historically, creatively, imaginatively – and we work with a deep understanding of human culture, media and language.

It is this profound knowledge of the past, this sophisticated conceptual thinking, this creative thinking and this innovative engagement with human culture that we can bring to such great effect within broader arenas.

These are our connected solutions.



**PROFESSOR MARION THAIN**  
**EXECUTIVE DEAN**  
Faculty of Arts & Humanities

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# ARTS & HUMANITIES

## Distinctive Strengths

We are leading – nationally and internationally – in our research strength, and in our ambitious education agenda.

We are in the top 10 in Europe for Arts & Humanities (QS World University Subject Rankings 2023).

We have exceptional disciplinary research strength, as has been reflected in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2021) submission:

- 98 per cent of our research environment was deemed either ‘world leading’ (4\*) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3\*).
- 95 per cent of our research impact was deemed either 4\* or 3\*
- 86 per cent of our research outputs were deemed either 4\* or 3\*

Our work has both cultural and societal impact, described by REF reviewers as “outstanding and considerable”.

## Distinctive Identity

King’s Arts & Humanities is distinctive in representing both the best of the longer established disciplines (such as philosophy) and the best of the more recently established fields (such as Digital Humanities).

This rare combination affords us opportunities for interdisciplinarity within the Faculty that are particularly potent. It also provides huge opportunity for connecting across other Faculties in the university, and crucially, for connecting with communities outside the university.

## Distinctive Potential

Our strong and celebrated foundation of disciplinary expertise, combined with the broader King’s mission to make the world a better place, gives Arts & Humanities at King’s the platform to connect profound research expertise with new audiences by demonstrating our significance to the things people care about.

We have long forged links between our core expertise and the big issues of today, flexing our skills and methods to turn them to new areas of enquiry and interdisciplinary collaboration. Take, for example, our work in philosophy and medicine; the community work in Theology and Religious Studies; the Language Acts and World-making project; and the socially-engaged work of Digital Humanities.

Now, our new cross-university institutes and networks build on this achievement to provide ambitious new knowledge infrastructures to support and develop areas of critical mass through meaningful connection with collaborators and audiences across the university and beyond, ensuring greater visibility and greater potential for impactful multi- and inter-disciplinary research and education.

## Institute Fellowships

The *Institutes appoint Fellows* from within our community through a rigorous and competitive process and bring them in on secondments to enable them to focus on programmes of major grant-writing, research/scholarship and/or development of new educational initiatives.

The Institute’s ambitious research agenda powers an innovative programme of professional education and provides leadership for cross-university multi-disciplinary education initiative.

# DIGITAL FUTURES INSTITUTE

*Living Well with Technology*

A flagship initiative for the University, addressing issues of ethics, agency, diversity and bias in order to ensure we can live better with technology. The Digital Futures Institute helps build better technological futures.

[kcl.ac.uk/dfi](https://kcl.ac.uk/dfi)

Creating new knowledge infrastructures where the SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts for People and the Economy), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Health disciplines converge, the Institute forges radically interdisciplinary solutions to some of the most pressing technological problems of the current age.

Through our research programmes, our educational courses and our external engagement activities we reframe what are usually thought of as purely technical challenges – to be solved through technical fixes – as human and social challenges that require innovative ways of knowing, responding and making.

Drawing on a wide range of research expertise across King's, and focusing on the relationship between the individual and technology (understanding 'technology' in the broadest sense), we help build a technological future that is more conducive to living well.

## Centre for Attention Studies

Forging new responses to the foundational crisis of the digital age: distraction.

## Centre for Digital Culture

Promoting interdisciplinary research and public engagement with digital culture.

## Centre for Digital Law

Where law in the digital environment is being discussed and examined in search for solutions.

## Centre for Technology & the Body

Collaborative, critical investigation of the relationship between technology and the body.

## Responsible AI

King's is at the forefront of a flagship *Responsible AI project* - with its home in Arts & Humanities and the Digital Futures Institute.

The project is a national multidisciplinary network of researchers, industry, policy makers, and organisations, working to ensure AI development is carried out with due responsibility.



# GLOBAL CULTURES INSTITUTE

*Talking beyond boundaries*

This cross-disciplinary initiative for the Faculty and the University as a whole is working to address key challenges of communicating beyond boundaries, and developing a values-led approach to supporting diverse communities.

[kcl.ac.uk/gci](https://kcl.ac.uk/gci)

## Cultural Competency

Learning to view the world through the lens of other people.

## Language Acts & Worldmaking

Foregrounding modern language's power to influence how we live and make our worlds.

## King's Past

Accounting for our past in order to understand our present and shape our future.

## Queer@King's

A centre for research and teaching in gender and sexuality studies.

At a time when the notion of 'culture' has become the site of so much polarising debate and contestation, which stokes so much harmful division, how do we keep communicating about, through and across cultures?

Whether as lines on the map, or hostile attitudes to racial, sexual, national, and other forms of difference, cultural boundaries can form ramparts that divide 'us' from 'them'.

To address these better, we need critically to understand their origin and development. The Institute exists to promote this understanding through research, education, and public and community engagement.

It exists, in short, to talk beyond boundaries.



## Offence Project

What is offence? And what is harm? With growing interconnectedness, especially online, and with personal identities having more salience, the issue has risen up the agenda and the boundary between them is blurred.

The Global Cultures Institute leads new research and teaching, from academics in the Arts & Humanities and beyond, into this important area.

# ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

Meeting the challenges posed by the anthropocene means that we must understand culture as integral to the physical systems of the planet. Arts & Humanities also speaks crucially to the ethical and moral considerations that must underpin our societies' response to environmental challenges.

Working in collaboration with our PLS Alliance partners, Arizona State University and the University of New South Wales, the Environmental Humanities Network is a collaboration of disciplines aimed at understanding these and other environmental issues.



[kcl.ac.uk/research/environmental-humanities-network](https://kcl.ac.uk/research/environmental-humanities-network)



## CURIOSITY CABINET

*at 171 The Strand*

In addition to demonstrating the centrality of arts and humanities expertise to the major questions of today, we also showcase and celebrate our brilliantly varied and eclectic contributions to the world's knowledge through the new Curiosity Cabinet at 171 The Strand.

Launching in winter 2023. This continuous display is dedicated to the curious – curious people and curious objects.

We tell the stories of some of the extraordinary research and education being led from Arts and Humanities at King's using the physical and digital objects - eye-catching, beautiful and at times just plain strange - that have inspired or emerged from it.

Come, be curious!

[kcl.ac.uk/research/the-curiosity-cabinet](https://kcl.ac.uk/research/the-curiosity-cabinet)

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**Faculty of Arts & Humanities**  
**King's College London**  
Strand  
London WC2R 2LS

**[kcl.ac.uk/artshums](https://kcl.ac.uk/artshums)**  
**@kingsartshums**