

<p><b>Institution:</b> University of Ulster</p> <p><b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 20 Law</p> <p><b>a. Context:</b> Since its inception, the strategic goals of the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) have placed sustained engagement with non-academic users and activist research at the core of its work. Engagement with research users was a <i>raison d'être</i> for the Institute's creation and funding of £4.2 million from the Atlantic Philanthropies and Dept. of Employment and Learning (NI). The emphasis on relationships with and the centrality of research value to non-academic users results from the specificity of the conflict and post-conflict setting in Northern Ireland (NI). Key research questions explored by TJI are of direct relevance to peace process progression and efforts to deal with the legacy of conflict-related harms; reflect direct and long-standing participation of TJI researchers in the local human rights community; draw on TJI's leading role in examining and transferring the applicability of the lessons and models used in NI's transition for other transitional states; and advance the epistemological origins of transitional justice (TJ) as both a field of scholarly enquiry and a body of practice for a range of institutions.</p> <p><b>Main Non-Academic Users and Beneficiaries of TJI Research:</b> We have global and local users and beneficiaries. In NI users of Law and TJI research include human rights non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (e.g. Committee on the Administration of Justice, Human Rights Consortium, Healing Through Remembering, Relatives for Justice, British Irish Rights Watch, Women's Resource and Development Agency, Bridge of Hope, Hanna's House, West Belfast Féile, Coiste, Ex-Prisoners Interpretative Centre, Council for Ethnic Minorities, Londonderry Inner City Trust, Buildings Preservations Trust, APEX Housing, African and Caribbean Support Organisation); governmental institutions (e.g. Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), Dept. of Justice, NI Office, Prison Reform Oversight Group, Ulster Museum, police, NI Assembly) and specialised legal entities (e.g. Law Centre, Human Rights Commission, Commission for Children and Young People). Within the UK, TJI researchers work with and influence government departments managing political transitions in NI and overseas (e.g. Coroners Service for NI, NI Affairs Select Committee, Dept. for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office). Internationally, the growth of TJ policymaking and related foreign aid has resulted in TJI researchers advancing policy and practice for key intergovernmental actors (e.g. UN, Council of Europe, OSCE) as well as government bodies in foreign states (e.g. USAID, Irish Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Irish Defence Forces, Netherlands Ministry of Defence, President of the Basque Government, Swiss Federal Dept of Foreign Affairs, An Garda Síochána) and foreign and international NGOs (e.g. International Center for Transitional Justice, Avocats Sans Frontières, Ugandan Coalition for the ICC, Open Society Foundation, International Women's Program, Khulumani (South Africa), Fambul Tok (Sierra Leone), Christian Aid, Democratic Progress Institute, and Interpeace). Research at TJI has local, national and international impact.</p> <p><b>Main Types of Activities and Impact Achieved by Research at TJI:</b> Widespread and systematic human rights violations have complex and enduring impacts on society. These are experienced and responded to differently by individuals, communities, governmental institutions and international actors. Interdisciplinary research at TJI addresses the legacies of past violence/harm at these different levels and we engage in a range of activities designed to have diverse impacts on different groups of non-academic users. We were the first scholarly institute to imagine, describe and set out modalities for integrating TJ theory and practice across a range of transitional mechanisms and to make integrated solutions the standard operating model for complex transitions. Activities range from micro to macro engagement - identifying, addressing and seeking solutions to the challenges of transitional societies. Examples: by engagement with local and international print, radio and television media and blogs, TJI researchers raise public awareness shaping public debate on what approaches can be used to address legacies of serious harms and violence. TJI researchers have directly advised and supported NGOs and governments on the complexity of memory practices achieving cultural impacts through engaging with museums, cultural festivals as well as policy decisions on the transformation of sites associated with Northern Ireland's violent past (e.g. future of the former high-security prison at Maze/Long Kesh).</p> <p>TJI researchers are engaged in training programmes locally and internationally for military personnel, lawyers and judges, political negotiators and civil society activists (e.g. Syria, Uganda, Libya, Afghanistan, Serbia, Israel-Palestine, Aspen Institute). Training programme engagement enhances professional knowledge and the capacity of civil society organisations, directing research knowledge to communities and institutions. Through close multi-year cooperation with one NGO</p>
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we created a useable 'Toolkit' on TJ for community leaders to utilise in local settings addressing community level post-conflict issues. It is now being used in international conflict training (Syria).

TJI and Law research contribute to influencing public policy via involvement in public consultations (e.g. TJI's engagement with the Consultative Group on the Past, Smith's testimony to the NI Assembly on Civil Service (Special Advisors) Act, submissions to all-party talks chaired by Haas, 2013); providing advice to government departments (e.g. McKeever, Dept. of Justice on tribunal reform, O'Rawe, NI Coroners Service). TJI researchers contribute to public policy formation/evaluation through consultancy projects for governmental bodies (e.g. Rolston's research on former prisoners for OFMDFM) and via research partnerships with NGOs evaluating governmental institutions (e.g. joint CAJ-TJI project and report monitoring public inquiries). Internationally, TJI researchers maximised research impact through consultancies and commissioned guidelines for international organisations (e.g. UN Women) & developing accessible research outputs for governmental and NGO actors engaged in TJ policymaking (e.g. Guidelines on Amnesty and Accountability 2013, OSCE/ODIHR Freedom of Assembly Guidelines 2008-2011).

**b. Approach to impact:** TJI uses a praxis approach to research and policy. We consciously ensure the relevance of our research questions and outputs to states, international organisations, and NGOs in research design, implementation, dissemination and usage. Our research agenda is designed around collaborative problem identification with users – many of whom have sustaining relationships with us through our leadership roles outside the University, going 'out' to the community and bringing the community 'into' the teaching, research and intellectual space of TJI.

**Developing Relationships with Non-Academic Users:** TJI has developed successful strategies for building and sustaining relationships with a range of non-academic users, which enable us to maximise the impact of our research:

- **Communications:** TJI has developed a multifaceted communication strategy including social media (Facebook and Twitter), website, podcasts, a TJI newsletter with research summaries included, and contacts database to raise awareness of our work and disseminate our findings.
- **Media Engagement:** TJI staff regularly engage with local/international print, radio & TV media.
- **Dissemination:** In addition to prestigious scholarly outlets, research outputs are made accessible to non-academic users through open-access publishing on our SSRN TJI Research Paper Series and the Ulster Institutional Repository; and publishing user-friendly summaries of research findings in reports or on blogs (e.g. *IntLawGrrls*, *Just Security*, *RightsNI*). Databases created by TJI researchers are made available online (e.g. CAIN website <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk> - Conflict Archive on the Internet containing information on the NI conflict).
- **Seminar Series and Public Events:** TJI holds a year-long seminar series where local and international policymakers and key civil society members present their work and engage in discussions on research exchange with TJI. TJI supports a seminar series for law and society researchers in the School of Law focused on local practitioner exchange. Both seminars consistently enable local constituencies to engage with and apply our research findings to their own work. Monthly events are supplemented by conferences and seminars throughout the year whereby TJI builds relationships with new potential users by speaker engagement (e.g. 2013 event brought practitioners from the Middle East and North Africa to Northern Ireland).
- **Visiting Fellows:** Since 2008 we have attracted national and international practitioners to the Institute (e.g. Kouvo (Afghanistan Analysts Network), O'Flaherty (UNHRC) and Swaine (UN Women)). School of Law hosts a Visiting Professor and practitioner in residence programme.
- **External Oversight Board:** Enables users to be fully engaged in long-term research and policy planning (e.g. Amann, ICC Special Advisor; Valji, UN Women).
- **Teaching and Training:** Active recruitment of local and international TJ practitioners and users into Ph.D. and LL.M. programmes. The TJI Summer School (since 2008) designed as a week-long intensive showcase for praxis research bringing actors from civil society, international organisations, military, and government agencies to an interactive policy and research space. TJI staff deliver TJ training in e.g. Uganda, Turkey, Israel-Palestine & Liberia.
- **Consultations, Consultancies and Collaborative Research:** TJI researchers engage directly with non-academic users through responding to policy consultations pertaining to our research goals and engaging in consultancies for local, national and international governmental bodies; and through innovative partnerships with NGOs, local government and international institutions (e.g. International Center for TJ, Gender Dimensions of Non-State Actor Violations in Colombia; evidence to Irish Parliament on Good Friday Agreement implementation, 2012).

- **Sustained & Collaborative amicus briefs:** to key cases at ECHR, ICJ, IACHR, SCOTUS.
- **Board Membership:** TJI researchers engage in complimentary activism and scholarship as many sit on the boards of local human rights organisations and key international entities.
- **External Funding for Impact:** Funding from major research councils (ESRC, AHRC, Leverhulme, British Academy, Nuffield) as well as from non-traditional sources (e.g. CAJ partnership, Medico International, International Development Research Center, Fetzer Institute, United Nations, and Bridge of Hope) has enabled targeted research consistently involving a research praxis element. Actively seeking non-traditional funding means prioritising relationships that directly incorporate research from TJI researchers and allow for translation to policy and regulatory impact. Ongoing funded research includes a knowledge exchange project funded by the AHRC Follow-on Funding scheme entitled Amnesties, Prosecutions and Public Interest in Northern Ireland (Mallinder, w/ McEvoy & Anthony from Queen's University Belfast).

**Evidence of the Nature of these Relationships:** Direct policy drafting by TJI researchers, reliance on TJI research by decision makers in international institutions, citation in court opinions and policy positions taken by political decision-makers, emphasise our international prominence. We maintain sustaining and nurturing relationships by collaborative research production, advice giving, engagement and support to the internal institutional needs of users.

**TJI Support for Staff to Enable Impact:** Maximising impact includes funding staff to attend external seminars on impact; senior researchers provide impact advice and mentoring through e.g. annual research review meetings; all staff are encouraged to undertake consultancy, advice and public appointments e.g. judicial, expert body participation, board membership deepening individual and institutional affiliations. Senior staff 'bring in' ECRs to existing relationships (e.g. McWilliams/Smith: NI Human Rights Commission, Ní Aoláin/O'Rourke: UN, Campbell/Turner: Consultative Group on the Past). All staff benefit from impact strategies including consistent communication with and presence of users and beneficiaries at TJI events, conferences and gatherings, and established processes for communicating & disseminating research and activities.

**Making Use of Institutional Resources:** TJI benefits from the University's Research Impact Awards specifically to advance 'Dealing with the Past' research. Sustained support by Ulster's Research Office (RO) enables targeted funding applications, and TJI researchers extensively use the University's media and consultancy offices. RO support to Directors enables impact strategies. University actively supports politically sensitive and contentious work by TJI staff in NI and beyond on divisive political issues (e.g. amnesty, counter-terrorism analyses in post-conflict contexts).

### c. Strategy and plans: **Impact Goals**

- Advancing TJ model synthesising transitional justice mechanisms in new transitional settings
- Deepening TJ model to conceptualise mechanisms applying in 'ongoing hostilities'
- Deepening regional and institutional engagements with UN, World Bank, EU and ICC
- Expanding TJI External Board to facilitate greater involvement from non-academic users
- Sharing and advancing TJI expertise & capacity with non-academic users more fulsomely
- Expanding TJI expertise and export to the Middle East and North Africa transitions and growing TJI Visiting Programme to include practitioners from newly emerging conflict sites in this region

#### **Plans for Maximising the Potential for Impact from Current and Future Work**

- Directing strategy review 2015 to maximise institutional capacity and collective working, evolving to a model of individually tailored staff impact strategies, goals and deliverables
- New research directions on Media and Conflict (see law/media interface in 'ongoing hostilities')
- Adopting memorandum between UN Women and TJI deepening research and policy interfaces
- Enabling staff expertise to utilise new technological platforms thereby expanding dissemination
- Expanding 'Toolkit' modality for dissemination using our Research led Summer School as a platform – Gender Toolkit in funding application stage (O'Rourke; Relatives for Justice)
- Expanding TJI expertise & export to the Middle East/North African transitions including partnership with the TJ@HU and relationship building with Lebanese and Egyptian civil society

**d. Relationship to case studies:** The case studies illustrate how TJI's support for open access research dissemination and outreach strategies leads to new and sustaining relationships with a range of local and international non-academic users. These relationships enabled TJI researchers to develop research questions and disseminate findings which are valuable to diverse transitional societies, and they have also led to collaborative research projects and relationships with users.