

N8 CIR Newsletter

RSE Theme Leader

We'd like to open this month's newsletter by offering a warm welcome to Marion Weinzierl who is joining N8 CIR as our new research software engineering theme leader.

In this role she will help to develop the N8's RSE community. She will also work alongside the software engineers who will be supporting Bede, our new HPC platform, to ensure that as many researchers as possible can benefit from its unique architecture.

Marion has extensive experience of both academia and the private sector. She originally studied for the German equivalent of a Masters in Computer Science before completing a PhD in Scientific Computing on parallel multigrid solvers for computational fluid dynamics codes.

She first came to Durham as a post-doc where she was developing computational solar physics codes as part of a project looking at space weather research with the Met Office and United States Air Force.

After some time in the private sector with the research and development team of an x-ray technology start-up, she joined Advanced Research Computing at Durham University as a research software engineer. Much of her work has been refactoring and optimising code, preferably in Fortran, C++, Python, MATLAB and Bash.

Since joining Durham's RSE team in October 2019 she has supported a number of university departments on diverse projects. These include working with the department of maths on computational solar physics codes, classroom simulations evaluating teacher and pupil learning styles for the school of education, the geography department to refactor ice sheet modelling codes and the business school to optimise algorithms in econometrics.

You can read more about Marion, and the RSE team at ARC, here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/supporting-research/rse/case-studies/>

Marion is already an active member of the RSE community having been elected a trustee of the Society of Research Software Engineering this year, and being a member of the programme committee of the ongoing Series of Research Software Events (SORSE). Over the summer she was active in organising and supporting our online RSE meet-ups, so is already a familiar face to many of the RSEs across the N8. You can see overviews of the RSE Career Development and Speed Blogging sessions on our Event Resources pages at: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/event-resource/>

We're looking forward to seeing more of Marion's influence in the development of events, activities, training and meet-ups across the N8 Research Partnership.

Training Surveys

Over the last year N8 CIR has delivered a well-received programme of training for both the Digital Humanities and Digital Health research communities.

We are now looking to prioritise the training topics for this academic year. In consultation with the Theme Leaders in these academic areas we have identified a range of courses and skills that are most needed to maximise the benefits of computationally intensive methods and accelerate research.

In order to finalise our training and development offer for the coming year we are appealing to researchers and PGRs across the N8 Research Partnership to complete a short survey to ensure that the most needed courses are made available.

If you are a researcher or PGR in Digital Health you can complete the survey here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3OPFoQaewwzKEjIwbTlliQBRgEbDqGiabcD6IDfdmmdtk7w/viewform>

If you are a researcher or PGR in Digital Humanities you can complete the survey here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8AqERYt2vM4e-5SXFcAczn2kxiMW-z6zZNOX5zW_yX25zCg/viewform

Both surveys will remain open until 18 November 2020

Research Data Management Network

Research Data Management Network launch Event
Wednesday 25 November, 10-11.30am
Online Event

N8 CIR is pleased to announce the launch of a new N8 RDM Network for professionals working in research data management and related disciplines. The network will bring together expertise and experience from across the N8 to share new ideas, best practice and to learn from the various RDM approaches adopted by different universities.

Join us to celebrate the N8 RDM Network launch at our virtual kickstart event on 25 November from 10-11:30 am, which will feature a series of short talks followed by a panel discussion.

- **Rosie Higman**
Research Data Manager
The University Library, The University of Sheffield
Learning, Adapting and Collaborating: Providing RDM Services at Different Institutions
- **Danielle Owen**
Research Data Manager for Core Facilities
Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health at the University of Manchester
Building RDM Best Practice into Core Facility Workflows
- **Chris Gibson**
Research Services Librarian
The University of Manchester Library
Building Integrated Researcher Services with DMP Online at The University of Manchester
- **Graham Collins**
Research Computing Analyst
Newcastle University
Looking Past the Thin End of the Carrot

Alongside these talks there will be a discussion about the future direction of this group, and of course a chance to chat and network with colleagues from across the N8 Research Partnership.

You can read complete descriptions of the talks and find links to reserve a place on our website: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/n8-rdm-launch/>

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