Welcome to In the Loop at 10, a celebration of ten years of the conference and the Knitting Reference Library at Winchester School of Art.

This is my first conference as the new Head of Winchester School of Art Library. Since its launch in 2008 In the Loop has been on the road from Southampton to Shetland via Glasgow. I very much wanted for this special anniversary to bring it back to Winchester School of Art where it started and for the focus to be on collections, which are at the heart of our work here at the Library.

I am delighted that Linda Newington, the founder of In the Loop, opens the conference with her unique reflections on the last ten years. Jessica Hemmings, who co-organised the first conference with Linda, returns. Her keynote will encourage all of us, academics and practitioners alike, to reflect on the politics of knitting. And I am thrilled to welcome Ingun Grimstad Klepp to her first In the Loop conference. Ingun’s keynote will address the history of knitting in Norway in the context of sustainable development in both knitting and textiles.

Alongside these thought-provoking keynotes, we have a huge variety of papers exploring contemporary and historic institutional collections in libraries, museums, and archives, as well as personal collections, designer collections, and collections of narratives.

I hope that the sharing of knowledge and practice from so many diverse collections at this conference will lead to an exciting new wave of research and engagement in all aspects of knitting.

Happy Anniversary!

Catherine Polley
July 2018
## DAY 1
### THURSDAY 19TH JULY

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>09:00–09:40</td>
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| 10:00–10:40 | Keynote Linda Newington  
In the Loop at 10: a reflection with some of my favourite things                                    |
| 10:40–11:10 | Refreshments                                                                                               |
| 11:10–11:30 | Introduction to Collections (see right)                                                                    |
| 11:30–11:40 | Break                                                                                                       |
| 11:40–13:15 | Parallel sessions (see right)                                                                             |
| 13:15–14:40 | Lunch  
Lunch and opportunity to explore the Knitting Reference Library and WSA Library collections             |
| 14:40–15:40 | Keynote Ingun Grimstad Klepp  
Knitting and wool as Norwegian and sustainable                                                               |
| 15:40–16:00 | Refreshments                                                                                               |
| 16:00–17:30 | Parallel sessions (see right)                                                                             |
| 17:30–18:30 | Reception, The Winchester Gallery                                                                          |

### Lecture Theatre A

#### COLLECTIONS

11:40–12:00 – Julie Orford & Ruth Churchman  
Adventures in mathematical knitting and ‘Confounding Colours’ in the National Museums Scotland (Science)

#### WELLBEING

11:40–12:00 – Rachel Matthews  
Knitting: affect, value and health

12:00–12:20 – Jean Oberlander  
What is softness, but a well worn jumper: unravelling the cross-overs of love, memory and tactility in knitting

#### KNITTING NARRATIVES

16:00–16:20 – Rose Sinclair  
The Crocus Bag stories: reclaiming personal and collective histories and struggle through knitting narratives

16:20–16:40 – Sarah Filmer  
Knitting and wondering

16:40–17:00 – Alison Meakes  
Exploring archaeological collections of early knitting from the Middle East

17:00–17:20 – Adrienne Sloane  
Knitting & Craftivism: knitting in the news

17:20–17:30 – Questions to the panel
LINDA NEWINGTON

In the Loop at 10: a reflection with some of my favourite things

A welcome presentation and personal review for the tenth anniversary of In the Loop reflecting on those 10 years since the first conference In the Loop: past, present and future was held at Winchester School of Art in 2008, organised with Jessica Hemmings. It will include both highlights and some of the difficulties encountered.

There will be a particular focus on the potential role of libraries and museums alongside their knitting-related collections wherever located, whatever shape, however managed. Creativity, collaboration and community have been essential to the KRL in developing access and participation, from cataloguing to pompom making.

Discovered in the collections – bags, balaclavas, bandages, books, elephants, gloves and mittens, jumpers, patterns, poodles, postcards, rabbits, Spare Rib and Stitchcraft – some favourite things will be included in this presentation, revealing the perhaps unexpected aspects of knitting.

Some questions for the audience at this celebration of In the Loop will focus on collections and their continued role in the profiling of knitting.

Linda Newington trained as a librarian at the British Museum (Natural History) curating the collection of drawings, paintings and prints held in the Botany Library. In 2007 she completed an MA in the History of Textiles and Dress with the Textile Conservation Centre. Her dissertation focused on the image and status of knitting in relation to the Knitting Collections. She led and developed with colleagues the Knitting Reference Library (KRL) and the series of In the Loop conferences starting in 2008. She has published on artists’ books and the knitting collections in a wide variety of journals and magazines. Linda moved to Shetland in October 2016 after 30 years at Winchester School of Art Library and is now “free range”.

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This presentation consists of two parts where the first one looks at the history of knitting in Norway, while the other looks at what is happening related to locally produced knitting yarns. Both perspectives - national and home/domestic production and consumption - will be discussed related to the work of sustainable development for clothing and textiles.

What do we know about Norwegian home knitting practices, compared to other countries, and why are knitted garments so popular as clothing and as an integral feature of home production in Norway? Ingun will describe the Norwegian historic perspective based on the book she, together with Tone Skårdaal Tobiasson, will publish this fall, and present some of the factors that contributed to knitting’s status in Norway today. Wool and local production are central to the KRUS project, led by Ingun. The project is called KRUS, which means “crimp”, as Norwegian wool is known for its exceptional crimp (“bounce”), lustre and durability.

Based on the efforts to develop local production and wool from older breeds, she will describe what is happening in the Norwegian yarn market. How are regions, farms and breeds used in marketing and developing new knitting yarns? Does the yarn being “Norwegian” play a role? In conclusion, both of these discussions merge in the story of knitting as “Norwegian” and in its potential for contributing to the sustainable production and consumption of clothing.

Research Professor Ingun Grimstad Klepp works at Consumption Research Norway (SIFO) at Oslo Metropolitan University. She has a PhD and Magister atrium in ethnology from the University of Oslo. Her interest lies in the connection between material and cultural aspects of clothing and consumption. She has written several books and articles about wool, laundry and clothing. Most of her projects contribute to the debate on sustainability and the environment. Local production, the use phase of clothing, and use properties of wool are important keywords. She enjoys collaboration and publishes and disseminates frequently with Tone Skårdaal Tobiasson, Kirsi Laitala and Kate Fletcher.

Photographer Tone Tobiasson
DAY 2  
FRIDAY 20TH JULY

09:00–09:20 Registration
09:20–10:20 Keynote Jessica Hemmings  
Challenging Knitting
10:20–11:00 Refreshments
11:00–12:30 Parallel sessions (see right)
12:30–13:40 Lunch  
Lunch and opportunity to explore the Knitting Reference Library and WSA Library collections
13:40–15:30 Parallel sessions (see right)
15:30–16:00 10 Year Anniversary afternoon tea
16:00–17:00 Plenary Session
17:00 End of Conference

Lecture Theatre A

HISTORIC TEXTILES

11:00–11:20 – Jane Malcolm Davies  
Ways of seeing: an online digital collection for the scientific study of early evidence for knitting
11:20–11:40 – Frances Casey  
Knitting for the War Effort during the First World War: a reappraisal
11:40–12:00 – Cary Karp  
Taking a Loupe to the Loop
12:00–12:20 – Louise Scollay  
Archive treasure: a snapshot of Cleekit gloves
12:20–12:30 – Questions to panel

KNITWEAR DESIGN

13:40–14:00 – Sandy Black  
The knitwear revolution: British designer knitters of the 1970s and 80s
14:00–14:20 – Susan Strawn  
Finding Virginia Woods Bellamy: a mid-century knitting collection
14:20–14:40 – Constance Willems  
Once upon a knitting time
14:40–15:00 – Annie Shaw  
Seamless spaces: from then to now
15:00–15:20 – Amanda Smith & Rachelle Moore  
Knit: co-design and the designer-maker
15:20–15:30 – Questions to the panel

Westside Lecture Theatre

STORYTELLING

11:00–11:20 – Alex Franklin  
Unravelling Miss Marple: knitting, intuition and ageing femininity
11:20–11:40 – Lorna Hamilton Brown  
Black people don’t knit?
11:40–12:00 – Helen Pleasance  
Collecting literary knitters
12:00–12:20 – Saskia de Bodt  
Knitting as a metaphor
12:20–12:30 – Questions to panel

PATTERNS, MATERIALS, INNOVATIONS

13:40–14:00 – Beth Ranson  
Nature as a ‘smart’ material: a collection of knitted experiments
14:00–14:20 – Olle-Petter Melin  
Methods for knitting multicolored patterns: a survey of instructions in knitting manuals
14:20–14:40 – Zoe Fletcher  
Designing for breed: a design-oriented toolkit for understanding purebred British wool for knitwear
14:40–15:00 – Cassandra Milani  
The evolution and commodification of the Fair Isle knitting tradition: 1850-1938
15:00–15:20 – Gieneke Arnoli  
Breien! – Knitting! The story about a surprising and successful exhibition on knitting at the Museum of Friesland, Leeuwarden in 2016
15:20–15:30 – Questions to the panel
In the decade since I co-organised with Linda Newington the first In the Loop conference, the profile of knitting has arguably expanded, but also maintained certain unspoken boundaries. This presentation aims to both be about knitting that speaks to the political challenges of the past decade, as well as present a challenge to knitting research.

Examples of knitting that deal with topics such as immigration, racism and violence will be considered, including work by artists Kate Just (Australia/USA), Cat Mazza (USA), Mary Sibande (South Africa), Christian Thompson (Australia), Patricia Waller (Germany), Xu Jiang & Yuan Liujun (China) and The Knitting Map Project directed by Jools Gilson (Ireland).

But alongside an acknowledgement of knitting that takes on complex topics, this presentation is also intended to challenge those who research, create and speak about knitting to reconsider if sufficient breadth of perspectives are currently welcomed into contemporary discourse about knitting.

Jessica Hemmings writes about textiles. In 2008 she co-organised with Linda Newington the first In the Loop conference. Publications include In the Loop: Knitting Now (Black Dog: 2010), The Textile Reader (Bloomsbury: 2012), Warp & Weft (Bloomsbury: 2012) and Cultural Threads: transnational textiles today (Bloomsbury: 2015) which was accompanied by a travelling exhibition Migrations (2015-2017). From 2012-2016 Jessica was Professor of Visual Culture and Head of the School of Visual Culture at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin. She moved to Sweden in 2017 and is currently Professor of Crafts & Vice-Prefekt of Research at the Academy of Design & Crafts (HDK), University of Gothenburg.
USING THE KNITTING COLLECTIONS

Knitting materials in the University of Southampton are divided between Winchester School of Art Library and Special Collections at the Hartley Library. To find out more please see the details below.

To use the collections based at Winchester School of Art Library please contact us by e-mail, telephone or in writing.

**Winchester School of Art Library**
Park Avenue
Winchester
SO23 8DL
Telephone: +44 (0)23 8059 6982
E-mail: wsaenqs@soton.ac.uk

To use the Special Collections based at the Hartley Library, initial appointments should be made in writing, details can be found at the Special Collections website.

**Special Collections**
Hartley Library
University of Southampton
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SO17 1BJ
Telephone: +44 (0)23 8059 2721
Email: archives@soton.ac.uk

www.southampton.ac.uk/archives

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