

# RUTH BRENNAN Ph.D. MSc. LL.B.

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## KEY RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Transformations in social-ecological systems
- Social, historical, political and cultural influences shaping environment-society relationships
- Ecosystem approach to management of social-ecological systems
- Environmental governance, marine policy and social justice

## CURRENT POSITION

**Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**

**January 2017-present**

*Research Fellow, Centre for Environmental Humanities, School of Histories and Humanities*

*Main responsibilities:* ensuring delivery of current and future projects (including NorFish, Oceans Past Initiative, IMPACT-EV and Oceans Past Platform) and grant capture.

## SELECTED PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

**Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.**

**March-December 2016**

*Research Fellow, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning*

*Main responsibilities:* leading a pilot project in a Palestinian-Israeli coastal village to devise an effective local-level marine litter strategy; teaching; public engagement and outreach; publication of research paper.

**Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Oban, Scotland, UK.**

**July 2015-present**

*Honorary Fellow and Laurence Mee Centre for Society and the Sea Associate*

**Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Scotland, UK.**

*MASTS Research Associate in Marine Social Ecology*

**May 2010-June 2015**

*Research Assistant in Marine Social Ecology*

**Nov. 2008-April 2010**

*Main responsibilities:* conducting and leading interdisciplinary research projects; contributing to commercial research contracts; teaching and supervision at undergraduate, post-graduate and continuing professional development levels; developing art-science collaborations; public engagement and outreach; small grant capture.

**Irish Seal Sanctuary (NGO), Dublin, Ireland.**

*Marine policy advisor and European representative*

**April 2006-Dec. 2008**

**CIT, Dublin, Ireland.**

*European Legal Counsel (multi-jurisdictional consumer finance)*

**April 2005-April 2006**

**Linklaters, Paris, France.**

*Solicitor (international banking and structured finance)*

**Oct. 2000-Dec. 2002**

**Linklaters, London, UK and Paris, France.**

*Trainee solicitor*

**Oct. 1998-Oct. 2000**

## EDUCATION

**University of Aberdeen and University of the Highlands and Islands**

**2009-2015**

*Ph.D. in Social Ecology (awarded 2015).*

Director of Studies: Prof. Laurence Mee

Research fields: social-ecological systems, environmental governance, political ecology, art-science

Thesis title: *What lies beneath: probing the cultural depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland.*

**University of Plymouth**

**2006-2007**

*Master of Science Degree (MSc) Coastal and Ocean Policy*

**The Law Society (England and Wales)**

**2000**

*Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales*

**The College of Law of England and Wales, London**

**1997-1998**

*Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice*

**Trinity College, Dublin**

**1993-1997**

*First Class Honours Law Degree - LL.B (Hons)*

## SPECIALIST SKILLS/EXPERIENCE

Experience in a range of facilitation techniques. Certified facilitator in *The Work that Reconnects*. Research project co-design and co-production. Art-science methodology design for marine spatial planning; Participatory mapping design, visualisation and articulation of intangible cultural heritage. Visual and qualitative methods. Nvivo further analysis. Soft-systems methodology. Participatory action research. Phronetic research.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer reviewed papers

**Brennan RE. (in press)** The conservation ‘myths’ we live by: reimagining human-nature relationships within the Scottish marine policy context. *AREA (Special Issue: Cultural Geographies of Coastal Change: Place, Identity and Vulnerability)*.

**Brennan RE** and Portman ME. 2017. [Situating Arab-Israeli artisanal fishermen’s perceptions of marine litter in a socio-institutional and socio-cultural context](#). *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 115: 240-251

Katsanevakis S, Mackelworth P, Coll M, Frascchetti S, Mačić V, Giakoumi S, Jones P, Levin N, Albano PG, Badalamenti F, **Brennan R**, Claudet J, Culibrk D, D’Anna G, Deidun A, Evagelopoulos A, García-Charton J, Goldsborough D, Holcer D, Jimenez C, Kark S, Sørensen T, Lazar B, Martin G, Mazaris A, Micheli F, Milner-Gulland E, Pipitone C, Portman M, Pranovi F, Rilov G, Smith R, Stelzenmüller V, Vogiatzakis I, Winters G 2017. [Advancing marine conservation in European and contiguous seas with the MarCons Action](#). *Research Ideas and Outcomes* 3: e11884.

Potts T., O’Higgins T., **Brennan R.**, Cinnirella S., Steiner Brandt U., Suárez de Vivero J.L., van Beusekom, J., Troost T., Paltriguera L., Gunduz Hosgor, A. 2015. [Detecting critical choke points for achieving Good Environmental Status](#). *Ecology and Society* 20(1): 29

Cinnirella S., Sardà R., Suárez de Vivero J. L., **Brennan R.**, Barausse A., Icely J., Luisetti T., March D., Murciano C., Newton A., O’Higgins T., Palmeri L., Palmieri M. G., Raux P., Rees S., Albaigés J., Pirrone N. & K. Turner. 2014. [Steps towards a shared governance response for achieving Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean Sea](#). *Ecology and Society* 19(4): 47

Smith G and **Brennan RE**. 2012. [Losing our way with mapping: thinking critically about marine spatial planning in Scotland](#). *Ocean & Coastal Management* 69:210-216

**Brennan RE** and Valcic B. 2012. Feature Article: [Shifting perspectives - how the masks we wear can facilitate and inhibit channels of communication in the social-environmental policy context](#). *Ocean & Coastal Management* 62: 1-8

**Brennan RE** and Rodwell LD. 2008. [Sustainable Management of wild Irish Atlantic salmon: Keys found through the looking-glass](#). *Marine Policy* 32: 1072-1079

**Brennan R**. 2007. [The North Norfolk Coastline: A Complex Legacy](#). *Coastal Management* 35: 587-599

### Reports and book chapters

Alexander K., **Brennan, R.** and Kenter, J. (in press) *Marine and coastal ecosystem stewardship*. In Bieling, C. and Plieninger, T. (Eds.) *The Science and Practice of Landscape Stewardship*.

Tett, P., Black, K., **Brennan, R.**, Cook, E., Davidson, K. 2015. *Challenge: Sustainable mariculture at high latitudes*. In Baztan J., Chouinard O., Jorgensen B., Tett P., Vanderlinden J.P. and Vasseur L. (Eds.) *Coastal Zones: Solutions for the 21st century*. Elsevier: Amsterdam.

Potts, T., **Brennan, R.**, Pita, C. and Lowrie, G. 2011. *Sustainable Seafood and Eco-labelling: The Marine Stewardship Council, UK Consumers, and the UK Fishing Industry*. SAMS Report: 270-211 Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban, UK.

Bell E, **Brennan R.**, Nickell T, Potts T, Valcic B, and Wilson, H. 2011. Report to LINK: Making the case for the sound management of Marine Protected Areas. Scottish Association for Marine Science Internal Report No. 267, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Scotland.

<http://www.scotlink.org/public/publications/reports.php>

**Brennan R.**, Potts T. and Mee L. 2010. Report on Social and Economic Objectives for a Scottish Marine Plan. Scottish Government Publications, Edinburgh

### Art-science publications, short films and exhibitions

#### Publications

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2014. *Clyde Reflections - a film and audio-visual installation*. In Griffith D. (Ed.) *Imagining Natural Scotland*. Creative Scotland: Edinburgh and Glasgow. <http://www.sams.ac.uk/ruth-brennan/clyde-reflections-pdf> (Chapter available for viewing with full permission of Creative Scotland).

**Brennan R.** 2014. Where is the management plan for Isla Holbox, Mexico? An ecological reserve in the midst of social and political controversy. *The Island Review*, 19 June 2014. [www.theislandreview.com/isla-holbrox](http://www.theislandreview.com/isla-holbrox)

**Brennan R.** 2014. What lies beneath. Ruth Brennan on probing the cultural depths of nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. *The Island Review*, 31 January 2014. <http://www.sams.ac.uk/ruth-brennan/what-lies-beneath-e-book./view>

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2013. *Sea Stories* online cultural map of the sea. [www.mappingthesea.net/barra](http://www.mappingthesea.net/barra)

MacKinnon I. and **Brennan R.** 2012. *Dùthchas na Mara/Dúchas na Mara/Belonging to the Sea. Exploring the cultural roots of maritime conflict on Gaelic speaking islands in Scotland and Ireland*. Photography: Stephen Hurrel. ISBN 978-0-9529089-8-2

#### Short films

**Brennan R.** and Hurrel S. 2016. *Producing Seascapes: a documentary*. [www.vimeo.com/152585715](http://www.vimeo.com/152585715)

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2014. *Clyde Reflections: a film and audio-visual installation*. [www.vimeo.com/89793693](http://www.vimeo.com/89793693)

#### Exhibitions

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2016. [Clyde Reflections](#) screening at Dunoon Film Festival, Scotland. 11-13 November 2016

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2015. [Clyde Reflections](#) installation at Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland. 29 May-5 July 2015

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2014. [Clyde Reflections](#) film premiere screening at Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) Glasgow, Scotland. 11 September 2014

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2014. [Sea Stories](#) and [Belonging to the Sea](#) exhibited as part of North Sea Hitch at Timespan, Helmsdale, Scotland. 5-29 July 2014

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2013. [Sea Stories](#) and [Belonging to the Sea](#) exhibited as part of Sea Change at Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland. November 2013-January 2014

#### CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

##### Conference presentations

**Brennan R.** and Portman M. 2016 *Perceptions of marine litter: why should we try to understand the values, norms and worldviews of a small group of artisanal fishermen on the Mediterranean coastline?* Presented at the Oceans Past Platform COST Action conference: Historical Ecology of Semi-Enclosed Basins: past, present and future of seas at risk, University of Padova, 3-4 October 2016 (Conference presentation)

**Brennan R.** 2015 *Cultural transformations in the Scottish marine policy process: the story of Barra* Presented at the ESRC Symposium on Marine Conservation and Governance: MPAs and Beyond, University of Bristol, 24-25 September 2015 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2015 *Cultural transformations in the Scottish marine policy process: the story of Barra* Presented to the MASTS (Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland) research community, online webinar, 18 June 2015 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2014 *What lies beneath – probing the depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland* Presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine and Coastal Policy Forum, Plymouth University, 18-20 June 2014 (Conference presentation)

**Brennan R.** 2013 *What lies beneath – probing the depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland* Presented at the Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference, Royal Geographical Society, 28-30 August 2013 (Conference presentation)

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2013 *Clyde Reflections* Jointly presented at the Imagining Natural Scotland Conference, St Andrews University, 27 August 2013 (Conference presentation)

**Brennan R.** 2013 *Connecting nature conservation and community well-being on a small Scottish island: an invisible world revealed* Presented at the Association of American Geographers 2013 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, 9-13 April 2013 (Conference presentation)

**Brennan R.** 2012 *What lies beneath – probing the depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland* Presented at the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland Annual Science Meeting, 11-13 September 2012 (Conference presentation)

**Brennan R.** 2009 *Sustainable management of wild Irish Atlantic salmon: keys found through the looking glass* Presented at the Fourth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of

Athens, 8-11 July 2009 (Conference presentation)

### **Other presentations**

**Brennan, R.** 2017 *Situating Arab-Israeli artisanal fishermen's perceptions of marine litter in a socio-institutional and socio-cultural context*. Presented at the LMC Winter Seminar Series, SAMS, Scottish Marine Institute, 30 January 2017 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan, R.** 2017 *Exploring a nature conservation conflict on a small Scottish island: the value and challenges of participatory research methods* Presented to the Integrative Geography Research Group, Hamburg University, 24 January 2017 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan, R.** 2016 *Land-based and artisanal fishing sources of marine litter - perceptions of local fishermen in Jisr-a-Zarqa*. Presented to the Environmental Research Group, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel. (Invited speaker)

**Brennan, R.** 2016 *Cultural transformations in the Scottish marine policy process: the story of Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland*. Presented at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning Colloquium Series, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel. (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2015 *Thinking about how we think about nature – a marine conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland* Presented at the Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway, 25 March 2015 as part of an exchange visit under the MERIKA (Marine Energy Research Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator) EU FP7 (REGPOT) programme (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2014 *A qualitative art-science methodology to explore and articulate ideas, visions and expressions of marine space and related social and cultural values* Presented at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, 3 November 2014 as part of Producing Seascapes project (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2012 *Art-Science-Community Collaborations* Presented at the James Hutton Institute, 23 November 2012 as part of James Hutton Institute-SAMS Partnership for Sustainable Coasts (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2014 *Social science and art meet marine policy – the cultural depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland*. Presented at a lunchtime seminar, Marine Scotland, Edinburgh, 30 January 2014 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** and Potts T. 2010 *Developing social and economic objectives for Scotland's national marine Plan* Presented at a stakeholder and policy-maker workshop, Marine Scotland, Edinburgh, 7 September 2009 (Invited speaker)

### **OUTREACH ACTIVITY**

#### **Public talks**

**Brennan R.** 2016 *What do Jisr-az-Zarqa's fishermen think about marine litter?* Public talk at Jisr-az-Zarqa Young Leaders' workshop, 4 November 2016 (Invited speaker)

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2015 *Moving Image Season: Clyde Reflections Public Seminar* GoMA, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, 13 June 2015 (Invited speaker)

Hurrel S. and **Brennan R.** 2015 *Art-science collaborations* GoMA, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, 30 May 2015 (Invited speaker)

**Brennan R.** 2013 *What 'conservation' means to people on Barra – a photo-essay* Public talk at the Heritage Centre, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 16 November 2013

**Brennan R.** 2013 *Art-Science-Community Collaborations* The Clipperton Project Floating Laboratory: Scotland's Canals, Inverness (August 2013)

**Brennan R.** *Nature, culture and conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland* The Clipperton Project Floating Laboratory: The Journey South, Public talk for educators, high-school students and civil servants (from Departments of the Environment, Culture and Education), Centre for Development of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, April 2013

**Brennan R.**, MacKinnon I. and Hurrel, S. *Art-Science-Community Collaborations* Presented at the Clan MacNeil Gathering, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 13-16 August 2012

#### **Workshops**

Workshop facilitator for local children at Palizada, Chiapas, Mexico, as part of The Clipperton Project Usumacinta River art-science expedition, April 2014

Workshop co-facilitator (with J. Bonfiglio) for high-school students at the Centre for Development of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as part of The Clipperton Project Floating Laboratory: The Journey South, April 2013

Workshop co-facilitator (with V. Nicolas) *Communicating Across Differences* Heritage Centre, Barra, Outer

Hebrides, Scotland, May 2012

Workshop leader for primary school children, Festival of the Sea, Oban, Scotland, June 2010

Workshop co-facilitator at stakeholder meetings run by Argyll and Bute local council to inform and develop a draft Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for Loch Etive, North Argyll, Scotland, January-June 2010

### **Media coverage**

#### *Radio interviews*

SIAR Media, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 2010 and 2011

#### *Articles, reviews, interviews and news reports*

Belonging to the Sea publication: The Oban Times, West Highland Free Press, Inshore Ireland, ForArgyll, Cothrom, 2012

Sea Stories online cultural map of the sea: BBC Alba News, 2014

Clyde Reflections film: The Skinny, Central Station, Nature of Cities, ecoartscotland, Dunoon Observer, 2015

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

#### **Awarded**

Centre for Marine Research, Gothenburg University, Sweden & Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS). *Producing Seascapes: Communities and marine spatial planning in Sweden and Scotland*. SEK358,000 + £500. Co-I (with PI: A. Nightingale, Gothenburg University and Co-I: S. Hurrel, Hurrel Visual Arts). **2014-2015**

Creative Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Learned Society Bursaries & MASTS. *Clyde Reflections – an audio-visual film and installation*. £7,750. Co-PI (with Co-PI: S. Hurrel, Hurrel Visual Arts). **2013-2014**

Creative Scotland, Comunn na Gaidhlig & MASTS. *Sgeulachdan na Mara/Sea Stories*. £46,000. Co-PI (with Co-PI: S. Hurrel, Hurrel Visual Arts). **2012-2013**

Colmcille & MASTS. *Connecting Coastal Communities*. £16,000. Co-PI (with Co-PI: I. MacKinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation). **2011-2012**

National Trust for Scotland & MASTS (grants for doctoral fieldwork). *What lies beneath: probing the cultural depths of a nature conservation conflict in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland*. £8,500. **2009-2015**

#### **Participated**

European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (EU FP7 (REGPOT)). *Marine Energy Research Innovation and Knowledge Accelerator (MERIKA)*. €3.95m. Research Associate (with PI: J. Kenter). **2014-2017**

European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (EU FP7). *Knowledge-based Management of Europe's Seas (KnowSeas)*. €5.74m. Research Assistant (with Scientific Coordinator: L. Mee and PI: T. Potts). **2009-2013**

Scottish Environment LINK commercial tender. *The Sound Management of Marine Protected Areas*. Co-I (with PI T. Potts) **2011**

Marine Scotland, Scottish Government commercial tender. *Social and Economic Objectives for a Scottish Marine Plan*. Co-I (with PI: L. Mee and Co-I: T. Potts) **2009-2010**

European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (EU FP7). *Science and Policy Integration for Coastal System Assessment (SPICOSA)*. €10m. Research Assistant (with PI: T. Potts). **2007-2011**

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). *Effectiveness of eco-labelling and certification in sustainable aquaculture and fisheries (EECSAF)*. £103,000. Research Assistant (with PI: T. Potts). **2007-2009**

### **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

#### **Lecturer** (Spring Semester)

Marine Resources, BSc Marine Science, SAMS-University of the Highlands & Islands **2009-2015**

Marine Conservation, BSc Marine Science, SAMS-University of the Highlands & Islands **2009-2012**

MSc Ecosystem-based Management of Marine Systems, University of St Andrews and SAMS **2013-2015**

Marine Renewables & Society, Industrial Doctoral Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy **2013-2015**

#### *Co-coordinator and Co-facilitator:*

Marine Planning: The Policy Background Continuing Professional Development Course, SAMS **2011**

**Past Research Students**

Eoina Rodgers *Management options for the Sound of Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland* (BSc (Hons.) Marine Science, SAMS, 2013)

Abi Sutton *Policy dialogue mechanisms for successful implementation of co-management strategies in Scotland's inshore fishing sector* (MSc Environment & Development, University of Edinburgh, 2010-2011)

Glen Smith *Losing our way with mapping: thinking critically about marine spatial planning in Scotland* (MSc Environment & Development, University of Edinburgh, 2010-2011)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND NETWORKS**

Future Earth Oceans Knowledge-Action Network (since 2016)

Future Earth Transformations Knowledge-Action Network (since 2016)

Humanities for the Environment Network (since 2016)

Marine Conservation COST Action – Marine Protected Area Governance working group (since 2016)

Ocean Governance for Sustainability COST Action (since 2016)

Oceans Past Platform COST Action - Gendered Seas working group (since 2015)

Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) Coastal Zone Forum Steering Group Member (2010-2015)

Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society (SAGES/SAGES+) Member (since 2009)

Member of the Law Society of England and Wales (since 1998)

Solicitor (currently non-practising) of the Supreme Court of England and Wales (since 2000)

**AWARDS**

University of Plymouth Masters Scholarship (2006); Trinity College Dublin Julian Prize (1997); Trinity College Dublin Foundation Scholarship (1995); Trinity College Dublin Butterworths Ireland Law Prize (1994).

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (advanced), Irish Gaelic (conversational), Scottish Gaelic (basic), Italian (basic), Arabic (intermediate - spoken and written).

(*Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Française*, Alliance Française, Dublin, Ireland, 1995)