



Spotlight on Work Package 2 and an interview with Gillian Wylie from Trinity College Dublin (TCD)

- **a short summary of WP2 in a laymen language for our “Spotlight on WP2”**

WP2 combines the theoretical, methodological and ethical dimensions of the project. It is a bedrock on top of which other WPs are built. Theoretically it establishes ‘where are we at’ in relation to radicalisation and the subjects explored in WP3/WP4 and WP5 – namely cross-cutting/overlapping extremisms, the relationship between religious and state institutions and online/offline (de)radicalisation. This is done both in WB and MENA – countries researched are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Lebanon, Iraq and Tunisia. Methodologically it provides a harmonised framework for the fieldwork conducted in PAVE, including training sessions such as ‘how to conduct research in post-conflict and conflict settings’. WP2 also provides ethical guidance related to the complex matter of researching radicalisation in polarised societies. Finally, Gillian Wylie, part of the team in WP2, is a gender adviser on the PAVE project. This means she puts her ‘gender hat on’ and we make sure that the project recognises plethora of issues related to gender in radicalisation research.

- **Get to know the PAVE members - a brief interview with Gillian Wylie from WP2**

- Introduction

My name is Gillian Wylie, I work in Trinity College Dublin ([TCD](#)) as an assistant professor in International Peace Studies in the School of Religion. I turned 50 last year – and I’ve lived exactly half my life (the first 25 years) in my native Scotland and the other half (the second 25 years) in Ireland. I’m relieved to live on the ‘right’ side of the Brexit divide! I studied Politics and International Relations in Aberdeen at UG and PG level. I was always most interested in social movements, peace activism and issues of global justice, so it has been the right path for me to work in Peace Studies since life brought me to Ireland.



- What is your scientific interest (within and outside of PAVE) and what are your plans for the future?

My teaching and research in Peace Studies includes a focus on gender as a lens for understanding conflict, violence, and peace. My role in PAVE is to offer gender advice to the consortium. I provide input on the ways gender roles and identities are among the drivers of extremism, but also sources of community resilience. I also try to help consortium members think about how to bring gender sensitivity to the fieldwork we will be doing in the project.

In other areas, I’m currently working on a co-authored book chapter on the comparative role of women in peacebuilding in Northern Ireland and Korea and another chapter on representations of gender-based violence through a case study of human trafficking.

- What do you hope you/ we will achieve with PAVE (personal and consortium achievements)?

It’s a delight getting to know the PAVE consortium – it’s such a diverse, experienced and international group of people. The great joy of working in these EU projects is the new connections and friendships and the immense learning that comes from being part of such a group.

In terms of research, I’m hoping that the work will provide interesting insights, both comparable and contrasting, on gender as a driver of extremism and source of community resilience across the diverse contexts. As a Peace Studies person, the ways these insights can contribute to peacebuilding is of immense interest to me.

- How does your regular work day look and what's the most exciting / rewarding part of your job?

In my academic life, I'm trying to balance teaching, research and administration. Usually this balance is out of kilter! I'm the Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Research for my School, so much of my time is spent on the administration side – but I also enjoy this work, particularly helping research students navigate through the lifecycle of a PhD.

- Job-wise: Did you consider going into a totally different direction at some point or did you always know that this is the work you want to do?

I never had a career plan, I just started studying and never really stopped! I think that I was lucky to end up in Peace Studies as it's a space that allows for academia and activism to coexist and is concerned with ethical as well as political questions. I don't think I would have stayed the course in a more conventional Politics and IR setting.

- What is a place you would want everybody to see / experience and why?

We hoped to hold our PAVE methodology workshop in Trinity College Dublin in September, but COVID forced us online. It was sad not to be able to welcome everyone to Dublin. I'd have been delighted to bring consortium colleagues to see the Trinity Long Room Library and the Book of Kells (an ancient Celtic Monastic manuscript). This space – and its books and artefacts – is stunning and something about it is also very tranquil and thought-provoking.



- What's the best book you've read recently?

Recently in my research I came across a [biography of Emily Greene Balch](#) – who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the foundation of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. I really enjoyed learning about her life in service to social justice and peace-making. Best of all, the author of the book Kristen Gwinn, was a student in our Peace Studies programme twenty years ago and it was exciting to come across the published work of a former student.

- If you could have dinner with three people (dead or alive), who would they be and why them?

I think with my interest in gender as it shapes war and peace, I'd love to sit down to dinner with some inspirational women peacebuilders – [Leymah Gbowee](#), [Nadia Murad](#) and [Jody Williams](#) (among others!).

- Are you a coffee or tea person?

I like them both – and herbal teas and hot chocolate too. Basically, living in rainy and often chilly Dublin, hot drinks in general are the best!