



Alison Gault, Ireland

Alison Gault is a Senior Lecturer in Textile Art, Design and Fashion, Belfast School of Art, Ulster University. Alison is the current Chair of the Irish Grown Wool Council (IGWC) and the Irish President of the International Federation of Knitting Technologists (IFKT). With over 30+ years industry experience in fibre and fabric technology, Alison works with SMEs across Ireland with support from Invest NI and Intertrade Ireland Fusion/Innovation funding on circular green transition eco-system projects. Her research includes materials

for Health and Wellbeing. Alison was recently appointed as a Design Council (UK) expert. Alison is currently a design researcher on Arts & Humanities Research Council grants including a Design Exchange Partnership [AH/Y000226/1] RESTORATION AND REDESIGN: A Circular System Economy for a Coastal Community_ _and the Green Transition Ecosystem, Future Island Island (4.5m) Rathlin Project [AH/Y003780/1]. Her research work has been showcased at the London Design Museum's exhibition entitled 'Tomorrow's Wardrobe' in September and in the Future Observatory Journal first edition 'Bioregioning'.

Lecture:

The Future Island-Island aims to develop an eco-friendly waste management culture through co-design, applied design and knowledge exchange. With a focus on Rathlin Island as an eco-system it aims to shape new design-led green economies, skills acquisition and levelling up of peripheral and edge condition regions in Northern Ireland. Future Island-Island is a £4.25 million research project. Funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council it runs until September 2025 and is exploring the art of the possible. The main objectives are to co-design a green transition, stimulate a green digital industry ecosystem and to model nested green circular ecosystems to promote business growth and innovation. Project activities explore repurposing waste products as a commodity, using digital technologies for sustainable tourism and heritage and rethinking natural resources for more effective use. The Irish Grown Wool Council, Donegal Yarns Ltd and Ulster Wool, key partners in the project and through their collaboration have explored the challenges and opportunities for using the Rathlin island wool, currently a waste product as a traceable resource for knitting, weaving and non-wovens.

"_The Future Island Island Project has a focus on regenerative design, and I have worked with key stakeholders including primary producers, wool merchants, processing organisations, and yarn producers to design and create a range of products for Rathlin and beyond."_