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Learning at the Centre: Re-socialising the  
University through innovative design of flexible  
learning space

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# Presentation Outline

- Context: Scotland and Glasgow
- Tradition, Transformation and Modernity
- Scottish Education
- What is the Saltire Centre?
- The Saltire Centre strategy
- Challenges
- Successes



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# Glasgow, Scotland

- Expands from 1750 with the growth of trade with the Americas
- ...drawing its population from the Highlands and Ireland



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# The City of Glasgow

- Population: From 1 million+ in 1901 ...

... to about 650 thousand in the city ...

and 2.5 million in the west central Scotland greater urban area in 2001



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# Industrial Past and Present

- Ships and locomotives. Iron, steel and coal



- USA trade: especially cotton, sugar and tobacco



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# 'Scotland with style'

- From industrial to post-industrial

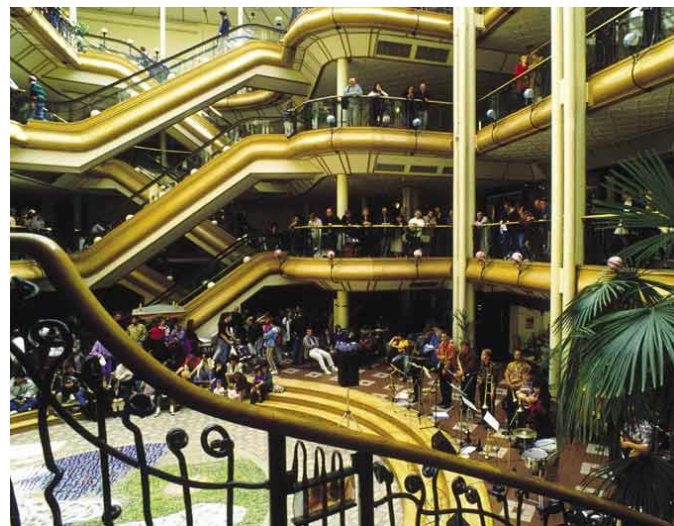


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# Changing culture



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# Education in Glasgow

- Over 60 thousand students in 4 universities

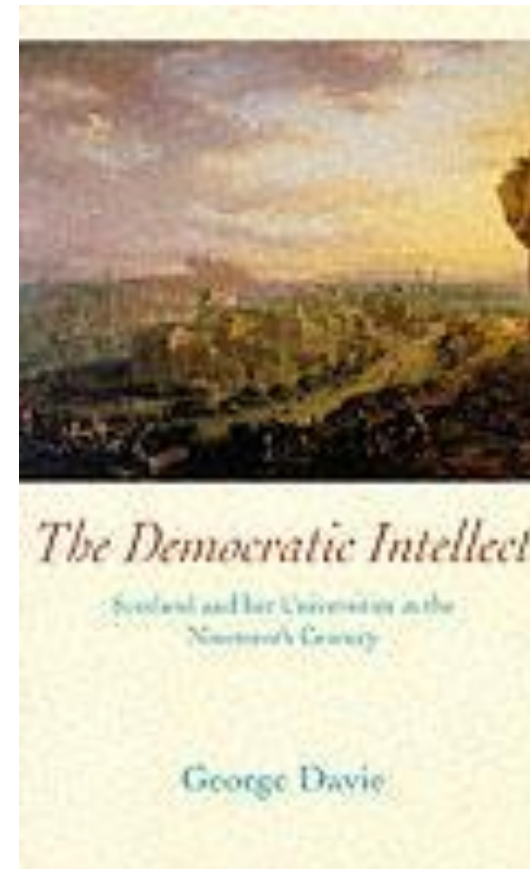


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# Scottish Education

- Traditions of Scottish education
- Radical traditionalism ...  
adapting the old to the new
- Technology and transformation
- Workplace requirements –  
creation of independent learners  
for the Knowledge Economy



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# Glasgow Caledonian University

- a vibrant new higher education resource for a resurgent city



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# The Saltire Centre

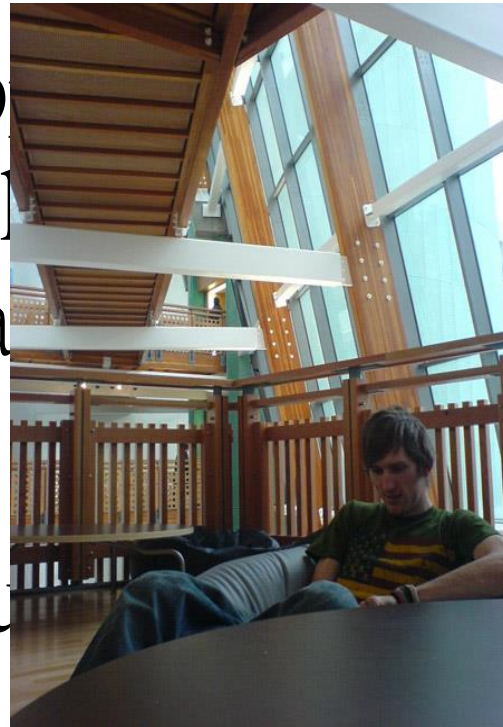


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# What is the Saltire Centre?

- An environment to support effective learning, teaching, collaboration and research
- A one-stop shop for student services
- A commons for students, with public and private space



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# The Saltire Centre Strategy

- A central space with routes through Campus – a strategy for re-socialising the University
- Staff use of space – tutorial groups in neutral space; physical and electronic resources on hand
- Revealing learning – visibility



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# Challenges

- Negotiating appropriateness
  - learner responsibilities and subtle management of behaviours
- Flexibility of space and furniture
- Use of new technologies
- Constant management of change



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# Successes

## National Awards for:-

- Library design
- Architecture
- Lighting
- Signage
- A model for learning space developments -100+ visits from other HE institutions, national and international
- Student voices - evaluation





# More Information

- Glasgow Caledonian University  
<http://www.gcal.ac.uk/>
- The Saltire Centre  
<http://www.gcal.ac.uk/thesaltirecentre/>
- JISC Designing spaces for effective learning publication  
[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/eli\\_learningspaces.html](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/eli_learningspaces.html)



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# Questions?

Thank you



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