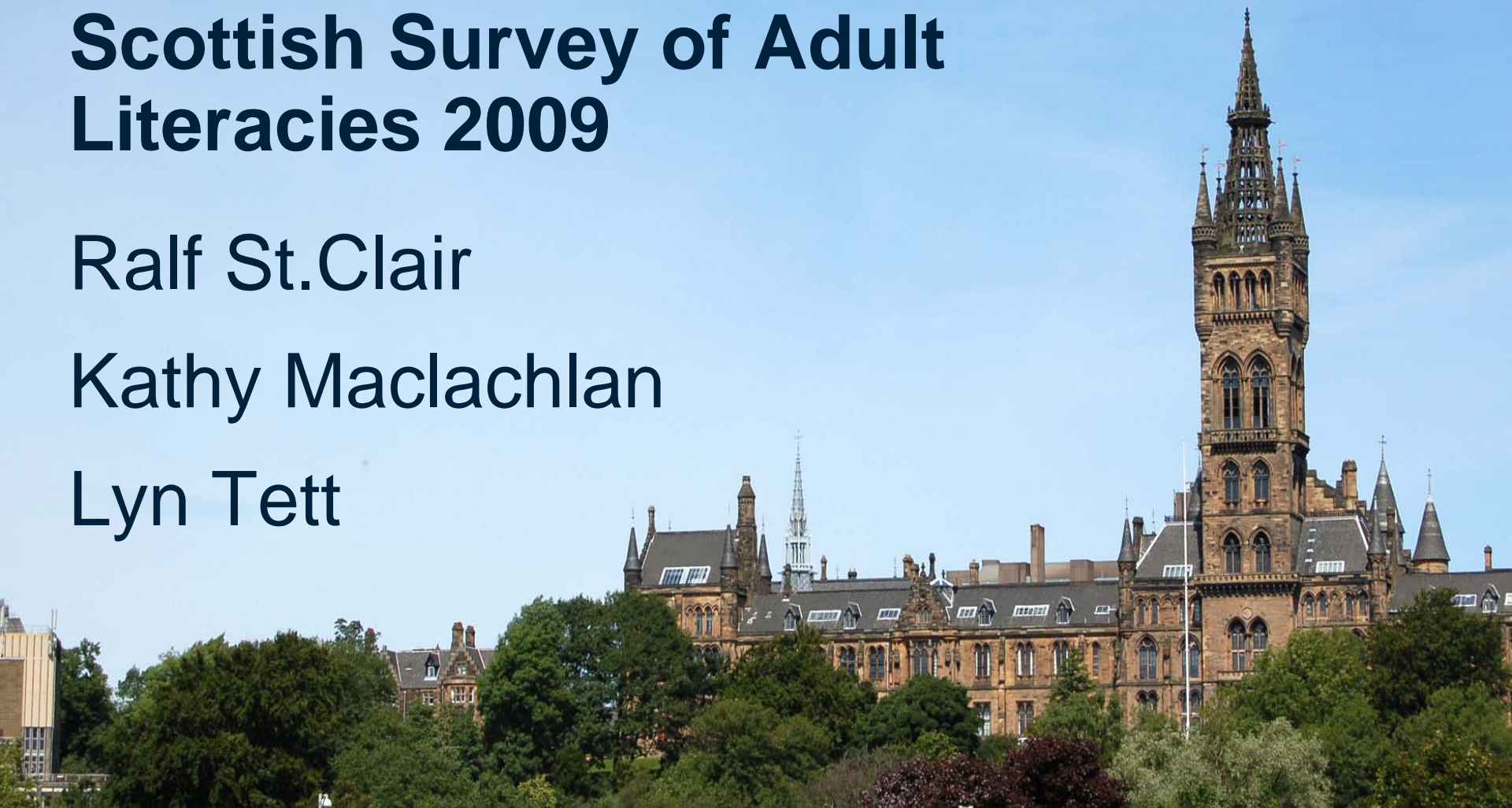


Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies 2009

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- **First survey of literacies in Scotland since 1996**
- **Used the same instrument as the original IALS**
- **Different sample**
- **Different analysis model**
- **Conducted by the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, Gallup Europe and the National Foundation for Educational Research**

How does it work?

- **People are visited at home**
- **They do a background questionnaire with an interviewer**
- **They answer 6 questions to make sure they have the literacy skills in English needed for the main tests**
- **They then answer around 40 questions from a batch of over 100**

Creating levels

- **The 40 answers from 1922 people are used to model the Scottish population**
- **The findings group the population into five levels of literacy ability**
- **1 is the most basic, 5 the most advanced**
- **Three literacy scales are measured: Prose, Document, Quantitative**

What did we find out?

Literacies in Scotland are generally strong

- **Almost three quarters of Scottish residents (73.3%) have at least one scale at level 3 or above**
- **This means that the majority of Scots have skills at the level considered appropriate for an advanced economy by the OECD**

But!

- **Over a quarter of us are likely to reach the limits of our literacy from time to time**
- **One in 25 of us have very limited literacy abilities**

Who?

Literacy skills are related to

- **How long people go to school for**
- **School and university qualifications**
- **Income**
- **Whether people are employed**
- **Type of occupation**
- **Whether people live in an area with deprivation**
- **Literacy practices at home and work**

In summary

Literacy skills in Scotland are strong, and we have much to be proud of. But the people most marginalised economically in our society are also the people most marginalised in terms of literacies.

Access to literacies must be seen as part of a wider pattern of poverty, and lack of access to other resources.