



Public Engagement Case Studies





Cabaret of Nothingness

Researcher **John Plunkett**

Activity **Art**

Purpose **Inform, Collaborate**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **English**



Robertson's use of rear projection, as depicted in *Le Magasin Pitoresque, 1849*
From Bill Douglas Cinema Museum Archives

Funders and Partners:

Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, Arts and Culture Exeter, Choreographer – Lea Anderson

Description

A modern interpretation of a Victorian-style pop-up ghost show, based on the 'Cabaret of Nothingness' reimagined by Lea Anderson in collaboration with Prof. John Plunkett. COVID meant transforming from an in-person exhibition to a Zoom delivered work of Art and virtual regional tour.

A note from the researcher:

Working with Lea gave me wonderful insights into how we might use the virtual technology of Zoom to reinvent the Victorian fascination with performing ghosts for contemporary audiences.

John Plunkett

Find out more: <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/embodied-viewing>



Childhood Disability Research Group

Coordinator **Bel McDonald**

Activity **Research group**

Purpose **Collaborate, Consult**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **Medicine**



PenCRU & Family Faculty

making childhood disability research
more relevant, useful and accessible



Funders and Partners:

PenCRU, National Institute for Health Research

Description

A childhood disability research group working in partnership with families about issues affecting neuro-disabilities, family faculty aims to support parent careers. The peer-led group for co-designs research questions, plans, and helps to spread the word about their work to create research projects that are relevant, useful, and accessible.

A note from the coordinator:

Involving members of our Family Faculty is central to our work and we simply couldn't do it without them. Parent Carers are the experts and help ensure that our research is meaningful and relevant so that it hopefully benefits disabled children and their families.

Bel McDonald

Find out more: www.pencru.org



EXCHANGE

Researcher **Kath Wilkinson**



Activity **Workshops/forums**

Purpose **Inform**

Discipline(s) **Medicine and Health**

Funders and Partners:

Alzheimer's Society, Devon Care Homes, South West Academic Health Network, Dunhill Medical Trust, National Institute of Health Research

Description

The University of Exeter and Care Homes Knowledge Collaboration aims to create two-way dialogue between researchers and care home managers, staff, residents, and carers to mobilise knowledge and establish collaboration between stakeholders. This then establishes a network to identify key problems and research areas relevant to those living in, working in, and visiting care homes.

A note from the researcher:

Involving family members and other care staff in conversations about what matters to them has really helped to hone our ongoing research priorities, and to ensure that future activities and projects focus on what really matters to people who live and work in care homes locally.

Kath Wilkinson

Find out more: <https://exchangecollaboration.wordpress.com>



‘Dangerous’ Influences

Researcher **Jana Funke**

Activity **Creative collaboration**

Purpose **Inform**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **English, History**



Funders and Partners:

Dreadnought, AHRC, Being Human Festival, Natalie McGrath

Description

The interactive event featured a short performance written by playwright Natalie McGrath that drew on University of Exeter Associate Prof. Jana Funke’s work on Radclyffe Hall’s 1928 lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness*, which was banned as ‘obscene’ and described as a ‘danger’ to youth. It provided a unique opportunity to explore and debate topical questions about sexuality, literary history, identity, and community.

A note from the researcher:

Natalie McGrath's creative response to my research on Radclyffe Hall really allowed me to see the material in new ways. The performance of Natalie's beautiful words was also an amazing way of engaging new audiences with Hall's work.

Jana Funke

Find out more: <http://dreadnoughtsouthwest.org.uk/being-human-festival-2016>



Flood Knowledge

The Crediton Project

Researcher **Stewart Barr**

Activity **Workshops, Events**

Purpose **Collaborate, Consult**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **Geography**



Funders and Partners: Economic and Social Research Council

Description

A project to develop strategies for managing surface water and river flooding in Crediton, Devon. Having identified Crediton as a potential flood risk, researchers worked with community representatives and ran a series of workshops and created a flood resilience group presenting their work at a town showcase and producing a report. The work was community led and included representatives from local history groups, the county council emergency planning, the fire and rescue service, and the environment agency.

A note from the researcher:

Public engagement enabled us to collaboratively learn about the risks posed by climate change with people in Crediton and develop new understandings of flood risk that were community-generated.

Stewart Barr

Find out more: https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/news/research/title_463699_en.html



Ice Flows

Researcher **Anne Le Brocq**

Activity **Game/App**

Purpose **Inform**

Discipline(s) **Geography**



Funders and Partners:

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), British Antarctic Survey (BAS), InHouse Visuals, Questionable, Kittley

Description

The project aims to investigate what may happen in the near-future in the Weddell Sea region of Antarctica and the impact changes here could have on global sea-level. The game allows participants to control the ice sheet to help guide penguins to fish. There are also quizzes that allow you to earn points to unlock new characters.

A note from the researcher:

The Ice Flows project has been both enjoyable and rewarding. The design process, and feedback from the users, has helped to ground my research in a wider global context.

Anne Le Brocq

Find out more: <http://www.iceflowsgame.com>



Orlando the Queer Element

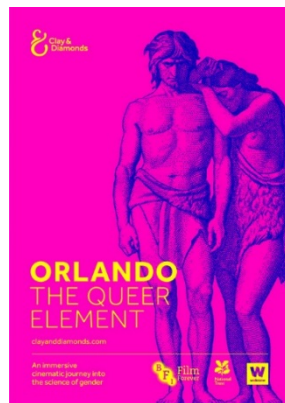
Researcher **Jana Funke**

Activity **Live performance**

Purpose **Inform, Collaborate**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **English, History**



Funders and Partners:

Clay & Diamonds, BFI, Fourth Monkey, National Trust, Gendered Intelligence, Royal College of Art, Arts Council, Wellcome, Sally Porter

Description

Orlando- The Queer Element was an interactive play about the history and science of gender, inspired by Virginia Woolf's novel Orlando and its 1992 film adaptation. It consisted of eight performances at the National Trust's Knole and Hanbury Hall with over 500 students and members of the public in attendance.

A note from the researcher:

Making Orlando come alive through performance and film was a wonderful way of making audiences think about histories of sex, gender and sexuality in creative and playful ways, and it really opened up important conversations about these topics.

Jana Funke

Find out more: <https://www.clayanddiamonds.org/tour>



The Sex and Nature Salon

Researcher **Ina Linge**

Activity **Performance salon**

Purpose **Inform, Collaborate**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **Modern Languages**



Funders and Partners:

Exeter Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship

Description

A series of online salons which brings together comedians, academics, and the public to investigate how 'sex' and 'nature' come together in popular culture. Academics present introductions and comedians personify these concepts and subjects using comedy to explore difficult topics and themes.

A note from the researcher:

For my practice as a researcher and academic, public engagement activities are about so much more than simply the dissemination of knowledge: in discussing questions that are central to my research with a wide and diverse audience, I draw on expertise beyond the University, develop new ideas and co-produce knowledge.

Ina Linge

Find out more: <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/creative-fellowship/the-politics-of-sexual-nature>



Tidelines

Researcher **Tom Powell**

Activity **Research hub**

Purpose **Collaborate, Consult**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **Geography**



Funders and Partners:

Exeter Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship

Description

The project brings together artists, researchers, and local citizens of the Exe Estuary to devise talks, walks, reading groups, and activities to celebrate and use local knowledge to learn more about the changing Exe Estuary and its inhabitants at a time of climate and ecological emergency.

Quote from researcher about purpose/benefits of PE

Find out more: <https://tidelines.uk>



Your Body is a Planet

Researcher **Neil Gow**

Activity **Exhibition**

Purpose **Inform, Collaborate**

Co-produced **Yes**

Discipline(s) **Biosciences**



Funders and Partners:

Exeter Arts and Culture Creative Fellowship

Description

Focused on the microorganisms, their beauty and commonality with humans, the collaboration will be a series of original artwork is based on the concept that for the community of microbes, including fungi, that live in and on you - 'your microbiome' *Your Body is a Planet*.

A note from the researcher:

Our research is ultimately owned by the public. They pay for it, are curious about it and can contribute to it, and may be influenced by its findings. PE helps bring together all those who are stakeholders in research and makes research better and more impactful.

Neil Gow

Find out more: <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/news/hidden-kingdom-an-arts-science-collaboration>



Using Social Marketing for Sustainability

Researcher **Gareth Shaw**

Activity **Social marketing**

Purpose **Collaborate, Consult**

Co-produced **Yes**



Discipline(s) **Business, Human Geography**

Funders and Partners:

Uscreates, Hyder Consulting, CAG Consulting, Strategic Social Marketing, Snowcarbon, Loco2, Man in Seat 61

Description

The project aimed to encourage people to move from plane to train to help mitigate climate change. Social marketing techniques were applied to target frequent flyer groups: Generation Y, and Affluent Empty Nesters, who were then linked with researchers to understand the impacts of flying through co-creation groups and gamified applications.

A note from the researcher:

Working with such partners brings a great deal of benefits to both the researcher and the businesses themselves. It remains rewarding and enlightening.

Gareth Shaw

Find out more: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/12825614.pdf>