Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees 2026-2027

University of Exeter

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees

Congratulations to our 2026-7 cohort of Engaged and Participatory Research funding awardees!

Funding has been allocated to 13 co-created projects between University of Exeter staff and external partners. These projects span disciplines, promote inclusive and equitable research practice, and will benefit communities affected by or involved in research locally, nationally, and internationally with the aim of creating lasting impact and future research opportunities.

Dr Cynthia Swarnalatha (Public Health and Sport Sciences), **Thozhi Trust**
Amount of award - £1150



This project builds on existing partnerships and engagement with transgender communities which determined a need for physiotherapy delivered in person at community centres and appropriate physiotherapy care following gender-affirming surgery. Engagement will help to take priorities forwards, informing the development of practical guidance for community centre-based physiotherapy, and physiotherapy care after surgery.

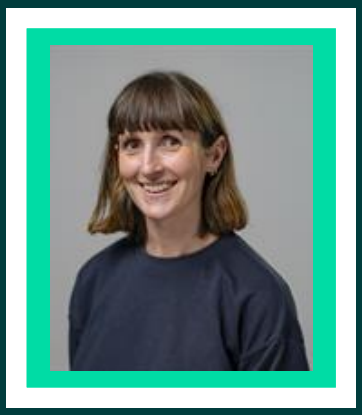
Lucy Kirkland/ Dr Melissa Barlow (Health and Community Sciences), **HMP Exeter**
Amount of Award - £1705



Expanding on the work of the pre-existing Community Conversations about Cancer (CCC) programme, this funding will support a session exploring how people access healthcare in prison, what they know and think about cancer, and what matters to them in relation to cancer. This activity will shape future research ideas and approaches to community engagement with underrepresented communities.

Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees

Dr Jemima Dooley (Psychology)**, Children & Family Health Devon**
Amount of Award - £2370



The project looks to collect data on the involvement of experts by experience in the field of family and systemic psychotherapy, with the aim to co-create guidance. The shared guidance will support more family and systemic therapists to meaningfully involve people with lived experience in research, as well as in the design of future training and services.

Professor Rob Anderson (Health and Community Sciences)**, Hourglass**
Amount awarded - £3750



Engaged and Participatory Research funding will support the involvement of abuse victim-survivors in determining national research priorities. It will also shape the research of an ongoing collaborative PhD project with national charity, Hourglass, addressing the under-researched, yet growing problem, of the abuse of older people.

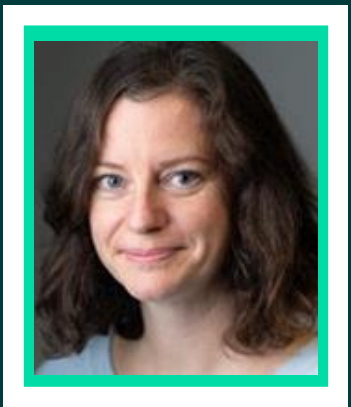
Dr Tanimola Martins (Public Health and Sport Sciences), **The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Glory of God Parish, Exeter, and Nigerian Community Exeter**
Amount awarded - £5150



Through a public screening of the acclaimed film "Shades of Survival", this project will stimulate meaningful conversations about breast cancer. Following the screening, a facilitated panel discussion and community dialogue will invite participants to reflect, and inform the co-production of a community-informed agenda for future breast cancer research and engagement activities.

Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees

Dr Kate Boddy (Health and Community Sciences)**, DES Justice**
Amount awarded - £5640



Partnering with DES Justice UK and the wider community, this project responds to accounts from those who took, and experienced health impacts from, Diethylstilbestrol (DES), including next generations. The team will map people's experiences; engage with contributors; and produce a community-determined resource, informed by voices absent from existing research.

Dr Sam Hughes (Clinical and Biomedical Sciences), **Singing with Nightingales**
Amount awarded - £7000

Paid contributors will work with researchers and Singing with Nightingales to co-design and test a more inclusive version of an existing collaborative event, exploring how immersive nature experiences can influence experiences of living with chronic pain. Funding will support the expansion of the partnership, helping build an evidence base for engagement with NHS and social prescribing services.



Dr Anna Price (Health and Community Sciences)**, HSE Linn Dara Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**
Amount of award - £7387



This project will bring together ADHD researchers, clinicians, young people and parents to co-create a series of fictional characters and stories based on real experiences of growing up with ADHD. The aim is to create authentic, relatable resources that help young people and families better understand ADHD, navigate support, and recognise their own experiences within trusted health information.

Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees

Dr Aseel Ali/ Dr Marcos Oliveira Jr (Nature and Climate Impact Team, Business School), **Onda Solidaria NGO, Brazil**
Amount of award - £7550



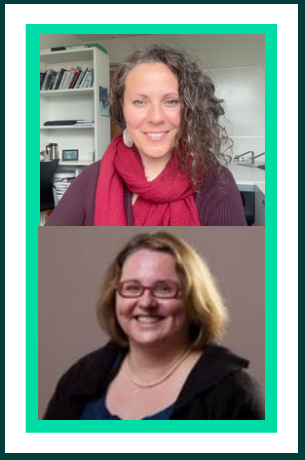
Using the build-up to the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup tournament in Brazil, this project will explore how different generations can use football to frame their understanding of climate change. Participatory activities will engage with former football players, as well as young people from underserved communities, to better understand how playing conditions have been affected by climate change.

Professor Malcolm Williams (HASS Cornwall), **Go Cornish**
Amount of award - £9050



This project will bring together the Institute of Cornish Studies, Go Cornish and a small representative group of schools to explore what is needed to sustain and further engagement with Cornish language learning. Through participatory workshops with teachers and pupils, the team will identify barriers and opportunities, and co-produce a practical roadmap for the next phase of Cornish language education in primary schools.

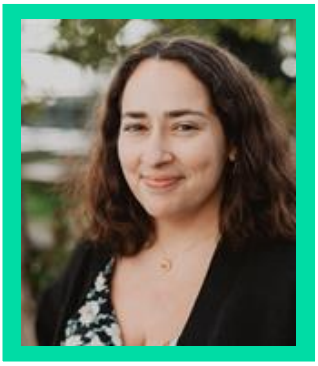
Professor Anke Karl (Psychology), **Rural Area Community Action Board, Sierra de Perija, Colombia**
Amount of award - £9492.21



This project will work with women leaders from Indigenous, Black and campesino communities in Colombia to co-create practical ways of supporting resilience and well-being after violence and prolonged insecurity. Building on our existing relationship and previous workshop with women leaders, workshops and shared reflection will support the development of a locally grounded plan for future community-based research, and a small-scale pilot.

Engaged and Participatory Research Fund Awardees

Dr Lívia Regina Batista-Pritchard (Business School)**, Cornwall Council**
Amount of award - £9565



Building on previous work with Cornwall Council, this project seeks to better understand the role of Repair Cafés in Cornwall. Engaging with local communities, and the 23 existing Repair Cafés in Cornwall, the project team will explore the value and capacity of Repair Cafés across the county, co-producing a set of priorities that will inform the Cornwall Repair Café Network.

Professor Climent Quintana-Domeque (Business School)**, Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS)**
Amount of award - £10,000

This project focuses on survivors of non-fatal strangulation in the context of intimate partner violence, including abuse by former partners, and aims to address a gap in research on survivors' experiences of seeking and accessing support. Using a survivor-centred participatory approach, people with lived experience will help shape research, interpret findings, identify priorities for change, and co-produce recommendations.



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