

Public Engagement with Research Conference 2018



Thursday 5 July 2018

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#OxPER2018

“Our vision is to embed high-quality and innovative public engagement as an integral part of research culture and practice at Oxford, enhancing our position as a world-leading research institution.”

Public Engagement with Research Strategic Plan, University of Oxford

Introduction

This one-day conference, a completely new departure for Oxford, will be a fantastic opportunity to get together with colleagues from across the whole University to explore Public Engagement with Research in its many forms, from inspiring a new audience about your work, through to collaborating with the public and actually co-creating a piece of research.

A truly exciting programme awaits you – with twenty sessions to choose from there really is something for everyone – whether you are a newcomer or are long experienced in public engagement. Perhaps you need some ‘story-telling’ tips, fancy a collaborative project with the Bodleian, or want to hone your performance skills, or maybe you’d like to learn more about Public Engagement with Research as a route to impact and future funding opportunities..



One thing I have come to appreciate is that public engagement is a life-long learning endeavour – there are always opportunities to learn and improve one’s practice; to innovate and to try something different, including reaching out to new audiences who have never been exposed to the research process.

I encourage you all to come, learn and share your own experiences – both the triumphs and the disasters! Only when we learn from each other can we work towards the excellence in public engagement that benefits both researchers and their research, as well as the public participants and audiences.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Oxford’s first Public Engagement with Research Conference in July. May it be the first of many!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alison Woollard'.

Professor Alison Woollard

Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research, University of Oxford

Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry

Dean, Hertford College

Schedule

Please click the title for more details

08.30am - 09.00am	Registration		
09.15am - 10.15am	Keynote Plenary Introduction and welcome: Professor Alison Woollard, Public Engagement with Research (PER) Academic Champion, University of Oxford Engaging internationally: Public Engagement with Refugee Research, Professor Alexander Betts, Oxford Department of International Development		
10.15am - 10.25am	Tea break		
10.30am - 11.10am	Parallel Sessions <i>(Please choose from the following 3 sessions)</i>		
	Getting started with Public Engagement with Research evaluation Mini-Workshop	Informing and inspiring different public audiences Showcase	Animating the inanimate Mini-Seminar
11.15am - 12.30pm	Parallel Sessions <i>(Please choose from the following 3 sessions)</i>		
	Telling stories that matter: narrative story telling for researchers Workshop	Public engagement embedded as part of research culture and practice: potential reality or pipe dream? Mini-Plenary	PERform! Enhance your engagement skills Coaching session
12.30pm - 1.20pm	Lunch Public Engagement with Research Marketplace Browse the stalls		

Please click the title for more details

Parallel Sessions (Please choose from the following sessions)					
1.25pm - 3.10pm	Sing-song research – an introduction to writing engaging content for public audiences		1.25pm - 2.30pm	Public Engagement with Research: past, present and future	Engaging the public in dialogue, decision-making and data gathering
	Workshop			Mini-plenary	Panel session
			2.35pm - 3.10pm	Science Capital as a tool for designing schools engagement events	PERformance: Recreating the sounds of ancient Greek music
				Mini-plenary	Showcase
3.10pm - 3.30pm	Coffee break Randomised Coffee Trials Networking				
3.35pm - 4.30pm	Parallel Sessions (Please choose from the following 3 sessions)			3.35pm - 4.30pm	Roundtable discussion (Invitation only)
	Working with English and international heritage organisations	GLAMorous engagement: PER at the Gardens, Libraries, and Museums	Consulting and collaborating: the public’s perspective		Engaging the public with Artificial Intelligence research
	Seminar	Interactive Showcase	Panel Session		
4.35pm - 5.45pm	Keynote Plenary				
	Navigating the UK’s evolving research funding landscape - a Public Engagement perspective: Dr Jenni Chambers, Head of Public Engagement Programmes, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Dr Steven Hill, Director of Research Policy, Research England				
5.45pm - 7.00pm	Evening Reception Drinks & Nibbles				

Speakers include



Professor Alison Woollard,
Academic Champion for Public
Engagement with Research,
University of Oxford



Dr Lesley Paterson,
Head of Public Engagement with
Research, Research Services,
University of Oxford



Professor Alexander Betts,
Oxford Department of
International Development (ODID),
University of Oxford



Dr Jenni Chambers,
Head of Public Engagement
Programmes, UK Research and
Innovation (UKRI)



Dr Suzie Sheehy,
Royal Society University Research
Fellow, Department of Physics,
University of Oxford



Dr Armand D'Angour, Associate
Professor in Classical Languages
and Literature, Faculty of Classics,
University of Oxford



Dr Steven Hill,
Director of Research Policy,
Research England



Lizzie Glithero-West,
Chief Executive, The Heritage
Alliance



Professor Ian Walmsley,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and
Innovation), University of Oxford



Paul Manners,
Director, National Coordinating
Centre for Public Engagement



Dr Jack Stilgoe,
Senior Lecturer in Social Studies of
Science, University College London



Professor Sarah Whatmore,
Head of Social Sciences Division,
University of Oxford

Speakers include



Professor David Pyle,
Public Engagement with Research
Academic Champion for the
Mathematical, Physical and
Life Sciences Division (MPLS),
University of Oxford



Professor Phillip Ross Bullock,
Director of The Oxford Research
Centre in the Humanities (TORCH),
Professor of Russian Literature and
Music, University of Oxford



Dr Kevin Burchell,
Independent Researcher



Professor Ben Sheldon,
Head of Zoology Department,
University of Oxford



Dr Heather King,
Deputy Director Enterprising
Science, Kings College London.



Professor Gabriela Pavarini,
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Oxford



Professor Gary Lock,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Oxford



Professor Paul Smith,
Director of the Oxford University
Museum of Natural History



Jonny Berliner,
Research Troubadour and Educator



Dr Rebecca Jones,
Research and Engagement
Relationships Manager, Wellcome
Trust



Dr Oliver Cox,
Heritage Engagement Fellow,
TORCH, University of Oxford



Dr Chris Thorogood,
Head of Science and Public
Engagement, Oxford Botanic
Garden and Harcourt Arboretum,
University of Oxford

Keynote Plenary

09.15am – 10.15am

Introduction and welcome

Professor Alison Woollard, Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research, University of Oxford

Dr Lesley Paterson, Head of Public Engagement with Research, Research Services, University of Oxford

Keynote Plenary

Engaging internationally: Public Engagement with Refugee Research

Professor Alexander Betts, Oxford Department of International Development (ODID), University of Oxford

The so-called European refugee crisis of 2015 triggered growing public and political interest in refugees and migration. Alexander will discuss a range of ways in which his research on the politics and economics of refugee assistance has aimed to engage the public, and what lessons can be derived from the experience. Drawing upon research undertaken in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, he will discuss his experiences of working directly with refugees, and his engagement with policy-makers, practitioners, and the wider public with both the production and dissemination of the research.

Tea break

10.15 am – 10.25 am

Parallel Sessions

(Please choose from the following 3 sessions)

10.30 am – 11.10 am

1. Mini-workshop: Getting started with Public Engagement with Research evaluation

Charlotte Medland, Impact and Evaluation Officer, Humanities Division, University of Oxford

Evaluation is key to effective Public Engagement with Research (PER). It can identify the best methods to engage your audiences or participants, create good quality data for review, and help you to plan next steps in your research activity. But how do you begin?

This interactive mini-workshop will introduce you to the key concepts of PER evaluation, and how they can work for you. From planning, to choosing formative and summative evaluations, to deciding whether you need qualitative or quantitative data collection, we'll give you a taste of what works – and an insight into recognising when PER becomes impact.

2. Showcase: informing and inspiring different public audiences

Chair: **Professor David Pyle**, Public Engagement with Research Academic Champion for the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division (MPLS), University of Oxford

Speakers: (all from the University of Oxford):

Hands-on workshops for primary school children:	Dr Camilla Ip , Visiting Researcher, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics
Let's Cook and Learn:	Dr Jieun Kiaeur , Associate Professor of Korean Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Oriental Studies
(Re)made: from mines to metals and beyond...:	Dr Peter Hommel , Postdoctoral Research Assistant, School of Archaeology
Engaging the public in particle physics research:	Dr Sam Henry , Detector Development Scientist, Department of Physics

Four researchers from different disciplines will each have 24 slides and 7 minutes to engage you with key aspects of their projects – the activities that took place, top-tips, what worked and what could have worked even better. This is a fast-paced, engaging format called “Twenty-four-seven” for you to gain an insight into four inspiring projects.

3. Mini-seminar: Animating the inanimate

Speakers: **Dr Chris Thorogood**, Head of Science and Public Engagement, Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum, University of Oxford

Ross Ziegelmeier, Education Officer, The Linnean Society

Kira Allman, Communications Director, The Oxford Human Rights Hub, University of Oxford

It can be challenging to engage large and diverse audiences with research that does not immediately seem to have broad appeal. This session will showcase an assortment of short-film media case studies that have brought to life something seemingly forgotten or inanimate. The presenters will show a montage of short videos, each with a markedly different theme and focus, united in that they have each brought the content to life and successfully engaged with tens of thousands online, across diverse audience groups, and opened up new platforms for debate. There will be the opportunity for you to explore how film can be a tool for researchers working on other topics.

Parallel Sessions

(Please choose from the following 3 sessions)

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

1. Workshop: Telling stories that matter - narrative story telling for researchers

Workshop leader: **Robert Holtom**, Narrative Skills Coach

Host: **Victoria McGuinness**, Business Manager, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), University of Oxford

This short introductory and practical session will show how elements of narrative and storytelling can enhance how you communicate and think about your research across all disciplines. Robert will introduce key story elements and techniques to craft compelling and moving stories from your experiences as a researcher. You will explore how to apply these skills to your work, including communicating your research to a range of non-specialist audiences, enhancing your presentation skills and telling research stories across a range of media and formats.

2. Mini-plenary: Public Engagement embedded as part of research culture & practice: potential reality or pipe-dream?

Introduction and host: **Professor Ian Walmsley**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University of Oxford

Chair: **Paul Manners**, Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement

Speakers: **Professor Sarah Whatmore**, Head of Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford

Dr Jack Stilgoe, Senior Lecturer in Social Studies of Science, University College London

Professor Ben Sheldon, Head of Zoology Department, University of Oxford

Researchers have reported many benefits with regard to Public Engagement with Research – including enhancing the quality or impact of research; gaining new research perspectives; access to additional funding and a better understanding of societal need. It is also encouraged by many influential research stakeholders in the UK and there have been several policy levers pulled and funding buttons pushed, together with a healthy dose of rhetoric, to encourage researchers to increase their public engagement efforts.

Is the vision for public engagement to be embedded as part of ‘normal’ research culture and practice realistic? And what do we even mean by ‘embedded’? Given the many competing pressures on researchers’ time, is public engagement more likely to remain a ‘good thing’ to do rather than an important endeavour? Join the debate and have your say.

3. Coaching session: PERform! Enhance your engagement skills

Dr Suzie Sheehy, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Physics, University of Oxford

Malcolm Love, Public Communications Skills Coach, Producer and Presenter

This workshop will provide researchers with the opportunity to receive bespoke and expert feedback on their engagement ‘skits’. Up to eight researchers can take part and will be invited to give a short talk or ‘demo’ (no longer than 3 minutes) to explain a particular concept or topic related to their research. This is an outstanding opportunity for researchers to receive tailored and constructive feedback in a safe and positive environment from two mentors who are experienced in the art of performance and presentation. There will be no audience in the room – just your fellow researchers that are also taking part.

Sign-up to express your interest in joining this session – but please note that to ensure a balance of researchers across different disciplines – the final allocation of places will be confirmed by email.

Lunch

12.30 pm – 1.20pm

Public Engagement with Research Marketplace

Just like a real market this will be a vibrant, bustling area where you can find anything and everything related to Public Engagement with Research (PER). There will be variety of 'stalls' to browse and opportunities to chat to the 'stall-holders' and make contacts, get advice, or learn something new.

Would you like to run your own PER market stall? You could showcase your latest project or share an opportunity for researchers to get involved in public engagement. Please indicate your interest on the registration form and we will be in contact for more details. Please note the number of stalls is limited.

Parallel Session

1.25 pm – 3.10 pm

Workshop: Sing-song research – an introduction to writing engaging content for public audiences

Workshop leader: [Jonny Berliner](#), Research Troubadour and Educator

Host: [Dr Michaela Livingstone-Banks](#), Public Engagement Facilitator, MPLS Division, University of Oxford

Inspired by the power of song to make messages 'stick', Jonny and a team of researchers at the University of Oxford have been collaborating to write songs about research, first in the '[Musical Abstracts](#)' project that took place as part of the *Curiosity Carnival*, and now in an ambitious project aiming to support partnerships between researchers and members of the public to create songs. In this practical session Jonny will introduce you to top-tips for drafting engaging content and to think about audiences' needs by taking you on a whirlwind tour through the song-writing process. There may also be time for a song or two...

Parallel Sessions

(Please choose from the following 2 sessions)

1.25 pm – 2.30 pm

1. Mini-plenary: Public engagement with research: past, present and future

Speakers: **Dr Kevin Burchell**, Independent Researcher

Dr Jenni Chambers, Head of Public Engagement Programmes, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Host: **Professor Alison Woollard**, Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research, University of Oxford

This session features short presentations on the evolution of Public Engagement with Research (PER), the current PER landscape and will conclude with a discussion of the future trajectories and challenges for PER as a policy agenda and a practice. At the start of the session, Kevin will offer a historical perspective on PER from 1985 to the present. Then, drawing on a major survey with researchers carried out in 2015/6, Jenni will address the question: where are we now? The session will conclude with lots of opportunities for questions, comments and debate; please bring your own ideas to share!

2. Panel session: Engaging in public dialogue, decision-making and data gathering

Chair: **Malcolm Love**, Public Communication Skills Coach, Producer and Presenter

Speakers: (all from the University of Oxford):

The Yarnfulness Project:	Dr Emma Palmer-Cooper , School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Research Fellow and Dr Anne Ferrey , Researcher, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences
Storming Utopia:	Professor Wes Williams , Professor of French Literature, Faculty of Medieval & Modern Languages
Zooniverse project – The Planetary Response Network:	Dr Steven Reece , Senior Research Fellow, Department of Engineering Science

Consulting or collaborating with the public is often viewed as the more challenging aspects of engaged research. This session will feature three inspiring projects that worked closely with different public groups to enter into a dialogue; help set research questions and support the collection of data through citizen science. Following three concise presentations, the project leaders will come together as a panel as we open up the debate on the value of approaches that move 'beyond communication' to involving and collaborating with the public in the research process. The session will highlight examples, practical tips and provide the opportunity for you to start to develop your own ideas and plans.

Parallel Sessions

(Please choose from the following 2 sessions)

2.35 pm – 3.10 pm

1. Mini-plenary: Science Capital as a tool for designing schools engagement events

Speaker: **Dr Heather King**, Deputy Director Enterprising Science, Kings College London.

Chair: **Professor Alison Woollard**, Public Engagement with Research Academic Champion, University of Oxford

In this session, Heather will introduce the concept of 'science capital' and explain how it can be used as a tool to inform the design of engagement activities. The concept of science capital and the development of pedagogical approaches using the concept build on findings from longitudinal studies measuring school student aspirations (ASPIRES), and analyses of educator practice in both classroom and museum settings (Enterprising Science). In sharing examples of how an understanding of science capital has been used in practice, Heather will outline the ways in which this conceptual device can support learner engagement with science.

2 Showcase: PERFormance – Recreating the sounds of ancient Greek music

Speakers and Performers: **Dr Armand D'Angour**, Associate Professor in Classical Languages and Literature, Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford, **Barnaby Brown** (Aulos) and **Stef Conner** (Voice)

Chair: **Professor Phillip Ross Bullock**, Director of TORCH, Professor of Russian Literature & Music, University of Oxford

In this session, Armand will give a short talk on this intriguing project that emerged from his scholarly research into ancient Greek music (from around 750 to 400 BC) which will be followed by a performance of the recreated music through song and an aulos, an ancient wind-instrument that has been reconstructed using the relics of the originals and illustrations on Greek vases for guidance and inspiration.

The music has been performed live to public audiences in schools, theatres, museums and festivals and been featured on national television reaching over 200,000 viewers, demonstrating that ancient music reconstruction is not just feasible, but also musically convincing and illuminating with the power to engage public audiences with Classics research.

Coffee Break

3.10 pm – 3.30 pm

Randomised Coffee Trials (RCTs)* – Enabling Serendipity

Participants are randomly matched in groups of three to chat and have a coffee. There are no requirements or obligations regarding the topics discussed. Essentially it is just a chat over coffee and a chance to connect with those you might not have a chance to meet otherwise and the opportunity to build connections. Please note on the registration form if you would like to take part.

**Original concept developed by Nesta and inspired by Pedro Medina.*

Parallel Sessions

(Please choose from the following 3 sessions)

3.35 pm – 4.30 pm

1. Seminar: Working with English and international heritage organisations

Speaker: Lizzie Glithero-West, Chief Executive, The Heritage Alliance

Chair: Dr Oliver Cox, Heritage Engagement Fellow, TORCH, University of Oxford

This session will explore the opportunities for engaging the public by working alongside the heritage sector, highlighting the reciprocal value and benefits of participation for researchers and external partners. Join Lizzie and Olly to find out about a whole host of activities that already take place within Oxford, and examples of best practice from other institutions, and how you can get involved.

2. Interactive Showcase: GLAMorous engagement - PER at the Gardens, Libraries, and Museums

Speakers: (all from the University of Oxford):

Hattie Warburton, Research and Impact Manager, Gardens, Libraries and Museums

Janet Stott, Deputy Director and Head of Public Engagement, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Maddy Slaven, Head of Exhibitions, Bodleian Libraries

Jozie Kettle, Public Engagement with Research Officer, Pitt Rivers Museum

With guest researchers

The session will showcase some of the engagement opportunities within the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM). Working in collaboration with researchers from around the University we will feature live demonstrations of three of the most innovative and well-received activities from the past year. Three audience members will be invited on stage to become public participants: taking part in the activity, talking to the researchers, and being inspired to develop their own ideas. At the end of the session there will be a summary of what GLAM departments can offer researchers, and a chance for questions from the audience.

3. Panel Session: Consulting and collaborating - the public's perspective

Speakers: **Clara Giachino**, NEUROSEC (Neuroscience, Ethics and Society) Young People's Advisory Group

Niamh Walker, NEUROSEC (Neuroscience, Ethics and Society) Young People's Advisory Group

Simon Maddison, British Excavation Volunteers and Archaeological Research Society

Professor Gabriela Pavarini, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford

Professor Gary Lock, Department of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Chair: **Professor Paul Smith**, Director of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, University of Oxford

Consulting with public stakeholders on the development of research or related activities or those involving publics as co-curators of the research can be very rewarding. But how can this be done in a way that is meaningful and valuable to both researchers and the public participants? In this session, representatives from the **NEUROSEC (Neuroscience, Ethics and Society) Young People's Advisory Group** and the British Excavation Volunteers and Archaeological Research Society discuss their experience as public participants in research projects, with the academics involved also offering an insight on the value to their ongoing projects.

4. Roundtable: Engaging with the public with Artificial Intelligence: What can we do? (Invitation only)

Artificial intelligence (AI) has great promise, but also raises many concerns. You only need to look at how AI is portrayed in the media and news to see that engagement – not only to inform the public, but to involve the public in shaping the research and its application is key to ensuring that the research is carried out responsibly, and that these technologies and their applications are used in ways that are useful and take wider societal, ethical and moral concerns into account. As part of this conference, we will be inviting researchers from across different disciplines to kick-start a conversation about what the University of Oxford can do to effectively engage public audiences in AI research.

Attendance is by invitation only. However, if you're interested in attending please contact publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk

Keynote Plenary

4.35 pm – 5.40 pm

Navigating the UK's evolving research funding landscape – a Public Engagement perspective

Speakers: [Dr Jenni Chambers](#), Head of UKRI Public Engagement Programmes and [Dr Steven Hill](#), Director of Research Policy, Research England

Chair: [Professor Alison Woollard](#), Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research, University of Oxford

Now that we've waved our fond farewells to Research Councils UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, what plans are afoot to build public engagement into the new research funding structure? How will Public Engagement with Research fit into the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021? In what ways could public engagement influence future research policy? And is there the potential to support engaged research even better than before?

Join Steven and Jenni from the good ships Research England and UKRI to hear the answers to these questions and many more. Following two short presentations, there will be an opportunity for discussion and questions from the floor.

Reception

5.45 pm – 7.00 pm

Join your fellow Conference delegates for a vintage garden party-inspired* drinks and nibbles reception. Have a chat over an Oxford Botanic Garden Physic Gin & Tonic or a refreshing soft drink; there will also be a short performance from Jonny Berliner, Oxford's research singer songwriter and Troubadour.

**it will be indoors but the room has a big window!*

Conference Key Information

Public Engagement with Research Hub – Our conference hub will be staffed during the breaks for any queries or questions you may have. If the team can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to stop by.

Wi-Fi – There is Wi-Fi access via the Eduroam network and public Wi-Fi access via 'The Cloud' (account required).

Twitter – This year we'll be using #OxPER2018. If you have a questions, comments or photographs to share please tweet them using the hashtag.

Coffee and Chat – There will be plenty time for you to network and catch up with others.

Dietary requirements – If you have any special requirements please let us know on the registration form.

Access requirements – If you have any special requirements please let us know on the registration form.

Filming – Several of the conference sessions are being filmed to create an online archive of some of the sessions and / or to facilitate viewing in an overflow room for the plenary sessions.

Contact us – publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk

Coming up in 2018/19

The following activities are delivered by Public Engagement with Research (PER) team from Research Services and the Academic Divisions.

PER seed fund

An internal grant scheme that supports public engagement activities from researchers that are new or experienced in this area.

Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research awards

Celebrating high-quality engagement activities and those that have contributed to building capacity in this area.

PER workshops and training

A variety of training opportunities and workshops throughout the year including:

- Introduction to Public Engagement with Research
- Building and resourcing public engagement as part of research grants
- Planning high-quality and impactful Public Engagement with Research
- Evaluation and gathering evidence of research impact

We also offer bespoke departmental training geared towards your needs.

PER opportunities

There are many opportunities to get involved all year round, including festivals, online engagement and citizen science.

'One-to-One' support & guidance

We offer support to academics and professional services staff for:

- Building and resourcing PER into research grants
- REF impact case studies
- Evaluation and impact assessment

PER Digest

A monthly email newsletter with key PER updates and opportunities.

For further information

Visit the PER online portal: www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement

Contact: publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk



This conference has been supported by Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF)
and the Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF).