Making a Difference
Engage 2013

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Introduction

• We are both passionate about public engagement.
• By “making a difference”, we are referring to using our academic knowledge and experiences to positively affect ourselves, our universities/institutions, our students, our partners, and our communities.
• We are very interested in how to achieve change: changing colleagues’ and students’ attitudes towards the benefits of engagement, changing community perspectives on what they can gain from and give to academics, and changing our own perspectives in relation to the impact and engagement benefits our research can bring.
• And we’re interested in change on the cheap!
• Today, we will first tell you a bit about ourselves and our backgrounds, then we will do some activities and have discussions. We will set goals and discuss how to achieve them.
B.J. Epstein

• I’m a lecturer in literature and public engagement and the director of engagement for our school.
• Some of my activities/initiatives include:
  • The annual café conversations series
  • Workshops, lectures, conversations at a local museum, in conjunction with exhibits
  • Reading and discussion groups (translated lit, children’s lit, translated thrillers, gender and sexuality)
  • Events at the Norwich and Norfolk Festival
  • Radio, newspaper, and other media appearances
  • Annual events such as LGBT History Month, Black History Month, International Day of the Girl, Pride, Holocaust Memorial Day
  • One-off workshops or lectures (such as on being a confident reader, or UEA’s 50th anniversary)
  • Outreach to schools (kit project, lectures at schools, school visits to UEA, talks to teachers)
• Key points are getting students (BA, MA, and PhD) and a variety of staff involved, making sure it is serving the community, doing a range of activities, making it a dialogue, doing things without a budget.
Karen Smyth
Lecturer in Medieval & Early Modern Literature

- Public talks and workshops
- Outreach to schools
- Media
- Heritage strategy events, with charities, schools, museums, tourist board, media, national and international partners
- Co-production projects with specialist libraries, cathedral, museum, archival institutions, heritage charities, community council
  - Julian of Norwich Public Awareness Week
  - Julian of Norwich Centre / HEART project
  - Indirect benefits: NORCA digital archive of the carnival HLF project
  - Unlikely allies: AHRC/HLF Connected Communities ‘Research into Heritage: Ideas Bank’
- Teaching activities and resources

KEY POINTS:
Collaborating, making new connections, energising others
planning engagement at the start, rather than end, of research projects
mentoring students; new forms of teaching and assessment; developing employability skills
sourcing funding or payment in kind, thinking outside of the box
Schedule for Today

• Introductions
• Role plays
• Feedback on role plays
• Possible engagement activities
• Goals
• Conclusion
GOAL SETTING

SMART

SPECIFIC
MEASURABLE
ATTAINABLE
RELEVANT
TIME-BOUND
Thank you for coming and thank you for making a difference!

Dr. B.J. Epstein and Dr Karen Smyth

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