

Engage 2018 Draft Programme



Day 1

With a venue that allows the whole conference to meet cabaret style, day one affords us with the opportunity to explore some really interesting challenges together. Animated by table hosts, and provocateurs, the day will be rich with opportunities to learn, share and reflect.

09.00-09.45 **Registration**

09.45-11.00 **Plenary 1: Challenge to change**

Keynote speakers: **Rajesh Tandon** PRIA, UNESCO Co-Chair Community based research and social responsibility in higher education; **Ruth Gill**, National Museum of Scotland (TBC).

Expect to be challenged, delighted and provoked to think differently about the role of universities and their place in the world. Engage 2018 kicks off with provocations from two individuals who are leading exceptional engagement programmes in very different contexts, working in expert ways to address very different challenges. How can their experiences help us reflect on how the higher education sector might adapt and change, and place our hopes for the future in context?

11.00-11.30 **Coffee**

11.30-13.00 **Plenary 2: Navigating change**

Keynote speakers: Including **Nancy Rothwell**, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Manchester, with our guest **table hosts**, each of whom has played a key role in galvanising change in the sector, working inside and outside the university system.

It is 10 years since the launch of the Beacons for Public Engagement and the founding of the NCCPE, and the collective challenge to 'embed public engagement for staff and students at every level'. What has actually changed – and what has helped and what has hindered? Our keynotes will share unique perspectives from inside and outside higher education – looking at stories of navigating change over the last 10 years, and providing insights into the evolving role of universities within society. They will challenge us to consider where we could focus our collective efforts to transform the public role of the university sector.

Our table hosts come from community organisations, cultural organisations, funders, universities and research organisations. From changing university cultures, to changing the world, our table hosts will share their ideas, and invite you to explore their stories. Offer your own insights and perspectives, to build our collective understanding of how change can happen. Be prepared for celebration, mingled with the harsh realities of realising change in uncertain, shifting and complex times.

13.00-14.20 **Lunch**

14.20-15.05 Inspirational Practice Workshops

Mini-plenary: Quality engagement

What makes for quality engagement, and why does it matter? Come and learn from different practices of engagement, across different disciplines, participant groups, and contexts. Test out our draft quality framework, and consider the principles that underpin your work. Share your ideas, and explore whether we can find commonalities in what makes engagement work well, and help us improve the quality and practice of engagement in the future?

Thinking Space – In the dark

Sometimes despite our best intentions we end a project not knowing why things have turned out so different to what we originally hoped for. This session is opportunity to sit back and reflect on some specially selected podcast stories. We will hear a range of stories that offer a window into how those subtly human processes of communication, reflection and empathy may help and hinder change. Some fail with disastrous consequences, some exceed expectations.

Moments of disengagement: learning from our mistakes

Engagement is never perfect, and this workshop is all about learning from our mistakes! As researchers we will share case studies from our own archive of engagement. These will be used to explore when things haven't worked and why. Participants are invited to discuss shortcomings and ideas for improvements and explore what successful research engagement means to them.

Thinking Space – Public engagement has been there done that. What does the future hold?

More universities are embracing public engagement and there is growing acceptance of the value of public engagement for staff, students and community. But, are we complacent? Do we just do the same things because they are simple? Do we really reach diverse audiences? Are we really doing two-way engagement? Is the funding system fit for purpose?

15.10-15.40 Plenary 3: Inspirational Practice: Raising the bar

Keynote speaker: Nike Jonah, Connecting Dots

Public Engagement is gaining ground in the university sector – but have we even begun to realise the transformative effect it could have on the nature and quality of our work and our contribution to civil society? Nike Jonah has played a catalytic role in the creative industries and cultural sector, including helping develop Arts Council England's 'Creative Case for Diversity' which argued for engagement and diversity to move from the periphery to the centre of their activity. Nike will share her experiences and invite us to reflect on the transformative potential of public engagement and to imagine radical futures for university engagement.

15.40-16.20 Watermark Awards

The NCCPE's Watermark process invites universities to open up their engagement activity to an in depth external review – with a view to setting a refreshed and reinvigorated direction of travel. In this session we will celebrate the achievements of the universities who have been on this journey with us in the last year. Hear about the critical insights and 'light bulb moments' that taking a step back and opening themselves up to challenge revealed, and explore how this process has led them to re-think and re-prioritise their efforts. Expect laughter – and possibly tears. Culture change is a tough, sometimes frustrating and often unpredictable process.

16.25-17.25 Poster and Encounters Party

No Engage would be complete without our legendary Poster Party and Encounters. This is a unique opportunity to come face to face with people working at the cutting edge of engagement – and, in our encounters, to experience at first hand some incredible examples of innovative practice. Expect to be intrigued, amazed and inspired by the wealth of talent and expertise at play, and to make new connections that we guarantee will animate and enrich your work.

19:00- late **Conference Dinner and Ceilidh**, The Caves (ticketed separately)

Day 2

08.30-09.00 Registration				
09.00-10.15 Parallel Sessions				
<p>Mini-plenary: Universities in their place</p> <p>There is renewed and intense interest in the role of universities in their cities and regions, and competing narratives to capture the significance of that relationship. 'Anchors', 'civic institutions' and 'place-based leaders' are just some of the ways in which this relationship is framed. This session will provide an opportunity to take stock of the different motivations and policy drivers and their consequences, by exploring innovative place based practice and exploring how to evolve purposeful, mutually beneficial partnership working.</p>	<p>Developing and delivering training for researchers</p> <p>Developing effective training for researchers is a real challenge – there are all kinds of barriers to uptake, and often what is offered doesn't meet researchers' needs. Some of the RCUK SEE-PER projects have been tackling this challenge head on. They will share some of the key learning points from their projects and explore the practical changes they are implementing. Colleagues from the NCCPE and Vitae will add their perspectives. Join us for a chance to take stock and lay out a positive route forwards for this vital strand of culture change work.</p>	<p>Evaluating Impact – no questionnaires required</p> <p>Mentioning the words 'evaluation' and 'impact' to many an engaged researcher or practitioner is enough to elicit a look of unease and an occasional shudder. This workshop will share a suite of innovative and creative 'real' tools that were tried and tested to evaluate Oxford's European Researchers' Night - Curiosity Carnival and will discuss their effectiveness (or not) for evidencing impact. Please bring along your own examples of evaluation tools to share.</p>	<p>Engaging different publics with climate change</p> <p>Climate change is a real and complex challenge that the world is currently facing. However, engaging audiences with climate change can be tricky, it's a subject that either invokes strong emotions or apathy from the publics. In this fully interactive workshop, learnings from the recent NERC-funded 'The Climate Communications Project', which aims to understand and promote best-practices, will be shared, and used as a basis for developing further dialogues around climate change.</p>	<p>Bullying as a form of anti-compassion in HE engagement practice</p> <p>Bullying is a phenomenon that is increasingly being acknowledged as a global pandemic. HE engagement practitioners often encounter bullying in their constituencies and stakeholder groups, but often in other guises, for example paternalism, or 'institutional culture'. This workshop will contextualize and unpack the concept of bullying, and look specifically and critically at HE as an arena where bullying can flourish, particularly in engagement/engaged work.</p>
09.00-10.15 Parallel Sessions contd.				
<p>WW1 Centenary: What did it all mean?</p> <p>Thousands of communities in the UK marked the centenary of the First World War through participatory arts and heritage projects, but what collectively did commemoration of the anniversary mean and achieve? This round-table will address how the idea of legacy has evolved, the nature of the relationships established and the lessons learned for future participatory research in the humanities.</p>	<p>Thinking space - How can the HE sector learn from the research practices of NGOs?</p> <p>With increasing recognition of the complex social and environmental challenges facing the world there is an urgent need to rethink the response of our current research system. We will ask how we can learn from the research practices of international NGOs to challenge our current academic identities, practices, systems and artefacts and reimagine new types of research.</p>	<p>Thinking space - Challenges and successes of engaged learning</p> <p>Engaged Learning or Community-Based Learning is becoming an increasingly important element in university education. This interactive thinking space will aim to inspire and explore solutions to the challenges faced in Engaged Learning. Participants will embark on a visual journey of case studies and share different perspectives on practice and approaches to successful Engaged Learning.</p>		

10.15-10.45 Coffee				
10.45-11.45 Parallel Sessions				
<p>Community engagement: facing the challenge</p> <p>Join us as we face up to the challenges and opportunities of collaborative community engagement. Guided by stories from a range of groups immersed in these practices, we explore issues such as: equity, diversity, and capacity; how can we discuss and develop shared principles and values to underpin community engagement – particularly in interdisciplinary partnerships; and how can power dynamics in researcher/community relationships be subverted?</p>	<p>Public Engagement: Future Spaces, Places and People</p> <p>Join the University of Birmingham's Public Engagement Team as they share ongoing work to better understand audience motivations. We'll deal delegates a hand of fate from our 'Public Engagement Card Deck'. Scenario-planning and perspective-taking are a must, as groups will collectively negotiate audience development plans around a fictional scenario that will need to be responsive to fortune and jeopardy...</p>	<p>All the world's a stage: science theatre</p> <p>As part of our new public engagement strategy, the Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research is exploring ways to reach new audiences, including using theatre as a vehicle for engaging with science concepts. In the summer of 2018, we hosted the Dundee Rep Theatre Company's "Play in a Week" project, where young people aged 13-18 made new works inspired by our science. Join us and the Rep's theatre makers, to experience some of what we did over the week.</p>	<p>Public Attitudes to Science 2018 – initial findings</p> <p>The Public Attitudes to Science survey has been run five times between 2000 and 2014. Fieldwork for the sixth wave of the survey was carried out this summer and the final report will be published in March next year. This session will give delegates early sight of the initial findings of the sixth wave of this influential survey and give them the opportunity to discuss them with the survey team. Given the direction of political events over the last two years PAS's research into issues around trust in experts and the integrity of science is particularly timely.</p>	<p>Exhibiting research: is it really engagement?</p> <p>In this session exploring collaboration between research and Museums, we ask what do the museums and the academics get out of it, and what is the role of the public engagement professional in that dynamic? How do we ensure exhibitions go beyond an easy tick box to say 'I've engaged, I made an exhibition' when public engagement skills have not actually been developed? This panel brings together a Public Engagement professional with a background in exhibition development, a curator and a researcher to share their experiences making that dynamic work.</p>
10.45-11.45 Parallel Sessions contd.				
<p>Under the spotlight: sharing our Engage Watermark experiences</p> <p>We are three diverse organisations with different drivers, communities and publics. Each of us has been through a process of reflection and re-evaluation through the Engage Watermark. This has provided new insights into what makes our researcher communities tick and identified specific areas to refocus our efforts. We'll share our experiences and learning from this process and then encourage you to explore further what may be happening under your own noses at your institution!</p>	<p>Leadership in public engagement</p> <p>What does it mean to be a leader of the public engagement agenda? How does leadership play out in different contexts? And what can we do to better support a growing group of potential leaders to have influence and push for change? This session explores what it means to lead engagement, and how we can develop and enhance the skills of leaders from inside and outside HE to make a difference.</p>	<p>Storytelling session 1</p> <p>Sit back and relax, as our storytellers intrigue and delight you with stories that capture diverse aspects of engagement practice.</p> <p><i>Surrounded by people and completely alone</i></p> <p><i>Engaging with bilingual families: ten years on</i></p> <p><i>Power of partnership: community and university sectors</i></p> <p><i>Wow Craig! Thanks for the lesson</i></p>	<p>Storytelling session 2</p> <p>Sit back and relax, as our storytellers intrigue and delight you with stories that capture diverse aspects of engagement practice.</p> <p><i>Activity Mapping Tool (A SUPI legacy)</i></p> <p><i>The PPI Café: Open for ideas</i></p> <p><i>Transforming the management of community sports development</i></p> <p><i>Split in two: my bipolar diagnosis</i></p>	

11.45-12.00 **Grab a coffee**

12.00-13.00 **Parallel Sessions**

Mini plenary – MUPI Partnership Tools

Partnerships are increasingly important – but what do we know about how to develop mutually beneficial partnerships, and how can we ensure our partnerships work well. The Museum University Partnership Initiative sought to develop resources to help partners work out if and how they could work together. In this interactive session try out the tools and explore what partnerships could mean for you.

Co-producing research: a community development approach

Drawing on Imagine – connecting communities through research, which focussed on ‘civic participation’ – we will introduce a community development approach to co-producing research: research undertaken collaboratively that values multiple perspectives and voices; contributes to developing communities of place, interest and identity; builds collective capacity; and works towards social change. We will explore themes relating to: creating collaborative spaces/places for community development; the role of community-based arts; and reclaiming Black history.

Ethical Dilemmas: Do we need to do more to manage the risks?

In the ten years since the Beacons were funded, university staff and students have been encouraged to undertake public engagement activities; happily, many are doing so. However, does this increased volume of activity increase the risk of universities inadvertently doing harm? Does the drive towards participatory, involved engagement increase this risk even more? Universities already have well-evolved research ethics processes. Do these cover public engagement activities– and do they need to? And, fundamentally, does public engagement have ethics and if so, when and why?

Audience Analysis: Pen Portraits and Deep Dives: Deepening understanding on a local level

Many reports analyse audiences on a national level. But how well do we really understand our local audiences? What evidence supports our choices? Who do we compare ourselves to in validating decisions? St Andrews has been working with colleagues in the cultural sector with many years of experience, data, and established methodologies to probe the reach, impact, motivations and barriers to participation. We want to think collectively with others interested in being more strategic and informed on a local level, sharing tools and methodologies to do so.

How public engagement and impact can work together in a positive way, beyond REF

The HE landscape for both Public Engagement and ‘Impact’ has changed since REF2014. As we approach REF2021, we will look at the possible legacies of the PE-Impact relationship, particularly for the Arts and Humanities. How do we ensure that the increased importance placed on Public Engagement and Impact does not become a ‘tick-box’ exercise for researchers, but remains an organic and enjoyable part of the research cycle? PE practitioners promote diverse pathways to impact as an enrichment of the research process, but how can we articulate this effectively to researchers?

12.00-13.00 **Parallel Sessions contd.**

Academic-Professional Hybrid roles

Traditionally the university sector divides its employees into “academic” and “professional” roles. However, increasingly people are carrying out the research and doing and supporting external engagement with research. We will explore the practicalities of workload management in such multi-skilled and highly complex “hybrid” roles, asking how we can meet competing demands as researcher, engager, project manager and administrator.

Evaluation: Learning from outside perspectives

While evaluation is a hot topic in higher education public engagement there is yet to be any consensus about the most effective way to measure impact. Meanwhile there are other agencies and sectors with a head start that we can and should be learning from. We will share the outreach team’s journey to write an evaluation strategy, and look at the lessons we can learn from evaluators working with third sector organisations and funders.

Join our Dutch quest for engaging issues

What triggers citizens’ interest to engage with science? And what urges scientists to do public engagement? The framing of issues is key. What does that mean in practice? How do you find an issue that is able to mobilize an audience, and engage academic researchers? Public engagement experts and practitioners from Utrecht University (NL) share their experiences and invite the audience to join them.

13.00-14.20	Lunch
14.30-15.30	Plenary 1: Facing the future
<p>Keynote Speakers: Steve West, Vice Chancellor, University of the West of England, Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England; Claire Matterson, Director of Engagement, NHM (TBC)</p> <p>It is sometimes hard to see the wood for the trees and to feel a confident sense of direction, particularly when you are involved in a field of work as diverse and multi-faceted as public engagement. In this session, we will invite people with key strategic roles, inside and outside the university sector, to help us plot the future course of public engagement. Come prepared to debate and challenge – and to hear honest, committed and pragmatic visions of the future.</p>	
15.30-15.40	Coffee served at tables
15.40-16.30	Plenary 2: Transforming engagement
<p>Keynotes Speakers: Val McDermid, celebrated best-selling crime writer & Naimh Nic Daéid, Director of the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science, University of Dundee. Budd Hall, UNESCO Co-Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, Professor of Community Development, University of Victoria (Conference Witness)</p> <p>Engage 2018 closes with storytelling as our theme. We have invited a remarkable partnership of researcher and crime writer to share the secrets of their partnership, and the light it throws on the role of universities in civil society. And our conference ‘witness’, Budd Hall, will weave his own magic as he draws out the themes, characters and plot lines that have captivated him over the two days.</p>	
16.30	Close
17.30-20.00	St Andrews Day Celebrations , Grassmarket Community Centre (ticketed separately)