

**Engage  
Conference  
2019**  
**Disruption**

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**@NCCPE**

# **Speaker Biographies**



National  
Co-ordinating  
Centre for  
Public Engagement

# Engage Conference 2019 Disruption

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# Stories of Disruption and Hope

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**Nicola Gratton**

Lead for Civic Engagement and  
Evaluation, Staffordshire University



**Avorn Opatpatanakit**

Vice President, Faculty of Agriculture  
Chiang Mai University



**Liz Jackson**

Director, Community Engaged Scholarship  
Institute, University of Guelph



**Maria Soledad Montanez**

Researcher, Institute of Modern Languages,  
University of London



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# Stories of Disruption and Hope

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**Jonathan Urch**  
Senior Public Engagement Officer  
University of Dundee



**Matthew Guest**  
Policy Manager, GuildHE



**Emma McKenna**  
Co-ordinator, Science Shop  
Queen's University Belfast



**Kim Aumann**  
Community Partner Network



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# Civil Society Futures – What Role for Universities?

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## **Julia Unwin**

Chair, Civil Society Futures

Julia was the Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation from 2007 until the end of 2016. She has been a Charity Commissioner, Chair of the Refugee Council and Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency. She chaired the Independent Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society, had a Fellowship with Carnegie UK Trust, and is a trustee of the Dartington Hall Trust. In 2018 she was appointed to the Council of Economic Advisers by the First Minister of Scotland.



## **Jo Heaton-Marriott**

Director of Communications and External Relations, Teesside University

Jo is Director of Communications and External Relations at Teesside University, leading the university's external and internal comms, PR and media activities, CSR and external engagement including public, community and corporate events.



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# Place-based engagement – a civic revival?

## Steven Hill, Research England

Steven Hill (chair) is Director of Research at Research England and leads on all aspects of research policy and funding. He is responsible for research funding, including quality-related funding (QR), general capital funding and the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund. He also leads Research England's research assessment and policy work, and is the chair of the steering group for the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Policy responsibilities include research integrity, public engagement and open research.



## Jane Robinson, Newcastle University

Jane Robinson is Newcastle University's first Dean of Engagement and Place and is building on many of the lessons she learned in her previous role as Chief Executive of Gateshead Council and Chief Operating Officer at Durham University. She has a keen interest in how culture plays a role in defining a 'place' and how partnerships can tackle social and economic challenges



## Mike Neary, University of Lincoln

Mike Neary is Emeritus Professor of Sociology in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Lincoln, where he has played many roles including as Dean of Teaching and Learning and Director of the Graduate School. Before becoming an academic he worked in youth and community development in South London. His main research interest is the future of universities and the role of higher education in creating a post-capitalist society, and is currently working to establish co-operative higher education in the UK.



## Rita McLean, Museums Consultant

Rita McLean is a Museums and Heritage consultant who has worked in the museums and heritage sector throughout her career in a range of curatorial, museum development and senior management roles, including as Director of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery from 2004 until 2012. Her work has encompassed developing a range of workforce, audience development and black history initiatives



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# Reflections and Futures: Engagement in changing times

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## Kimberley Freeman

QMUL and Wellcome Fellow

Kimberley is Executive Officer for Public Engagement at Queen Mary University of London and has recently been awarded a prestigious Wellcome fellowship during which she wants to challenge how research priorities are set and who sets them.



## Julian Baggini

Philosopher

Julian is a philosopher, journalist and the author of over 20 books about philosophy written for a general audience. He is co-founder of The Philosophers' Magazine and is academic director of the Royal Institute of Philosophy



## Joy Zhang

University of Kent

Joy is a senior lecturer at the University of Kent specialising in transnational governance of scientific uncertainty, with a focus on the Sino-European context. She is really interested in how public engagement operates in different cultural contexts.



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# NCCPE Speakers

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## **Sophie Duncan**

### Director – Business and Strategy

Sophie leads the business development for the NCCPE. She develops and manages key NCCPE programmes to embed engagement into the higher education sector, including the Watermark, and co-edits Research for All, an open access publication focussed on all aspects of engaged research. A physicist by training, Sophie has worked in engagement all her career, including at the Science Museum in London; Science Year; and the BBC, where she managed the creation and delivery of national engagement campaigns.



## **Paul Manners**

### Director - Policy

Paul is responsible for the strategic direction of the centre. Originally trained as a secondary English teacher, he worked for twelve years at the Open University as a producer of TV, radio and multimedia before joining the BBC as an executive producer of a number of national public engagement campaigns. He advises a number of national organisations on learning and engagement, including the National Trust and the Science Museum.

