



*“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*



## Foreword from the Vice-Chancellor



I have been deeply impressed yet again by the quality of the public engagement with research projects submitted for this year's awards. The standard was so high that we have awarded and commended a record number of projects.

The breadth and diversity of the activities taking place show how seriously the University takes its commitment to public engagement. It is inspiring to see the positive impact these activities have both on research and on the individuals and communities that have been involved, from Cambodian villages to "Baby Higgs" hunters and the children of imprisoned mothers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps to ensure that public engagement is an integral part of research culture and practice at Oxford, and I am particularly grateful to our Public Engagement Champion, Professor Alison Woollard.

I hope that the projects described in the following pages will inspire other researchers at Oxford to undertake public engagement activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Richardson".

**Professor Louise Richardson**

Vice-Chancellor

University of Oxford





Photo credit: Nicky Almasy

## Project Award

### Village Drama Against Malaria: engaging rural communities in Cambodia

#### Professor Phaik Yeong Cheah Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM)

The project was aimed at supporting malaria elimination and raising awareness of malaria research in rural villages. Such communities often record lower literacy rates compared with urban areas, so leaflets and posters are unlikely to succeed. As such, we used Cambodian drama which involves comedy and music to tell stories, incorporating local stories and language.

#### About the project

Drama was used as an effective way to engage the Cambodian villages that had been selected due to their high malaria incidence. Each village had a two-day workshop led by the drama team with a free public performance on the third evening. During the workshops, the local children were given singing and drama training, drawing workshops and education about malaria. Villagers contributed real local stories about malaria which were then integrated into the performance.

#### Outcomes and impact

This project enabled us to further strengthen our relationships with the National Malaria Control Programme and provincial health departments for malaria research and also the local school teachers, shop owners and village malaria workers. These relationships help to build trust between the research team and the local stakeholders.

The participants benefited from learning about malaria, its prevention and treatment, and the children had the opportunity to learn art and theatre and to perform in public.

*"We will remember this our whole lives!" 14 year-old-girl,  
Battambang province*

Our evaluation also showed that active participation - being a performer versus a more passive audience member - meant there was an even better understanding of the malaria research.

2016: Battambang	20 villages, 300 participants, 8,620 attendees
2017: Pailin	15 villages, 600 participants, 12,410 attendees
2018: Stung Treng	10 villages, 955 participants, 13,610 attendees

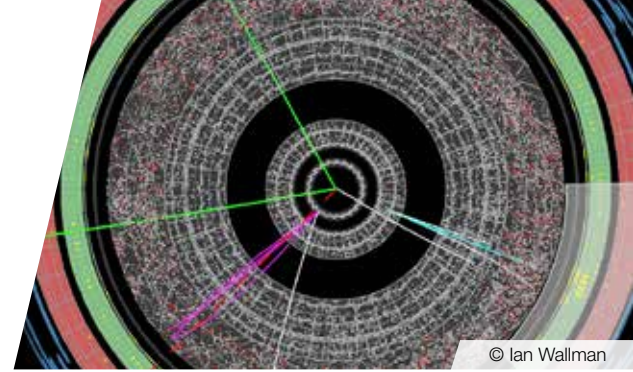
#### Project Team

Dr Thomas Peto; Prof. Lorenz Von Seidlein; Prof. Arjen Dondorp; Dr James Callery; Dr Renly Lim; Dr Christopher Pell; Dr Chea Nguon; Dr Rupam Tripura and Nou Sanann (Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health; NDM; MORU).

**Key funder:** The Wellcome Trust.

# Project Award

## Higgs Hunters: using citizen scientists to find ‘Baby Higgs’



### Professor Alan Barr & Professor Chris Lintott Department of Physics

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) enables particle collisions to be observed using large complex detectors. Oxford scientists are at the heart of the operation, analysis and interpretation of the largest of these – the ATLAS experiment. One current theory is that the Higgs boson might decay into a new particle – dubbed the ‘Baby Higgs’.

#### About the project

Through the Higgs Hunters project over 37,000 citizen scientists, including young people and adults from over 170 countries, became part of the team to search for interesting features in data from CERN. Over a million citizen science classifications have been made, flagging events that could potentially show Baby Higgs particles.

Higgs Hunters is delivered in partnership with the Zooniverse (world-leading online citizen science platform) which discovered that when many non-experts classify the same image as experts, on average the wisdom of the crowd wins. People-powered research has also been shown to beat computer algorithms and unlike computers, has the capability to spot unusual objects in images.

#### Outcomes and impact

One of the most innovative aspects to the project was enabling UK school students to analyse the data and perform their own independent research; the students then presented their findings at a conference, alongside researchers from the University. Their findings have been written up as proceedings – these are the first of their kind to be submitted to a CERN experiment.

Our evaluation demonstrates that the citizen scientists developed their understanding (with 80% increasing their knowledge of particle physics), confidence and skills.

Two research publications also resulted and the early career researchers who worked on the project found the experience very helpful in developing their careers, including invitations to present their results at international conferences and at CERN.

**Project Partners:** The Zooniverse; Institute of Research in Schools

*“Our analysis shows some surprises, including that citizen scientists developed their own technical language when searching for new physics in ATLAS event displays.” Professor Alan Barr*

**Key funder:** The Science and Technology Research Council.







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## Project Award

### Victorian Light Night: stress and information overload in the Victorian Age

**Professor Sally Shuttleworth**  
Faculty of English

**Dr Victoria McGuinness**  
The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities  
(TORCH)

It's claimed we suffer as never before from stress of information overload. However, thanks to rapid industrialisation, the Victorians diagnosed similar problems, with people forced to process in a month more information than their grandparents had in a lifetime.

#### About the project

Drawing on research from the *Diseases of Modern Life* (European Research Council), the project explored the phenomena of stress, overload and other disorders of the 19th century, offering new ways to contextualise the issues of today.

*Victorian Light Night* was part of the national *Being Human Festival* and Oxford's *Christmas Light Festival*. The star of the show was a light and sound projection on the Radcliffe Infirmary Building, which included the winning entries of the design competition for school children. This was accompanied by a range of talks and activities run by researchers in which a 2,500-strong audience of all ages got involved, with activities such as, 'Make your own weird Victorian Christmas Card'; and 'Messaging Madness – send your own Victorian telegram'.

#### Outcomes and impact

The research took on new meaning and relevance when the researchers engaged in the many fascinating discussions with the artists, school students and the public.

*"The need to think creatively about how to present to different audiences sharpened our 'sense' of research"* Professor Sally Shuttleworth

Collaborating with students from a local school, the project demonstrated how history can inform, and transform, the responses of young people to some of today's pressing challenges:

*"It has made me think about the value of communication and how lucky and unlucky we are to have such quick communication"*

**Project Team & Partners:** Ross Ashton, Projection Studio; Karen Monid, Sound Artist; Cheney School; *Diseases of Modern Life* researchers: Catherine Charlwood, Sally Frampton, Sarah Green, Jean-Michel Johnston, Hosanna Krienke, Alison Moulds and Emilie Taylor-Brown

**Key Funders include:** European Research Council; Arts and Humanities Research Council/British Academy and TORCH.



# Project Award

**Remembering Rwanda:** introduces the world of Rwanda's genocide commemoration to the public



**Dr Julia Viebach**  
African Studies Centre

**Jozie Kettle**  
Pitt Rivers Museum

*Remembering Rwanda* encompasses two engagement activities: *Kwibuka Rwanda* ('we remember' in Kinyarwanda) and *Bearing Witness*. The project draws on Julia Viebach's research with survivors to capture the nature, narratives and the materiality of Rwanda's genocide commemoration.

### About the project

*Kwibuka Rwanda* is a photographic exhibition that delves into the world of survivors working at memorials who have pledged their lives to care, clean and preserve the dead bodies of their loved ones that are often displayed at such sites.

The exhibition features quotes from survivors and photographs and integrates Rwandan fabric into its design to surround the dead with a sense of 'home'. *Kwibuka Rwanda* was developed in consultation with Rwandan partners and survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi living in the UK and displayed at the Pitt Rivers Museum in 2018, attracting over 70,000 visitors and has also travelled internationally and attracted global attention.

*Bearing Witness* builds on and expands the collaboration with the Rwandan community and Julia's work on diaspora commemoration on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi this year. Through a case display at the Pitt Rivers Museum co-curated by survivors and a video installation featuring their life stories, *Bearing Witness*

acknowledges the courage and resilience of those who bear the burden of survivorhood.

### Outcomes and impact

*Remembering Rwanda* raises awareness of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and in doing so fights apathy towards the distant suffering of 'others' in times of rising right-wing populism.

*"History should be embraced and 'built on', no matter how bad it is. It cannot be wiped away but it can be the foundation for a better future"* Exhibition visitor

This work fostered relationships and a unique collaboration with the Rwandan community and inspired new research into diaspora commemoration.

*"Thank you so much for honouring the memories of our loved ones and giving us a space where our children can learn about Genocide"* Rwandan Exhibition Visitor

**Partners:** John Binama, Chairman National Association of Rwandese Communities in the UK; Rwandese Community in Oxford; Rwanda High Commission in the UK

*"Theirs was a cry never heard. Through the commemoration and the Kwibuka Rwanda Exhibition, we remember them"* John Binama

**Key funders:** University of Oxford PER Seed Fund; Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship; Pitt Rivers Museum.





Photography by Daniel Regan

## Project Award

### Switching Perceptions: art to engage in psychiatric illnesses

**Dr Elizabeth Tunbridge**  
Department of Psychiatry

**Eleanor Minney**  
Artist

Psychiatric genetics has a murky history and psychiatric disorders remain associated with stigma and misunderstanding. Our project aims to promote dialogue with those affected by conditions such as psychosis, to give a voice to this core but largely neglected group.

#### About the project

We created a central exhibition piece that alludes to a person's holistic sense of self as well as visualising the genetic regions that confer risk for schizophrenia. We then conducted a series of workshops with people experiencing psychosis, in collaboration with the National Psychosis Unit.

In these workshops we used art to facilitate conversations about science, illness and individual experiences. We placed great importance in working collaboratively and the shared experiences of making artwork together, and not what separates us.

The artworks and concepts created during the workshops, and our ongoing researcher-artist conversations, culminated in a three-month long exhibition - *Switching Perceptions* at the Bethlem Gallery, The Bethlem Royal Hospital, London.

*"[The exhibition] appears to be a celebration of both individuality and humanity, as much as it is a contemplation of essential philosophical questions"* *The Psychologist*

#### Outcomes and impact

Participants valued the opportunity to share their experiences and thoughts in an environment that was distinct from their clinical care.

*"It was a nice, comfortable environment. The event gave me a deeper understanding of how the brain functions."*  
*Workshop Participant, Bethlem Gallery.*

The project also demonstrated how art can communicate complex concepts in an accessible manner and the conversations provided direct insight into those experiencing psychosis:

*"As a basic scientist I have not previously had the opportunity to talk directly with those experiencing psychosis. The workshops were invaluable in allowing people to share their individual perspectives and their relationship to my own research."*  
*Dr Elizabeth Tunbridge*

The project extended its reach through both traditional and social media and was featured in The Lancet Psychiatry podcast, Art Daily, The Resident and The Psychologist magazines.

**Key Funders:** Royal Society; University of Oxford PER Seed Fund Award, with additional support from The Bethlem Gallery.





# Project Award

## Digital Delius: interpretation, performance, and analysis



### Professor Daniel Grimley Faculty of Music

This project explored the cosmopolitan connections of Delius and his creative affinity with the landscapes and cultures of other countries. We created a catalogue of his works which demonstrated his painstaking compositional process and the multiple versions his pieces went through as he refined them.

#### About the project

We worked with the British Library, the Delius Trust and the Villiers Quartet to create a permanent digital exhibition of Delius's manuscripts supported by a range of outreach activities. The exhibition was created simultaneously with the British Library's new web resource, *Discovering Music*, launched in 2018.

Our objectives were to enable wider understanding and appreciation of musical sources, using Delius as a rich case study through access to the manuscripts, to show what they mean and to provide a holistic view of the whole life-cycle of a musical work.

Our engagement activities included: a commercially released recording; a schools workshop with the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra (OCYO); an OCYO performance for primary age children; a workshop with the Villiers String Quartet and Oxford students using digital technology; and a seminar for GCSE and A-level students on composer manuscripts.

*"Very interesting to see how composers wrote their music and how they didn't write it from start to finish but a little bit at a time."  
Participating school student*

#### Outcomes and impact

This was fundamentally a team effort, bringing together musicologists, computer scientists, performers and heritage experts, leading to a number of collaborative projects and papers. This research also lays the foundation for future researchers in heritage and digital musicology.

In addition to an online exhibition, the project has raised the profile of Delius and his music, with the Villiers Quartet recording achieving 247,000 listens on Spotify and being featured multiple times on BBC Radio 3.

**Project Team:** Dr Joanna Bullivant, Faculty of Music; Dr Kevin Page and David Lewis, Engineering Science; Helen Faulkner, The Delius Trust; Dr Amelie Roper, British Library and James Dickenson, Villiers Quartet.

**Key Funder:** Arts and Humanities Research Council.





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## Project Award

### Raphael – The Drawings: engaging with Renaissance drawing

#### Ashmolean Museum University of Oxford and the University of Kent

This two-year research project aimed to transform our understanding of how Raphael drew, employing an innovative multi-disciplinary approach to the close study of his drawings.

The exhibition, *Raphael: The Drawings*, embodied the essential findings and conclusions of our work, bringing together 120 drawings in three strands: invention; orchestration and expression in which Raphael's experimental approach, visual strategies and graphic language were highlighted. The exhibition was accompanied by a book; film; gallery talks; family trail and opportunities to draw.

#### About the project

Raphael has long been characterised as purely pragmatic and utilitarian in his drawing practice. Modern audiences tend to perceive the art of this canonical figure as bland, idealised or irrelevant.

The objectives in engaging the public were to open new pathways to understanding and enjoying the art of Raphael, to inform and inspire through the exhibition, to encourage the understanding of drawing as a cognitive and expressive act and to give opportunities and stimulation to explore drawing as a creative and beneficial activity in its own right.

#### Outcomes and impact

The exhibition attracted 67,000 visitors. Audience evaluation showed 82% of respondents felt their understanding of drawing had changed; 99.9% felt their views on Raphael had changed; and 58% felt inspired to have

a go at drawing. There was secondary public reach through the national press coverage received.

The researchers increased their research profiles internationally through the positive reception of the exhibition; and four early career researchers who gave public talks developed new skills in communication and public engagement.

**Project Team:** Professor Catherine Whistler, Susan McCormack and Angelamaria Aceto, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford; Dr Ben Thomas, University of Kent.

*"We moved to Oxford in August 2017 when I was five months pregnant. When our son was born we named him....Raphael! The Ashmolean's work on this exhibition had a deep impact on me and will have a life-long effect on the small chap!" Exhibition visitor*

**Funded by:** The Leverhulme Trust and multiple funders.

# Project Award

## Bringing science and health research to Kenyan schools: giving students local role models



### Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM) and The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Wellcome Research Programme

“Our students don’t have African scientists to look up to”, is a frequently-heard remark. As such, we established a School Engagement Programme enabling students and teachers across Kenyan schools to interact with scientists.

#### About the project

The initial pilot began in 2009 with just three schools. Ten years on and working with local communities and stakeholders has ensured these engagement activities are locally owned and culturally appropriate. Now over 2,000 students and 100 teachers in over 50 Kenya schools take part with 60 participating researchers.

Activities include a 3-month attachment scheme for talented school-leavers, school visits to the laboratories, and a two-week, online event *I’m a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here* in which students ask questions and ‘chat’ to researchers online. We also work closely with local primary teachers to develop science clubs and have established Young Person’s Advisory Groups in secondary schools to encourage debate about ethical aspects of research and inform its implementation.

#### Outcomes and impact

All participating researchers expressed satisfaction at being able to ‘give back’ and contribute to local education and engagement. Through these activities, researchers also gained insights into local perspectives and strengthened bonds with the community.

*“It’s like instant benefit for me as a person because when I do it, I really feel like I have done something good for people who really deserve it.” Researcher*

As well as nurturing positive attitudes towards science careers, the evaluation of the students yielded evidence of improved understanding of research processes and increasingly positive attitudes towards health research. For example, we saw a statistically significant shift towards the statement “Biology is fun” which was measured against a control group that was not part of the programme.

**Project Team:** Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, NDM and KEMRI-Wellcome: Dr Alun Davies; Dr Caroline Jones; Dr Catherine Molyneux; Prof. Philip Bejon; Betty Yeri; Shadrack Baraka; Grace Mwangi; Joy Kiptim; Dr Sam Kinyanjui; Nancy Mwangome; Noni Mumba; Dr Dorcas Kamuya.

**Key Funder:** The Wellcome Trust.





# Early Career Researcher Award

**Dr Shona Minson**  
Centre for Criminology

My DPhil analysed the rights of children in adult sentencing decisions in England and Wales where 17,000 children annually are separated from their mother when she is imprisoned, often not even asking if she has a child. I contrasted this situation with that in family court proceedings where the child's best interests are the 'paramount consideration'.

It was the first study to engage directly with children whose mothers were in prison and with the Judiciary. The primary findings show that these children suffer negatively, experiencing a range of disadvantages to their health, education and wellbeing.

### **Public Engagement with Research Activities**

I developed four films for use by sentencers, probation staff, advocates and women facing sentencing. By involving stakeholders from the outset, I ensured the films suited the audiences for which they were designed. This included a film for women facing sentencing to give support to those representing themselves in court.

I was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Woman's hour (6 million listeners) and on BBC Five Live's Afternoon Show (5 million listeners). I have set up a website to share resources and been very active on social media to engage people affected by these issues.

### **Outcomes and impact**

By collaborating with so many different groups, my research has been significantly enhanced and enabled me to make a demonstrable contribution with and for society.

My research and engagement activities are changing sentencing behaviour and safeguarding children's welfare. The latest National Probation Service

guidance, based on my research, advises Probation Officers to seek an adjournment for a Pre-Sentence Report to be prepared for the court, where defendants are sole or primary carers for dependent children.

Following my submission to the All-Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group, it identified 'Failure to regard children's rights frameworks' as one of three factors driving the continued imprisonment of women. It's the first time children's rights have been mentioned with reference to sentencing policy.

My work has reframed the debate around children impacted by maternal imprisonment as one about human rights and the state's duties to safeguard children.

*"Shona's work has been extremely useful to judges and recorders. She's very good at reminding us not only of our legal duties but also setting out practical consequences when a parent is sent into custody." The Judicial College*

**Key funder:** The Economic and Social Research Council.

# Early Career Researcher Award

**Andrey Levitskiy**  
Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and Balliol College



The year 2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the centenary of the Russian Revolution which created an auspicious moment to offer the public a new insight into how the dramatic political, social and cultural shifts galvanised religious change and laid the groundwork for the so-called 'Russian Reformation'.

## Public Engagement with Research Activities

I pitched a reimagining of this crucial moment in Russian and global history to the BBC, as the clash between the traditional and the modern in the country's religious landscape. I wanted to tell a largely unknown and personal story of the people who championed a new reformative outlook for the Russian church.

We created an hour-long BBC World Service radio documentary called *A New Church for the Red State* which was co-presented by the BBC's Caroline Wyatt and myself. This led me to the discovery of letters and diaries and meeting the last living descendants of the founder of this reform movement. Their memoirs and unique family archive formed the centre piece of the documentary.

## Outcomes and impact

The documentary took listeners on a journey through the streets of Moscow and St Petersburg, where the main story unfolded, to Lambeth Palace with its rich library, uncovering new documents and bringing this pioneering research to wider public audiences.

It premiered in the UK in October 2017, was repeated in different time zones and reached an audience of 66 million people worldwide. The online version on BBC iPlayer and the documentary podcast on iTunes reached 19 million people.

The project has fundamentally transformed my approach to my research subject and helped immensely in clarifying key arguments of my thesis. The overwhelmingly positive feedback I received from collaborators and listeners confirmed the programme was intellectually stimulating, sparked a new interest in the subject and helped challenge old preconceptions.

*"Andrey's intellect, perseverance, politeness and clarity of thought kept this complicated production focused, from the time he brought his original idea to us to its transmission."* Adam Fowler, Producer and Director of Overtone Productions

**Key funders:** BBC Radio World Service UK, Alfred D. Stone Award (Balliol College).







# Early Career Researcher Award

**Dr Becky Smethurst**

Department of Physics

My research in astrophysics is focused on understanding how supermassive black holes can 'stop' their galaxies from forming more stars, by removing the Hydrogen gas required. I look for evidence of a change in the star formation rate of a galaxy, at different distances from a galaxy's actively growing central supermassive black hole.

### **Public Engagement with Research Activities**

I set up a YouTube channel called *Dr Becky* in 2018 to engage the public with cutting-edge astrophysics and astronomy research in an accessible and inspiring way. *Dr Becky* now has over 24,000 subscribers and counting. Video topics have included questions such as: *Do black holes contain dark matter?* and *Should we put telescopes on Mars?* The most popular video has had over 96,000 views.

I also produce a monthly show entitled *Night Sky News* which points out which objects to look out for in the coming months and shares some of the latest astronomy and space exploration research findings.

More recently, I have started a series called *Nailing Science*, with my colleague Dr Michaela Livingstone-Banks (Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division). We interview scientists about their research while painting relevant and scientifically accurate nail art on their fingernails! This helps highlight that you don't have to change your femininity to be a scientist.

### **Outcomes and impact**

The main outcome from my engagement work is enjoyment, both for myself and the public audiences.

My career has also benefited - I was invited to give the prestigious Hendrik de Waard Foundation Lecture in the Netherlands in 2018 after the students saw my content and invited me. Previous speakers have included Sir Roger Penrose; Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Sir Martin Rees. I was only the second woman ever to give this lecture in over 30 years of its history. I have also been approached to write a book: 'Space: 10 Things You Should Know' which will be available later this year.

*"Dr Smethurst has put considerable effort into developing her own channel, and this has paid off in spades. It is not easy to produce high quality video content without support, but this is exactly what the Dr Becky channel provides" Professor Chris Lintott, University of Oxford*



# Building Capacity Award

## MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (MRC WIMM)



The MRC WIMM set up a public engagement committee to lead, coordinate and build capacity in Public Engagement with Research.

### Building Capacity

Highlights of our building capacity work are as follows. The MRC WIMM:

- Organises events such as the annual *Science in the Supermarket* which has reached nearly 3,000 people around Oxfordshire. Around 40% of the people from the 2018 event said that they had never spoken with a scientist before.
- Participated in the Royal Society Summer Exhibition in 2017 involving 53 researchers. The stand was also taken to the 2018 Cheltenham Science Festival.
- Established a work experience programme, in partnership with *in2scienceUK*, which enables sixth-form pupils from under-represented backgrounds to take part in laboratory work for 2 weeks.
- Setup the annual MRC WIMM Public Engagement Prizes to reward and recognise those that participate.
- Setup of a number of workshops to develop public engagement skills.
- Developed an engagement strategy, recruited a public engagement professional and allocated an annual budget to cover the programme.
- Embeds evaluation into all of our engagement work, focusing on what can be improved and the outcomes and impacts on both the publics and participating researchers.

### Outcomes and Impacts

Public Engagement has grown progressively from an ad-hoc activity into a structured operation, fully embedded into MRC WIMM life. In 2012, 24 MRC WIMM members from 12 labs conducted 12 Public Engagement activities; in 2018, 126 MRC WIMM members (25% of the Institute) from 37 labs (out of 50) developed and delivered 66 events.

Furthermore, MRC WIMM researchers developed a virtual reality research tool to visualise DNA folding data for the Royal Society Summer Exhibition. Researchers realised this also made it easier to use for their own research. This led to the development of BabelVR, a software platform that allows any researcher to upload, visualise and annotate their data in virtual reality.

*“Being involved with public engagement has given me an excellent perspective on my own research and has undoubtedly improved my communication and presentation skills with scientific and general audiences alike” DPhil student*

**Key funders:** The Medical Research Council; Wellcome Trust and the Biomedical Research Council.





Photo credit: Roland Allen

## Building Capacity Award

### Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (WIN)

Researchers working in Neuroimaging at Oxford have been involved in public engagement for a number of years, but as part of becoming a Wellcome Centre, staff have placed a greater emphasis on building capacity in this area.

#### Building Capacity

Highlights include:

- WIN set up a Public Engagement Ambassador Scheme, appointing 6 new ambassadors each year. Ambassadors learn through training and by participating in WIN's engagement programme. They are also supported to develop their own activities.
- As part of WIN's launch, researchers organised *A WINDOW on the Brain*, a public event held at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Sixty academics, approximately 25% of the Centre, were involved. Of those participating researchers, 70% subsequently became involved in at least one other public engagement activity.
- To encourage researchers internationally to be involved in public engagement, WIN runs 'Magnetic Moments'. This annual competition, held at a big international conference, challenges researchers in physics, engineering and maths to explain their research in 3 minutes such that even a ten-year-old can understand it. Presentations are judged in a live session.

#### Outcomes and Impacts

WIN's public engagement programme is extensive and aims to inform and inspire diverse audiences and improve research through dialogue with the following core audiences:

- School children, specifically in underserved parts of Oxfordshire: WIN engaged with around 750 primary and secondary school children over the past year.
- Patient groups: WIN has a full programme dedicated to patient engagement, with ambassador involvement.
- Adult audiences: WIN's partnerships programme works with third parties, including museums, to engage adult audiences. *WINDOW on the Brain* resulted in an impressive increase in WIN academics involved in public engagement and also attracted over 400 visitors.

*"The training and support have been fantastic. We've really been challenged into thinking exactly how to engage with different groups of people!" Public Engagement Ambassador*

*"It helps me to get out of my comfort zone and look at my research from a different angle to share it with non-specialists." Magnetic Moments finalist*

**Funded by:** The Wellcome Trust.

# Building Capacity Award

## Pitt Rivers Museum



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In September 2017 the museum established a strategy to facilitate high-quality public engagement with research. The resulting programme speaks to the museum's core vision to decolonise and re-frame the collections by enabling new voices and stories to be heard.

### Building Capacity

The core elements of this innovative programme are as follows:

- museum staff working in genuine mutually-beneficial partnerships with researchers and communities
- developing new and exciting but robust engagement methodologies
- co-creating a wide range of activities and formats such as events, exhibitions and workshops
- ensuring public engagement with research is positioned as a core activity for the museum
- a commitment to continuous improvement and evaluation

The programme of engaged research, issues and topics has been diverse and includes: assistive living solutions; the memorial practices of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda; archaeology and the history of metal; and LGBTQ+ activism.

### Outcomes and Impacts

The socially-engaged approach has had significant outcomes leading to considerable growth in the number of researchers looking to work with the museum, including those from research disciplines that one would not

traditionally associate with the Pitt Rivers. It's also led to a broadening in the diversity of audiences that the museum engages with.

Other impacts include researchers gaining public engagement experience and skills, such as communication and co-curation; and the opportunity to gain new research insights:

*"We are used to engaging with people as patients in healthcare settings, but being able to work in the Museum allowed us to develop different kinds of relationships with people and to develop skills in engagement with people as citizens. This experience has enriched our current research and will inform our future work."*  
*Participating Researcher*

Our evaluation also demonstrates many benefits for the engaged publics, including learning; building social networks; new skills and empowerment.

*"I wasn't a teacher, wife, mother, helper or carer responsible for others but just ME! I have never taken recreational drugs but I was on such a 'high' after Monday's session... I imagine that's what it's like." Jean, proud octogenarian and public participant*

**Key Funders include:** Heritage Lottery Fund; University of Oxford PER Seed Fund; Economic and Social Research Council; John Fell Fund and the Wellcome Trust.





# Building Capacity Award

## Pint of Science

Pint of Science (PoS) aims to encourage, facilitate and support public engagement with scientific research in an informal setting (i.e. the pub!).

The event targets young adult audiences who are not actively engaged in science through researcher-led informal talks, science-based pub quizzes and games attracting over 800 attendees every year via 20 or so events.

*"The events are entirely run by volunteers who are all Oxford researchers." Dr Naveed Akbar, Radcliffe Department of Medicine and PoS Coordinator*

### Building Capacity

Capacity building is a major aim of Oxford's PoS and over 100 Oxford researchers have taken part from a range of career levels (DPhil students to senior academics) and engagement experiences, with 1 in 5 being complete novices.

Furthermore, we have provided guidance and support for other early career researchers, many of whom have gone on to organise their own events.

Going forward, we would like to attract more marginalised audiences so we're currently working with the charities Oxfordshire Homeless Pathways and Living with Dementia to widen our reach. We also aim to work with researchers from a broader range of disciplines.

### Outcomes and Impacts

Researchers commented on enhancing their communications skills as a major benefit of their participation and our evaluation has demonstrated that:

- 32% of respondents said that their participation has subsequently impacted on their research.
- 31% of survey respondents said that they went on to undertake further public engagement activities.

*"It's always good to stop and think broadly about one's own research, why you do it, what it means in the context of everyday lives." Participating Researcher*

Feedback from the public audiences has also been very favourable:

*"It was great, so engaging as well as fun! I can't think of a way to improve it, I just really enjoyed the whole atmosphere as well as learning lots of new information" Attendee at Pint of Science*

**Funded by:** multiple sources.





# Highly Commended in the Projects Category

## **The Big Brain Roadshow**

Professor Holly Bridge & Professor Stuart Clare  
[Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences](#)

Consists of two key school engagement activities: a 20 minute play called 21st Century Phrenology, written and performed by researchers from The Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging about the history of brain research over the past 200 years; and six interactive stalls for school students to explore current brain research.

## **Mind-boggling Medical History**

Dr Sally Frampton *et al.*  
[Faculty of Theology and Religion / Faculty of History](#)

A fun and quick-fire card game, based upon history of medicine and healthcare research, challenges players to sort a series of statements about theories or practices in medicine. Players decide whether the medical theory or practice is from the history of medicine ('past'), forms part of current understanding ('present') or was simply made up ('fictional').

## **My Little Pony Fan Fiction**

Dr Sam Henry  
[Department of Physics](#)

This innovative activity engages a broad community with physics and particle physics research through blogging and online fan fiction of My Little Pony! This has included stories about flying ponies investigating how a rainbow is formed; how to build a nuclear reactor and posts on quantum mechanics and special relativity.

## **Messy Realities: The Secret Life of Technology**

Gemma Hughes  
[Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences](#)  
Beth McDougall & Jozie Kettle  
[Pitt Rivers Museum](#)

This project is focused on a major research programme exploring the effects of different medical and care technologies on people's everyday lives and their potential (or not) to enable independent and safe living. Messy Realities brings together researchers, museum professionals and community members to provoke debate on the meaning of technology, using the Pitt Rivers collections to facilitate discussions.



# Highly Commended in the Projects Category

## **Inspiring Creative Engagement with Translation**

Professor Katrin Kohl *et al.*

[Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages](#)

Working in partnership with the Bodleian, the exhibition 'Babel: Adventures in Translation' and accompanying programme of events and schools activities, aimed to inspire language learners, empower speakers of community/ heritage languages and showcase the UK's multilingual heritage.

## **Lest We Forget and #OwenLastDays**

Dr Stuart Lee

[Faculty of English Language and Literature](#)

This project crowd-sourced and engaged communities with content related to the First World War, researching what this reveals about the collective cultural memory. This was accompanied by a social media campaign on Wilfred Owen to engage the public with the research resources created.

## **Good germs, Bad germs: Participatory experiments with DNA sequencing in domestic kitchens**

Dr Jamie Lorimer *et al.*

[School of Geography and the Environment](#)

Enabled a small group of households to explore the microbial life in their kitchens, using DNA sequencing technologies, and to discuss what we really mean by 'clean' and 'dirty'. This research project was conducted in partnership with the public participants who were involved in its planning, conduct and analysis.

## **Kids Trauma Trials: Solving Big Problems in our Little People**

Professor Daniel Perry

[Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences](#)

Surprisingly little high-quality research has been conducted into the best treatment for broken bones in children. Clinical trials were developed to explore this, involving parents, children and surgeons in the research process, including priority setting, trial development, grant application and research management.

# Highly Commended in the Early Career Researcher Category

## **Tanesha Allen**

Department of Zoology

Tanesha engaged local primary and secondary school students in research to explore if badgers can discriminate between species-specific scents, including humans. Over 100 students are involved in this citizen science project in which they monitor wildlife and record behavioural responses overnight with hidden cameras.

## **Joshua Bull**

Mathematical Institute

Joshua was the lead researcher for a collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum on the exhibition 'Dimensions: the mathematics of symmetry and space'. This exhibition has introduced the museum's audiences, who are typically seeking engagement with history and anthropology, to the mathematics of higher dimensional spaces used in applications from machine learning to mathematical modelling in cancer research.

## **Dr Peter Hommel**

School of Archaeology

Peter's engagement work has grown out of research projects in the field of Eurasian Prehistory. His activities have included the development of online resources to engage younger adults with the social histories of facial hair and public events to inspire children and families to explore different 'ways of seeing' Iron Age art or to reflect on our changing relationship with metals as they are '(re)made'. Peter also contributes regularly to the teaching of prehistory in local primary schools.



# Highly Commended in the Building Capacity Awards

## **Bodleian Libraries: Library Lates**

Library Lates is a new series of free evening events based at the Weston Library. Launched in December 2017, the first five events have created opportunities for 113 researchers to share their work with over 1,400 young people and adults through a range of activities, such as mini-talks, tours, creative workshops and hands-on experiments.

## **The AHRC-TORCH Public Engagement with Research Summer School**

The summer school is a student-led week-long development and training opportunity for DPhil students and early career researchers – 91 have taken part to date. It aims to build capacity by equipping the next generation of humanities researchers with skills and knowledge to embed public engagement into their research.

## **Realising a PER culture change in the Biochemistry Department**

This departmental culture change programme was aimed at increasing awareness of the importance and value of Public Engagement with Research (PER) and creating opportunities for researchers to take part and build capacity in this area. PER is now an ongoing and continual theme in the department, with significant increases in the number of participating DPhil students, researchers and PIs.



# Public Engagement with Research (PER) - coming up in 2019/20

The PER team in Research Services, works in partnership with the PER teams in the Divisions and GLAM (Gardens, Libraries and Museums) to offer the following support and opportunities.

## **PER Leadership Programme**

Is for researchers and academics to take on a leadership role in a culture change project for their departments and faculties to enhance support for PER; funding is available.

## **PER Seed Fund**

Call for proposals (September 2019) to support researcher-led public engagement activities from those that are new to, or experienced in this area.

## **Enriching Engagement**

*Enriching Engagement* is a new pilot Wellcome-funded grants programme open to Wellcome grant holders and awardees at the University of Oxford, to develop and deliver PER projects.

## **PER Conference**

Oxford's second one day conference (June / July 2020) will be an opportunity to be inspired, to learn, to be challenged and keep up to date with the cutting-edge of PER practice and policy.

## **PER Forum**

The Forum is a termly series of events for Oxford's research community to explore PER and provide opportunities for sharing learning and networking.

## **PER workshops and training**

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

- Introduction to Public Engagement with Research
- Evaluation and gathering evidence of research impact
- Developing REF2021 Impact Case Studies – Public Engagement

## **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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/public-engagement)

Contact: [publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:publicengagement@admin.ox.ac.uk)





