Introduction to Public Engagement with Research

With Janet Stott & Harriet Warburton

Plan for today 6.20-7.30pm

- Welcome and Introductions

- What is Public Engagement with Research, and why might you do it?

- Break

- A personal perspective from Cillian Gartlan

- Introduction to the Reuben PER Innovation Fund, and some previous examples

- Resources and support for PER

What is Public Engagement with Research (PER)?

Public engagement describes the **myriad of ways** in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be **shared with** the public.

Engagement is by definition **a two-way process**, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating **mutual benefit** "

National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement

Purpose of Public Engagement with Research

- To inform and inspire the public

- To consult and listen to public views

- To collaborate with the public
  - Participatory research

Image credit: University of Oxford

Why should we do it?

https://reuben.ox.ac.uk/teresa-lambe-inside-story-oxford-astrazeneca-vaccine-reuben-college-inaugural-lecture

Benefits for Researchers (you!)

- Transferable skills
  - Presentation / public speaking
  - Writing
  - Inspiration skills
  - Creative skills (video, web design, …)

- Importance to funders as well as the university

- Impact on your research, new perspectives

- Fun!

Benefits for Society

- The potential to build trust between research institutions and society

- Addressing increased public interest in research and raising awareness of the outputs arising from the (public) funding of research

- Aspiration to better connect the work of universities and research institutes with society

- Inspiring the next generation

- Social justice, social mobility, equality of opportunity, democratisation of knowledge

Benefits for Research

- New research questions generated / fresh insights into research challenges

- Increased accountability and transparency of research

- Increased responsiveness of research to societal needs

- Increased visibility, both of the research and the researcher's profile

- Greater research impact

- Diversity of researchers - diversity of thought

Why PER at Reuben?

- Addressing the biggest problems of the 21st century requires a collaborative approach, including communities outside academia → a 21st century academic needs to be able to engage with others!

- PER is normally done in Oxford at departmental level, so focusing on a specific subject… but the biggest challenges are interdisciplinary!

- Unique relationship between college and GLAM, giving access to locations, audiences, and expertise from Oxford's Gardens, Libraries, and Museums

- One of the hardest things to do in PER is to assume 100% intelligence and 0% knowledge… an interdisciplinary community like Reuben is a great place to practice this!

What does Public Engagement look like?

Science festivals

Engaging local communities

Citizen science

News articles

Podcast

Videos

Games / creativity

Theatre / performances

Tours / trails

Comedy

Digital

Collaborative workshops

Schools

https://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/per-getting-started

The Reuben PER Innovation Fund

Supporting you to develop your
own PER project

The Reuben PER Innovation Fund

- Designed to support Reuben students to develop and run their own engagement projects.

- Unique to Reuben college!

- Supported by us & other College Fellows

- Build skills & funding track record

- Simple application process (can be video if you prefer)

The Reuben PER Innovation Fund

The focus of this scheme:

- Engaging the public with research that addresses an issue the audience is interested in, regardless of discipline (interdisciplinary approach)

- Ideally projects should involve two or more students from different disciplines. Projects can include students from other colleges, as long as the lead applicant is from Reuben, and we will also consider applications from one applicant.

The basic structure

- You can apply to two levels of funding:
  - Tier 1 - £50 to £149
  - Tier 2 - £150-£1,000

- Funds can be used until the end of the calendar year (from date of award till the end of December 2024).

- The application deadline is the 25th January 2024

The application itself

- There is an online form for each tier.

- You can submit your application as text or, if you prefer, you can submit some parts of the application as a video.

- You can see example applications on the resources folder (link later).

Tier 1: https://forms.office.com/r/MkmHGuRaqF

**Tier 2:** https://forms.office.com/r/F9iPeXUgJP

What happens if you are successful

- All successful applicants invited to a support session to kick start projects

- Each project is assigned a Fellow as a mentor

- Invitation to a Formal Hall to celebrate the PER projects

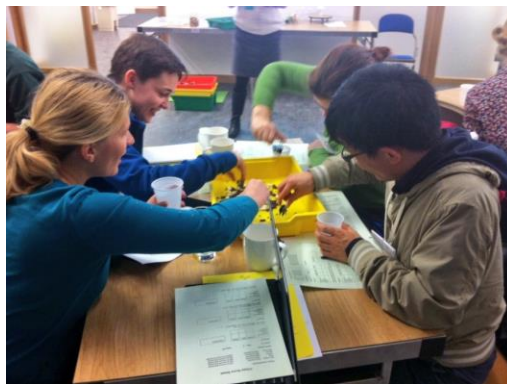- Reporting: a comms piece for the college + feedback to us

Tier 1 £50 - 149

- To support the development of a single activity, such as the development of an activity to be run at an existing event, a pilot podcast episode or a simple resource
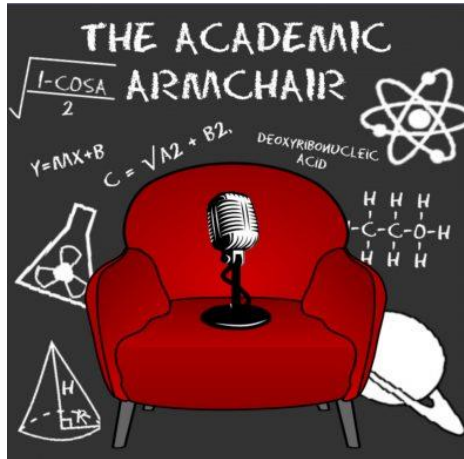
Pilot podcast

Develop a new resource

Develop a small activity as part of an existing event (e.g. Reuben Art and Science day)

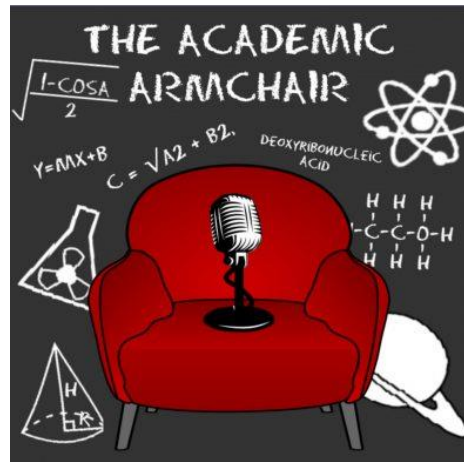*Organise a first meeting with a new audience*

Tier 2 £150 - 1000

- To support a larger single activity or series of activities.

More in depth engagement with a specific community

Develop a series of podcasts

Film and edit a video

Visit a local school

Assessment criteria

- Does the project bring together students from different disciplines, or address an interdisciplinary problem?

- Is the project achievable?

- Are the budget and timeline realistic?

- Is there a clear consideration of audience & how to reach them?

- How will the project benefit the audience and applicants?

Evaluation

- How will you know if the activity that you've developed is successful?

- Many ways to collect feedback, depending on:
  - Your activity
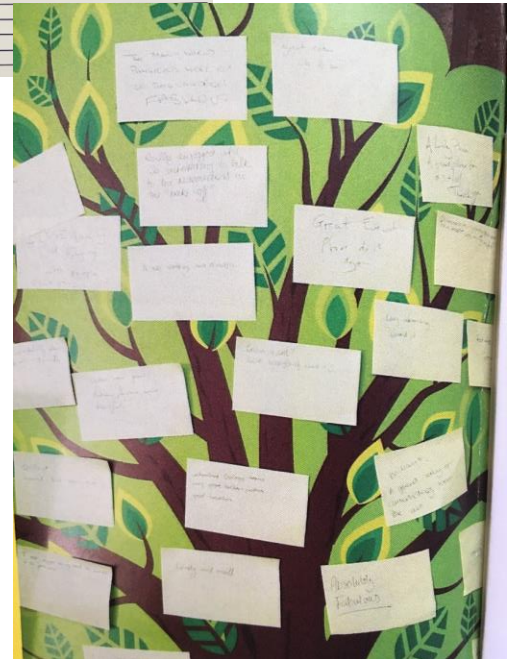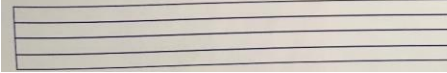 - Your audience
  - What you want to know

Evaluation

PERFORMANCE OF ANCIENT GREEK MUSIC

On the music staff below, please place a small dot (or musical note)

❖ Where you place the dot along the staff represents how much you enjoyed the performance, i.e. the further right it is placed the more you enjoyed it

❖ Where you place the dot vertically represents how much you understood the performance, i.e. the further up it is placed the more you understood it

Have you tried anything new at the Festival?

What was your favourite thing at the Festival?

I have tried...
using PVA and borax to make a small ball and bouncing it on the table.

My favourite thing was...
when I rolled the ball in my hand because I didn't know that PVA and borax would stick so much.

Have you learnt anything new at the Festival?

Queen Mary
University of London

I have learnt...
new things about bones and

Previous projects

21-22 Involvement and Engagement with Patients with rheumatic diseases
Workshop bringing together young scientists and patients
£982
Julia Salafranca Gomez and Laura Maghetiu (Immunology & Rheumatology and Development Studies)
22-23 Art Workshop
Engage the public with the difficulties of living with arthritis by using special gloves that mimic the effects of the disease
£40

The supply-chain of a voluntary carbon credit
Video engaging the public with field work understanding the impact of carbon offsetting policies defined in the Global North in local communities in Uruguay.
£1,000
Laura Maghetiu (Development Studies) and Max Weber (St Anne's, Modern Languages)

Previous projects

Chitral's Academic Circle
Engaging with communities in Pakistan
£1,000
Abdul Wahid Khan (DPhil Geography and the Environment) & Anika Kabani (St Antony's, Social Anthropology)

Summer Data School
After a successful pilot winter data school, Jakub plans to continue this successful format bringing together data curious/enthusiastic individuals from academia, industry and the wider society in Slovakia.
£1,000
Jakub Hantabal (MSc Precision Cancer Medicine)

How AI can help solve the challenges of multimorbidity
A video on how different disciplines connect in this field
£1,000
Sami Adnan (Multimorbidity and Human Centred-AI Designs) and Ishbel Henderson (Trinity College, Multimorbidity and Activity Monitoring)

Engaging with Identities within the Asian American Community
Podcast series on the process of field research
£500
Isabelle Sturt (MPhil in Global and Areas Studies)

Previous Projects

Pandemics: The Unanswered Questions

Collect feedback from the public on their unanswered questions about pandemics, followed by production of a **video** developed in partnership with Oxford Sparks

£1,000

Cillian Gartlan (DPhil in Immunology) with colleagues in St Hugh's, Lincoln and Balliol College.

Voices in Research : Student Perspectives on Multidisciplinary Studies
Podcast series where Reuben students and other guests discuss their research, in particular the benefits and use of technology in multidisciplinary studies.
£690
Puyu Wang (DPhil in Engineering Science) and Laxmi Thapa (DPhil in Physics)

Environmental Poetry Workshop
£600
Charlotte Lenhard (MSc Environmental Governance)

Need any help?

- Thursday 18th Jan, 12:30 pm → **drop in session in the common room**

- **Email me at any time:** janet.stott@reuben.ox.ac.uk

- Come to 'Mince pies at the museum' on 2nd Dec to find out more about PER at the Museum of the History of Science

- These slides and example applications can be access here or on the QR code

- Application forms:
  - Tier 1
  - Tier 2

Useful resources

- [University of Oxford pages on PER](#) (including support for PER, upcoming engagement opportunities and funding)

- [Evaluation Resources for PER](#) (from University of Oxford, includes evaluation tools, templates, and training videos)

- [How to evaluate your PER activity](#) (from the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

- [MPLS Training sessions](#) (includes podcasting, storytelling and narrative, methods for 2-way , interactive public engagement, and Oxford Sparks Science Communication Masterclass, open to students from all divisions)

- [Resources that can be loaned for PER activities](#) (including video cameras and microphones, from MPLS, but open to all for use in PER activities)

- [GLAM PER Toolkit](#) (guidance, resources and opportunities for researchers working with GLAM)

- [TORCH and the Humanities Cultural Programme](#)

- [Social Science - Researcher Development opportunities](#)
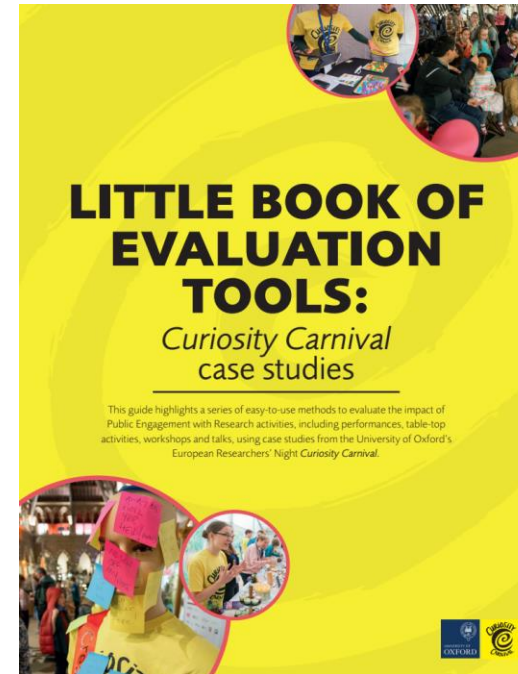
Gabriela Pavarini

Community engagement - bringing young people's voices into ethical debates

Katrien Devolder:

Using video and podcast techniques to engage the public

Chrystalina Antoniades

Art as a means to engage with patients

Anupama Sen

Can we use technology to widen the reach of public engagement

Jonathan Pugh

The ethics of prioritisation in the context of an infectious disease pandemic

Mark Coles

Using puck robots to demonstrate how the immune system fights COVID

Lei Clifton

Public understanding of how machine learning and statistics can work together to improve health. Interest in music and psychology

Josh Bull

Developing innovative ways to engage the public with maths, including fantasy football!