Public Engagement
Annual Review 2017

A year in public engagement at Goldsmiths
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2017 was in many ways a high watermark for the work of the Public Engagement Advisory Group (PEAG) at Goldsmiths. From Glastonbury Festival to the Amersham Arms, researchers and practitioners started conversations with the public that led to real, positive change.

Of particular note was the culmination of a project to mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Lewisham in August 2017. Spanning almost two years and over a dozen public events and activities, it engaged thousands of people who shaped the project from its outset. While back in January, researchers from the Forensic Psychology Unit sold hundreds of tickets to ‘The Accused’, three nights of immersive science theatre recreating the infamous trial of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be executed in the UK in 1955.

The body responsible for driving the public engagement agenda at Goldsmiths, the PEAG, awarded over five thousand pounds in grants to eleven projects across nine Departments, while researchers at all career stages were recognised for their achievements at the second Warden’s Annual Public Engagement Awards in May.

Although the year’s activities led to significant successes, they also pushed the boundaries of what can be achieved with finite resources and a very hands-on approach. This led to a period of critical reflection in the autumn where the PEAG debated how our work could become more embedded across the college.

To that end, we have appointed new Department Public Engagement Representatives to champion the agenda and launched an institutional-wide survey to map existing practice and shape future support.

In early 2018 we hope to craft a new strategy to plot a course for public engagement at Goldsmiths for the next five years, ensuring the dynamism and proactivity of the agenda can be sustained and expanded as we enter uncertain waters in the sector and beyond.

Dr John Price
Academic Lead for Public Engagement
Throughout 2017 the PEAG collaborated with academics at Goldsmiths to organise a range of events and engagement activities, bringing their research and practice to the public in exciting and innovative ways.

**The Accused (January)**

Goldsmiths’ Forensic Psychology Unit organised a sell-out run of interactive murder trial experiments engaging 375 members of the public and raising over £3300. Based on the infamous case of Ruth Ellis, the last women to be executed in the UK in 1955, actors recreated the trial in Goldsmiths’ Great Hall, including a live band and bar. The data gathered from audience members informed student research and experts used examples from the trial to introduce the public to aspects of their research.

![The Accused](image)

**SMASHfest (February)**

The Open Book Project generated creative responses to the festival theme, which imagined a super volcano erupting in New Cross. The writing and artworks were shared with audience members at The Albany Theatre throughout the festival.
Science Showoff (March)
To coincide with British Science Week, seven academics at different career stages from the Departments of Psychology and Computing performed nine-minute comedy sets to a packed house at the Amersham Arms. Over £400 was raised for the selected charity, CARA.

Brain Awareness Day 2017 (March)
Psychology’s Dr Ashok Jansari led a day of free talks and activities exploring research into the brain. Over 490 members of the public registered for the event, featuring talks by seven academics, first-hand accounts of what it means to live with brain damage, demonstrations, and a marketplace of leading brain related organisations.

Telegraph Hill Festival (April)
At last year’s Telegraph Hill Festival, historian Dr John Price led groups on walking tours exploring the radical history of New Cross and Deptford. Featuring some of the borough’s most impressive buildings and radical figures, participants had the chance to discover how local events shaped national debates and resonated globally. The walk included visiting the sites of secret WWI conscientious objector trials, the 1977 Battle of Lewisham, and the New Cross Fire.

Devils on Horseback (May)
Written by Prof Tim Crook and performed by the Goldsmiths Acting and Filmmaking Society, this play brought to life the stories of Deptford’s Conscientious Objectors during WWI. Four performances raised £1800 for student bursaries and attracted VIPs including political activist Bruce Kent, and then Lewisham Mayor Sir Steve Bullock.

Glastonbury (June)
Dr John Price took to the stage at Glastonbury to discuss his research on Victorian heroism. Later speakers included shadow chancellor John McDonnell.
Science Show Off
Battle of Lewisham 40th Anniversary (April - August)

To mark the 40th anniversary of the events of 13 August 1977, Goldsmiths historian Dr John Price embarked on a range of public engagement activities to initiate inclusive dialogues with different publics on how the ‘Battle of Lewisham’ should be remembered and its contemporary relevance.

A collaboration with Goldsmiths public engagement team, the project culminated in the unveiling of a permanent monument to the ‘Battle of Lewisham’ and a community festival hosted at the Albany in Deptford.

Partnerships with Lewisham Council, Lewisham Libraries, Love Music Hate Racism, the Albany, and a host of community organisations helped the project directly engage thousands, while millions more were reached by one of Goldsmiths most successful press and social media campaigns.

Activities including art workshops, a public consultation, live music, poetry, exhibitions of contemporary art and photography, screenings, panel discussions and history walks engaged a range of publics with a largely forgotten aspect of local history, shaping perceptions of the borough and reaffirming its centrality to the history of race relations in the UK.

The project also uncovered documents and footage of the ‘Battle’ long thought lost, as well as gathering the testimonies of many who were there and wanted to share their memories. This new evidence complicated the established narrative while confirming many of the more contested claims about the historical importance of the ‘Battle’.

This new evidence will not only lead to new research, but has the potential to inform how black history is taught in the borough, and hopefully further afield.
Battle of Lewisham celebrations at the Albany

Plaque on Clifton Rise
In 2017, over five thousand pounds in grants were awarded to eleven researchers at different career stages from nine different Departments. Find out more about some of the exciting projects that have been supported.

**Dr Patricia Alessandrini (Music) £970**

For Patricia Alessandrini’s project, Resonating Bodies, people of all ages were invited to create their own electronic instruments at a workshop with sound artist and author Nicolas Collins, followed by the chance to perform at an evening concert. In addition to fostering interactions between communities and institutions, the activities created opportunities for the hybridisation of analogue and digital electronic music.

**Aimar Arriola (Visual Cultures) £440**

Other Stories of HIV/AIDS/Learning in a Public Medium sought to diversify narratives that surround HIV/AIDS. Comprised of a day long ‘share and reflect’ workshop, the activity brought together fifteen people working on HIV/AIDS at the intersection of culture, activism and education. The workshop was structured around themed sessions facilitated by and involving international artists, writers and researchers working on HIV/AIDS activism.

**Robert Chapman (Psychology) £200**

Robert Chapman’s project Know Thy Father: Patient Confidentiality in the Genomic Era will take the format of a moot court, with expert testimony from a barrister and genetics expert. The court will look at the real-life case of a patient who tried to sue the NHS for not disclosing information about her father’s newly identified genetic condition. Members of the public will then be presented with this case and provided with expert testimonies and asked to rule on the case. It promises to be an enjoyable and thought provoking evening.

**Professor Tony Dowmunt (Media and Communications) £500**

Tony Dowmunt received funding to support and extend the work of the London Community Video Archive (LCVA). Building on the success of the first year of the LCVA’s public programme, further screenings and workshops are planned for 2018. The workshops will provide a space for the gathering of oral histories and discussions with younger media activists who have been using the archive. The project was praised for its range of partnerships, strong track record and clear evaluation methods.
Dr Francis Gilbert (Educational Studies) £500
Francis Gilbert’s project proposed creative healing workshops with the homeless to nurture a new creative community, which will be followed by a blog, book, and a podcast. Praised for its strong sense of mutual benefit and partnerships, Francis planned to collaborate with Camden-based homeless charity SHP and creative writing staff and students at Goldsmiths. Taking place around Christmas, a notoriously painful and lonely time for homeless people, the day would include creative writing workshops where participants will be encouraged to tell stories, make podcasts, get involved in mindfulness meditations, yoga and art.

Kat Jungnickel (Sociology) £500
Kat Jungnickel received funding to support a cycle tour for the launch of her upcoming book, Bikes & Bloomers: How Victorian Women Invented Extra-Ordinary Cycle Wear, to be published by Goldsmiths Press and MIT Press in spring 2018. The tour will visit the home cities of inventors featured in her book, such as Bristol, London, Cambridge and York. Events will take place at centrally located independent bike shops and cafes where Kat will perform and invite participants to try on custom-made cycling garments based on her research into the history of women’s cycling.

Claire Levy (Sociology) £250
Youth, Place and Possibility proposed a series of workshops with young people in rural and urban locations, which aim to share skills in research, writing and presentation. Using video, audio and interview skills, the project will be based in Bristol and Stroud youth centres and schools, and will draw upon the expertise of teachers and youth workers.

Sue Mayo (Theatre and Performance) £445
Set against the backdrop of the UK’s government’s failure on the intake of refugees, Sue Mayo’s project Welcome is a Radical Act will focus on the welcome of refugees and migrants, and the role played by the arts. The project will include a roundtable event, public presentations, workshops and a performance. It aims to create a dialogue between different experiences: those of refugees and migrants, those of hosting organisations, researchers, academics and activists. The proposal was noted for its humanitarian focus, range of partners and its relevancy to current events.

Dr Deirdre Osborne (Theatre and Performance), £450
Deirdre Osborne’s project On Whose Terms? Ten Years On celebrated the richness of Black British cultural heritages with scholars and creative artists from the UK and beyond. Deirdre was awarded the grant to support the ‘Pedagogy and Decolonising the Curriculum’ panel, which facilitated discussions and debate between local secondary school students, educators, scholars, guest speakers and the public.
John Reardon (Politics) £447

Queering Public Space takes the shape of a walking tour of Haverfordwest and discussion event with invited experts and members of the public. The tour is designed around Monument for Chelsea Manning, a piece of public art by Reardon that is currently in the process of being permanently installed in Chelsea Manning’s hometown in Wales. The group praised the maturity of the project and the strides made to engage a range of publics, politicians and stakeholders.

Michelle Gamaker (Art) £500

Michelle Gamaker’s project, Women of Colour Index, includes performative readings, discussion and screenings highlighting the often hidden contributions of women artists of colour. Situated in the shadow of Grenfell Tower, the project explores themes of censorship and erasure, enabling a space for members of the community to express themselves through discussion, writing and performance. This project was praised for its partnerships and urgency in light of the Grenfell tragedy.
Looking back to projects awarded Public Engagement Grants in summer 2016, we revisit some of the major successes and achievements of researchers and practitioners from different Departments and all career stages.

**Ana-Maria Herman (Women’s Art Library / Sociology)**

How to Make an Archive Travel? Was a project located at the Women’s Art Library (WAL) and the Centre for Invention and Social Process in the Department of Sociology. The essence of the project was to make a smartphone app that showcases the artworks of women featured in the WAL archive as a way to make women artists more visible. The outcome of the project was far-reaching, as the app has been downloaded across at least three continents – North America, Europe and Asia. Ana-Maria has also contributed to a book called Feminism and Museums: Intervention, Disruption and Change based on data collected during the project.

**Harriet Smith (Sociology)**

Harriet Smiths’ project A day in the Life Of... aimed to explore human-animal encounters through participatory field research with children at London Zoo. Harriet also planned an intergenerational ‘Animal City’ event at Kentish Town City Farm, where young people worked with older people to make urban animal fantasy habitats from cardboard and other art materials. For this project, Harriet used the methods developed during her work with a primary school in Lambeth, as well as Vauxhall City Farm. She also presented her findings at an international conference in Kentucky organised by the Society and Animals Network.

**Leonie Elliot-Graves (Theatre and Performance)**

Safe Touch engaged support staff and service users with learning disabilities and Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) in a research project about using touch safely and positively when working with people with learning disabilities. The success of this project has led to the development of an accredited training course around using touch safely and positively, as well as an article in PMLD Link, a charity established to help children and adults with PMLD.
Sandra Camelo (Cultural Studies)
The aim of (Po)éticas del pueblo Magüta was to engage creatively with the oral traditions of the indigenous community of Nazareth, Colombia. For the project, a set of traditional stories were chosen to be transformed into drawings that became the basis for the creation of animated series shown on the community’s TV channel, IBURI. The project has allowed Sandra to create a model to use when working with other indigenous communities during her PhD.

Stephen Graham (Music)
Fringe and Underground Music Group was a series of events that blended traditional and non-traditional academic-musical practices. Stephen and his collaborators combined academic papers with live performances, artist talks with straightforward concerts. The project has initiated ongoing collaborations and one-off, individual projects, with the Fringe and Underground Music Group becoming a key component in the Department’s research profile.

Sue Mayo (Theatre and Performance)
When Words Fail was developed in response to the number of Goldsmiths colleagues, students and industry partners who were travelling frequently to the Calais ‘Jungle’ refugee camp to offer arts activities to the refugees living in limbo. The event aimed to create a space for people to reflect on their experiences through discussion and creative practice. An installation based on objects recovered from Calais was commissioned and presented alongside texts and audio interviews with artists. In addition, panels with visiting speakers, workshops, and two film screenings were held. Following the event, the installation travelled to Horniman Museum for Refugee Week, and to Leicester University for a conference on Refugee Issues.
Warden’s Annual Public Engagement Awards 2017

The Wardens Annual Public Engagement Awards took place in May 2017 to celebrate excellent public engagement at Goldsmiths and saw winners from departments ranging from History to Music. Awards were presented in three categories: Established Researcher, Early Career Researcher and Postgraduate Researcher. Find out more about the winners and commendations below.

Established Researcher category

Winner

Dr Charlotte Faucher and Professor Richard Grayson for ‘Francophones in London during the First World War’ (History)

Anglo-Franco relations during the First World War took centre stage in this project led by historian Dr Charlotte Faucher in collaboration with Professor Richard Grayson. Working with school children, the project uncovered the lives of French speaking refugees and settled communities in London during the First World War, particularly in 1916.

Commendations

Dr Ashok Jansari for ‘Facial Recognition Reddit AMA’ (Psychology)

In August 2016, Neuropsychologist Dr Ashok Jansari, took to Reddit, the self-styled ‘front page of the internet’, to take part in a massive Q&A based on his research into facial recognition. Not only did he answer scores of questions from redditors, generating 760 responses, but over sixteen thousand people took part in his online study in less than 24 hours. This demonstrated how science and social media can be combined to make new strides in data collection.

Dr Caspar Addyman and Prof Lauren Stewart for ‘The Happy Song – A scientifically designed song for babies’ (Psychology)

In collaboration with Grammy winning musician Imogen Heap and with the support of C&G Baby Club, Professor Lauren Stewart and Dr Caspar Addyman from Goldsmiths’ Department of Psychology created the world’s first song scientifically designed and tested to make babies happy. Informed by research, Heap composed four melodies to appeal to young babies which were played to babies in Goldsmiths’ InfantLab under experimental conditions.

One melody was a clear favourite and was expanded into a full track – The Happy Song. Since its launch in October 2016, The Happy Song has gone on to secure the number one spot on the iTunes children’s chart, with the music video gaining over 3 million views on YouTube.
Dr Kate Devlin for the ‘International Congress on Love and Sex with Robots and Sex Tech Hackathon’ (Computing)

The Sex Tech Hackathon and the International Congress on Love and Sex with Robots, hosted by Dr Kate Devlin from Goldsmiths’ Department of Computing was run in collaboration with Hacksmiths, Goldsmiths’ student tech society. The Hackathon aimed to create exciting new ways to push the boundaries of how we view sex through the use of innovative technology.

Early Career Researcher category

Winner

Dr Jasmine Hornabrook for ‘Cultural Engagement and Knowledge Exchange between Music Research and London’s Tamil Community’ (Music)

Between February and May 2016, Dr Jasmine Hornabrook worked with the Tamil community in London on a musical and cultural collaboration project called ‘Songs of the Saints: Tamil Traditions and New Creativities’. Jasmine worked closely with members of the Tamil community to explore Tamil cultural and religious practice in London.

Funded by the AHRC, the project brought together the London Tamil Centre in Wembley and the London Sivan Temple in Lewisham to build connections between professional Carnatic musicians, Sri Lankan and South Indian communities in London, and students and composers at Goldsmiths.

Commendations

Dr Patricia Alessandrini for ‘Sound Kitchen: a public outreach project employing innovative forms of transmission through digital dissemination’ (Music)

As the first artist in residence with the Ensemble InterContemporain (EIC) at the Gaîté lyrique in Paris, Dr Patricia Alessandrini created Sound Kitchen, an engagement project consisting of four public presentations of interactive sonic and audio-visual art. Sound Kitchen featured Patricia’s own work as well as the curation of creative and educational performances and presentations in collaboration with the EIC.

Dr Sian Jones for her project on imagined contact and prejudice in children with disabilities at the London Science Museum (Psychology)

The power of imagination was explored by Dr Sian Jones with the help of the 900 children and 784 parents who participated at the London Science Museum’s Wellcome Wing. The project used Playmobil to examine imagined prejudice in relation to children with varying forms of physical and cognitive disabilities.
Sue Mayo for ‘The Gratitude Enquiry’ (Theatre and Performance)

This three part arts project by Sue Mayo sought to explore the theme of thankfulness. Sue collaborated with a team of six artists and a film-maker, with artist development and reflection an important component of the project. Sue and her team of artists investigated how gratitude, both as a theme to investigate and as an action at play in the work, could help to increase understandings of participation and collaboration in the arts.

Postgraduate Researcher category

Winner

Vanessa Hughes for ‘Undocumented Migrant Children: school as spaces of belonging and inclusion?’ (Sociology)

Vanessa Hughes was nominated for her highly thought-provoking research into undocumented migrant children and how schools can act as spaces of belonging and inclusion. Vanessa worked on research projects with young migrants with uncertain immigration status for several years. Her research is focused on young immigrants in London, attempting to understand how they make sense of their worlds, and how their migration experience and status has shaped and continues to shape their lives and identity.

Commendations

Rose Sinclair for ‘Dorcas Stories’ (Design)

Across 2016, Lecturer in Design and PhD candidate Rose Sinclair undertook a range of highly successful engagement activities as part of her practice led research into the development of the Dorcas Clubs and Societies set up by Caribbean women on their arrival in the UK in the 1950s and 60s.

Rebecca Wheeler for ‘The Death of Jane Doe: The Psychology of a Murder Investigation’ with Laura Oxburgh, Ashleigh McGregor, Dr Gordon Wright and Professor Fiona Gabbert (Psychology)

The Death of Jane Doe, hosted by the Goldsmiths Forensic Psychology Unit (FPU), invited members of the public to solve the mystery of the death of Jane Doe, taking on the role of a trainee cop or an investigative reporter in a live mock murder investigation. Attendees had access to the murder scene and were able to interact directly with potential suspects, the police and forensic psychology experts. They experienced a police press conference where they observed CCTV footage of the crime and appeals from the family.
Irene Chrysocheris for ‘Heritage Days of Alexandria’ (Anthropology)

This project was concerned with the once influential and prosperous Greek community in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, where a series of political and economic crises have challenged the position of the community. Irene engaged with the secular and religious leadership, and invited members of the community to select and contribute images and objects that they considered to be significant and meaningful. These were featured in an exhibition now permanently housed at the Greek Consulate in Alexandria.
Looking ahead

2018 will see the launch of a new strategy to steer public engagement at Goldsmiths through to the REF in 2021, and beyond. It will reflect and build upon insights developed over the past three years through the work of the Public Engagement Advisory Group (PEAG), which has engaged with every Department at Goldsmiths and numerous external collaborators.

These hands-on experiences have informed our approach both practically and theoretically, highlighting methodological considerations while ensuring guidance is derived from real-world situations, rather than abstract principles that evaporate once put into practice.

With the application of this learning has come some notable successes whose scope and ambition have severely stretched capacity. While these successes are rightly celebrated, they also call into question the sustainability of an approach that has relied in part upon the willingness of academic and professional services staff to give up their own time.

In a sense, the challenge for public engagement at Goldsmiths is unique: we don’t need to convince anyone of the value of taking what they do beyond the academy – it’s already part of our institutional DNA.

Our challenge as the group responsible for steering the public engagement agenda at Goldsmiths is to embed a sustainable culture that ensures researchers and practitioners at all career stages can access the opportunities, support, learning, and resources to engage publics in meaningful dialogues that benefit all involved.

To that end, we are developing and piloting a series of workshops organised around specific opportunities and seed funding, which aim to help participants craft robust proposals for engagement activities that we will help them realise. The first two workshops in January 2018 will highlight opportunities to engage the public through local festivals and pop-up shops, with further sessions planned across the year.

Another challenge we’ve faced is raising the profile of the PEAG and extending its reach beyond a relatively small circle of people already supportive of its aims. To address this, we have appointed new Public Engagement Representatives in almost all Departments – details below. These Representatives will act as champions for public engagement among their colleagues, while acting as a conduit for communication to and from the PEAG.

Finally, to ensure we are in step with developments in the wider sector, we are working closely with the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) to help realise our ambitions for culture change at Goldsmiths. This will include a programme of mentoring and training, which will help us drive change internally and benchmark ourselves against sector best practice.
Department Public Engagement Representatives 2018

- **Art** – Vacant
- **Design** – Rose Sinclair
- **English and Comparative Literature** – Padraig Kirwan
- **History** – John Price
- **Music** – Tom Perchard
- **Theatre and Performance** – Sue Mayo
- **Anthropology** – Jason Hickel
- **Media and Communications** – Natalie Fenton and Leanne Benford
- **Politics** – Simon Griffith
- **Sociology** – Katrina Jungnickel
- **Visual Cultures** – Lynn Turner
- **Computing** – Sarah Wiseman
- **Educational Studies** – Esther Sayers
- **Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship** – Tomoko Tamari
- **Institute of Management Studies** – Nigel Guenole
- **Psychology** – Chris French
- **Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies** – Claudia Bernard

If you would be interested in applying as a representative for the departments that are vacant, please get in touch with **Iman Mohamed** (i.mohamed@gold.ac.uk), or **Will Cenci** (w.cenci@gold.ac.uk)