

The Vice-Chancellor's **Public Engagement with Research Awards** 2017



“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 by the quality of the public engagement with research projects submitted for this year's awards.

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 warriors in Tanzania and young adults in Brazil, to local communities affected by dementia.

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 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.



Professor Louise Richardson
Vice-Chancellor

Project Award

Communications with the Public

Ancient Greek Music Hearing long lost sounds again

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Professor Armand D'Angour, Faculty of Classics

This project derives from scholarly research that has recreated the sounds of ancient Greek music from notation that has been preserved on stone and papyrus, and by reconstructing ancient instruments from the relics of the originals and illustrations on Greek vases.

About the Project

I have recreated the scores for two major ancient musical documents, the Orestes chorus and Athenaeus paean, and several minor ones. The scores were worked on in collaboration with singers and musicians, and performed at events to live audiences in schools, theatres, museums, and online and on national television, including:

- The first public performance of Sappho 'Brothers' poem on BBC TV 4 reaching 217,000 viewers.
- A live performance of the Mesomedes hymns and Seikilos Song in the British Museum to an audience of over 300.
- The first theatre performance of an extended Orestes chorus on stage in Poland.



Outcomes & Impacts

The project has raised the profile of classics scholarship and demonstrated that ancient music reconstruction is not just feasible, but also musically convincing and illuminating, with the power to engage public audiences. The musicians involved have also reported that they have derived great benefit from their participation.

This project has also led to fruitful collaborations with other academics and non-academics and opened up numerous scholarly paths for others to pursue.

Project Team

Dr Tosca Lynch, University of Oxford; Mr Barnaby Brown, Cambridge; Dr Geoffrey Webber & the Caius College Choir; Mrs Yana Stanjewski, Theatre Director

"That was a truly inspiring, ear-and-eye-opening event last night at the British Museum. We were genuinely transfixed and transported – excellently compered."

John Browne, Theatre Composer

Funded by: Grants from the University of Oxford's Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund and Knowledge Exchange Fund and Jesus College.

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Back from the Dead Demystifying antibiotics

Oxford Martin School & Museum of the History of Science

The exhibition celebrates the 75th anniversary of the first clinical trials of penicillin, explores the complex history of antibiotic development and the urgent global health threat posed by antibiotic resistance. With resistant infections projected to kill over ten million people annually by 2050, it is more important than ever to foster public engagement on this topic.

About the Project

The Back from the Dead exhibition (November 2016–May 2017) challenged common antibiotic myths and generated new research data by surveying public understandings of antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance and attitudes towards antibiotic stewardship.

Together with public events, gallery tours, arts workshops and a schools engagement programme, Back from the Dead has attracted 47,796 visitors from all age and income groups from Oxfordshire and further afield.



Funded by: The EPA Cephalosporin Fund

Outcomes & Impacts

Our evaluation data demonstrates that exhibition visitors had increased their understanding and awareness of antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance.

The new survey data on public attitudes towards antibiotic use will feed into a future Oxford Martin School policy paper and the exhibition will leave a physical legacy in the form of a permanent display in the museum. Our work has also resulted in a re-cataloguing of 71 penicillin-related objects in the collection, which will be easier to access for researchers.

The participating researchers also gained valuable public engagement with research skills which are essential for raising awareness about a complex biological-social problem.

Project Team

Dr Claas Kirchhelle, Oxford Martin School, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Wolfson College & Dr Andreas Kappes, Oxford Martin School, Department of Experimental Psychology.

Dr Silke Ackerman, Marie-Louise Kerr, Dr Sophie Waring & Dr Stephen Johnston, Museum of the History of Science.

"The whole day was a fascinating and multi-faceted exploration of the history of penicillin, and students greatly enjoyed the range of activities, artefacts and exhibitions they were able to participate in."

Teacher, Cheney School

Project Award

Collaboration & Communications with the Public

Penguin Watch

Citizen science to monitor the Southern Ocean

Dr Tom Hart, Department of Zoology & Professor Chris Lintott,
Department of Physics

To help conserve the declining number of penguins, we have developed innovative ways to collect and analyse large data sets through Citizen Science; and raised awareness of the research and the need to conserve seabirds to people around the world.

About the Project

Penguin Watch collects time-lapse imagery of penguin colonies to monitor the timing and success rate of breeding pairs. Public volunteers then process the data on penguinwatch.org via the Zooniverse platform. Since its launch in September 2014 over 865,000 people from 214 separate countries visited the website, with 44,000 going on to become registered users, many of whom visit the site every day.

The project continuously seeks to engage new publics with the research taking place and to encourage more volunteers by generating media interest including appearances on the BBC 10 O'clock news.



Outcomes & Impacts

Penguin Watch has processed 5.3 million images to date, generating an outstanding data legacy. The data is being used by DPhil students and to inform bodies such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

The Zooniverse platform is made available so that any researcher can build similar projects, seeding projects worldwide from monitoring Red-footed boobies to seals.

In terms of public benefits, nearly a million people have participated and increased their understanding about penguin ecology and conservation, valued being part of a research project and many more have been engaged via the media, events and schools' activities.

Project Team

Ms Fiona Jones, Dr Catilin Black & Dr Grant Miller, University of Oxford and other members of the Zooniverse team; Falklands Conservation

"[Tom and his team] engage with our tourists and staff in a two-way process that benefits all parties and the environment. His work deserves this recognition; it is a very impressive thing he's achieved."

Karl Kannastader, Quark Expeditions

Funded & Supported by: Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund & Darwin Plus; University's Development Office; Quark Expeditions; Google; Science & Technology Facilities Council & others.



The Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland

Professor Gary Lock, Continuing Education Department & Institute of Archaeology

Hillforts are the most prominent and often spectacular field monument of the later prehistoric period found across Britain and Ireland. We aimed to gather existing data together with new information to create the Atlas website for the benefit of a wide range of audiences.

About the Project

Citizen Scientists were recruited as volunteers to collect data by visiting and surveying hillforts. A detailed survey form was provided together with guidance notes and over 60 talks and training sessions were delivered to support these activities.

Based on the survey returns, around 400 people were actively involved with many more attending the conferences, talks and training days.



Funded by: Arts and Humanities Research Council

Outcomes & Impacts

The result is a complex database of c120 fields which records over 4,100 sites linked to mapping and satellite images. The data provides new insights into these monuments based on patterns and relationships that have never been possible before at this scale.

The volunteers gained new skills, increased their knowledge about hillforts and appreciated the opportunity to be involved in a research project.

The Bodleian Wikipedian in Residence and a team of voluntary Wikipedians are creating a Wiki page for each of the sites comprising a summary version of each database record.

Other highlights include The Friends of Berry Castle (a hillfort in Devon), which formed as a result of the Atlas project, the landowner and Historic England developing a management plan for this previously threatened site. Another group has submitted a large Heritage Lottery Fund bid to carry out archaeological work involving the public on all 21 hillforts in the Chilterns.

Project Team

Professor Ian Ralston & Mr Stratford Halliday, University of Edinburgh; Dr Ian Brown & Dr Paula Levick, University of Oxford

"We feel proud to have made a genuine contribution to a major research project."

Simon Maddison, British Excavation Volunteers & Archaeological Research Society

Project Award

Consultation & Communications with the public

Transforming Lion Killers into Lion Conservationists

Dr Amy Dickman, WildCRU, Department of Zoology

Lion numbers have halved in 20 years, and there are now as few lions in Africa as rhinos. Tanzania's Ruaha landscape holds the world's second largest lion population, but also had extremely high rates of lion killing by local people. Our research showed that lions were killed in retaliation for livestock attacks, by young warriors to gain status, and because people were unaware of the benefits of their presence and reasons for conservation.

About the Project

Ruaha is East Africa's biggest National Park, but under-resourced local people are unable to visit it. They therefore only experience wildlife when it is posing a danger to them, and are antagonistic towards the Park and its wildlife. We have conducted educational Park visits for villagers to learn first-hand about wildlife conservation. To date over 1000 people from 16 villages have participated and over 95% report improved attitudes towards wildlife.

We also organise educational DVD nights and have engaged over 30,000 local villagers, communicating information about wildlife conservation and the status of lions. We trained officers in 10 villages about best-practice livestock protection methods, who in turn, can train thousands of other villagers. We also train and employ young warriors to track lions, prevent lion hunts and protect communities and livestock from lions.

We have provided: over 30 secondary school scholarships; vital equipment for local clinics and schools; and over 350 children daily with free school lunches. We currently employ over 60 people, who indirectly support over 600 people.

Outcomes & Impacts

This engagement has increased awareness of conservation, equipped villagers with skills to coexist more safely with carnivores, engaged warriors directly in conservation, improved local education and healthcare, and improved household economic security. Lion killing has reduced by over 90% in the core study area, and we are now training other projects in these approaches.

"We applaud the extraordinary efforts of Amy Dickman and her small but professional team who have had such a positive impact in and around Ruaha National Park"

Charlie Mayhew MBE, CEO of Tusk



Supported by: Donors include African Wildlife Foundation, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Lion Guardians, National Geographic, the Recanati-Kaplan Foundation, Panthera, Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species, St Louis Zoo and Tusk.



Unsilencing the Library

An exhibition at Compton Verney Art Gallery and Museum

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Dr Sophie Ratcliffe, Faculty of English Language and Literature

Warwickshire's Compton Verney was virtually a ruin by 1993, before it was restored to its former glory. In one room, however, a key decorative feature remained intact – a set of 19th Century imitation books framing the doorway. Our project focused on finding the creator of this 'mock' bookshelf in which all the authors were women, and to co-curate an exhibition with the public.

About the Project

Our research suggests that the 'books' were commissioned in the 1860s by Georgiana Verney, wife of the 17th Lord Willoughby de Broke. Georgiana was a quiet pioneer, championing education, women's rights, and literacy.

We invited a series of individuals and communities to select real books to accompany this Victorian feminist bookshelf. This year's guest curators include actor and campaigner Emma Watson; local school pupils, and members of Prison Reading Groups.



Supported by: The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH), Knowledge Exchange Grant; Aurelius; Country Houses Foundation; William Delafeld Foundation

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Outcomes & Impacts

This has been a diverse and exciting collaboration, directly engaging with nearly 100 prisoners (60,000 through prison media), school pupils, teachers, bookbinders, textile designers, and museum staff.

Unsilencing the Library offers Compton Verney's 80,000 annual visitors new insights into why books mattered in the past, and why they still do today. The accompanying website (www.unsilencingthelibrary.com) is an ongoing learning resource, and Radio 4's Woman's Hour are featuring the exhibition in a specially recorded programme.

Uncovering stories about reading – from Georgiana in the 1860s to the men at Bullingdon Prison today, has hugely enriched our research and teaching.

Project Team

Dr Ceri Hunter, Mansfield College; Dr Eleanor Lybeck, St Catherine's College; Professor Steven Parissien & Ms Pip Shergold, Compton Verney

"Books can be a great escape for those in difficult circumstances, but they also connect us to the world outside, to each other and to ourselves. The project has helped prisoners do just this."

Dr Sarah Turvey, Director of Prison Reading Groups

Early Career Researcher Award

Chico Camargo

Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics

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My research is in the field of complex systems and complexity science. Most of my public engagement work involves creating videos about complex systems concepts. My aim is to not only focus on what researchers work on but also inspire people in the ways that we study such phenomena and increase understanding of the world around us.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

I first became interested in public engagement by taking part in Famelab, 3 Minute Thesis, Science Cabaret and Bright Club, many of which were organised by Science Oxford.

Since June 2016, I have been part of a Portuguese-speaking YouTube scientific outreach channel called *BláBláLogia*, with daily videos on topics from space travel to ecology.

I am also the host and writer of a fortnightly show, *Top Models*, where I engage people with the mathematical models we use in science, and how they connect the natural and the social sciences. We have produced over twenty films to date for a mostly young adult (18–30 years old) audience in Brazil.

"An incredible video. The information is light, trustworthy and transmitted in a very charismatic way. Just like many others here, I'm looking forward to the next video."

YouTube viewer



Outcomes & Impacts

Today, *BláBláLogia* has almost 100,000 subscribers, over 5 million views, with some of my videos reaching tens of thousands of views. Members of *BláBláLogia* have also been invited to many seminars, debates and panels as a result, helping to raise their research profile. The channel also won the 2016 YouTube 'NextUp' prize, awarded to the most promising channels with under 100k subscribers, which together with some modest advertising revenue, has enabled us to purchase a new camera for future filming.

The public engagement work has fed back into my research, as having to explain elaborate concepts in a more fundamental way, without relying on university-level mathematics, has led me to a more thorough understanding of the tools I use every day.

Early Career Researcher Award



Dr Alexy Karenowska Department of Physics

My research involves the study of the microwave, radio, and optical parts of the electromagnetic spectrum and its application.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

Since 2015, I have directed a public science project focused on the documentation, preservation, and restoration of at-risk cultural heritage sites across the world.

Working with the likes of UNESCO and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, I developed the means to study, document and preserve heritage materials through optical, radio-frequency and X-ray based approaches and the application of 3D printing and machining technologies.

In 2016 I led a team to create a 13 tonne replica of the Triumphal Arch from Syria's Palmyra site using a combination of photogrammetry-based 3D computer modelling and state-of-the-art 3D machining in stone. I managed the installation of this structure on Trafalgar Square which was unveiled to the public by the then Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Since then I have overseen the installation of the same arch in New York, Dubai and Florence.

"The IDA's Arch of Triumph of Palmyra serves as a model for how, together, we will bring life back to Palmyra and restore the site as a message of peace against terrorism."

Professor Dr Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director-General
of Antiquities and Museums, Syria



Outcomes & Impacts

Approximately 2.1 Million people of all ages have visited the public installations and taken part in the supporting series of workshops and scientific educational programming.

My work has also been featured on the front page of The Times, BBC Newsnight and been covered by print, radio and TV all over the world, reaching tens of millions.

Public responses show that the installations made visitors think differently about the relationship between science and culture; increased interest in science in young people and increased motivation among governments and other organisations in the use of cultural initiatives in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation.

Funded by: Institute for Digital Archaeology [IDA] and the Dubai Future Foundation.

Early Career Researcher Award

Dr Lucy Kaufman Keble College

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My research explores the social, political and religious tensions that formed the landscape of the English Reformation. For this project, I explored the royal progress of Henry VIII in the summer of 1535, through which he attempted to cement his religious reforms. During this progress, Henry visited his Lord Chamberlain, Sir William Sandys, at The Vyne in Hampshire, now part of the National Trust.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

For the past year, I have been working closely with the National Trust during their renovation of The Vyne.

My research has shaped an innovative new visitor experience at The Vyne, transforming the ground floor into an immersive depiction of its rich and vital history, particularly the Tudor progress. I have worked with curators, heritage professionals, and an interdisciplinary team of scholars to reimagine this crucial moment in British history. From animated moving-tapestry panels to a breathtaking chapel that looks, smells, and sounds as it would have done during Henry's visit, the exhibition has brought new life to well-known stories and cutting-edge research to the public.

In addition to the estimated 180,000 visitors to the exhibition, I have also engaged over a million readers and listeners through talks, articles, and interviews at The Vyne and in the media, including BBC radio and television, reaching an ever greater and broader range of publics.



Outcomes & Impacts

The project has changed me fundamentally as a scholar, crystallizing new ideas about my own research and discovering new ways of sharing it with audiences.

Evaluations have shown that The Vyne's immersive visitor experience is both popular and intellectually-stimulating.

I have given talks to the National Trust's leadership to encourage further collaboration with academics, and I have also encouraged other Oxford early career researchers to take part in public engagement, facilitated through The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities, TORCH.

"[Lucy's] fundamental understanding of what makes a great story and how to tell it, has directly resulted in far greater levels of positive engagement."

Joanna Crosse, National Trust London & the South East

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Early Career Researcher Award



Dr Kate Kennedy Wolfson College

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I am researching and writing a triple biography of poet Rupert Brooke, and composers F S Kelly and W D Browne. The three men were close friends who sailed to Gallipoli together and were all killed in the First World War. They were among the best of their generation, but the composers' work has been forgotten – until now.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

Studying archives, letters and diaries, and animating the stories therein has enabled me to work with young people and adults, musicians and theatre professionals through drama, music, the media and public events, including:

- 10 performances across the UK of my dramatized recital *The Fateful Voyage* across the UK with internationally acclaimed soloists and actors.
- Directing and presenting BBC Radio 3's commemorations of the First World War, with *The Fateful Voyage* broadcast from the City of London Festival as a centrepiece.
- Creating the Gallipoli Music Memorial Trust to offer workshops, performances and teaching resources to schools; the content now forms part of the history curriculum.
- Involving over 750 school children in creating their own creative pieces and performances for public audiences.
- Premiering, choreographing and editing the work of the composers including previously unpublished songs, piano works and a fully staged ballet.



- Obtaining Arts Council funding to develop *The Fateful Voyage* into a fully-staged play at the National Theatre.
- The biography of Brooke, Kelly and Browne is due to be published in 2018.

Outcomes & Impacts

The project has transformed my research, developing my understanding of the stories within and how they can be communicated effectively.

The neglected work of the composers has now been shared with many thousands; with many responding that they have found the stories moving and thought-provoking. It has also benefitted young dancers and musicians, who have obtained scholarships and employment due their involvement with the project.

"This is academia at its very best – using new research to educate, inspire and move audiences!"

Dr Nick Peacey, Trustee of Gallipoli Music Memorial

Funded by: Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Rupert Brooke Foundation, Waterloo Festival and the Leverhulme Trust

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Early Career Researcher Award

Dr Claire Sexton Department of Psychiatry

My research uses cognitive assessments and magnetic resonance imaging techniques to investigate factors proposed to promote healthy ageing in the brain. This work examines multiple factors including physical activity, mobility and sleep and their effects on cognitive function.

Public Engagement with Research Activities

I have engaged the public with my research through delivering Dementia Friends information sessions and public talks about my research, film screenings of the documentary “The Age of Champions”, and through my work as Founding Chair of Dementia Friendly Chipping Norton. The group aims to bring together people living with dementia, caregivers, community organisations and researchers to increase awareness of dementia locally and improve inclusion and quality of life.

“The information Claire has shared has, of course, been key to these sessions but, just as important, has been her open and friendly style of presentation and her obvious passion for her subject.”

Malcolm Bromhall, Pastoral and Outreach Worker,
Oxford Methodist Church



Outcomes & Impacts

Since January 2015, I have delivered Dementia Friends Information Sessions to over 900 people, from different ages and backgrounds with the aim of increasing awareness about dementia and how healthy brain ageing can be encouraged through non-pharmacological means.

My public engagement activities have helped me develop a range of transferable skills, from public speaking to partnership working. They have allowed me to consider the big picture of my research and its value, and aided my understanding of how my academic research can be translated into community-settings.

I have also continued to build capacity for public engagement, encouraging, training and enabling other researchers at Oxford to take part.

Funded by: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) based at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and University of Oxford, the NIHR Oxford Health BRC, Oxford Alzheimer’s Research Trust Network.

Building Capacity Award



Bodleian Libraries for “Printing Press”

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The Bodleian Library’s printing presses are a teaching and experimental resource for scholars working with sources from the hand-press period (c.1450–c. 1830). In the last two years the Bodleian has made this equipment more accessible to researchers to engage the public with their research. A working hand-operated printing press was installed in the public foyer of the Weston Library while the Bodleian’s letterpress was moved to the Old Library for schools and public workshops.

Building Capacity for Public Engagement with Research

The Bodleian has successfully integrated the use of this equipment for public engagement with research and with exhibition displays curated by researchers. An expert printer and a team of volunteers teach printing to researchers, students, and members of the public.

The challenge of this skilled craft activity is a leveller in the relationship between researchers and the public, enabling the public to join academics in a shared creative effort. Equipment from the workshop has been placed on short-term loans to support other research-related events around the University and beyond.

The craft activity of printing provides researchers with a focal point for explaining their research topics in a non-academic setting.

For example, Adam Smyth, Professor of English Literature, joined participants from 12 countries, Oxford schools, undergraduates, staff and Alumni in a project that aimed to print all of Shakespeare’s sonnets for the Bodleian in 2016.



Outcomes & Impacts

Since August 2015 over a dozen academics and scholars have used the printing workshop for research and engagement and over 2,000 members of the public have engaged with the printing presses.

Training in the workshop has enabled both senior researchers and students to enhance their public engagement skills. Visits to the printing workshop by school groups have helped the Bodleian Libraries to make the case for recruiting an Education Officer, funded for three years. Following a printing workshop of Luther’s 95 theses, Henrike Lähnemann, Professor of Medieval German Studies has gained external funding to further support printing workshops to engage the public with academic research on Luther and the Reformation.

“I enjoyed the event because it was very practical, and I learnt new skills like different methods of printing”

Year 9 student from Wallingford

Funded by: Private donations, University funds, ticket sales and project outreach funds.

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Building Capacity Award

Museum of Natural History & Oxford Neuroscience for “Brain Diaries”

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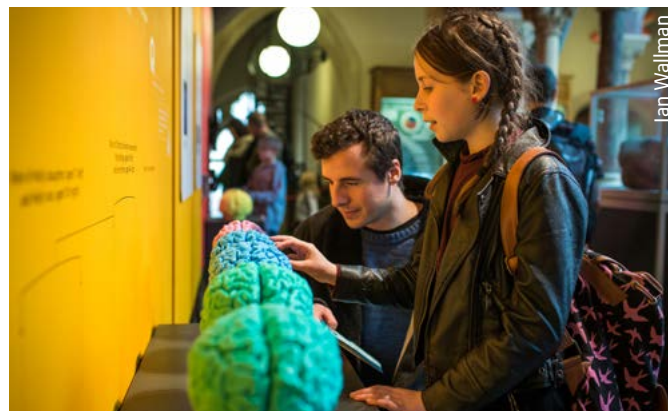
Brain Diaries is an exhibition at the Museum of Natural History, with an accompanying public event programme; online digital resources including an animation by Oxford Sparks, developed in partnership with Oxford Neuroscience.

The exhibition presents current understanding of the healthy brain from pre-birth to old age, while the public programme explores translational and clinical neuroscience research. The exhibition also promotes active public participation in research, enabling visitors to take part in research studies and contribute new ideas for brain investigations. For blind and partially-sighted visitors, there is a hands-on exhibition tour using 3D-printed brains for a tactile experience.

Building Capacity for Public Engagement with Research

The project is the latest and largest installment of the museum's Contemporary Science and Society series, enabling researchers at all career levels to leverage the museum's experience and skills in public engagement, while accessing the museum's publics to engage in the research.

Researchers appear in the interactive video Q&A screens in the exhibition, giving visitors the opportunity to interact 'face to face' via digital means; and the live event programme enables visitors to engage with a greater number of researchers directly.



Outcomes & Impacts

More than 150 research scientists from four University departments and over 20 support staff have contributed to *Brain Diaries*.

Launched in March 2017, the programme and exhibition has reached an audience of more than 45,000 people from Oxfordshire and beyond in its first two months of opening.

This project exemplifies the power and value of collaborative working between the museum and academic departments.

"We all look forward to the opportunity to engage with the public through the museums. It is particularly useful for younger researchers to have to develop ways of conveying complex information and I know they always find it very rewarding."

Christopher Kennard, Head of Medical Sciences Division and
Emeritus Professor of Clinical Neurology

Funded by: The Negaunee Foundation and Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund.

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Building Capacity Award



Department of Earth Sciences for “Borrow the Moon”

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Borrow the Moon invited Oxford primary school groups with very low levels of participation in Higher Education to visit the Department of Earth Sciences. There they joined researchers in investigating samples of real lunar material brought to earth by the Apollo missions in the 1970s, which are rarely seen and held, even by researchers of lunar science.

Building Capacity for Public Engagement with Research

The project’s goal was to introduce researchers to the joys and challenges of public engagement with younger children from diverse backgrounds, including those from lower socioeconomic and educational attainment households or with a disability. We worked alongside Oxford’s Widening Participation and Access (WAP) team to identify the schools; and to introduce children to the excitement of Earth Sciences research.

On these visits, the children interacted with researchers working on palaeobiology, planetary formation, and volcanology and explored the topic of space exploration through hands-on activities.

This activity allowed researchers to trial working with outer-space materials to create enrichment activities. It also provided early-career researchers with a pre-structured activity that introduced many of them to the challenges and rewards of working with children for the first time.



Outcomes & Impacts

Over 180 children from three primary schools attended the sessions, and six research students and researchers participated as presenters and facilitators.

Since the project two research students have undertaken additional engagements at two further schools. The activity has also enabled the WAP team to build capacity by creating new and strengthening existing links with participating schools.

“I found that being able to break down complex science into a story fully understandable to school children was a really good exercise in adapting material to different audiences. Working with school children is also really fun because their questions and comments keep you on your toes!”

DPhil student

Funded by: Resourced by the Department of Earth Sciences and WAP. Lunar samples loaned by the Science and Technology Facilities Council.

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Highly Commended

Highly Commended in the Projects Category

The Spirits of Crossbones Graveyard

Time, Ritual, and Sexual Commerce in London

Professor Sondra Hausner, Faculty of Theology and Religion

Crossbones Graveyard is the site of a monthly ritual commemorating the spirits of medieval prostitutes believed to be buried there. The project's multiple community and farther-reaching events explored how the local dynamics of these rituals map onto particular cultural histories.

LinguaMania, LiveFriday

Professor Katrin Kohl, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages & Ashmolean Museum

LinguaMania was a high-profile public event staged in the Ashmolean Museum in January 2017. It included over 30 different language-related activities that extended across an astonishing array of languages, art forms and modes of delivery.

The Vaccine Knowledge Project

Professor Andrew Pollard, Department of Paediatrics

The Vaccine Knowledge Project is a public-facing website which provides comprehensive, evidence-based and independent information about vaccines, infectious diseases, vaccine safety issues and other immunisation topics of broad interest.

Shakespeare's Dead

Professor Emma Smith, Faculty of English Language and Literature & Bodleian Libraries

Shakespeare's Dead was an exhibition designed and curated at the Bodleian Weston Library as part of the national celebrations around the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. It sat alongside an associated programme of events and featured a number of innovative ways to access the exhibition.

Highly Commended



Highly Commended in the Early Career Researcher Category

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Dr Christina Dold, Department of Paediatrics

Christina designed and led a student workshop simulating the process of developing a novel vaccine. The workshop consists of presentations, games and laboratory demonstrations and has been attended by 70 students so far.

Dr Ophélie Lebrasseur, Research Lab for Archaeology

Ophélie has organised and given presentations on the cultural and scientific perceptions of human-chicken interactions at multiple events across the UK, such as student workshops, and has taken a leading role in events for the Being Human festival including a comedy night in London.

Dr Kirsten Smith, Department of Experimental Psychology

Kirsten collaborated with Zoe Papadopoulou, an artist and participant of The Oxford Grief Study, to engage bereaved individuals through several workshops. The workshops used creative evidence-based exercises to give additional structure to a traditional support group setting. The project culminated in a choral performance at the Southbank Centre in London.

Highly Commended in the Building Capacity Category

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Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine

The Unit provides quality health care to the marginalised populations living on both sides of the Thai-Myanmar border. It established the Tak Province Community Ethics Advisory Board to advise researchers on future studies, feasibility, ethical aspects, and communication with the local population.

Medical Research Council Brain Network Dynamics Unit

The Unit has devised and delivered a comprehensive, innovative and impactful programme for public engagement with research, focusing on two key audiences: pupils attending local secondary schools, and people affected by Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders.

Humanities Division PER Summer School, Humanities Training Team

The 2016 Arts & Humanities Research Council – TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities) Summer School is a student-led training opportunity for DPhil students and Early Career Researchers. The week-long programme consisted of Public Engagement with Research (PER) workshops, talks and small group sessions.

The Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards are supported by funding from the University Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF), Research Councils UK (RCUK) Catalyst Seed Fund (CSF), and Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF).

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