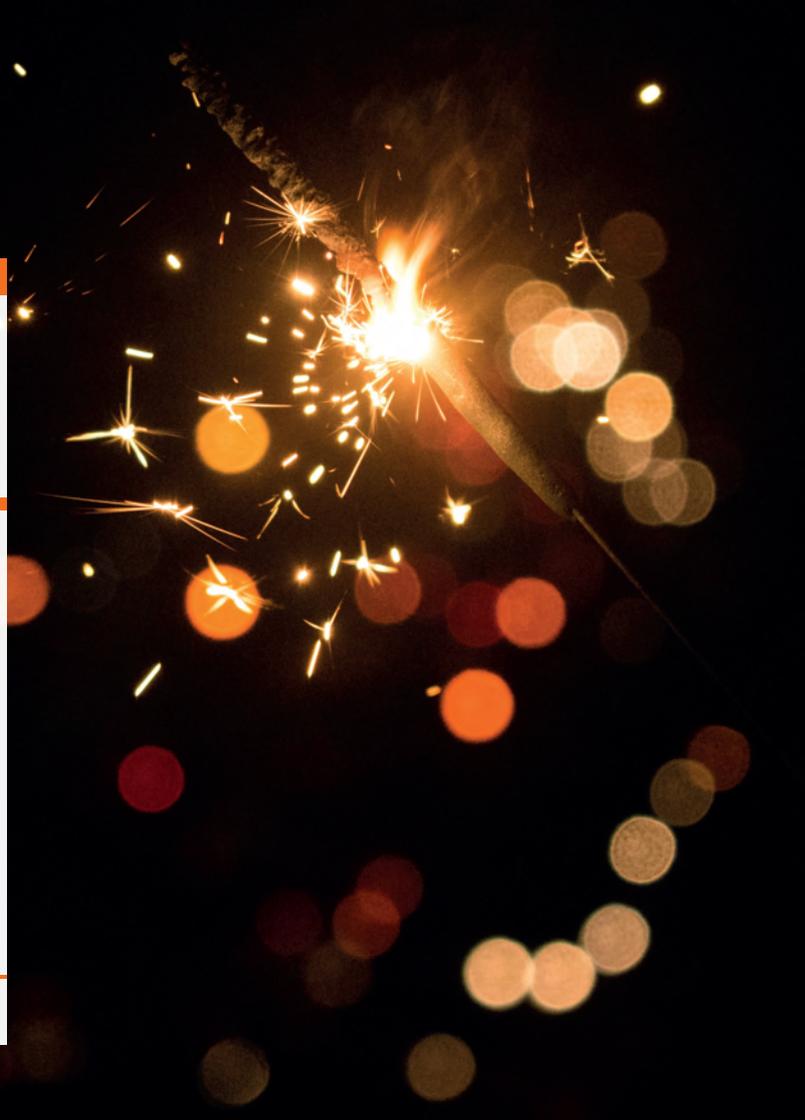




PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS 2018

LONDON'S EVENING UNIVERSITY



The Public Engagement Team provides advice, opportunities and funding for engagement with research. The team was established to support Birkbeck's commitment to making research results available to society, working with external partners and organisations and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange. We work together with researchers to encourage and foster new engagements and to better support existing work. Birkbeck's Public Engagement Team is funded from three sources: Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Funding; an RCUK Strategic Support to Expedite Embedding Public Engagement with Research grant; and the College's own commitment which matches the Wellcome and RCUK funds.

If you would like to develop your own research engagement work, please get in touch with the team.

*bbk.ac.uk/research/public-engagement
public-engagement@bbk.ac.uk*



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AWARDS 2018

*Birkbeck's radical founding principles continue
– nearly 200 years later – to guide our mission
to engage with people outside academia.*

Our mission, along with Birkbeck's unique foundation of evening teaching, enables students from diverse social and educational backgrounds to access a research-intensive learning environment and high-quality research training. It is also expressed in our engagement through research with publics outside the academy.

We understand public engagement with research to include both making our research and knowledge accessible to the public and working with publics to produce that knowledge. Birkbeck is a place where we connect, collaborate, challenge received wisdom and build on the expertise of life and work, as well as 'official', knowledges. We see our public engagement as sitting within the heart of our values, as a core part of research, enabling us to interact with a wide and diverse range of people for the betterment of our research and our researchers.

Birkbeck academics make our public engagement with research mission more than aspiration – they take that mission forward through their work. And these public engagement awards give us a chance to recognise, celebrate and reward researchers' achievements in communicating research, and in using collaboration and engaged practice to transform culture and public life.

*Miriam Żukas, Academic Lead for Public Engagement
and
Julian Swann, PVM Research*

COLLABORATION

This award recognises outstanding engagement work based on an active collaboration and a two-way working relationship with an external partner or partners. The projects in this category featured an impressive range of collaborations between our researchers and non-academic practitioners and institutions. Whether working with artists, charities, galleries, museums or professional societies, each of the projects in this category were based upon meaningful, two-way working relationships.



CONCEIVING HISTORIES

Dr Isabel Davis, Department of English and Humanities

Anna Burel, Visual Artist and Research Coordinator, Studio at Bow Arts Trust

Can history help people today who are experiencing reproductive disappointment, loss and uncertainty? This is the question driving Dr Davis's collaboration with artist Anna Burel. The pair have used a range of archival materials to explore the history of 'un-pregnancy' and have focused on four intriguing case studies to create public-facing events at the Peltz Gallery and the Being Human Festival of the Humanities. Bringing together an historical and artistic perspective, Dr Davis and Ms Burel have used their collaborative approach to inform and inspire contemporary public discourses on fertility through innovative, arts-led events.

BLACKBURN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY ACCESS PROGRAMME

Dr Rebecca Darley, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology

Caroline Wilkinson, Curator of History, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Dr Darley has partnered with the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) in their efforts to encourage more diverse engagement with their collections. The BMAG holds extremely significant, but largely unknown, collections of Late Antique coins and Dr Darley has worked with the Gallery to develop ways in which these exciting collections might attract local audiences, in particular Blackburn's British-South Asian community. Dr Darley has worked with BMAG to develop a new exhibition case, as well as handling sessions that have enabled Blackburn's diverse publics to engage directly with the Gallery's collections.

THE RELUCTANT INTERNATIONALISTS

Dr Jessica Reinisch, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology

Siobhan Morris, Public Engagement and Events Coordinator

Francesca Sanna, children's author and illustrator

Working with award-winning children's author Francesca Sanna, the project group collaborated to explore how best to encourage children to think critically about current international problems, such as the refugee crisis, the outbreak of global epidemics, and the limitations of international organisations. Bringing together authors, illustrators, publishers, academics and a network of teachers they explored refugee stories and the use of factual research, both historical and contemporary, in children's books, films and exhibitions.

META

Dr Iroise Dumontheil, Department of Psychological Sciences

Tony McBride, Production Director, Cardboard Citizens

Sarah Woods, Playwright

Adolescents have greater brain activity when experiencing emotions, compared to adults. They also experience less proficient cognitive control and emotional regulation, and do not take into account someone else's perspective as often as adults do. Meta worked with theatre company Cardboard Citizens to create an original piece of forum theatre to explore Dr Dumontheil's research on the adolescent brain. The piece encouraged students to use their metacognition to reflect on the emotional regulation difficulties of adolescence and identify possible strategies they could use to help them avoid negative responses to others' actions.

'BALINT GROUPS' AND THE PATIENT-DOCTOR RELATIONSHIP

Dr Raluca Soreanu, Department of Psychosocial Studies

Balint Groups are named after the psychoanalyst Michael Balint (1896–1970), who began work in the 1950s to help GPs reach a better understanding of the emotional content of the doctor-patient relationship and so improve their therapeutic potential. Dr Raluca Soreanu organised an exhibition in collaboration with the British Psychoanalytical Society and the UK Balint Society, showing original materials that have never previously been on display. The exhibition has enabled ongoing discussion and the exploration of innovative directions for reform in the healthcare system.

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

This award recognises excellence in communicating research projects and ideas through stimulating or innovative activities. From creating installations for festivals and museums, to working with school groups, to fostering and engaging in dialogue with public stakeholders and writing books and articles for non-academic audiences, projects in this category have used an incredible range of communication styles to share their research with a wide range of non-academic publics. Researchers in this category used their research to inspire wonder and curiosity among their chosen publics.



SCIENCE AND SENSIBILITY IN THE ERA OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND SUPERBUGS

Dr Sanjib Bhakta, Department of Biological Sciences, et al

Tuberculosis (TB) has plagued humankind since ancient history, but a new resurgence of this infectious disease has made Dr Bhakta's research into novel therapeutics more timely than ever. Dr Bhakta has used his research to engage with the public in a number of ways, including working with secondary school students to design their own experiments, participating in Birkbeck's Science Week 2017 and creating a social medical film entitled 'How Clean is Your Stuff' in collaboration with popular youth journal *Shortlist*.

'GOLDILOCKS AND THE WATER BEARS' AND MULTIPLE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

Dr Louisa Preston, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Is there life on Mars? Dr Preston has used this question to engage a wide range of publics with her research into the search for life in the Universe. She has given talks and demonstrations at public festivals, written and presented her own show for BBC Radio 4, written four popular science books and worked with schools to inspire the next generation of STEM students. Whether engaging school-aged students or pensioners, Dr Preston has communicated her research with an eye to capturing her audiences' imagination with clear and engaging storytelling.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC IN SPECULATIVE VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Dr Caroline Edwards, Department of English and Humanities

Speculative literature abounds with post-apocalyptic landscapes and extreme environments like Mars and the centre of the Earth. Dr Edwards has used her research into this literary form and its exploration of gender relations in utopian and dystopian futures, to engage a wide range of audiences in a variety of contexts. This has included contributing to a number of BBC programmes, interviewing author Margaret Atwood at the New Scientist Live Festival and curating an innovative display at the Museum of London, entitled 'Imagined Futures', designed to communicate literary visions of London in a visually compelling way.

RUIN AND REBUILD: EXHIBITION OF URBAN DERELICTION

Dr Grace Halden, Department of English and Humanities

'Ruin and Rebuild: Exhibition of Urban Dereliction' was an installation organised by Dr Halden as part of the 2017 Being Human Festival of the Humanities. Inspired by her research into man-made structural ruination in the twentieth century, this unique 'pop-up' exhibition incorporated the work of numerous artists – all BA and MA students within the School of Arts – each piece featured an interactive element and was accompanied by the artist, enabling visitors to engage directly with both the art and the artist.

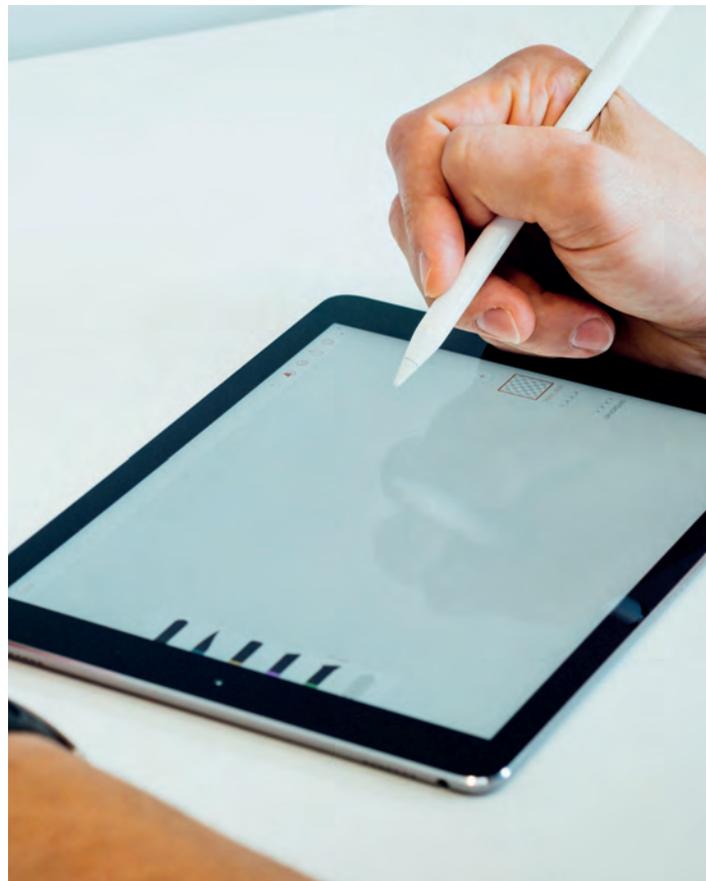
THE DECLINE AND FUTURE OF 'MARKET RESEARCH': AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

Dr Dan Nunan, Department of Management

Market research is a changing profession, which is shifting to more analytical forms. Dr Nunan's longitudinal research has noted a sharp decline in the size and influence of the industry, which threatens the jobs of those within it. To disseminate his findings with key stakeholders, Dr Nunan worked with practicing senior managers and executives to develop an approach that presented the data effectively and provided context to the research. His approach was commended by MRS, a trade body representing the market research industry, with a nomination for a 'Most Provocative Thinker' award.

ENGAGED PRACTICE

This award recognises high-quality research that uses participation and involvement of publics as a core approach to the creation of research. Researchers in this category undertook projects from a range of different disciplinary perspectives, but they all shared in common engagement with non-academic publics throughout the lifespan of their research projects. These projects were built on a foundation of dialogue and deliberation with public participants, which consequently empowered or improved the lives of those involved.



RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT MULTILINGUALISM IN PSYCHOTHERAPY

Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele, Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication

Project partner: Dr Beverly Costa, CEO, Mothertongue

What barriers do speakers of foreign languages face when seeking psychotherapy or counselling in English? In collaboration with Dr Beverly Costa, CEO of Mothertongue, a charity offering multi-ethnic counselling, Professor Dewaele engaged monolingual and multilingual therapists to understand their beliefs, attitudes and practices when working with multilingual patients. Their research has fed back into practice, policy and culture, influenced the work of Mothertongue; informed professional practice in training for interpreters and

psychotherapists, supported advocacy within government and service provision by the NHS, and underpinned creative responses, including an anthology of interpreters' stories and a number of plays.

THE TABLET PROJECT: TODDLER ATTENTIONAL BEHAVIOURS AND LEARNING WITH TOUCHSCREENS

Dr Tim J Smith, Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Department of Psychological Sciences, et al

How does the use of touchscreen devices affect our little ones? This is a question that parents and early-years practitioners have been asking since the introduction of smartphones and tablets suddenly changed the sensory environment of young children. Dr Tim J Smith and his team have used a blended engagement approach for this ongoing project. The team engaged with practitioners, parents and publics through focus groups, online forums, social media and events, as well as seeking collaborations with the Science Gallery London and the Polka Theatre, to both communicate the research and listen to critical stakeholders.

MOBILISING THE VALUE OF BIOCULTURAL COLLECTIONS IN BRAZIL

Dr Luciana Martins, Department of Cultures and Languages

The purpose of Dr Martins' project is to reconnect indigenous communities with a nineteenth-century collection of artefacts and botanical specimens, from the Amazon and the Andes, gathered by British botanist Richard Spruce. Working in international partnership with Professor Nesbitt and Dr Milliken at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and numerous Brazilian institutions, Dr Martins engaged indigenous environmental activists and museum curators. The project has used training workshops and film to enable indigenous participants to recover their histories, adding value to their traditional knowledge and environmental practices. This has also connected Spruce's collection with stories told by the Rio Negro peoples, for exhibition at Kew.

TRANSFORMING CULTURE OR PUBLIC LIFE

This award recognises exemplary research engagement activities which have aimed to stimulate change within our culture or society. Projects in this category tackled a range of societal challenges, often working with organisations and policy makers to highlight the voices of those their research affects. Researchers in this category used their work to challenge conventional wisdom, encourage scrutiny and debate and ultimately to press for societal change.



MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND AGENDA CONTROL

*Dr Justin Schlosberg,
Department of Film, Media
and Cultural Studies*

Who controls the flow and interpretation of news and how can we make our press genuinely free? Dr Schlosberg's research revisits critical questions of media ownership and plurality amidst the complexities of the information age, from the resurgence of press barons to the new influence wielded by internet giants. Dr Schlosberg's research engagement activities concentrate on driving policy change. He has worked with policy-makers, media producers, civil society groups and media outlets to influence policy and promote public debate.

REGULATING HOME EDUCATION: NEGOTIATING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*Professor Daniel Monk,
Department of Law*

Home Education has been described as a 'quiet revolution', with an estimated 65% increase over the last six years. Professor Monk's research is the first sustained examination of this growing phenomenon and its increasingly outdated legal framework. Conflicting interpretations of the existing legal framework often give rise to disputes between parents and local authorities. Professor Monk has therefore been able to use his research to engage at both the local and national policy levels, to galvanise pressure for reform and enable local authority practitioners to provide confident and informed information for parents.

CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF SEX WORKERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NON-OBSERVED ECONOMY IN THE UK

*Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon,
Department of Psychological Sciences,
et al*

New and diverse online markets have turned sex work into a complex and disparate issue, making it difficult to develop a clear and comprehensive typology of contemporary practices. Dr Brooks-Gordon has worked closely with sex workers, the broader sex work community, stakeholders and community co-researchers to understand the extent and changing nature of prostitution in the UK. Through a range of political engagement activities, including chairing a policy working group, contributing to a House of Commons parliamentary day and drafting a public policy briefing, Dr Brooks-Gordon has aimed to use research engagement to empower marginalised groups, reduce harms, and drive policy developments.

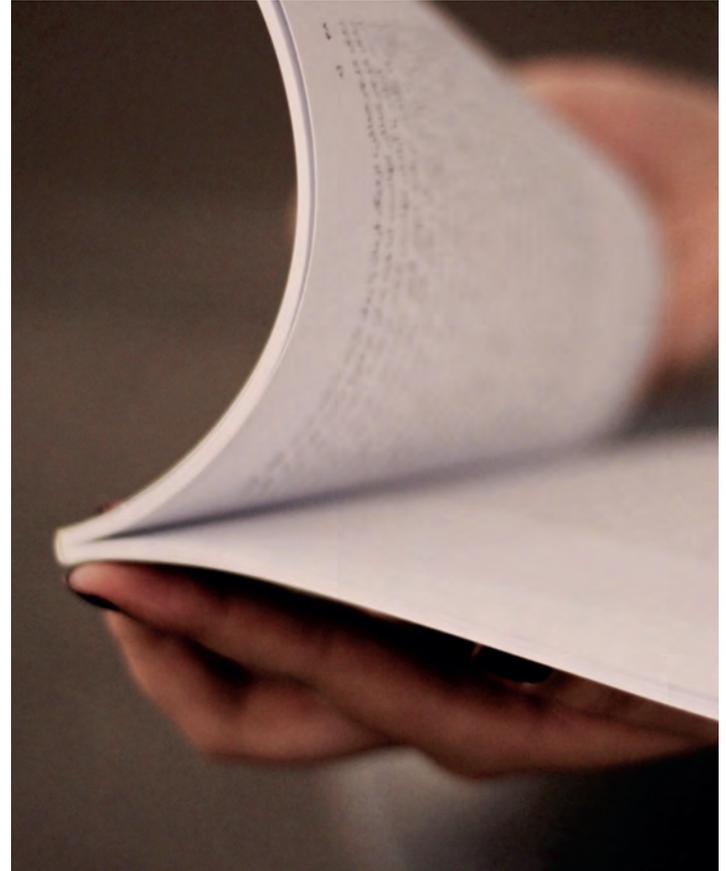
TRANSFORMING INSTITUTIONS BY GENDERING CONTENTS AND GAINING EQUALITY IN RESEARCH (TRIGGER)

*Professor Helen Lawton Smith,
Department of Management*

TRIGGER was a five-country European consortium project that aimed to understand the under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) and provide recommendations for fostering organisational change. Professor Lawton Smith established an active external advisory board to shape the focus of TRIGGER's influence on other organisations, as well as organising networking and panel discussion events to promote debate. These events have led to further dialogues with practitioners and organisations about how to tackle gender inequality.

PHD/EARLY CAREER

This award recognises the inspiring public engagement work undertaken by researchers in the early stages of their research career. Applications to this category spanned a range of engagement style, with applicants coming from disciplines across the College. The commitment this group of early career scholars has shown to undertaking engagement work alongside their research is particularly of note.



HISTORY ACTS

Guy Beckett, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology

Dr Steffan Blayney, Research Assistant, University of Sussex

Guy Beckett is a PhD candidate in History who runs History Acts, a radical history forum that explores the links between history and activism. Guy works with Dr Steffan Blayney, a research assistant at the University of Sussex, to run monthly workshops that bring together activists organising in an area of contemporary political relevance with historians working on a related topic. The forum is based at the University of London, with support from partners, the Raphael Samuel History Centre and History Workshop Online.

RECOVERING WOMEN IN THE DIGITAL AGE: EDITING THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY

Flore Janssen, Department of English and Humanities

Alexis Wolf, PhD Candidate, School of Arts

Beatrice Bazell, School of Arts

Flore Janssen is a PhD candidate in the School of Arts whose research looks at the representation of women in the long nineteenth century. Flore has worked with co-founders Alexis Wolf and Beatrice Bazell to run a series of Wikipedia editing workshops designed to support new Wikipedia contributors – both academic researchers and members of the public – in producing well-researched pages on forgotten women of the long nineteenth century. The team has been supported in their efforts by partners from the Pre-Raphaelite Society and Wikimedia UK.

RADICAL BROADCASTS: THEORY ON TV 1968–1990

Colm McAuliffe, Department of English and Humanities and,

Dr Matthew Harle, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Archive Curator, Barbican Centre

Colm McAuliffe is a PhD candidate in the Department of English and Humanities whose research looks at how the works of continental theorists impacted the arts and popular culture of Britain in the 1970s and 1980s. Working with Dr Matthew Harle, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as well as partners including Whitechapel Gallery and Verso Publishing, Colm is planning an exciting season of archive television screenings drawn from extensive research into the BFI television archives. Screenings are set to take place in venues across London in April and May 2018.

HOW TO PRONOUNCE DESIGN IN PORTUGUESE: BRAZIL TODAY

Frederico Duarte, Department of Cultures and Languages

Frederico Duarte's PhD is a collaborative doctoral partnership between Birkbeck and the Victoria & Albert Museum that aims to determine a collecting policy of Brazilian contemporary design for an international design museum. Frederico has curated an exhibition entitled 'How to Pronounce Design in Portuguese: Brazil Today' following an invitation from MUDE, Lisbon's Design and Fashion Museum. The exhibition explored how design has been employed in contemporary Brazil to promote, and also question, issues of progress, consumption, identity, heritage, citizenship and protest.

WHITE-BOX ENSEMBLE LEARNING METHODS

Alan Mosca, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems

Alan Mosca is PhD candidate in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems whose research in the field of Machine Learning uses ‘white-box’ methodologies to design new types of Ensemble methods. Alan’s research has created two new types of Ensemble methods – Deep Incremental Boosting (DIB) and Boosted Residual Networks (BRN) – and he has shared these findings with machine learning professionals through a variety of public talks and workshops. He also created an open-source software toolkit, which has been both used by, and contributed to, by the wider machine learning community.

I PERSEQUITATI INVISIBILI

Gabriella Maria Romano, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology

Gabriella Maria Romano is a PhD candidate in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology whose research examines LGBT lives in Italy during the fascist era. Gabriella Maria is planning a series of talks with secondary school students, in which she will use a micro-history approach to create story-based narratives as a way of sharing her research findings with students studying this period. Gabriella plans to work with The Istituto Piemontese di Studi Storici della Resistenza e della Società Contemporanea ‘Silvano Agosti’ di Torino to organise and coordinate the series.

GO THE WAY YOUR BLOOD BEATS: ON TRUTH, BISEXUALITY AND DESIRE

Michael Amherst, Department of English and Humanities

Michael Amherst is a PhD candidate in the Department of English and Humanities whose research asks the question, ‘How are we to recognise ourselves’, and explores the question of how we negotiate a sense of self in relation to sexuality and desire. Michael has used his research as a jumping off point to write a creative non-fiction book entitled, *Go the Way Your Blood Beats: On Truth, Bisexuality and Desire*. In order to engage non-academic public audiences with his work, Michael will be taking part in a number of panel discussions in bookstores across the UK.

TOTTENHAM’S TROJAN HORSE? STADIUM-LED REGENERATION IN NORTH LONDON

Dr Mark Panton, School of Business, Economics and Informatics

‘Our Tottenham’, community group

Dr Mark Panton recently received his PhD for his thesis entitled ‘How do Stakeholders Influence Stadium-led Regeneration? The Story from East Manchester and Tottenham.’ Dr Panton’s research focused on understanding local communities’ and stakeholders’ perspectives on stadium-led regeneration. Through the research, Dr Panton was privy to the stories of real people, those in danger of losing their homes, their livelihoods and their connections in their community due to regeneration. Now members of the community have helped to shape a graphic book telling their stories, amongst the complex ideas and relationships involved in large-scale redevelopment.



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