



University of Birmingham Public Engagement with Research Newsletter December 2018

T'was the week before Christmas, a time for research assuagement, but still plenty of action in public engagement! Yes, PER Team are here to bring you one final brandy-buttered helping of updates and opportunities...



Out with the Old, In the the New!

With the last few days of 2018 dwindling and an action-packed year of PER behind us, it's time to start looking to 2019. Yes, that's right, just because our brilliant public engagement efforts across the Institution have been recognised through our [Silver Engage Watermark Award](#), there's still more to do. With our Institution-level Award still so fresh it's yet to arrive in the

post, first on our minds is, of course, recognition. So we're incredibly pleased to announce that we have just launched our new [Light of Understanding Award for Excellence in Public Engagement](#) to reward individual researchers and groups who are doing brilliant engagement work. We'll be announcing the first ever winner(s) at our annual PER Day conference, which will be held on 5th April 2019, where Prof Alice Roberts will present the prize of £2,000. Sadly, the prize isn't cold, hard cash, but rather a grant to be used to spread the 'Light of Understanding to others; that is, to carry out engagement work that encourages and inspires other researchers to get involved. Nominations are open now, closing on 5th March, so [let us know who you think should be rewarded](#) for their efforts (self nominations welcome too!).

For those of you looking to develop your public engagement practice, we'll also be running the second iteration of our [Leading to Engage](#) intensive training programme for mid-career researchers early in the New Year, so watch this space. And last, but absolutely not least for this month, is confirmation of the 2019 date you've all been waiting for...! Yes, we've booked our annual engagement conference, PER Day for 5th April 2019! After [last years' sell-out event](#), this time we'll be heading to the Bramall to make sure we've got enough tickets for everyone. Come along to find out about all things UoB Public Engagement, explore our *RADICAL PRACTICE* theme, hone your PER skills and see the first Light of Understanding Award be presented by Prof Alice Roberts. Bookings open early February so watch this space for more information. And it's not just PER Team that are still busy despite the festive chill, read on for oodles of 2019 PER opportunities including your chance to engage some of the huge audiences at [British Science Festival](#), which for 2019 will be heading down the road to the University of Warwick.

You'll be missed!

Unfortunately the end of 2018 is tinged with sadness here at PER Team HQ, as our fab administrator, Elle Charles, is leaving us for pastures new, downstairs in the PA Office, to provide full-time support to Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Impact, Heather Widdows. We'd have been sunk without all of Elle's support over the last 8 months so we'd like to thank her and wish her all the best for the future!

In the New Year we'll be faced with the difficult task of finding a new administrator to get the Team back up to full strength. If you think you'd be the perfect addition to our dedicated Team, check out the job description [here](#).

Upcoming Events/ Opportunities



BSF back in the West Midlands

British Science Festival is coming to Warwick in 2019. Applications are open for ECRs to deliver Award Lectures (info [here](#), apply [here](#)) and Activity Proposals (info [here](#), apply [here](#)), deadlines 7th January and 18th February, respectively. So get thinking! PER Team are happy to help too so [email us](#) if you want to discuss an idea.

ESRC Impact Prizes

Are you a currently or previously ESRC-funded researcher who has made impact? The ESRC Impact Awards are now open so why not pop in a nomination. There are 6 categories including 'Outstanding Societal Impact' and winners are awarded £10,000 which can be spend on PER. Details [here](#), deadline 8th January.



Science Museum Live Science

An opportunity for biomedical researchers to carry out research with visitor volunteers in the Science Museum's contemporary science wing. Deadline 11th January 2019 More info / apply [here](#).

EPS Forum

Calling all public engagement enthusiasts in Engineering and Physical Sciences! The first ever EPS PER Forum will be held on 23rd January 2019, 12–2pm for you to meet up with colleagues and share your experience over light refreshments. Details and [sign up here](#), plus [get in touch](#) if you would like a slot to present what you've been up to.



BIG Little Event

The British Interactive Group (BIG) will hold their next Little Event, a brilliant one-day conference for early-career STEM communicators and those who are new to science communication, at Birmingham's ThinkTank Museum on 24th January. Tickets cost £45, more info [here](#).

Green Heart Festival

[Green Heart Festival is coming!](#) If you have a public engagement idea that you would like to bring to life in the heart of our campus let the [Festival Task Group know](#), take part in our [Research at the Heart of Brum](#) research market or [ask us for advice](#). Deadline 28th January 2019.



I'm a Scientist...Get Me Out of Here!

Is an award-winning, national, online schools engagement project. The next round will run in March 2019 and applications for [scientists](#) and [engineers](#) are open now. Deadline is 28th January. The project is hugely rewarding and winners get £500 to spend on their own engagement projects.

Rush Hour Research

This seminar series, held at the University of Birmingham School, allows teachers and educators to engage with current UoB research. The event consists of short presentations plus time for tea, cakes and networking. The next event is 29th January on Pattern Grammar. [Click here](#) for more or [get in touch](#) if you would like to present.



Breakfast Brainstorm

Our next monthly drop-in session will take place on 30th January 2019 from 9–11 am. Open to all who want to learn more or get advice and support on public engagement. Find us in Muirhead Tower Starbucks, upper level seating – look out for the PER Team banner! See [HERE](#) or check [#uobbrainstorm](#).

BBSRC Innovator of the Year

Is an award scheme that recognises and rewards individuals and small teams who have harnessed the potential of their excellent research. Winners in each category will receive £10,000, with a further £10,000 for the overall winner. Deadline: 30th January 2019. More info and apply [here](#).





BIEA STEM Competition

The British Interactive Education Association is launching its 2019 competition themed around 'Fighting Extinction' over 2,000 schools got involved last year so if you would like to help children find technology-driven solutions to help save dwindling species then get involved. More info [here](#), competition runs January – July.

MDS Forum

Calling all public engagement enthusiasts in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences! The first ever MDS PER Forum will be held on 12th February, 2-4pm for you to meet up with colleagues and share your experiences over light refreshments. Details and sign up [here](#) plus, [get in touch](#) if you would like a slot to present what you've been up to.



The Engaged Researcher

Our new training for researchers to find out what we mean by research engagement (in the widest sense) and how to get started in doing it. The session will include guidance on how to decide on messaging, target different groups and audiences, techniques to use and how to know if what you're doing is working. Come along on 18th February 2018, 10am-12pm, Muirhead Tower Room 420, light refreshments provided. [Sign-up here](#).

Internal PER Fund

Apply to the UoB PER Fund for up to £2,000 to kick start your public engagement. Next deadline 28th February or up to £250 available year round. Open to all UoB researchers, including PGRs. Details and form [here](#).



Research at the Heart of Brum

Our first event in October in New Street Station saw researchers interact with almost 900 people, so now we're making plans for our next research demo 'pop-ups' at community festivals in June and July 2019. [Get in touch](#) if you'd be interested in taking part or if you know somewhere we should be popping-up!

BIG 2019 Announced

The British Interactive Group (BIG) have announced their annual skills-sharing conference: The [BIG Event 2019](#), which will be held at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, 17th-19th July. If you have a great idea for a session, proposals are [open now](#) (or [ask us](#) for advice).



Engage Academies

The NCCPE have just opened bookings for the 2019 cohorts of the [Engage Academy](#) and [Engage Researchers Academy](#). Both are year-long programmes for engagement professionals and researchers to learn, reflect on their practice and develop new ways of working within a supportive group. Cost is £990 or £800 for early bird

places. Apply here: [professionals](#), [researchers](#).

Leamington Cafe Scientifique

[Café Scientifiques](#) have been popping up around the UK since 1998 in cafes and bars to provide a non-traditional setting for science talks and conversations. The Leamington branch are now looking for speakers for their upcoming monthly events find out more [here](#) or get [in touch](#) if you'd be interested in speaking.



Pharmacology Bursaries

The British Pharmacological Society offers funding members for engagement activities – <£250 available year round or <£1,500 available bi-annually. Next deadline in July, more info and apply [here](#).

Reaction Awards

Grants up to £5,000 are available to any researcher for public engagement activities provided the application includes research in an STFC-funded area of science or technology. Full details [here](#), applications open year round.



Big Bang Fair

Volunteering at engagement events can be a great way to get experience and help you get started in engaging others in your own research. Big Bang delivers activities for thousands of children each year and is recruiting volunteers now. Find out [what roles are available](#) and [how to apply](#), [robotics specialist roles](#) available too!

STEM Ambassador Training

[STEM Ambassadors](#) have created several free online courses to learn about different elements of engaging school children with research. Anyone can sign up through Future Learn for courses on [Planning Activities](#), [Communicating Research](#), [Evaluation and Feedback](#) and [Diversity and Inclusivity](#).



Funding Opportunities

Internal funding

The PER Team has a small pot of funding available to help researchers to get great PER ideas off the ground. Small grants of <£250 can be applied for year round and we also have larger grants of <£2,000 which are assessed quarterly. The next deadline 28th February for outcome w/c 18th March, then 30th May, for outcome w/c 17th June. Find out more and apply [HERE](#).

External funding

Check out the lists on our blog, they're divided into [science/tech](#) on one list and [social/community](#) based initiatives on another.

Questions? Know of more opportunities?

Been doing PER? Or need advice and support?
Let us know via:



Twitter



Blog



Email