



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**COVID-19 / Coronavirus** – PER Team would like to extend our thoughts and best wishes to everyone at this difficult time. Everyone's priority must be towards being kind and supportive of one another in whatever ways are possible under our given circumstances. Whilst PER absolutely won't be at the forefront of people's minds, we are also mindful of those for whom normal working has changed and who might be keen to develop their engagement skills and perhaps get involved in some social distancing-friendly engagement activity. Therefore we will be continuing to issue communications, providing support to anyone who would like it via email, phone, virtual meetings and our regular Breakfast Brainstorm drop-ins, which have now moved to Slack. Alongside an adapted 'business as usual' we will also be developing additional support and resources over the coming weeks and months and highlighting where others in the sector are using innovative and creative means to continue to engage publics with research, the importance of which has scarcely been more obvious. Take care and stay safe all.

### Internal Events & Opportunities

**Breakfast Brainstorm** – our scheduled monthly drop-in, due to take place on **29 April**, will no longer go ahead in person as planned. We can now be found on Slack, [click here to join our workspace](#). Please continue to watch Twitter [@UoBengage](#) for announcements or if you were planning to drop in please get in touch via email at [engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk) and we'll be happy to put in a 1-to-1 Skype/Zoom meeting for you to get some advice.

**PER Day** – Our annual conference, due to take place on **24 April** at Edgbaston Park Hotel, has of course been **postponed**. We will reschedule later in the year as appropriate and will issue a save the date as soon as the situation becomes clearer. Key announcements and skills sessions that were planned for the day will be issued online in due course so please watch out for these.

**PER Fund** - The Public Engagement Team's funding scheme is open year round to support great ideas with seed-corn funding of <£250. For larger amounts, <£2,000 deadlines are quarterly (27 May, 26 Aug, 18 Nov, 26 Feb). [Details, criteria and application form here](#).

### External Events & Opportunities

**NCCPE Virtual Support** – the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) is currently developing its online practice to ensure that support for public engagement is maintained and strengthened during social distancing. A suite of resources and initiatives will be launched soon, but in the meantime they will be running weekly online Public Engagement Professions get-togethers (or #PEPTogether) **every Thursday**, starting at 11:30am. [Click here for info or to join](#).

**Virtually Social** – Is a new weekly online meet up for people interested in Science Communication and Public Engagement. Meetings take place every Friday at 2pm, with the next today, **3 April**, and will be convened via the video conferencing platform, [Zoom](#) and [click here for more info or to join](#). If there is appetite we will look at how to run similar meet-ups for the Midlands.

**Fast Track Impact Webinars** – Prof Mark Reed is offering a series of free, interactive webinars to provide free access to his newest and best loved training sessions. Booking for initial seminars has opened and new sessions will be added regularly. The next available session is on "*How to write the impact sections of a Horizon 2020 proposal*", taking place at 3pm, **3 April**. [Find out more and book](#).

**Ri Internships** – The Royal Institution is seeking PhD students on qualifying Research Council DTPs to complete 3 month internships as Education Programmes Assistant or Christmas Lectures Assistant. Both of these positions will

now run over Autumn/Winter 2020 and will involve being based at the Ri in London during this time. The Education Assistant will help run the Ri Schools Programme and the application deadline is **6 April**. The Lectures Assistant will help with planning and filming the iconic Lectures and the application deadline is **21 April**. [All info and apply here](#).

**NCCPE Engage Academy** – The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement’s in-depth, year-long engagement training scheme is now open for bookings for 2020/21. The Academy costs £990 and covers all sessions, a ‘Basecamp’ support group, food during workshops, toolkits and access to a mentor. [Details and apply here](#).  
Deadline **9 April**.

**CRUK Engagement Prizes** – Cancer Research UK want to recognise researchers who demonstrate excellence in engaging the public. The six prize categories include ‘Inspiring Leadership’, ‘Rising Star’, and ‘Patient Involvement’. Prize values range from £1,000-£5,000 and self-nominations are encouraged. [Details and apply here](#), deadline 3pm, **9 April**.

**Global Climate Fiction Contest** – Everything Change is a short story competition looking for entries of 5,000 words or less that explore how we can learn to live within the world’s planetary boundaries. First prize winner receives \$1,000, with 9 runners up receiving \$100 each. Entry is free. [Details and how to apply here](#). Deadline **15 April**.

**Biochemical Society Grants** – are now open for applications with a deadline of **16 April**. The scheme funds molecular bioscience public engagement and outreach activities with young people and the community, up to £1,000. Criteria [here](#), apply [here](#).

**Psych Star Scheme** – is a Royal College of Psychiatrists scheme that enables medical students to gain support for activities intended to increase awareness and knowledge of psychiatry. Awardees receive financial support for activities, mentorship and travel funds. [Details here](#), deadline **20 April**.

**Science Me A Story** – The Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK is inviting entries to its Science Me A Story competition which aims to promote science using stories as a tool to communicate and engage primary school children. Stories should be aimed at ages 6-12 and can be in English or Spanish. Anyone over 18 is eligible to take part, [full details here](#). First prize is worth £150, submit manuscripts to [relatosciencia@sruk.org.uk](mailto:relatosciencia@sruk.org.uk), deadline **20 April**.

**Online and Media Writing Course** – A 10-week online course from UWE Bristol aimed at giving participants the confidence and know-how to write clear, engaging stories that stay true to the science. The course runs from **20 April – 14 June** and costs £750 (UK) or £1,200 (international). [Find out more and enrol here](#).

**Health Campaigns Grants** – the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is offering awards <\$100,000 for projects that will accelerate the improvement of coverage, reach, efficiency and effectiveness of health campaigns in low and middle income countries. Significant follow-up funding may also be available. [Details here](#), deadline **22 April**.

**Participatory Environment Science Awards** – the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is seeking proposals for collaborative environmental sciences research to be carried out with a defined community or public group. Grants are worth <£30,000 each. [Details here](#), deadline **24 April**.

**Science Communication Prize** – the Biochemical Society’s scheme is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students and awards cash prizes to the best biochemistry-related written, audio or video content. Articles/ essays can be <1,500 words, audio/video content should be 2-5 minutes. Top prize is £300 plus mentoring. [Details and apply here](#). Deadline **28 April**.

**Public Interest Journalism Grants** – available to support partnerships that aim to build more durable, resilient, networked, impactful public interest journalism organisations in Europe. Grants are worth <€200,000 over 3 years. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **30 April**.

**Beetlestone Award** – The Beetlestone Award recognises leaders in the field of ‘informal learning in science’ who is clearly making a legacy in the field. The winner received £500, a £500 bursary for further dissemination and free registration for the BIG STEM Communicators conference (worth <£290). [Details here](#), deadline **1 May**.

**Bristol Science Film Festival** – Is now accepting short science-based fact or fiction films for their annual short science film competition. Winning films receive cash prizes and all shortlisted film makers are invited to a screening on 6 June as part of the festival. Details [here](#), deadline **1 May**. For tips on making a winning film see [here](#), or check out the 2019 shortlist [here](#).

**ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)** – The Economic and Social Research Council IAA is currently open for the next funding round, deadline **4 May**. If you have any queries you can speak to one of the team via email at [esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@contacts.bham.ac.uk). Details, deadlines, guidance and application forms ESRC [can be accessed here](#).

**Being Human Festival** – for 2020 the UK-wide humanities festival will take place **12-22 November** and will have a theme of ‘New Worlds’. There are 3 ways to apply to get involved: 1. ‘Open Call’ for activities that do not require funding (deadline **12 June**), 2. ‘Small Awards’ for individual activities that may apply for <£2,000 (deadline **29 May**), 3. ‘Hub Award’ for an institution-wide programme of activities for which grants of <£5,000 are available (deadline **29 May**). [All info and apply here](#).

**Citizen Engagement in Cohesion Policy** – the EU Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy is seeking proposals for projects that provide citizens and civil society organisations efficient means to participate in the design and implementation of cohesion policy, for approx. €25,000 per proposal. [Details here](#), deadline **31 May**.

**Community History Prize** - The Women's History Network Community History Prize 2020 is now live and calling for entries of Community History Projects that are by, about or for women that have been completed between January 2019 and June 2020. The winning project is awarded £500. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **31 May**.

## **NEW: External Events & Opportunities – Rolling/No Deadlines**

**Facebook Guidance** – as many projects move online during this restriction period, many experienced engagers are sharing their expertise. Sophia Collins of the Nappy Science Gang and the Parenting Science Gang, which both aimed to engage parents with scientific topics, offers her advice on using Facebook [here](#) and [here](#).

**AHRC Funding** - Follow-on funding for impact and engagement: up to £30,000 available for AHRC-grant holders to explore innovative and creative engagements with new audiences which stimulate pathways to impact. Deadline **rolling**. Details and apply [here](#).

**Endocrinology Grants** – the Endocrinology Society awards grants <£1,000 to its members for public engagement activities including demos, classroom resources, videos/podcasts and digital learning materials to engage non-specialist audiences with hormones and the impact of endocrinology. Rolling, 6 monthly, deadlines, next is **23 September**. [Details and apply here](#).

**#ScienceFromHome** – In response to the unprecedented disruption that is upon us there are lots of innovative public engagement projects popping up to bring research and science to life in exciting new ways. One such initiative is [#sciencefromhome](#) which has filled Twitter with videos of engagement practice, experiments, adapted research methods and more. Why not join in?

**Coronavirus Tech Handbook** – Although not strictly public engagement with research, this is a fabulous crowdsourced resource that might be of interest to many of you and has sections including: event alternatives, public advice, infographics, researcher information, etc.

**Lifeology.io** – Is a new educational platform which helps scientists work with artists and storytellers to produce better visual science communication products. It's free to become a member, chat with members in a global network and engage in learning opportunities and live chats and webinars about science art and scicomm.

**Labster** – Is a virtual laboratory which aims to give students access to a realistic lab experience that will let them perform experiments and practice their skills in a fun and risk-free learning environment. They have a number of useful resources including [webinars](#) on how to teach and run [science classes online](#) including [blog posts](#) and a [resource centre](#).

**NCCPE Guides** – The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement publishes a number of useful guides to help you plan your engagement ([PER Team does a couple too!](#)). They cover all aspects of planning, delivering an evaluating your PER project. [Find them here](#) (search ‘Guides’).

**Child Development Grants** – are available from the Waterloo Foundation to support the dissemination of knowledge and best practice to children and their carers, and to related professionals. Maximum award is £10,000. No deadline for submission, but end of February or mid-June 2020 preferred (to align with research funding dates). [Details here](#).

**Animal Welfare Grants** – The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust supports organisations and individuals with projects that encourage initiatives designed to improve animal welfare, promote alternative methods to animal experimentation and their practical implementation or promote and encourage practical work in alleviating suffering and preventing cruelty to animals. [Details here](#), or [apply here](#).

**Community Engagement Online Course** - A new FREE online course for community engagement practitioners in low and middle-income countries is now live on The Global Health Network. [The Practice and Ethics of Participatory Visual Methods for Community Engagement in Public Health and Health Science](#) facilitating engagement processes with groups of community residents to generate creative visual materials and foster discussion and learning about health and health research.

**Heritage Grants** – National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK. Grants are worth £10,000 <£100,000 each for up to 5 years. Applications open **year-round**. [More details and apply here](#).

**Otto Harpner Fund** - Supports short visits to Austria by UK residents (or vice versa), to undertake specific cultural activities that help foster relationships between the two countries. Awards are generally in the region of £500 but may be worth up to £1,000. Apply **year-round**. [Details here](#).

**Plant Pathology Promotion fund** – From the British Society for Plant Pathology to support projects aiming to promote an understanding and awareness of plant pathology to a wider audience. Funding is worth up to £2,000. **No deadline**, applications considered quarterly. [Apply online here](#).

**Animal Behaviour Grants** – the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour offers Public Engagement Grants of <£2,000 to members and non-members to create activities aimed at young people and/or the general public, to communicate the science of animal behaviour. **Open year-round** with outcomes in June and November, [details here](#).

**British Pharmacological Society Engagement grants** – Grants up to £1,500 available to support outreach activities related to innovative pharmacology. Seeding grants of £250 available **all year round**. [Details here](#).

**Physiological Society Funding** – Grants of <£500 available to members and non-members **year-round** to increase understanding and awareness of physiology, engaging study at higher education and beyond, and to promote The Society, its vision and its activities. Collaborative / creative applications encouraged. [Details here](#).

**Reaction Awards** - Grants up to £5,000 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**.

**NC3Rs Public Engagement Grants** -Up to £1,500 to support NC3Rs-funded researchers (past and present) to engage the public with approaches to replace, reduce and refine animal use in science. Deadline: quarterly, [apply here](#).

**Genetics Society Public Engagement Grants** - Grants of up to £500 are available to members of the Genetics Society to cover costs associated with travel and materials for public engagement activities relevant to Genetics. Deadline: rolling, [apply here](#).

**Public Engagement Jobs** - Career opportunities in Public Engagement and SciComm are often advertised through relevant JISC mailing lists. If you would like to hear about such vacancies please sign up to the [NCCPE JISCmail](#) and/or the [SciComm](#) list.

**BBSRC Professional Internships** – Available to BBSRC-funded PhD students to gain 3 months' work experience with the Council, including in Public Engagement. Applications are **open year round** and details on how to apply [can be found here](#).

For more information, to ask questions or to let us know about other opportunities, contact us via; our blog at <https://thinkpe.net> by email: [engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:engage@contacts.bham.ac.uk) or Twitter [@uobengage](#)

Many thanks from the UoB PER Team