



# 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, is due to take place on **24 June**. 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.

### External Events & Opportunities

**Cocomad Festival** – the annual Cotteridge Park Community Festival, Cocomad, planned for **4 July**, will now be moving online. In 2019 dozens of UoB researchers and students took activities and demos for visitors to get involved with. If you have engaging content, demos or other online content that you'd like to share with local Birmingham families, get in touch with activity coordinator, [Chris Hamlett](#) ASAP.

**Ecological Society Training** – The British Ecological Society has made a [suite of workshops available on their website](#) to members and non-members (membership is free for students). Topics include inclusivity in engagement, Zine production, and digital content creation and sessions run from **18 May** onwards. Most courses are free to members, though a few are charged (some bursaries are available).

**Hyperlocal Engagement Survey** – the NCCPE (National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement) are looking for how hyperlocal public and community engagement has continued during lockdown. If you know of good examples, please fill out the short survey [here](#). More details on the project can be found [here](#) and if you would like to speak to others interested in this topic, why not join [PEP Together](#) on **4 June**.

**Hullabaloo Carnival** – [Hullabaloo](#) is an annual carnival of science, nature and arts based that usually takes place on the Isle of Wight in May, however for 2020 it is moving online using pre-recorded content to be 'aired' 19-21 June and is seeking contributions. This can be existing or new video content and can be short (>3 minutes) and does not have to be professionally shot and the subject can be anything science or nature related. More info here, [email](#) to get involved, deadline **5 June**.

**Earth School** – is an initiative from TED Ed that hosts a wide range of content for children and families, stratified by age/curriculum level in the format of an “immersive, 30 day nature adventure” that runs between Earth Day (22 April) and World Environment Day (**5 June**). Not only does the site have lots of inspirational content you can adapt to your own needs, but you can also [create your own video lessons](#). You can also find a blog with more info [here](#).

**Bristol Science Film Fest** - Bristol Science Film Festival celebrates science through the medium of film. Join us online on **6-7 June** as we watch the shortlist of this year’s short science film competition and announce our winners! Details, joining information and programme [here](#).

**#EnvChem2020** – Is a free online public event run by the Environmental Chemistry Group who are looking for those with online public engagement experience and researchers in relevant fields to contribute to the event by delivering expert sessions, articles or poster presentations. Taking place **10 July**, 10am-5pm, contribution deadline **10 June**. [Find out more, register for attendance or submit abstracts here](#).

**RoI Discover Grants** – Science Foundation Ireland is accepting applications for grants worth <€300,000 over two years for projects that extend activity and ability in engaging the public in STEM in the Republic of Ireland. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **10 June**.

**Clean Air Communication Webinars** – ClairCity is an EU project involving citizens across Europe in local and regional clean air decision making and they are now sharing their experiences through a series of webinars starting on **11 June**, 10-11:20am. More info and register free [here](#).

**Inspiring Science Awards** – Nature Journals has two awards available to recognise female scientists who have encouraged women to engage in STEM subjects. Winners receive <\$30,000 to spend on initiatives linked to award to further the reach and impact of the research engagement. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **14 June**.

**Plant Science Video Competition** – the Global Plant Council has launched a video competition for researchers and students to convey through 60 second video clips what plant science research they do and why it is important. Clips can be submitted through Twitter or Instagram and the two winners will receive \$250. Details [here](#), deadline **15 June**.

**Evaluation Training** – Evaluation consultant, Jamie Gallagher, is running 3-hour training sessions on **24 June** and **2 July** on how to gather reliable data and tell the story of the impact of public engagement activities. Sessions are currently priced at £30 and are selling out quickly. Find more info and book [here](#).

**Rosalind Franklin Competitions** – To mark 100 years since her birth, the Rosalind Franklin Institute is running two competitions. The first is an essay competition for undergraduate scientists, prize £200, deadline **26 June**. The second is an image competition open to all, prize £100, deadline **25 July**. Details and apply [here](#).

**COPD Art Contest** – The European Lung Foundation have launched a competition update the representation of people with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) as the majority of images used date from the 1930’s. Entrants need to create and submit an artwork based on the lived experiences of women with COPD and the winner will receive Eu 5,000 and be commissions to produce a series of images. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **30 June**.

**‘Biofaction’ Artist Residencies** – An opportunity for four artists, designers, biohackers, musicians or cultural practitioners who want to work with synthetic biology research to take up residencies in labs in Spain, Denmark and the UK from Autumn 2020 to Spring 2021 with support of up to €7,000 to cover travel and expenses. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **30 June**.

**Heritage Emergency Fund** – National Lottery are making £50 million available to support the heritage sector in response to the coronavirus outbreak through grants of £3,000-£50,000. Find out more including how to apply [here](#). Deadline **30 June**.

**Weather Photographer Competition** – The Royal Meteorological Society’s Weather Photographer of the Year competition is now open for entries from photographers of all ages and abilities. Details [here](#), enter [here](#), deadline **6 July**.

**Jewish Literature Prize** – The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation Literary Prize awards £4,000 to recognise a book that has stimulated interest in and awareness of themes of Jewish concern among a wider reading public. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **10 July**.

**Public Health Grants** – Department of Health and Social Care is offering grants to support research to evaluate public health measures, healthcare intervention and health and social care to promote good oral and dental health. There are no fixed limits on the duration of projects or budget. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **28 July**.

**Citizen Science Collaboration Grant** – UKRI have grants of up to £375,000 available for multidisciplinary research collaborations that involve citizens to address societally-relevant issues. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **9 September**.

**AHRC Engagement Fellowships** - Support arts and humanities researchers whose work has a significant equality, diversity and inclusion dimension. The fellowship is worth up to £100,000 and runs for up to 12 months. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **10 September**.

**Wellcome Engagement Funding** - This helps Wellcome grantholders engage the public with their research. Grants are worth between £10,000 and £250,000. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **24 September**.

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

**COVID-19 Policy Analysis** – Scientists for Labour are seeking volunteers with scientific backgrounds to advise on the science and evidence behind government policies being announced as part of the COVID-19 response and contribute to briefings for the Shadow Cabinet. For more information or to get involved email [here](#).

**In2scienceUK Virtual Placements** – In2science provides placements for disadvantaged Year 12 students to find out more about getting into STEM. They are currently looking for STEM research or PhD students to help develop online research-based content for students, particular those in life and physical sciences. A payment of £150 is available for getting involved. Email [jp@in2scienceuk.org](mailto:jp@in2scienceuk.org) to find out more and get involved.

**Covid-19 Dairies Project** – Is a collaborative documentary telling the human story of the pandemic that is seeking contributions from submissions from scientists and healthcare professionals in the form of 3-5 min video diary entries. [More information here](#) or submit entries directly [by email](#).

**Science Communication and Public Engagement** – Is a free short course aimed at early career researchers available on Futurelearn. It requires 6 hours' study over three weeks. [Find out more and sign up here](#).

**Talking Science YouTube Course** – Experienced science communicator and presenter, Greg Foot, has launched a free online training course on YouTube that covers core content on the importance of engagement, audience targeting, how to use storytelling, creating demos and how to use video. [Find it here](#).

**UCL Online PE Training** – University College London have made a suite of their public engagement courses freely available online. Topics include: Introduction to public engagement, Public engagement as part of your research grant, Practical skills for public engagement, evaluating the impact of engagement. [Find details here](#) and [register for access here](#).

**NCAS Community of Practice** - The National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS) has started an online community of practice to support public engagement with atmospheric science. [Find out more here](#) or [become a member here](#).

**E\$Sential Medicine\$** - Is a citizen science project that aims to build a publicly accessible database of essential medicines through public review of health websites, databases and drug company documents. They are seeking involvement from scientists, researchers and members of the public with an interest in this area. [Get involved here](#).

**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 fortnightly online Public Engagement Professions get-togethers (or #PEPTogethers) on **Thursdays**, starting at 11:30am. [Click here for info or to join](#).

**Omani Culture Grants** – the [Anglo-Omani Society](#) invites grant applications to support events and meetings that enable British nationals to gain wider knowledge about Oman and its culture, people, history, geography, economy,

literature, art, music, languages, beliefs and customs. No maximum award value is specified and there is no deadline – applications are assessed **quarterly**.

**Community Buddy Scheme** – is a new initiative from the British Science Association that seeks to connect researchers with their existing group of local [Community Leaders](#). Find out more and get involved [here](#).

**Talking Maths in Lockdown** – the organisers behind the maths communication conference, Talking Maths in Public, have created a weekly online discussion forum for maths communicators to talk about the challenges of engagement during restricted movement. Talking Maths in Lockdown (TMiL) runs **weekly** on Thursdays at 3pm from 30 April. Details [here](#), sign up [here](#).

**Generation Solar** – is a new citizen science web platform to drive more efficient and responsible development of solar energy. It exists as a desktop version as well as an app. Find out more [here](#).

**Community Resilience Grants** – the Heart of Engagement Community Foundation has grants available for those supporting communities through the coronavirus outbreak, including those carrying out some types of outreach. For more details see [here](#).

**Science Journalism Resources - Script** is a free training and networking resource for journalists, scientists and anyone who wants to communicate science in an engaging and accurate way. Find **free** online courses [here](#) and practical guides [here](#).

**ACE Emergency Funding Guides** - Arts Council England has opened a new round of applications for emergency funding to support projects related to Covid-19/coronavirus, [details here](#). They have also released details on [access support](#) and [BSL guidance](#) to ensure these opportunities are accessible.

**Being Human Training - Being Human Festival** have released a new set of downloadable training resources covering; event formats, partnership working, venue selection and audience targeting. Find training [here](#), case studies [here](#) or apply to take part in the Being Human Festival [here](#).

**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 Associated 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](https://twitter.com/uobengage)

Many thanks from the UoB PER Team