



# 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 **27 May**. 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 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](#).

**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).

**SciComm Masters Course** – University of Trento is now enrolling students on their Master of Science Communication programme. The course can be completed entirely online and runs from September to June ('21). The course fee is €2,750 and limited bursaries are available. More details [here](#), application deadline **18 May**.

**STFC Spark Awards** – Applications are now Spark Awards which grant <£15,000 to projects that seek to engage the public in STFC-related areas of research such as astronomy, solar and planetary science, particle physics, particle astrophysics, cosmology, nuclear physics and accelerator science. For details and to apply click [here](#), deadline **21 May**.

**C-19 Patient Engagement Grant** – The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute is providing grants <\$150,000 to engage patients, caregivers, clinicians and other stakeholders in understanding, engaging with and further developing use of patient-centered outcomes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **22 May**.

**Peer Review Workshop** – This is a free workshop on **19 & 26 June** (both 2-4pm) for STEM and social sciences early career researchers (that's PhD students, postdocs or equivalent in first job). Hear from experienced reviewers, journal editors and publishers plus receive mentoring from team of editors from Nature Communications. [Learn more and apply now](#), deadline **25 May**.

**The Big Bounce** – is the 2020 incarnation of the annual Institute of Physics Festival in Scotland, which will tentatively take place 30 October – 1 November at venues around Glasgow. The Festival aims to highlight the positive roles that innovation and scientific discovery play in our society, and show that physics can be enjoyable and social. The organisers are currently seeking exciting ideas for shows, talks, exhibitions, games, music, art or other creative content for all ages. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **26 May**.

**Climate Resilience Embedded Researcher Scheme** – a NERC scheme that provides placements at non-academic organisations for UK-based research to co-explore what information is needed for climate-related decision making in a particular context. Up to £70,000 available per project for 12 months to cover 80% full economic cost. [Details here](#), deadline **27 May**.

**AHRC Engagement Survey** – Engagement specialists, Dr Sam Illingworth and Dr Jasjit Singh, are seeking to compile a toolkit for arts and humanities researchers to learn more about how better to engage communities and they are running an open survey to seek input from the research community. [Complete the survey here](#) by **29 May** and read their engagement advice in a recent [AHRC blog 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](#).

**Falling Walls Engage** – Is an international forum for breakthroughs in science engagement. Organisers are now seeking submissions from those who have run innovative and impactful engagement projects as part of their 'Engagement of the Year' competition. Winners feature at the annual conference to be held on 8 November in Berlin and receive free conference attendance, a contribution to travel and presentation training. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **31 May**.

**Lifeology Scicomm Challenge** – this virtual event aims to help scientists to learn to be better visual storytellers by creating a science comic (using a template provided!). Find out more and take part [here](#). The winning entry will be professionally illustrated and made into an interactive Lifeology course comic like [this one](#). Deadline **31 May**

**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**.

**Public Health Virtual Residency** – Scientists for The Lab (a collaboration between Fuel and Queen Mary University of London) are seeking proposals from scientists working in global / public health to take part in a virtual summer residency (June to September) with artists to create new engagement projects. [Details and apply here](#), deadline **1 June**.

**Citizen Science Fest Berlin** – The European Citizen Science Association are inviting 10 citizen science projects from around the world to present at the Citizen Science Festival 2020 in Berlin on 14-15 October. Selected projects will receive funds (<€2,800) towards travel and participation. [More details here](#), [application information here](#), deadline **1 June**.

**Public Philosophy Grants** – The Royal Institute of Philosophy is accepting applications for grants of <£5,500 to enable philosophy departments to run a whole day festival of philosophy aimed at the general public. Details and apply [here](#), deadline **1 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](#).

**#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**.

**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**.

**‘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**.

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

**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](#)

Many thanks from the UoB PER Team