



Public and Community Engagement Newsletter, December 2023



Daniel Williamson
Staff

Welcome to the Research and Enterprise Public and Community Engagement newsletter

In this issue:

- Engagement Report headlines
- Looking back on Festival of Social Science and Being Human Festival
- New collaborative novel published with Loaves and Fishes
- Celebrating Our Time, Our Place in Salford
- Take part in Manchester Science Festival 2024
- Community members wanted to help curate Modern Backdrop Exhibition
- Make contact

2022/23 Engagement Report Headlines



**Engagement
at Salford**

Public & Community Engagement 2022-23

Headline Data

We collected data about engagement activities where university knowledge was exchanged with the public throughout the year. This is what we found out.

1.55m

people
attended our
activities or
engaged online

547

public events,
projects and
activities delivered





Engagement at Salford

76%

of the activity was in
partnership with **external
organisations**

61%

of activity took place **in
person**, with **34%**
online and **5% hybrid**





Engagement at Salford

3.15k

days of staff and
student time spent
delivering activity

November

had the most activity,
closely followed by
March then **October**.



Since we gathered and submitted our engagement data to [HESA](#) as part of our annual HE-BCI return, our team has been working on a new dashboard linked to our [post event notification form](#) so we can access and track live data throughout the year and report on this quarterly at the Engagement Forum and publish this in the newsletter too. We are also working on a more detailed engagement report for this period due to be published early in the new year.

Please remember to complete our post event notification form after you have completed any public and community engagement activity to ensure we record accurate records that show the breadth of fantastic activity happening across Salford: <https://forms.office.com/e/asnBU5e5mM>

Manchester Festival of Social Science 2023 in Review

The 2023 festival took place throughout October and November with 16 events taking place on and off campus, 10 of which responded to this year's festival theme of *Lifelong Wellbeing* which ties in with our challenge led theme of *Healthy Living* in Salford's Innovation Strategy. 935 people attended the festival in total comprising the general public, university staff and our partners.

Our festival events covered a range of topics sharing research from our School of Health and Society and Salford Business school, these included; Wellbeing and Older Women at Work, The Power of Nature in Enhancing Wellbeing, Neurodiversity in the Criminal Justice System, Celebrating Communities of Kindness, Salford Photo Stories, and the Relationship between Gardening for Wellbeing and Asylum.

Our highlight event was *Barbara's Parlour*, a co production between Mark Croasdale Theatre and Salford's Dementia Hub and Associates which brought pop up theatre and song to Eccles Library exploring themes of care and people's relationships with dementia conditions.

"Having Barbara's Parlour was really special for us at the library. We are here for the community and want to represent the communities diversity. We were grateful to be part of the Festival of Social Sciences this year and look forward to working together with Salford University going forward." - Feedback from Eccles Library Staff

"I thought the message was great. Dementia isn't talked about out in the open. Those actors were fabulous and really engaging, well done to everyone." Audience Feedback

***Read the full article on our blog:
[Barbara Lights up Manchester Festival of](#)***

Being Human Festival 2023: The Anthropozine, Being Human in the Age of Zines.

Lecturers in English Prof. Jade Munslow Ong and Dr Emma Barnes, and Associate Dean Sam Ingleson were successful in receiving a total of £3,000 to run four events as part of the Being Human Festival, the UK's national festival of the Humanities. To respond to this year's theme, 'Rhyme and Reason', the team turned to the form of the 'zine', which has historically been used for both creative (rhyme) as well as political (reason) purposes.

Workshop inspired by DRUM magazine at Salford Museum and Art Gallery

From 11th -16th November, the team hosted four zine-making workshops as a means to share their research with the public. The workshops were inspired by *DRUM* magazine, a South African literature magazine, *Opportunity*, a magazine originating from the Harlem Renaissance, *Equal Rights*, a feminist magazine, and music zines that celebrated Manchester's music scene. These workshops were hosted in collaboration with the Salford Zine Library, Salford Museum and Art Gallery, and Partisan at Islington Mill.

Zine Making workshop at Zine Maker Space, Clifford Whitworth Library

Find out more about South African Modernism
www.southafricanmodernism.com

Published Surrealist Collaborative Novel is 'Everyday Marvelous'

Prof. Ursula Hurley and Dr Stephen Sunderland came together last month with Salford Loaves and Fishes to celebrate having a new collaborative novel published. 'Alsdorf is an adventure from Salford's dream-other where queens hide and a fly morphs into a supernova'. The new book is the output of the 'Everyday Marvelous' project.

This project was funded by additional QR money internally from the University, allowing the exploration of potential of 'surrealist', 'avant garde' and 'anti-traditional' creative writing techniques to promote well-being. It offered a series of accessible workshops at 'Salford Loaves and Fishes', a drop-in centre which supports the homeless, isolated and vulnerable in the local community.

Led by Salford PhD alumnus, Dr Stephen Sunderland, the project exceeded all expectations, culminating in a co-created surrealist automatic novel published by Hesterglock Press. Set in the world of Alsdorf, Salford's dream other, one reviewer described it as:

"You don't know where you are? This novel will tell you. Its authors a band of seizing geolocators that come into being through the kindest, darkest collective automatism. Imagine Salford sucked into a pinprick in the ground, and then inverted, usurped by a new place in the process. Here is Alsdorf, where you've been sent in the dream of surrealism come to pass a century on. What should be praised more? The way this novel has come into being, a testament to the open heartedness that can drive the curiosity of complexity? Or the text itself, groundbreaking, illustrative, rich and weird? Folkloric, luminous, ravenous and completely original, this is a piece of literature unlike anything else." - SJ Fowler

Read more on our blog: [Published Surrealist Collaborative Novel is 'Everyday Marvelous' - Research and Engagement with Impact](#)
[\(\[salford.ac.uk\]\(http://salford.ac.uk\)\)](http://salford.ac.uk)

Our Time, Our Place participants at the Craig Easton: Is Anybody Listening? exhibition launch 2023. Photography by Jason Lawton.

Following the success of the engagement project, at the Bank Top exhibition launch on 2nd November, each young participant was awarded their own camera, enabling them to continue expressing themselves through the powerful medium of photography.

The impact of the programme is evident in the words of Teagan, one of the young participants, who reflects on the exhibition, "Looking through a camera lens and taking a picture of what it really makes it look better than what it actually is, but when you take that camera away, you realise how beautiful it is just standing there."

Click here to read more about the engagement programme: [Engagement Programme: Our Time, Our Place - University of Salford Art Collection- University of Salford Art Collection](#)

Alongside the Craig Easton: Is Anybody Listening? exhibition tour, the Our Time, Our Place engagement programme has connected young people, local to each exhibition venue to explore the exhibition themes. In Salford, the programme has successfully engaged 12 local young people aged 11-16 years through Salford Youth Service since June 2023.

Guided by socially-engaged photographer Gwen Riley-Jones, the young participants have been actively involved in weekly evening sessions at the Little Hulton Family Hub. Armed with cameras and a newfound passion for photography, they have explored their local surroundings, honed their photography skills, learned the art of curating exhibitions, and built meaningful connections with their peers.

Last Chance to See - Craig Easton: Is Anybody Listening & Our Time, Our Place. New Adelphi Gallery until 22nd December, 2pm.

Take part in Manchester Science Festival 2024

Our partnership with Science and Industry Museum continues. Producers from Manchester Science Festival 2024 have reached out to us. The Family Zones programmers are interested in your ideas and are involved in delivering the bulk of the daily festival offer on site at the museum, including the family zones and explainer activities.

They are looking to have partners confirmed by the end of January so now is the time to have conversations about your involvement!

Content development will take place from January - April, with logistics planning from May 2024.

Some context about the 2024 festival and timelines:

- Our 2024 **theme is Extremes**. The family zone is focused on two strands: **The Future (Environments, Computing, Space, Tech) and Ourselves (extremes of human experience and performance)**
- We're actively looking to increase our offer for EYFS (0-7y) and teenage (13 - 17) audiences.
- We're looking for **facilitated stands with hands-on activities family groups** can get stuck into together, which will be open daily between 18-27 October 2024.
- Our **half day engagement course delivered by SMG Academy will be mandatory** for all partners - but all partners will have the benefit of attending a very good engagement course for free! This can be a couple of people from each research group, or all of them if there's appetite. Dates for those are either 6 March in person at the museum or 4 April online.

The prosthetics team was a runaway hit last time so let's see what else we can wow Manchester and Salford's families with next year. Here is a flavour of what happened last time [MSF 2022: What to see and do | Science and Industry Museum](#)

Please email d.williamson2@salford.ac.uk with quick note on your interest and a brief overview of your idea and I will coordinate sending this on to the festival. **Deadline is Friday 12th Jan.**

Please do share this call with your colleagues and external partners, collaborations with community partners would be an attractive proposition.

Community members wanted to help curate Modern Backdrop Exhibition

In Spring/Summer 2024 we will be holding our final project exhibition at Salford Museum and Art Gallery. To help us prepare to display the findings from the project and our research we are looking for people to bring their knowledge and memories of Salford to the curation process. This is an opportunity for you to help shape the narrative of our exhibition.

So, we want to harness input from the community once more to help us curate our final project exhibition. We will be holding a co-curation workshop on Thursday 11th January at the [Salford Local History Library](#) from 1pm – 4pm. During the session we will explore some of the photographic images we want to exhibit and will be asking you to help identify locations and events. As a group you will share your knowledge and memories which we will use to add context and explanation to the images selected.

To register your interest in taking part at the co-curation workshop please email us at themodernbackdrop@salford.ac.uk.

Please do share this with local communities you are working with to invite them to take part.

More information on the blog: [Help us curate our exhibition - The Modern Backdrop \(salford.ac.uk\)](#)

Make Contact



Dan Williamson, Public and Community Engagement Officer

For more information or to discuss any aspect of Public and Community Engagement at Salford, please get in touch with Dan Williamson. d.williamson2@salford.ac.uk

Office: Maxwell 841

More Engagement Resources on our staff hub site: [Public & Community Engagement \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Join our University wide Teams site for Engagement open to all

Research and Engagement with Impact Blog: REF2021 Results [with Impact - Research and Engagement with Impact \(salford.ac.uk\)](#)

Twitter: @EngageSalford

We have updated our suite of **Research Engagement Toolkits** over the summer, and these are now available to access and cover the following areas:

Coordinating Engagement Activity at Salford, which provides an overview of the importance of public & community engagement at Salford and offers a step-by-step guide to organising your event, from pre-notification to post-evaluation stage. [Access directly here](#)

Getting Started with Impact, which provides an overview of what research impact is, identifying your beneficiaries, generating your impact pathways and capturing/evidencing your impact. [Access directly here](#)

Working with Government and Influencing Policy, which provides an overview of how to get started with policy engagement, from identifying and engaging with policy makers to building engagement and evaluation into project design [Access directly here](#)

Another useful resource that has been created on the staff hub recently is ***Setting up and running your event on campus: Events at Salford: Everything you need to know (sharepoint.com)***.

Back to [Public & Community Engagement \(sharepoint.com\)](#).