



ATTENDEES

Delegates of National Trust, Forestry Commission, Canal and Rivers Trust. Practice researchers from Arts and Humanities at Goldsmiths. Professional Services Staff from Research Office, Civic Engagement and Public Engagement. Facilitated by John Hartley and convened by Tobie Kerridge.

BACKGROUND

Organisations including National Trust, Forestry Commission and Canal and Rivers Trust and The Crown Estate, manage significant holdings of publicly-accessible and historically-significant environments across the UK. A core part of their work may be the practical management of assets, maintaining access, and ensuring ongoing stewardship. However, renewed policy interest in social and cultural potential of their mandates looks afresh at their ways of working, the range of services and experience they offer, how and for whom their public value accrues. These organisations have developed memoranda of understanding with Arts Council England leading to significant programmes of arts and culture commissioning. National Trust has recently been awarded Independent Research Organisation status to explore new conservation techniques and enrich visitor experiences.

Meanwhile, practice researchers working in the Arts and Humanities at Goldsmiths seek partnerships with external organisations to frame, support and develop project work. Projects take a range of approaches, and often interpret the situated practices of estate users, address social relations across various stakeholders, and explore infrastructures, materials and emergent technologies that are intrinsic to partner sites. These characteristics are then materialised as films, artefacts and events that allow a range of participants to discuss how we access, value, maintain and foster cultural and environmental contexts. Therefore, these projects provide experimental and novel interpretations of the partners' estates, and also accomplish a range of impacts through knowledge exchange and public engagement.

Researchers have a track record with, and institutional support for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding, along with funding from Leverhulme and other research organisations, and have undertaken international collaborations with a range of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

WORKSHOP AIMS

The workshop provides an opportunity for organisations invested in public engagement around estates and practice researchers in Arts and Humanities to come together, to present and discuss interests, approaches and ambitions. The session will take an inventive and open approach, with an ambition to foster intellectual excitement and creative possibility, while also considering concrete constraints and opportunities. This workshop aims to:

- Develop a shared understanding of stewardship sector research landscape and the approaches and innovations of practice research
- Provide models of how practice research might respond to themes including wellbeing and place-shaping, and the future research directions of stewardship organisations.
- Understand how to support knowledge exchange and collaboration through interdisciplinary, practice research undertaken by HEIs and public bodies.
- Identify and scope contexts for activity and shared programmes of work, including short term projects and medium-term funding.

CONTRIBUTIONS

.If you would like to make short presentation as a part of the workshop, please email Tobie (t.ker-ridge@gold.ac.uk) with a brief expression of interest.