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# Warden's Annual Public Engagement Awards 2016

Celebrating excellence in public  
engagement at Goldsmiths

13 May 2016

# Table of Contents

<b>3</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Running Order</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Established Researcher category</b>
7	Winner
8	Commendation
10	Nominated
<b>12</b>	<b>Early Career Researcher category</b>
12	Winner
14	Commendation
16	Nominated
<b>18</b>	<b>Postgraduate Researcher category</b>
18	Winner
20	Commendation
22	Nominated



# Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural Warden's Annual Public Engagement Awards ceremony at Goldsmiths, University of London. We have established these awards to recognise and celebrate the excellent work researchers at all career stages do with members of the public, whether they're sharing ground-breaking findings with new audiences, or collaborating with the public throughout their research.

An exceptional range of innovative activities and projects were nominated by academic staff and partner organisations alike, showcasing different approaches to engaging the public with research and practice. Our researchers worked with organisations like the Whitechapel Gallery, the Wellcome Trust, Sky and Nesta to engage diverse audiences through music, poetry, art and even smartphone apps.

There was a real sense that researchers, partners and the public benefited from this work, demonstrating how research in the arts, humanities, social sciences and computing can create real positive change in the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the nominees, whose work with the public is a real asset to Goldsmiths and an example to our community, and beyond.

Pat Loughrey  
Warden of Goldsmiths



# Running order

## **Warden's Annual Public Engagement Awards Ceremony Richard Hoggart Building, Room 137**

- 17.00** Welcome by Pat Loughrey, Warden of Goldsmiths
- 17:05** Introduction by Professor Chris French, Associate Pro-Warden and academic lead for public engagement
- 17.15** Professor Janis Jeffries, Associate Pro-Warden (Creative & Cultural), presents the award and commendations in the category of Postgraduate Researcher
- 17.25** Sarah Lambert, Department of History, presents the award and commendations in the category of Early Career Researcher
- 17.35** Dr Kat Jungnickel, Department of Sociology, presents the award and commendations in the category of Established Researcher
- 17.45** Closing remarks by Professor Chris French
- 17.50** Drinks reception in the Kingsway Corridor

*We received an exceptionally strong field of nominations from across Goldsmiths' academic departments. Find out more about all of the nominated projects including the winners, commendations and nominees.*



# Established Researcher category

## Winner

**Dr Sophie von Stumm representing the Hungry Mind Lab for moo-Q: An iPhone application that monitors your mood & cognitive function (Psychology).**

People often feel they are more productive when they're happy, but the connection between your mood, memory and ability to process information is difficult to prove scientifically.

Researchers at Goldsmiths' Hungry Mind Lab wanted to find out about the relationship between moods and different cognitive abilities (problem solving, memory) and came up with an innovative way to gather useful data from a huge number of participants – the moo-Q smartphone app.

Researchers collaborated with psychological technology company PSYT to design and build the app, which gets users to complete three quick cognitive tests and mood measurements at random times in the day. Users are rewarded with personalised feedback graphs identifying when their mood is particularly positive or negative and most importantly, when their brains work best.

Since its launch in late August 2015, more than 25,000 users from over 135 countries have downloaded moo-Q, which currently has 4,500 active users. It was featured in the national and international media, including radio, print and TV, notably in New Scientist, Metro, Die Zeit, Sky News, and the BBC.

The moo-Q project resulted in a peer-reviewed journal article, conference contributions, new collaborations, two successful follow-up grants worth over £140k and a job offer for one of the project team at Facebook.

moo-Q exemplifies how large numbers of people can benefit from and contribute to scientific research through new communications technology.



## Commendation

### Dr Mick Grierson representing EAVI for SoundLab (Computing).

SoundLab is a pioneering project that helps people with learning disabilities express themselves musically and collaborate using readily available musical technologies. The project has shown how technologies can be brought together to allow different people to make music in new ways.

A collaboration between the Embodied Audio Visual Interaction research group in the Goldsmiths Department of Computing, award-winning creative arts company Heart n Soul, and Public Domain Corporation, who provide interactive experiences and technology for the games and digital arts sectors, SoundLab test

and evaluate different kinds of musical technologies to work out which are the easiest to use, sound the best and can be used by people with learning disabilities.

From music apps that let you compose, DJ or play countless instruments with your fingertips, to those that make your voice sound amazing even if it's not quite in tune, SoundLab researchers have tested Apple, Android and web programmes that can help people with disabilities make music.

In November last year the group hosted a sold-out event at Nesta, where participants could experiment with cutting-edge musical technology, talk to developers, play in a digital pop-up band, and watch live-performances.

SoundLab's work has led to genuine improvements in the quality and experience of disabled participants' engagement with sound, music and visual media through real-world applications based on research. They were named Best Special Educational Needs Resource at the annual Music Teacher Awards for Excellence and are funded by the Digital R&D Fund for the Arts, an initiative created by Nesta, Arts Council England, AHRC and the National Lottery.

### Prof Lauren Stewart for Hooked on Music Silent Disco at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester (Psychology).

Professor Lauren Stewart designed and ran a real-world experiment at Manchester's iconic Museum of Science and Industry to test whether some songs are more likely than others to get stuck in our heads - so called 'earworms'.

Over 350 members of the public took part in The Hooked on Music Silent Disco, getting to move their dancing feet while contributing data that will be presented at an international conference and in a peer-reviewed journal article.

A pop-up silent disco was installed in the Museum of Science and Industry,

complete with a dance floor, lights and even a bar. 'Clubbers' were given headphones on arrival tuned to pick up one of two sets spun live by a DJ. The first featured songs that a previous poll had identified as 'earworms', while the second included tunes that were similar in genre, popularity and chart success, but hadn't appeared in the poll.

After a night of dancing, clubbers were asked to record the songs that popped into their heads

in the following 24 hours. An overhead camera also recorded which playlist got people moving the most. The event attracted new people to the Museum of Science and Industry and the research was featured in the Wall Street Journal and Discover Magazine.

The silent disco followed a talk by Professor Stewart at Manchester Science Festival and was part of a programme of research activities supported by the Leverhulme Trust



## Nominated

### **Dr Ashok Jansari for Brain Awareness Day (Psychology).**

Brain Awareness Day was an event organised by Dr Ashok Jansari in the Department of Psychology to explore the history of our understanding of the brain and the relevance of brain damage to neuropsychology.

Over 200 visitors attended the evening event at Goldsmiths which live-streamed to over 4000 people around the world. Beginning with a talk on the history of our understanding of the brain, the event brought together eight leading organisations that work with individuals with brain-related issues for a marketplace where people could find out more about their work. The final portion of the evening

was a panel discussion and audience Q&A with three members of the public who have suffered life-changing brain injuries and previously participated in research by Dr Jansari.

A booklet provided context to proceedings and information on popular myths about the brain, how to improve brain function and facts about the brain. It also included information on the eight partner organisations taking part, including national charities such as Headway and the Stroke Association.



The event was organised and delivered by a team of MSc students under Dr Jansari's leadership and was a valuable and enjoyable experience for the students. The curiosity and enthusiasm of the audience was palpable and many spoke glowingly of the event in their feedback. When asked what could be improved, the recurring theme was to make the event even longer.

### **Dr Saima Noreen for her comment pieces for non-academic audiences and an industry collaboration (Psychology).**

Dr Saima Noreen's article for The Conversation, 'the internet is eating our memory but something better is taking its place', was reprinted nationally and internationally by outlets such as The Independent, The Washington Post and the Chicago Times. This article was read around the world in countries such as the US, Australia, India, the UK and Germany. It has been read over 215,000 times and continues to be the third most read article written by any member of staff at Goldsmiths.

Dr Noreen also wrote another article, 'If you can forgive, it actually makes it easier to forget', which was published in Psychological Science. The findings were picked up by news outlets around the world, featuring in The Times, The Independent, MSN, Good Morning America, NBC news, The Huffington Post and the Times of India.

Recently Saima has entered into a partnership with Myndplay, a UK based neurofeedback technology company that has created the world's first mind controlled media player and platform. Myndplay uses brainwave technology to allow users to control,



interact with, and direct media using their minds. It has featured in New Scientist, Economist, BBC, Huffington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. The collaboration is seeking funding to develop the first ever interactive forgiveness and forgetting based intervention.

# Early Career Researcher category

## Winner

**Dr Dominique Santos for Pop Up + Play, Hummingbird Play Association in Johannesburg, South Africa (Anthropology).**

Dr Dominique Santos is the co-founder of Hummingbird Play Association, and for the last three years

she and her team have been running 'Pop Up + Play' events to create temporary adventure playgrounds that occupy public spaces in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Pop Up + Play has been central to campaigns to create free, supervised,

outdoor spaces for children in South Africa, and is based on community adventure playgrounds in south east London.

Dominique has used data generated by the events to lobby for change and the project has led to an article in a

special issue of *Children's Geographies* journal. She has succeeded in bringing the issue to the attention of policy makers in South Africa, presenting the work of the Hummingbird Play Association to a seminar hosted by UNICEF.

The project has created a sense of possibility and inspiration in Johannesburg, with opportunities for children's play incorporated into the design of new inner-city housing co-ops. It also resulted in collaborations with adventure playgrounds in London to exchange expertise and raise awareness of the importance of free, supervised and risky play opportunities for children around the world.

The project is part of a network of organisations around the world including partnerships promoting research and advocacy on co-creating playful cities. Partnerships include Turner Prize winning collective ASSEMBLE, PLAY AFRICA: Children's Museum (Johannesburg), The Johannesburg Housing Company, Glamis Adventure Playground (Tower Hamlets, London) and Mint Street Adventure Playground (Southwark, London).





## Commendation

### **Dr Esther Sayers for ArtScapers: exploring change at the North West Cambridge Development (Educational Studies).**

Dr Esther Sayers has been working with a number of partner organisations to create a strategy to enable children in Cambridge to respond to a high-profile new housing development to the north of the city.

ArtScapers engages children, their schools, teachers and their families with the North West Cambridge Development artist residency programme and permanent public art works.

ArtScapers explores how creative activity can support young people to

become confident citizens who are able to construct their own cultural lives. It questions the role artists play in the development of new places for living, how young people relate to the city as it changes, and how they can help others to think creatively about these changes.

The focus of the ArtScapers project is on engaging children as co-researchers to benefit the local community. This includes creating connections between the North West Cambridge site and the rest of the city through engagement with schools bordering the site, and the new Cambridge University Primary School.

The project runs until 2024 and includes a number

of high profile partners, including: Creative Curiosity and Imagination, University of Cambridge, MyCambridge, InSite Arts, Contemporary Art Society, LMNOP, North West Cambridge Development, Mayfield, Girton and Cambridge University Schools, and the Public Art Advisory Panel (PAAP).





## Nominated

### Dr Maria Llano for the 'What-If-Machine' and 'Beyond the Fence' (Computing).

In a world becoming ever more reliant on computers, machine learning and artificial intelligence are rapidly and fundamentally changing every aspect of human experience. But how does technology affect art and the creative process? Can a computer ever create an entertaining and emotionally powerful show?

Dr Maria Llano from the Computational Creativity Group at Goldsmiths' Department of Computing spent much of 2015 fine tuning the 'What-If-Machine', software that aims to put the creative process into the hands of a computer programme.

Dr Llano participated in a major outcome of the project, where the 'What-If Machine' was used to create the world's first computer generated musical – 'Beyond the Fence'. The musical

became the subject of the Sky Arts documentary 'Computer Says Show', which showcased research at Goldsmiths to a significant audience.

Dr Llano carried out various outreach activities, such as newspaper interviews and media appearances in The Guardian, BBC and The New Scientist. She was also instrumental in helping to deliver a freely available, web-based 'What-If Machine' funded by The European Commission, delivered academic papers and is also involved in grant writing for new EU and EPSRC projects.

### Dr Rosie Kennedy for Goldsmiths WWI Creative Awards (History).

Dr Rosie Kennedy led the Department of History's 'WW1 Creative Awards', a competition that rewarded local young people's creative responses to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War.

A partnership between Goldsmiths, Lewisham Council, and three local schools, over 60 students entered the competition, creating paintings, drawings, sculpture, writing and drama to help remember the war – and to express what it means to them now.

Entries from winning schools included Deptford Green in Lewisham - which saw five of its six entries scoop prizes. English teacher Vikki Prescott said: "This has been a brilliant project and has allowed our pupils to think about the bigger picture. They all loved working on this and looking at the First World War in such a creative way which brought history to life."

Dr Kennedy managed the project, liaising closely with the participating schools, cataloguing entries, facilitating the judging process and arranging the awards ceremony.

Dr Kennedy said: "Research on the First World War is going on all across Goldsmiths."

"As Goldsmiths is such a centre of creativity it seemed very fitting for us to invite young people to respond to the commemoration of the First World War creatively."

The project led to a range of benefits for the students, while the academics benefited from seeing how young people view the war in ways which can inform their work.



# Postgraduate Researcher category

## Winner

### Jenny Lewis for Writing Mesopotamia (English and Comparative Literature).

'Writing Mesopotamia' is a collaboration between British poet Jenny Lewis and Iraqi poet Adnan al-Sayegh that sprang

from a shared passion for Mesopotamian literature, especially the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

The partnership has led to a huge range of new creative work and activities with the public, including the adaptation

of original poetry into a song that has been viewed over 50,000 times online.

With around 600 lines of poetry translated to and from Arabic, creative writing workshops, readings and a 1,200 mile, five-city poetry tour,

taking in schools over a 12-day period, Writing Mesopotamia continues to reach new people at a time when Iraq is in the public eye for very different reasons.

Responding to Jenny and Adnan's collaboration, Waheda Al-Mikdadi of the Iraqi Cultural Centre said: "Your joint efforts come at a critical time when the great heritage of Iraq is being attacked and destroyed...I think every Iraqi individual feels indebted to you."

Innovative workshops have taken place at the British Museum where

Daniel Ferguson, Head of Adult Programmes at the British Museum praised Writing Mesopotamia as "a new model of running workshops".

In October 2015, Jenny and Adnan led a National Poetry Day reading at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford and launched the 'Poetry for Peace' competition, which for the first time directly connects Oxfordshire schools with the local Muslim community and refugees.

Jenny and Adnan are also working with the Modern Art Theatre Company, Malmö, Sweden, to

dramatise some of their work. Performances will coincide with National Poetry Day 2016 at the Ashmolean Museum and there will also be performances and events in Sweden and at the Iraq Embassy in London.



## Commendation

### John Woolf for BBC television documentaries 'The Real Tom Thumb' and 'Queen Victoria's Letters' (History).

While working on his PhD thesis in the Department of History at Goldsmiths, John Woolf saw the potential for his research to make great television.

His PhD chapter, 'Fabricating Freakery: The Display of Exceptional Bodies in Nineteenth-Century London', charted the life of Charles Stratton, a person of short stature who became one of the world's first international celebrities - General Tom Thumb.

John pitched his idea for a documentary based on his work to the Creative Director of TV production company, Wingspan



Productions, and was hired to write a full treatment for the show. It was picked up by the BBC and developed into a 90 minute documentary, 'The Real Tom Thumb: History's Smallest Superstar', which has been aired several times since 2014.

John was able to balance the significant demands of his PhD while working on the documentary as a researcher, and his work led to him being approached by a second production company to help turn a biography on Queen Victoria into a

two-part documentary for BBC Four.

'Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled' was aired in 2015 and repeated in 2016, with John credited as the Associate Producer.

John has shared his experiences working in television with groups of his peers as an example of what it means to achieve public impact.

You can watch both documentaries on BBC iPlayer.

### Dawn Rose for The Happiness Project (Psychology).

Professional drummer and Goldsmiths PhD candidate Dawn Rose worked with young actors, scientists and academics to create a moving, personal piece of theatre exploring the age-old question: what is happiness and how do we find it?

After a UNICEF report found that young people in the UK report low levels of happiness and well-being, the Camden Roundhouse decided to find out what happiness actually means to them. The Happiness Project brought together 14 artists aged 14 – 24 and six academics from different disciplines for a series of activities exploring the art and science of happiness.



Two years of creative workshops, research, discussion and collaboration culminated in a unique piece of theatre performed at The Roundhouse in a two-week sell out run. The Happiness Project was also funded by The Wellcome Trust to appear for the Edinburgh Fringe festival in August 2015.

At the time, Dawn said: "The diversity of the scientists involved, combined with the talent and experience of the directors -and most importantly the sense of agency the young people bring, has led to an incredibly dynamic production – which I am really excited and proud to be a part of".

Dawn also performed in the show as a music psychologist who

discovered a sense of personal happiness through playing a duet co-created on a unique, custom, double drum kit with a teenage boy.

The project has provided a template for community outreach projects as well as a strong link between Goldsmiths and the Roundhouse for potential future community and public engagement projects at the interface of art and science.

Dawn is an associate lecturer in Artist Development & Entrepreneurship at The British and Irish Institute of Modern Music, and her thesis is called *On Becoming and Being a Musician: A Mixed Methods Study of Musicianship in Children and Adults*.

## Nominated

### Carolina Silva for Art Casino (Educational Studies).

Educational Studies PhD candidate Carolina Silva collaborated with the Whitechapel Gallery's youth forum, Duchamp&Sons, to plan, deliver and assess Art Casino, a programme for 30 young people from across London.

Art Casino was a collaborative project developed with artist Ruth Proctor, based on her interest in themes of chance and temporality. It led to an event at the Whitechapel Gallery where the public took part in three interactive activities – Roulette Poetry, Wall of Fortune, and Photo Dice.

Carolina worked closely with the youth curator Paul Crook,

the young people, and the artists throughout the project. Research, experimentation, and roundtables, were crucial for the group's sense of ownership and part of Carolina's work was to map and question these encounters.

Carolina made a significant contribution to the evaluation and sharing

of *Duchamp&Sons'* work. They have since been awarded the ICOM-CECA Best Practice Award 2015.

As a result of her research and collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery, Carolina was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant to travel to New York as a visiting doctoral student at Columbia University Teachers College.



### Livia Franchini for Lit Live (English and Comparative Literature).

Livia Franchini leads a small team of enthusiastic PhD creative writing students to put on cabaret-style events that bring writing to life through public readings and performances.

Lit Live was initially established in 2012 as a collaboration between Goldsmiths' Departments of English and Comparative Literature and Media and Communications to showcase new writing.

In 2014, Livia took over the organisation of Lit Live and delivered an ambitious three-part programme of readings. The first was based at Goldsmiths, the second



forged links with a wider community of writers and readers, while the third contributed to academic conferences in 2014-2015.

Recent public events have included performances from creative writing students from other universities as well as published authors and poets. Established names share the bill with upcoming talents and open mic sessions for younger writers and students. Poetry, drama, comedy, storytelling and multi-media are all part of a mix of performances.

A Lit Live evening at the Peckham Pelican bar-cafe in spring 2015 attracted a full house, while the finale of the 'Place for Poetry' conference drew an audience of over 300. Its most recent event in March was a sell-out at a new accessible community centre, DIY Space for London.

**Zahira Araguete for a range of activities linked to her research 'From the Archive to the Grave: Identifying the Civil War and Post-War Dead in Contemporary Extremadura (Anthropology).**

Zahira Araguete's research explores different forms of identification in the exhumation of the bodies of Spanish Civil War and post-war dead. She studies the role that material remains, bodies and oral accounts play in the construction of different accounts of the past.

Zahira has collaborated with communities to create life histories within the mass grave exhumations that she worked on, in part

to perfect forensic identification, but more so to understand the concerns of those who were trying to identify, recover and re-bury their loved ones.

Zahira began her work with a series of sound albums, where she photographed letters written by Republicans during the Spanish Civil War, photographs of the soldiers and remaining loved ones reading through the letters over the images. She has collaborated with filmmakers and produced an innovative and much celebrated exhibition 'From the Archive to the Grave.'

Zahira is now working on a four-year, Swiss-funded project in Geneva.

