

Application form

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



ERC Public Engagement with Research **Award**



These awards recognise and reward ERC Principal Investigators or teams that have developed and delivered high-quality **public engagement with research** activities linked to the ERC funded project.

Participation in this competition is voluntary. You can read the privacy notice associated with this application [here](#).

Please fill in this application form by the closing date. If you encounter any problems with the online submission, please contact ERC-WEBMASTER@ec.europa.eu.

Deadline: 17:00 CET, Friday 10 January 2020

1. Applicant contact details

*** ERC Project acronym**

20 character(s) maximum

TGRES

*** ERC Project Number**

6 character(s) maximum

340923

*** PI Title**

at most 1 choice(s)

Prof.

Dr

Other

If other, please specify

*** PI First Name**

Richard

*** PI Last Name**

Pancost

*** PI Position**

Head of School

*** PI Role in the Public Engagement with Research Activity**

Co-developer and deliverer (in partnership with civil society organisations)

*** Host Institution**

University of Bristol

*** City**

Bristol

*** Country of the Host Institution**

United Kingdom

*** PI Email**

r.d.pancost@bristol.ac.uk

*** PI Phone number**

Please start with your country code +12345678

+447984536791

Would you like to add the contact details of a team member?

Yes

No

*** 2. Please select which category of Award you would like to apply for:**

Please choose only one category

- Public outreach:** for activities that have informed and inspired the public about research, engaged in two-way conversations about research and listened to public views or involved collaboration with the public, including co-creation and co-production of knowledge and citizen science.
- Press and media relations:** for ERC projects, which were communicated to the public through engagement with journalists or collaboration with media outlets.
- Online and social media:** for projects that interacted with the public through online platforms or social media.

3. Case for the Award - please refer to the evaluation criteria in the ERC Public Engagement with Research Award 2020 Guide for Applicants before completing this section.

*** ERC research project**

Provide a summary of the research upon which your public engagement entry is based

2000 character(s) maximum

The Greenhouse Earth System (TGRES) explored the climate, ecology and biogeochemical processes associated with ancient hot climates, potential analogues for our future. Ancient climate research contributes to public dialogue by reinforcing our understanding (or lack thereof) of contemporary processes and change. It is particularly powerful because it conveys such knowledge via narratives of past events that complement forecasts for the future (Pancost, Nature Geoscience 2017). Aspects of TGRES research that resonate with the public include: (i) determining that pCO₂ levels have not exceeded 400ppm for ~3 million years; (ii) further evidence that the current rate of climate change is nearly without precedent; and (iii) showing that rapid warming has dramatic but complex hydrological and biogeochemical consequences.

Central to our engagement strategy was relocating discussion away from the current policy debate to ancient worlds, thereby creating a place of reflection – what we called the Uncertain World. We collaboratively explored what we know or do not about our past and future, renewing motivation for climate action. Moreover, by focusing on the uncertainty in the Earth system, we explored the creative forms of resilience that will be required in the coming century.

TGRES Engagement expanded during Bristol’s Year as the European Green Capital, seizing the opportunity to widen dialogue. Catalysed by the issues revealed by these conversations, engagement expanded into a city-wide dialogue on diversity, equity and inclusion in the context of dramatic but uncertain climate disruption. The Green and Black Program explored historic barriers to inclusion, especially with marginalised communities who would be the most vulnerable to climate change and least empowered to develop their own resilience agenda. This collaborative project led to the centering of marginalised voices in Bristol’s climate change mitigation and resilience strategies.

*** Public Engagement with Research Activity Title**

150 character(s) maximum

The Uncertain World and The Green and Black Ambassadors

*** Public Engagement with Research Activity summary**

Please provide details on **each** of the following [where appropriate, bullet points are welcome]:

1. **What did you do?** [Provide a description of the activities that have taken place and the outputs produced]
2. **Why did you do it?** [What was the purpose/ objectives of engaging the public with your research?]
3. **Which audiences did you engage with and why?** [Include numbers and type/demographic of audiences engaged]
4. **Activity start and end date**
5. **Details of how the activity was resourced** [Including any funding received and the source of the funding]

5000 character(s) maximum

What We Did Part 1 (2014 to 2016): The goal of TGRES public engagement was to use past climate change research to curate a space for dialogue, thereby building public ambition for bolder climate action and more creative approaches to resilience. It gained a large platform when Bristol became the European Green Capital, and TGRES PI Pancost became its Scientific Advisor. We co-curated the Uncertain World by writing Bristol 2015's opening call for action and hosting one of the flagship Summits - a two-day forum with city, national and international stakeholders, informed by public contributions gathered through the year. The Summit's conclusions were further explored with the public, including via a discussion with the Mayor. We also collaborated on ~30 other events, including contributions to 3 Festivals, 2 other Summits and the Green Capital Arts Program (with Pancost writing its Introduction, co-hosting talks with the Festival of Ideas, co-curating the Fog Bridge Installation, advising on @Bristol's Blue Marvel movie and co-sponsoring Withdrawn with the National Trust). The Uncertain World's images of Mesozoic sea animals swimming through the streets of Bristol are now a fixture of Bristol's street art.

Collectively, these events reached >100,000 people; combined with the final report (see below), they were a major part of Bristol's public dialogue in 2015-2016 to build political action. As part of this, Pancost attended COP21 with Mayor G Ferguson (official UK City Delegation) and supported his commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050, a pledge repeated by his successor Marvin Rees and then enshrined in the One City Plan (on which Pancost was an official advisor and which was a 2019 finalist for the EU Capital of Innovation). Bristol's decarbonisation target was accelerated to 2030, when we became the first UK city to declare a Climate Emergency. The Uncertain World was also central to Bristol's Resilience Strategy (one of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities); Pancost was invited to join the Resilience Sounding Board where TGRES research created a space of constructive uncertainty, contributing to the co-creation of shared resilience principles.

Expanding Our Goals to Address Inclusion in the Environmental Movement: Bristol's Green Capital events, as well as our Resilience and Carbon Neutrality public dialogue, focussed on the ethical dimensions of climate change and the need to engage a diverse cross-section of society. Uncertain World events were hosted in some of the most marginalised parts of our city. Nonetheless, poor inclusion was a persistent failure of the wider Green Capital program (Pancost, Nature Geoscience 2016). This failure has been repeated by more recent environmental movements and mirrors the wider failure of the Earth and Environmental academic sector to address chronic issues of poor racial diversity (Dutt, Nature Geoscience 2020).

What We Did and Audiences Part 2 (2015 to 2016): Therefore, in late 2015, TGRES scholars, the Cabot Institute (of which Pancost was a Director), and the Bristol Green Capital Partnership (BGCP) joined Ujima Radio, UK's 2015 Best Community Radio Station, to critically examine the inclusivity of Bristol's environmental movement via three workshops with ~30 BAME leaders. TGRES and Cabot co-funded this, using past climate research as a catalyst for discussion but with conversations focussing on topics prioritised by Bristol BAME leaders. We concluded that the voice of Bristol's BAME community in the environmental sector had been undermined by historical neglect, underfunding and poor practice. As summarised by R Griffiths (Chair of Ujima): 'The 'green' debate has hallmarks of being predominantly understood as a white,

middle-class domain; moreover, there is existing and potential engagement with green issues across BAME communities that must be recognised.'

What We Did and Audiences Part 3 (2016 to 2018): In 2016 we launched the Green and Black Ambassadors (funded by TGRES, Cabot and a grant from UK NERC to Pancost), to pay, train and learn from a new generation of BAME leaders who: used community research to foster dialogue among diverse groups; showcased sustainability leadership arising from and relevant to BAME communities, including a monthly Ujima Radio Program; and were supported to act as constructively 'disruptive' participants in citywide decision making. In short, we invested in the leadership skills of those bridging environmental and social justice movements and used our privilege to support them in constructively challenging business as usual. We focused on African and Caribbean communities, recognising that even those represents diverse cultures, faiths and experience, and funded two Ambassadors from Oct 2016 to Jan 2018, Jasmine Ketibuah-Foley and Zakiya Mackenzie. The Program directly collaborated with >50 BAME residents and dozens of environmental groups, and it reached >1000 members of the public via events and >20000 via media.

* Creativity and originality

Please describe the innovative character of your activity [where appropriate, bullet points are welcome].

1. **To which extent was your approach new, or did you improve the way to communicate your research?** [demonstrate new approaches, new organisational methods or the development of new (or significantly) improved ways to advertise your research to the target audience]
2. **Which communication tools did you use?** [list all communication activities and material developed for the Project]
3. **If you used supporting materials, which ones and why? To which extent did you tailor the tools/approach to your target audience?**

5000 character(s) maximum

A spirit of creativity was embedded in the Uncertain World programme, from the collaboration with local politicians to build public understanding of climate science to the co-curation of art exhibits to the graffiti-spraying ammonite that became its logo. However, its true innovation was in the Green and Black Ambassadors Program, in which we subverted the classical role of communication of science to the public. Instead, engagement was a catalyst to identify and then centre the concerns of our community – including those that challenged our own institutions. Those messages were then embedded in civic planning of our City's future, alongside the scientific messages of climate action and resiliency. The Ambassadors did this using three mechanisms.

Foster Dialogue: The Ambassadors, building on their own experiences, support from the project team and mentoring from TGRES colleagues, explored environmental issues with members of the African-Caribbean community and environmental leaders. They also explored the roots of exclusion and their perception in the environmental sustainability community. From this, we created a dialogue to build relationships of interest between African-Caribbean community members and environmental organisations. A second phase of locality-based dialogue was supported by the Ambassadors' collaboration with the community-based Up Our Street. These conversations included public fora, social media (Twitter), curated visits of BAME residents to regional Wildlife Trusts, and a photography-based dialogue ('Photovoice: through my lens' - using photography to have jargon-free conversations about environmental issues). Over 50 people, ranging in age from 8 to 80, participated in these dialogues. Details are available in our report linked below.

Promoting BAME Environmental Leadership (Media and Events): A monthly radio program (>20 episodes to date) was created, curated and hosted by the Green and Black Ambassadors and broadcast by Ujima Radio. The show featured the TGRES team, but its focus was to showcase BAME-led environmental

initiatives and create a forum for engagement between those communities and environmental organisations and researchers. Ujima Radio has a typical listenership of 20000; these shows were regularly repeated on the BBC Radio Bristol 'pick of the week' slot, which has a weekly listenership of 113,000. They were also made available through a SoundCloud page (see below). The Ambassadors and the wider team also spoke at dozens of public engagement events (described below as indicators of impact). Many of these events occurred in 'traditional' venues that had been identified as difficult for BAME citizens to enter; the other half occurred in 'non-traditional' venues beyond the city centre and in historically deprived areas, thereby expanding the reach of environmental research.

Leadership and Influence: The Ambassadors sought to directly influence environmental decision makers, a group that is generally white, middle class and university educated. Crucially, this group shapes city strategy, priorities and resource allocation. The Ambassadors were trained, mentored and then invited to participate in a range of city agenda setting events, at which the G/B founding partners (i.e. Pancost and others in the TGRES Team) ceded their platforms but still provided support. These events included the Cabot Annual Lecture; BGCP's Board Meetings, its Ten-Year Anniversary and its 'Network of Network Leaders' event; One City Plan and Resilience Strategy workshops; and the Festival of the Future City. Pancost made introductions, provided mentoring and training on climate science, and supported the Ambassadors to 'invade' these traditionally white spaces. Thus, the Ambassadors learned how to navigate organisational structures and created a platform to advocate for more inclusive action.

Via the profile of the Ambassadors, TGRES has made a profound and vital contribution to Bristol and beyond, being lauded by BAME leaders as one of the most successful projects to entrain marginalised voices in the environmental dialogue. Of course, in doing so, TGRES' main research findings became somewhat subordinate – appropriately so, as other environmental issues were prioritised. However, these reflective activities are very much aligned with the Uncertain World ambitions to build bottom-up support for climate action through community dialogue. Moreover, by building relationships and partnerships, TGRES colleagues and other Cabot academics became trusted experts and are now frequently invited to participate in public dialogue and policy leadership in Bristol. By challenging the structural racism in our city and own institutions, we have gained credibility with diverse Bristol citizens; by de-emphasizing our own SciComm agenda we have earned the trust that now enables a wider and more diverse audience.

* Outcomes and impact

Please provide details on the outcomes and impacts of the activity [where appropriate, bullet point responses are welcome]:

1. **What were the benefits to you, your research and any other researchers involved?**
2. **What were the benefits to the public audiences/participants?**
3. **Were there other benefits, outcomes and impacts that occurred as a result of the Activity?**
4. **How did you/the team evaluate the Activity?**
5. **Will the Project be sustained in any way or leave a legacy?**
6. **To which extend does the Project contribute to creating a positive culture of Public Engagement with Research?** [e.g. shared learning with colleagues; raised awareness of the engagement activities; capacity building]

For 1 to 3 – please provide any evaluation data and evidence gathered to demonstrate these outcomes and impact (qualitative and/ or quantitative evidence welcomed).

5000 character(s) maximum

The first stage of engagement had a profound impact on Bristol. Pancost was invited to attend COP21 and join the Resilience Sounding Board by Mayor G Ferguson and invited to join Bristol's One City Partnership and International Strategy Board by Mayor M Rees. He and TGRES contributed to debates prior to Bristol becoming the first UK City to declare a Climate Emergency. The second stage of engagement, the G/B

Program, had even deeper impact by being one of the first EU projects to profile the disconnection between BAME communities and the environmental movement; but it also showed a positive way forward.

Benefits to the TGRES Team: This engagement built vital credibility with Bristol civil society, government and marginalised groups. This arose not from speaking to those groups but by ceding our platforms and privilege to them. This created trust and long-term relationships, which now allows more meaningful scientific engagement (>20 invitations in the past year to speak to Climate Strike youth, government and civil society). In the long-term, these new relationships can help address the lack of diversity in the Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Benefits to the public: The direct impact was the training and profile-raising of the two G/B Ambassadors. Mackenzie: 'This has been priceless for my professional development and entrance into more corporate structures of business and enterprise... we have met entrepreneurs, volunteers, students, CEOs, managers, city councillors and the Mayor and everyone in-between.' She is now one of only two Writers in Residence of the Forestry Commission England. Ketibuah-Foley: 'My leadership skills have improved, through growing confidence and having access to other leaders in the city for advice and support.' She is now a Producer /Curator at Ujima, Researcher at Up Our Street and an EU Friends of the Earth 'Nature's Keeper'. Beyond the Ambassadors, G/B has transformed Bristol's environmental movement by centring social justice, codified in the One City Plan.

Other outcomes/impacts: Evidence of impact comes from the many events to which the TGRES Team and the G/B Ambassadors were invited (partial list in Additional Info). The >20 invitations are powerful evidence because such invitations to lead, speak and shape agendas have not historically been offered to BAME citizens in environmental and sustainability contexts. Mayor Marvin Rees (the first black Mayor of a major European city) summarised how the Ambassadors have been vital to the environmental conversation and brought 'focus and impetus in challenging times.'

Evaluation and Evidence: The ambition of the G/B Ambassadors is to make the environmental community – including the research community – more diverse and inclusive. Initial evidence comes from the behaviour change of environmental organisations, including hosting of events in marginalised communities and featuring the Ambassadors prominently in flagship Bristol events (including all three Festivals of the Future City and co-hosting Bernie Sanders in 2017). It also contributed to and is highlighted in Bristol's strategic One City Plan; Mayor Rees: 'The Ambassadors pilot project is exactly the kind of collective approach that I have advocated to tackle issues of exclusion and inequality in the city. The combination of leadership development work, community working and research, media projects, and engaging the city in debate and change is a model to learn from.' Increasingly, this work has international reach with Pancost invited to speak at EU Green Week, Brussels 2019, and the Ambassadors invited to speak at the Fixing the Future Conference, Barcelona 2019.

Legacy: TGRES research continues to be foregrounded in the climate change conversation in Bristol, with Pancost still involved in Bristol's One City Plan. The G/B Ambassadors have achieved their own legacy, with both continuing as Bristol (and now national) leaders on the intersection of environmental and social justice. There is strong desire to continue this, reflected by >20 requests for Ambassador engagement by civil society and businesses, and we have been invited to submit a Lottery Funding bid.

A major contribution to PE Culture: Pancost continues to lead in public dialogue, including a recent Mayor-hosted Question Time Event on the Climate Emergency. The Project's deeper transformative value has been its contribution to the creation and then entrenchment of a relationship between climate scientists and the City of Bristol. TGRES and G/B have been celebrated by multiple political parties, leading to prominent public leadership roles for others in the Cabot Institute and the frequent featuring of TGRES team members at City Leadership events. Cabot colleagues led Bristol to becoming one of the first cities in the world to

adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, and others have assumed leadership roles on Bristol's Environmental Sustainability Board and Climate Advisory Committee.

Supporting materials

Please use this section to include any additional information or links to supporting materials that could strengthen this entry for an award. This could include:

- Up to 3 links to relevant films/film footage of the Activity
- Up to 3 quotes from project partners and/or public participants involved in the Activity
- Links to any other material in support of your application (including press articles, pictures, etc.)

2000 character(s) maximum

TGRES PI Pancost's Uncertain World site has an archive of Green and Black work, including the G/B Conversation Report and the G/B Ambassadors Report (including quotes from partners & Bristol's Mayor and Deputy Mayor): <https://richpancost.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/category/green-and-black/>

This site also contains a link to the main output of the Uncertain World Summit (and associated activity): the 'Action in the Face of Environmental Uncertainty' Report. This details the links between palaeoclimate (TGRES) research and Bristol's Resilience Strategy. It was also a main part of Bristol's scientific conversation on climate change in 2015, contributing to the adoption of bold carbon neutral ambitions.

Multi-media (including SoundCloud files for G/B episodes) are on the Bristol Green Capital Partnership pages: https://bristolgreencapital.org/project_cat/greenandblack/

The PhotoVoice: Through My Lens component of the G/B Ambassadors community dialogue was chosen for profiling by the Common Cause project, highlighting examples of innovative co-produced research. A video is available: <https://bristolgreencapital.org/photovoice-through-my-lens-common-cause/>

Links to G/B Ambassador Press:

<https://atlasofthefuture.org/project/green-black-ambassadors/>

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/social-impact/bristols-new-project-highlighting-need-diverse-environmentally-sustainable-community/>

<https://nerc.ukri.org/planetearth/stories/1864/>

<https://www.greenhousepr.co.uk/green-black-pioneer/>

<https://www.futurecityfestival.co.uk/speakers/jasmine-ketibuah-foley/>

<http://www.natures-keepers.org/england/portfolio/jazz-jasmine-ketibuah/>

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/greenweek2018/eugreenweek.eu/speakers_professor-rich-pancost.html

References:

Dutt (2020) Race and Racism in the Geosciences. *Nature Geosc* 13, 2-3.

Pancost (2016) Cities Lead on Climate Change. *Nature Geosc* 9, 264-266.

Pancost (2017) Climate Change Narratives. *Nature Geosc* 10, 466-468.

You can upload up to two files that would not be available through hyperlinks

Only the first two files will be accepted, others will be disregarded. The maximum file size is 1 MB.

Additional information

Please use this space to include any key additional information that you were not able to include in other parts of the form.

1600 character(s) maximum

Examples of G/B Events (including some invited events):

Oct-16: Healthy City Week: Community Launch, Wellspring Health Centre (attended by 1000s) & Barriers to Utopia workshop, Stokes Croft (7 participants)
Nov-16: BGCP workshop (10 participants) & BGCP Green Mingle (40 participants)
Nov-16: Cabot Institute Annual Lecture featuring Ujima Radio and G/B Ambassadors (600 attendees)
Dec-16: Invited presentation, BGCP Green Gathering, Broadmead (150 attendees)
Dec-16: Debate with BGCP Board (8 Senior Board Members)
Dec-16: Diverse Natures Trip 1 to Wildfowl Wetlands Centre (WWT) at Slimbridge (9 Field trip participants & interactions with many at Centre)
Jan-17: Diverse Natures Workshop at St Werburghs City Farm (17 participants)
Jan-17: Diverse Natures Trip 2 to WWT Slimbridge (21 participants; interactions recorded via PhotoVoice)
Feb-17: BGCP Nature Gathering Workshop, East Bristol (>100 attendees)
Mar-17: Up Our Street Festival of Solutions, Easton Community Centre (>50 attendees)
Apr-17: Invited contributors, Bristol Energy Network: Energy Conversations (>40 attendees)
May-17: Invited speakers, Young Festival of Ideas, Arnolfini (200 participants)
July-2017: Plenary discussion at 10-year anniversary of BGCP, @Bristol (140 representatives from member organisations)
Sept-2017: Invited contributors to Common Causes Workshop (AHRC) (15 participants)
Oct-2017: Invited speakers at Inclusive Sustainability event (Festival of Future City); Hamilton House (40 participants)
Dec-2017: Invited presenters at BGCP Quarterly Meeting (100 reps from Partnership Members)

4. Consent for Retention of your entry in ERCEA IT tool

The Agency would like to kindly request your consent to collect and store some of your personal data in an internal IT tool accessible only to its communication staff.

In order to support the communication strategy of the ERC Scientific Council, the ERC Executive Agency features grantees and their ERC-funded research projects in its communication activities. The Agency may also recommend funded researchers for communication actions led by contractors, communication partners or third parties.

Your data will be stored in an internal IT tool (called 'Lily') developed by the ERCEA to manage information on ERC projects used in ERC communication activities. Data may include information on your project and how it could be used for communication activities; information on communication material already published on your research; as well as personal data that may include your gender, nationality, age, and contact details.

Note that your reply will not affect your ERC grant nor the processing of your entry for this competition in any way and that you are free to change the response you give below at any time by contacting ERC-PROJECT-PROMOTION@ec.europa.eu.

For more details, including the complete list of personal data categories concerned, please consult the specific privacy statement [here](#).

Request for consent

* Do you give your consent to the processing (including collection and storage) of your personal data for the purposes listed above?

- Yes, I give my consent.
 - No, I do not want to give my consent
-

Thank you for entering the ERC Public Engagement with Research Award 2020.

You can **save a draft** by pressing the button 'Save as draft' on the **top right of this form**. A hyperlink will be created. You will get the option to email the hyperlink, to save it to favorites /bookmarks or to copy the link to your clipboard. Please keep this hyperlink carefully.

You can **download your entry** in pdf by pressing the button available on the **top right of this form**.

All candidates will be informed about the decision regarding their application by the end of April 2020.

Background Documents

[Guide for applicants ERC Public Engagement with Research Award 2020](#)

[SPECIFIC PRIVACY STATEMENT: ERC Public Engagement with Research Award](#)

Contact

erc-webmaster@ec.europa.eu