



2022 EMDOC PGR CONFERENCE

Interdisciplinarity and Collaboration

9:30am, 21st September

2022 EMDOC PGR CONFERENCE

Schedule of the day	
09:25	Registration/technical help
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome (Dr Ian Packer, Director of the Doctoral School, UoL)
09:45-11:00	Presentation session 1 (5 speakers x 15 mins)
11:00-11:15	Break
11.15-12:30	Presentation session 2 (5 Speakers)
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 14:45	Presentation session 3 (5 speakers)
14:45 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:00	3MT
16:00 - 16:45	Networking
16:45 - 17:00	Winners Announced / Close

PRESENTATION ORDER

09:45-11:00

Devika Bahadur - De Montfort University: How men in India create a sense of home away from home

Ximing Fan - University of Loughborough: Physical activity in the established-outsider relations: Theorising the figuration of Chinese communities in the UK

Hollie Walsh - University of Lincoln: Lived experience of accessing welfare services: oral histories from Greater Manchester

Zeinab Hussanein - University of Nottingham: A qualitative study of barriers and motivators to prevent second-hand smoke exposure among pregnant women and children in Egypt: Identifying appropriate approaches for change

Helen Elliott-Mainwaring - University of Leicester: How do Power & Hierarchy Influence Staff Safety in Maternity Services?

11:15-12:30

Charlene Lee - De Montfort University: Old Wives, New Tales: The role of gathering empirical data in creative writing research

Frederika Roberts - University of Derby: Co-creating whole school wellbeing: An interdisciplinary mixed methods case study exploring the use of Appreciative Inquiry to create a strategy and action plan for whole school wellbeing

Nicki Pierce - University of Lincoln: Second Language Learning and Self Determination Theory

Rhianna Garrett - University of Loughborough: Career trajectories of racialised minority staff and alumni in UK higher education: An interdisciplinary approach

Sally Sharp & Rachel York - University of Northampton: Interprofessional collaboration in qualitative doctoral research

PRESENTATION ORDER

13:30-14:45

Farzeen Heesambee - University of Derby: Data journalism and the Covid-19 pandemic: analysis of data dissemination strategies across broadcast, online and print news media.

Simon Hand - University of Leicester: Research skills between disciplines: finding a niche or falling through the cracks?

Shreeja Basak - University of Nottingham: Towards Industrialised Addictive Manufacturing: What Should a Scaled-Up Factory Look Like?

Zoe Stevens - University of Northampton: The Female Body: An Interdisciplinarity Approach

Angela Thornton - University of Nottingham: Memory to Mind Uploading: An Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Approach to Exploring Future Worlds

3MT

Zarin Chowdhury - University of Lincoln: Investigating Factors Leading to Emotion Positivity in Older Adults

Jessica Ijebor - University of Loughborough: Discourse versus Experience? Employee perceptions of racial /ethnic diversity discourse and existing inequalities within a UK organisation.

Julie Hurst - University of Derby: Compassion in the Classroom.

Savvas Papageorgiou - University of Leicester: Killing two birds with one stone: Improving treatment and diagnosis of lung cancer.

Trevor Wood - De Montfort University: No Phishing Here

Rajiv Daxini - University of Nottingham: Solar energy and the solar spectrum: predicting the future

Northampton TBC

ABSTRACTS

Devika Bahadur - De Montfort University

"How men in India create a sense of home away from home"

This presentation broadly looks at the interdisciplinary relationship between material culture and cultural identity by reviewing literature on the experience of home, belonging and identity in Indian households. This is to understand how working men in India seek to recreate a sense of home when they are away from home through their interactions with material objects. This is a neglected area of research as the material world is often captured as a female experience. This presentation argues that the concept of home and belonging becomes even more important for men in India when they leave the home space.

This idea is supported by the emergence of the coronavirus disease at the end of 2019 when the world faced socio economic disaster and profound psychological misery. While the lockdown enabled men with an opportunity to stay at home and spend time with their loved ones, going back to work several months later showed a significant rise in the level of emotional distress. The recent decline in COVID cases inspired companies in India to open their doors for the employees to travel to their workplaces, however most employees seem against the idea of going back. This situation led several companies adopt a work from home approach as the employees found working from home provides them with freedom to customize their workspace as per their needs, "I can structure my work as my personal own" (India Today, 2022).

This presentation will consider the importance of men being able to create replacement homes when they leave to work elsewhere and outlines the current gaps in the research in this interdisciplinary context.

Ximing Fan - University of Loughborough

"Physical activity in the established-outsider relations: Theorising the figuration of Chinese communities in the UK"

To what extent do social processes impact the physical activity participation of ethnic minorities? With the increasing trend of migration and ever-changing dynamics in society, health and physical activity inequalities remain a socially relevant challenge for migrants and marginalised communities. As 'the most unknown' ethnic minority in the UK, this ethnographic research investigates the social processes that impact the physical activity behaviour of British Chinese communities by collaborating with a local community centre.

At a cursory glance, the ethnicity of the Chinese communities in the UK seem to share a homogenous identity, but a closer look reveals diverse differences in culture, generations, language and so forth. Thus, the research takes a figurational approach and is particularly guided by the theory of established-outsider.

As a community largely consisting of immigrants and descendants, there remains an overlapping identity for the British Chinese, who simultaneously play the role of 'the established' and 'the outsider' due to their interdependent network within the society. The ethnographic fieldwork conducted in a Chinese community centre in Birmingham, has revealed preliminary findings that the we-image of the Chinese themselves create 'group disgrace' that affect the self-identity and prevent them from engaging in physical activity with the established British society. The findings of this research contribute to the policy-making and well-being of ethnic minorities in general and seeks to discover the social processes behind the health inequalities.

Hollie Walsh - University of Lincoln

"Lived experience of accessing welfare services: oral histories from Greater Manchester"

The research is interdisciplinary; drawing together thinking and practice from political science, community development, social policy and feminist legal theory to question the relationship between lived experience of accessing welfare services and people's own understanding of their autonomy and vulnerability. The research is rooted in the researcher's experience as a manager in community development and 10 years' experience working and volunteering in the not-for-profit sector managing and delivering services for people deemed vulnerable or excluded. Understandings of the what, why, how and who of community development practice are central to participant recruitment and locating the research geographically and theoretically. The research question is 'how do people with lived experience of accessing welfare services and support perceive their own autonomy and vulnerability over time?'. The question stems from a concern with an increasingly punitive state, a vehicle through which "some of the most marginalised of our fellow citizens have been subjected to a range of deeply harmful policies and practices by state institutions and their corporate proxies" (Greener, Hart and Moth, 2020).

The theoretical framework and the 'lens' through which the research is conducted is the political ethics of care; a way of imagining care and a concern for care as the organising principle of society as opposed to capital (Tronto, 2013). The research also draws upon feminist legal theory, specifically Fineman's vulnerability theory which articulates that all humans are inherently and ontologically vulnerable to harm. This vulnerability is moderated through differing access to financial, social and environmental support (2008, 2010, 2013). The theoretical underpinnings of the research are brought into focus through reviewing social policy literature and oral history interviews which aim to understand participant's reflections on engaging with a range of welfare services across the statutory and VCSE sectors including housing, health, debt advice, training, education and benefits.

Zeinab Hassanein - University of Nottingham

"A qualitative study of barriers and motivators to prevent second-hand smoke exposure among pregnant women and children in Egypt: Identifying appropriate approaches for change"

Background: The prevalence of daily second-hand smoke (SHS) exposure among pregnant non-smoking women and children in Egypt is estimated to be about 50% and 55%, respectively. This study aimed to explore barriers to preventing SHS exposure among pregnant women/children and smoking behavior at home in Egypt.

Methods: Focus group discussions (FGDs) with pregnant women/mothers of children residing in urban/rural areas (n=61). Data were coded and analyzed thematically.

Results: 61 participants were recruited, aged 18–49. They reported being never smokers and SHS exposure for themselves and their children was mainly at home. Pregnant women/mothers had some general knowledge of the dangers of SHS, but their knowledge appeared incomplete. The most commonly reported barriers to preventing SHS exposure/adopting a smoke-free home or workplace were having men who smoke in the household, doctors not being supportive regarding smoking cessation, SHS exposure being socially accepted and fear among women of damaging a relationship; being nervous about asking smokers to stop and being worried about disputes and arguments with their husband. The majority of interviewees' families were reported to allow smoking anywhere in the home; others implemented some measures to prevent SHS, however, these tended to be inconsistently implemented and unlikely to be effective.

Conclusion: This study increases our knowledge of the barriers of non-smoking Egyptian pregnant women/mother of children in creating a smoke-free environment. There is a need for denormalization of SHS exposure and better enforcement of smoke-free policies.

Implications: This study suggests promising approaches to help in the promotion of smoke-free homes (SFH) and prevention of SHS exposure among pregnant women and children. These approaches might include better enforcement of smoke-free policies and higher fines for breaking them. HCPs need to support smoking cessation services in primary health centers (PHCs). SHS policy, practice and research should focus on fathers and grandparents to increase their effectiveness.

Helen Elliott-Mainwaring - University of Leicester

"How do Power & Hierarchy Influence Staff Safety in Maternity Services?"

Background On the 26th April 2022 I met Staffordshire University PGR fellow, Midwife, and Safety Science lecturer Charlotte Phillips as we both presented our PhD Conference posters at the live streamed Midlands Midwifery Festival held in Birmingham. We found remarkable similarities within our research aims and designs and were invited by Sue MacDonald to co-present live at the Maternity and Midwifery Hour online Forum on the 20th July 2022.

Aims Our separate PhD projects both research the influences of human factors on staff experiences of working in maternity services. Charlotte's work aims to explore 'Interdisciplinary Working between Midwives and Maternity Support Workers in Training'. I am in my final year and have interviewed 55 maternity staff across England for their experiences of asking each other for help through the digitisation of escalation tools.

Methods In our live episode we each presented our projects, drawing comparisons with the similarities. Both projects base their inquiries on the work of Donabedian: - 'systems, process and outcomes', using Shorrock's Varieties of human work to explore the gaps between Work as done, Work as imagined, and Work as reported.

Findings Charlottes work is based on the idea that 'Often the person who notices the problem is the best person to fix it, with lots of opportunities that come about by distributed leadership'. My work is based on the idea that there are systems based reasons why 70% of claims against NHS Resolution are coming from maternity services, alongside over 47% of payments. We are experiencing horrifying attrition rates from maternity professions, such that the staff experience and the patient experience are intrinsically linked, and 'I believe that the people closest to this system are the ones best placed to improve it'.

Conclusion Our episode was presented live, and has been shared to YouTube, with an audio podcast available on Spotify.

Charlene Lee - De Montfort University

"Old Wives, New Tales: The role of gathering empirical data in creative writing research"

Old wives' tales are a type of female narrative from the oral tradition. Definitions of them vary from fictional stories told by old women to pieces of advice shared through generations, some of which are true, whilst others have been scientifically disproven. Generally, the phrase has negative connotations. For example, in the King James Bible it states 'refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness' (Timothy, v4). Historically, women found to be sharing these tales, especially those based on health and wellbeing advice, which this research focuses on, were admonished. These punishments included exclusion from religious, social, and educational institutions and being arrested under the Witchcraft Acts of 1563 and 1604.

Women's own educational accomplishments and desire to help their community was used in retaliation against them. But what would these persecuted women do if all the tales they told were true? Which tales could be weaponised against their persecutors and which ones could they use to help one another? In my proposed presentation I will discuss how I am exploring this in my practice-based PhD by writing a collection of contemporary short stories, wherein the plot for each is based upon an old wives' tale. For instance, in 'The Cookbook' Sofia's family feeds her carrots so that she can see in the dark and spy on her cheating husband. I will address the interdisciplinary nature of my research methods; as alongside the established creative techniques used in my field, I am using conventional empirical research found in other disciplines to update traditional storytelling. I will discuss how I am embedding the empirical findings into the creative work, and how this research supports the idea that old wives' tales lend themselves to emerging trends via social media, for example beauty 'hacks' and d.i.y healthcare.

Frederika Roberts - University of Derby

"Co-creating whole school wellbeing: An interdisciplinary mixed methods case study exploring the use of Appreciative Inquiry to create a strategy and action plan for whole school wellbeing"

Despite criticism, the role of wellbeing in education has been gaining increasing traction in UK policy, the most recent focus being on whole school approaches, as existing research has shown these to be most likely to promote wellbeing and prevent mental health and behavioural difficulties for young people, whilst also improving attainment. This interdisciplinary study, combining the fields of Positive Psychology and Education, will explore the use of Appreciative Inquiry (AI), a strengths-based organisational change methodology primarily used in the business sector, to create a strategy and action plan for whole school wellbeing in an English primary school.

The aim of this study is to contribute to the understanding of the benefits and impacts, as well as the challenges and limitations, of the use of AI processes in education settings, and to provide new insights into the promotion of wellbeing in education. As part of the study, the experiences of AI participants and the wider school community in relation to the AI process will be qualitatively explored alongside the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data to investigate any potential impact of the AI process itself on wellbeing within the school community. A preliminary literature review carried out by the researcher suggests that literature on the use of AI to promote whole school wellbeing and documenting the effect of the AI process on wellbeing is scarce, and that this study would be the first of its kind in England and the UK. As the field research is yet to commence (planned autumn/winter 2022), in this presentation, the researcher will outline the rationale for the study and the planned methodology intended to contribute original knowledge to the fields of both disciplines (Positive Psychology and Education).

Nicki Pierce - University of Lincoln

"Second Language Learning and Self Determination Theory"

How can secondary school students in the UK be convinced to take a second language? How do we demonstrate to them the benefits of learning a second language? Recent research in relation to language learning has begun to examine language learning in the context of self-determination theory (SDT) and how this can influence students' motivation to learn. Understanding self-determination theory is key to understanding how the language learning landscape in the UK education system must adapt and change to fulfil students' intrinsic needs, so that they are motivated to learn a second language. Self-determination theory is based on the concept that autonomy of self is predicated on an individual's behaviour being self-organised and volitional.

Thus, when a person is acting autonomously, they are engaged in an activity with full awareness and complete co-operation. Needs satisfaction is a critical resource in an individual's behaviour and self-determination theory demonstrates that a person's basic psychological need for autonomy helps to motivate an individual, if this need is frustrated for any reason, it hinders the person's desire to perform tasks and in addition can manifest itself in defiance and can diminish the well-being of the person. (Ryan et al., 2021) We are carrying out a study on students aged 11-18 years about how they view second language learning. Self-determination theory is being used to examine the motivation or lack thereof in second language learning in the UK. This research aims to practically address methods to improve motivation in second language learning, using the STD. This project has seen high levels of collaboration between the three researchers, as well as with a multi-academy trust in the UK enabling us to complete our survey in their schools.

Rhianna Garrett - University of Loughborough

"Career trajectories of racialised minority staff and alumni in UK higher education: An interdisciplinary approach"

My discussion aims to present how my interdisciplinary approach to race equity research produces insightful discoveries using creative methodologies from a wide range of disciplines to produce research that promotes an ethics of care. Combining the ethical considerations and research approaches of sociology, the theoretical basis of human geography and the research context of careers, my research seeks to better understand the career trajectories of racialised minority staff and alumni in UK higher education. An interdisciplinary approach is essential for this form of research as it requires new, creative methodologies to better understand the everyday enactment of whiteness and structural racism in higher education, and to promote an ethics of care at its core to protect both myself as a researcher and my participants.

I argue that not taking an interdisciplinary approach would be unethical in the context of race equity research, as it requires a wide range of understanding from different disciplines that have a mixture of ethnic diversity within their communities.

For example, the field of geography is a predominantly white male area of research, enacting itself within white male walls of UK institutions. This means it is vital to outsource to a wider and diverse range of academic subjects to both learn from what is being done outside of the research area, but also apply geographical concepts such as space, place, and its intersections with race to other research areas such as sociology and careers research. Race equity is central to all areas of research and can connect disciplines together to create meaningful, loving, and ethical research spaces within a predominantly white institution.

Sally Sharp (co-presenting with Rachel York - Derby) - University of Northampton

"Interprofessional collaboration in qualitative doctoral research"

The EMDoc conference held in September 2021 called for presenters to discuss the theme of "change". Rachel discussed her experiences of qualitative data collection during the Covid-19 pandemic which required adapting from face-to-face interviews to virtual methods due to social distancing advice from the government. Having experienced a similar shift in her own doctoral research, Sally connected with Rachel following the conference and they began working collaboratively reflecting on their experiences.

This progressed to incorporate the experiences of other postgraduate researchers to establish the lessons that could be learned moving forward beyond the pandemic. Both researchers have different research methodologies yet found great value in their shared interdisciplinary observations and reflections. Rachel is an advanced nurse practitioner specialising in urgent care and is conducting an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) study.

Sally is a lecturer in higher education with a background in primary education and is undertaking research using Narrative Analysis. Together, they led two seminars aimed at encouraging shared experiences from a participating audience and as a result have identified challenges and opportunities in data collection in the future. Planning to publish their work in this area later this year, Rachel and Sally look forward to presenting their experiences of interdisciplinary collaboration and highlighting the value of establishing networks with other doctoral students.

Farzeen Heesambee - University of Derby

"Data journalism and the Covid-19 pandemic: analysis of data dissemination strategies across broadcast, online and print news media."

This research aims to advance existing research in Digital journalism and the use of data-driven journalism during Crisis reporting to demonstrate the interplay between the science community and journalism. Previous research around pandemic reporting did not focus on the role of data in reporting (Pieri, 2018; Perreault and Perreault, 2021) , with COVID-19, the focus of reporting has predominantly been based on data visualisation. Throughout the pandemic, health statistics have been propelled as the driving force in journalism. Journalists have acted as 'connectors' (Pentzold et al., 2021) drawing on a range of authoritative sources such as 'healthcare professionals' to create a sense of accuracy through scientifically validated information (Perreault and Perreault, 2021) .

However, widely reported confusion and uncertainty surrounding some of the key UK Government's messages, as well as differential policy and strategies within local authorities, have highlighted the need to look closely at how scientific data, its mediation and public policy are negotiated and understood within the wider public sphere.

Different news outlets opted for different sources of information with contradictory data, all labelled as covid data, thus making navigating through the processes of data visualisation and representation an incomprehensible disarray. The research will adopt a data life-cycle approach to COVID-19 data and integrates this with policy analysis and framing within media.

Simon Hand - University of Leicester

"Research skills between disciplines: finding a niche or falling through the cracks?"

Interdisciplinarity has become a buzzword in research as the value of different perspectives on technical problems has become highly recognised. Despite the value of interdisciplinarity, collaborators with different skillsets may be hindered by their degree of specialisation, requiring lengthy explanation of not only the problems, processes, and practicalities at hand, but often the fundamental vocabulary required to communicate them. Therefore, it can be expected that researchers conversant in more than one discipline could expedite these interdisciplinary projects, and as such be highly valued team members. At the interface between disciplines, ideas that are standard to one field can provide innovative solutions to complex problems from another.

In my own experience, when successfully communicated, these concepts make interdisciplinary research both rewarding and exciting, and I hope to be able to continue an interdisciplinary approach to pharmacological research in the next phase of my research career. However, as I approach the final year of my project and start to consider the roles that I hope to apply for next, I find that having an unusual combination of skills does not meet the typical experience required by many research position person specifications. Most academic departments, and their funding, fit into established institutional categories, whereas interdisciplinary projects may be specific or ad hoc, and therefore inherently short-term. While the PhD experience does provide the invaluable opportunity to develop many transferable skills, I would like to discuss the translational barriers surrounding technical and subject-specific skillsets that are unique to interdisciplinary researchers.

This presentation will include my own experiences within biomedicine but aims primarily to promote a discussion of how researchers with highly-specialised interdisciplinary skills can be recognised as team members that can contribute not only to work within their current niche, but who can foster innovation by applying these hybrid skillsets to new projects.

Shreeja Basak - University of Nottingham

"Towards Industrialised Additive Manufacturing: What Should a Scaled-Up Factory Look Like? "

Additive manufacturing (AM) is an essential tool in the advent of the digital manufacturing era. The tool-less manufacturing process enables automation in production, and individualisation of products and solutions. Recognising this, factory-ready machines and complementary software are being developed to support the industrialisation of AM. However, a key question is yet to be answered: what should a scaled-up AM factory look like?

In collaboration with a UK-based AM printing service provider, we investigate the influence of facility layout on the process economics and production losses in polymer laser sintering. In particular, we explore the role of process reliability and repeatability in this relationship at different scales of production. The printing service provider's existing facility is modelled, and then this model is expanded to accommodate greater quantities in throughput. Two facility layout paradigms are compared in this expansion, production cells and process layout. Using discrete-event simulation of order fulfilment in the different production facility scenarios, we optimise the layout for cost-effective production.

This study approaches the question of scaling up AM from different perspectives (economics, operations, and manufacturing management) to provide generalizable insights for AM management scholars and growing businesses. In addition to reporting the initial results, the presentation will reflect on the mutual benefits of this industry-academia collaboration and lessons from previous attempts to establish collaborations.

Zoe Stevens - University of Northampton

"The Female Body: An Interdisciplinarity Approach"

My research focusses on 21st Century dystopian literature, by women writers, with a specific focus on female embodiment. Within this research, women's bodies are consistently shown as something to be controlled, exploited and used. Dystopian literature has been described "holding up hellish mirror and describes the worst of all possible futures", but with recent events such as the overturning of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling, future dystopian literature is more akin to everyday life. When considering the problematic concept of woman's body as something to be controlled, exploited and used, the reach across multiple disciplines in today's society is clear.

From a sociological angle, we see control through dress code violations at schools. In sport, the US Gymnastics scandal where vulnerable girls were sexually exploited by a trusted figure in power. In Film and TV, the Me too movement, with the Harvey Weinstein scandal. In Law, the overruling of Roe v.s Wade, which will undoubtedly lead to the control of women's bodies by individual states. And finally, in Politics, Donald Trump, and the direct correlation to dystopian books sales with a reported 200% increase of sales in *The Handmaid's Tale* following his election.

Is it possible to change the narrative of the feminine body being represented as weak, and controllable, and if so, how? Again, interdisciplinarity plays a key part here – we cannot change the narrative in one way and expect this to follow across all different disciplines. At a grass roots level, steps towards change can come from discussion, reading and imagery within the general population, which subsequently influences the zeitgeist of the society we are live in. My paper will highlight some recent representations, and the interdisciplinarity approach that must be taken when considering the female body.

Angela Thornton - University of Nottingham

"Memory to Mind Uploading: An Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Approach to Exploring Future Worlds"

Mind Uploading is a familiar term due to programmes like Black Mirror and Upload. However, what is less well known is that scientists are collaborating to reverse engineer a brain via whole brain emulation (WBE). If this is achieved in humans, it might be possible to create a brain - and some believe a mind - on a different processing platform such as a digital computer. However, research exploring public understanding of and attitudes towards advances in neuroscience, which could potentially lead to whole brain emulation and mind uploading, is limited. My research to date comprises several studies both quantitative and qualitative on public awareness and attitudes. I am currently collaborating with a longitudinal public panel where I have used individual interviews to explore their autobiographical memories both past and predicted. These act as an enabler for discussions around mind and the possibility of mind uploading far in the future. The panel have also engaged with Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps and Brain to Computer Interfaces (BCIs).

This has primed them for the final stage of my public research which involves a creative and novel method of transporting individuals to future worlds where mind uploading is a reality. I decided on this method - an online storytelling site - as a direct result of my conversations and collaborations with researchers working in Human: Computer Interaction (HCI) and game developers. A strong, strategic partnership with my industry partner - a non-profit organization working towards WBE - also allows me to collaborate with international multi-disciplinary experts for example on a e-Delphi study researching memory and mind. My supervision team's expertise in Human Factors, Science, Technology and Society and Medicine has also enriched and enabled different perspectives and approaches.