**Arts Methods Funding Report and Final Budget**

**Constructing Knowledges: Public Engagement, Autumn 2018**

The second symposium in the Constructing Knowledges postgraduate-led series took place on the 16th of November 2018, made possible through Arts Methods funding. This series of symposia, organised by PhD students from several faculties, aims to bring together postgraduate students from across the university to share their research methods and practices, and develop a strong interdisciplinary network. The first symposium, which took place in May 2018 and also benefitted from Arts Methods funding, met with an incredibly positive response, and this enthusiasm from attendees led to this second symposium being held.

**Purpose:** Extensive feedback had been gathered at the first symposium, with a high demand for further interdisciplinary events. This feedback which was implemented for this event. Firstly, several attendees at the prior event had suggested that a more informal excursion would be a good way to develop the network and get to know other students. In response to this, a visit to Manchester Science Festival was organised, on which the group attended several events at the festival, including an exhibition which had been curated by one of the PhD students in the network. Secondly, several attendees from the first symposium had suggested that Public Engagement would be a good topic for a future event. This was chosen to be the theme of this symposium, which would allow postgraduate students to hear about the different types of public engagement practiced by their peers, and encourage them to get involved with public engagement events in their field.

**Structure:** Public engagement was chosen as a topic thanks to feedback that it is often a difficult area to gain experience in, and that many postgraduates would like to be involved with public engagement, but don’t know where to start. The structure of the symposium was formulated to give students a chance to present about their own public engagement experiences in a relaxed and supportive setting, as well as hearing from more senior academics whose careers have involved public engagement. The symposium also included a discussion section facilitated by games, and a workshop designed to help attendees think about how to put their ideas into practice in public engagement settings. This symposium structure was appreciated in the feedback, and attendees particularly reported enjoying the presentations by senior academics.

**Outcomes:** This symposium has already produced several positive outcomes. Real-time coverage of the event was available on Twitter via #ConstructingKnowledges and @ConstructKnow, which several attendees were actively engaged with. There is also a forthcoming blog post about the event on the Constructing Knowledges blog (<https://constructingknowledges.wordpress.com/>) where the previous symposium and excursion are also documented. In addition, several of the presentations included suggestions of public engagement programs which students could get involved with, and several students expressed interest in doing so. Attendees going on to pursue more public engagement opportunities is a clear positive outcome for this event.

**Feedback**: Feedback was gathered from attendees via a questionnaire, which gave students the opportunity to express their favourite and least favourite parts of the event, as well as to share ideas for future events. 83% of respondents to the questionnaire said they found the event useful, and 100% said they would maybe (17%), probably (8%), or definitely (75%) attend future events in the Constructing Knowledges series. All respondents reported meeting either ‘several’ or ‘many’ students from other faculties at the event, which was one of the primary intended outcomes of the event. 100% of respondents agreed that more inter-faculty networking events were needed on campus. Respondents widely agreed that the networking opportunities and staff presentations had been highlights of the day, and suggested future topics such as grant proposal writing or public policy.

**Next Steps:** The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of attendees saying they would attend a similar event in future. As such, more events in the Constructing Knowledges series are planned, with the aim of having at least one event per semester. This will help maintain and grow the interdisciplinary network of postgraduates that has developed around these events. The network will also be kept active through our social media platforms, blog, and email listserv.

**Budget Report (See Appendix B for Receipts)**

**Catering (assuming 75 attendees)**

Tea/coffee £131.25 (75 people at £1.75)

PROJECTED TOTAL CATERING £131.25

**FINAL TOTAL CATERING: £78.75**

**Printing**

Posters/leaflets approx. £15

Handouts for attendees approx. £20

PROJECTED TOTAL PRINTING £35

**FINAL TOTAL PRINTING £32**

**Compensatory Book Vouchers for Speakers**

Book Vouchers £120 (4 speakers at £30 each)

PROJECTED TOTAL VOUCHERS £120

FINAL TOTAL BOOK VOUCHERS £90 (3 speakers at £30 each)

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**TOTAL REQUESTED £286.25**

**TOTAL USED £200.75**

**APPENDIX A**



