

Research Staff Conference - 16.11.2022



Crossing and Challenging Boundaries:
Supporting researchers to connect and
communicate across disciplines and sectors

The Dalton Room, Core Technology Facility, Grafton Street

Organised by the Researcher Development Team

#UoMResDev

<https://www.researcherdevelopment.manchester.ac.uk>

Welcome

Professor Melissa Westwood

Associate Vice President Research

Melissa is a Professor of Endocrinology and as Associate Vice-President Research is leading on developing a strategy related to the development of researcher skills and the career development of research staff.



“ I am delighted to welcome you all to this year’s research staff conference, our first on campus since 2019. Research staff are the life-blood of our University, contributing to both our research ambitions, and also our research environment. So today, I’m looking forward to hearing from our researchers who are crossing and challenging traditional academic boundaries, listening to your thoughts on interdisciplinary research, and also celebrating successes with the research staff excellence award winners. There’s also an opportunity for us all to take some time to reflect on our own development through workshops on connecting, communicating, storytelling and managing boundaries. It looks set to be a great day. Thank you to all of the speakers and attendees for your engagement and helping our research staff community to connect. ”

Opening Address: What do we mean by interdisciplinary research?

10.45-11.00 The Dalton Room



Professor Colette Fagan, Vice President Research

Colette is a Professor of Sociology and the University’s Vice-President for Research. Previously she was Deputy Dean and Vice-Dean for Research (2010-17) of the Faculty of Humanities. She is responsible for leading and implementing the University’s research strategy and doctoral training. As Chair of the Russell Group’s PVC-Research Group she is leading their work to enhance research culture and environment, following the RG launch of their [Realising our potential report and toolkit](#). Colette is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Agenda

10.15	Registration and Refreshments	The Street
10.45	Welcome Address: What do we mean by interdisciplinary research? Professor Colette Fagan, Vice President Research	The Dalton Room
11.00	Panel Discussion: Researchers Challenging Boundaries Chaired by Dr Steve Cross, Freelance communicator, trainer and comedian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr Jack Benton, Wellcome Research Fellow – Chrisoula Chappell, EPSRC Doctoral Prize Fellow – Dr Ashley Gluchowski, Perera Fellow and Research Associate – Dr Beatriz Mingo, Royal Academy of Engineering and Presidential Research Fellow 	The Dalton Room
12.15	Lunch and Networking	The Street
13.15	Parallel Sessions <i>How to Stop Holding Yourself Back</i> Dr Eamon Dubaissi, Dr Stefania Silvestri and Dr Fiona McBride, Prosper Project <i>Finding Better Balance through Boundaries</i> Alys Kay, Researcher Developer, UoM <i>Using Storytelling to Communicate Research</i> Dr Anna Ploszajski, Award-winning materials scientist, presenter, comedian and storyteller <i>Jumping across Boundaries to Connect</i> Dr Steve Cross, Freelance communicator, trainer and comedian	The Dalton Room The Rutherford Room Innovation Suite Room 1 Innovation Suite Room 2
14.15	Celebrating Success: Research Staff Excellence Awards Professor Melissa Westwood, Associate Vice President Research	The Dalton Room
14.45	Tea break	The Street
15.00	Parallel Sessions <i>How to Stop Holding Yourself Back</i> Dr Eamon Dubaissi, Dr Stefania Silvestri and Dr Fiona McBride, Prosper Project <i>Finding Better Balance through Boundaries</i> Alys Kay, Researcher Developer, UoM <i>Using Storytelling to Communicate Research</i> Dr Anna Ploszajski, Award-winning materials scientist, presenter, comedian and storyteller <i>Jumping across Boundaries to Connect</i> Dr Steve Cross, Freelance communicator, trainer and comedian	The Dalton Room The Rutherford Room Innovation Suite Room 1 Innovation Suite Room 2

Panel Discussion: Researchers Challenging Boundaries

11.00-12.15 The Dalton Room

Chaired by Dr Steve Cross, Communicator, trainer and comedian



Dr Jack Benton, Wellcome Research Fellow

Jack's interdisciplinary research explores the health and wellbeing impacts of urban environments, and he is currently developing novel methods using video technology to assess wellbeing behaviours. He takes a cross-faculty approach to research, working across the health, social, urban, environmental and computer sciences. He has also collaborated with non-academic organisations to evaluate 'real-world' interventions, including local government, developers and community organisations.

Dr Ashley Gluchowski, Perera Fellow and Research Associate

Ashley started her research career off in basic medical science in Canada. She later transitioned to clinical research, and then again to applied exercise science in New Zealand. Now in Manchester in the Healthy Ageing Research Group, her mixed-methods focus is on overcoming barriers to implementation and policy change as well as working with the Innovation Factory to commercialise her research in hopes of making a global impact.



Dr Beatriz Mingo, RAE and Presidential Research Fellow

Beatriz is currently a Senior Research Fellow (Royal Academy of Engineering) in the Department of Materials. Her research focuses on the development of environmentally friendly surface treatments for light alloys. She was recently awarded the 2022 Royal Academy of Engineering Young Engineer of the Year and The University of Manchester Researcher of the Year for her outstanding career in corrosion and surface engineering.

Chrisoula Chappell, Founder of Organoid Solutions Ltd

Chrisoula's postgraduate research, funded by the EPSRC, investigated artificial blood vessels for fat tissue generation. Chrisoula discovered that her research had application for women who had had mastectomies as a result of breast cancer. Chrisoula was awarded an EPSRC Doctoral Prize to continue her research and in January 2021 she founded her own start-up company Organoid Solutions Ltd.



Parallel Sessions

13.15-14.15 and 15.00-16.00

How to Stop Holding Yourself Back - Dr Eamon Dubaissi, Dr Stefania Silvestri and Dr Fiona McBride, The Prosper Project

Have you ever agonised over a missed opportunity to network with that well-known expert at the last conference you attended? Do you struggle with the idea of what others might think of you? Have you ever procrastinated out of fear of failure? Do you feel like you might be holding yourself back from taking risks and making the next professional move? This workshop focusses on identifying some of the barriers you may be setting yourself; what you can do to address them and change your mindset around them.



Finding Better Balance through Boundaries – Alys Kay, Researcher Developer



This workshop is for you if you are looking to find work-life balance, you have a hard time saying no, you recognise that you need to start taking care of yourself better, and you are hoping to find a better way of doing things. The workshop will focus on helping you to reconnect with your needs, desires, and values by helping you slow down, be more present and aware, and make choices that bring more balance and satisfaction in your life. You will be provided with practical and effective strategies for creating better boundaries, with others and yourself.

Using Storytelling to Communicate Research - Dr Anna Ploszajski, Award-winning materials scientist, presenter, comedian and storyteller

All stories are made from a single premise; “what if...?”. In research, we ask “what if...?” too, but we call it hypothesis, and answer it with experiments and studies. Despite this likeness between research and stories, many of us struggle to communicate our work effectively and engagingly. In this workshop you will find out how to tell creative, memorable and engaging stories about your research. We’ll cover how to structure information like a storyteller, how to think of ourselves as a compelling central character and how to make our messages pitch perfect for any future audience.



Jumping across Boundaries to Connect -Dr Steve Cross, Freelance communicator, trainer and comedian



Steve is a freelance communicator, trainer, and comedian who has to find work to survive. He's helped researchers build their work networks for years, and has stolen ideas from across the UK research landscape to share with you today. We won't be talking about shaking hands at conferences, but about how to find people who can help you to succeed at work, in ways that suit you.

Celebrating Success: Research Staff Excellence Awards

14.15-14.45 The Dalton Room

Research Staff of the Year



Dr Liz Camacho, Faculty of
Biology, Medicine and Health



Dr Sophie Yarker
Faculty of Humanities



Dr Qian Yang, Faculty of
Science and Engineering

Best Outstanding Output



Dr Alaa Droubi, Faculty of
Biology, Medicine and Health



Dr James Hodgson
Faculty of Humanities



Dr Juan Fumero, Faculty of
Science and Engineering

Best Outstanding Contribution to Research Impact



Dr Matthew Carr, Faculty of
Biology, Medicine and Health



CoDE Researchers
Faculty of Humanities



Dr Thomas Bennett and Dr
Guilhem de Hoe, Faculty of
Science and Engineering

Best Outstanding Contribution to the Research Environment



Dr Gabrielle Parkinson Dr Elli
Marinopoulou, Dr Helen
Williams and
Dr Nicholas Scott, Faculty of
Biology, Medicine and Health

