



# Ethics Research Day

**Spring Term 2014:**

**Participatory Research Ethics: Working with communities**

**Wednesday 12th March 2014, 9.30am  
Room 4.10, 35 Berkeley Square**

## **SUMMARY**

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is research that is relevant to communities of place and/or interest, where community members play a role in all or some of the design, data collection, analysis and use of the research. Such action-oriented research involves academics and students working in partnership with community organisations and NGOs on collaborative research projects. This raises particular challenges relating to the distribution of power, ownership of data and findings, and the balance between academic and activist goals. CBPR also challenges the principles and procedures of traditional institutional ethical review, which assume predictability and a clear distinction between researchers and researched. Recent work by scholar-activists in this field seeks to critically examine existing practices (including institutional review processes) and works to enable the active creation of alternative structures, drawing, for instance, on feminist and covenantal approaches to ethics (e.g. Brydon-Miller, 2012). This Ethics day focuses on participatory/co-produced research ethics. The presentations in this seminar will explore research experiences in relation to the ethical highs and lows of conducting participatory/co-produced research with communities and the ethical issues that arise.

**For event registration please go to: <https://edn.bris.ac.uk/269>  
Please register by 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

## PROGRAMME

<b>9.30- 9.35</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Frances Giampapa & Wan Ching Yee, GSoE Ethics Co-ordinators
<b>9.35- 10.35</b>	<b>Sarah Banks (University of Durham)</b> <i>Tackling ethical challenges in community-based participatory research</i>
<b>10.35– 11:15</b>	<b>Helen Manchester (GSoE)</b> <i>Tangible Memories: Co-producing stories in care home settings</i>
<b>11.15– 11.40</b>	Coffee
<b>11.40– 12.20</b>	<b>Tom James (University of Exeter)</b> <i>Exploring the hurdles of an ethical approach to building resilience to change</i>
<b>12.20– 13.00</b>	<b>Sue Porter (ARCIO) &amp; Patricia Gaya (ARCIO)</b> <i>Ethical reflections and ongoing conversations: Making sense of the Walking Interconnections project</i>
<b>13.00 - 14.00</b>	Lunch (provided)
<b>14.00- 15.00</b>	<b>Paul Strauss (GSoE) and Bryony Enright (GSoE), Facilitator - Bubukee Chloe Pyrsos</b> <i>Ethical Conversations</i>
<b>15.00-5.15</b>	<b>Summary of the Day</b> <b>Discussant: Wan Yee and Frances Giampapa</b>

## **ABSTRACTS**

### **Tackling ethical challenges in community-based participatory research**

**Sarah Banks**, Durham University, <https://www.dur.ac.uk/sass/staff/profile/?id=747>

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is increasingly popular. It often involves community organisations and universities working together and can help build community capacity in a time of austerity, generate new perspectives on social and economic issues and result in better implementation of research findings. Yet CBPR is both practically and ethically challenging. It is not always clear when people are in the role of researchers and research subjects; when people's work should be credited and when anonymity is important; who owns and has rights to the data/findings; how to navigate the institutional ethical review process; how to guard against exploitation of one party by another; how to be open about unequal power relationships; and how to achieve greater equality and mutual respect.

This presentation will discuss what counts as an ethical issue; what are some of the main ethical issues and challenges that arise when community organisations and universities work together on research projects; and how we tackle these in practice. Reference will be made to *Community-based Participatory Research: A Guide to Ethical Principles and Practice* and accompanying case materials, films, podcasts and exercises for promoting ethical awareness, reflection and action. These were developed by a group of academics and community partners through a research project coordinated by the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council under the Connected Communities programme. The materials are published by the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) and can be found at: [www.publicengagement.ac.uk/about/ethics](http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/about/ethics)

### **Tangible Memories: Co-producing stories in care home settings**

**Helen Manchester**, Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol.  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/helen-manchester/index.html>

Tangible Memories is an interdisciplinary partnership between academics and Alive!, (a charity that conducts workshops combining art, music, movement and guided reminiscence with older people in care), artists and creative technologists.

Working with residents at three care homes in Bristol, including those living in a specialised dementia care facility, the project seeks to find creative and inclusive ways to help participants co-design narrative objects. These objects may either be personal artefacts that are digitally augmented with recorded oral histories or meaningful replica objects created by local artists based on participants' specifications. They will act to preserve, curate, re-experience and share aspects of their life stories.

In this presentation I will talk about the ethical dilemmas that are emerging as we work in our interdisciplinary team and with older people living in care homes.

## **Ethical reflections and ongoing conversations: Making sense of the Walking Interconnections project**

**ARCIO:** <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/management/research/arcio/>

**Sue Porter**, Norah Fry Research Centre, School for Policy Studies  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry/about/contact/sue-porter.html> &

**Patricia Gaya**, Department of Management, EFIM  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/management/people/patricia-c-gaya/>

Participative research presents us with different ethical challenges. Taking a co-produced approach to research requires the system to stop positioning research participants as *only* vulnerable, and genuine participation often taxes our budgets, timescales, skills and imagination!

This session will take us through the ethical challenges faced by one project, the Connected Communities funded *Walking Interconnections* project, which aspired to take a participative approach. We will use the tool for structured ethical reflection developed by Mary Brydon Miller to examine and discuss the issues faced by the *Walking Interconnections* research team.

## **Exploring the hurdles of an ethical approach to building resilience to change**

**Tom James**, University of Exeter, <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/people/james/>

Humility of research has become a key concern for scholars exploring social-ecological transformations and community resilience building. Reporting on a participatory action research project performed with the Tamar Valley Organic Farming Group in Cornwall, UK, this presentation explores the ethical challenges of adopting a more humble approach to exploring questions such as resilience to what, and resilience for whom. Discussion will focus on the challenges of integrating ethical reflection with participants and will explore whose voice counts in defining the resilient 'community'

## **Ethical conversations**

Two researchers, Paul Strauss and Bryony Enright, engaged in community-based participatory research projects on the Connected Communities programme, will have a conversation about ethical issues they are encountering/have encountered in their research. The audience will be facilitated to participate in a reflecting team in order to discuss issues that resonate for them. Ways of addressing ongoing complex ethical issues in research will be discussed.

**Paul Strauss**, <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/paul-e-strauss/index.html>

**Bryony Enright**, <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/education/people/bryony-enright/index.html>