

# University of Exeter Arts and Culture Fellows 2019

*Exploratory placements over 4-5 weeks, working in interdisciplinary contexts*

## Introduction

The University of Exeter has recently produced a new Arts and Culture strategy, aiming to “place creativity at the heart of all we think, imagine and do together”. The Arts and Culture Fellowships are an important mechanism for putting our ambitions into practice, offering creative practitioners the opportunity to engage with innovative research across the University’s colleges and campuses.

The Fellowships are open to practitioners of any artform (including visual, digital, sound and performing arts, film, literature and music). Rather than being a ‘residency’ (where an artist produces work for a host that assumes the context of audience), these opportunities are described as placements, where the cultural practitioner is a peer, producing creative outputs that support and enrich the core activity of the host (i.e. the relevant University of Exeter institute or cross-departmental group).

## The role of an Arts and Culture Fellow

The Fellowship addresses the three aims of the Arts and Culture strategy: to develop purposeful encounters; enrich our cultural environment; and unlock resources and potential. With an emphasis on process, documentation and evaluation will be intrinsic to project delivery, and we anticipate that the Fellow will work closely with the Arts and Culture team to disseminate their insights and findings with a broad audience, both across the University and the region.

The Fellow will be introduced to key contacts working on a specific area of research. They will be supported to work alongside these research communities, producing creative outputs that investigate, interrogate and explore the processes and practices of research undertaken at Exeter, using creative skills and supporting the aims of the University. We are looking to develop mutually-beneficial collaborations through genuine dialogue.

On a practical level, this may involve attending informal department meetings, building 1-1 relationships with particular researchers and exploring novel perspectives on the activities that support the University’s work. It is important that a Fellowship should build towards a tangible outcome that communicates the value of the project.

Last year’s Fellows were Tania Kovats and Nick Green, and their work can be viewed at <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/projects/arts-and-culture-fellows/>

## The University and its Campuses

The University of Exeter’s campuses in Devon and Cornwall host around 20,000 students. There are two campuses in Exeter (Streatham and St Luke’s), one in Penryn, and one in Truro. The Streatham campus also holds the Northcott Theatre and the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum.

Further information on the campuses can be found at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/ourcampuses/>



### **Fellowship Aims**

- Connect individuals and disciplinary perspectives within the University, through creative engagement and outputs.
- Act as an advocate for artistic processes and creative methodologies within the context of a research intensive university.
- Work with specified research institutes, looking at interdisciplinary process.
- Document processes and ways of working using creative practice.
- Develop a tangible outcome that communicates the process of the fellowship.

### **Outputs:**

The timing and detail of outputs are to be developed in discussion with host institutes.

### **Budget**

The total budget per Fellowship is £5,000 (inclusive of VAT). This must include the practitioner's fee, travel and accommodation, production costs and documentation. The Arts and Culture team will support additional expenses such as event planning, promotion, and dissemination.

### **Application Process**

Three Fellowships are being offered in the 2018-19 academic year. Following a call out across the University, three institutes/cross-departmental groups were selected to each host a Fellow. Practitioners from any creative discipline are invited to apply and will be selected following interview.

The interview panel is Professor Tim Kendall, Academic Director for Arts and Culture, Sarah Campbell, Associate Director for Arts and Culture, and the Lead Contact for the host institute/cross-departmental group.

Apply by sending a one page written response (with up to 6 supporting images, or link to one video file if appropriate), plus a CV to [artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:artsandculture@exeter.ac.uk) by **Thursday 21 March 2019**. Please specify which of the three Fellowships you are applying for, and what you would contribute to a mutually-beneficial exchange of knowledge and practice.

Please see the relevant appendices below for details on each of the three hosts.

The Fellowship runs over a period of 4-5 weeks to be agreed with the University of Exeter, between April and the end of July, split between in-situ research and production time.

### **Required Skills and Experience**

- Experience of arts placements or residencies with non-arts professionals.
- Ability to plan and deliver projects to deadlines.
- Strong interest in use of creative processes and application of artistic insights and behaviours in diverse contexts.
- Collaborative and enquiring outlook.
- Willingness and ability to spend time on the University of Exeter campuses.

### Interview dates and locations

Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (IDSAI)	Mon 29 March	Streatham Campus, Exeter
Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI)	Tue 9 April	Penryn Campus, Penryn
Centre for Human-Animal-Environment Bioarchaeology (HumAnE)	Wed 10 April	Streatham Campus, Exeter

Please note - £200 will be provided to cover the practitioner's time and travel expenses to attend interview.

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## APPENDIX 1 – INSTITUTE OF DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (IDSAI)

Website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/idsai/>

Lead Contact: Professor Peter Challenor  
<http://emps.exeter.ac.uk/mathematics/staff/pgc202>

Research Area: Uncertainty Quantification

Project Team: Peter Challenor  
Danny Williamson  
James Salter  
Hossein Mohammadi  
Louise Kimpton  
Evan Baker  
Victoria Volodynia

### Introduction to Research Area

Increasingly complex numerical models are used in the making of decisions. Examples include the design of aeroengines, making climate predictions and modelling the human heart. These numerical models use too much computer time for us to do many model runs. This means we cannot use random sampling to estimate the uncertainty. Uncertainty quantification is the branch of mathematics that enables us to efficiently estimate the uncertainty on model predictions. Not only can we estimate the uncertainty but also the dependency of the model outputs on the model inputs. In addition we can 'run' the model 'backwards' so that given the model output we can calculate the corresponding input. This is important as we can measure the outputs in the real world and hence deduce the relevant inputs to improve the predictions (but we need to be careful to acknowledge that the model isn't the same as the real world. There is always a discrepancy).

The aim is to produce estimates of what the real world is going to do with estimates of uncertainty that decision makers can use to balance conflicting sources of evidence.

### Summary of Fellowship opportunity

We are particularly interested in how uncertainty is communicated to decision makers who are often not expert. This could be done visually or verbally. Our current practice is based on visual representations, but most of these are unsatisfactory. For example we can only plot in 2 dimensions but our models may have 20!

*Note: the Lead Contact is unavailable between 13 May – 7 June, and July 2019. The Fellowship needs to either be completed before the 13 May, or split across April, early May, and late June.*

# University of Exeter Arts and Culture Fellows 2018-19

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## APPENDIX 2 – ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE (ESI), PENRYN

Website:	<a href="https://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/">https://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/</a>
Lead Contact:	Caitlin DeSilvey <a href="https://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/people/profile/index.php?web_id=Caitlin_DeSilvey">https://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/people/profile/index.php?web_id=Caitlin DeSilvey</a>
Research Area	place and landscape; interdisciplinary methods
Project Team:	Caitlin DeSilvey, Associate Professor of Cultural Geography Karen Anderson, Associate Professor of Remote Sensing Robbie McDonald, Professor of Natural Environment Juliet Osborne, ESI Director, Professor of Applied Ecology

### Introduction to Research Area

The Fellow would be placed within the Environment and Sustainability Institute, in connection with ESI's Creative Exchange and Think Tank programmes. The Creative Exchange programme aims to facilitate collaboration between creative practitioners, the ESI and researchers on our Cornwall Campuses who share an interest in issues of environment and sustainability. Think Tanks bring together researchers and partners from across the University and community to explore concepts that cut across the ESI's research themes, and to provide focused opportunities for collaboration. Both of these programmes have been designed to generate opportunities for crossing boundaries between disciplines and aerating academic thinking with practitioner perspectives--and to counter the tendency for academic research to become siloed and held within disciplinary boundaries.

In November 2018 a team of ESI academics and landscape practitioners gathered at the Trelowarren Estate on the Lizard Peninsula for an 'interdisciplinary expedition', as part of the ESI Think Tank programme. We were invited by the Estate owner to contribute to conversations about the future of the ancient landscape, with a specific focus on emerging plans for rewilding and species introduction. We also used the place-based enquiry as an opportunity to explore interdisciplinary points of contact and exchange, outside our usual academic habitat, and to reflect on whether co-created, cross-disciplinary research could produce a richer and more responsive knowledge-base for creative, experimental landscape management. The proposed research is grounded in an appreciation for the spirit of the place and its history, but also a desire for evidence-based decision-making, underpinned by rigorous data.

### Summary of Fellowship opportunity

We are seeking to involve a creative practitioner as part of an interdisciplinary team conducting place-based enquiry and evidence-gathering at the Trelowarren Estate on the Lizard Peninsula. We've been invited to enter into a long-term relationship with the Estate to monitor change over



time, and are now planning for period of data collection in June and July 2019. Field research will focus on establishing baseline information about current conditions, with small sub-teams directed to investigation of specific aspects of the site's ecological, geological, biological and cultural contexts.

The Fellow will be embedded within these research activities, participating in conversations about research design, accompanying researchers in the field, observing methods of data-collection and assembling materials (audio, visual or otherwise) to document the research process. The Fellow will be invited to reflect on how knowledge about place is produced and presented, and to share these reflections through participation in an interdisciplinary retreat in July 2019 and through other creative modes of engagement, which will emerge through the placement.

The Fellow will also work with ESI arts and humanities researchers to frame a specific set of questions around landscape and identity, considering attachment to place through deep time precedents and anticipated futures. The Fellow will have access to a dedicated open studio space in the ESI from mid-June 2019 through the end of July, and will be invited to produce an independent strand of work in response to the experience. The Fellowship will deepen and focus the ESI's existing commitment to creative collaboration and interdisciplinary investigation, and help develop new place-based, integrated research approaches.

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## APPENDIX 3 - CENTRE FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL-ENVIRONMENT BIOARCHAEOLOGY (HumAnE)

- Lead Contact: Dr Catriona McKenzie, Lecturer in Human Osteoarchaeology  
<https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/archaeology/staff/mckenzie/>
- Research Area: *'Care, the great human tradition: A multi-disciplinary collaborative exploration of family care across time and culture'*
- Project Team: Dr Catriona McKenzie  
Dr Siobhan O'Dwyer, Senior Lecturer in Aging and Family Care  
[https://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/people/profile/index.php?web\\_id=Siobhan\\_ODwyer](https://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/people/profile/index.php?web_id=Siobhan_ODwyer)

### Introduction to Research Area

Family carers provide the cornerstone of care for people with long-term illnesses and disabilities and, in the UK alone, save the government £15 million every hour. But this significant social contribution often goes unnoticed and always takes a toll on carers' physical and mental wellbeing. In earlier times, however, carers were valued members of society, and even in other cultures today, care is respected. Contemporary British carers have told us that learning about the historical and cultural context of care would help them see their role as a great human tradition, reducing feelings of isolation and improving wellbeing.

In this project archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians are working with health researchers, carers, and community organisations to establish a family care research network and develop plans for a larger project that will use archaeological, historical, and anthropological evidence to support contemporary carers. Arts-based approaches are central to this project, with carers, researchers, and community partners all committed to sharing the research development and findings with the wider community through a range of creative media.

### Summary of Fellowship opportunity

Across 2019 we are conducting three workshops and a public event. The first workshop, held in January, focused on the archaeological and historical components of the project. The remaining workshops will focus on the anthropological component of the project, and the development of an intervention to support contemporary carers.

The Fellow will: engage with the research team to learn more about archaeology, anthropology, history, and family care; attend a workshop in June and help develop ideas

for creative intervention and engagement; produce an original creative work that raises awareness of family care and facilitates engagement with our project.

At a public event in September, carers and the general public will hear about and comment on the research. The creative work will be premiered at this event. There will also be the opportunity for the creative work to be shared by our project partners across their spaces and networks.