PgCert Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication

Action Research Project Ethical Enquiry Form

Participant name: Emilie Loiseleur

Cohort: 3

Tutor name [delete as appropriate]: John O'Reilly

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1. **What is your research question?**

What can an exploration of world-building and communities of practice as methodologies tell us about the construction of socially just learning environments within the boundaries of educational institutions?

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2. **Who will be providing you with information to help you answer your question, and how will you approach and/or select them?**

For the first prototype of this research, and to realistically fit within the timeframe of this Unit, I will limit my conversations with colleagues at UAL. I want to use a communities of practice approach to explore, collectively, the spaces that have been created within the institution that transgress its boundaries (Wenger-Trayner 2015).
Because of this, I want the interviews take on a more conversational and un-structured style and will contact people I already have a friendly relationship with. I will also let the participants decide where they want the interviews to take place so that they feel comfortable sharing.

My plan would then be to broaden this research to other staff at UAL as well as students. It would be important for me to build a rapport with them first.

Wenger-Trayner, B & E. (2015) *Introduction to Communities and Practices,* Available at: https://www.wenger-trayner.com/introduction-to-communities-of-practice/ (Accessed 25.10.2023)

How will you approach and/or select from each category?

I want to weave the intentions behind my world-building and communities of practice approach into the methods of data gathering I use. Therefore, alongside interviews (a standard form of knowledge production) I am interested in experimenting with more informal learning methods. Hence, some of the conversations I will be having will be casual in nature and take place in some of the in-between spaces of the institution (corridors, lifts, staff room, post-lessons, texting, coffee queues, water fountain, pret, etc…)
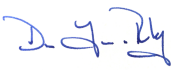
For the interviews, I will approach via email or in the staff room colleagues that I work with or alongside of. I would also like to approach some fellow PgCert students who teach in different sectors (technical staff, workshop technicians), possibly via email or during our sessions on site.

3. **What will you be asking participants to do?**

- For the informal conversations: consent to me using some of our discussions for the development of an informal narrative that might inform my research and output – this will happen after the conversations rather than before in order maintain the informal nature of the exchange.
- For the interview: consent to their participation in a recorded interview on their teaching practice and/or experience at UAL, and the use of this information in my research and output. The interviews being informal in nature, I don't want them to be structured but rather more of a dialogue or conversation (see this blog-post).

4. **How will you get informed consent from these participants?**

- For the informal conversations: after the exchange I will explain my enquiry and ask for verbal consent to make sure they are comfortable with me using some of their thoughts and views as part of my research. I will also make sure that the purpose of my research is clear to them and will let them know they can change their minds and reach out at any time.
- For the interview: before the interview, I will explain my enquiry and provide a consent form to ensure that they are conformable with me using the data collected in my research and that the purpose of my research is clear. The form will also let them acknowledge that they can withdraw their consent if they change their mind.

Whatever method I use, participants will be able to access information about the study so they know what they are consenting to, and they will be allowed to withdraw their consent if they change their mind.

5. **What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks?** A participant's interests include their physical and psychological wellbeing; their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation.

I want the interviews that I am planning to have to be conversational, but because part of the conversation might involve them sharing negative views on the institution, there might be subjects the participants are not comfortable in discussing. I will make it clear that they do not need to answer any question that they are not comfortable with. Additionally, I will inform them that all data will be anonymous

6. **What potential risks to yourself as the practitioner do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks?**

None foreseen

7. **Does your project involve children or vulnerable adults e.g. a person with a learning disability?**

No

8. **How will you store the information you gather from participants?**

Responses will be transcribed and stored electronically as research archive. Only I will have access to the archive and names will be removed if the participant opted for anonymity. Any data used in the final output will be anonymised and any information that may lead to identification will be removed.

I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the Code of Practice on Research Ethics of the University of the Arts London (the University). In signing this form I am also confirming that:

> **a)** **The form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.**
> **b)** **I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the relevant College Research body and/or the University's Research Ethics Sub-Committee.**

Signed: ___Emilie Loiseleur_____   Date: __25.10.2023_____

I support this project and have reviewed it with the participant:

Signed: Date: ___30.10.2023_____