

Biodiversity at the Margins: Spaces of Innovation in Scholarly Communication

Practice Research Voices: Working in co-design with community

Fiesole Retreat – 7 April 2025

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University of Westminster London, UK

Foundations in 1838 as one of the UK's first polytechnic institutions - **making a difference** within our communities and across the world through education, research and public engagement

Art and design, media and communications, architecture, humanities (including English and languages), social sciences including psychology and law, computer sciences, life sciences and business

Diversity and Inclusion, Arts, Communication and Culture, Health Innovation and Wellbeing, Sustainable Cities and the Urban Environment



Community: Creative practice

What is practice research?



Practice research

“An umbrella term that describes all manners of research where practice is the significant **method** of research conveyed in a research output. This includes numerous discipline-specific formulations of practice research, which have distinct and unique balances of practice, research narrative and complementary methods within their projects.”

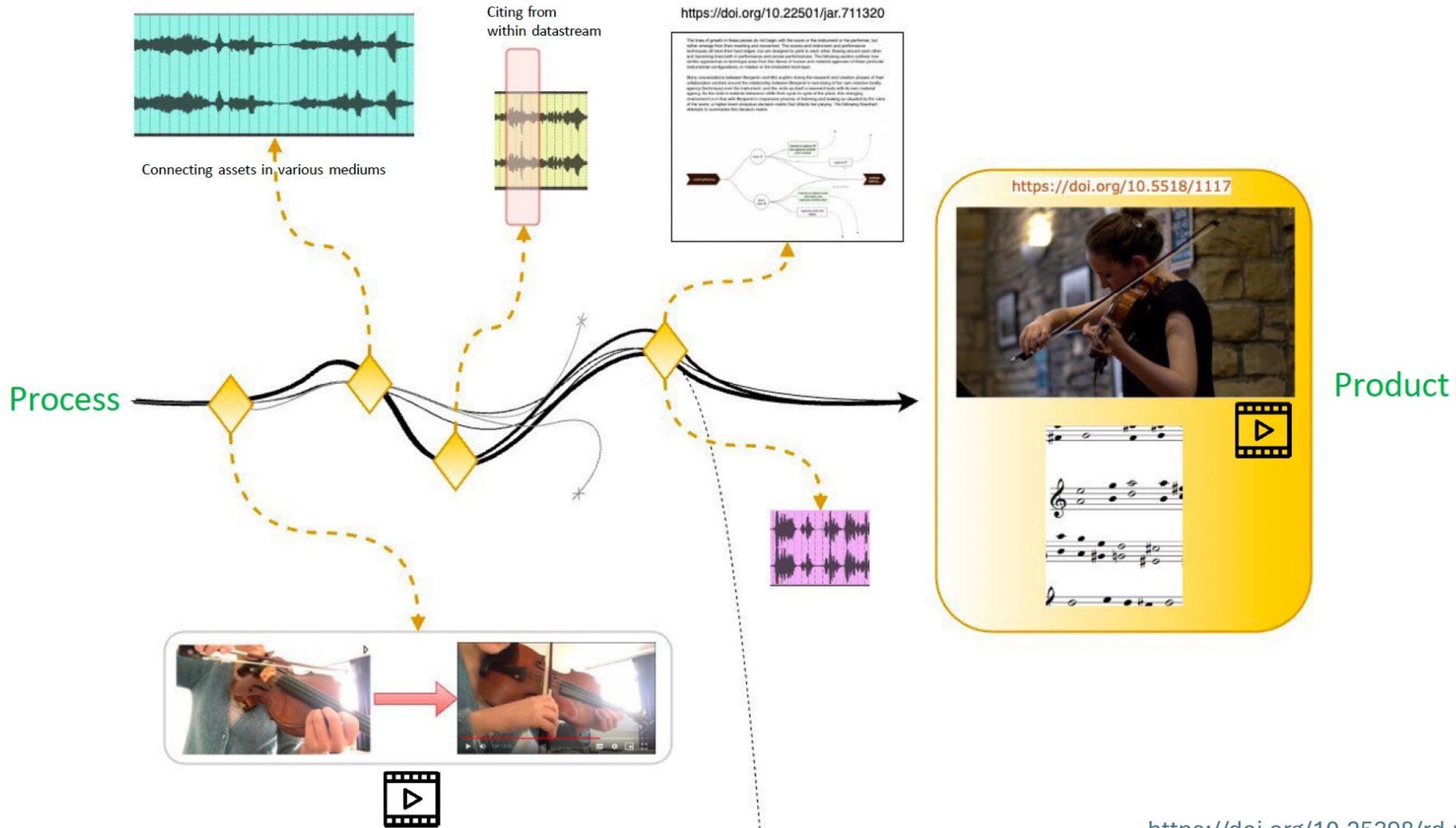
Research narrative

“In a practice research output, a research narrative may be conjoined with, embodied in, practice. A research narrative articulates the research enquiry emerges in practice.”



Research practice (or process)?

Scott McLaughlin, Associate Professor in Composition and Technology, University of Leeds



WestminsterResearch

The online repository of research outputs from the University of Westminster's academic community.

Latest additions

Translator Training before James Holmes: The School of Translation Studies at China's Imperial University of Peking
Wang, C. 2026. Forthcoming.

Developed in **co-design** with our art and design and architecture practice research communities

Library & Archives Service led – **repository, open access, research data, metadata, persistent identifier** and repository development expertise

Inclusive **institutional policy environment** recognizes diverse outputs

Acknowledged **the need to build knowledge** and **skills** across our research community (e.g. copyright guidance)

Identified the **open standards landscape does not adequately reflect** practice research outputs (and worked with Jisc and the British Library to raise awareness)



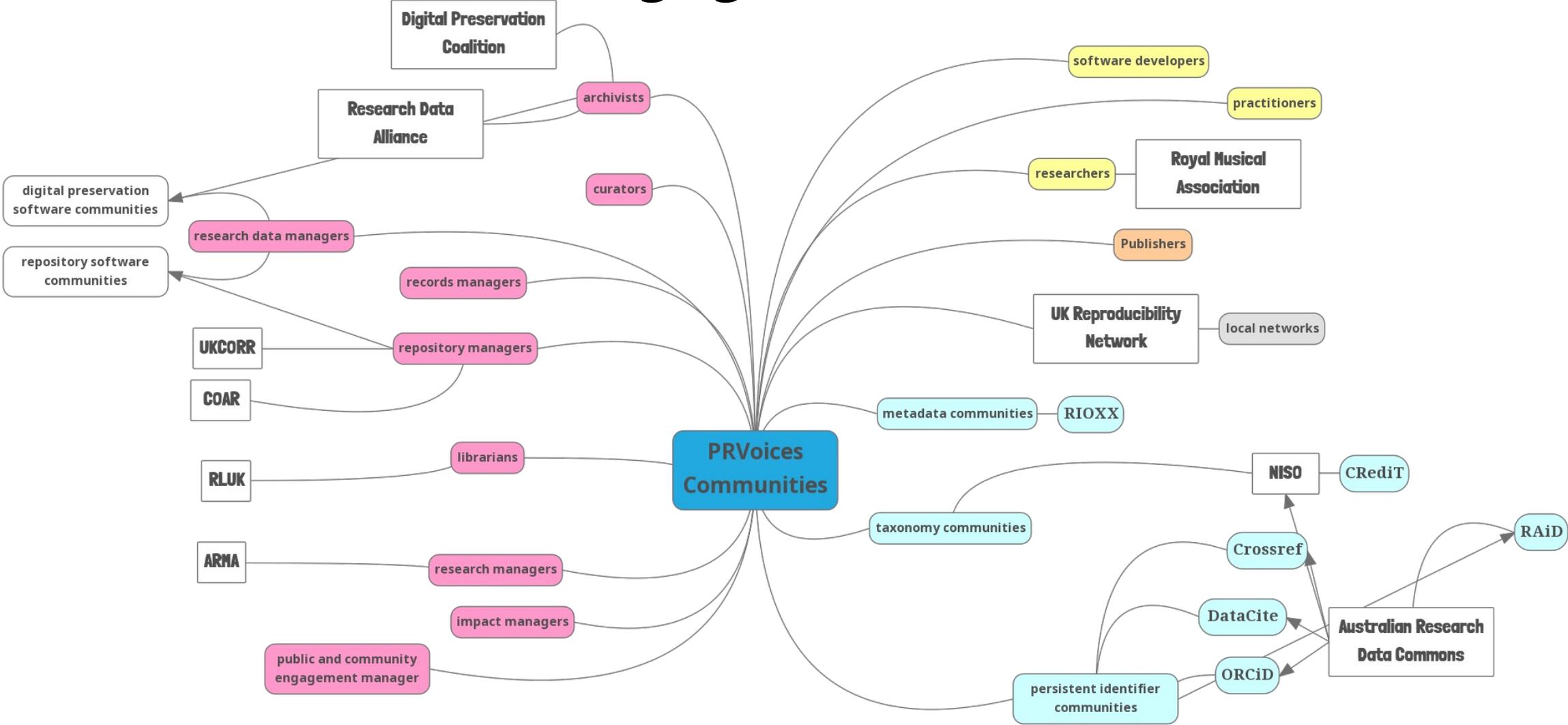
Scaling up beyond institution: Practice Research Voices (PR Voices)



- 3 surveys, semi-structured interviews, focus group
- Expanded from 'REF' visual arts focus - to performing arts and beyond including other disciplines and beyond the University space (e.g. museums)
- Developed a framework, subsequently documented the PR Voices schema using existing standards (while acknowledging the need for flexibility)
- Focus on existing (DataCite, CRediT taxonomy) and emerging (RAiD) open standards and vocabularies and their communities
- Aimed to build a community of practice – acknowledging all of the communities who are stakeholders
- Collaborated with the Sustaining Practice Assets for Research, Knowledge, Learning and Education (SPARKLE) team (funded by AHRC)



Communities we engaged with?



The PR Voices Community of Practice

Themes (from our research)

Tensions (and opportunities)

Parity of esteem

- What (and who) counts
- Part of (rather than add on to)
- **Equivalency to (STEM) outputs**
- Knowledge hierarchies
- Funder influence
- Ownership
- Contributorship (including participants)
- *Not supported by their institution*
- *Evidencing practice research*
- *Share based on existing platforms*

People and culture

- Lack of standards
- Remediation changes the output
- Need to capture methods, processes, documentation
- Maintaining the integrity of the intention/idea (context)
- Respecting ethics (integrity)
- What does openness mean?
- *Research integrity*
- *Don't capture as they go along (ongoing process)*

Incentives for sharing

- Inspiration
- Seeing how others have expanded their practice
- Accessibility to different audiences (including beyond academia)
- Finding collaborators, PhD examiners
- *Dissemination*
- *Impact generation*
- *Citation*

Practitioner/researcher responses
institutional support teams responses
Both communities

Tensions between institution(s) and individual(s)

Institutional drivers

- Type of institution? Mission and purpose?
- University? Small specialist vs research intensive? Library? Archive? Museum? Conservatoire?
- Users and/or audience
- Research reward and recognition systems (the Research Excellence Framework – REF) – what counts?
- Funder requirements (policy, reporting) – both institutional and funder
- Eligibility for research funding

Individual researcher drivers

- Time
- Better reflection of research
- Bringing together
- Practice researchers may also have their own professional practice
- What is being counted?



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HOME PEOPLE RESEARCH AREAS LATEST ADDITIONS

SEARCH

Julie Marsh Assembly

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34737/v844y>

Key facts Project framework: context, research questions, summary of research insights Project narrative

Research insights Further dissemination and recognition Supplementary material Metadata record

Key facts

A multipart project consisting of four situated art installations and site performances; an interactive virtual site; and two journal articles on methodology. Findings from *Assembly* have also been exhibited internationally as part of the Three British Mosques exhibition, V&A Pavilion for La Biennale di Venezia 2021 and featured in the publication *British Mosques*.

Roles

Concept originator, producer and co-ordinator of all projects

Venues

Assembly was made and exhibited in situ at Birmingham Central Mosque (2016) Brick Lane Mosque (2018–19) Old Kent Road Mosque (2019–20) Harrow Mosque (2020). *Assembly* was also exhibited at 17th Venice Architecture Biennale V&A / Biennale Special Project with Shahed Saleem, 2021. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/la-biennale-di-venezia-2021>

The *Assembly* project can be viewed at vimeo.com/showcase/8120594 and on the website: site-integrity.com.

Additional artworks

Virtual Assembly (2022), an interactive virtual space for Old Kent Road Mosque due to the demolition and redevelopment of their mosque. Built using 3D software and immersive technologies (VR/AR), the space combines spatial scanning technologies with drawings, audio, film, and speculative design co-created and co-curated by the Old Kent Road Mosque community.

Publication

Also included in the output is Marsh, J (2019), 'Site-integrity', *Journal for Artistic Research*, Issue 19. The article discusses the methodology underpinning *Assembly* in greater detail

Collaboration



Content and platform: Westminster vs PR Voices portfolios

HOME AUTHORS & CREATORS RESEARCH AREAS LATEST ADDITIONS

SEARCH

folio

Brickfield Newham

Brickfield Newham is a V&A Research Institute and V&A East collaboration in partnership with St. Austell's artist-led project Brickfield and University of East London's Performing Arts department. Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Newham Heritage Month and Arts Council England. The project was created by Georgia Haseldine (V&A), Rosanna Martin (Brickfield) and Lynne McCarthy (UEL).

Creator: Georgia Haseldine

Collaborators: Lynne McCarthy (Curator) and Rosanna Martin (Curator)

© Georgia Haseldine

Map Summary Project framework Project narrative Research insights Further dissemination Supplementary material Metadata

Summary

Brickfield Newham is a community research project that questions clay and its importance to the urban landscape by connecting people literally to the earth beneath their feet. Communities from across the borough are coming together to make bricks, build and fire a kiln on a construction site in the Royal Docks. They are investigating themes of dwelling, living and claiming the earth through performance and brickmaking. Rooted in Newham's history of industrialisation and habitation, Brickfield Newham will provide a hearth to share experiences of living in Newham and to listen to each person's vision of its future.

© Georgia Haseldine

Website/online resource

<https://www.newhamheritagemonth.org/records/brickfield-newham/>

Funding

Newham Heritage Month
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Arts Council England

Portfolio items

- 250 Fired Bricks
- About the project on Newham website
- Blog post: Brickfield Newham photo essay
- Brickfield Newham display
- Brickfield Newham Promotional Video
- Brickfield Newham: Hands-On Outdoor Brickmaking and Short Performance
- Newham Heritage Month Contributor Record: Brickfield Newham



© Georgia Haseldine

Related videos



© Sean Ebsworth

Kate Longworth discussing brickwork in Newham, May 2021 © Georgia Haseldine



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How 'FAIR' is it?

Who (and what) is recognized?



<https://doi.org/10.3233/isu-230208>



Connecting research and researchers

Julie Marsh

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002->

Personal information

Websites & social links

- <http://www.julie-marsh.com>
- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/596787/597477>

Works

Work details

Work type*
Artistic output or performance

Work title*

[+ Show translated title](#)

Work subtitle

Publisher

Publication date
Year: [v] Month: [v] Day: [v]

Contributors

Your contributions to this work

No Specified Role

- Conceptualization
- Data Curation
- Formal Analysis
- Funding Acquisition



10.34737/v844y

Works People Organizations Repositories

1 Work

Assembly

Julie Marsh
Portfolio published 2020 in University of Westminster

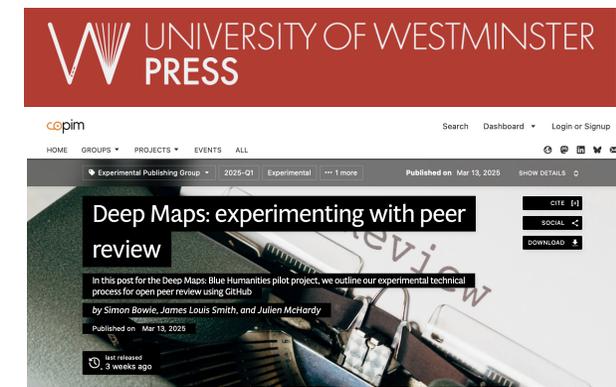
Made in collaboration with the different mosque congregations, Assembly uses a motorised rig. Gliding back and forth on the rig, the device is both "recorder" and "replaced by a projector and the "film" is ready for playback. The work does more than and religious structures of the site, making evocative use of 5.1 surround sound to the mosque floor, the projected image of the carpet disappears into the real carpet watch ghostly illusions of themselves at prayer. Created and projected in each one congregation's self-awareness of the act of worship. The project highlights the social raising questions about social boundaries, while creating an opportunity for mosque Venice installation of Assembly will include five films and interviews generated by Kent Road and Brick Lane mosques. Both films and scans will enter the V&A collection significant period of informal religious architecture.

Other Identifiers
HaploRef: v844y
DOI registered March 29, 2022 via DataCite.

[Text](#)

Opportunities: Working in co-design with communities to enable more equitable infrastructure

- Capture process as it is created
- Portfolio approach enables capture of narrative
- Contributorship recognising creators, collaborators and participants
- Infrastructure enables FAIR (Open if possible) Research
- Recognition of diverse outputs and
- Skills development of communities
- Libraries and publishers are in these spaces
- Open infrastructure brings transparent governance



This is the second blogpost in a series documenting the making of the Deep Maps: Blue Humanities pilot project. The first blogpost can be found at <https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.fdt1@fel>.

The Deep Maps: Blue Humanities project is writing and designing a book with [Juncture](#), a digital publishing tool developed by [JSTOR Labs](#) for visual essaying that allows the author to dynamically display text alongside a range of other media materials. The [previous blogpost in this series](#) discussed working with Markdown in Obsidian and Juncture and the workflow that the book's author James Louis Smith devised for writing and editing the book. In this post, we will take a look at how we are planning to integrate an open peer review process into the book's workflow.

