CHEAD Research Alliance
What does it mean to work in an interdisciplinary way?

This symposium will bring together members of the Research Alliance to discuss interdisciplinary working, team building and terms of engagement. This event will also include a workshop to explore interdisciplinary research proposals.

- What are the parameters when working on an interdisciplinary research project?
- What do creative researchers bring to the project?
- What space do creative researchers own?
- How do creative researchers share what we know without being apologists for what we don't know?
- Do creative researchers need to revisit definitions in order to better understand what we are good at and what we offer?

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22 March 2022
9.30 – 13:00
[Online via Microsoft Teams](#)
#CHEADRA

Programme

9:20   **Meeting opens for attendees**

9:30   **Co-chairs Welcome and Introduction**
Professor Jake Kaner & Professor Sunil Manghani, CHEAD

9.40   **Case Study: Experiences of Interdisciplinary research**
Tracy Piper-Wright, Deputy Head of Art and Design/Research Coordinator School of Arts and Media, University of Chester

10.10   **Panel Discussion**
Chair: Dr Catherine Dormor, Head of Research Programmes, Royal College of Art
- Dr Catherine Baker, Associate Professor, Birmingham City University
- Professor Justin Magee, Interim Associate Dean for Research & Impact, Ulster University
- Sylvester Arnab, Professor in Game Science, Associate of the Faculty Research Centre for Post-Digital Cultures, Disruptive Media Learning Lab, Coventry University
- Dr Nina Morris, Senior Lecturer, School of Geosciences, The University of Edinburgh

- Dr Melanie Flory, Associate Director, Research, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design Royal College of Art

11.30 **Break**

11:40 Plenary

12.30 **Close**

Joining Instructions

This event will be held via **Microsoft Teams**. We suggest attendees join the meeting using the Microsoft Teams app.

Please click the link below to join the meeting:
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjQwYWFiY2UtNzI3NS00MWZjLWJlYWQtNjRmYzAxMDdmYmVi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227f530dbc-4a95-4784-a834-5b299d838dd4%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22501f95fe-951f-497d-b4d1-fc937c8deac6%22%7d

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Speaker Biographies

Tracy Piper-Wright, Deputy Head of Art and Design/Research Coordinator School of Arts and Media, University of Chester

My research investigates the culture of photography, in particular its technological developments and everyday use. In this context I repurpose old photographic media and technologies and explore the conventions of amateur photography through working with vernacular archives. My current research project, In Pursuit of Error, is an ethnographic study of photographic 'mistakes' in the work of contemporary photographers and photography culture. The project tests the conventions of photographic representation and what photography is or should be, and proposes an 'aesthetics of chance' as a valuable aspect of an embodied artistic practice.

From 2013-2015 I was Lead Researcher on Show and Tell, a Digital R&D Fund for the Arts research project funded by Nesta, Arts Council England and the AHRC. This collaborative research project explored how digital technology could be

used to develop participation and engagement with the arts for a wider audience.

I am the Research Coordinator for the School of Arts and Media at University of Chester and convene the Chester Centre for Research in Arts and Media (CCRAM) as part of this role.

Dr Catherine Dormor, Head of Research Programmes, Royal College of Art

Dr Catherine Dormor is an academic, artist and writer, working with textiles. She is currently Head of Research Programmes and Reader in Textile Practices at the Royal College of Art, London and Chair of the 62 Group of Textile Artists.

She was awarded a practice-led PhD for her work on the interplay between sight and touch found in textile structures and behaviours. She has published a number of texts including *A Philosophy of Textile: between practice and theory (2020),* 'Frayed & Fragmenting: unravelling meaning-making in practice' in *MAI: Feminism & Visual Culture*, (2021); *Transnational Belonging & Female Agency in the Arts* (Dormor & Sliwinska, 2022) and an essay on the 'Caress' in *The Erotic Cloth* (Millar & Kettle 2018).

Dr Catherine Baker, Associate Professor, Birmingham City University

Dr Catherine Baker is an Artist and an 0.6 Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Practice at Birmingham City University where she leads the Material Encounters Research Cluster. As an artist and academic she has worked in an interdisciplinary collaborative context for most of her career and is currently Principal Investigator for a multi-disciplinary project with the NHS.

Professor Justin Magee, Interim Associate Dean for Research & Impact, Ulster University

Justin Magee is a professor of Design and the Interim Associate Dean for Research & Impact (AHSS). His academic discipline is product design. He was Research Director for the Belfast School of Art (UoA32) from 2017-2021, leading the REF2021 submission. He received the Ulster University Distinguished Business Fellowship 2007, Research Excellence award for KE in 2017 and the Research Excellence Award for Business partnerships of the year under 250 employees in 2020.

His research focuses on digital human modelling, user experience and immersion for physical and digital product applications, in Arts and Health. His work was returned in the RAE2001, RAE2008, REF2014 and REF2021 including leading an Impact Case Study.

Prof. Sylvester Arnab, Professor in Game Science, Associate of the Faculty Research Centre for Post-Digital Cultures, Disruptive Media Learning Lab, Coventry University

Sylvester Arnab is a Professor of Game Science at the Disruptive Media Learning Lab and an associate of the Centre for Post-digital Cultures at Coventry University, UK. His research focuses on the investigation into engaging, empathic, and empowering experiences through the lens of playful and gameful design practices. Sylvester is a co-founder of the multi-award winning GameChangers initiative (https://GChangers.org) - focusing on playful and gameful learning experiences, which has been adapted in Malaysia and is currently being expanded into Vietnam and Indonesia towards responding to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. To date, Sylvester has successfully won research funding with a total value of £19 million since 2010 (£9.9 million as a principle investigator). Funders include the UKRI (AHRC and ESRC), European Commission (FP7, H2020, and Erasmus+), and HEFCE. Sylvester has over 100 academic publications, having recently published a book on 'Game Science in Hybrid Learning Spaces', which provides insights into the research and practice of purposeful game design with a focus on hybrid education.

Dr Nina Morris, Senior Lecturer, School of Geosciences, The University of Edinburgh

Nina Morris is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography in the School of GeoSciences at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests fall into three categories: (i) human-nature relationships, (ii) sensory perception; and, (iii) pedagogy and continuing professional development. Nina is currently working on interdisciplinary research in two areas: (1) a project led by Catherine Baker (School of Art, BCU) in collaboration with Olga Fotakopoulou (Psychology, BCU) and Thanos Tsirikos (Royal Hospital for Children and Young People) on adolescent idiopathic scoliosis in young females; (2) with Kate Orton-Johnson (Sociology, University of Edinburgh) on contemporary camping cultures.

Dr Melanie Flory, Associate Director, Research, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design Royal College of Art

Melanie is the first appointed Associate Director of Research of The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design. Her role involves leading the growth and development of the Centre's inclusive design and creative leadership research and knowledge exchange portfolios, as well as co-developing and launching the Centre's first doctoral and Master's by research programmes (2022–3). She is the neuroscience lead on the Centre's creative leadership project.

She has a strong focus on fostering and incorporating the Centre's inclusive design methods in cross-disciplinary research, innovation and knowledge

exchange programmes and projects, with the RCA's four Schools and other Research Centres.