

## PRESENTATION TITLE: Click 'Other': Arts Based Practice-Research

### ABSTRACT

This paper explores Arts based Practice-Research from the perspective of a UK University. In this context Practice research is still fraught with complexity and communication issues. It can be challenging to confidently share insights and developments to those outside of one's discipline and there can be an overwhelming feeling of having to justify the value of one's practice and to over-explain every element to underline its worth. But what does practice research offer us and how can we, in the Arts, effectively communicate this to the broader academic community and beyond?

Is there really a difference between practice-based and practice-led research or are there other ways to describe and share what we (academic practitioners) are actually doing?

This paper will draw on specific examples from UK institutions to see how various challenges of communication and justification have been addressed at PhD level, through to national research audits of academic staff, that also include the University research environment. I will discuss examples of successful practice-based research outputs from the University of Portsmouth that were part of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) a national published research audit. I will show examples of how practitioners have contextualized their research outputs so that it can be 'effectively shared'. I will discuss a double-weighted output called *Zineopolis*, which includes many component pieces created over a long period. *Zineopolis* demonstrates how many smaller elements created within a broader research theme can be bound into one structure to add coherence and deliver a greater research impact. Impact and Environment also underpin practice research in UK institutions so I will also explore a successful impact case study and discuss what effect the University's research environment has on the people who study, lecture and research there.

### PROFILE PAGE



Dr Jac Batey is Reader in Illustration, an internationally recognised academic researcher and practitioner at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Her primary research in Creative Practice consists of a 20-year corpus of independently-published artists' books and art-zines. Her construction of *Zineopolis*, a field-defining digital research and dissemination platform for the genre, has increased the participation and visibility of non-academic artists. In her writings and lectures she has been a major voice in defining the genre of the 'art-zine'.

She has shown how zines can reveal visual narratives often from voices that usually remain unheard. She is particularly focussed on what we can learn from visual narratives about lived-experiences concerning mental health. She has spoken at international conferences on illustration, practice research, zines, and artists' books.

She is currently engaged in researching Authorial-Curation, where practice and research inform each other in the construction of a visual archive. Her research methods include drawing, printing, photography, collage and scribbling with felt-tips. Her own art-zines are regularly shown nationally and internationally. Examples of her work are held in many special collections, including Tate Britain, Yale Collection of British Art, Getty institute, The V&A Museum and The British Library. Dr Batey's research has led directly to curatorial engagement with world-leading institutions and has significantly influenced the scope of their permanent collections. Her art-zines are held in over 89 national and international Museums, Archives and Art Institutions.

#### **LINKS**

Email: [Jackie.batey@port.ac.uk](mailto:Jackie.batey@port.ac.uk)

University of Portsmouth Staff Profile: <https://researchportal.port.ac.uk/en/persons/jac-batey>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bateyjac/>

FutureFantasteek! (practice)

<http://futurefantasteek.blogspot.com/>

Zineopolis - Art zine collection (research)

<http://zineopolis.blogspot.com/>

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