JULIE E BOUNFORD

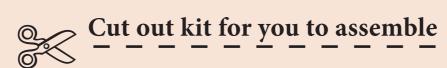
SUPERVISED BY DR YANN LEBEAU & PROFESSOR VICTORIA CARRINGTON

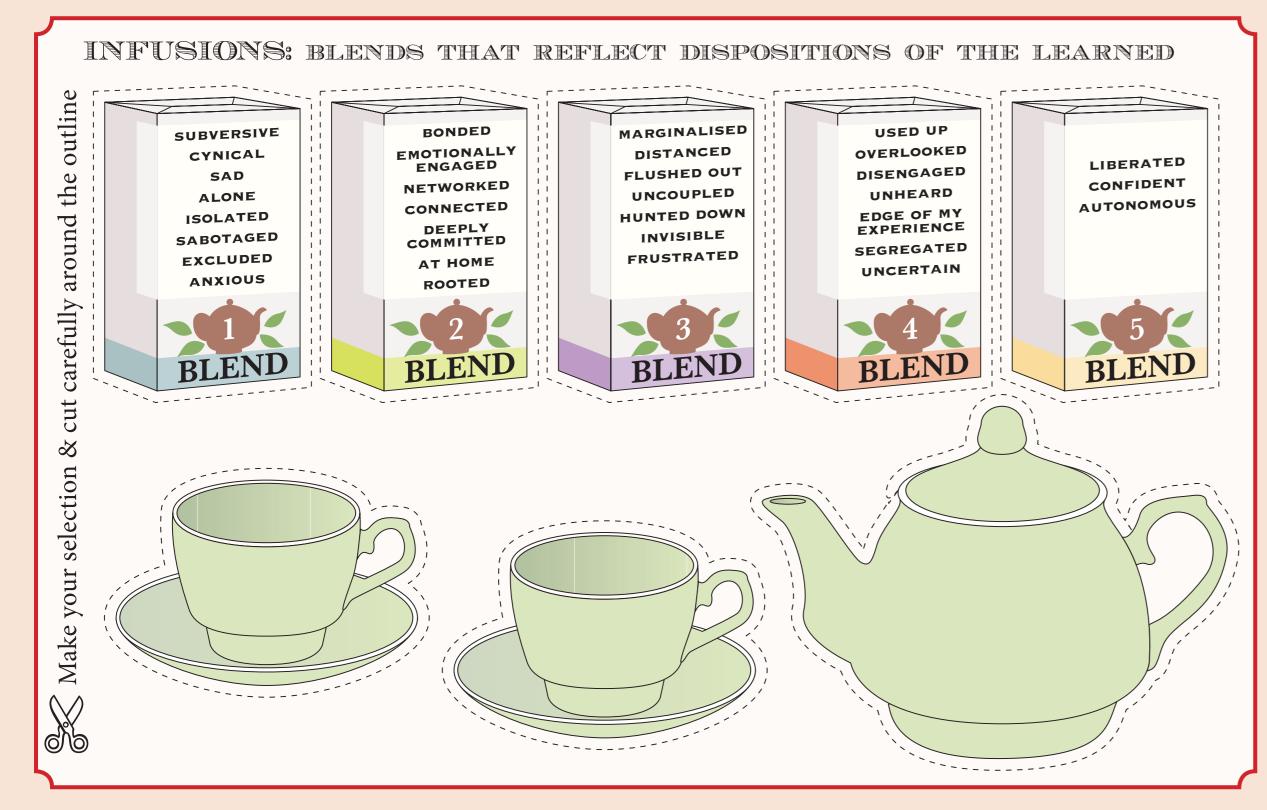
## **ABSTRACT**

The author, an insider researcher, is exploring community as perceived and experienced by a purposive sample of academics at a UK university, through a series of extended conversations and focus groups. She works at the institution in a new management role related to the research area, and has recently delivered a national pilot aimed at changing the culture of higher education.

## COMMUNITEA PARTY

## AT THE ACADEMY







WHAT DO YOU SAY? WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

our sense of community is too big here

sometimes people grow into spaces that don't

academics still enjoy

locking themselves away

in their monastic cells

Make your

exist... it's just something that happens because of who you are and what drives you

> 'l haven't really ever thought of my definitions of community being anything to do with a composite university definition

> > it's individuals and their stories that for me, you know sort of encapsulates the idea of community

it's a lesson I have not fully

institution to need me

learnt... that I still want my

community doesn't serve

support people...it can

people...it doesn't

be very excluding

you'd just stroll up and sit down and have a face to face... that's a sense of community

if we're not actually a

ourselves... how do we

actually engage with the

community out there?

real community

it is an institution rather than` necessarily a community

Í scholarly communities... it's almost as though ` they're being hunted down and flushed out

everybody's just looking after their own place, their own leagues tables and their own research

our common rooms were undemocratically whipped away

i if you're building a community you have to build a sense of feeling of we are doing this together

you're an individual brand within a university brand

we don't provide the social spaces...the social cement

the degree of uncertainty is destructive of a sense of community

I don't see why a sense of

community in a university should

be any different to anywhere else

something the more easy it is to use it against us

the more strongly we cherish

the work of the academic is become more

I don't think the university understands really what communities are

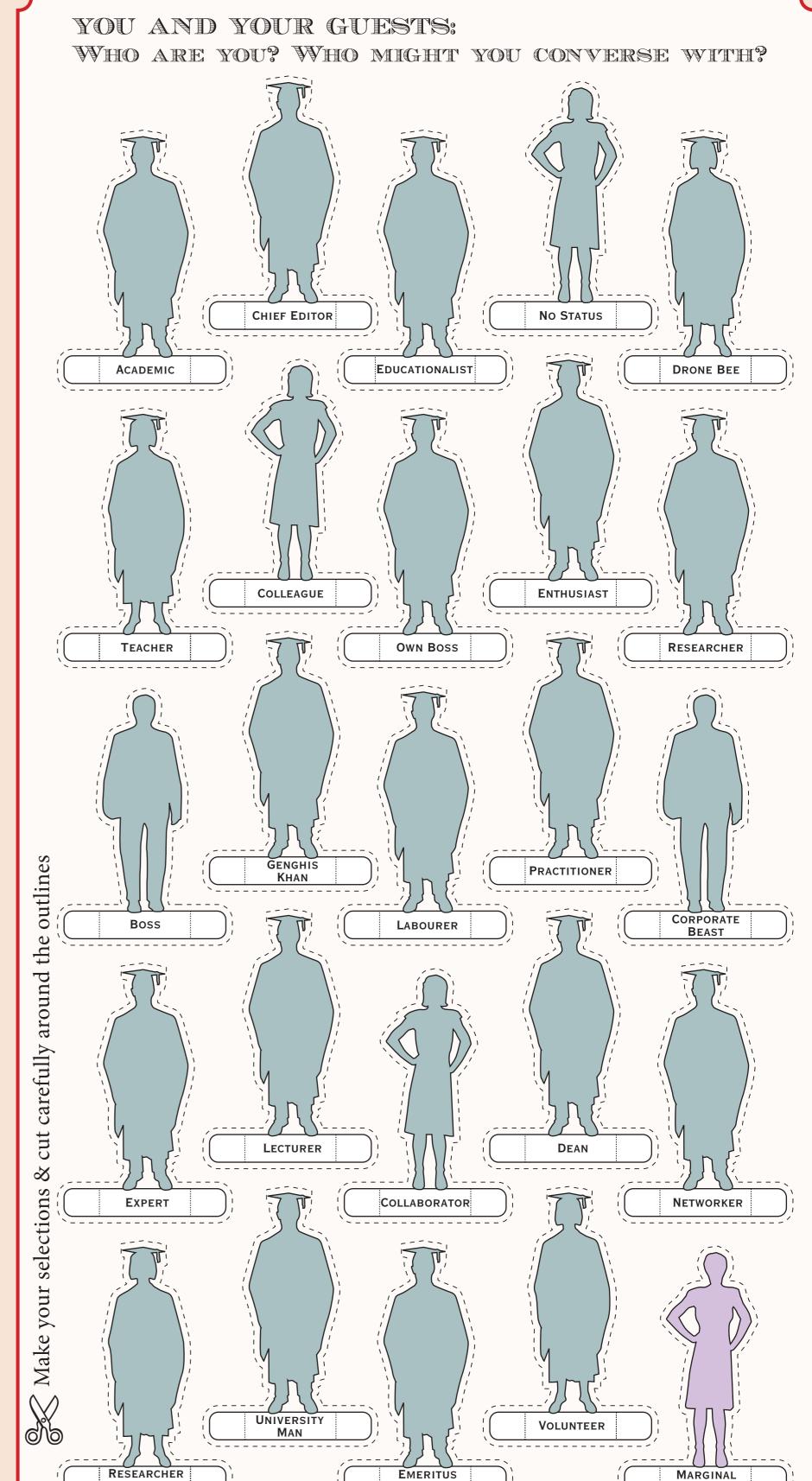
and they're having another reorganisation down in our hub just now

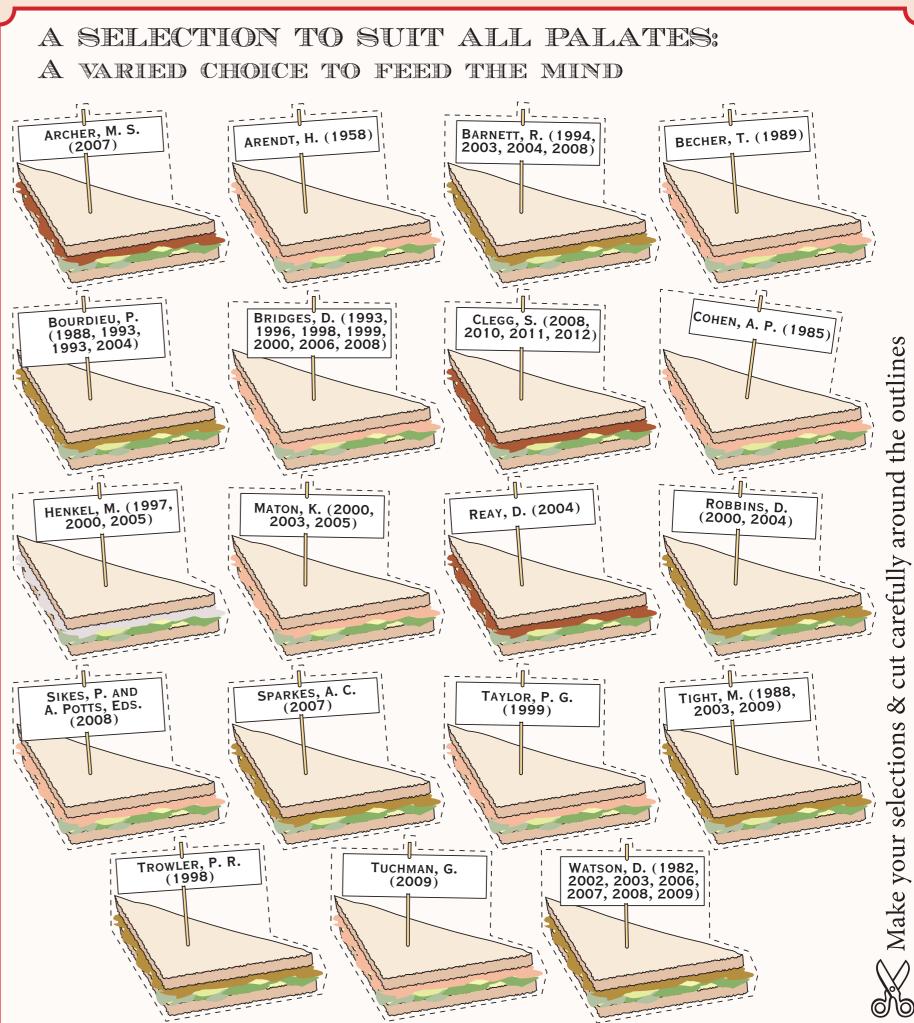
\ like labour than scholarly endeavour

I still struggled with the concept of community that is put across in the corporate plan

there's no natural area for congregation;

communities can die





**PROFESSOR** 

NATIVE

## FOOD FOR CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



**PRACTITIONER** 

Does 'community capital' exist inside higher education? How might it be accumulated and utilised; by whom and to what ends? What conditions are necessary in order to realise and reproduce community in a university environment?