



## Evidencing Engaged Research

The Public Engagement with Research Catalyst Team  
'An Open Research University'

<http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per>

# agenda

- Introduction to the workshop and seed funding scheme
- What is public engagement with research?
- Evidencing engaged research: ‘starters for ten’
- Discussion your ideas for seed funding proposals
- Panel Q&A
- Lunch and informal discussions
  
- We have to finish by 1pm

# An open research university: research with people at the centre

## Spotlight on: Richard Holliman

24 February 2014



In this Spotlight interview **Richard Holliman**, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Science talks about his role as champion of public engagement with research.

### Background

In his conversation with **Lucian Hudson**, Director of Communications, Richard talks about what is specifically involved in being the champion of public engagement for the OU.

He goes on to give examples of where this works really well in terms of engagement.

Richard ends by talking about his achievements and the future of public engagement with research and public policy.

### Spotlight

Spotlight is a series of interviews focusing on colleagues from across the OU, their work and things that are important to them.

### Would you like to be interviewed on Spotlight?

We are inviting all colleagues from across the University who would like to share an insight into their roles and responsibilities, to take part.

To nominate yourself or others, or if you have any comments, questions or suggestions about Spotlight interviews, please contact:  
[communications@open.ac.uk](mailto:communications@open.ac.uk).

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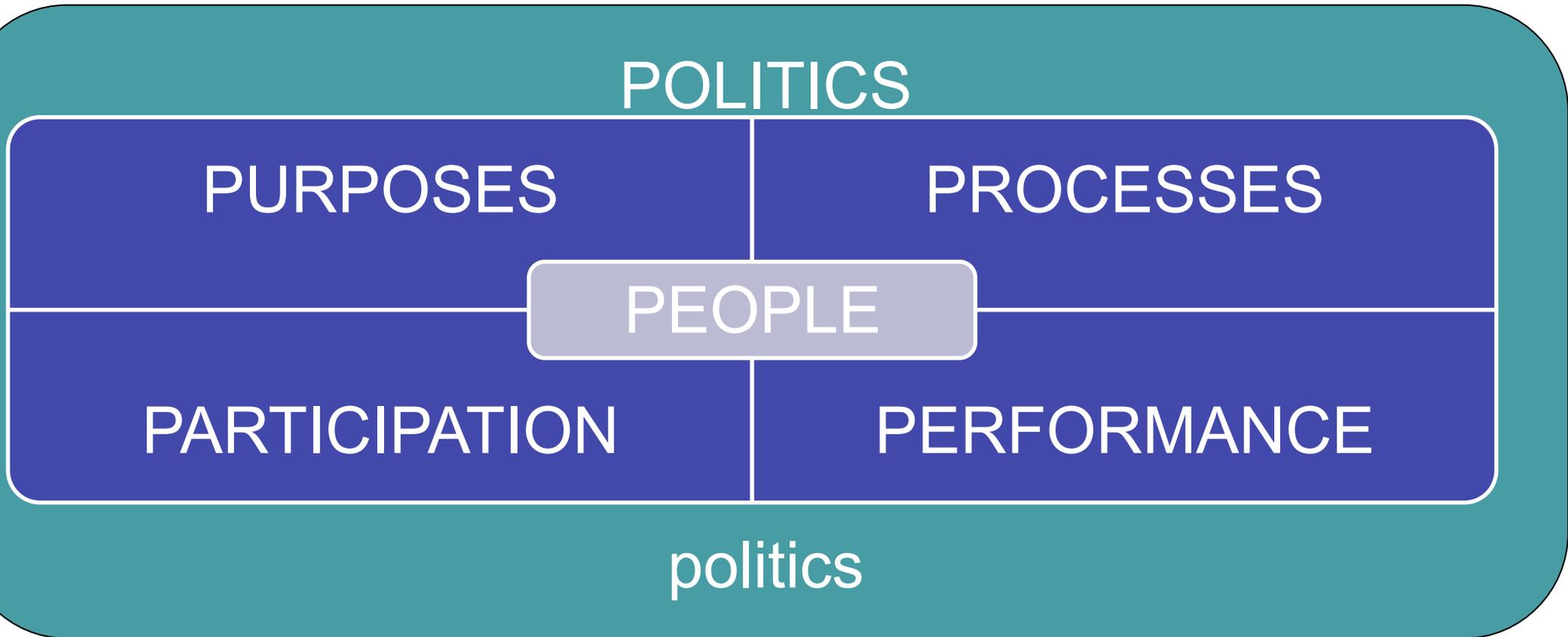
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# dimensions of engaging research



diversity in publics, purposes, etc.

# seed funding scheme



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## Evidencing Engaged Research

**Call for seed-funded proposals to generate, collect and/or share evidence of the impact(s) from engaged research**

**Closing date for applications: 17.00 on 14th March 2014**

**Purpose of this call:** To support active researchers in the generation and systematic collection of evidence of the impacts from engaged research, demonstrating effects, changes and/or mutual benefits to those participating.

### Culture change

The Open University is committed to embedding public engagement within the culture of its research and the practices of researchers at all levels. Over three years (2012-2015), principally through the work of the RCUK-funded Public Engagement with Research Catalyst, '[An open research university](#)' and the School-University Partnership Initiative, '[Engaging Opportunities](#)', the university will develop and implement strategies that promote structured and equitable mechanisms for effective and sustainable engagement with a range of publics, stakeholders and user communities. One of the key areas for development in relation to this wider project of culture change is the need to produce rigorous, systematic accounts of the impact of engaged research. This call contributes to this agenda.



Dr Richard Holliman,  
Chair of the Review  
Panel

### Categories

- Consultations
- Events
- Presentations
- Projects
- Publications
- Resources
- School-University Engagement
- Training
- Websites

### Recent Posts

- Exoplanets and how to find them
- Sweat, mud and leeches
- 'Like asking a child to drive a bus ...'
- Women and STEM – a close encounter of the political kind
- The past is the key to the future

### Archives

- mainstream
- support
- evidence

- recognition
- quality
- excellence

- sharing:
- approaches
- findings

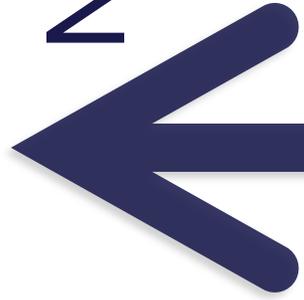
# overview

- **aim**: to generate, collect and/or share evidence of the impact(s) of engaged research
- **eligibility**: ‘active’ researchers, including PGRs; funds spent by 28 Feb 2015; defined as PER; sharing learning
- **examples** of what could be funded:
  - systematic review of relevant literature
  - systematic review of P2I plans
  - data collection
  - data analysis
  - sharing of findings, approaches, etc.
  - workshops to support OU researchers and ‘publics’

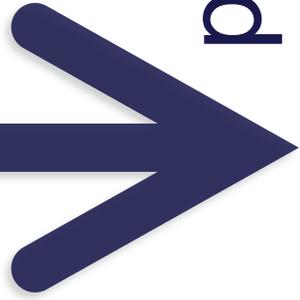
# assessment criteria

- systematic evidence of engagement with publics
- effective and feasible plan for assessing quality and promoting critical reflection.
- likelihood of deliverables/outputs
- opportunities for engaging publics, sharing learning
- appropriate resource, value for money
- workload allocation approval
- engaged research <> proposed activity

Are we talking about the  
same thing?



**NOT public engagement**



**public engagement**



The Open  
University

# An open research university

<http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per>



Excellent public engagement with research is reflected in the different ways that researchers **meaningfully** connect and share research with various stakeholders, user communities and members of the public. Done well, public engagement with research will generate **benefits, changes and effects** for **all participants** as they share knowledge, expertise and skills. Excellence will be demonstrated partly through recognition of the contributions that all participants make to the **shaping** of research agendas, the **processes** of conducting research, and in the **products** of that research.

# closing date: 17.00 on 14<sup>th</sup> March



- Please use the application form and follow the requirements.

## Contacts:

[Richard.Holliman@open.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.Holliman@open.ac.uk)

[Fiona.McKerlie@open.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.McKerlie@open.ac.uk)

## Submit to:

[Fiona.McKerlie@open.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.McKerlie@open.ac.uk)



The screenshot shows the website for 'Engaging Research' at The Open University. The page title is 'Evidencing Engaged Research'. The main heading is 'Evidencing Engaged Research'. Below this, there is a call for seed-funded proposals to generate, collect and/or share evidence of the impact(s) from engaged research. The closing date for applications is 17.00 on 14th March 2014. The purpose of the call is to support active researchers in the generation and systematic collection of evidence of the impacts from engaged research, demonstrating effects, changes and/or mutual benefits to those participating. The culture change section states that The Open University is committed to embedding public engagement within the culture of its research and the practices of researchers at all levels. Over three years (2012-2015), principally through the work of the RCUK-funded Public Engagement with Research Catalyst, 'An open research university' and the School-University Partnership Initiative, 'Engaging Opportunities', the university will develop and implement strategies that promote structured and equitable mechanisms for effective and sustainable engagement with a range of publics, stakeholders and user communities. One of the key areas for development in relation to this wider project of culture change is the need to produce rigorous, systematic accounts of the impact of engaged research. This call contributes to this agenda. A portrait of Dr Richard Holliman, Chair of the Review Panel, is shown on the right side of the page.

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## Engaging Research

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## Evidencing Engaged Research

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Dr Richard Holliman,  
Chair of the Review  
Panel

# Award Scheme: 2<sup>nd</sup> round

Watch this space:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per>



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## Awards Scheme

### Recognising and rewarding excellence

Are you involved in public engagement with research at the Open University? Have you been involved in an engaged research project that you want to share? Why not enter the Open University's inaugural 2014 Engaging Research Awards Scheme?

The OU's RCUK-funded Public Engagement with Research Catalyst team, '[An open research university](#)', is running this Awards Scheme to find and celebrate high-quality public engagement with research at the OU.

The OU Awards Scheme has been timed to connect with the first national competition to celebrate excellence in public engagement with research. Entrants to the OU Awards Scheme can use their entries to enter this nationwide competition. Select [Public Engagement Competition](#) for further details of the NCCPE scheme.



Dr Richard Holliman,  
Chair of the  
Assessment Panel

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- Women and STEM – a close encounter

# Examples...

- Hilde: Evaluating public engagement with research
- Trevor: Participatory design (why and how)
- Gareth: Schools University Partnership Initiative lecture programme



# Evaluating public engagement with research

A publics-centred framework

Hilde Stephansen and Nick Mahoney

# The Creating Publics project

- Led by Nick Mahony and Hilde Stephansen (Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance, Faculty of Social Sciences)
- Emerges out of work undertaken under the auspices of CCIIG's *Publics* research programme
- One strand resourced by the RCUK-funded Catalyst project
- Aim: “to re-conceptualise public engagement in an age of emergent publics”

How do we understand the *public* in contemporary settings of participatory public engagement?

How are publics being created *in and through* public engagement initiatives?

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## Participation Now

[Welcome](#)[Editor's Choice](#)[Participation Now tag cloud](#)[Most Popular](#)

### Welcome to Participation Now

Find out how new forms of participatory public engagement are working to reshape contemporary life.

- [What is Participation Now?](#)
- [How to use these pages](#)
- [How to get involved](#)

Use the filtering tools below to explore the collection.



openDemocracy  
free thinking for the world



#### Comment, debate and analysis

A new partnership between Participation Now and openDemocracy.net, featuring contributions from practitioners, researchers and others.

[Read more >](#)

#### Links and resources

Want to find out more about participatory public engagement? Here's a collection of links to websites, events and resources that may be useful.

[Read more >](#)

#### Participation Now: Patterns, possibilities, politics

Reviewing key milestones in the development and progress of Participation Now.

[Read more >](#)

# Explore the initiatives

Filter our collection of participation projects using the labels above



## Participation Now

Against the background of the crises, uprisings, occupations and institutional break-downs of recent years and in a context where debates about the need for new and more effective forms of public participation and action are becoming increasingly mainstream, this editorial partnership between the Open University's new project *Participation Now* and *openDemocracy* has been set up to support the ongoing exploration, debate and development of the field of participatory public engagement.

[Read on...](#)

### Explore the 100+ Initiatives



#### Recent articles:

##### ■ Call for contributions

NICK MAHONY and HILDE C. STEPHANSEN 23 January 2014

The Open University's new project, *Participation Now*, has teamed up with *openDemocracy* to support a debate about contemporary forms of participation and public engagement.

##### ■ Participation Now: patterns, possibilities, politics

NICK MAHONY and HILDE C. STEPHANSEN 23 January 2014

At one end of this spectrum we have started to place initiatives that offer to rationalise public engagement and make the participatory self-organisation of publics more efficient. At the other end, initiatives seem more focused on enriching processes of engagement and participation.

##### ■ When is citizen participation transformative?

LEAH A. LIEVROUW, NICK MAHONY, and HILDE C. STEPHANSEN 6 January 2014

When is participation empowering and transformative? What is the relationship between 'bottom-up' and 'top-down' modes of participation? At a conference on the theme of 'Participatory Cultural Citizenship' in Aarhus, last November, keynote speaker Leah Lievrouw shared her thoughts on this with *Participation Now*. Interview.

##### ■ Volatile, stable and extractive participation

CHRIS KELTY, NICK MAHONY, and HILDE C. STEPHANSEN 6 January 2014

#### About the researchers



Nick Mahony is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance and PoUS at the Open University. He leads the 'Creating Publics' and Participation Now projects and is Director of COG's Publics Research Programme. Nick's research focuses on the mediation and formation of contemporary publics and emerging forms of public participation. He has a background in design and social science.



Hilde C. Stephansen is a Research Associate in the Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance and PoUS at the Open

#### About Resources Get involved

Follow us:   

*Participation Now* is an Open University project supported by OpenLearn, the Creating Publics project in the Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance, and the RCUK-funded Public Engagement with Research Catalyst project.

#### Call for contributions

*Participation Now* is looking for short, blog-post style contributions (250-750 words) that draw on your own research and/or experiences related to public participation and public engagement.

See the [call for contributions](#) on the *Participation Now* website and contact [participation-now@open.ac.uk](mailto:participation-now@open.ac.uk)

#### Participation Now on Twitter

Tweets

The Open University @OpenUniversity 2 Feb  
Interested in public participation? How new forms of action are working to reshape contemporary life @NowParticipate <https://t.co/1gGQ1g>  
Retweeted by Gily Ferguson  
Expand

Participation Now @NowParticipate 20 Feb  
From institution to institution? Publics in movement - COG forum on 25th Feb <https://t.co/1gYb1de> @CreatingPublics  
Expand

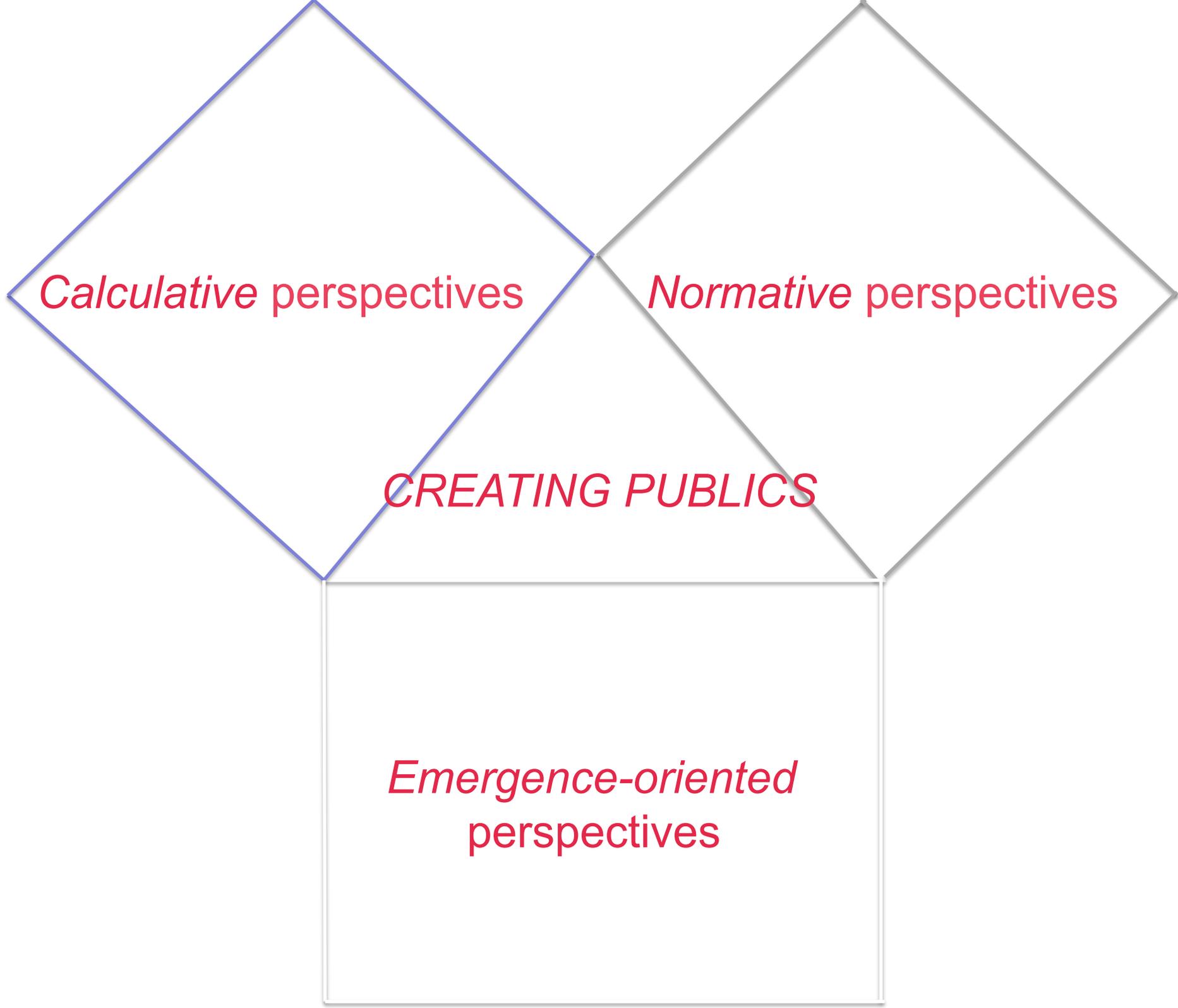
Compose new Tweet...

#### Pick of the initiatives



OpenLearn

OpenLearn



# Using the Creating Publics framework to evaluate public engagement with research

Perspective on the public	Question	Focus of evaluation
Calculative	Who are the publics I want to engage with?	Character and composition of participants, extent to which this matches the pre-defined target group
Normative	What is the ideal version of the public that I want my engagement activity to achieve?	Extent to which normative criteria have been met (e.g. open and inclusive deliberation, mutual learning, constructive disagreement)
Emergence-oriented	How can I support the emergence of a public around my research?	Reflexively and iteratively tracking the process of constituting and mediated the public(s) of the engagement activity

# Applying the Creating Publics framework to Participation Now

Perspective on the public	Aims	Data collection
Calculative	To engage researchers, practitioners, students and interested citizens	Web metrics Comments and contributions to debate
Normative	To facilitate dialogue, critical reflection and mutual learning	Qualitative interviews with practitioners Comments and contributions to debate
Emergence-oriented	To support the emergence of (a) public(s) around Participation Now	Analysis of institutional context and development process Circulation of texts about Participation Now



# Participatory design

- “The direct involvement of end-users and other stakeholders in design” (Carroll and Rosson, 2007)
  - moral proposition = people whose activity and experiences will be affected by a design outcome ought to have a say in what that outcome is
  - pragmatic proposition = people who will need to adopt (or adapt to) a design outcome, should be included in the design process, so they can offer expert perspectives and preferences regarding the activity that the design will support, and most likely transform

# Participatory design techniques

- Work analysis
  - ethnographic: open-ended contextual interviews and participant observations (unarticulated aspects)
- System design
  - scenarios, mock-ups, simulations, future workshops, design games, co-operative prototyping



# Participatory design bibliography

- John M. Carroll and Mary Beth Rosson (2007). Participatory design in community informatics. *Design Studies*. Vol. 28 pp. 243-261.
- Cecelia B. Merkel, et al., (2004). Participatory design in community computing contexts: Tales from the field. *In Proceedings of the Participatory Design Conference*. ACM Press, NY. pp. 1-10.
- Finn Kensing and Jeanette Blomberg (1998). Participatory design: Issues and concerns. *Computer Supported Cooperative Work*. Vol. 7 pp. 167-185.



# Programme of Open Lectures

- Target audience included ‘key stage 3, 4 & 5 students’; ‘teachers’ and ‘members of public’
- Our core aims were:
  - inspiring young people to consider a range of careers in research
  - raising awareness of different types of academic research
  - promoting role models of successful researchers
  - generating awareness of the nature and challenges of contemporary research

# Summative and Formative Evaluation

- Summative evaluation
  - Summarizing our ability to meet our set targets; aiming to identify any weaknesses and that can be built upon by using formative assessment
- Formative evaluation
  - To provide ongoing feedback that can be used to improve future performance

# Summative Evaluation Measurements

- Number of students, teachers and members of public that were engaged
- Students awareness of a scientist role
- Students perceptions of the most attractive attributes of a scientists role
- Students enthusiasm to peruse a career as a scientist
- Students confidence in their ability to succeed in a career as a scientist
- Rating performance against activities core aims and objectives
- Audience willingness to take part in a follow-up study

# Formative Evaluation

- Teachers and members of public evaluation of the format of the lecture
- Teachers and members of public pre and post perceptions of attending the annual lecture