



## Humanities Research Institute News Spring 2021

We would like to welcome you all back after what we hope has been a pleasant and enjoyable Easter. As we look forward to the brighter days of Spring, we would like to share with you some of the activities, events and projects that will also be blossoming in the coming months. These include how we plan to help shape our research culture post covid, celebrate 'Liveness', support the literary life of the city and more.



Image courtesy of Gabriel McCallin

### Research Culture

We're sure we are all looking forward to what will hopefully be a return to 'normality' after what has been a very difficult and challenging year. The Institutes are keenly aware that there are a range of emotions and opinions on what this return to normality will mean for our research. In collaboration with our sister Institute for Social Science, we plan to run a series of events that will allow us all to come together to shape how we research in the post covid world.

Together with colleagues from all levels right across the faculty we are planning an event that will examine what our **Digital Future** could look like. We will be discussing how we can use our experiences from the pandemic to shape a more sustainable research community. We also want to look at new tools that will enable us to move to a hybrid approach to research that will allow us all to maintain a better work/life balance.

We will also be holding an event in partnership with The School of Modern Languages that will look at the merits of **Slow Research**. This event will focus on how we as a research community can take steps to better value our collective contributions to our research endeavours. In a post REF environment, we want to discuss how we can look at ways of capturing the benefits of our activities that are not always evident in published papers or projects.

Watch out for further news from us on dates and times for what we expect will be very valuable discussions.

### **Liveness Exhibition**

We are delighted to announce that the **Performance Research Network**, which we co-sponsor with the Institute for Creative Arts Practice, will be hosting an on-line 'Liveness Exhibition' in May. The event will celebrate something that we have greatly missed during the pandemic, the value of live performance. You can find further information about how you can participate in what will be an exhilarating celebration of live art in all its forms [here](#).



'Liveness' by CJ Zangerle Murray and Jesse Salaman.

## Calling all European Researchers

In the post-Brexit world, it is important that we do not lose or forget our intrinsic links with colleagues, institutions, and friends across Europe. The Institute is funding a project that is the first step on the road to maintaining and strengthening our links with Europe. We want to know about projects and collaborations that are being undertaken with partners in Europe. If you are involved in any such projects, then we would ask you to please contact [Marco Medugno](#) who is mapping out our connections with the rest of the continent.



Image courtesy of Nejc Soklic

## City of Literature

We are continuing to work with our partners across the city and region to progress our mission to enhance the vibrancy of Newcastle's literary scene. We hope to capture that energy to drive up levels of literacy across the city and wider region. We are looking forward to holding an open forum in June where we will begin the process of reaching out more widely. The Institute is funding a deep dive into the grass roots literary activity of the city. We have already unearthed a dynamic ecosystem of reading groups and literacy programmes that rivals Edinburgh and Manchester, and we want to learn more about how we can connect these groups to fully exploit the dividends that a thriving literary scene can deliver.

On Campus (virtually for now) we are hosting a series of Brown Bag lunches where we hope to provide the opportunity for anyone with an interest in literature and literacy to learn about research being undertaken at Newcastle University. If we are more aware of the excellent work being done, then we can act as advocates for the positive contribution we are making to the literary life of the city.



## Projects and Interns

There are so many projects being undertaken right now that there just isn't space to mention them here, but please look at our [website](#) for more information.

We want to remind you that we are here to help you progress your research ideas. Even within the current constraints imposed by Covid, exciting possibilities can be explored.

Please get in touch with us if you do have a research idea that you would like to progress. We can provide you with guidance, help, support, and funding to help you realise your aims.

Together with our sister Institutes colleagues and the Jobs on Campus team, we strongly advocate the use of paid student interns to help you achieve your research goals. We are currently supporting 9 student internships in a range of projects across the faculty and the achievements have been outstanding. These interns provide the double benefit of helping you to do more, but also giving our students very valuable work and research experience that will stand them in good stead as they move forward with their lives and careers.

If you would like to have a conversation with us about a research idea, please email [Christopher.okeeffe@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Christopher.okeeffe@newcastle.ac.uk)

Kind regards,  
Jenny and Chris

P.S. If you didn't catch our 2021 NUHRI Public Insights Lecture by Professor Andrew Thompson, you can watch it in your own time here: [Age of the Techno Scene: Why we will need the arts and humanities to tame the tiger of the '4th Industrial Revolution' and artificial intelligence](#)

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