

Calling researchers of all kinds!

Themes in Research Culture:



An Arts Initiative



The Good Science Project

IMPERIAL

An invitation

The Good Science Project (GSP) is seeking participants, from all areas of the College and from all career stages, to take part in an innovative exploration of research culture. This is an opportunity to express and celebrate your own style of doing science: its pleasures, its surprises, its perils. It is your chance to show the elements of scientific research culture as they are rarely seen: as works of art.

This arts initiative is a collaboration between the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) and Imperial's Science Communication Unit. It is funded by Research England.



More precisely, what is the objective of this arts initiative?

Too often we are driven to understand science only as breakthroughs and discoveries. Constantly we search for success. But what about the ordinary daily lives of scientists? How best can we represent the idea of scientific constancy, rather than scientific triumph? How can we celebrate better the time spent on the craft of science: the pace of daily routine, the slow development of skills, the conversations with colleagues, or the quiet times we need to spend thinking, planning, and imagining?

Much of the effort of science in science has a hidden and under-appreciated quality. Through this arts project, Imperial's scientists will shine light on the daily practice of science.

The Project

Three groups, each made of three scientists, will each develop an art piece. These three pieces will explore different themes in research culture, and will be displayed together as the ‘Triptych of Science’.



The project will run from April-July 2024. Three initial meetings, involving the scientists and the organisers of The Good Science Project, mark the start of the project. Together we will deliberate on research culture, and explore the artistic possibilities.

To make the art, each scientist will set aside ten afternoons, spread through the summer.

<i>3 initial discussions</i>	<i>10 summer afternoons spent making art</i>
APR-MAY	MAY-JULY

The Art

What will these art pieces be? It is up to you. Whether it is sculpture, knitting, quilting, painting, cartoon-drawing, play-writing, you will choose, with your colleagues, a medium that suits you. You need no great expertise. You will learn as you go. Artists, the staff of the Good Science Project, and alumni of the Science Communication Unit will provide support with your creation.



QUILT



MOBILE



MURAL



TEXTILE/KNIT



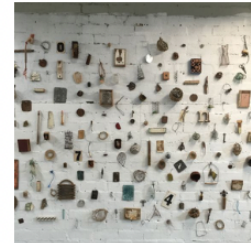
DRAWING



SCULPTURE



COLLAGE



FOUND OBJECTS

As we saw in our conference The Day of Doubt, there are many parallels between the processes an artist follows in order to make their work, and the practice of scientific research.

In your art-making, as in your science-making, you will observe, brainstorm, collect data, test and present your results. Your data and your results may be something very different from normal scientific fare—perhaps you will map the emotions of research, or keep a record of time spent in the lab—yet the link you make between your science and your art will be clear.

Spotlight: Data Art by Laurie Frick



Laurie Frick applies methods of precise data collection and visualisation to aspects of daily life, such as moments of stress or a weekly schedule. These works show how a mixture of scientific and artistic practices can be used to create thought-provoking and beautiful art about daily life. They provide a model for the kind of work we imagine for the Triptych of Science.

If you are interested in joining, please email a copy of your CV to stephen.webster@imperial.ac.uk with a brief statement expressing your interest.

The organisers of this initiative are Stephen Webster and Ella Miodownik. We hope to hear from you soon!