

PgCert Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication

Action Research Project Ethical Enquiry Form

Participant name: Lucy Eccles

Cohort: 1

Tutor name: Tim Stephens

1. What is your research question?

Waste Not, Want Not: A participatory action research project exploring how we can champion material circularity, reduce waste, and encourage the responsible use of materials within our studio community.

2. Who will be providing you with information to help you answer your question, and how will you approach and/or select them?

I have put out an open call to all student from BA ISD to sign up to participating in a participatory action research project which will take place over three workshops;

Briefing Workshop: Wednesday 8th November 2-4pm

Design Workshop: Wednesday 15th November 2-4pm

Making Workshop: Wednesday 22nd November 2-6pm

The open call will be emailed to all years with a deadline for application via a sign-up sheet. If there are more than 10 applicants, I will randomly select 10 students to prevent any unconscious bias I may have towards individual students.

3. What will you be asking participants to do?

I will be asking students to be active participants in a PAR, that looks to explore how we use materials within our studio through observation, analysis and intervention. This project will take place through three 2-hour workshops held in our studio space.

Through these co-design workshops we will explore how we can work through the design process without buying, discarding or wasting any materials to understand how we can embed what we teach/learn into our modes of practice.

As primary researcher, I have created a structure for this project, however I will be involving the participants in what methods we will use to record and analyse the data produced from this project. I will be both an active participant and project lead at different stages of this project, I will make clear to participants both their and my roles throughout the 3 workshops.

4. How will you get informed consent from these participants?

In the first workshop, I will introduce the students to the research question, explain what participatory research involves, the roles (myself as primary researcher, them as participant researchers). I will ask students to sign a consent form agreeing to be part of the PAR project, this form will highlight to students that they can withdraw from the project at any point but their involvement up to that point belongs to the group and cannot be withdrawn.

Students will not be able to participate in the project anonymously due to the collaborative nature of PAR. If we decide as a group that we would like to use questionnaires or feedback forms we can discuss whether these should be anonymous or not.

I will seek photo, video and sound recording permission from all students. I will make students aware that any designs and ideas generated in the PAR project will be the property of the university.

5. What potential risks to the interests of participants do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks? A participant's interests include their physical and psychological wellbeing; their commercial interests; and their rights of privacy and reputation.

Accessibility

Risk: Students may not be able to participate due to time commitments or other work on the course and in their personal lives, such as part time jobs.

Mitigation: This PAR project will take place over 3 workshops on Wednesday afternoons, when there is no scheduled teaching time. I will ask participant to be available for 2/3 workshops as a minimum.

Risk: Students may feel under confident in their skills and therefore not wish to participate in the workshops.

Mitigation: I will make it clear on the call out for participants that there are no specific skills required to participate.

Conflict and Disagreement:

Risk: Conflict and disagreements may arise from the group during the workshops.

Mitigation: I have a wealth of experience in running collaborative / co-design projects and will use this knowledge to diffuse tensions if it arises.

Power Imbalance

Risk: Students may feel additional pressure to perform or fear of speaking freely due to my position as a lecturer on the course.

Mitigation: I will make clear my role and the students role within the PAR project. I will highlight what experiences and knowledge each party will be bringing. I will make clear that this is a collaborative project. There will be elements of the PAR which I will oversee and areas where I will be an equal participant. I will make these clear to students.

Anxiety

Risk: Students may feel overwhelmed by discussions around the Climate Crisis and feel responsible for the misuse of materials in the studio.

Mitigation: We will not be looking at individual habits but will be focussing on observed habits of the studio as a whole. I will signpost student support services available to students feeling overwhelmed by the climate crisis.

Risk: As a participatory research project, students may feel pressure to produce a successful intervention that will be seen and used by their peers.

Mitigation: In our initial workshop, I will make clear to students that this is a collaborative experiment, in which we are testing ideas rather than providing solutions. Students can withdraw from participating in the research at any point.

Physical Harm

Risk: We will be making our intervention in our maker space in the studio, there may be risk of injury as a result of using tools or equipment in the making of work.

Mitigation: Inductions on the safe use of tools and equipment will be given to all participants. I will do a risk assessment for the project to highlight in more detail specific risks associated with the project.

6. What potential risks to yourself as the practitioner do you foresee and what steps will you take to minimise those risks?

Physical Harm

Risk: We will be making our intervention in our maker space in the studio, there may be risk of injury as a result of using tools or equipment in the making of work.

Mitigation: I will be undertaking a risk assessment for the co-design workshops, this will highlight any dangers with relation to that aspect of the project.

Anxiety:

Risk: I may feel pressure to produce a solution for creating better material circularity within our studio space and to ensure the project is a success.

Mitigation: I will remind myself that this is a participatory research project about testing ideas rather than the generation of solutions. I will discuss the project with my teaching peers and PG Cert peers if I feel overwhelming pressure as a result of the project.

7. Does your project involve children or vulnerable adults e.g. a person with a learning disability?

The PAR projects is open to all the students on our course, some of whom may have learning difficulties. As far as I am aware, we do not have any vulnerable adults currently within our cohort but I will check with my course leader.

8. How will you store the information you gather from participants?

If any questionnaires or feedback forms are used during the project, there will be no questions regarding personal information as it is not relevant to the research.

Photographs/Films, digital copies of any design outputs and survey forms (if used) will be stored on UAL drive in a file that is share with participants only.

I will delete the data sets 5 years after the project is complete, but will keep the photos/films, and digital copies of physical design outputs.

I confirm my responsibility to deliver the project in accordance with the Code of Practice on Research Ethics of the University of the Arts London (the University). In signing this form I am also confirming that:

- a) The form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- b) I understand and accept that the ethical propriety of this project may be monitored by the relevant College Research body and/or the University's Research Ethics Sub-Committee.

Signed: Lucy Eccles

Date: 20.10.2023

I support this project and have reviewed it with the participant:

Signed: _____ Date: _____