



PEARL News - Issue 7

News & opportunities in public engagement with research at the University of Lincoln

PEARL Activity Grants 2019-20 Released



Following the success of its first year, the PEARL Grant scheme 2019-20 has re-opened for staff and students to apply for funding to carry out new activities sharing and involving people in research.

PEARL is aiming to fund 6 new activities, examples of which could include (but are not limited to) interactive talks, workshops or demonstrations sharing research at local community groups, inviting people take part in research (e.g. sports performance analysis with local athletes, community archaeological excavation, children's language studies etc.), hosting a seminar, focus group or debate, and much more. The successful grant projects will be awarded during PEARL Conference 2019 in March this year. Watch this space for news of the successful projects and related updates and opportunities regarding the new Grant-holders throughout 2019-20.

**An exciting evening shared with former NASA Astronaut
Michael Foale CBE**



Former NASA astronaut, Louth-born Dr Michael Foale CBE returned to the county on 17th January to a sell-out event at the University, in which he shared stories and insights from his career as the most experienced British-born astronaut in the history of human space travel.

Introduced by Chris Barber, Director of the [International Space School Educational Trust](#) (ISSET), Dr Foale enraptured a packed lecture theatre, welcoming the audience to the front to share a selfie (photos at [@UniLincolnPEARL](#)). Audiences were awe-inspired to hear Mike's stories from his multiple US and Russian flights, learning about his space experiments such as investigating plant life cycles in microgravity. Mike's exciting story-telling, accompanied by photos and videos, offered the chance for people to relate to his missions, including

dramatic recovery efforts in the aftermath of a collision whilst on board the Mir space station.

The event, organised as a collaboration with [Pint of Science](#) and [ISSET](#) alongside a brilliant team of University departments, staff and student volunteers, was enjoyed by all, with 98% of feedback rating the evening as Very Good or Excellent.

"Thank you to all that made this possible. I didn't know what to expect but could not of enjoyed the evening more. Wonderful experience."

This paves the way for the exciting **3-night [Pint of Science](#) research festival** taking place in venues on Lincoln's High Street **20th-22nd May 2019** (tickets open April 2019).

PEARL Grant-holder Success - Diabetes: the Sweet and the Sour



PEARL 2018-19 grant-holder Dr Keivan Ahmadi has held a successful workshop with patients, researchers, carers and health workers, creating a storyline for a theatre piece around challenge and change in diabetes behaviours.

In Lincolnshire 1 out of 5 people have diabetes, with Type II being a preventable and manageable disease. Dr Ahmadi is looking to create a touring theatre piece which follows a storyline around diabetes occurring where it may have been preventable by a change in behaviour. The piece will use "Forum Theatre" to allow audiences to engage with the storyline by interjecting to redirect what is taking place on stage. This format allows attendees to voice their opinion and see the impact of positive behavioural change.

Funded by PEARL, the first stage of this project was to run a workshop developing potential storylines, delivered by London-based forum theatre company [Cardboard Citizens](#). This took place on 25th January, with patients, researchers, carers and health workers alike coming together. Storylines were created in pairs before sharing and developing these as a group, weaving the storylines into relatable scenarios, and considering how audiences might participate.

Three exciting possible storylines were created, alongside a strong relationship with Cardboard Citizens and a local group of people keen to take the project forward. Keivan will now gather together the storylines and feedback from the day, and look towards next steps, including further workshops and funding for developing the theatre piece.

The Newton Academy – the Science Club for Girls





The Newton Academy – the Science Club for Girls is a series of Saturday morning science and technology-themed workshops set up by the Eleanor Glanville Centre to take girls on a 3-year scientific voyage of discovery. Sessions consist of hands-on activities and projects, designed to work alongside the national curriculum, that will inspire and enthuse the next generation of female scientists and engineers.

[2018-19 workshops](#) so far have included '[It's All in Your Head!](#)', hosted by the School of Psychology, with the girls doing some myth-busting around current psychology research taking place at the University – do we really only use 10% of our brains? How do we recognise faces?



How do we cope with multitasking?; and '[DNA and Biomolecules: The building blocks of life](#)' hosted by the School of Life Sciences, with the group learning how to extract and purify DNA from cells, building models of protein structures and attempting to break the biological code.

The Newton Academy is part of the University's Athena SWAN project, acknowledging the Institution's commitment to improving the representation of women in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM). All Lincolnshire schoolgirls in year 6 (age 10-11) can register to join The Academy, with registration opening in April each year - see [this link](#) for further details.

Events...

ART Talks - Spring 2019 Series

art talks

Free lectures by artists, curators, makers and creatives.
3-4pm on Wednesdays.
Lecture theatre NDH1010, Nicola de la Haye Building.
Open to all students, University staff and the public.

Speakers this Spring:

30 Jan Danica Maier
6 Feb Andrew Bracey
13 Feb Annie Morrad
20 Feb Rachel Goodyear
27 Feb Isabella Streffen
13 March Martin Lang
20 March Jeremy Goffin
3 April Heather Connelly
10 April Frances Richardson

Talks are programmed by MA Fine Art, University of Lincoln, in collaboration with The Collection

For directions or any further details, please contact
pearl@lincoln.ac.uk

Inaugural Lecture | Lincoln Institute for Advanced Studies

Professor Simon Pearson: The Future of UK Agriculture

13th February 2019 | 5.30pm (for 6pm start) | University of Lincoln

Registration & more info [here](#)



No-one can avoid the impact of agriculture. It creates the food we eat, is a cornerstone of the rural economy and society but has a profound impact on the environment. These impacts are conspicuous in Lincolnshire where 21% of the economic output is associated with "Agri-food". This lecture provides an overview of the evolution of agriculture in the UK and perspectives on key future challenges, including the impacts of post-Brexit policy changes, modern technology and how agriculture and the landscape may evolve in the future.

Be Inspired! Lecture | Eleanor Glanville Centre

No More 'Boys' and 'Girls' – An Evening with Innovative Teacher
Graham Andre



Innovative primary school teacher Graham Andre appeared alongside his class from the Isle of Wight last year in BAFTA nominated BBC2 documentary 'No More Boys and Girls: Can Our Kids Go Gender Free', which investigated whether a gender neutral classroom environment could break down stereotypes amongst the children, transforming their views of themselves and future ambitions. Graham has over 20 years' experience in the education sector and has been a longtime supporter of gender neutrality in teaching. Grahams' talk will address key current questions around the impact of gender stereotypes on children as well as sharing practical tips on what we can do to minimise the negative impacts of these issues.

Take Part in Research...



Call for participants – New Study Looks at Behavioural Reactions in Dogs

Researchers at the University of Lincoln are inviting dog owners to take part in new research which looks at behavioural reactions between dogs.

Participants are invited to complete a questionnaire and, where possible, to upload video footage of their dog. The ideal video footage required from all owners would be of their dog when it becomes aware of another dog. The idea behind the research is to model the signalling used by dogs in these situations so, if it is safe to film your dog, please help us to help all dog owners. See [this link](#) for further details.

Call for participants – Brain Training Study in Type 2 Diabetes



Researchers are looking for individuals who are aged 45+ years and diagnosed with Type II Diabetes, to help investigate the effect of a brain training program on brain function.

This study will involve you being randomly assigned into one of two groups; a brain training group who will complete 12 brain training sessions over 4-6 weeks (these can be done at home or University) and be invited to have important study measurements taken on campus before and after training; and a Usual Care Group who will carry life on as usual, with study measurements taken at the University on two occasions. Measurements will look at brain function using a specialised laptop and levels of BDNF (biological marker of cognitive function) and HbA1c, through a small blood sample taken by the team. Please contact Samuel Cooke on scooke@lincoln.ac.uk or 01522 835482 for further details.

What did you think of this newsletter? Have you got any news you'd like to share?

Was the content of this newsletter useful, inspiring, interesting to you? What would you like to see more of? Or less of? Have you got an upcoming event, new project, call for participation, tips, news, opportunities you would like to share in either our staff & student or public newsletters? Please let us know by emailing pearl@lincoln.ac.uk so we can share your news and make sure this newsletter is what you want to read.



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