



Images of Research 2024

Competition Brochure of Entries

Viewing and voting

- There are 23 fantastic entries in this year's Images of Research competition. Please view all 23 submissions below and keep a note of your two favourites, along with the entry numbers. You are looking for a good image which reflects a strong, supporting abstract. To register your vote for the People's Choice, please go to [the Form here](#).
- Voting will close on **Thursday June 20th at midnight**. Please register your vote only once.
- The winner of the People's Choice will be announced on Tuesday June 25th at the UON Research Conference on-campus day.
- If you have any questions, please contact [Simone Apel](#) and/or [Lina El-azhab](#).

Enjoy the Images of Research below!

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Entry 1 – Adil Farooq

The Roots of Sustainability: Nurturing a Greener Future

This image is of a tree symbolizing sustainable development driven by sustainable finance. The roots of the tree represent the pillars of Green Finance, Green Technology, Innovation and Regulation – all of which are crucial to fostering a sustainable future.

These roots are what ‘feed and nourish’ sustainable development. The feet shaped leaves are a symbol of ecological footprint, and the green colour of the leaves was done using fingerprints to artistically depict the ecological ‘footprint’ replacing carbon footprint as a result of mindful sustainable choices at the root of sustainable economic development.

The image highlights the interconnectedness of economic activities with environmental impacts, and the need for a holistic approach to achieving sustainability goals. It shows how developing the roots of sustainable finance will result in a more sustainable and resilient ecosystem that is compatible with economic growth and the environment at the same time.



Entry 2 – Alison Hulme

Driving with Krishna

In rural Rajasthan Krishna is the most worshipped Hindu God. Truck drivers decorate their trucks to celebrate him and ask him to keep them safe on their long journeys across India. The trucks are crucial to the drivers - they are their livelihood and for much of the time their home. They are also beloved - the drivers feel a strong bond to their trucks, as if they are old friends not simply material objects. Drivers and their trucks are entangled in this way, like many of the objects explored in my forthcoming monograph – *Entangled Things* (Bloomsbury). Their bodies get used to the shape and size of the trucks; their rhythms shaped by life on the road. This driver was about to start a long journey down to the South. He patted his truck fondly, said some words of prayer, and swung himself up to the cab to drive off.



Entry 3 – Andrew Gough

The Freight Circus

Every day, thousands of heavy goods vehicles leave ports and factories in the UK, heading for customers and warehouses across the country.

This image visualises those origins and destinations, using a tool (CIRCOS) originally developed for mapping the human genome.

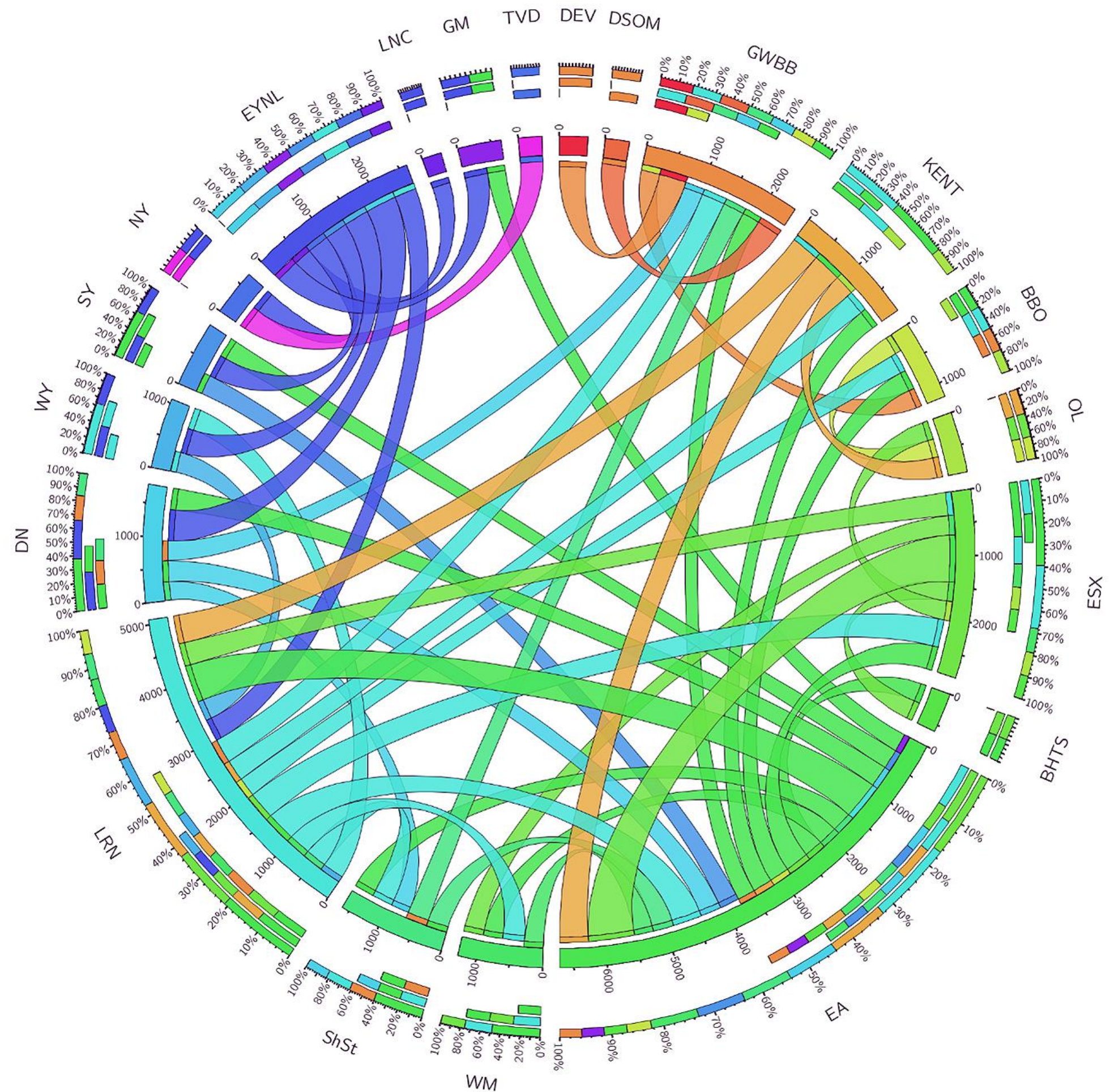
The regions of the UK take up positions on the outer dial of the “circus”. Next comes the trade data, measured in terms of logistics intensity.

Multicoloured arcs then connect the origins of good with their destinations, reproducing the network of freight movement that supports UK trade.

Leicester, Rutland and Northamptonshire (LRN) can be seen at the eight o’clock position.

Can you spot the links to our major container ports (Felixstowe and London Gateway) in blue and the Channel Tunnel in orange?

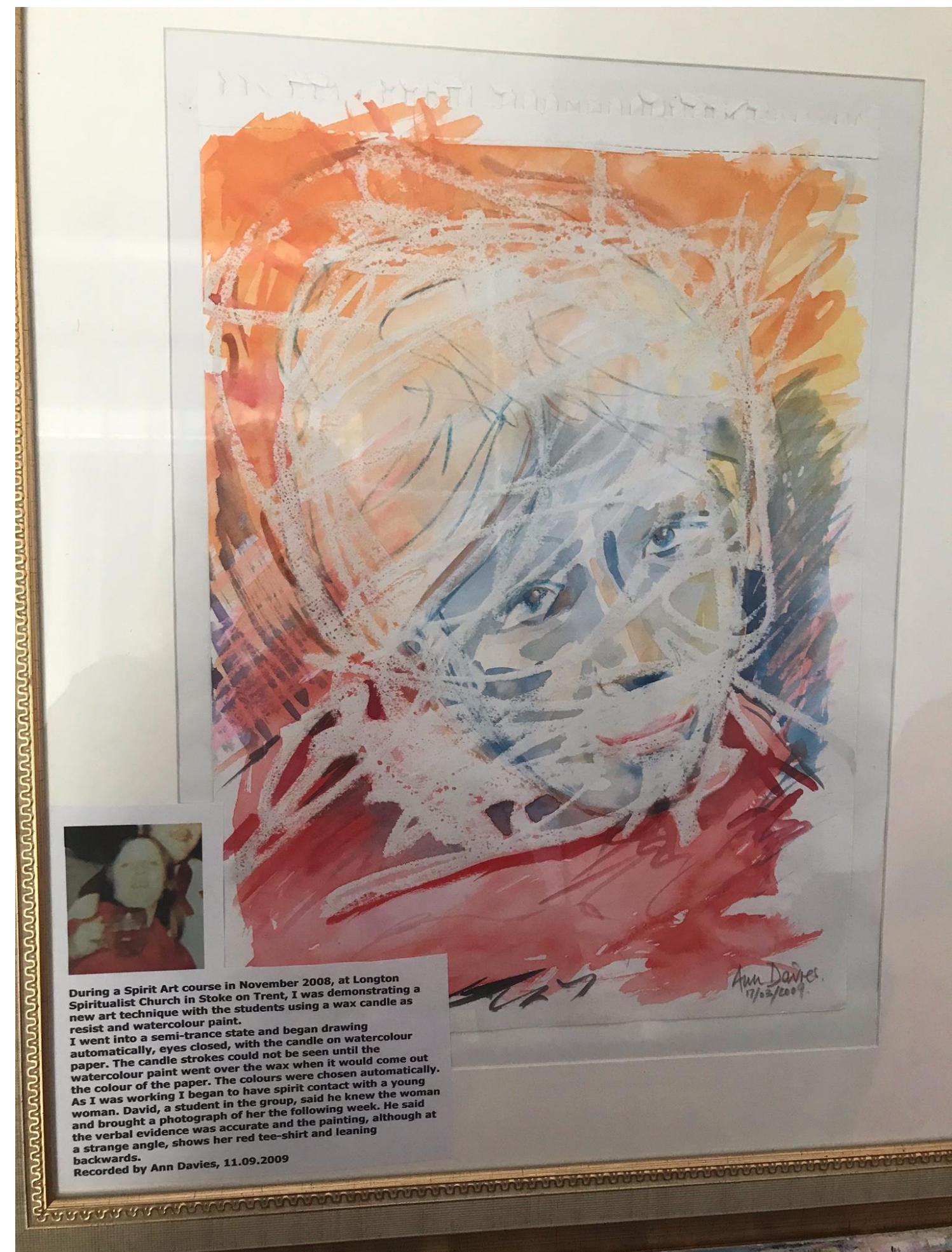
How do you think the circus has changed since this data was first recorded in 2016?



Entry 4 - Ann Davies

Art From the Invisible: How contemporary Spiritualist art may support the theory of after-life consciousness.

Art has been created under the religious banner of Spiritualism since 1852. It is a possible subject for acknowledgement of the survival of human consciousness after death since a mediumistic artist is able to create portraits of a deceased person without having known them. Research for this art form was conducted in America, Australia, Britain and Europe. Information was collected referencing art-works dating from 1852 to date. Whilst gathering information, both visual and literary, a theory began to form as to whether the work could solve the issue of after death communication with the use of an evidencing photograph. Two drawn and painted portraits with explanations and photographs will be shown illustrating the concept of spirit art as a tool for such evidence.



Entry 5 - Charlotte Marshall

What did she ever do to you?

This question was asked, in jest, because of a current research project involving collage whereby I relieve models of their eyes. As a new materialist, chopping up magazines and patching together paper, fabric, and ribbon is pretty standard for me, for others I look bat sh*t crazy. Peter Elbow's (1997) work on creative methods is excellent but, I challenge the notion that collage removes the "hard stuff" of research, collage has its own version of criticality and challenge. Especially when you're seen eyes fixed, face scrunched, tongue out, hacking away at old newspapers. The women from this collage do a lot for my thinking, Bennett (2010) talks about this in terms of "thing-power" - the laudable effect of materials on humans.

When asked, "What did she ever do to you?" I reply with, "plenty", but, when faced with the same question, what would your answer be?



Entry 6 - Charlotte Marshall

WiFi and other toxins

This collage is part of phase two data generation that explores the impact of pauses on level 8 students.

Research participants, including the lead researcher, were asked to log moments of pause over a four month period, the collage is one of those moments. The researcher noticed their pauses occurred most often when trying to "word correctly" their thoughts over email and turned to collage to articulate the experience of feeling a gap between reaching out through tech and the internal desire to show respect, care, and consideration in their words. Frustrated by trying to get the tone right in soundless and tuneless words, the researcher put "thing power" (Bennett, 2004) to work to sit with the frustration, and wonder is wifi all it's cracked up to be?



Entry 7 – Dean Brookes

We are all survivors; we all have stories of those who helped.

Depression is like an acorn taking root next to a strong brick wall till over time the tree is mighty, the wall pushed aside. Manuel's lean figure stood next to the nurses' station as I walked to another counselling session. Manuel is a man of many words, each coming from a deep well of the never-ending passion he has for life. I felt embarrassed, ashamed, I looked away. With his gentle hand on the bottom of my chin our eyes met. Deep kindness sat within his eyes, he did not say a word, he did not judge. Tears fell, rolling over his characterful laughter lines. Within those strong blue eyes he held my gaze, joyful I was alive. Holding me in his arms I cried, the busy hospital passing us by.



Entry 8 – Elaine Williams

Me: How are you feeling?

You: A little bit grey

Menopause does not arrive nor leave on a glittering disco ball in the manner of Madonna (2020). It is not something we are attuned to look forward to, rather, we are orientated to fear or at least feel apprehensive about this period of life. We are about to decline, to fail, to cease, be absent in our lives, or so some discourse may tell us.

The focus of this auto ethnographic research is to explore experiences of peri menopausal women, through listening to their voices and their narratives using an interview approach.

The women choosing to participate in this study, will have had treatment with Botox facial injections and will also have experienced mood changes during this time; including feeling low, anxious and reduced confidence. This is compounded by 'brain fog' and losing one's ability to find the right words.

Perceptions of ageing is explored, and preliminary data suggests that women feel invisible, ignored and a little bit grey. This image comes from a moment when I was trying to record a video to recruit participants for my research. I lacked confidence which resulted in many videos being taken, then I would lose my thread, my words, my voice and ultimately, I did not use any of the videos, deciding to stay a little bit grey.



Entry 9 - Emmeline Child

Fallout Fashion

Waste volume from the apparel and textile sector continues to be a formidable challenge (Cumming, 2017) with over a third of clothing ending up in landfills (WRAP, 2012a) and accounts for the largest amount of textile waste disposed of by consumers (McKinsey Apparel, Fashion & Luxury Group, 2022). Despite a growing response to sustainable issues in the industry, consumer appetite for new and the mass-manufacturing system encourages overconsumption (Han et al., 2015; Hirscher et al., 2018; Young et al., 2004), yet less than 1% of material used to produce clothing is recycled into new clothing (Anguelov, 2021; Ellen Macarthur Foundation, 2021).

This item adopts the approach of remanufacture, offering design led strategies to work towards a more circular economy in fashion. This item has been developed to test out the capabilities of scalable solutions for post-consumer waste in the fashion industry, one of a bricolage of methods needed to change the industry.



Entry 10 – Gosia Plotka

Constructing multifaceted and multidimensional perspectives on critical issues in PM with the LEGO® Serious Play® method

Instead of running 3*3h tutor-led sessions with many of the students engaged with their phones more than anything else we dragged our bag of bricks and allowed students to construct knowledge for themselves.

Teams of 5-6 students sat by the table divided into three equal parts by masking tapes. It took only 2-3h of very stimulating workshops to discuss #sustainability #globalisation and #technology impact on Project Management as well as position it towards previously identified issues.

The approach we applied not only helped our learners to express and connect complex ideas more effectively but, most importantly, gave them a chance to look at matters in so many dimensions that even a physician or a mathematician could get confused.

What an experience...

- 👉 Pretty much everyone got engaged
- 👉 Some even discovered their leader's capabilities
- 👉 The #creativity in the room was boiling (I swear at some point we reached 100*!)



Entry 11 – Jane Wright

Recovery from Addiction - “I am living proof that things can get better”.

Addiction can feel like a bottomless and spiralling hole where life is out of control. Those who have overcome their addictions and made it into recovery, who choose to become a Peer Mentor, have a valuable role to play in bringing hope and inspiration to others as they share their lived experience of addiction and the steps they took to get into recovery.

My qualitative research adopts an Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach seeking to understand how Peer Mentors, who support and engage with clients in substance misuse treatment services, make meaning of their role and in what ways being a mentor affects their own recovery from substance misuse.

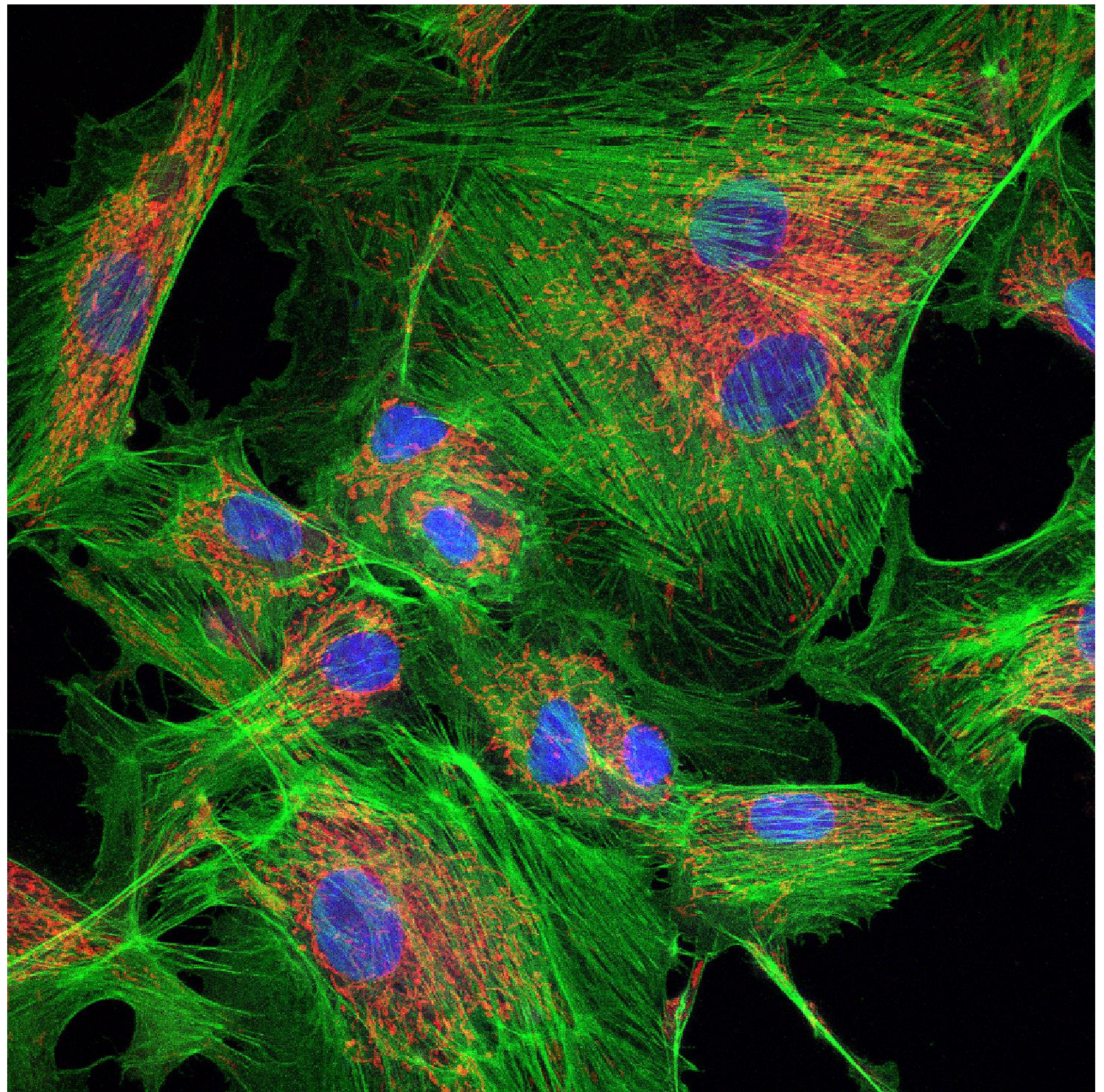
More specifically, this study seeks to capture the peer mentor’s voice and gain insight into the essential experience of being a peer mentor and its impact on personal recovery.



Entry 12 – Karen Anthony

How do you like your eggs in the morning?

This image was captured whilst demoing a state-of-the-art laser scanning confocal microscope. We hope to add this sought after piece of equipment to our new Northampton Advanced Imaging Facility (NAIF) housed within UON. The 'fried eggs' in the image are cells obtained from the lining of the pulmonary artery. The red stains are the mitochondria (the powerhouses of the cell), green is the cytoskeleton (this reveals the outline and shape of the whole cell) and the blue parts are the cell nuclei (containing all the genetic material). How do you like your eggs in the morning?



Entry 13 – Kimberley Hill (University of Northampton) and Rebecca Semmens-Wheeler (Birmingham City University)

“Still hoping everything goes back to normal, but it’s going to take a lot of time”: Lived experiences of UK Covid-19 Lockdowns and Beyond

Our research understands the lived experiences of keyworkers and community members (including, for example, healthcare, support, public sector and care home workers) during Covid-19. Fifteen participants (9 females, 6 males) took part in online semi-structured interviews, analysed using Thematic Analysis. Our findings highlighted experiences of social isolation, harm and stress during Covid-19 lockdowns, but also unexpected positive impacts, including increased community cohesion. Highlighting social processes connecting community members together within a rhetoric of distance, our work illustrates important understandings of life during UK Covid-19 lockdowns. This includes the resilience and adaptive behaviours of communities, as well as individuals’ hopes for a continually changing post Covid-19 world.



Entry 14 – Kirsty Allan

Crystal Clear Perspective

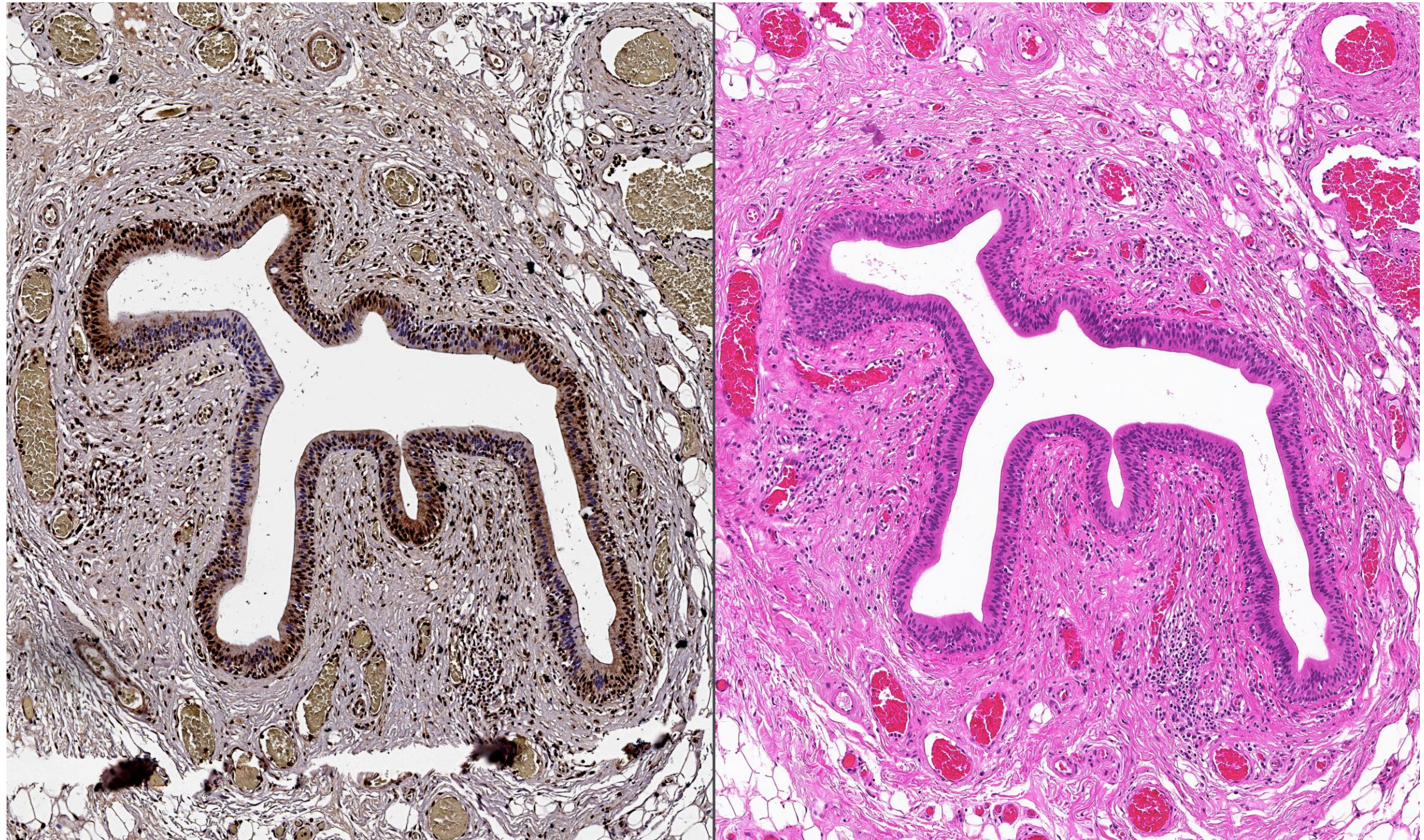
This was a candid photo of a surprise find at the end of an experimental trial. It is a crystal formed from Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salt) and was found when undertaking the arduous task of clearing up a floatation tank experiment. The water from the dense salt solution had evaporated and the salt re-formed into this beautiful structure. The structure's shape is like both an eye and a window - and it reminded me of being a lens of research myself and, how new perspectives can always be won even from the most unexpected of finds.



Entry 15 - Lewis Collins and Sonika Divakar et al

Interstitial Forms

Team DMD at UON are looking at the expression of a variety of genes in cancer tissues. Interstitial Forms shows two slides taken from different layers of the same tumour material with different stains. On the left the tissue is stained to show cells that express a cancer associated gene. This is compared alongside another slide stained with traditional histology stains which show the tissue morphology often used to diagnose cancer. Epithelial compartments like the one in the middle of this image are common in some tumours, but the compartment in this tumour is particularly striking and the nature of the cell staining makes it reminiscent of animals in Australian aboriginal dot painting styles. Team DMD includes Professors Karen Anthony and Lee Machado, Technician Demonstrator Dr. Lewis Collins, PhD students Michael Naidoo and Sonika Divakar and Dr. Leanne Jones, former PhD student and Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Birmingham.

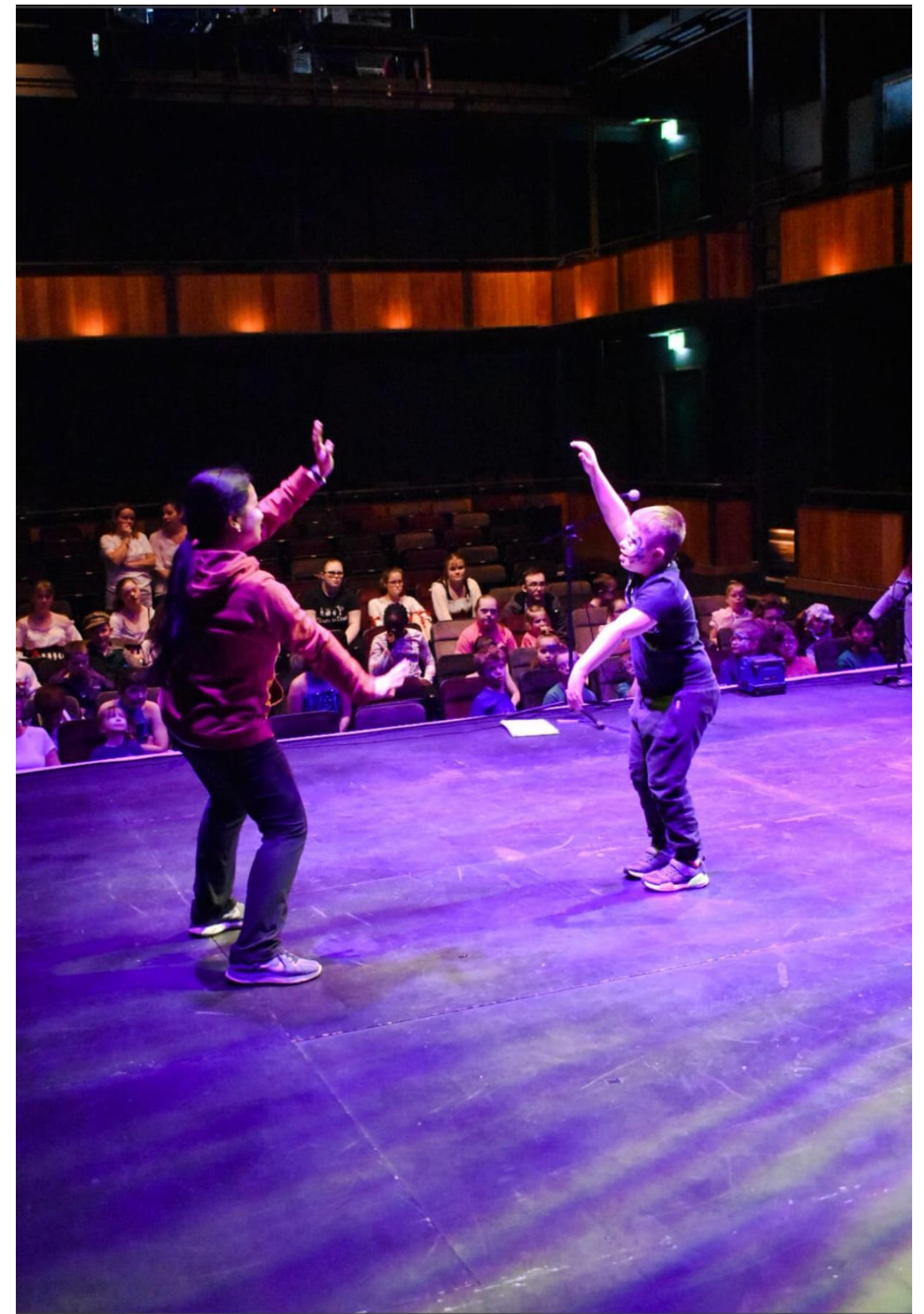


UON Images of Research 2024 ©Karen Anthony, Lee Machado, Lewis Collins, Sonika Divakar, Michael Naidoo, Leanne Jones

Entry 16 – Maitreyee Buragohain

“Dance makes me happy!”

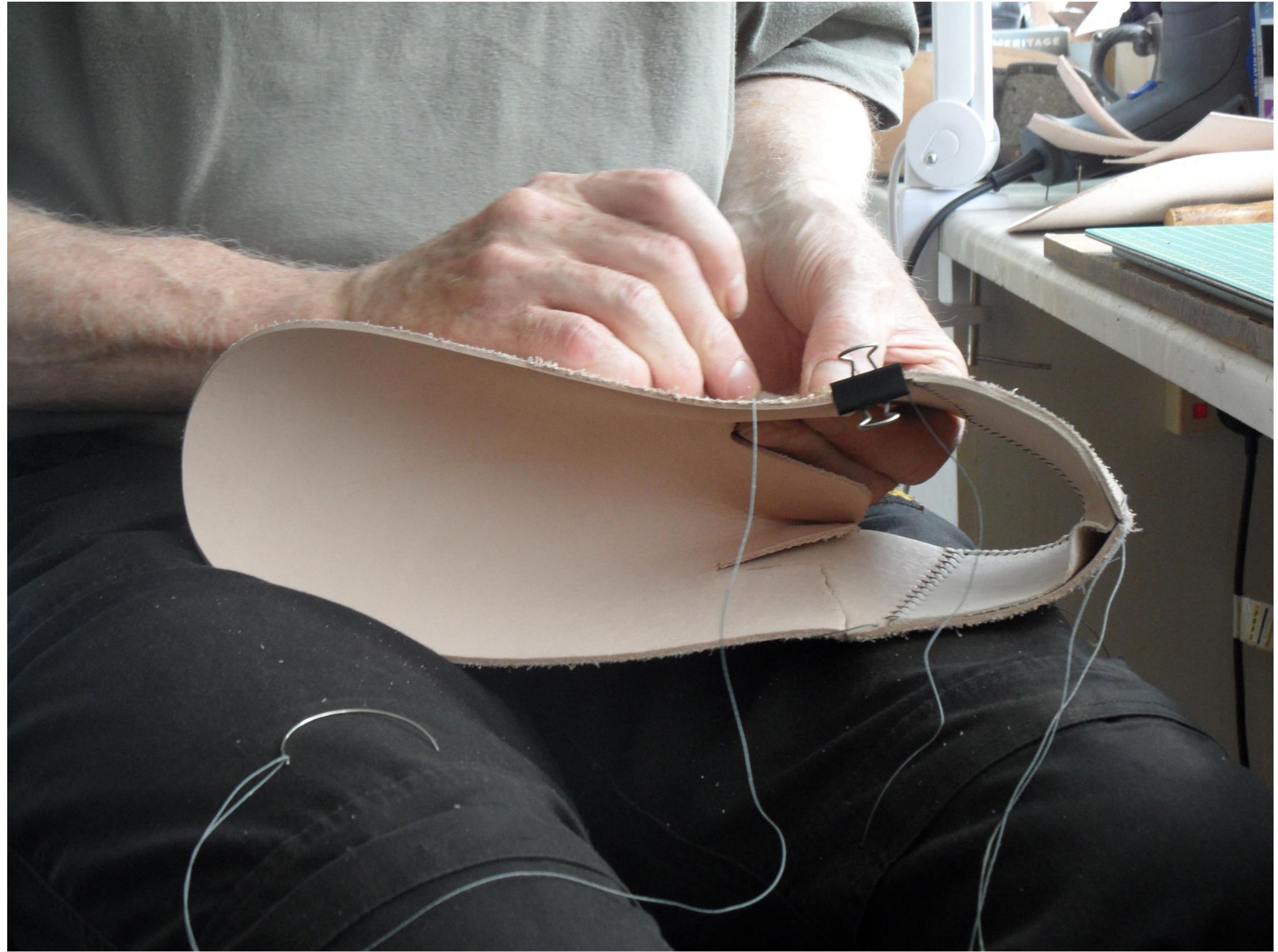
This image captures a joyful moment from my PhD research, which explores how dance provides opportunities for personal development for children experiencing special educational needs and disabilities. In the photo, I am dancing alongside a child, both of us immersed in the rhythm and movement as we practise for an annual showcase. This visual representation depicts the potential of dance as a medium for expression and connection. Through our shared dance, the child experiences a sense of joy, freedom, and belonging, while developing essential social skills. Shared experiences in dance build confidence, enhance communication and create a sense of community and belonging. This sense of belonging and acceptance is instrumental in supporting inclusion in the community. The findings derived from my study suggest that dance offers numerous opportunities for personal development and social inclusion, implying the need for further research and integration of dance into education programs.



Entry 17 - Matthew McCormack

Shoemakers in the eighteenth and twenty-first centuries

As part of my project on eighteenth-century shoes, I am focusing on the shoemaker. Researching the way that shoemakers worked is difficult, as much of their knowledge was tacit and somatic, rather than written down. I therefore worked with a shoemaker, who made me a pair of shoes to a Georgian pattern. Where possible he uses authentic materials and techniques, but there are some concessions to modernity - note the bulldog clip and the metal needle (rather than a boar's bristle). By observing the way that he worked, I was able to learn things about the process that I would not have gleaned from conventional historical sources. It also struck me how embodied the process of shoemaking was, since it puts strain on the eyes, fingers and elbows. I think the strength and vulnerability of the shoemaker's body comes across in this picture.



Entry 18 – Michael Maher and Claire Paterson-Young

Youth-Led Participatory Research: Amplifying Voices and Building Bridges through Art

In the traditional research paradigm, the dynamic between researcher and participant often involves the former presenting a series of questions or statements for the latter to feed back on. This can disempower participants, who are limited in how they can engage with research and tell their stories. Arts-based participatory research offers a departure from this dynamic. Pictured is the use of an arts-based methodology which was adopted during a research project on peacebuilding in conflict zones. Children and youth were invited to create a shared visual representation of their experiences of conflict. This approach allowed participants to engage with each other, sharing stories, experiences, and posing questions to each other another, removing the central position of the researcher. This not only developed rich data that was truly representative of the participants experiences, but it also created a space of meaningful dialogue, strengthened social bonds, whilst fostered community trust, and inclusivity.



UON Images of Research 2024 ©Michael Maher and Claire Paterson-Young

Entry 19 – Rachel Emily Evenden

‘Working with anomalous experiences when counselling for the elderly: Mapping the territory and identifying best practice’.

One of the challenges faced by older persons is the loss of people they are emotionally close to. Bereavement can be a difficult process to work through and sufferers can benefit from the support of counsellors and psychotherapists. During bereavement it is quite common for people to have experiences they interpret as communications from the deceased, ranging from dream encounters to multisensory apparitional experiences. Typically, these are comforting to the experient, providing an assurance that the essence of the person survives, affording closure by allowing disagreements to be resolved or forgiven, and enabling a last goodbye. However, clients in therapy are reticent to disclose these experiences to their therapist for fear of being ridiculed or even pathologised. The study aims to explore the nature of these anomalous experiences for older clients, the way they are addressed in therapy, the response to these of the therapist, and the impacts these have had on the client’s wellbeing and ability to process loss.



Entry 20 – Sally Laurie, Gosia Plotka, Anna Poole, Elizabeth Vokes and Kirsty Wagstaffe

Quack Quack Duck: When is a Duck, not a Duck? When it's 6 LEGO bricks

The team has been having fun exploring how the application of LEGO® Serious Play® (LSP) method can be developed within different contexts. The image is a collage of ducks created by students, colleagues from across UON and from the 2024 UK Advising and Tutoring Conference. Without exception, we experienced lots of laughter and creativity where everyone engaged on an equal footing. It stimulated open discussions, embraced diversity, encouraged exploration of possibilities, overcame communication barriers, and encouraged reflection. This participatory approach encourages us all to take ownership of subsequent actions and development. For the students involved it fostered a sense of belonging and 'mattering' (Felton & Weston, 2021). We are all looking forward to developing and sharing our findings further..



Entry 21 – Sally Sharp

The sunset is a splendid moment.

Last month I was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy. My photograph captures this specific point in my PhD experience. The sunset is a splendid moment. As the sun goes down it moves before your eyes to create a stunning spectacle across the sky. The rapid and dramatic changes are projected across the horizon and the colours are reflected in the sea.

At sunset we often take a moment to reflect on the day. As this sun sets, I take the opportunity to pause and reflect on my experiences over the last six and a half years. The sunset is a beautiful, unique space to savour, but it is also temporary. This brief moment, with hope for tomorrow, leads us from the end of one day into the next. It is with optimism I take the things I have learned into the future.



Entry 22 – Thanh Tuyen Le

Figure 8.1

Circles of the Biosphere
I trust
You see me
the innermost
circles the Biosphere
contains
presents
me to you
o' UON
the circles
o' Impact.

It is the blurriness (blank/invisible) that is the important element (often underrated and overlooked yet) linking everything (within/without) into/of the whole (thus the Biosphere). The blurry design also means viewers please pause and have ourselves time to contemplate (meditation) at it. The message is: 'the Biosphere is Life in all sizes and dimensions, colossal yet naturally inherent in everyone. We are not just within/part of it but One (Being) transcending the individual and personal forms (being). It is acknowledged that this image builds on prior insights (research) and empowered by vegan (plant-based) love. The Impact (Biosphere Transcendence) will come when we connect and care for Nature (the environment) as our own selves.



Entry 23 – Van Anh Nguyen

Through the Lens

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based technologies have emerged as transformative tools in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education. This photo, captured through the lens of the researcher's glasses, symbolizes the perspectives inherent in the study of AI-based technologies in EFL education. By visually depicting both the lecturer, who is also the researcher of this study, and the student, it encapsulates the essence of the research focus: to explore the perceptions of both educators and students towards AI utilization in language learning. Just as the lens captures a moment in time, the research seeks to capture insights into the potentials and challenges of AI-based technologies in enhancing EFL writing skills within the Vietnamese tertiary education landscape. This photo visually represents the study's aim, which is to shed light on the evolving role of technology in language education, framed by the perspectives of those directly involved in the learning process.





Images of Research is an annual event run by The Graduate School. For any queries, or to give feedback, please contact simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk and/ or lina.el-azhab@northampton.ac.uk