

Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment / School of Arts / Social Sculpture
Research Unit

Invitation to Healthcare Practitioners and Healthcare Students
to volunteer as participants
for an arts-led PhD in Connective Aesthetics and Medicine:

“From Anaesthetic to Aesthetic in the Clinic”

Volunteer to take part
in newly designed participatory aesthetic processes
as part of an arts-led PhD research enquiry.

If you are a healthcare practitioner or healthcare student your input and feedback is
invaluable.



What is the research about?

Medicine is full of emotive and soulful images, not only those we witness with our eyes, but those we perceive with all our senses, including thoughts, feelings, and imagination.

This research is to explore, design and develop ‘connective aesthetic’ processes that increase awareness and deepen attention to everyday aspects of healthcare. Such sensory ‘aesthetic attention’ can reflect our values about care and compassion. What happens when we pay close attention to this?

A series of experiential processes have been designed for use by healthcare practitioners and healthcare students. They aim to deepen practices of close noticing, lead to new insights and ways of ‘seeing’, stir imagination and through discussion, make space for reflection about values and choices of best compassionate practice in working in more connected ways with fellow humans.

The research is now at a stage where it will be valuable to have feedback from practitioners and students in the field to further shape the design. If you are interested in taking part, please read on.

The researcher has designed 6 innovative processes. You may decide to try out just one of them, or any number up to all six for a cohesive experience. All processes last approximately 1.5-2 hours. One process lasts an entire day. These processes may run at individual times over a number of weeks or together as a weekend workshop.

Each process includes a short experiential and contemplative component followed by a sharing of reflections on one's experience and discussion. Sharing one's experience is voluntary.

In Covid risk times, participation will be online in Zoom meetings with password entry for each process. In online workshops participants will all be present at once with the researcher at the same time. There will be a choice for participants to switch off their video cameras if wished.

The Research Investigators are:

1. The Researcher, Dr Helena Fox, an experienced medical practitioner and artist. Her work is interdisciplinary, drawing on clinical practice; principles from phenomenology; the psychotherapies – including informal mindfulness-based work; contemplative meditation; and Social Sculpture and expanded art form.

2. The PhD supervisors, Professor Shelley Sacks, Social Sculpture Practitioner and Director of the Social Sculpture Research Unit (www.social-sculpture.org) and **Professor Ray Lee, School of Arts** (www.invisible-forces.com), Oxford Brookes University.

3. The Special Advisor, Professor Bill Fulford, Fellow of St Catherine's College and Member of the Philosophy Faculty, University of Oxford; Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Mental Health, University of Warwick Medical School; Director of the Collaborating Centre for Values-based Practice, St Catherine's College, Oxford (valuesbasedpractice.org)

Ethics approval has been granted from the university Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University.

How to Participate

If you are a healthcare practitioner or student over 18 and are interested in taking part please email me including a couple of sentences about you and your work.

I will then send you a detailed 'Participant Information Sheet' and am happy to answer any further questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Helena Fox PhD candidate, Oxford Brookes University

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Updated October 2020