

FUTURES: European Researchers' Night 2019

Work Package 2: Activities during the NIGHT report

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Management of activities

Activities were coordinated by the University of Bristol (UoB) and developed in collaboration with the University of Bath (UoBa) and Bath Spa University (BSU). Two FUTURES Interns based at UoB were recruited to support the delivery of activities. Regular steering group meetings took place to develop and manage the activities as well as regular communication with venues hosting activities. For 2019, the decision was made, with permission from the ERN Project Officer, to extend the activities across two days (Friday 27 and Saturday 28 September) to offer a wider programme and reach family audiences.

As in the previous year, researchers were recruited through initially targeting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellows (MSCA Fellows) at UoB, UoBa, Cardiff University (CU) and the University of Exeter (UoE). Information sessions to reach further researchers at all institutions took place in Bristol, Bath and Cardiff. In total, 265 researchers took part in FUTURES 2019: 215 from UoB, 36 from UoBa, 7 from CU, 5 from BSU and 2 from UoE. Of these, 41 were MSCA Fellows who were supported to take part in all activities and particularly to develop plans for the EU Corners in Bristol and Bath. To reach researchers from all faculties and career stages, FUTURES was promoted widely at each university including faculty e-newsletters, internal staff bulletins and researcher networks. Thirteen bespoke training sessions and tailored advice supported researchers to take part in each activity.

Locations and venues

All the venues were chosen to reach a broad demographic and were predominantly based in city centre locations to enable high footfall. In Bristol, the flagship venue was [We The Curious](#), a science centre. We transferred "Heritage of the Future" to [Brunel's SS Great Britain](#) (Bristol's leading visitor attraction) to reach a much larger audience and because the venue is popular with families. This had previously taken place at The Island in 2018. Other venues included [Central Library](#) and two nursing homes for older people in Bristol; [Riversway Nursing Home](#) and [Hartcliffe Nursing Home](#). All these venues are located within the city centre and surrounding area. In Bath, a key venue was the [Holburne Museum](#). Other venues included [BRLSI](#) (Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution) and the Basement Gallery, Bath Spa University. Other activities took place on the streets of Bath for the walking tour and on trains in the local area. Online activities also took place to reach a wider audience.

Types of activities

As in 2018, a diverse programme of activities was planned to engage audiences of all ages. Activities included: a research fair with hands-on activities and live research experiments, interactive EU Corners, demonstrations, exhibits, workshops, discussions and talks, storytelling, art installations and exhibitions, research-related films, conversations over tea and cake, stand-up comedy, engagement activities on trains and a guided walk.

Number of attendees

In total, 5911 people engaged with FUTURES activities with 2400 people engaging with the online Ask Me Anything on Reddit. In Bristol, 2051 visitors attended FUTURES activities. At We The Curious,

1108 people (schools, families and adults) attended the *Research Fair, Up Late* and *Public Talks*. The *Up Late, Researchers Tales* and *Drinks Reception* at Brunel's SS Great Britain attracted 710 visitors. *Tea with a Researcher* at Riversway and Hartcliffe Nursing Homes welcomed 15 older people for one-to-one conversation over tea and cake. Finally, scientist Roksana Wilson and students engaged 41 children and adults at *Researchers on Loan* at Bristol's Central Library.

UoBa and BSU coordinated activities in Bath that reached 1460 people. The cultural venues the Holburne Museum and BRLSI welcomed 432 visitors for science, art and comedy at the *Pop-up Science Party* and *Up Late – Untold Stories of the Museum*. 28 people went *Walking with Scientists* to explore Bath on foot. *Researchers on a Train* saw 832 visitors interact with researchers on the Bath Spa to Westbury trainline. Talks and an exhibition at the Basement Gallery were attended by 90 visitors. At Roundhill Primary School, 78 primary students participated in creative writing workshops.

Programme of activities

Bristol:

Schools Research Fair, We The Curious - School children (Friday 27 September 10.00am – 2.30pm)

The Research Fair for local schools (9-14 year olds) took place over two sessions (10.00am-11.45am and 12.45pm-2.30pm) with 94 researchers engaging 411 children and teachers. The first session was for secondary school students and the second session was for primary school students. Research topics presented included superbugs, optical illusions, greenhouse gases, polarised light and cells. School children met researchers and explored the impact of cutting-edge research across science, engineering, social sciences and humanities through hands-on activities. The students also explored a range of STEM careers and meet role models, with researchers from a range of backgrounds taking part. As in 2018, schools from low socio-economic backgrounds and in areas with low uptake of higher education were prioritised.



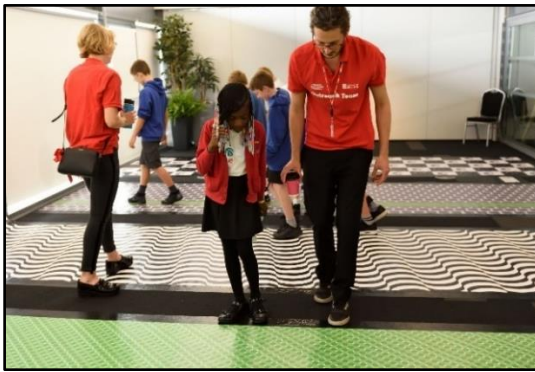


Figure 1: Primary and Secondary school students at the Schools Research Fair at We The Curious © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

FUTURES Up Late at We The Curious - Adults and families (Saturday 28 September 7.30pm-10.30pm)

On Saturday evening, FUTURES “took over” We The Curious. Adults and families could visit for free (normally We The Curious costs £15.95 for an adult and £10.50 for a child) and explore the venue’s interactive gallery spaces across two floors. This year’s Up Late event had a fun and lively atmosphere, with a DJ to create a relaxed experience for visitors. 80 researchers were based in 3 zones amongst the interactive exhibits on every floor; Health and Microbes, Nature and Society and New Technologies. Exhibits ranged from bio-inspired flight, how to make a chicken, ethics of virtual reality, making and breaking light and swarm escape robotics. The evening was attended by a real diversity of audiences including local families, young people and adults attending with friends.



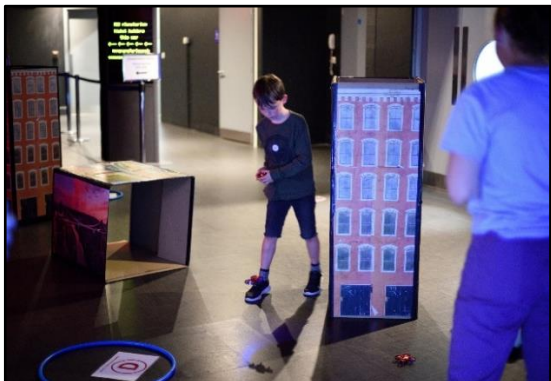


Figure 2: Adults and families at the Up Late at We The Curious © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

Science Buses, We The Curious - School children, families and adults (Friday 27 September, 10.15am – 2.30pm and Saturday 28 September, 7.30-10.30pm)

Plans were made for mobile busking activities to take place outside We The Curious but this did not go ahead due to very heavy rain on the night. Instead focus was placed on the indoor activities of the FUTURES Up Late event which engaged people throughout the venue.

Public Talks, We The Curious - Adults and Families (Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm – 10.30pm)

Three *Public Talks* featuring engaging and high-profile speakers took place which aimed to show the diversity of research taking place across the South West. These were particularly aimed at adults and offered a more in depth look at key research topics. The talks featured were:

- Nature, Nurture and Luck - What shapes our health? - Professor Nic Timpson
- Hidden Stories of Conflict - Pardoning Past Injustices - Professor Lois Bibbings
- Folding Nature into New Shapes - Professor Dek Woolfson



Figure 3: Professor Nic Timpson, Professor Lois Bibbings and Professor Dek Woolfson delivering public talks at the Up Late at We The Curious © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

Day in a Life – Photography exhibition¹

Day in a Life was a really popular activity from 2018 and as such the photographs were made a key part of the EU Corners at the Research Fair and Up Late event at We The Curious. MSCA Fellows took part in Day in a Life to showcase what they do on an ordinary day in the office/lab/field and break stereotypes about research and researchers. The MSCA Fellows were challenged to take photos at 8am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 8pm and 10pm to show people their typical day and start conversations about the research they are doing. Observation data showed 177 people engaged with them. Celebrating research from across Europe, 21 MSCA Fellows took part from the University of Bristol, Cardiff University, University of Exeter, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Technical University of Denmark and University of Porto. Researchers from University of Niš in Serbia also participated. The *Day in a Life* images were used to raise awareness of European Researchers' Night in Bristol and Bath as part of the awareness raising campaign before and during FUTURE 2019. The images encouraged visitors to attend events where they could meet some of the researchers featured.

¹ This activity was moved from proposed image-sharing website Imgur to be a focus of our face-to-face activities. Online channels with a greater following (Twitter/Facebook) were used to support awareness raising activities.



Figure 4: An example of Day in a Life © Emily Maggioli and © Giulio Nannetti

EU Corners - School children and adults (We The Curious on Friday 27 - Saturday 28 September and BRLSI on Friday 27 September)

EU Corners in Bristol were located at the *Research Fair* and *Up Late* event at We The Curious. The area featured the EU flag, ERN pop-up banners, interactive activities, *Day in a Life*, connections to relevant EU websites and information about European research funding. At the *Research Fair* the EU Corner was run by 14 MSCA Fellows throughout the day. They led interactive activities demonstrating European Commission-funded research projects and discussed the European role in research and innovation. Activities included extracting DNA from bananas, maths experiments with geometric shapes, cell sorting and levitation using liquid nitrogen. The EU Corner also included a world map with photos of the MSCA Fellows connected by string to a variety of countries to demonstrate their research journeys. At the *Up Late* event, alongside the EU Corner activities, 16 MSCA Fellows also ran science 'speed dating' encouraging visitors to ask them questions in 4-minute slots and a science selfie photo booth with props. At the *Pop-up Science Party* in Bath, the EU Corner was delivered by an MSCA Fellow from CU and researchers from UoBa. The researchers took part in an activity called 'Bite-size Research' that involved researchers presenting their work in just three minutes with only one slide. This activity was inspired by the popular Three Minute Thesis competition and involved previous competitors from UoBa.





Figure 5: School children, adults and families in the EU Corner with MSCA Fellows at the Research Fair and Up Late at We The Curious © Bhagesh Sachania Photography.

FUTURES Up Late, Brunel's SS Great Britain² – Families (Friday 27 September, 6-9pm)

On Friday evening, FUTURES “took over” Brunel’s SS Great Britain ship and museum. Families could visit for free (normally Brunel’s SS Great Britain costs £47 for a family). This family focused event was split into 3 zones with families receiving a trail to follow. The *Being Brunel* museum hosted the ‘Engineering & Innovation’ zone with current engineers sharing their research. On board the Victorian ship, researchers were based in the ‘History & Migration’ zone. The Dockyard and Theatre space hosted the ‘Voyages & Discoveries’ zone. The 31 researchers from UoB, UoBa and BSU were based amongst the maritime exhibits and immersive historical environment. Exhibits ranged from landing in a new world, journeys to the Southern Ocean, Victorian taxidermy creatures and Green Aviation. Visitors could also attend *Storytelling* in the Dining Saloon on the Lower Deck. The evening was attended by a diversity of local families, particularly those with younger children.

² This event was previously the *Inventions and Imaginings* exhibition at The Island but this was transferred to Brunel’s SS Great Britain, with permission from the ERN Project Officer, to reach a much larger audience and because the venue is popular with families.



Figure 6: Families at Up Late at Brunel's SS Great Britain © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

Researchers' Tales³, Brunel's SS Great Britain - Families (Friday 27 September 6-9pm)

A group of 11 researchers from the Arts, Social Sciences and Life Sciences worked with professional storyteller [Clare Murphy](#) to develop skills in storytelling to share their stories with the public. Clare ran a two-day training course to prepare the researchers. The stories aimed to explain their research and their lives as researchers to help break stereotypes. The researchers, compered by professional performer Polly Tisdall, performed their short stories in the immersive Dining Saloon on board the SS Great Britain ship. This created an intimate atmosphere for visitors to discover the people behind the research.



Figure 7: Researchers' Tales at Up Late at Brunel's SS Great Britain © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

Tea with a Researcher⁴, Riversway Nursing Home and Hartcliffe Nursing Home - Older people (Friday 27 September, 10.30am – 12pm and 1.30pm – 3pm)

At this event, older people met researchers as part of an informal activity organised for nursing home residents at both Riversway and Hartcliffe nursing homes. The event was offered as an outreach activity (going direct to their nursing home) to reach more isolated older people who cannot usually engage with current research. The nursing homes were chosen in partnership with the charity [Alive](#). The Activity Coordinators at Riversway and Hartcliffe nursing homes were consulted to shape the activity and invited residents to attend who had an interest or would benefit from participating⁵. Providing a social opportunity for the residents, researchers discussed their research and the residents shared their views. They found out more about the people behind the research and their interests and motivations for their work.

Researchers on Loan, Bristol's Central Library - Families (Saturday 28 September, 1-2 pm and 3-4pm)

Families at Central Library were invited to "borrow" a researcher and find out more about their research. In this interactive family workshop, scientist Roksana Wilson and students from the University of Bristol enabled families to explore the habitats and food chains in the world around us. The workshop, aimed at children aged 6-11, gave families the opportunity to meet a real scientist to find out what they do. Children got hands-on with real animal skulls to investigate what they eat and learnt all about ecosystems by playing a giant game of Ecosystem Kerplunk.

³ This event was referred to as "Scientists' Tales" in the proposal but was renamed so researchers from non-science subjects could take part.

⁴ This event was called Tea with a Scientist in the proposal but was changed to include non-science researchers. Having identified a gap in our programme for older people, the timings and location were adjusted to better suit this audience.

⁵ No photographs were taken of the sessions due to safeguarding policy to protect vulnerable adults



Figure 9: Researchers on Loan at Central Library © Bhagesh Sachania Photography

Bath:

Up Late Exhibition – Untold Stories of the Museum, The Holburne Museum - Adults and Young People (Friday 27 September, 5pm – 9pm)

As part of the museum’s regular “Up Late” programme, FUTURES hosted an evening event. It was themed around the Untold Stories of the Museum. The event explored the stories of people often forgotten by museums and other cultural institutions including women and minority groups. The researchers used creative methods to facilitate conversations with visitors such as board games and a scavenger hunt. Researchers taking part were from several departments including Psychology, Education and Politics, Languages & International Studies allowing visitors to explore the interdisciplinary nature of their work.





Figure 10: Up Late – Untold Stories of the Museum at the Holburne Museum © Anna Barclay

The Cubicle (Changing Views, Changing Minds), The Holburne Museum - Adults and Young People (Friday 27 September, 5pm – 9pm)

The Cubicle is an interactive walk-in changing cubicle developed in collaboration between award-winning [Kilter Theatre](#) and psychologists from UoBa. *The Cubicle* is designed to make people feel more body positive in the face of pressures from the media about body image. This one-day installation at the Holburne Museum, gave visitors to the Up Late event the opportunity to interact with the exhibit and find out about the collaboration process between arts and science. Evaluation revealed the positive interactions and the range of valuable discussions that took place during the day.



Figure 11: Changing Views, Changing Minds at The Cubicle at the Holburne Museum © Anna Barclay

Alonely (theatre performance), The Holburne Museum - Adults and Young People (Friday 27 September, 5pm – 9pm)

Alonely is a community theatre piece, using monologues based on research by members of the Bristol based charity, BS3 Community and UoB, exploring how we can make the experiences of older people more visible as a way of encouraging dialogue around loneliness in our communities. *Alonely* was performed at the Holburne Museum as part of the Up Late event.

Pop-up Science Party, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution⁶ – Young adults (Friday 27 September, 6pm – 10pm)

This event combined science, stand-up comedy and interactive science experiments to create a “Pop-up Science Party”. Researchers set up several different research stalls and experiments including a wine tasting psychology experiment, a display on iridescence in birds and beetles and an exploration of the connections between physics and art. The evening concluded with a series of stand-up comedy sets from researchers. The event also featured an EU Corner.



⁶ This event was moved to BRLSI to reach a larger audience who may not normally engage with research.



Figure 12: Pop-up Science Party at BRLSI © Anna Barclay

Walking with Scientists, Bath City Centre – Adults and families (Saturday 28 September, 2pm – 3.30pm; 5pm – 6.30pm)

The public were invited to take a walk with scientists and see the city of Bath come to life with new perspectives on themes from astronomy and astrophysics to flooding. The guided walks were led by Olly Langdon from [Kilter Theatre](#). Walkers were joined by seven researchers who spoke about their work as researchers and answered questions at six stops along the walk. Overall, 30 people participated in the walks. Walking with Scientists proved once again to be a successful model of engagement to provoke conversations about research. Kilter Theatre are now developing Walking with Scientists to become a regular offer, in partnership with UoBa.



Figure 13: Audience members gathering for Walking with Scientists in Bath City Centre © Helen Featherstone

Ask Me Anything, Reddit - Adults (Saturday 28 September, 7pm – 8pm)

Users of the popular Reddit forum [r/AskScience](#) were invited to take part in a special FUTURES themed Ask Me Anything event with researcher Kit Yates (UoBa). The public could ask questions about his research into the maths of biology and his recent book 'The Maths of Life and Death'. Kit logged in to answer questions and have conversations online about his research on the use of maths to model processes in living things e.g. evolution, collective motion (flocks of birds or shoals of fish) and how we can use maths in our everyday lives. The conversations proved very popular with users of the forum.

Researchers on a Train, local train services - Adults and Families (Saturday 28 September, 3pm – 5pm)

Working with the [Severnside Community Rail Partnership](#), researchers used science busking and street performance techniques, alongside objects from their research (including petri dishes, costumes and more) to prompt discussions with travellers on their journeys between Bath Spa and local station Westbury. Researchers spoke to passengers and discussed their research, its relevance to society and answered questions, engaging audiences who may not normally have a chance to interact with researchers.

Changes to the event programme

Due to time constraints and changes in researchers' availability, some events listed in the proposal were unable to go ahead as planned. This included *Bristol as a Water City*, where a change in the project's end date meant that this event could not take place.

Due to poor weather on Friday 27 September, the Cubicle was moved from its planned outdoors location in central Bath to the Holburne Museum to prevent any damage to the installation.

Various community groups were invited to attend the FUTURES Up Late events and early communication was made with the Community Inclusion Manager at the Barton Hill Settlement. This included the Somali Girls Group who attended the previous year's event at We The Curious. Unfortunately, a response from the Somali Girls Group was not received in time to organise a coach for them (taxi travel was offered). To reach another community who may not otherwise attend the events, we co-delivered an outreach workshop with the Brunel's SS Great Britain in Hartcliffe (a low socio-economic area in Bristol). This was an opportunity to promote the FUTURES Up Late event to families who currently do not visit the venue and as a result families from this area attended on the night, many of whom had never visited the ship and museum before.

Three lectures led by BSU (Environmental Humanities Lecture, Hope and Fear Lecture and Making Books: Workshops and Lectures) were redefined as the researchers approached for these lectures were no longer available. These activities were replaced with the BSU activities listed below, to ensure that BSU researchers were able to take part in FUTURES.

Writing: Futures! workshops at Roundhill Primary School, Bath – primary students (9am - 3pm)

Three workshops were delivered for primary students at Roundhill Primary School by researchers Christopher Vick and Sophie Dumont from the Creative Writing department at BSU with support from the university's Widening Participation team. The workshops explored writing stories and students were given the opportunity to write a story structure or poem and demonstrated the topics of research that can take place within creative arts subjects.



Figure 14: Writing: Futures! Workshops at Roundhill Primary School © Christopher Vick

Show of Hands Exhibition – The Barn and Basement Gallery, Corsham Court, Bath Spa University – Adults (Friday 27 September launch event 2.30-4.30pm and private view 5.30-7.30pm)

The *Show of Hands* exhibition launched on European Researchers' Night with an event at The Barn and Basement Gallery at Bath Spa University's Corsham campus. The Making Books Research Centre developed the event and exhibition bringing together scholars, creative practitioners, and cultural professionals to explore research into the concept of the book as both a created artefact and object of study. The exhibition featured almost 90 posters, books and related ephemera.



Figure 15: Show of Hands exhibition launch event and private view © Ian Gadd

Overview: Number of attendees

Event	Venue	Time	Visitor Count	Visitor Type	Male: Female Ratio
Research Fair (Schools) – Friday 27 th	We The Curious	10.00-14.30	369	Students 9-14-years old	50:50
			42	Teachers, parents	
TOTAL			411		
Up Late (Public) – Saturday 28 th	We The Curious	19.30-22.30	531	Adults & Families	50:50
TOTAL			531		
Public Talks– Saturday 28 th	We The Curious	19.30-22.30	166	Adults	50:50
TOTAL			166		
Day in a Life photo exhibition – Saturday 28 th	We The Curious	19.30-22.30	177	Adults & Families	50:50
TOTAL			177		
Up Late (Public) – Friday 27 th	Brunel’s SS Great Britain	18.00-21.00	450	Adults, families	50:50
TOTAL			450		
Researchers’ Tales – Friday 27 th	SS Great Britain	18.00-21.00	260	Adults, families	50:50
TOTAL			260		
Tea with a Researcher	Riversway Nursing Home	10.30-12.00	9	Older Adults	30:70
	Hartcliffe Nursing Home	13.30-15.00	6		10:90
TOTAL			15		
Researchers on Loan – Saturday 28 th	Central Library	13.00-14.00	26	Families	50:50
		15.00-16.00	15		50:50
TOTAL			41		
BRISTOL TOTAL			2051		
Up Late exhibition – Friday 27 th	Holburne Museum	17.00-21.00	295	18-25-year olds	70:30
TOTAL			295		
The Cubicle – Friday 27 th	Holburne Museum	17.00-21.00	50	18-25-year olds	70:30
TOTAL			50		
Alonely performance – Friday 27 th	Holburne Museum	17.00-21.00	24	18-25-year olds	70:30
TOTAL			24		

Pop-up Science Party – Friday 27 th	BRLSI	18.00-22.00	63	Adults	Unknown
TOTAL			63		
Walking with Scientists – Saturday 28 th	Bath City Centre	13.30-15.30	16	Families and Adults	50:50
		17.30-19.30	12		
TOTAL			28		
Researchers on a Train – Saturday 28 th	Bath - Westbury	Train Dep.15:07	410	Adults and Families	50:50
		Train Dep.15:37	205		50:50
		Train Dep.16:02	217		50:50
TOTAL			832		
Writing Futures! Workshops – Friday 27 th	Roundhill Primary School, Bath	09.00-14.00	78	School students	Unknown
TOTAL			78		
Show of Hands exhibition launch and private view – Friday 27 th	Bath Spa University, Corsham Campus	Exhibition launch 14.30-16.30	60	Adults	Unknown
		Private View 17.30-19.30pm	30		
TOTAL			90		
BATH TOTAL			1460		
Ask Me Anything – Reddit – Saturday 28 th	Online	19.00-20.00	2400	Adults	Unknown
TOTAL			2400		
ONLINE TOTAL			2400		
GRAND TOTAL			5911		