

Dr. Nick Mahony is a Research Fellow based in the Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Open University. His research investigates the formation and mediation of contemporary publics, emerging developments in participatory politics and public engagement with research. Nick currently leads an Open University funded project called '[Creating Publics](#)'. This project explores how theoretical work on publics might be applied to the 'public engagement with research' agenda. Part of this project has involved setting up a new Open University website called '[Participation Now](#)', which brings together an openly accessible collection of different types of contemporary participatory public engagement initiatives to support discussion about the possibilities, problems and publics of emerging forms of practice. This site has been set up in collaboration with the RCUK-funded Open University 'Catalyst' project and OpenLearn. Nick is also currently a co-investigator on the ESRC-funded 'Making publics across time and space' project. One of the results of this has been the formation of the international and interdisciplinary '[Publics then now and beyond](#)' network, which Nick co-convenes.