Nottingham
Engaged 2019
celebrate and aspire

Annual internal conference on policy and engagement

Tuesday 17 September
Great Hall, Trent Building, University Park
Nottingham Engaged 2019
celebrate and aspire

Conference Chair: Stephen Meek, Director of the Institute for Policy and Engagement

9–9.45am  Registration and Coffee  Trent Building Foyer and Great Hall

9.45–10.40am  Plenary 1  Great Hall
Policy and evidence: reflections from a poacher turned gamekeeper
Stephen Meek  Director of the Institute for Policy and Engagement

Celebrate and aspire: miniKuchas showcase
Professor Jo Robinson  Professor in Drama and Performance
Lou Rudkin and Tim Carter  Head of Communications, Institute of Mental Health
Dr Nick Bennett  Senior Project Manager, School of Chemistry
Dr Peter Chapman  Associate Professor, School of Psychology
Dr Chloe Holloway  Research Assistant, School of Psychology
Dr Lucella Rodrigues  Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Built Environment

10.40–11am  Coffee break

11am–3.30pm  Workshop breakouts (see schedule opposite)

3.30–4.30pm  Plenary 2  Great Hall
Remarks
Professor Shearer West  President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham

The Comic, Collider Effect
Dr Amanda Horton-Mastin  Senior Director at Girl Effect and former International Campaign Development Director at Comic Relief

Policy Impact and Public Engagement Awards

4.30–5pm  End of day networking and refreshments  Great Hall

Afternoon workshops schedule

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A19  Trent Building  Creative conversation  Public Engagement 101  Workshop: pitch it!
A21  Trent Building  Space for engagement  Understanding press and media  Inside the policy brain: who policy makers are and how to talk to them
A46  Trent Building  Policy 101  Make it pop: an introduction to data visualisation  How to design public engagement evaluation surveys
LG9  Trent Building  On tweets and other noises: navigating social media  Policy Masterclass: the Dos and Don'ts of engaging with policy  Connecting with communities
LG11  Trent Building  Applying the “Theory of Change” to present a competitive research proposal  Prove it: evaluating and evidencing policy impact  Getting funded: incorporating public engagement and policy impact into research proposals

Agenda

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Workshops descriptions

Applying the “Theory of Change” to present a competitive research proposal
Speaker: 
**Dr Martin Pickard**, Chairman, **GrantCraft**

Achieving impact is increasingly becoming a more important assessment metric across the range of grant applications – classifying the pathways translating the research results to the actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Focusing on policy impact, the session introduces the “Theory of Change” as fundamental to this process and outlines the approach strategies necessary to build onto the research in order to maximise your case for support.

Connecting with communities
Speakers: 
**Cathy Mahmood**, Manager, **ChalleNGe**
**Denise McLean**, Senior Technician, **University of Nottingham**

Are you thinking about building research partnerships with local communities? This session will help you to consider the best approach for you and your community partners, focussing on shared values, ethos and relationship building.

Cathy and Denise will help you to identify potential community partners across Nottingham, and discuss how you can avoid the common pitfalls of working with diverse groups.

Creative conversation
Speaker: 
**Rachel Feneley**, Learning Officer Drama and Dance, **Nottingham Lakeside Arts**

Following on from Dinosaurs of China and The Viking Exhibition, Lakeside has flung open its doors to start creative conversations with academics and the teams that support them.

Attend this workshop to explore how creative solutions can excite and engage the public with your research.

Getting funded: incorporating public engagement and policy impact into research proposals
Speakers: 
**Sally Bowden**, Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange for the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, **University of Nottingham**
**Toby Shergold**, Public Engagement Lead, **UK Research and Innovation**

With many major funding bodies withdrawing their public engagement pots, how do you find funding for public engagement activities? This session will explore how public engagement can be embedded within a research proposal, why UKRI are encouraging this, and how academics at the University of Nottingham have been successful in this approach.

How to design impact evaluation surveys
Speaker: 
**Dr Eric Jensen**, Social Scientist, **Methods for Change**

Surveys offer an efficient and practical option for evaluating impact. But designing a good survey can be challenging. This workshop provides top tips and guidance on developing an impact evaluation survey that is accurate and effective. This will include helping participants identify and avoid common pitfalls in impact evaluation questionnaire design, as well as highlighting good practice principles.

Inside the policy brain: who policy makers are and how to talk to them
Speakers: 
**Amy Williams**, Political and Public Affairs Officer, **University of Nottingham**
**Jon Featonby**, Policy and Advocacy Manager (Refugees and Asylum), **British Red Cross**

Join Amy and Jon as they take you through a day in the life of a policy-maker, helping you get inside the policy brain (and heart). They will use their experiences of successful policy influencing and your own examples of what you’d like to get policy makers to think, feel, and most importantly do, to work through how to do just that. The aim of the session? To help you help them!

Make it pop: an introduction to data visualisation
Speakers: 
**Soti Coker**, Founder, **DataChronicle**
**Carla Froggatt**, Corporate Marketing Officer, **University of Nottingham**

Gain a unique edge as a researcher by presenting your data and insights in a way that gets noticed, remembered and acted upon. With a blend of infographic best practices, psychology based storytelling and practical tips to get you started on a budget, this infographics workshop will create a memorable and invaluable learning experience for you and your team.

On tweets and other noises: navigating social media
Speakers: 
**Dr Kate Law**, Nottingham Research Fellow, History, **University of Nottingham**
**Professor Mike Merrifield**, Head of School of Physics and Astronomy, **University of Nottingham**
**Anne Smart**, Digital Communications Manager, **University of Nottingham**

Focusing mainly on Twitter, this session will explore the potential and pitfalls for academics to use social media to engage public and policy audiences with their research. Learn from some of the University’s most prolific tweeters on how to navigate this tricky but potentially rewarding terrain.
Policy 101
Speaker:
Areeq Chowdhury, Head of Think Tank, Future Advocacy
Don’t know where to start with policy engagement? This session will help identify how your research is relevant to policy makers and how you can best engage with them. You will have the chance to hear specific examples of successful policy engagement and to explore the most effective tools and tips for promoting your research findings.

Policy Masterclass: the Dos and Don’ts of engaging with policy
Speakers:
Dr Kathryn Oliver, Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Professor Paul Cairney, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, University of Stirling
In this session, Paul and Kathryn will discuss their recent paper which examined advice given to academics about how to engage with policy. They argue that advice given to academics often neither draws on empirical or theoretical literature, nor seeks to clarify the moral purpose behind such engagement. This can lead to potentially risky situations for both researchers and policymakers. They recommend a more thoughtful and cautious approach.

Prove it: evaluating and evidencing policy impact
Speakers:
Dr Chris Mellor, REF Impact Manager, University of Nottingham
Anna Hopkins, Researcher, Alliance for Useful Evidence
Contrary to popular belief, policy impact can be measured and it can be evidenced – but it takes careful planning and effort to do so. In this session, Anna and Chris will explore examples of where researchers have successfully tackled this challenge. They will also share their top tips on how to plan for, measure and demonstrate policy impact both for the REF and for wider purposes, and signpost you to further useful resources.

Public engagement 101
Speakers:
Dr Samantha Tang, Public Awareness Scientist, School of Chemistry, University of Nottingham
Matt J Young, Neuroscientist and public engagement trainer and producer, Pint of Science Nottingham and Nottingham Festival of Science & Curiosity
Could you engage non-specialists with your research? Be it pupils in a secondary school or a politician at the Council House, researchers at Nottingham appreciate how important it is to communicate their work in an understandable manner without overwhelming or patronising their audience.

Space for engagement
Speakers:
Duncan Macmillan, Head of Learning, Centre of the Cell
Charlotte Morgan, Learning and Outreach Officer, Centre of the Cell
Dr Sara Goodacre, Principal Investigator, Nottingham’s SpiderLab
How can you facilitate informal learning and educational outreach within your department? Centre of the Cell at Queen Mary University is the world’s first informal science learning centre to be located within working biomedical research laboratories.

Understanding press and media
Speakers:
Emma Thorne, Head of News, University of Nottingham
Professor Jonathan Ball, Professor of Molecular Virology, University of Nottingham
Working with the media can be an effective way to raise the profile of your research. It can inspire and inform new audiences and contribute to public debate. It can also be daunting. Will journalists understand your work? How can you ensure your message is clear? In this session, Emma and Jonathan will discuss how you can make the most of opportunities, avoid common pitfalls and effectively engage with the press.

Workshop: pitch it!
Speaker:
Chris Sims, Head of Global Policy Impact, Institute for Policy and Engagement, University of Nottingham
You’re at a conference and find yourself in a chance encounter with a senior policy maker. You have 30 seconds to snag their attention and get that elusive policy “in” for your research. Could you do it? This workshop-based session takes the traditional concept of an elevator pitch and applies it to policy makers - come and learn how to seize your opportunities.
Speakers

Professor Jonathan Ball
Jonathan is a Professor of Molecular Virology in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Nottingham. He has been a keen science communicator and media commentator science undertaking a British Science Association (BSA) Media Fellowship with BBC News Online. He is a regular commentator for a variety of print and online news outlets and continues to contribute to a variety of BBC World Service radio programmes, especially Science in Action, and recently presented a Radio 4 series on Biohacking.

Dr Nick Bennett
Nick completed a PhD in Organic Chemistry at the University of Nottingham in 2004. He then worked in research roles at AstraZeneca and Peakdale Molecular before returning to the University of Nottingham in 2012 to take up his current position as Senior Project Manager in the School of Chemistry Business Partnership Unit. In this role, Nick has managed a range of research and knowledge exchange projects in drug discovery and the development of new materials for healthcare & energy applications. He is currently based in the GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory for Sustainable Chemistry and is focused on promoting and developing the School of Chemistry’s research portfolio in Green and Sustainable Chemistry.

Sally Bowden
Sally is the Head of Research and Knowledge Exchange for the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Nottingham. Sally joined the University in 2006 as a Research and Business Development Executive for the Arts. She has over 25 years’ experience of working in research project development - starting out as a member of a research team requiring funding to sustain the research they were working on, and latterly as a member of Professional Services at the University of Nottingham. She has extensive experience of developing research collaborations across different disciplines and with external partners from a range of sectors.

Professor Paul Cairney
Paul is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the University of Stirling and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science. He is a specialist in British politics and public policy, often focusing on the ways in which policy studies can explain the use of evidence in politics and policy, and how policymakers translate broad long term aims into evidence-informed objectives. His current work, for the Horizon2020 funded IMAJINE project, focuses on how governments can share evidence of policy success to reduce inequalities. Along with Kathryn Oliver, Paul has authored a series of articles that use policy studies and systematic reviews to evaluate and inform current advice on academic impact. He blogs on public policy at paulcairney.wordpress.com

Dr Tim Carter
Tim is an Assistant Professor in mental health based in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Nottingham, teaching across mental health nursing and cognitive behavioural therapy courses. He is a practising cognitive behavioural therapist and a registered mental health nurse. Tim is research active and focuses on developing and evaluating treatment interventions for mental health conditions across the lifespan and mental health educational interventions for healthcare staff who are not mental health trained. Tim has a particular interest in the application of physical exercise in the treatment of anxiety and depression.

Dr Peter Chapman
Peter conducts research in applied cognitive psychology. His main area of application is the psychology of driving, while his more theoretical interests are in vision and memory. Some of Peter’s research fuses all three of these areas - i.e. where do drivers look, and what do they remember after they have looked there. Peter has been actively involved in informing road safety policy in the UK, including co-hosting a parliamentary event in 2019 with the Chair of the Transport Select Committee.

Areeq Chowdhury
Areeq is the Head of Think Tank at Future Advocacy, focusing on the social, economic, and political impact of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. A graduate from the University of Birmingham, Areeq has worked at the Foreign Office; the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; KPMG; London City Hall; and the UK Parliament. He is also the founder of WebRoots Democracy, a think tank centred on the intersection of technology and democratic participation.

Soti Coker
Soti is the Founder at DataChronicle where he is responsible for strategy and information design. On a mission to help people make an impact by telling better stories with data, he is focused on creating engaging experiences, producing infographics and data visualisations. Prior to taking on his role at DataChronicle, Soti gained experience in communications at IIED, a climate change think tank where he was responsible for the customer relationship management database. Soti has also worked with leading brands and government agencies as well as being featured in publications, including Thinking Business and Steer Your Business magazines. He’s also spoken at several events including TEDxFolkestone, Kent digital and Kent Invicta chamber of commerce.

Jon Featonby
Jon leads on the British Red Cross’s UK refugee, asylum and trafficking policy. Before joining the Red Cross, he was the parliamentary manager at the Refugee Council, where he provided the secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees. Jon’s background before working in the charity sector was as a parliamentary researcher for a number of MPs, including a Government Minister.

Rachel Feneley
Rachel has over 20 years’ experience leading arts education programmes in cultural organisations across the East and West Midlands. In her current role, she is responsible for the management and delivery of learning programme at Lakeside Arts, the University of Nottingham’s Public Arts programme. Her role stretches across all programming genres, working with communities, students, research and engaging with schools. In 2016, she was awarded the University of Nottingham Vice-Chancellor’s medal for her work supporting and developing young disabled artists

Carla Foggatt
Carla has a diverse background in marketing and communications, working at the University for the past four years. During this time she has been closely involved with the implementation of the new brand, and in engaging key external audiences with the University’s research. Prior to joining the University she worked predominantly in the digital marketing sector, helping a varied portfolio of clients engage customers online at a leading Nottingham agency, and running her own social media organisation in Spain.

Dr Sara Goodacre
Sara is a research geneticist at the University of Nottingham where she has established the SpiderLab, which uses spiders as tools to engage diverse audiences and to challenge public perceptions. She previously led the Nottingham contribution to the ‘Open Air Laboratories’ project, which is a citizen science project that engages people with the outdoor environment. Her current research includes how to make artificial spider silk that carries antibiotics in a wound to where they are needed, and trying to answer the most difficult question posed by an 8 year old child several years ago: What do spiders do in their spare time? Nottingham SpiderLab @arachnotts.

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**Speakers**

**Dr Chloe Holloway**
Chloe is a postdoctoral research fellow in the School of Law, University of Nottingham. Her research examines the difficulties that might be experienced by autistic individuals in police custody and the support they may require to enable them to participate in the custody process effectively. Chloe has been working with academics from Nottingham and other institutions, autistic individuals and police officers to co-produce training materials for custody staff to help them better support autistic individuals in police custody. She has also been working with police forces to help them make their custody suites more autism friendly.

**Anna Hopkins**
Anna is a researcher at the Alliance for Useful Evidence, a network hosted by Nesta that champions the smarter use of evidence in social policy and practice. She publishes on research evidence, evaluation and government innovation, and works with the Alliance’s partners to support them to use evidence in practice. Anna’s background is in the social sciences and knowledge mobilisation. She specialises in work on collaborative, multi-disciplinary projects that address social challenges.

**Dr Amanda Horton-Mastin**
Amanda is a Nottingham alumna, having been awarded both a BSc and PhD from the School of Chemistry. She then moved into business, working for Procter & Gamble in Brand Marketing, before joining Save the Children in 1989 as Corporate Fundraising Manager. Amanda moved to Comic Relief in 1994, where she held a wide variety of roles and led the Red Nose Day, Sport Relief and Make Poverty History campaigns. She was also responsible for expanding Comic Relief’s presence internationally and set up Red Nose Day from scratch in the USA. Amanda then moved to Girl Effect, a creative non-profit organisation aimed at empowering teenage girls using the power of technology. She is currently a Director of a wine business she runs with her husband as well as a Director at Collider Science, a social enterprise that brings together scientists, artists and innovators to inspire and help young people develop skills in STEM.

**Dr Eric Jensen**
Eric is a leading social scientist specializing in innovative methods of conducting impact evaluation research in informal learning and public engagement contexts. He has extensive experience designing and conducting quantitative and mixed methods evaluations at institutions including the National Gallery, London Zoo, Natural History Museum, Cheltenham Literature Festival, the British Museum, San Diego Zoo and Bronx Zoo. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge.

**Dr Kate Law**
Kate has been a Nottingham Research Fellow in the department of History since October 2018. Once a reluctant tweeter user, she has now enthusiastically embraced it as a way to engage with other scholars, activists, and NGO groups who are concerned with Reproductive Justice in South Africa. She tweets @drkatelaw.

**Duncan Macmillan**
Duncan is Head of Learning, responsible for the Centre of the Cell’s award-winning delivery team and STEM education programme. Duncan previously ran the Royal Society of Chemistry’s education resources and services and has a background in digital education and television production. He is a Trustee of Project Hello World.

**Cathy Mahmoud**
Cathy has been working in the arts for 20 years, beginning as the Event Producer for Birmingham’s £1.7m Forward Festival to mark the new millennium. As General Manager of New Perspectives Theatre Company and then Arts Policy Manager for NHS Nottinghamshire, she became a strong advocate for the role of artists and art organisations within communities. From managing a Children in Need arts project in Sneinton to working for The Creative Quarter, and more recently as Creative Nottingham North Coordinator with Rebalancing the Outer Estates Foundation, she connects people and projects to build confidence and opportunities. Cathy now leads ChallInGe, Nottingham’s Cultural Education Partnership, hosted by Nottingham Trent University.

**Denise McLean**
Denise is a Senior Technician working in both the School of Life Sciences and the Nanoscale and Microscale Research Centre and has worked at the University of Nottingham for 20 years. She is a community champion in Nottingham, sitting on the Independent Advisory Group for the Police and working with the Youth Offending Team and the RAF. She is a STEM ambassador with a passion for introducing young people to the world of science and has and has recently held an Art/Science expo with Willard Wigan (creator of the world’s smallest handmade sculptures in history). Denise has been awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s medal for 2019.

**Dr Chris Mellor**
Chris is the REF Impact Manager at the University of Nottingham, where she oversees the University’s Impact preparations for REF2021. Following her PhD in Computational Chemistry, Chris has undertaken a series of research administration and management roles covering doctoral training, research development and international research engagement. In the lead up to REF2014 she worked in the School of Pharmacy on their impact submission, which resulted in a 100% 4* rating.

**Professor Michael Merrifield**
Michael is Professor of Astronomy, and head of the School of Physics and Astronomy. After fifteen years as the School’s admissions tutor, he became very aware of the increasing importance of social media in presenting the institution to potential stakeholders. His first foray into this field was as one of the originators of the Sixty Symbols YouTube channel, presenting physics to a wide audience. The success of the channel doubled the number of students in the School, and generated a 4* impact case study for REF2014, as well as winning him the Institute of Physics’ Kelvin Medal. He now also tweets extensively in a personal capacity as @astromikemerri, where he enjoys presenting science and challenging nonsense.

**Charlotte Morgan**
Charlotte is a Learning and Outreach Officer at Centre of the Cell. Charlotte splits her time between presenting science shows and workshops to the centre’s visitors, and coordinating a programme of work experience, volunteering, advice, lectures and summer schools for young people in East London. She is a biology graduate and began her career in science communication working at the Science Museum in South Kensington.

**Dr Kathryn Oliver**
Kathryn is Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her work focuses on how evidence is produced and used in policy and practice, drawing on sociology, science and technology studies, and policy sciences. Her current focus is on the Transforming Evidence collaboration (https://transformure.wordpress.com), which brings together interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral experts to draw out key lessons about how to better use and produce evidence in decision-making, and identify genuine knowledge gaps. Kathryn held lectureships at UCL and Oxford before joining LSHTM in December 2017. Along with Paul Cairney, Kathryn authored a series of papers exploring evidence use in policy, building on her PhD work on public health policymaking.
Lucelia is an Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment of the University of Nottingham, where her teaching has a strong focus on environmental design and sustainability. Her work has always been very cross-disciplinary, aiming to inform the sustainable practice of architecture and enhance the quality of the built environment. She is particularly interested in the resilience of communities and buildings in a changing climate and has been involved in several projects focused on different aspects of sustainability, particularly energy and comfort. She is the University’s leader for the Sustainable and Resilient Cities research area.

Lou Rudkin
Lou is a passionate communicator, who brings over 18 years of experience to her role as Head of Communications for the Institute of Mental Health. Responsible for the communications strategy, delivery, team, brand and profile for the Institute, Lou’s work takes many shapes and forms – from creating new community projects to maintaining mental health research, to delivering major academic conferences and curating tweets. Working with a diverse range of audiences, Lou’s work reaches an ever-growing audience and continues to develop the scope and recognition of the Institute’s research. Lou is also a visiting lecturer for Nottingham Trent University Business School’s Department of Marketing.

Toby Shergold
Toby is part of the new public engagement team at UK Research and Innovation. He has nearly 20 years’ experience as a journalist, editor and communicator, including working in police communications. He was communications manager at Cranfield University and prior to joining the team at UKRI, he worked at both the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Natural Environment Research Council where he led on public engagement; projects included the Being Human Festival, New Generation Thinkers and the NERC Lates event at the Natural History Museum.

Anne Smart
Anne has worked in the Digital Team at the University of Nottingham since 2012 and is Digital Communications Manager. Anne’s work includes social media management for the flagship University social media channels, digital content creation and delivery for student recruitment marketing and supporting strategic research and reputation activity. The Digital Team recently won a CASE Gold award for their social media communications to highlight mental health and welfare support to new students joining the University.

Professor Jo Robinson
Jo is Professor in Drama and Performance at the University of Nottingham. Her research brings together strands from theatre history and historiography (including innovations in historiography facilitated by new technologies), with a particular focus on the relationship between place, space, community and region. From 2017-19 she jointly led the HLF ‘Our Theatre Royal Nottingham’ project with the city’s Theatre Royal (see ourtheatreroyal.org), which underpinned her 2018 AHRC Follow on Funding for Impact and Engagement project, ‘Citizen Scholarship in Nottingham’. She is also currently leading an AHRC Immersive Experiences project with the local company, Red Earth Theatre.

Dr Samantha Tang
Samantha is Public Awareness Scientist, whose remit is to enthuse and excite schoolchildren and the public about science and energise all members of the University’s School of Chemistry to participate in the communication of science. She is regularly invited to lecture at universities in the UK and abroad to share best practice on public engagement. She also trains postgraduates about science communication and gives career development talks on writing lay summaries in research proposals.

Emma Thorne
Emma Thorne is Head of News for Media Relations within External Relations. She leads a team of experienced media professionals who act as both guardians and storytellers - protecting the university’s global reputation in the media, while shining a light on its most exciting research developments and the achievements of its staff and students. As well as acting as the first point of contact for media enquiries, the Media Relations team is responsible for a range of specialist services including press release production, pitching of opinion pieces, the creation of video and other digital content, media training and managing the Media Guide to Expertise and Media Hub facilities.

Professor Shearer West
Shearer has been President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham since October 2017. A Professor of Art History, she has held various significant leadership roles in universities and higher education. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, the Higher Education Academy and the Royal Historical Society, she acted as main panel chair for the national research assessment exercise for Humanities in Norway and served on the steering group to introduce impact into the Australian Excellence in Research exercise.

Amy Williams
Amy is Political and Public Affairs Officer at the University, supporting colleagues to engage with policy makers at the local, national and international levels to further the University’s strategic aims. Prior to this, Amy was Senior Parliamentary Assistant to one of Labour’s Shadow Brexit Ministers. Amy advised on issues including modern slavery, immigration and higher education policy, as well as Brexit. Amy has also advised the UK government’s Commission on a Bill of Rights, worked as a researcher at the LSE’s Centre for the Study of Human Rights and as a speechwriter and communications officer at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna, Austria.

Matt J Young
Matt is a neuroscientist and public engagement trainer and producer. He has produced large-scale engagement projects, such as the Nottingham Pint of Science Festival and the Festival of Science and Curiosity, regularly delivers public engagement skills training, and has delivered a wide variety of science communication projects, from live performances to podcasts.
Stephen Meek
Institute Director
stephen.meek@nottingham.ac.uk

Stephen joined the University as the inaugural Director of the Institute for Policy and Engagement in September 2018, following a career in the UK Civil Service. He held board-level posts in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education, and has also had senior roles in HM Treasury, Cabinet Office and, on secondment, in the Local Government Association and working with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authorities on public service reform and devolution. Stephen is currently chair of the Universities Policy Engagement Network, which brings together policy facing functions from over 30 UK Universities.

Chris Sims
Head of Global Policy Impact
chris.sims@nottingham.ac.uk

Chris joined the University of Nottingham Institute for Policy and Engagement as Head of Global Policy Impact in June 2018. He began his career in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and has worked in policy influencing roles for a number of organisations including the Big Lottery Fund, Stonewall and City & Guilds.

Dr Rachael Pearson
Head of Public Engagement
rachael.pearson@nottingham.ac.uk

Rachael joined the Institute for Policy and Engagement in January 2019 from the University of Nottingham’s Graduate School where she had been managing the public engagement and impact training and development portfolio. She has been a member of the Nottingham Public Engagement Network Executive group since 2016, working to develop a University-wide Public Engagement Strategy. Rachael has previously held positions with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and Public Health England, and holds a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Nottingham.

Irena Hulova
Project Officer
irena.hulova@nottingham.ac.uk

Irena graduated from the University of Nottingham in 2015 with a BA in Politics and International Relations. She then joined the European Asylum Support Office as a trainee. After her time with EASO, she worked in Parliament for two different MPs for over three years. She started as a parliamentary assistant and worked her way up to an office manager role. She joined the Institute in December 2018.

Charlotte Lee
Administrator and Executive Assistant
charlotte.lee@nottingham.ac.uk

Charlotte graduated from Nottingham Trent University in 2016 with a degree in law. She joined the Registrar’s Office at the University of Nottingham straight after graduating and joined the Institute in December 2018.
The University has established the Institute for Policy and Engagement to support the reach, impact and reputation of our research, by providing specialist support for global policy impact and by acting as a hub to better support public engagement with our research.