


Imperial Festival Science Communication and Sound idea

[Online Form](#) (due in 05 Feb 2016):

Main contact	
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Group, department, centre or institute:	Science Communication Unit (student proposal, with knowledge and support of staff)
Which colleagues from other departments are likely to be involved in this activity (if any)?	Other departments: Charlotte Mykura, PhD student Hammersmith MRC
Which organisations fund your research?	n/a
About your Festival idea	
Working title :	Contemplation Zone: Science Communication and Engagement through Stories and Sound
What type of activity are you proposing to use to engage this public around this research :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art installation / Creative piece ● Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audio on headphones, and broadcast ○ Organized Discussion / Q&A ○ Space to sit and think ○ Conversation ○ Feedback board
Your rationale for engaging with the public around this research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We believe there should be a space in the Festival that is for reflection about science, as opposed to being 'educated' about it 2. We want to showcase the concerns of the Science Communication and Science Media Production courses 3. We have an archive of short high quality sound pieces on diverse subjects with some connection to science that are not normally accessible to the public 4. We believe that we can offer a mix of experiences using sound as a theme 5. While this wouldn't be 'adults only', it would be a space, within a

	<p>Festival that has many younger visitors and many events suitable for them, that might appeal more to adults</p> <p>6. We think that in a Festival where Imperial presents ‘what we do’, we should also have a space where we can ask people what they are concerned about, meet them where they are as well as where we are</p>
<p>What are you hoping to get out of taking part in the festival? (section not on latest form)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As Science Communication students we would gain experience both of developing an event and carrying it out, and more specifically we would be practising our science communication skills 2. Some of us would be able to play our own sound pieces to a public audience, and discuss them 3. We would create a (set of) new sound piece(s) 4. The Comment Board would record peoples views and concerns, which would inform our practice and indicate possible topics for future Festival events
<p>What objectives do you have? (section not on latest form)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a space that allows people to have a break from the many exciting festival activities, be able to think, and if they wish, to have conversations, or listen to podcasts, or record their thoughts and concerns 2. To have a small number of focused events, to allow different interactions, in particular audio presentations of podcasts with Q&As with their makers 3. To engage also through a creative process (creation throughout the festival of an artistic sound piece with contribution and involvement of the visitors) 4. To make people more aware of Science Communication generally, and more specifically of the SciComm and SMP courses 5. To get an awareness of science-related issues that visitors are thinking about
<p>How will you evaluate your success in meeting these objectives? (section not on latest form)</p>	<p>We would</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) leave some short evaluation forms for people to complete if they wished to (b) ask some visitors about their visit and note down their comments (c) count numbers of people at intervals, both in informal periods and in the events (d) We would have collected notes left by the public on our Comment Tree
<p>Please provide a brief overview of your broad research area and why it would be of interest to wider audiences.</p>	<p>We are studying to become professional science communicators looking at philosophy and communication of science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The visitors will have demonstrated some engagement with science just by turning up to the Festival, and people generally like being given space to talk about what they think! ● Part of this involves creation of sound pieces, which are designed specifically to be of general interest
<p>What are your initial ideas for communicating your research? What will visitors be able to do or see?</p>	<p>Initial ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● relaxed inviting space, away from the hubbub of the Festival stalls and events; there will be reading matter, including I,Science, our science communication magazine ● Science communication students interested in discussing what we do, and finding out what people are interested in, what their concerns about science are (and people can just sit and relax)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Display what we do through sound pieces; there will be sets of headphones through which short (7'?) podcasts can be listened to, plus intermittent broadcast pieces. In both cases there will be details listed so that people can see what the programmes are ● There will be a space where students are making a sound piece, incorporating input from the visitors. The visitors can discuss it, watch it being made, add their own contribution. This be a continuously evolving piece that gets played intermittently, and then changes. ● There will be some events where podcasts are played and the makers are present. They will introduce the pieces and stay to answer questions. ● A tree shaped board, where people can add a 'leaf' with thoughts about science and science communication
<p>Please indicate what resources, materials or equipment you will need. Do you have any special requirements / restrictions that might affect where your activity is positioned or when it takes place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audio playback with headphones ● Audio playback with speakers ● Seating, low tables for relaxing and 1-to-1 discussions ● Some seating for podcast/discussion presentations ● A computer workstation with DAW software, microphones and digital audio recorders ● Materials to create a tree-shaped board, and leaf-shaped post-it notes ● As the point of this is for it to be a refuge from the main festival, it would need to feel a little separate and relaxed. I've imagined doing it in the SciComm area in the Sherfield, just because that's the area I know, and it has a mixture of types of space within it
<p>Does your research complement the national curriculum? How could your activity be adapted for primary school audiences?</p>	<p>As our theme covers 'science' as a topic and everything within it, there are inevitably connections to the National Curriculum. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key Stage 4 covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ scientific method and the development of scientific thinking ("develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiry that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them") ○ topics which lead to ethical, social, political and environmental concerns (reproduction, recreational drugs, species extinction, climate change, energy resources) ○ topics which are linked to new discoveries and technologies (material science, astronomy) ● Key Stages 2 and 3 contain similar links <p>For primary school audiences, this might become more of a general discussion about 'what is science' (I have taken a session on 'what is science' with year 4 students during Science Week), and a sound piece could be created with input from them.</p>
<p>Have you run similar activities before?</p>	<p>We have within the student group significant and diverse general engagement experience in schools, science centres and museums,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (please provide brief details) ● No 	<p>although we have not run this event before. We also have good technical experience of recording and producing our own sound pieces; Gareth Mitchell has conducted 'on the fly' sound pieces with input from multiple students as part of his normal teaching, and can advise how we should prepare for this.</p>
<p>Please upload any photos of the activity or relevant explanatory images you would like to share with us</p>	<p>An example podcast that has been uploaded to the I,Science website is: http://www.isciencemag.co.uk/features/preserving-the-mournful-sound-of-last-kauai-oo-on-earth/</p> <p>PRESERVING THE MOURNFUL SOUND OF LAST KAUA'I 'O'O ON EARTH Posted on March 29, 2015 by Henry Hocking</p> <p>What if I told you that there were sounds that could save wildlife species from extinction and that these sounds are stored in the vaults of the British Library in London?</p> <p>The British Library sound archive forms part of Britain's collective memory and is one of the largest and longest standing collections of sounds in the world.</p> <p>The wildlife section of this archive contains bird sounds that have been used by researchers in a field of study known as 'bioacoustics'. In the same way that each of us has a distinctive recognisable voice, every bird within a species has a unique sonic footprint. Conservation programs can monitor a bird species' population by analysing the recordings of their songs in their natural habitat, which can, in some cases, save them from the brink of extinction.</p> <p>In a twist of irony there is also a race against the clock to save the sound recordings themselves. A recent kick-starter campaign called Save our Sounds intends to raise awareness of the need to digitise the vast amounts of material at the British Library sound archive for long term preservation.</p> <p>This is a recording made when I went to London's British library to find out more.</p>  <p>The Kaua'i 'O'O (Moho Braccatus)</p> <p><i>Henry Hocking is studying for an MSc in Science Media Production</i></p>
<p>For publicity purposes</p> <p>Would you like to use the public profile of the Festival to launch or announce anything e.g. new peer-reviewed research publication, new research collaboration etc?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes / Maybe (please provide details) ● No 	<p>No</p>

<p>Do you or your research group run any social media accounts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes (please provide details) ● No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Science Communication Department runs the @ImpSciComm Twitter account - The SciComm student led science magazine I,Science has its own Facebook page (www.facebook.com/isciencemag) and Twitter account (@i_science_mag)
<p>Are there awareness days/weeks/months with which your research could be linked (e.g. World Malaria Day, Healthy Living Week) in the period leading up to the Festival?</p>	<p>General science events such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● British Science Week (11-20 March 2016)