



**ESRC Large Grant  
Report**

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**Grant holding research organisation:**

University of Edinburgh (ESK/002686-1)

University of Sheffield (ESK/002686-2)

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## **Declaration**

### **1: The Project**

This report is an accurate overview of the project, its findings and impacts. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the report.

### **2: Submissions to Researchfish**

Outcomes information has been submitted to Researchfish. Details of any future outputs and impacts will be submitted as soon as they become available.

### **3: Submission of Datasets (delete two statements as appropriate)**

Datasets arising from this grant have been offered for deposit with the UK Data Service.

## ESRC Large Grant - Principal Investigator's Report

### Part 1: Executive summary

The 'Imagine' project was a bold attempt to bring together community researchers, community organisations and university researchers to understand and explore the context of civic engagement in diverse communities. We aimed to transform the landscape of research by working with, not on, communities. We have succeeded in this aim and our key contribution is connected to the ways in which we have co-produced the research with community members. Together we have developed a range of inclusive and collaborative methodologies, such as a Communities of Practice (CoP), Co-inquiry Action Research (CAR), collaborative ethnography and arts-based practice. In its focus on civic engagement in diverse communities the research has foregrounded the importance of community development, community history, community activism, and arts-based approaches.

Our key message is that co-produced research is important. We use the term 'co-production' to describe collaborative, participatory and democratic methodologies which try to access hidden or otherwise absent voices and perspectives. Co-producing the research means establishing the issues that matter to communities and working with those communities to enable a response. In practice, this means many different things. It means re-thinking how different communities, such as Muslim women, draw on their 'baskets of knowledge' to participate in civic engagement, seeing it through their eyes and not from an academic perspective. It means focusing in on specific local issues, such as the importance of good quality housing, or the significance of race and identity in community media channels. It also means taking a different approach to research practice and dissemination, for example through the creation a community co-produced book on the experience of the 'Imagine' project or through the creation of a visual record of our collaborations in the form of the 'Imagine' film (please see: [www.imagine-communities.org.uk](http://www.imagine-communities.org.uk) for these outputs).

Our interdisciplinary work was supported by a multi-disciplinary advisory board and further contributions were made by an international group of experts, including Eric Luke Lassiter, Elizabeth Campbell, Susan Hyatt, Etienne Wenger, Elias Kourkoutas, Wassilis Kassis, Amelia Madhie and New Zealand/Maori scholars Nepia Mahuika, Ani Mikaere and Rangiemarie Mahuika.

As the project drew to a close these were our key points and messages:

1. Co-production means re-thinking knowledge production practices differently. We held an international event in Rotherham where policy makers and community activists re-thought the nature of knowledge production practices with advisors from New Zealand Nepia Mahuika, Ani Mkaere and Rangiemarie Mahuika;
2. Co-writing is an important part of co-production. We co-wrote and self-published a booklet about 'Imagine' with our core group of community partners and researchers, together with Sophie Duncan from the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) and we co-wrote a book with community partners, young people, policy-makers, historians and ethnographers in Rotherham. *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* was published by Policy Press in 2018;
3. A community development approach to co-production produces different kinds of knowledge. We co-wrote a book to discuss our interdisciplinary experience and to share our methodological approaches. *Co-Producing Research: a community development approach* will be published by Policy Press at the end of 2018;
4. Revisiting the community development initiatives of the past can deepen understandings of communities today. This is demonstrated in a special themed section of the *Community Development Journal* (2017) with a focus on revisiting the Community Development Projects of the 1970s with four articles based on the research undertaken by WP2 and by the article by Crow, Rawcliffe and Harris on the Paisley project (2018).

5. Our co-produced resilience research has led to large scale grants and awards. We contributed to the successful bid for Headstart an £11.4 million Big Lottery Fund project in Blackpool, which is developing a whole town 'Resilience Revolution' to extend the resilience work developed in WP1;
6. Policy makers welcome co-produced approaches as they illuminate policy in new ways, particularly in relation to communities that are often marginalised. We briefed policy makers from the then Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2017) and the Office for Civil Society at the Cabinet Office (2018) on co-production, resilience, race equality and women's empowerment; We contributed to the Race Disparity Audit and to the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement (Report of Session 2017-2019);
7. Co-production is sustainable and can be applied across a wide range of projects. We used the interdisciplinary experience we developed over the course of 'Imagine' to secure several other grants including, for example, a GCRF Building Resilience Grant ([www.brighton.ac.uk/leandra](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/leandra)).

The thread that holds these projects together is a commitment to making change happen in communities of place, interest and identity through the co-production of research by community and academic partners. Underpinning our work together was a community development methodology, based on principles of participation, equality, social justice and collective learning for social change. We are proud of the sustainability of our research relationships, and of the number and quality of exhibitions and events we have held across the consortium. We have not lost sight of the community research teams who made up the core of our work. This makes our work sustainable and ethical. We are proud of our interdisciplinary expertise that knitted together history, social policy, literary theory, political science, arts practice, art theory, cultural geography, social history and community arts methodologies. Our impact lies in sustainable partnerships, that continue to develop new ways of tackling some of society's major challenges. We are still publishing together and are putting in new grant proposals. We have developed a body of work that is already being cited in the field as significant.

## **Part 2: Introduction**

'Imagine' was a five-year research project, which was awarded just over £2.2m (FEC) to explore the social, historical, cultural and democratic context of civic engagement, in the context of imagining better communities and making them happen. The research was organised across four work packages, with each sub-project emphasising an aspect of the research design:

*WP 1: Social* – Co-ordinated by Professor Angie Hart. This focused on resilience-based practices, including a Communities of Practice approach to resilience building with young people, parents and adults facing significant challenges in a wide variety of contexts in the UK, Greece, Malaysia and Germany.

*WP 2: Historical* – Co-ordinated by Professor Sarah Banks. This focused on community development practices in Tyneside and Coventry, starting with re-examining the Community Development projects of the 1970's and reflecting on the implications for the present and future.

*WP 3: Cultural* – Co-ordinated by Professor Kate Pahl. This focused on everyday cultures in communities in Rotherham, with a specific focus on how culture contributes to, and impacts upon possibilities for civic engagement. Work was achieved in partnership with the Hepworth Wakefield, Museums Sheffield and the Site Gallery. We also included a focus on reading in prisons and utopian fiction.

*WP 4: Democratic* – Initially co-ordinated by Professor Graham Crow until 2014, thereafter by Professor Paul Ward. This explored the ways in which everyday cultures promote democratic engagement, including through collective website Participedia, arts practice in Sheppey, a survey of community partners' views of outputs and co-producing history with communities. In addition, doctoral students, Maggie Laidlaw and Sue Rawcliffe, studied the topics of women, time and volunteering, and the role played by the idea of "community" in the development of welfare initiatives in different parts of the west of Scotland between the 1810s and 1970s.

*Changes of personnel.* As noted in the consortium's first report to ESRC, Professor Kate Pahl assumed the role of PI on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 (taking over from Professor Graham Crow, University of Edinburgh). At this time, arrangements were also made for the appointment of a project manager to provide joined-up administrative support systems across the project. Angela Warren was appointed to this role in October 2014 and her work was invaluable in providing support to the PI, the work package coordinators, the consortium members, and the community partners.

*Regular communication with the ESRC.* The PI and the project manager maintained good lines of communication with the ESRC case officers, Christina Rowley and Lyndy Griffin. Regular telephone and email contact informed the case officers of project activities and issues. Discussions included community partner payments, community partner views on the project direction and policy impact implications.

*Financial management.* A monitoring and tracking system of all expenditure to the grant was put in place to record singular transactions assigned against the budget headings as per the application proposal. This system enabled the project manager and PI to oversee expenditure and to maintain control of the budget, it allowed for accurate forecasting and financial planning. The project manager liaised with the finance officers of partner organisation on issues such as invoicing, staffing, eligible costs and virements, in accordance with ESRC guidelines, and responded to requests for changes or transfers between budget headings.

*Communications strategy.* A communications strategy was developed to provide details the project's communication objectives, key audiences and the preferred channels of communication with Sarah Hollely as our communications officer. All communication activities were detailed in the communications project plan, which outlined all deadlines, responsibilities and key milestones. The success of communications was monitored throughout and measured with regular evaluation and feedback. The first issue of the Imagine newsletter was circulated in January 2015 and every quarter thereafter (10 issues in total). We adhered to the purdah guidelines and consequently some issues were postponed.

*Dissemination strategy.* Our method for disseminating the research included a website, a twitter account and regular blog posts. We developed five major exhibitions and conducted at least four policy briefing events with senior civil servants. We were represented at several major conferences including the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) conference and members of the research team presented internationally. We held five conferences in the five years of the project, including an international event in Rotherham and a three-day residential, which culminated in the co-production of a booklet with community partners. The Imagine consortium has produced two edited books, numerous articles and chapters, and a range of artistic artefacts.

*Our research questions were:* i. How can Connected Communities (CCs) be conceptualised, researched and promoted, so that they have the potential to accommodate and benefit from social, cultural and economic differences and diverse opinions and practices? ii. What does the record of civic engagement (understood in its broadest sense) to date tell us about how and why the social, historical, cultural and democratic context matters to the degrees of success achieved by projects that aim to build CCs? iii. Within the process of promoting engagement in community initiatives by as wide a range of social groups as possible, can imagining better futures play a role in capturing and sustaining enthusiasm and momentum for change, and if so, what is that role? iv. Is the landscape of community research being transformed by developments in the research methodologies employed in the arts and humanities and social sciences, particularly the promotion of co-produced research and creative, collaborative, participatory and inclusive methods? We collectively answered these questions drawing on methodologies such as Communities of Practice, dialogic co-inquiry spaces, collaborative ethnography, arts practice, literary enquiry and history. These were used across many of the projects to collectively explore diverse opinions and practices, the histories of civic engagement, the role of the imagination in co-creating change and to examine our methods reflexively, with community partners as a co-researchers and fellow travellers.

### **Part 3: Grant objectives**

The consortium aimed to explore the social, historical, cultural and democratic context of successful civic engagement, broadly defined. It did this by evaluating and re-examining records and representations of civic engagement over time and feeding these findings into current processes, whereupon possible futures were imagined and acted upon. For example, in WP2 and WP4, the Community Development Projects (CDPs) of the 1970s were re-examined and re-evaluated and then communities explored possible futures through a series of community run projects. The consortium was interested to hear the ideas of community members and their textual/artistic expressions regarding future arrangements, particularly their thinking about the means by which such futures might be attained and the power structures and conflicts that exist between individuals and groups.

We aimed to answer four over-arching research questions. These were: 1. How can Connected Communities (CCs) be conceptualised, researched and promoted, so that they have the potential to accommodate and benefit from social, cultural and economic differences and diverse opinions and practices? 2. What does the record of civic engagement (understood in its broadest sense) to date tell us about how and why the social, historical, cultural and democratic context matters to the degrees of success achieved by projects that aim to build CCs? 3. Within the process of promoting engagement in community initiatives by as wide a range of social groups as possible, can imagining better futures play a role in capturing and sustaining enthusiasm and momentum for change, and if so, what is that role? 4. Is the landscape of community research being transformed by developments in the research methodologies employed in the arts and humanities and social sciences, particularly the promotion of co-produced research and creative, collaborative, participatory and inclusive methods?

*Our achievements in relation to individual objectives* are given in the Appendices, organised by work package. Below we explain how we answered each of the research questions:

#### **WP1 - Social: Coordinated by Angie Hart, University of Brighton**

This research aimed to explore the potential for community university partnerships to bring people from very different backgrounds together to forge better and more resilient collective futures. This involved setting up opportunities for people facing particularly challenging situations to learn about resilience-based approaches and in some cases to try them out. The research process involved a systematic review of resilience-based approaches together with interviews with practitioners involved in resilience building practices and the development of co-produced resilience building tools and games. A study led by a community partner explored the nature of Community/University partnerships in order to inform the way Community/University Partnerships were conducted. This contributed to answering research question 1 as well as addressing research questions 3 and 4.

#### **WP2 - Historical: Coordinated by Sarah Banks, University of Durham**

This research aimed to offer a critical examination of assumptions regarding the role of community engagement in area-based regeneration. This work package was based in Tyneside (Benwell and North Shields) and Coventry (Hillfields). These three areas were all part of the national Community Development Project (CDP) in the early 1970s. The research explored the changing conditions and attitudes in these areas over time, from the different (and sometimes conflicting) perspectives of local people, policy makers and politicians. Community-based projects involving older and younger people and those from a range of ethnic and religious backgrounds were involved in producing films,

drama performances, booklets, community radio programmes and exhibitions. This contributed to answering research questions 2 and 3.

**WP3 - Cultural: Coordinated by: Kate Pahl, University of Sheffield**

This research aimed to consider the ways in which arts practice might be involved in ‘imagining better futures’ and developing momentum towards their realisation. We used the timely moment of the redeveloped Park Hill to re-imagine the future through the lens of the past in collaboration with Museums Sheffield. In collaboration with the Hepworth Wakefield art gallery, young people from a rent deposit scheme in Wakefield imagined a better future by examining its past and present through exploring landscape art as well as researching past archives. We developed a collaborative ethnographic project with women and girls in Rotherham, imagining better futures through revisiting past histories with a focus on women’s activism and post-colonial literary texts. We also looked at the role of utopian fiction and film in supporting resilience for men in prison. Our work focused on artistic methodologies for social cohesion and explored the role of art in civic participation. This contributed to answering research questions 3 and 4.

**WP4 - Democratic: Coordinated by Paul Ward, University of Huddersfield (initially by Graham Crow, University of Edinburgh, until May 2014)**

This research aimed to explore what the democratisation of knowledge about communities means in practice, working in Huddersfield, Kent, Scotland and London. New forms of knowledge emerged about communities and how they change, with opportunities opening up for voices to be heard that have previously been marginalised. Of particular interest was what community members think about how the future of their communities has been imagined, and how new technologies make it possible for these views to be expressed. In addition to reviewing what had been written in the field so far, Participedia looked at how innovations in democratic decision-making at the community level could be shared around the globe. As part of Imagine Sheppey, the method of collaborative video was used as a means for young people to express their views about the future of their communities, and to explore how visions of the future were created in past communities. With Ward as lead CI, the focus moved towards understanding how BAME historical knowledge contributed to civic engagement. This contributed to answering research questions 1 and 3.

Our work *exceeded expectations* in the following ways:

1. Sustainable partnerships. Many community partners remained committed to ‘Imagine’ over the five-year duration of the project. Our jointly co-created booklet ‘Imagine’, which was produced in 2017, is a testament to these successful relationships;
2. *Policy impact* was strong, particularly in the fields of resilience, race equality and community cohesion. A policy briefing event in March 2016 was very successful. We briefed the Office for Civil Society at the Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government. We contributed to the Race Disparity Audit and the House of Lords Select Committee Report on Civic Engagement; We played a major role in developing the successful bid for Headstart a £11.4 million Big Lottery Fund project in Blackpool, which extends the resilience work developed in WP1;
3. Our outputs were numerous and together we published two books with Policy Press, *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* (2018) and *Co-Producing Research: a community development approach* (in press, 2018); We were able to put on 12 exhibitions, hosted 4 conferences and produced over 65 articles across the consortium as a whole. We produced resources that were used in schools, such as ‘Threads of Time’ (a poetry book); ‘Herbal



Medicine’ (community book used in schools); community-led publications housed on the Boingboing website including ‘One Step Forward’ designed and developed by young people in foster care in the UK and in Greece (including a version translated into Greek); films, booklets, reports, books of photographs and statistical data relating to demographic change in the North East and Coventry.

The following were key changes or challenges to the plan set out in the original Case for Support:

1. Lack of funding for community partners. Many community partners did not have the funding to be part of our journey for the full five years although they were committed within the scope of the project. We drew on AHRC Connected Communities funds where possible.
2. Agreed change to one of the books. While we would have liked to have produced three books commissioned by external publishers, it was agreed by the advisory group that one of our book proposals (‘Democratic Communities: Past, present and future’ to be authored by the PI and lead Co-Is) would be replaced by three articles.
3. One additional writing retreat was organised. We held an international event in June 2017, with scholars from New Zealand and the United States, and we also funded a residential event attended by our community partners, which led to a co-produced booklet about the experience and impact of the ‘Imagine’ project.
4. Data archiving. Some of the datasets in each work package are not suitable for sharing with the data archive. For example, due to sensitive issues in Rotherham, a number of our datasets will not be shared. In the light of the Jay report, it has been decided the participating communities need protecting from increases in racist incidents.

The grant objectives included a focus on exploring the promotion of change in pursuit of a ‘better’ collective future with communities. We did this through our resilience work, exploring how a Communities of Practice approach could effectively engage young people with complex needs and their supporters. In particular a project called ‘Designing Resilience’ captured the hopes and fears of young people experiencing adverse circumstances, which has been trialled in many situations including at the Utopia Fair in Somerset House and with civil servants at the Office for Civil Society at the Cabinet Office.

The proposal also aimed to make learning about civic engagement up to date and relevant to contemporary conditions. We did this through working with community groups to create projects that looked at issues such as austerity and young people’s life experiences through the arts and innovative methods. Examples include a felting project in Benwell, an articulation of hopes and fears in a film with the Patchwork youth project in the west end of Newcastle and a Graffiti project in North Tyneside which captured contemporary feelings of hope and articulations for a better future.

‘Imagine’ also aimed to evaluate and re-examine records of civic engagement over time. The projects that re-examined the CDP’s in the 1970s noted the lessons and legacies of the CDPs, including the relationship between global structural changes and local conditions in de-industrialising areas. The consortium was particularly interested in community members’ ideas and textual/artistic expression about how things could be better. We achieved this in poetry (‘Threads of Time’, a poetry book by young people), in visual art (portraits of British Muslims by Zahir Rafiq) and in community co-created books such as the ‘Herbal Medicine’ book that was developed in a school. These outputs were used within schools and fed back into community contexts.

## **Part 4: Grant methodology and results**

The *Imagine* project was concerned with the social, historical, cultural and democratic context of civic engagement and had a focus on imagining different communities and making them happen. In our work, there was a shared commitment to co-production across the consortium, a desire for social change and the opportunity for us to deepen our research in relation to both of these, including developing new theoretical approaches. The Case for Support identified that we would employ a range of diverse methodologies to answer our research questions as well as explore the potential of these methodologies for working with communities to imagine different futures. Below we identify our key methodologies and their results:

### **Communities of Practice and the development of the Value Creation Framework**

The *Imagine* 'social' work package adopted a Communities of Practice approach to bring together diverse forms of academic, practitioner and lived experience expertise in our research collaboration. In order to extend this approach to the specifics of our project design we collaborated closely with social learning theorists Etienne Wenger Trayner and Beverley Wenger Trayner. This theoretical underpinning enabled us to develop new understandings of how Communities of Practice approaches might also work effectively with heterogeneous groups (in contrast to the homogenous groupings with which the concept of CoPs was originally developed). This has contributed to increased understanding of how boundaries between groups can be harnessed, in order that tensions and differences can contribute to the creation of new knowledge and understanding between different individuals, communities and disciplines. The creative power of boundaries in social learning theory is a key theme of a chapter in our forthcoming edited book and it is the central focus of a research article, which is currently in process.

In addition to these successes, the CoP approach has also formed the basis of a multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary participatory research project funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (2016-2018). This spin-off research explored resilience of young people residing in drought areas of South Africa ([www.brighton.ac.uk/leandra](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/leandra)). Taking a CoP approach allowed us to tackle the disciplinary and cultural boundaries and to incorporate arts-based design to data collection, interpretation and reporting.

Finally, we adapted the Communities of Practice evaluation instrument to develop the Value Creation Framework (VCF), a systems-oriented mixed-method research tool to guide and analyse our findings. The first peer-reviewed article on the topic has been published in the *Journal of Mixed Methods* in 2017. In February 2018, we secured a tender to lead a collaborative research partnership commissioned by Blackpool Council for their Big Lottery funded Headstart programme; our proposal to use the Value Creation Framework was a significant factor in the success of this application and represents an important expansion of the work of the *Imagine* Project.

### **Community development and co-inquiry**

The substantive focus of WP2 was the practice of community development, comprising both processes (mobilising people to work together) and outcomes (e.g. strengthened communities, improved facilities). We studied this practice in the past and present, using fairly traditional qualitative and quantitative research methods, and also implemented and reflected upon specially-designed contemporary community-based action projects in North East England and Coventry. We shared learning and developed plans and further action through regular *Imagine* group meetings in both locations and two combined meetings based on a co-inquiry model (Heron, 1996), but with variations between the North East and Coventry.

1. ***Studying community development from the outside*** – We used oral history interviews, archival and literature-based research and statistical analysis of census data to study and evaluate the three Community Development Projects and their legacies from 1970s in Benwell, North Shields and Coventry. We looked at community development processes over time (from the 1970s to the present) as these areas were subject to numerous regeneration schemes in which local people were more or less engaged. This research was largely done by academic researchers and then shared in the wider group.
2. ***Doing community development projects and then reflecting on the learning from the inside*** - At the same time, in the North East, each community partner organisation undertook a project linked to the theme of Imagine, exploring aspects of the past, present and future of the areas in which they were based. These projects were designed to fit into the everyday practice of the community organisations involved, engaging existing and new ‘service users’ and/or residents. Hence, they were, in effect, community development projects, involving local people in undertaking oral history, film-making and other creative projects. In Coventry, photography work was undertaken by local people, leading to an exhibition in an art gallery and a further high-profile exhibition of historical photographs was also co-produced. A common theme across all projects was challenging stigma and celebrating place.
3. ***Co-inquiry: bringing the outside and inside together and creating new knowledge*** – The drawing together of all elements of Imagine North East happened in quarterly meetings of academic and community partners, and also in the preparation for and participation in local exhibitions and workshops and national Imagine events. The meetings were originally designed as ‘co-inquiry’ groups, with the aim of sharing experiences and reflecting on learning. In practice, these meetings often had as much of a focus on business items (e.g. reviewing progress with projects, planning exhibitions) as they did on co-inquiry (reflecting together on learning). A smaller Writing and Reflection Group, convened after Imagine North East officially ended, effectively functioned as a co-inquiry group and members of that group pulled together and developed material for a book chapter. In Coventry a looser group was formed, with changing membership over time, to work on the projects and develop the exhibitions.

‘Results’ and findings include the creation of statistical tables charting change over time between 1971 and 2011 in the areas covered by the original CDPs; timelines and reports on area-based regeneration after the CDPs in Benwell and North Tyneside; CDP archival material used to create a new archive in Warwick Modern Records Centre; creation of exhibitions, books and films documenting the past, present and future of the areas; academic articles and chapters contributing to a re-assessment of the role community development in civic participation and urban regeneration. Despite subsequent regeneration initiatives, the former CDP areas are still amongst the most deprived in their local authority areas, thus confirming the CDP’s structural analysis of disadvantage and more recent critiques of area-based regeneration. Our research highlighted the struggle today for many local community organisations, which face being co-opted as welfare agencies dealing with individual crises in a climate of economic austerity and neo-liberal politics. The potential for co-produced research to build on and develop community capacity in neighbourhoods that have faced long-term decline and territorial stigmatisation was highlighted, particularly through the adoption of a community development approach to co-production.

Further details of the exhibitions, workshops, outputs and impact of this work package are given in the Appendices.

**Co-production, arts-based practice, literary theory and collaborative ethnography**

The Imagine 'cultural' work package adopted the methodologies of collaborative ethnography, arts practice and literary theory to develop co-produced research.

*Collaborative ethnography.* The project team drew on collaborative ethnography and a collective approach that involved local history experts, ethnographers and young people. The team combined ethnographic research with historic materials and artistic products to co-write the book. In this approach, the framing of the research was by the community partners. What was unusual about this approach was the way in which we co-created a book from a series of meetings. These took place across the lifetime of the projects, starting in 2015 and then throughout 2016. The leadership of Elizabeth Campbell helped inspire the groups, and develop a very broad interdisciplinary group including the policy advisor from the local authority, members of the then Department for Communities and Local Government, artists Zahir Rafiq, Cassie Limb and Shahin Shah, activist Zanib Rasool and historians William Gould, Mariam Shah, Paul Ward and Elizabeth Pente. Eric Lassiter and Elizabeth Campbell provided methodological reflections. Poetic inquiry and artistic work was provided by poets Ray Hearne and Ryan Bramley, and Deborah Bullivant and a group of young women provided an account of their journey as authors in a co-produced chapter, together with a group of young women from Tassibee women's centre, who explored their journey in visual art.

*Arts practice.* Steve Pool, artist, took on the role of 'Artist in residence' across the project. This involved curating large-scale projections on 'Park Hill Flats' and curating the 'Imagine' exhibition at the Millennium Galleries in Sheffield. He also provided the consortium with images, helped steer the visual images coming from the project, and supported the cultural work package. The work resulted in a presentation, later to become an article, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, at Cornell University, USA, on 'Re-Imagining Artistic Subjectivities in Community Projects (Pahl and Pool 2018). At the Hepworth Wakefield young women from a rent deposit scheme, created artwork in response to their lived experience of Wakefield and their commentary on the art works in the gallery was exhibited in the gallery. Two residencies at the Site Gallery, Sheffield explored utopian themes in different forms – one 'Weightless Utopias' explored weight loss programmes with artist Helen Benigson, the other with artist Rory Pilgrim worked with community choirs and activists in Sheffield together with a sign writer to express hopeful and utopian visions of the future.

*Literary theory.* Elizabeth Hoult worked with prisoners to explore their better Imagined futures through the medium of science fiction films. Through curated group discussions, a small group of men expressed their hopes and fears for the future drawing on inspirations from fictive accounts of the future in film and literature. In the 'Threads of Time' project young girls expressed a more hopeful future through poetry. This work became the subject of a presentation on 'Poetry as Method' at the AHRC Connected Communities conference on Participatory Art in Norwich 2018.

The methodology involved co-production right the way through the process, from framing the study to deciding on what we do to collecting the data, analysing the data and writing the data up. The ethical procedures became a case study on the ESRC's website – involving a two-stage approach. The community partners devised the ethical protocols and created a system by which all participants were involved in the ethical process. After the protocols were agreed, participants and community partners devised information sheets and consent forms with the help of the advisory group and young people. At that point, a recorded discussion of ethical plans included decisions on outputs.

### **Co-production of historical knowledge**

The Imagine 'democratic' work package adopted a co-production approach to the development of historical knowledge in relation to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic histories in Huddersfield and

Rotherham. The co-production of research in partnership with community groups enables broader and different perspectives on the past, including questions of identity, to be taken by encouraging a diversity of people to participate in the research process. Understanding people's lives, emotions and intellectual reasoning is crucial to exploring national and other identities, and to getting a historical sense of how individuals lived their lives within broader communities. In its attempt to democratize history this project braided together radical approaches such as the "history from below" perspective, which explores social history, labour history and women's history, with the ideas from the Popular Memory Group, a collective that operated across the boundaries between academia and community-based initiatives. This involved the analysis and interpretation of primary sources in partnership between academically trained historians and community groups and individuals, who brought expertise borne of experience and emotion.

There was significant methodological innovation in the co-production of historical research/knowledge, which was disseminated at a panel at major historical studies conference on the co-production of historical knowledge & social justice, including three participants (out of seven) from Imagine. The 2015 AHRC 10th Anniversary Debate in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum North (with co-applicant Dr Jodie Matthews, Huddersfield) called Rethinking the Nation was an entirely co-produced event involving community partners from WP4.

## Part 5: Grant activities, impacts and outputs

One of our key aims was to make the consortium a *forum for constructive dialogue* between academics and community partners and between different disciplines. We achieved this through our conferences, which brought us together in new ways, and in shared workshops and most importantly, in our jointly created booklet that represented the 'Imagine' journey. The research questions emphasised diversity and multiplicity in co-produced research. We have learned to value each other's methodological differences. For example, in our edited book *Co-producing Research: A Community Development approach* (in press, 2018) we have included chapters by artists, architects, community partners, literary experts, researchers and community historians. In our *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* book, historians and social scientists, together with young people and artists have presented a complex account of one community, in tribute to the book by Lassiter et al (2004) 'The Other Side of Middletown'. Co-production is not an easy ride. Over the five years of the project, we have also recorded the challenges and opportunities of collaborative work. Pahl's article, 'The University as the imagined other' (2016) recorded this journey, together with an article by RA Bell and Pahl on 'Co-production: A utopian approach' (2017). Ward was able to articulate the benefits of co-producing history in his jointly written article (Pente et al 2015). Hart engaged with cross-disciplinary research in her 'Designing Resilience' project, which enabled young people to work with artists from the University of Brighton's School of Art to realise their ups and downs and resilient journeys as games in visual formats which have been produced to industry standard and sold at cost price to schools and community groups. An academic article based on that work is currently out for review and a number of blogs have been written about it. A co-produced film production constitutes a further output ([www.boingboring.org.uk](http://www.boingboring.org.uk)). We were aided by a number of Connected Communities Festivals (Edinburgh, Cardiff, and London) where we were able to showcase the work as it developed together with support from ESRC for a policy seminar in March 2016. We were lucky in our international scholars. Susan Hyatt ably helped us think about archiving through presenting her 'scan-a-thon' work in the US. Eric Lassiter supported us with our book, and Elizabeth Campbell became lead author on the *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* book. Additional support from scholars such as Mary Brydon-Miller and a group of Maori scholars from New Zealand (Nepia Mahuika, Rangimarie Mahuika and Ani Mikaere) as well as Patrick Harman (Fulbright Scholar visiting Durham from the USA), together with world experts on the Communities of Practice theory (Etienne Wenger and Bev Traynor) helped us in our journey. Conversations through co-writing are important. Our work was constantly in dialogue with each other. Ward and Pahl wrote in the *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* book. Our jointly edited book was co-written and conceived by Banks, Hart, Pahl and Ward. We were also pleased that many community partners/researchers, postgraduate students and early career researchers wrote peer-reviewed articles including Milton Brown, Zanib Rasool, Suna Eryigit-Madzawamuse, Anne Rathbone, Lisa Buttery, Josh Cameron and Yvonne Hall.

**Communications:** The 'Imagine' project's communication policy included a website, which can be found here: [www.imaginecommunity.org.uk](http://www.imaginecommunity.org.uk) This was used to disseminate the newsletter, provide information on upcoming events, inform the public about the project and provided link to other blogs connected to the project. The 'Imagine' project had a twitter account with 750 followers. A film about the imagine project was produced and put on the Imagine website. Each work package also had its own individual communications outputs in the form of websites, blogs and other art products (e.g., WP3 developed a film):

**WP1 Social:** Social Enterprise – [www.boingboing.org.uk](http://www.boingboing.org.uk); Resilience research (2011 ESRC impact case study) <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-events-and-publications/impact-case-studies/boosting-resilience-for-young-people/>

**WP2 Historical:** Imagine North East Blog: [www.imagenortheast.org/](http://www.imagenortheast.org/) Imagine Hillfields Blog: [www.imaginehillfields.org](http://www.imaginehillfields.org) Website: [www.dur.ac.uk/socialjustice/imagine/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/socialjustice/imagine/)

**WP3 Cultural:** This strand produced two books of poetry and writing, and a number of exhibitions including two in Rotherham and one at the University of Sheffield. A film about Park Hill was produced for Weston Park Museum in Sheffield, which receives 350,000 visitors a year.

**WP4 Democratic:** The Imagine Sheppey webpage: <http://www.livingandworkingonsheppey.co.uk/imagine-sheppey-fast-forward-2/> The Participedia website: <https://participedia.net>

**Research synergy:** We used our yearly conferences to come together and share plans, ideas and findings. Our conferences grew and developed across the five years of the project. Our initial conference was in Brighton in 2013. We heard from Etienne Wenger and Bev Traynor and explored how a Communities of Practice approach could support an equitable research framework within each of our projects. We were able to learn about each other, and use expressions such as 'Boundary spanner' for people who move between different roles. Our conference in Durham in 2014 focused on the histories of communities. Zaniab Rasool gave a strong workshop on her experience of working with the histories of women activists in Rotherham. Ben Kyneswood from Coventry co-curated a community radio show. Members of a women's writing group in Rotherham came and shared their work. Young women from Rotherham as well as young women from Wakefield produced artwork that was displayed. The keynote, Susan Hyatt, helped us understand the role of history in community organising. In 2015, we went to Huddersfield to explore the ways in which collaborative ethnography and utopia as method could inform our work. Eric Lassiter and Elizabeth Campbell, who co-wrote 'The Other Side of Middletown', a community co-produced book, along with many other contributors inspired us with a 'how to' do community co-produced outputs. Ruth Levitas gave us inspiration in her keynote 'Looking for the Blue'. We used these conferences to learn about each other's work packages. Academics and community partners presented together. In 2016, Sheffield hosted a conference that was also an exhibition at the Millennium Galleries. A soundscape produced by young people in Rotherham, portraits of British Muslims, photographs by young people and artwork from young people to express resilience in Brighton were displayed. The 'Imagine' project generated a number of conference presentations around the world. Here is a selection of our keynotes and papers presented nationally and internationally:

**Presentations from work package 1 included:**

Hart, A. (2018) Invited keynote: *Building child and family resilience with inequalities awareness/activism: Current resilience research and practice*, Families First and Flying Start Conference 2018, Llandudno, Wales. 8 March.

Hart, A. (2017) Invited chair of panel discussion: *Is Community University Engagement woman's work?*, Global perspectives on research: Co-production with communities Conference, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. 15 September.

Hart, A., Duncan, S. (2017) Invited keynote: *Co-producing resilience research through sustained partnership: Boingboing, the University of Brighton, Blackpool and beyond*, Global perspectives on research: Co-production with communities Conference, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. 14 September.

Hart, A., Biggs, S. (2017) Invited seminar: *Co-producing resilience research to address inequalities*, 6<sup>th</sup> Dialogue and Ideas Lab Series on Resilience Research, Part III: Methodological issues in resilience research in challenged contexts, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. 26 June.

Hart, A. (2017) Invited seminar: *Resilience approaches for the school context. Conceptual issues*, 6<sup>th</sup> Dialogue and Ideas Lab Series on Resilience Research, Part III: Conceptual issues in resilience research in challenged contexts, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. 26 June.

Hart, A. (2017) Invited keynote: *Developing co-productive resilience research to impact inequalities*, preconference at the 9th International Conference of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences University of Zagreb (ERFCON 2017), Zagreb, Croatia. 16 May.

Martikke, S. (2014) Invited workshop: *Community-University Partnership Working*, Annual Conference of the Association of University Administrators, University of Manchester, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Martikke, S. (2014) Invited Keynote Address: *Community-University Partnership Working in Greater Manchester and the UK*; Healthy, Resilient Communities Conference of the Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning and Volunteer Canada, Ottawa, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**Presentations from work package 2 included:** Plenary talk on the Community Development Projects of the 1970s at the History of Youth and Community Work Conference, Leeds, February 2015 (Andrea Armstrong, Sarah Banks and Gary Craig)

Oral presentation on the Community Development Projects of the 1970s at the Social Policy Association Conference, Durham, July 2017 (Sarah Banks, Gary Craig, Fred Robinson)

Plenary talk on the Community Development Projects of the 1970s at the Association of Lecturers in Youth and Community Work Annual Conference, Hull, July 2017 (Sarah Banks)

Plenary panel on community-based research at Community-University Expo, Vancouver, Canada, May 2017 (Sarah Banks)

**Presentations from work package 3 included:**

Kate Pahl was the invited speaker for a symposium titled *Child and Youth Engagement, Civic Literacies and Digital Ecologies* at Brock University, Canada in October 2017.

Kate Pahl and Steve Pool presented on, 'Re-Thinking Artistic Subjectivities in Community Projects' for an invited Leverhulme funded seminar at Cornell University, Ithaca, in April 2017.

Kate Pahl was the Invited keynote on, 'What do we do when we don't agree: Making Divergent Ways of Knowing Come Alive' at UEA, AHRC Connected Communities conference, Norwich, UK 2015.

Kate Pahl presented on 'Culture and Strengthening Communities'. Talk for ESRC funded event on 'The State of Social Capital in Britain' Organised by 'Understanding Society' and held at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, London November 2015

Kate Pahl presented on 'The University as the Imagined Other.' Paper Presented at the Symposium - *Re-visiting Longitudinal Language Ethnographies: the case of Bourdieu and Reflexivity. Conference of the American Educational Research Association*, Chicago, April 2015

**Presentations from work package 4 included:**

Paul Ward, 'Let's Change History', keynote at New Zealand Historical Association conference (#NZHA2015), 'History – Making a Difference', Dec 2015.



'Different Worlds of Experience: Doing History with Socially Excluded Groups', roundtable chaired by Paul Ward, including Shabina Aslam, Elizabeth Pente from Imagine as well as 4 other historians. Modern British Studies conference, University of Birmingham, July 2017.

Maggie Laidlaw 2017, January. "Women: Community Politics and Civic Engagement", Elon University, Elon, North Carolina, USA

Maggie Laidlaw 2017, January. "Imagine: What is Civic Engagement?". Step by Step, Charleston, WV, USA

Maggie Laidlaw 2017, January, "Imagine: Doing Research Differently - Creative, and Collaborative Research Methods" Marshall University, Huntington, WV. USA.

Maggie Laidlaw 2018, June. 'Temporal Negotiations of women's civic engagement: Who's got time for that?' Temporal Belongings Conference: 'The social life of time'. Edinburgh, Scotland

Sue Rawcliffe, Sharing Histories, 2017, The Tannahill Centre, Ferguslie Park Paisley. The session brought together community activists, former CDP workers, a local politician and interested academics to look at material gathered on the Paisley Community Development Project (1971-1978).

Sue Rawcliffe 2016 'A Tale of Two Experiments'. Conference paper presented to the Voluntary Action History Society 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference. Liverpool.

Graham Crow and Jaimie Ellis, 'Democratisation in theory and one example of practice', ESRC Research Methods Festival 2014, July, Oxford  
<https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/video/RMF2014/filmed.php?id=4746377>

**Major impacts:** We learned that how things were expressed mattered. It is not enough to give people 'the facts'. 'Facts', in communities might not relate to lived experience. History, cultural shaping of stuff creates the stuff of civic engagement. Participation in outputs, exhibitions, films, artwork, became the stuff of the research. Our community research teams listened to the voices of young people in poetry, in films, in artwork, in design contexts, and in soundscapes. We were able to contribute to new understandings of how knowledge is shaped and co-created in communities. This led to lasting shifts in local community understandings of whose knowledge counts and why. This quote, from Maria O'Beirne and Robert Rutherford (formerly Dept for Communities and Local Government) provides an account of the impact of 'Imagine' on their thinking: 'This book therefore provides a valuable resource both in terms of its content, but also its insights into method of evidence generation and collaborative working between universities, communities and policy makers'. (O'Beirne and Rutherford 2018:203). Our research project offers both a methodological blueprint for research with communities, but also is replicable as a mode of evidence collection that can inform policy.

#### **Selected scientific impacts (for a full list of publications consult Researchfish)**

2018 Campbell, E. Pahl, K. Pente, E and Rasool, Z. Eds. *Re-Imagining Contested Communities: connecting Rotherham through research*. Bristol: Policy Press.

2018 Cameron, J., Hart, A., Brooker, S., Neale, P., & Reardon, M. (2018) 'Collaboration in the design and delivery of a mental health Recovery College course: experiences of students and tutors.' *Journal of Mental Health*, DOI: 10.1080/09638237.2018.1466038

- 2018 Vitalaki, E., Kourkoutas, E., Hart, A. (2018) 'Building inclusion and resilience in students with and without SEN through the implementation of narrative speech, role play and creative writing in the mainstream classroom of primary education.' *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2018.1427150>
- 2017 Kourkoutas, E., Hart, A., Kassis, W. (2017) A Resilience-based Program to Promote Reflective and Inclusive Teaching Practices in Greece during Austerity in Amzat, I. H., Valdez, N. P. (Ed.) *Teacher Professional Knowledge and Development for Reflective and Inclusive Practice*. London: Routledge.
- 2017 Davies, C. Hart, A., Eryigit-Madzwamuse, S., Stubbs, C., Aumann, K., Aranda, K., Heaver, B. (2017) Communities of practice in community-university engagement: Supporting co-productive resilience research & practice, in McDonald, J. and Cater-Steel, A., (Eds.) *Communities of practice: facilitating social learning in higher education* (pp. 175–198). Singapore: Springer. ISBN 981102877X.
- 2017 Wenger-Trayner, B., Wenger-Trayner, E., Cameron, J., Eryigit-Madzwamuse, S., Hart, A. (2017) 'Boundaries and boundary objects: an evaluation framework for mixed methods research.' *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, published online 26 Sep 2017, (Impact Factor = 1.927) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1558689817732225>
- 2017 Macpherson, H., Davies, C., Hart, A., Eryigit-Madzwamuse, S., Rathbone, A., Gagnon, E., Buttery, L. & Dennis, S. (2017) 'Collaborative community research dissemination and networking: Experiences and challenges', *Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement*, vol. 10, 298–312, doi: 10.5130/ijcre.v10i1.5436
- 2017 Bell, D. and Pahl, K. Co-production: towards a utopian approach, *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, DOI: 10.1080/13645579.2017.1348581
- 2017 Rasool, Z. (2017) 'Collaborative working practices: Imagining better research partnerships'. *Research for All*, 1 (2): 310–22. DOI <https://doi.org/10.18546/RFA.01.2.08>
- 2016 Pahl, K. 'The University as the Imagined Other: Making Sense of Co-produced Literacy Research'. *Collaborative Anthropologies*. Fall spring 2016-16 Volume 8, Nos 1-2.
- 2016 Hart, A., Gagnon, E., Eryigit-Madzwamuse, S., Cameron, J., Aranda, K., Rathbone, A., Heaver, B. (2016) 'Uniting resilience research and practice with a health inequalities approach.' *SAGE Open*, 6(4), 1-13, doi: 10.1177/2158244016682477
- [2016 Robinson, F. and Townsend, A. \*Benwell forty years on: Policy and change after the Community Development Project, a report\*, Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University](#)
- [2016 Robinson, F. and Townsend, A. \*North Shields forty years on: Policy and change after the Community Development Project, a report\*, Centre for Social Justice and Community Action, Durham University](#)
- 2017 Banks, S. & Carpenter, M. [Researching the local politics and practices of radical Community Development Projects in 1970s Britain](#). *Community Development Journal* **52**(2): 226-246.
- 2017 Carpenter, M. and Kyneswood, B. 'From self-help to class struggle: revisiting Coventry Community Development Project's 1970s journey of discovery', *Community Development Journal*, **52**(2), pp. 247-268.
- 2017 Green, J. 'Action–research in context: revisiting the 1970s Benwell Community Development Project', *Community Development Journal*, **52**(2), pp. 269-289.

2017 Armstrong, A. and Banks, S. 'Organizing for change: North Tyneside Community Development Project and its legacy', *Community Development Journal*, **52**(2), pp. 290-312.

2016 Pente, E., Ward, P., Brown, M., Sahota, H. (2015) 'The co-production of historical knowledge: implications for the history of identities'. *Identity papers: a journal of British and Irish Studies*. Vol 1 Issue 1 pp. 32-53.

2017 Pente, E. & Ward, P. 'Let's change History! Community histories and the co-production of historical knowledge,' in Katie Pickles, Lyndon Fraser, Marguerite Hill, Sarah Murray, Greg Ryan (eds), *History Making a Difference: New Approaches from Aotearoa*, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2017.

2018, Ward, P. 'Sound system culture: Place, space and identity in the United Kingdom, 1960-1989', *Historia Contemporánea* 57 pp. 349-376.

2018, Rawcliffe, S. 'Imagining the past, imagining the future: communities and social welfare in the west of Scotland', SPARK online Journal. Available at: <http://spark.wordpress.stir.ac.uk/issues/issue-04-translating-communities/>

### **Public and Policy Impacts**

- i) A grant of £10,000 from ESRC led to a successful seminar in March 2016 where civil servants attended round table discussions. Feedback was very positive.
- ii) In preparing the Race Disparity Audit, the Cabinet Office consulted Imagine researchers about their work. According to the Cabinet Office, the academics' input was "fundamental to shaping the Race Disparity Audit".
- iii) The research team provided important evidence to the Department for Communities and Local Government for the development of the Women's Empowerment Fund.
- iv) Our research has been used to inform the recent House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement (Report of Session 2017-2019 page 86).

### **Outcomes and next steps that have occurred as a consequence of the grant's findings:**

- v) Resilience research carried out by the Imagine project formed the basis of HeadStart, an £11.4 million Big Lottery Fund grant, which implemented resilience-building ideas and practices (known as the 'Resilience Revolution') in schools and community services in Blackpool. Forty jobs and five apprenticeships were created, and two PhDs were funded.
- vi) The research led to the set-up of a new branch of the Brighton-based social enterprise Boingboing in Blackpool, headed by Imagine co-investigator Angie Hart. Boingboing works with disadvantaged children and families to help them build resilience.
- vii) Capacity-building in community organisations that were partners in Imagine. Each organisation developed new insights, capacities and learning, which fed into their on-going work and plans. These 'micro-impacts' are often barely visible or attributed and may only emerge after detailed reflection and evaluation after a research project ends.
- viii) Local authorities (e.g. Rotherham, Sheffield) have used the research on the 'Imagine' project to inform community strategy in the field of community cohesion.
- ix) Kirklees Local TV secured DCLG funding of £70,000 in 2017 for 'the Radar programme' to train young BAME people to imagine and achieve different futures, following the seminar at NVCO & the DCLG being invited to meet Black Minority Ethnic Communities Voluntary Organisations, Faith Groups, Social Enterprises & Public Sectors in West Yorkshire.

*Next steps:* Our next steps include research bids that harness this work to explore civic engagement and governance after Brexit, youth co-production and artistic methodologies in the context of the GCRF programme. Co-producing histories with communities, for communities, particularly activist histories within communities, is vital as a way of strengthening communities and providing impetus to community action. Our forthcoming edited book (2018) will focus on a community development approach to co-production.

## **Part 6: Grant management and the Principal Investigator's role**

The PI has managed and co-ordinated a number of key activities that have added value to the grant, for example:

The PI co-ordinated the final residential of the project where all four work packages came together to celebrate and evaluate the work. The particular focus of this event was to explore and gather the community partner perspectives of the 'Imagine' project – this led to a co-produced book, which was written over the course of the three-day event. This publication complements two other edited books which have developed from this research project, one *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* (Campbell et al. 2018) is a co-produced book on researching in Rotherham published by Policy Press, and the second is titled *Co-producing Research: A community development approach* (in press 2018).

In June 2017, the PI also supported an international seminar entitled, 'Doing research differently: imagining better communities in local and global contexts'. This event brought together all four work packages with a focus on indigenous knowledge production structures; the event was attended by three Maori researchers who were invited by the PI.

The PI has also developed numerous impact opportunities in relation to government and civil service thinking on policy. In March 2016 the ESRC supported a policy seminar at NCVO in London attended by civil servants from the Cabinet Office, DCLG and the Department of Health. Feedback was very positive. In January 2018, the PI organised a meeting between the Office for Civil Society and the Imagine project team, which resulted in the attendance of members of the Office for Civil Society at the book launch of *Re-Imagining Contested Communities* in May 2018. She also was able to engage with the Lords Select Committee on Civic Engagement, who mentioned 'Imagine' in their final report. These impact and engagement activities have led to shifts in civil service thinking and policy.

*Briefly describe and comment on any particular issues (either problems or unexpected opportunities) that were encountered and their impact on the grant.*

An unexpected opportunity presented itself when a group of Maori scholars visited Huddersfield, UK in June 2017. They were able to attend the Rotherham international conference and their participation was highly significant. Community researchers reported that they felt empowered in ways that they had not done before. As a result of the Maori contribution a local cultural museum officer said that she now understood the idea of knowledge being held in local communities.

Additional resource of £10,000 was provided by ESRC to support a policy briefing seminar in March 2016. Called 'Empowering Communities and Making Change Happen' the event was well received and led to local visits from civil servants taking place in Huddersfield and the North East. Civil servants reported that the event provided a rare opportunity to engage directly with communities. See here for more details: <http://www.imaginecommunity.org.uk/empowering-communities-and-making-change-happen-9-march-2016-ncvo-london/>

The Imagine team as a whole were able to support community partner writing and presentations right the way through the grant. However, we would have liked more funds to support this. Our decision to fund community partners to co-write the final Imagine booklet was born out of our decision that while a large international conference would have been useful, our event in June was sufficient, and the key was to focus on the 'Imagine' booklet which was a co-produced document that charted the 'Imagine' journey over five years and detailed key findings.

*Views on ESRC's policies and processes in relation to the commissioning and management of large grants.*

After a protracted and somewhat difficult commissioning process, we have had a very positive experience of ESRC's management of this large grant award. We are particularly grateful for the support of our case officers, Christina Rowley and Lyndy Griffin who were always available to discuss issues arising. We were grateful to receive additional funding to support an additional impact seminar in March 2016, which directly led to a number of very fruitful collaborations with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Race Disparity Unit. We also would like to acknowledge the support of our case officers for the initiative, led by Angela Warren, to create a simple way of paying community partners to replace out-dated and complex systems at the University of Sheffield.

## **Part 7: Forward Look**

**WP1:** Our Resilience Framework for children and young people is now freely available in ten other languages including German, Greek, Spanish, Turkish, French, Malay, Swedish, Portuguese, Danish and Romanian. This research formed the basis of HeadStart in Blackpool, an £11.4 million Big Lottery Fund grant from 2017 to 2022. This programme implements and researches resilience practices in schools and community services in Blackpool. Through this programme, forty jobs and five apprenticeships have been created and two PhDs have been funded. They also secured funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund to draw on lesson learned from Imagine. In this case, Imagine processes are being employed in a project on resilience to drought involving young South Africans in a drought affected rural community as co-researchers. A further legacy is that Imagine research contributed to a successful bid for the establishment of a Centre of Resilience for Social Justice at the University of Brighton.

**WP2:** Each community organisation involved in Imagine undertook a project that was relevant to its ongoing work that would enable it to engage with existing and new service users/participants. The three community organisations involved in North Shields have been working together in dialogue with the local authority to tackle issues related to opportunities for young people, employment and community facilities. A collection of digital stories has been added to the collection of the Discovery Museum (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums) and pictures created by the Benwell in Felt project are permanently on display in the Carnegie Building in Newcastle. Statistical materials and analyses of regeneration over time are now available for the CDP areas. The exhibition and narrative in Coventry was formalised into a book, [published on Blurb](#), with copies in local libraries. Hillfields subsequently became a pilot area for new community development practices with an independent organisation, Mutual Gain, with the exhibition featuring in the decision-making process.

**WP3:** Kate Pahl has taken on the co-production agenda at Manchester Metropolitan University and held a series of events including a book launch for the 'Re-Imagining Contested Communities' book with a keynote by co-editor Elizabeth Campbell, (formerly) Marshall University USA. She is currently working with the ideas of co-production on the AHRC funded 'Feeling Odd in the World of Education' 3-year project. Her AHRC follow on project, 'Taking Yourself Seriously' took on many of the principles of the 'Imagine' project. Current exploratory meetings with Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations, Youth Futures, Manchester City Council, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, a youth organisation and 'Youth Futures' who work with the Greater Manchester Youth Assembly, are taking the 'Imagine' ideas forward in new ways in the context of a devolved local authority structure.

**WP4:** Ward's work with Kirklees local TV has resulted in further support and collaborations, for example work with the Race Disparity Audit and ongoing work in relation to local history making and black history. We are co-writing with community researchers a book proposal on the co-production of historical knowledge, to capture the process of co-production on Imagine and to develop further projects.

*What are the future research priorities in this area?*

More needs to be done in the field of youth co-production with a particular focus on creative methods. Co-production with BAME community organisations remains a priority given the continuing under-representation of black, Asian and other minority ethnic people in higher education and other cultural institutions. Our central argument is that co-production is an essential part of communities taking on the making of knowledge in ways that inform their own practices, create transformational change and bring new perspectives into academic writing and research.

## **Annex A: Research Projects/ individual work strands**

### **Work Package 1: The social context of civic engagement**

Work Package 1 was coordinated by Angie Hart, University of Brighton from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, involving multiple research projects across seven countries, in England (Manchester, Durham, Brighton, Hassocks and Croydon), Wales (Newport), Scotland (Stirling), Germany (Osnabruck), Greece (Crete), Turkey (Hatay) and Malaysia (Kuching).

#### **University partners and project teams:**

University of Brighton: Angie Hart, Josh Cameron, Andrew Church, Becky Heaver, Caroline Hudson, Ceri Davis, Josie Maitland, Anne Rathbone and Suna Eryigit-Madzwamuse;

Universities of Osnabruck and Heidelberg: Wassilis Kassis, Rabea Dorsten, Katja Gorich, Ulrike Graf and Ulrike Becker;

University of Crete: Elias Kourkoutas, Maria Georgiadi and Stefanos Plexusakis;

University of Stirling: Brigid Daniel;

Mustafa Kemal University: Emel Teksoz;

University of Malaysia Sarawak: Amalia Madihie.

#### **Community & other partners:**

Boingboing: Scott Dennis, Lisa Buttery, Claire Stubbs, Kim Aumann and Emily Gagnon;

Brighton Hove Virtual School: Ross Beard, Jaymi Hensley;

With Scotland: Sally Wassell and Catriona Laird;

Newport Mind: Sarah Handerson and Rhian Adams;

Arts Connect: Julia Roberts;

Sussex Recovery College: Mair Reardon, Saff Brokker and Paul Neale;

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation: Susanne Martikke;

Durham County Council: Phil Hodgson;

Community 21: Nick Gant, Connel Mclaughlin;

**International consultants/advisors:** Etienne Wenger-Trayner and Bev Wenger-Trayner

#### **Aims & objectives:**

This work package is the social research strand of wider 'Imagine' project demonstrating the potential for community university partnership to bring people from very different backgrounds together to make better and more resilient collective futures.

**Aims:** To explore capacities to ignite imagination about the future of healthy and well-functioning communities and to build resilience and momentum for change using communities of practice (CoP) approach.

#### **Objectives:**

To establish a range of community university partnerships involving diverse co-researchers to draw on the expertise from realms of lived experience, professional and social practice, research, and theory.

To demonstrate the potential for these community university partnerships to use a CoP to increase their sustainability and leave a legacy of enduring collaborative capacity.

To develop and evaluate resilience-based practices that help vulnerable communities and those who support them resist and challenge adversity.

To use insights gained from the CoPs to develop resilience theory especially as it may apply to communities and to moving from resisting to challenging adversity to build better futures.

To consider the potential of the Resilient Therapy framework to be used to support communities of vulnerable adults and practitioners as well as children, young people and their families.

To gain insights into how the process and outcomes of objectives 1-5 may be similar or vary in differing cultural contexts.

### **Results & impacts achieved/potential for impact**

Across seven countries, we established fifteen partnerships involving individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise with the principles of shared interest on building resilience in communities, shared ownership of the Imagine project, and shared co-researcher identity. We also developed a meta-CoP group with two to three members of each partnerships who met annually. Through these research practices, we have re-conceptualised and published theory papers on CoP as a collaborative social research methodology for researching and promoting connected communities.

WP1 research formed the basis of HeadStart in Blackpool, an £11.4 million Big Lottery Fund grant from 2017 to 2022. This programme implements and researches resilience practices in schools and community services in Blackpool through the concept of the 'Resilience Revolution'. Through this programme, forty jobs and five apprenticeships were created and two PhDs were funded. Members of the Imagine WP1 team received both a training contract and a collaborative research partnership grant to co-develop and co-deliver the research and evaluation elements of the programme.

In collaboration with young people and other community partners we produced several high impact resilience products, such as the *One Step Forward* guide by looked after children, *Changing Lanes* by young men with experience of the criminal justice system, and a resilience film *Boingboing Community Partnerships Hit the Road*. We also developed other practice and research tools incorporating design (e.g., a *Sun & Clouds* game) and digital arts, including an interactive graffiti wall (see [www.boingboing.org.uk](http://www.boingboing.org.uk) for more details of all these outputs). These tools helped us to understand and promote resilience in more detail. They were exhibited on several occasions including Utopia Fair in 2016.

WP1 projects enabled us to test and refine the principles of Boingboing's resilience model. Uniting resilience with an inequalities approach, we have developed and published on a system focused resilience theory. We also had our resilience theory expanded to other locations and it is being widely used in schools (e.g., Academic Resilience Approach; Smart Moves programme), with families (Home office supported Ending Violence Against Women and Girls- Service Transformation; Kith and Kin programme in Families First Service) and in communities (Big Lottery Fund supported HeadStart – Resilience Revolution programme in Blackpool).

Our Resilience Framework has been used to support communities including children, young people with learning difficulties, parents, adults with mental health problems, school staff and health practitioners. We developed a Q-sort assessment tool for the Resilience Framework, which can be used both for practice and research purposes. The Resilience Framework Q-sort is now widely used in multiple projects with children, health practitioners and families. It also informed two PhD and one master's research project. Furthermore, members of the WP1 developed a teacher resilience scale to use in school-based research, which is currently being investigated for its validity and reliability. We also examined the impact of a Resilience- Framework informed intervention at a Recovery College on adults with mental health issues and have found significant impact which we have published.

Through 'Imagine' the Resilience Framework for children and young people has now become freely available in ten other languages including German, Greek, Spanish, Turkish, French, Malay, Swedish, Portuguese, Danish and Romanian. WP1's collaborative research allowed us to investigate the cross-cultural similarities and differences of the Framework. We found significant differences in the spirituality dimension which was more salient in relatively conservative cultures such as in Malaysia.



## **Work Package 2: The historical context of civic engagement**

Coordinated by Sarah Banks, Durham University from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, involving research in Tyneside and Coventry.

### **University partners and project teams:**

Durham University: Sarah Banks, Andrea Armstrong, David Byrne, Alan Townsend, Fred Robinson, Gary Craig, Pauline Harrison and Emma Haggie;

Warwick University: Mick Carpenter, Alice Mah, Ben Kyneswood, John Benington.

### **Community and other partners:**

*North East* (coordinated by Judith Green): Discovery Museum, Living History North East, Search Project, Riverside Health Project, Patchwork Youth Project, St James' Centre for Culture and Heritage, Pendower Good Neighbour Project, West Newcastle Picture History Collection, Meadow Well Connected, Cedarwood Trust, Phoenix Detached Youth Project, Remembering the Past: Resourcing the Future.

*Coventry*: Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, African Caribbean Community Organisation Ltd., WATCH (Working Actively to Change Hillfields), Hillz FM, St. Peter's Centre, Hope Centre, FarGo Village, Hillfields History Group.

### **International consultants/advisors:**

Sue Hyatt, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Harvinder Bedi, Development Support Team, Pune, India; Patrick Harman, Fulbright Scholar, Hayden-Harman Foundation, USA.

### **Aims and objectives:**

This work package focused on Tyneside (Benwell and North Shields) and Coventry (Hillfields). These areas were part of the Community Development Project (CDP) in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Since the 1970s, these areas have been subject to numerous regeneration programmes, with varying degrees of resident involvement.

**Aims:** To explore changing inter-relationships between 'imagined communities' of politicians, policy-makers, professionals and residents in community-based regeneration from the late 1960s to the present; and to use the insights from this project and the three other components to engage in imaginings of future communities.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) to chart the history of regeneration in each area from the late 1960s to the present;
- 2) to place this in the broader context of social and economic change in the three case study areas, from the early nineteenth century, from the perspectives of residents themselves, building on existing archives and projects and using a variety of creative media;
- 3) to build community capacity through engaging local residents in action research and learning through connecting with each other;
- 4) to leave a legacy of archival materials embedded in local collections;
- 5) to challenge all stakeholders, including policy makers and private sector organisations, to re-imagine and develop better futures for these areas, particularly in the current climate of economic austerity.

### **Results and impacts achieved/potential for impact:**

*Re-interpretation of the CDPs and their legacy.* Interviews were undertaken with key people who were active in the localities in the 1970s, including community workers, residents, and policy makers. Along with documentary and archival research, this contributed to a re-visiting of the CDPs of the

1970s, their legacies and lessons for the present. A themed issue of the [Community Development Journal](#) comprising four articles on the CDPs was published in 2017. This research has contemporary value and has generated interest from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Councils in Coventry and N. Tyneside.

*An archive of records from the national CDP* uncovered in a private home has now been deposited in the Modern Records Centre at Warwick University as the Twineham papers.

*Hillfields exhibition and book.* Seven photographic archives retold the history of the area from a previously unexplored local perspective. The co-produced [photographic exhibition](#) (August 2015) was visited by major policy figures, including City Council Chief Executive and Advisor for the City of Culture bid. Diversity is a theme of the bid, with Hillfields' diverse population involved in several new projects. Hillfields subsequently became a pilot area for new community development practices with an independent organisation, Mutual Gain, with the exhibition featuring in the decision-making process. The exhibition attracted over 100 people a day for 21 days, including school, college and university visits for workshops with the Research Fellow. It reached a Twitter population of over 500,000. The exhibition and narrative was formalised into a book, [published on Blurb](#), with copies in local libraries. Follow up exhibitions were held at St. Peter's Centre and Warwick University and one exhibitor, Masterji, has exhibited seven times since and has published his first photobook. Local newspaper coverage contributed to challenging the stigmatisation of the area. (see <https://photomining.org/projects/masterji> )

*Photo Archive Miners, a Community Interest Company*, was founded by the Warwick University researcher, to continue work on photographic archives in Coventry. To date it has received over £140,000 in income and grant funding. PAM is working closely with Coventry City of Culture Trust to deliver new exploratory photographic projects and with the City Council on an historic photographic archive covering the post-war redevelopment of Coventry.

*North East exhibitions and workshops* – [Imagining Benwell](#) and [Imagining North Shields](#) in January and April 2016 brought together academics, policymakers, practitioners and members of local community organisations to take a long view of civic participation in their localities. The impact was significant in that it showed the potential of communities and universities working together. Several officers and councillors from North Tyneside Council attended and engaged with the project.

*Impact on partner community organisations* – the community partner organisations reported gaining from their engagement in the *Imagine* project through developing new ideas, networks, skills and follow-on projects. For example, the CEO of Riverside Community Health Project, Benwell commented: 'This project was useful in re-focusing us on wider and longer term issues rather than focusing just on how to tackle presenting immediate issues'. A community researcher from North Tyneside has been inspired to study for a degree in history. In Hillfields, *Imagine* worked with WATCH to support its survival through a challenging period as its funding changed from grants to contracts.

### **Work Package 3: The cultural context of civic engagement**

Coordinated by Kate Pahl, University of Sheffield from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

#### **University partners and project team:**

*University of Sheffield:* Kate Pahl (overall and Rotherham coordinator), Prue Chiles (moved to Newcastle in 2016), Susan Reid, Richard Steadman-Jones, Jessica Dubow and Claire Griffiths (Co-Is), Mathew Collins, Paul Allender, David Bell, Rebecca Andrew and Louise Ritchie (RAs) and a community research team based in Rotherham co-ordinated by Zanib Rasool. Steve Pool was the artist in residence across the projects.

*Birkbeck:* Elizabeth Houlton (Co-I).

*University of Newcastle:* Prue Chiles (Co-I).

#### **Individual projects:**

**WP3.1** Art, Practice and the Imagined Future, (Dubow, Pool, Steadman-Jones)

Jan 2013- Dec 2014 with RAs Collins and Bell in partnership with the Site Gallery, Sheffield. **WP3.2** Revisiting the Modernist Dream Hepworth Wakefield (Griffiths), Museums Sheffield (Reid, Chiles, Streets advised by Ward) with RAs Andrew, Ritchie, Allender and Collins in partnership with Natalie Walton,, The Hepworth Wakefield and Kim Streets, Museums Sheffield Jan 2014- Dec 2015 **WP3.3** Writing in the Community: The 'Uses of Literacy' revisited (Houlton, Pahl, Rafiq with Ward). Jan 2014 – 2015 co-ordinated by Pahl advised by Ward, with a community research team that included Zanib Rasool, Mariam Shah, Zahir Rafiq, Marcus Hurcombe, Deborah Bullivant and Khalida Luqman

Artists: Zahir Rafiq, Shaheen Shah and Cassie Limb

**International consultants/advisors** – Sue Hyatt, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Eric Lassiter and Elizabeth Campbell, Marshall University, US.

**Aims:** Our overall aim was to revisit the past in order to better imagine the future, with an additional aim of exploring the potential of arts and humanities research methodologies as a way of re-imagining better communities and making them happen.

We focused on two main questions:

1. *What role can imagining better futures play in capturing and sustaining enthusiasm and momentum for change?*
2. *Is the landscape of community research being transformed by developments in the research methodologies employed in the arts and humanities and social sciences, particularly the development of creative, collaborative and participatory methods?*

We did this by drawing on a combination of oral history (interviews), collaborative ethnography (interviews, fieldnotes, and writing), artistic methodologies (practice as research) and poetic and artistic enquiry (poetry, writing, art, residency as method). Our work focused on hope and imagining better communities and included the making of a number of different artistic products including a book of poetry, a book of herbal remedies, and a series of portraits, art and writing. We then focused on the following objectives:

1. To conduct a historically located study of particular communities in Rotherham that have hitherto been overlooked with a focus on the Pakistani heritage communities and on the history of women's activism in Rotherham

2. To place this in the context of current arts practice and thinking in Rotherham and beyond and to accompany this with a series of arts interventions including writing and poetry from young people and from marginalised groups.
3. To conduct a series of interviews with the residents of Park Hill Flats, accompanied by archival research to create a picture of Park Hill as a potentially utopian community, focusing on domestic and everyday lives.
4. To work with young people at the Hepworth Wakefield to explore potential futures through exploring present connections with the gallery and the city.
5. To interview artists connected to Sheffield, in collaboration with the Site Gallery Sheffield to explore their visions of the future, through art on the theme of hope in the city together with conducting two residencies to explore utopian themes.
6. To explore, with a group of prisoners, the potential of utopian fiction and film to create better imagined identities within a reading project.

**Results and impacts achieved/potential for impact:**

1. **Methodological innovation** a new understanding of the potential of arts and humanities informed community research to inform policy makers who are concerned about social cohesion and civic engagement with a particular focus on minority ethnic communities.
2. **New datasets.** An archive of interviews with residents from Park Hill flats will be accessible via the UK data archive. Oral history interviews with community activists (Rotherham) and artists (Sheffield). We have also collected an archive of poetry ('Threads of Time'), Visual art 'Portraits of British Muslims' and a reflective research diary 'The Big Bid'.
3. **Exhibitions** at Western Bank Library at the University of Sheffield, at the Rotherham Libraries, Millennium Galleries in Sheffield and at Edge Hill University together with books of poetry and artwork and the permanent display of a film about Park Hill Flats now installed in Weston Park Museum in Sheffield, attracting a footfall of 350,000 visitors per year.
4. **Policy Impact.** The community research team met with the DCLG and informed their 'empowering women' initiative call. We worked with Policy Makers from DCLG and the Cabinet Office to disseminate our methodologies. We have briefed the Big Lottery, the DCLG, the Cabinet Office, and the Lords Select Committee on Civic Engagement through a written submission and in person.
5. **Books and articles** including a collaborative book on Rotherham "Re-imagining Contested Communities' (Campbell et al 2018) and 'Co-producing Research: A Community Development approach' (Banks et al 2018). Pahl and Pool gave a paper at an event funded by the Leverhulme Foundation on 'Re-thinking artistic subjectivities in community projects' at Cornell University in Ithaca in April 2017, now an article (Pahl and Pool 2018).

#### **Work Package 4: The democratic context of civic engagement**

Coordinated by Paul Ward, University of Huddersfield from May 2014 to 31 December 2017, involving research in Kent, London, Scotland & Huddersfield (from 2013 to May 2014 WP4 was coordinated by Graham Crow, University of Edinburgh)

**Project team:** University of Huddersfield: Paul Ward (CI & lead from 2014), Elizabeth Pente (PhD student funded by Huddersfield); University of Kent: Dawn Lyon (CI), Peter Hatton (artist), Giulia Carabelli (RA); University of Edinburgh: Graham Crow (CI & lead to 2014), Maggie Laidlaw (PhD student funded by ESRC); University of Strathclyde: Sue Rawcliffe (PhD student funded by ESRC); University of Westminster: Graham Smith (CI), Jez Hall (RA), Gemma Jamieson Malik (RA).

**Community & other partners:** TEA arts group (Val Murray & Lynn Pilling), Blue Town Heritage Centre, Kirklees Local TV, Building African Caribbean Communities (Huddersfield), Let's Go Yorkshire, VIRSA (Punjab heritage), The Hepworth Wakefield, The Tannahill Centre (Paisley), Kinning Park Complex (Glasgow).

**Aims:** To explore the meaning of democratisation in theory & practice. Democratisation here was understood as the development of community forms that engage with members of communities, with decision-making *by* community members, *for* community members.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1) To chart different forms of the democratisation of civic engagement & participation & how to promote more democratic styles of civic engagement & shaping of collective futures, including drawing on international comparisons.
- 2) To work with a variety of community organisations & members to analyse decision-making & how to democratise it, for example
  - a. With young people to imagine their futures, with a focus on their plans, hopes, wishes, images & general orientations in relation to their own trajectories & how they imagine the places in which they live
  - b. With women's groups in Scotland to establish why they become involved in & how they sustain their interests in community voluntarism, activism & everyday participatory practices.
  - c. With community-based organisations to explore the role of community in welfare provision in the west of Scotland at different historical junctures at different historical junctures from the early nineteenth century.
  - d. With BAME organisations to explore exclusion & how historical knowledge can play a part in achieving recognition of civic participation.
- 3) To examine ways of creating repositories of research that are accessible & underpin democratic decision-making.
- 4) To enable the development of a stronger historical perspective across the consortium as a whole & to explore the implications of the co-production of research for the academic discipline of history.

#### **Results & impacts achieved/potential for impact:**

*Charting democratisation in civic engagement:* We analysed democratic styles of decision-making & shaping of collective futures, including drawing on international comparisons with Maori scholars & practices. We developed easy-to-follow guidance on how datasets can be downloaded from Participedia (a web platform about civic & political participation) & developed a new researcher interface that invites data contributions. We conducted a survey of how community organisations viewed university research called 'Interesting or Useful'. We worked with young people in Sheppey to imagine the future in film, photography & artistic practices. We explored women's volunteering. We explored the use of history in community welfare practices.

*Working with a variety of community organisations:* We worked collaboratively with a wide range of community organisations & members, participating in the workshops to co-produce the book *Re-Imagining Contested Communities*.

We have run a series of Black History events including public talks, exhibitions, discussions. We have co-produced films, pamphlets, art work, performances e.g. Sheppey's film <https://vimeo.com/117605491>. Sue Rawcliffe (PhD student) ran an event on Paisley Community Development Programme, she says: 'The dialogue will continue. It will look at how the materials on the CDP might form the basis for an educational resource/ exhibition. This will record the bigger story of the strength, spirit & tradition of activism among the people of Ferguslie Park but also acknowledge the lack of progress in an area that was the most deprived area of all the CDPs in 1972, & was still the single most deprived area in the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation in 2016.' Elizabeth Pente worked with Wakefield History Society & The Hepworth Wakefield to understand decline & regeneration in a post-mining city. Across the WP there are on-going community projects that will continue after Imagine, such as Let's Play Vinyl (about women sound system deejays), plans to produce a social history of Ferguslie Park.

*Creating repositories of research.* Both Participedia & Kirklees Local TV develop & make available resources for participatory political decision-making & community development. There are also three doctoral theses submitted or close to submission from the WP.

*The development of a stronger historical perspective across the consortium as a whole & exploring the implications of the co-production of research for the academic discipline of History.* WP4 worked closely with WP3 to develop narratives of BAME pasts & futures, including linking community partners across the WPs for longer-term working. 'Doing research differently – imagining better communities in local & global contexts' workshop, which took place on Tuesday 20 June 2017 at My Place, Rotherham was a joint event.

There was significant methodological innovation in the co-production of historical research/knowledge, which was disseminated at a panel at major historical studies conference on the co-production of historical knowledge & social justice, including three participants (out of seven) from Imagine. The 2015 AHRC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Debate in collaboration with the Imperial War Museum North (with co-applicant Dr Jodie Matthews, Huddersfield) called Rethinking the Nation was an entirely co-produced event involving community partners from WP4. There was a series of co-written publications & outputs with early career researchers including Ward, Pente, Brown & Sahota 'The co-production of historical knowledge: implications for the history of identities,' (25:25:25:25), *Identity Papers: A Journal of British & Irish Studies*, 1, 1 (2015), 32-53. (640 downloads) [2018] & Giulia Carabelli & Dawn Lyon, *Researching Young People's Orientations to the future: The Methodological Challenges of Using Arts Practice. Qualitative Research* 16(4): 430-445. [2016] (cited by 14, 198 downloads).

**Impact on partner community organisations:** Kirklees Local TV secured DCLG funding for the Radar programme to train young BAME people to imagine and achieve different futures, following the seminar at NVCO & the DCLG being invited to meet Black Minority Ethnic Communities Voluntary Organisations, Faith Groups, Social Enterprises & Public Sectors in West Yorkshire.

**Impact on policy:** John Connell, civil servant at DCLG and then Cabinet Office who attended the Imagine event at NVCO in March 2016 subsequently events at Kirklees Local TV & University of Huddersfield wrote to Ward: 'I really appreciate your time & being fundamental to shaping the Race Disparity Audit. The session & your views has really helped shape the policy now & going forward.'

## **Annex B: Imagine Advisory Committee members**

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**Note:** Changes to ESRC members Rebecca Fairburn, Christina Rowley (Sep-2014 to Dec-2017), Lyndy Griffin (Jan-17 to Dec-17)