

# Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies

Summary of main data and early analysis

Project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council  
'Connected Communities' theme- AH/L013142/1

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Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

# Overview of the project

## Our project aims

To co-develop and co-explore how a values-focused approach could help conceptualise and evaluate less 'tangible' legacies of collaborative research projects funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Connected Communities programme.

In doing so, the project we aimed to help legitimise ways of knowing that are often marginalised by conventional evaluations, and in doing so, reflect the broader legacies of project partners and participants.

## Our approach

'Starting from values' re-sets the balance and provides a mechanism for understanding and valuing different perspectives. It also gives space and a language to articulate less 'tangible' aspects of project legacies.

## What have we found?

A values-based approach to understanding the legacies of community-engaged research can:

- Unearth 'new' legacies and a deeper understanding of 'known' legacies
- Enhance existing legacies
- Create confidence to articulate broader and deeper aspects of legacies
- Enhance collaborative working within partnerships

## Broader benefits of 'starting from values'

The project led to additional benefits for community partners: energising key members of staff and articulating the values of their own organisations. This has also led to being better equipped to negotiate their role in future partnership work. The project has also inspired partners to develop new projects with values approaches at the heart of design and delivery, and led to new research ideas and practices.



# Findings - Legacies

This first section of findings outlines the *Legacies of Connected Communities Projects* identified and articulated through the project

This includes **rich information about specific legacies** from the projects we worked with. These legacies have been represented through audio-visual production, illustrations and diagrams.

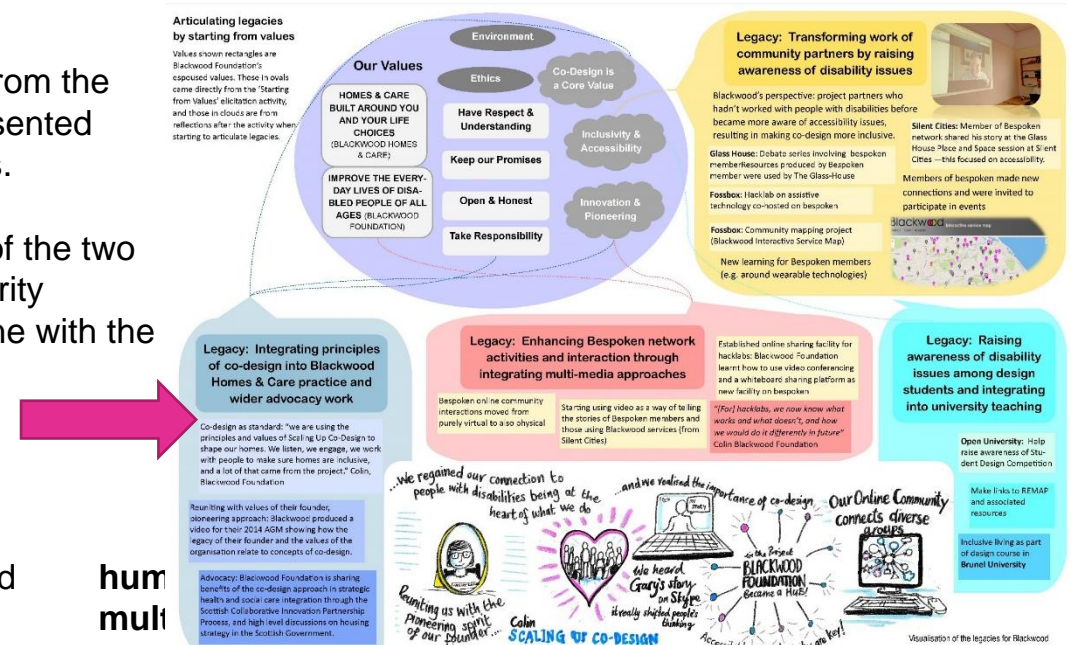
This section outlines detailed representations of legacies of the two case study projects: *Scaling Up Co-Design* and *The Authority Research Network*, and further information about work done with the second phase projects.

Look in boxes

Different levels

In short, we have found that legacies are an interesting and productive area of investigation for understanding the impacts of community-university collaborative research, in particular in the Arts and Humanities. Making values explicit can help to authorise multi and inter-subjective ways of knowing, especially where objective measures are neither relevant nor possible.

In this approach, arts and humanities methods themselves are essential. **We can say that science and social science may have objectively measurable outcomes, but capturing measures of legacy may require arts and**



Additional sections in the report present stand-alone pieces of work on legacies, including the [Project videos](#) and the [Visual capture](#). For the latter, we worked with illustrators from *Endless Possibilities* to visually capture our four iterative reflection, in which we started to articulate legacies, and insights from the values approach.

# Legacies

## Case study: Scaling Up Co-Design.

Scaling up co-design is one of nine co-design and co-production research projects funded by AHRC under the Connected Communities programme. The project focussed on co-design practices within civil society organisations working in different fields (built environment, media, technology), seeking to understand how these practices and their impact on people and society can be scaled up. Its main hypothesis was that by using existing resources and connecting those resources together, partners would be able to create new opportunities for innovation, build their capacity to address complex issues and achieve more for less. It formally ended in June 2014.

As a collaboration between community and academic partners, we investigated legacies in terms of

- The shared values of the entire project team and
- The respective values of four community partners
  - Blackwood Foundation,
  - Fossbox and Flossie,
  - Silent Cities and
  - The Glass-House Community Led Design

On the right is a poster the team produced to represent the most important legacies for the project from the perspective of the project team (view the poster on the project webpage).

The following pages present brief representations of legacies from the same project from the perspective of four different community partners. More detail can be found on web pages hosted by them.

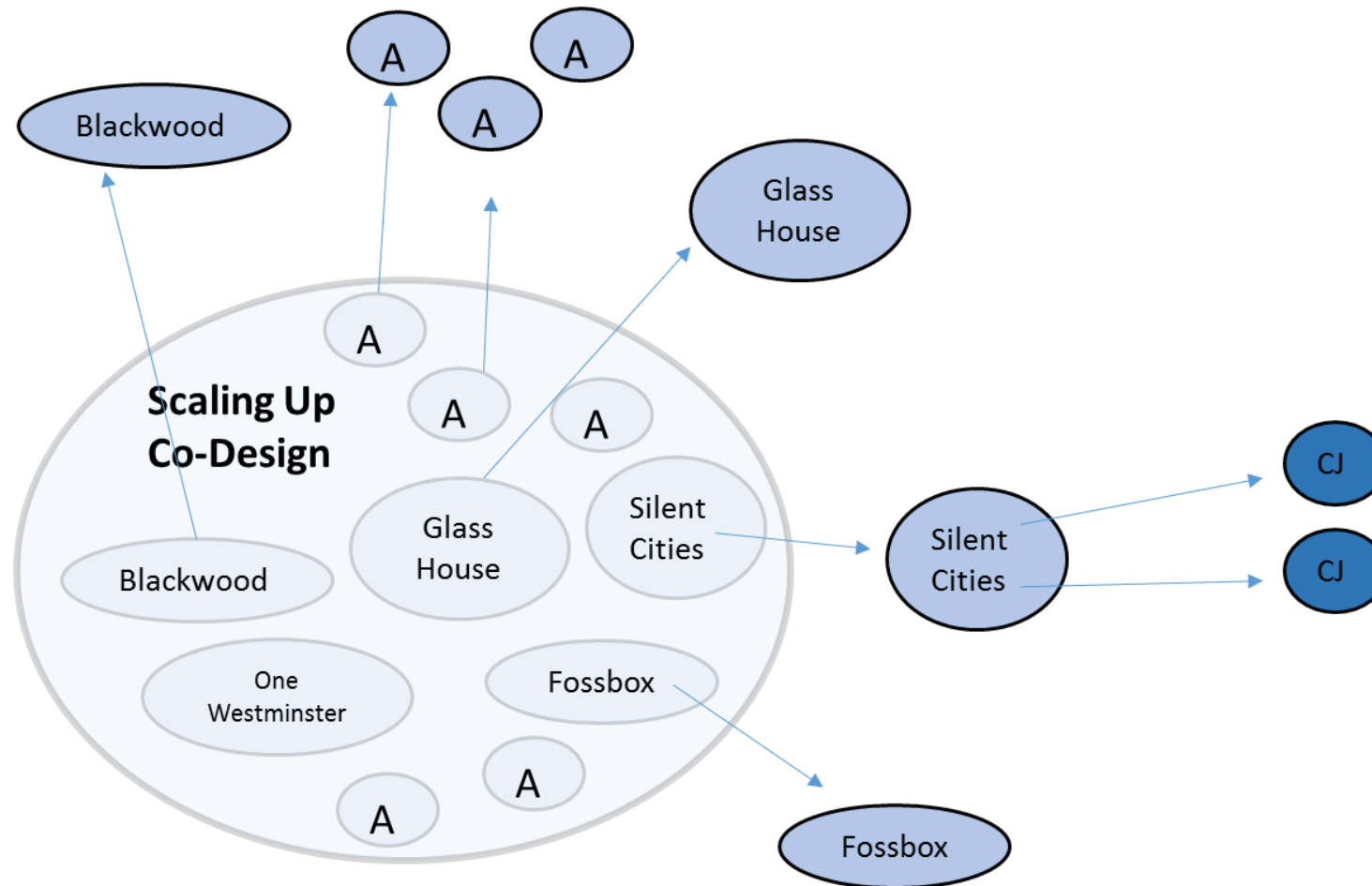


# Legacies

## Case study: Scaling Up Co-Design.

Looking at Scaling-Up Co-Design from across all perspectives

Download full versions of the legacy maps.



**INTRODUCTION**

This poster presents legacies for the Blackwood Foundation from a collaborative research project called 'Scaling Up Co-Design'. These legacies were articulated through a values-based approach: articulating the project partner's values, then legacies from the project. The shift from the left-hand side to the right-hand side shows the change from articulating *outcomes* to articulating *legacies*, the latter contextualised through the lens of Blackwood Foundation's values.

**Prior to the 'Starting from Values' project**

Below are some ideas about legacies or impacts from Blackwood Foundation's involvement in *Scaling Up Co-Design* before the 'Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies' project began.

Making new connections: for instance working with The Glass-House Community Led Design in the future .

New connections and new ideas: Blackwood Foundation made a good link with community journalists (Silent Cities) "it gave us new ideas about how to interact with our 120 housing associations across Scotland" Colin, Blackwood Foundation

Members of the bespoke network who made new connections and were invited to participate in events

New learning: e.g. around wearable technologies - how to have an online *hacklab* and link a virtual community with a live discussion event, identify issues and reflect on how to do things different in the future.

Impact on other partners: members of the group who hadn't worked with people with disabilities before became more aware of accessibility issues (for venues etc.). This has contributed to making co-design more inclusive.

Resources produced by a bespoke member were used by Glass House

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

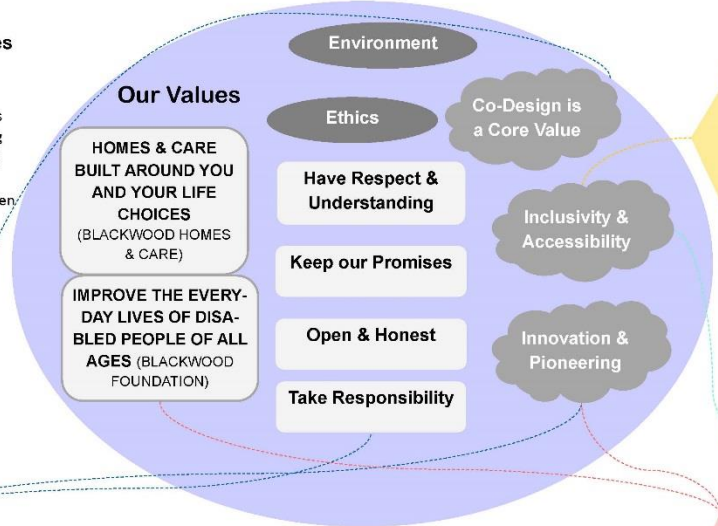
Investigating legacies through a values lens enabled the Blackwood Foundation, through the experience of Colin Foskett, to:

- Enhance the impacts of the Scaling Up Co-Design project by providing a space to reflect on its impact on Blackwood Foundation as an organisation and partner
- Identify new important values for Blackwood Foundation
- Articulate these through four key legacies which also include illustrative and audio-visual material.

*'Starting from Values made the impacts a bit more precise, to unpack our involvement in the Scaling Up Co-Design project and mapping it to our values has been important.'*  
Colin, Blackwood Foundation

**Articulating legacies by starting from values**

Values shown rectangles are Blackwood Foundation's espoused values. Those in ovals came directly from the 'Starting from Values' elicitation activity, and those in clouds are from reflections after the activity when starting to articulate legacies.



**Legacy: Transforming work of community partners by raising awareness of disability issues**

Blackwood's perspective: project partners who hadn't worked with people with disabilities before became more aware of accessibility issues, resulting in making co-design more inclusive.

**Silent Cities:** Member of Bespoken network shared his story at the Glass House Place and Space session at Silent Cities —this focused on accessibility.

**Glass House:** Debate series involving bespoke memberResources produced by Bespoken member were used by The Glass-House

**Fossbox:** Hacklab on assistive technology co-hosted on bespoke

**Fossbox:** Community mapping project (Blackwood Interactive Service Map)

New learning for Bespoken members (e.g. around wearable technologies)

Members of bespoke made new connections and were invited to participate in events

**Legacy: Integrating principles of co-design into Blackwood Homes & Care practice and wider advocacy work**

Co-design as standard: "we are using the principles and values of Scaling Up Co-Design to shape our homes. We listen, we engage, we work with people to make sure homes are inclusive, and a lot of that came from the project." Colin, Blackwood Foundation

Reuniting with values of their founder, pioneering approach: Blackwood produced a video for their 2014 AGM showing how the legacy of their founder and the values of the organisation relate to concepts of co-design.

Advocacy: Blackwood Foundation is sharing benefits of the co-design approach in strategic health and social care integration through the Scottish Collaborative Innovation Partnership Process, and high level discussions on housing strategy in the Scottish Government.

**Legacy: Enhancing Bespoken network activities and interaction through integrating multi-media approaches**

Bespoken online community interactions moved from purely virtual to also physical

Starting using video as a way of telling the stories of Bespoken members and those using Blackwood services (from Silent Cities)

Established online sharing facility for hacklabs: Blackwood Foundation learnt how to use video conferencing and a whiteboard sharing platform as new facility on bespoke

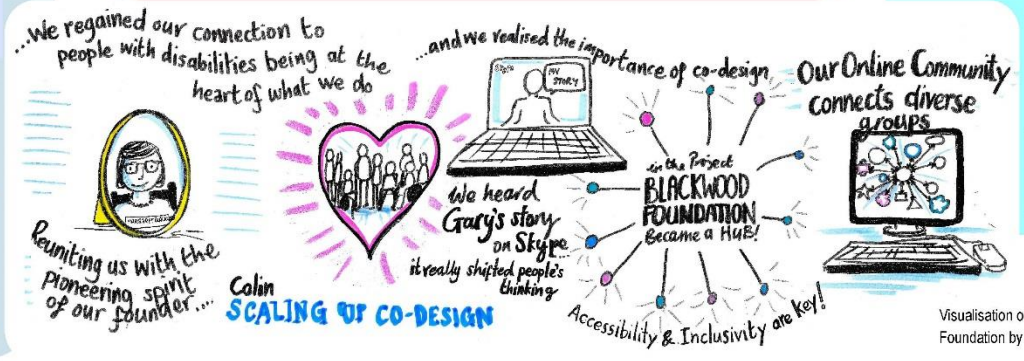
*"[For] hacklabs, we now know what works and what doesn't, and how we would do it differently in future"*  
Colin Blackwood Foundation

**Legacy: Raising awareness of disability issues among design students and integrating into university teaching**

Open University: Help raise awareness of Student Design Competition

Make links to REMAP and associated resources

Inclusive living as part of design course in Brunel University



# Legacies of the Scaling Up Co-Design project for Fossbox - starting from values.

## INTRODUCTION

This poster presents legacies for Fossbox CIC from a collaborative research project called 'Scaling Up Co-Design'. These legacies were articulated through a values-based approach: articulating the project partner's values, then legacies from the project. The shift from the left-hand side to the right-hand side shows the change to articulating contextually defined *legacies*, through the lens of Fossbox's values.

### Prior to the 'Starting from Values' project

Below are some ideas about legacies or impacts from Fossbox's involvement in *Scaling Up Co-Design* before the 'Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies' project began.

Prior to the project, the director of Fossbox identified that the main legacies of the project were:

- Social capital
- Networks
- Making contact with people

In addition, the following aspects were identified:

Staff learn new methodologies, keep up with current work and are in a very enriching environment

Being able to speak about topics and issues that otherwise would not be pertinent

Collaborative projects add value to Fossbox's work

Collaborators can access new and different skills

These themes are found again in the articulation of legacies, but with much more depth, and importantly for Fossbox, clearly linked to the organisation's values rather than just the experience of those members involved in the project.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

The process of starting from values to examine legacies brought a method and approach that transformed their understanding and approach to evaluation, and the value of identifying legacies from collaborative research projects.

*"It was a revelation to be able to do an evaluation in a way that matched the aims and methodologies of our actual projects. It felt like it was opening up the project and brought out different ways that we saw taking it forward"*

*"The values approach is opening up new projects. In addition to identifying legacies, it's also been a process of building on the legacy, going forward into new things."* Paula, Fossbox, Flossie

### Articulating legacies by starting from values

Fossbox sought to integrate the values elicitation into their organisational strategic development. Through this, they identified eight core values, portrayed in the centre. By starting from values Fossbox moved to more clearly identifying the legacies of Scaling Up Co Design—and other projects—that were valuable to participating members as well as Fossbox as an organisation

#### Legacy: Social capital, including growing networks and reputation

Developing and expanding networks, and thus the ability to access resources and power

Fossbox director invited to speak at OpenTech conferences 2014 and 2015

*"I was offered an Honorary Fellowship at Kingston University, who are interested in innovative technology training programmes."* Paula, Fossbox

The organisation has been invited by the Software Sustainability Institute to partner with their 'Women in Software' Programme to restart Flossie for 2016



Flossie gained in reputation and popularity through Scaling-Up activities, in UK and EU (leading to participation in international events with Open society Foundation for example)

Enhancing reputation and popularity, enabling association with more powerful actors and institutions

Invited to tender for consultancy work relating to The Creative Cultural Exchange Hub

Working with universities and museums repairs the lack of credibility of 'women in technology'.

Fossbox director invited to apply for a Creativeworks residency at the British Library's knowledge quarter

Fossbox was invited to run a research collaboration design workshop at Creativeworks women's networking event, 2015, based on the Scaling-Up approach.

Involvement in Scaling-Up was a factor in Fossbox's successful bid for a residency at Queen Mary University of London in 2013

*"We were invited to participate in a 10-day event funded by the Open Society Foundation to empower women human rights campaigners from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America to use technology more effectively and to cascade. This actually ended up building our own confidence as female technology trainers, expanded our contacts, built our profile in this area and was a major inspiration for our big-data privacy design workshop programme."* Paula, Fossbox and Flossie



### Our Values

Innovation contributes to positive social outcomes

People are more important than profit

Use of open design and technologies are prioritised

Every individual participant is treated fairly and their needs taken into account

Sustainable Technologies are prioritised

Fossbox' knowledge is open access

Women are empowered to use technology confidently

Technology design follows the needs and purposes of communities

### Legacy: Space for reflection: internally and externally with new partners and new ideas

Scaling Up helped Fossbox think about their strategic direction and how to differentiate themselves. The research brings added value that is very difficult to point on the balance sheet. It provided space for making connection and having new ideas, new propositions.

A space to talk about different ideas than the day to day job.

OSMSmart Wheelchair accessible navigation project with Blackwood Foundation: an idea to smartphone on-board sensors to collect data on terrain and obstacles for wheelchair users and upload it automatically to a map navigation for accessibility routing.

The collaboration with Blackwood begun in Scaling Up led to a second mapping project with a stronger base in evidenced community needs:

- (a) care workers spending a much shorter time with clients, due to travel time being included in the hour now allocated per client;
- (b) lack of community awareness of local resources for older people and people with disabilities. Fossbox built a pilot resource map to prove the concept and we are now building a fully interactive map which will allow communities to upload data about resources and allow Blackwood to match care workers geographically, reducing their travel time and enhance care.

*As a result of the stalling of the Open Street Maps Smart Wheelchair Accessible Navigation project developed with Blackwood Foundation in the Scaling-Up project, we thought about, discussed and desk-researched issues around data privacy relating to 'big data'. Democratic deficit in 'big data' is now a key area for new work, and we have already run two pilot workshops."* Paula, Fossbox and Flossie

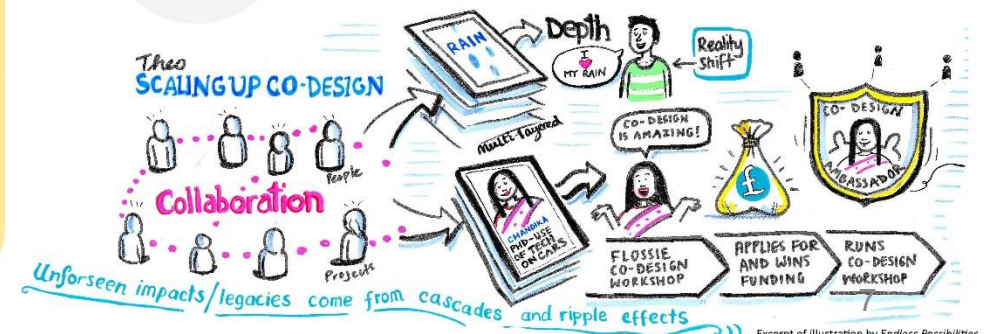
### Legacy: Developing skills and confidence

Professional development Inspiring individuals (women) to integrate co-design in their practice

*"I learned new methodologies, keep up with work that's being done, it's a very enriching environment."* Paula, Fossbox

Volunteers stated participating in Flossie workshops built their confidence

*"I had been feeling isolated in my computer science course, since attending the Flossie workshop I am more confident in my knowledge"* Flossie volunteer



## INTRODUCTION

This poster presents legacies for Silent Cities, a Sheffield social enterprise, from a collaborative research project called 'Scaling Up Co-Design'. These legacies were articulated through a values-based approach: articulating the project partner's values, then legacies from the project. The shift from the left-hand side to the right-hand side shows the change from articulating outcomes to articulating legacies contextualised through the lens of Silent Cities' values.

## Prior to the 'Starting from Values' project

Below are some ideas about legacies or impacts from Silent Cities' involvement in Scaling Up Co-Design before the 'Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies' project began.

Following the Scaling Up Co-Design project, Silent Cities proposed an approach based on co-design to develop the 'Age Better' Lottery funding bid for Sheffield, and ran all the co-design events during this process. The bid was successful and the Sheffield consortium was awarded a £6 million Lottery grant.

Community Journalists gained valuable experience, CV enhancements and references through their participation in the project, and all of them have subsequently found new jobs and/or volunteering opportunities.

Silent Cities has been approached by community organisations requesting media work, and has been commissioned by a housing association to capture legacies of projects. A lasting partnership has been built with the Glass-House Community-Led Design.

Scaling Up Co-Design has brought changes and improvements to practice: Justine was inspired by academic collaborators to take an action research approach and think about how Silent Cities works.

Capturing the learning from specific co-design activities (e.g. in the form of toolkits), and building that into future projects.

Sense of responsibility for sharing knowledge and practice more widely — 'spreading the word' about co-design and co-production.

Improvement in the financial sustainability of Silent Cities.

## Articulating legacies by starting from values

Silent Cities identified nine core values by reflecting on what made its projects and activities special, with the help of testimonials from satisfied clients. This provided the starting point for a participatory mapping exercise, in which Justine (the founder and CEO of Silent Cities) worked with a member of the research team to identify legacies of Scaling Up Co-Design that could be linked to the nine values.



Right: Values-legacy map for Silent Cities (first draft)

### Legacy: A community of practice for Silent Cities—new connections, stronger networks, and lasting partnerships

Scaling-Up project expanded Silent Cities' networks, and created connections between people who wouldn't otherwise have connected.

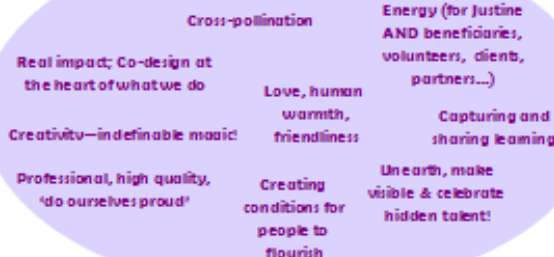
Silent Cities now frequently asked to capture media for other community organisations: the 'ripple effect' from Scaling-Up is bigger than Justine anticipated!

Community journalists have made videos for South Yorkshire Housing and social charities, e.g. 'Neighbours Can Help' and 'Seniors to Bridges'.

Lasting partnership with Glass-House Community-Led Design.

New Silent Cities isn't just capturing media but also offering other services e.g. training in co-design and co-production, and media ~~capture~~ training — new revenue streams, hence more financial sustainability.

### 'SILENT CITIES' VALUES



Deeper friendships led to greater energy, and greater energy led to Justine physically being able to deliver the Community Journalism programme...

### Legacy: Silent Cities' learning about co-design is captured and shared in new arenas

Silent Cities used learning from Scaling-Up to develop a co-production 'boot camp' for a social enterprise called Zest. Through the boot camp, Zest staff learned about new tools that they could use for capturing stories. Zest staff gained confidence... and changed the culture of the organisation, bringing in more of a co-design focus.

### Legacy: Confidence to talk about co-design in authoritative ways, and succeed in a highly competitive bid process

Inspired and energised by Scaling-Up, Silent Cities proposed an approach based on co-design for Sheffield's 'Age Better' Lottery funding bid.



Age Better £6 million Lottery bid granted to Sheffield! (Partnership of 11 organisations)

40+ organisations in Sheffield have agreed to implement the co-design-based toolkit; 43,000 toolkits will be disseminated.

Silent Cities' tools, methods, strategies and training have become more creative as a result of the Scaling-Up project (this was reflected in Age Better bid and contributed to its success).



The Scaling-Up project has raised the profile of Silent Cities and Justine as 'experts' in co-design.

### Legacy:

ENERGY to carry on (for Justine)  
"We're still here!"

### Legacy: People who were once 'silent' have discovered hidden talents in Community Journalism, and used these skills to change their lives and others'



El has an Occupational Therapy job, Ezzie has a fashion internship; both have expanded their own networks and made new contacts.

El has used skills she learned in Scaling-Up to develop a Drama and Media course for patients in the medium secure psychiatric hospital where she now works as an occupational therapist.

Ezzie's new connections AND confidence led her to speak at a 'Youth Can Move the World' webinar hosted by the ~~Age Better~~ Foundation—inspiring youth worldwide, including Romanian high school students, into social action.

El has developed, and is using with clients, a training resource for the Audacity software package.

Ezzie has been invited to be a partner on the ~~Age Better~~ Foundation's Arts Council bid 'domestic wellbeing', leading the textile design strand and helping with digital media work.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

"Starting from Values has left a useful legacy on Silent Cities, as we now have a set of values articulated that we can use to inform who we work with in future (which ones we work for free, for example)." Justine, December 2014

"One of the values that 'Starting from Values' unearthed was the legacy of friendship, which was really important to me from the Scaling-Up project on a personal transformative level... it reminded me what was important to us as a social enterprise." Justine, April 2015



## INTRODUCTION

This poster presents legacies for The Glass-House Community Led Design from their partnership work in a community-university collaborative research project called 'Scaling Up Co-Design'. These legacies were articulated through a values-based approach: articulating the organisation's values, then identifying legacies of the project from this perspective.

This work was carried out as part of the 'Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies' project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the Connected Communities theme. The Glass-House was a community partner on this project.

## ARTICULATING LEGACIES

The points below outline some of the outputs of the Scaling Up project identified by The Glass-House. Through further exploration and the adoption of a value lens through which to view their outcomes, The Glass-House articulated a series of project legacies against a shared set of values. This led to a deeper understanding of the legacies of the project and helped the organisation to see the difference between outputs and legacies.

- The Glass-House is a collaborator in the Empowering Design Practices project, which builds on partnerships developed in Scaling-Up project (recently funded)
- Being part of the project reiterated that our work and techniques can add value in other arenas and gave us new opportunities to do so
- The Glass-House shifted their outlook on how to scale up the reach and impact of their work
- The Glass-House staff evolved a resource booklet developed in Scaling Up to create a new resource for use with young people on another project.
- New creative media outputs developed work of community journalists and young people, exhibited at the Royal College of Art during Design Week 2014.
- Design Masters' students from Brunel University were inspired to be more inclusive in their design practices.
- Community journalists who worked with The Glass-House became negotiators of conversations around space, something that they had not done before.
- School students in Elephant and Castle developed confidence and skills to articulate ideas for a new open space in development in their neighbourhood.
- A client has started seeing collaboration differently: realising they can achieve CSR through partnership
- Scaling-Up partners Silent Cities and the Blackwood Foundation became local partners for the Glass-House Debates Series

## COMMENTS AND BENEFITS

The Glass-House integrated the values lens into their organisation and developed a values framework that they have since used to guide decision-making processes and evaluate legacies of other projects. You can see their full journey illustrated on The Glass-House website ([www.theglasshouse.org.uk](http://www.theglasshouse.org.uk))

"At the beginning we were very much a community support organisation. People now see us as an organisation rooted in very clear principles and values - what we're trying to achieve in broad terms rather in target terms. That's been very interesting to see. This values framework we have developed helps us articulate that difference." Sophia de Sousa, The Glass-House

"It allowed a richer, deeper assessment, reflection on learning we have achieved through the project" Maja, The Glass-House

"There is light and shade in values: looking from the values allowed us to see that not everything was white and perfect, sometimes things don't work, it's messy" Lucia, The Glass-House

"It was interesting to take the values and play those out, pushing, asking for us to think again, opening things up...it prompted us to think through things" Louise, The Glass-House

### LEGACY: We recognise the value of investing in working in open and honest ways

We have developed lasting relationships that continue to open new doors

Relationships were developed because we invested in investigating how we work together and were very honest.

Scaling Up partners Silent Cities and the Blackwood Foundation became local partners for The Glass-House Debates Series

Developing the cross-pollination model, reciprocity that builds on existing work

### LEGACY: Collaboration brought about shifts in our approaches and practices

The project reiterated that our work and techniques can add value in other arenas and gave us new opportunities to do so (e.g. Brunel University)

Scaling Up gave us the space and opportunity to cast the net wider, opened up new interactions. (e.g. media in placemaking)

Scaling Up provided us with more evidence on the value of using 'place' as a frame for developing diverse skills.

We have integrated 'cross-pollination' as a workshop and set of resources (e.g. in Greece for Comparative Asset Mapping project October 2014; Connected Communities Festival workshop 2014)

We have built in new evidence-gathering tools into our processes and new projects (e.g. in Empowering Design Practices project)

We have since built on our work with young people, using some of the tools and approaches developed in Scaling Up to develop collaborative work with other researchers and clients.

GH staff evolved a resource booklet developed in Scaling Up to create a new resource for use with young people on another project.

We co-designed a new project on young people and placemaking that built in careers development and media skills.

We brought artistic production into our placemaking work in new ways—as a tool to support learning—and created opportunities for outputs to be shared and celebrated as works of art in their own right (e.g. young people's media projects exhibited at the Royal College of Art during Design Week 2014).

Refocus on using sensory and emotional connection with place as a tool to support placemaking and developing workshop resources to support it



### OUR VALUES

Integrity in our approach: we practice what we preach and we are consistent

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do

We learn through doing, and share what we learn

Our work affects change, and contributes to improving people's lives through place

We are flexible and organisationally lean

Quality is embedded in everything that we do

We embrace diversity and inclusion in people and places

Empowerment is at the heart of what we do

### LEGACY: We went from 'partnership' to 'co-design' as a model

We gained a greater awareness of the subtleties of partnership work.

We co-designed the Empowering Design Practices project, which brings together faith, heritage, design and media organisations, and built on our learning to give us a more empowered role in the project

Looking through the lens of values has helped us think critically about how we work with other projects and organisations.

### LEGACY: We shifted our approach to scale, reach and impact

Participation in the project supported the development of our strategic partnership with The Open University.

We now recognise, enable and celebrate different ways of scaling up the impact and reach of our work—in our strategic thinking and in our practice.

Refocused and better articulated Glass-House strategic model: change in delivery targets and internal evaluation tools

### LEGACY: Fostering co-design champions and ambassadors

Design Masters' students from Brunel University were inspired to be more inclusive in their design practices.

Work with The Glass-House enabled Community Journalists to become negotiators of conversations around space, something that they had not done before.

"The impact on the people we worked with touched me and enabled me to grow, to reconnect with aspects that were important to me before my life at Glass-House" Louise, The Glass-House

SCALING UP CO-DESIGN



# Legacies

## Case study: Authority Research Network

The Authority Research Network (ARN) is an expanding research collective which engages with questions of authority, positive power, political subjectivity and experience through developing strong social theory and links with practice. It was initiated by a group of doctoral students and members collaborate through conceptual retreats and joint projects.

In order to carry out activities for the legacy project, six members of the ARN spent five days on a five-day research retreat in August 2014. Rather than working on a single shared project, this retreat offered an opportunity to work on smaller collaborative projects. With the luxury of five days, the exercise could be divided into several sessions:

- (1) Initial briefing – introduction to project (Monday lunchtime)
- (2) A walk and talk values elicitation exercise (Monday afternoon)
- (3) A diagramming values elicitation exercise (Tuesday afternoon)
- (4) Using the 'WeValue' proto-indicator list (Wednesday afternoon).
- (5) Identifying legacies and evidence (Thursday afternoon)

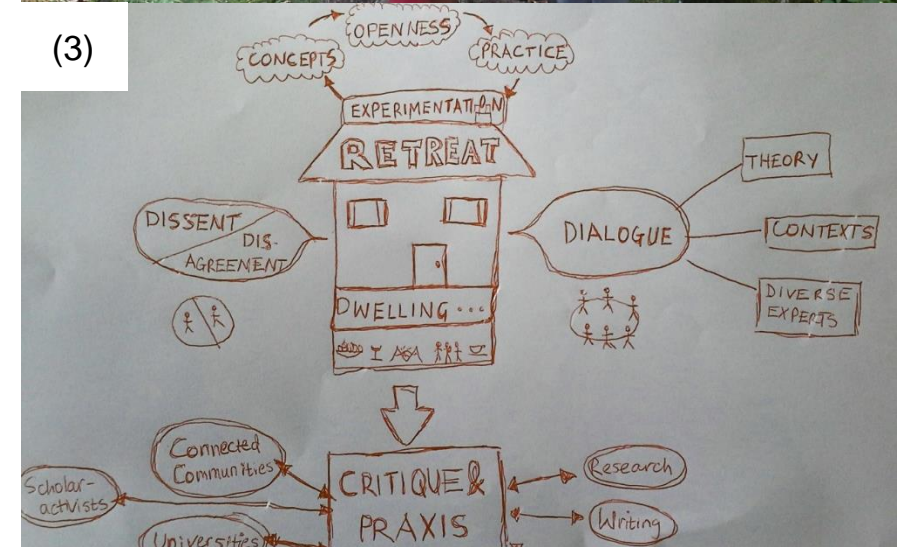
Being able to break down the exercise into a number of smaller sessions meant they could take all necessary time, and could stop and continue if concentration was waning or further discussions were needed.

After this process, the legacy project team worked on bringing together evidence and representing ARN's values and key legacies from their collaborative work to date. You can find out more on the [ARN website](#).

(2)



(3)



(4)



# ARN Authority Research Network - Who we are, and the legacies of our community-engaged research...so far

## OVERVIEW

This poster presents values central to the Authority Research Network and legacies from joint research projects funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Connected Communities' theme that were led by network members. This work was carried out through the 'Starting from Values' project (2014-15).

**LEGACY: Friendships, building possibilities of friendship as a way of doing academic work**

- Research retreats as a method

Experiments with living out new, joyful relationships between life and work

*"The trust we have in friendship is something that is enabling [...] particularly of thought, creating this ability for thought, and creative thought, and deep thought"*  
Claire, University of Warwick

**LEGACY: Contributing new methodologies and theory for co-produced research**

Community engagement using concepts and methodologies developed by network members

Activist work—Members of the network have been supported to engage in activist work on commons movements in Bolivia and El Salvador, as well as in their home countries.

A number of ARN members have gone on to use methods and concepts developed during the ARN retreats:

- Patrick Bresnihan is working on co-produced research on water commons movements in Bolivia.
- Sam Kirwan is using co-production methodologies on his project on citizens advice bureaux.
- Tehseen Noorani is working on co-produced research on drugs and experiences of mental health in Baltimore, USA.
- Julian Brigstocke is developing experimental ways of 'collaborating' with unborn generations in his work on urban futures in Cardiff.
- Claire Blencowe is exploring the role of religion in the politics of participatory democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa.

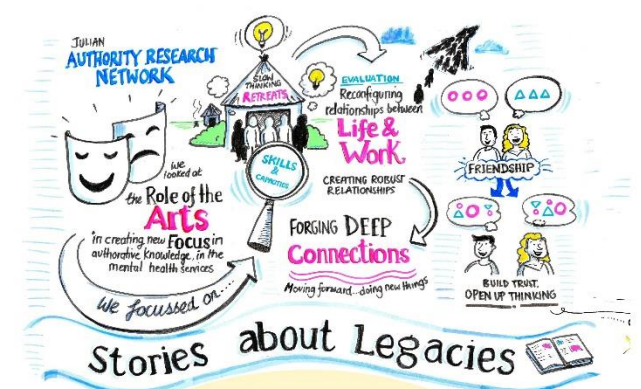
**LEGACY: Rigorous theorising and practice around questions of authority, participation and the commons**

- Academic publications
  - Journal articles
  - Special Issue in Journal of Political Power
  - Edited books: Kirwan, S., Brigstocke, J. & Dawney, L. (eds) (forthcoming) *Space, Power and the Commons*, London: Routledge; Blencowe, C., Brigstocke, J. & Dawney, L. (eds) (2014) *Authority, Experience, and the Life of Power*, London: Routledge.
- Freely downloadable and open-access publications
  - Contributing to debates, events
  - Special debate hosted in Open Democracy magazine, online newspaper *The Struggle for Common Life*

**Founding of ARN Press** - a not-for-profit publishing organisation set up to produce books of accessible, attractive books at cost price (or free e-books).

*"We published of a short book - Problems of Participation. It's been interesting: it wasn't very hard to make, but people really like it, we keep on getting requests for copies."* Julian, Cardiff

*Problems of Participation: Authority, Democracy, and the Struggle for Common Life* (2013) - over 7000 downloads



**WHO WE ARE**

The Authority Research Network (ARN) is a research collective spanning the UK, Ireland, USA and Brazil. We engage with questions of authority, positive power, political subjectivity and experience. As a research network, we work collaboratively through conceptual retreats and research projects, as well as working alongside colleagues from other organizations and conducting our own research.

Experimental attitude towards research and knowledge

Creativity is valued

Our values

- Resisting superficiality and creating deep, lasting connections and collaborations
- People celebrate nature and the wider community of life (human and non-human)
- ARN contributes to the thinking and practice of equality and the making of the commons

**LEGACY: creative outputs linked to areas of academic enquiry, valued by researchers and artists**

- ARN projects have resulted in a number of creative methodologies and outputs.
- Collaboration with artists
- Impact on artists
- Academics have developed new skills in creative (academic) writing

Sound art—Artist Sara Bowler developed a sound piece capturing elements of the retreat.

Digital life—For the Participation's Others project, Matthew Olden created a new digital lifeform, who proved little help in enabling us to answer the questions that were troubling us.

Music - As part of the Participation's Others project, musician Jo Collinson Scott wrote a song responding to the 'voice of the other'.

Creative engagements with landscape—As part of the Participation's Others project retreat, artist Sara Bowler facilitated a series of creative engagements with the landscape of Lynmouth. Claire Blencowe, Rachel Liebert and Julian Brigstocke developed 'elemental' ways of thinking and asking the landscape questions and listening for answers.

A 'psycho geography of the future' is also planned for April 2015

**LEGACY: Forging deep connections: a lasting and growing network**

- Collaborating with new communities and organisations
- Collaborations with academics

Community arts groups: Including *Stepping Out Theatre Company*, *Mad Hatters of Bath*, *Hearth Centre*, and *Prometheus Community Theatre*, as well as several independent artists, have acted as consultants and contributed creative methods and formats to ARN events and research

Soil, Seeds and Social Change network, co-initiated by network member

Sam Kirwan and Leila Dawney on community resilience and advice, e.g. Citizens' Advice Bureau

Partnership with community organisations in the Bronx, New York

New partnership with Bolivia Democracy Centre

City of Sanctuary community reading group

# ARN Authority Research Network - Starting from values to articulate legacies of Connected Communities projects

## INTRODUCTION

This poster presents the legacies of joint research projects led by members of the Authority Research Network (ARN), funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Connected Communities' theme. We present results from using a values-based approach to identifying and articulating legacies which was carried out in the 'Starting from Values' project (2014-15).

## Before 'Starting from Values'

Prior to the 'Starting from Values' legacy project, the ARN did not have a specific way of articulating impacts of projects in terms of the network as a whole.

Academic outputs were more easily identifiable:

- Publication of a short book (*Problems of Participation*).
- Special Issue in the *Journal of Political Power*

Some members could identify what they sensed were important impacts of projects, for instance:

- The short book "wasn't very hard to make, but people really like it, we keep on getting requests for copies. [We're not sure] why that's gone down so well" Julian, Cardiff University, March 2014
- Being part of the ARN network has had a profound impact on their own research;
- The network has been developing new ways of thinking about issues of authority;

As well as connections made with community partners and organisations, and influences on practices:

- Network members have been using ways of thinking developed by the ARN in community engagement work;
- Work with the UK Citizens' Advice Bureau;
- Working with mental health service user groups - developing the project 'Immanent Authority and the Making of Community';
- Working on food security in El Salvador: linked to other Connected Communities projects that ARN members are involved in

*'So much of this [evaluation work] is so technocratic and positivist, and doesn't really articulate at all the value of a lot of [our work], so you need to be more imaginative about it, [how to use] different creative methods [in the evaluation].'*  
Julian, Cardiff University, March 2014

## LEGACY: Friendships, building possibilities of friendship as a way of doing academic work



### • Research retreats as a method

Experiments with living out new, joyful relationships between life and work

*"The trust we have in friendship is something that is enabling [...] particularly of thought, creating this ability for thought, and creative thought, and deep thought"*  
Claire, University of Warwick



## LEGACY: Contributing new methodologies and theory for co-produced research

### • Community engagement using concepts and methodologies developed by network members

A number of ARN members have gone on to use methods and concepts developed during the ARN retreats:

- Patrick Bresnihan is working on co-produced research on water commons movements in Bolivia.
- Sam Kirwan is using co-production methodologies on his project on citizens advice bureaux.
- Tehseen Noorani is working on co-produced research on drugs and experiences of mental health in Baltimore, USA.
- Julian Brigstocke is developing experimental ways of 'collaborating' with unborn generations in his work on urban futures in Cardiff.
- Claire Blencowe is exploring the role of religion in the politics of participatory democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Activist work**—Members of the network have been supported to engage in activist work on commons movements in Bolivia and El Salvador, as well as in their home countries.

## LEGACY: Rigorous theorising and practice around questions of authority, participation and the commons

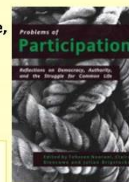
### • Academic publications

Special issue in *Journal of Political Power* - Edited books: Kirwan, S., Brigstocke, J. & Dawney, L. (eds) (forthcoming) *Space, Power and the Commons*, London: Routledge; Blencowe, C., Brigstocke, J. & Dawney, L. (eds) (2014) *Authority, Experience, and the Life of Power*, London: Routledge.

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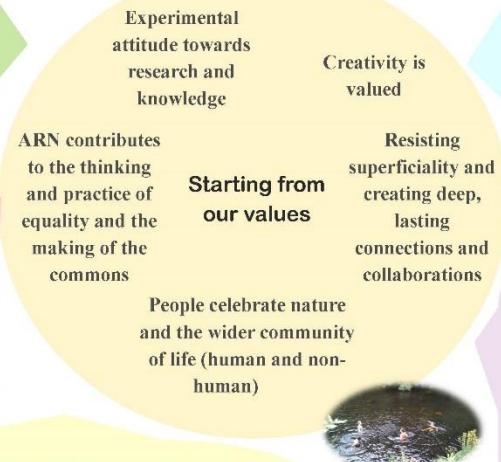
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*"We published of a short book - Problems of Participation. It's been interesting: it wasn't very hard to make, but people really like it, we keep on getting requests for copies."* Julian, Cardiff University

### • Newly funded research projects

*The Voice of the Other* (June 2015); *Emergent Authorities and the Experience of Power* (2016)



## LEGACY: creative outputs linked to areas of academic enquiry, valued by researchers and artists

### • Collaboration with artists

**Music** - As part of the Participation's Others project, musician Jo Collinson Scott wrote a song responding to the 'voice of the other'.

### • Impact on artists

**Academics have developed new skills in creative (academic) writing**

A 'psychogeography of the future' is also planned for April 2015

### • ARN projects have resulted in a number of creative methodologies and outputs.

**Sound art**—Artist Sara Bowler developed a sound piece capturing elements of the retreat.

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## LEGACY: Forging deep connections: a lasting and growing network

### • Collaborations with academics

Soil, Seeds and Social Change network, co-initiated by network member

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New partnership with Bolivia Democracy Centre

### • Collaborating with new communities and organisations

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Partnership with community organisations in the Bronx, New York

City of Sanctuary community reading group

## CONCLUDING REMARKS ON USING A VALUES APPROACH TO EXAMINING OUR LEGACIES

Starting from values allowed members of the ARN to articulate impacts from different projects in terms of the network, rather than individual projects. This poster presents a snapshot view, but shows how the values approach allowed ARN members to think about these in terms of legacies of their involvement in the Connected Communities funding programme.

The legacies approach allowed the ARN to identify new and deeper dimensions of existing known impacts, but also, and crucially, to value impacts that they had not previously thought authoritative enough to claim, or even had time to articulate.

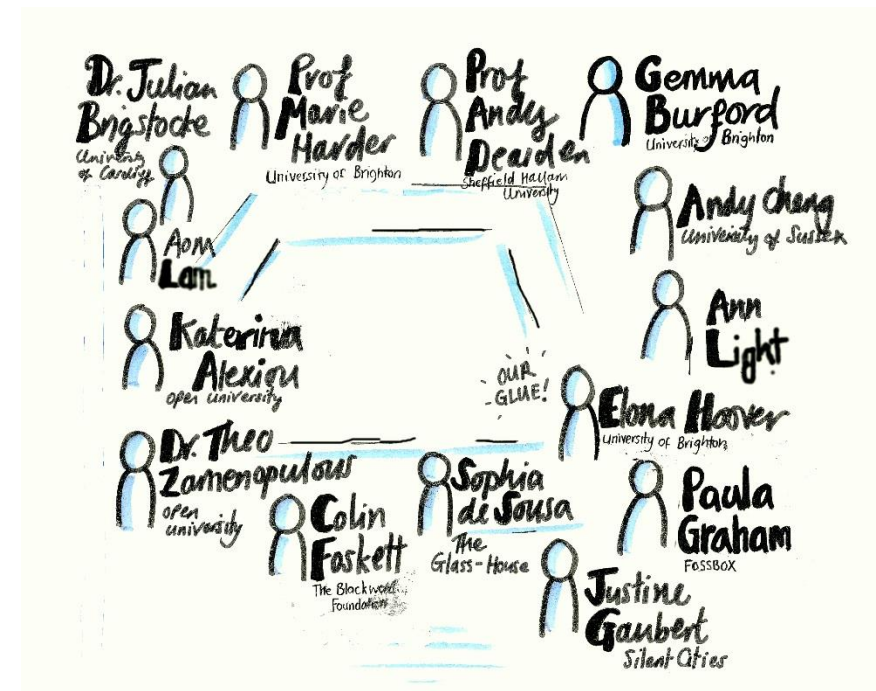
*"Starting from values helps to remind ourselves in the face of all the other pressures to speed up, to get stuff out there quickly, that we are producing strong work, making lovely deep relationships. It's been an incredibly productive exercise in helping us do that."*  
Leila, University of Brighton, April 2015

# Project team

**Project partners** - Prof. Marie Harder (PI), Dr. Julian Brigstocke, Dr. Katerina Alexiou, Dr. Theodore Zamenopoulos, Justine Gaubert, Colin Foskett, Sophia de Sousa, Paula Graham, Elona Hoover and Gemma Burford

**Advisors** - Prof. Ann Light, Prof. Andy Dearden, Mr. Andy Cheng, Prof. Andrew Church and Dr. Busayawan Lam

**Informal collaborators** - Louise Dredge, Leila Dawney, Tehseen Noorani, Claire Blencowe, Naomi Millner, Sam Kirwan, Paddy, Lucia das Neves, Maja Luna Jorgensen, Hannah Goraya, El Veasey, Faiza Omar, Chandrika Cycil, Emma Plouviez, Andy Gosler, Karen Park, Felice Wyndham, David Nathan, Ada Grabowzka-Zhang, John Fanshawe, Heidi Fletcher, Ian Hargreaves, Hannah Scarbrough, Tyler Mears, Firooz Firoozmand, and Ceri Davies.

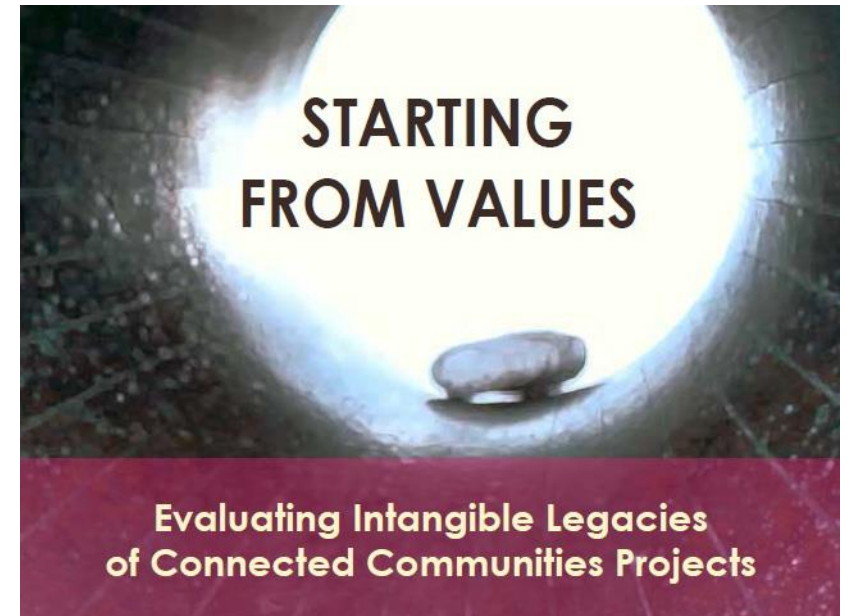


# Project videos

**Video 1** - Introducing the 'Starting from Values' project



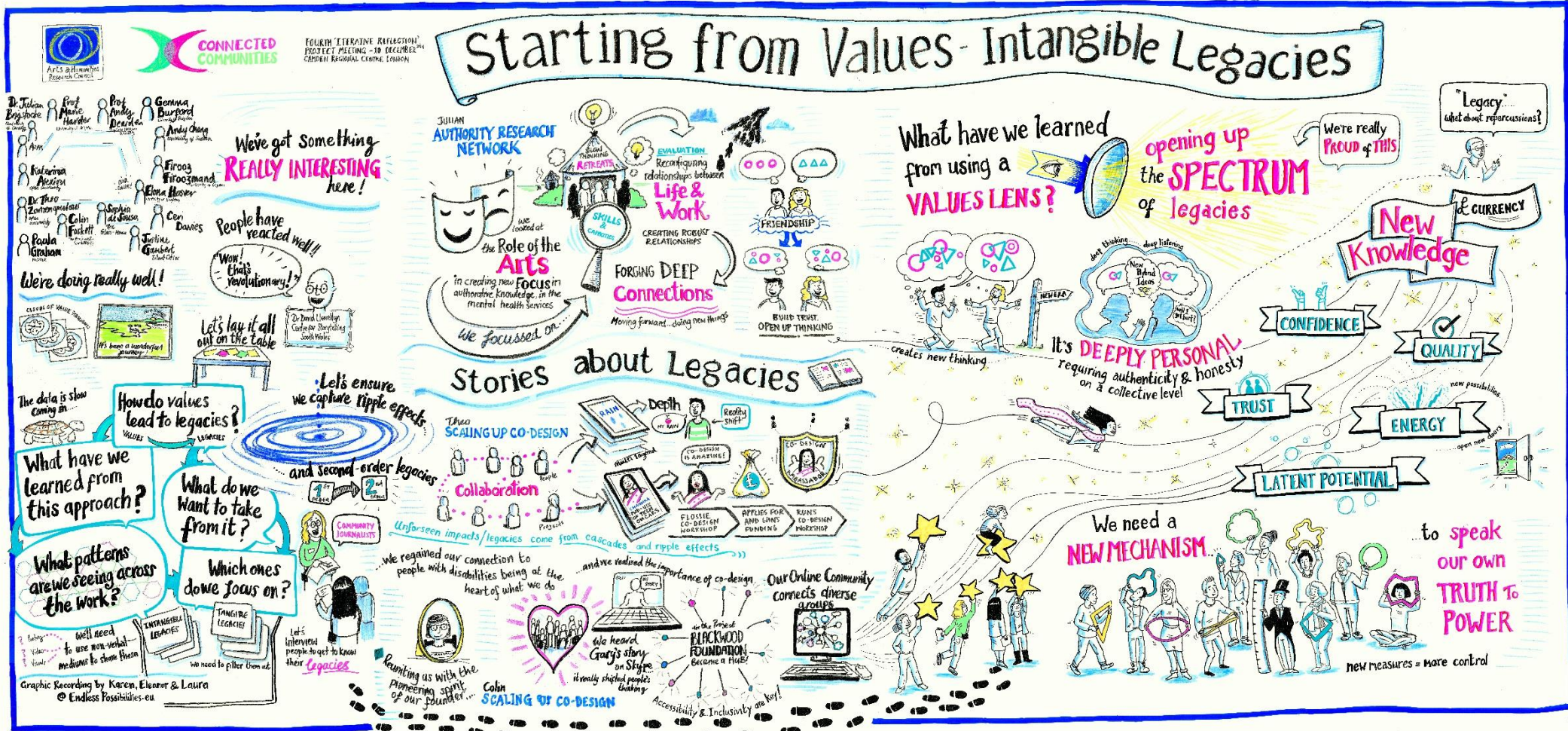
**Video 2** - What we have learned by 'starting from values', and where next



Videos produced by Justine Gaubert, Silent Cities (Community Co-Investigator)

View the videos on the [project website 'videos' page](#)

# Visual capture



Visual capture by *Endless Possibilities*. Download the full-size version on the [project website](#).

# Other outputs

## Book chapter

This project is one of seven 'legacy' projects funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

All of these projects have been working on developing a co-authored book entitled **Researching in Public: Contested Origins, Live Debates & Emerging Legacies for Collaborative Research**, edited by Keri Facer and Kate Pahl.

The project team has contributed a chapter about the 'Starting from Values' project. The book should be published in 2016.

## Policy brief – to come

**Starting from values in community-university partnerships**  
Investigating legacies of Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Connected Communities' projects.  
Contributor: Paula Graham, The Glass House Community Lead Bristol

**Why investigate project and partnership legacies through a values lens?**  
Investigate legacies through a values lens to understand the value of the project and partnership beyond the project's end. This helps to identify the long-term impact of the project and partnership, and to ensure that the project and partnership are designed to be sustainable and to have a lasting impact.

**Step #1:** Elicit values of community partner orgs to understand legacies.  
Researcher (AHRC) → **Starting from Values** → **Community Partner Orgs**

**Step #2:** Elicit values of community partner orgs to understand legacies.  
Community Partner Orgs → **Starting from Values** → **Community Partner Orgs**

**Step #3:** Co-design approach to explore legacies of other connected communities projects and beyond.  
Starting from Values → **Connected Communities** → **Starting from Values**

## Conference presentations

Poster presented by The Glass-House at the **Engage 2014** conference in Bristol, UK.

Presentation about the project presented by Paula Graham from Fossbox at the **CU2 Expo** conference in Ottawa, Canada, May 2015.

**Step 1. ELICIT VALUES AND LEGACY INDICATORS FROM TWO COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY PROJECTS**

**The process:** The process involved eliciting values and legacy indicators from two community-university projects. This was done through a series of workshops and interviews with project partners and researchers.

**Outputs - legacy indicators:** The process resulted in a set of legacy indicators that were used to measure the impact of the projects. These indicators were developed in collaboration with the project partners and researchers.

**Reflections:** The process of eliciting values and legacy indicators was a challenging but rewarding experience. It allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the values and legacies of the projects and to develop a set of indicators that were meaningful to the project partners and researchers.

**Step 2. ELICIT VALUES OF COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGS TO UNDERSTAND LEGACIES**

**The process:** The process involved eliciting values from community partner organizations. This was done through a series of workshops and interviews with project partners and researchers.

**Outputs - Organizational values linked to legacy indicators and evidence:** The process resulted in a set of organizational values that were linked to the legacy indicators. These values were developed in collaboration with the project partners and researchers.

**Reflections:** The process of eliciting values from community partner organizations was a challenging but rewarding experience. It allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the values and legacies of the organizations and to develop a set of indicators that were meaningful to the project partners and researchers.

**Step 3. CO-DESIGN APPROACH TO EXPLORE LEGACIES OF OTHER CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PROJECTS ...AND BEYOND.**

**The process:** The process involved exploring the legacies of other connected communities projects. This was done through a series of workshops and interviews with project partners and researchers.

**Reflections:** The process of exploring the legacies of other connected communities projects was a challenging but rewarding experience. It allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the values and legacies of the projects and to develop a set of indicators that were meaningful to the project partners and researchers.

## Shifting authority in the evaluation of community-university partnerships

Paula Graham Gazzard, Fossbox CIC

Findings from 'Starting from Values - Evaluating Intangible Legacies' Project funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council





# Showcase event, London, 30 April 2015

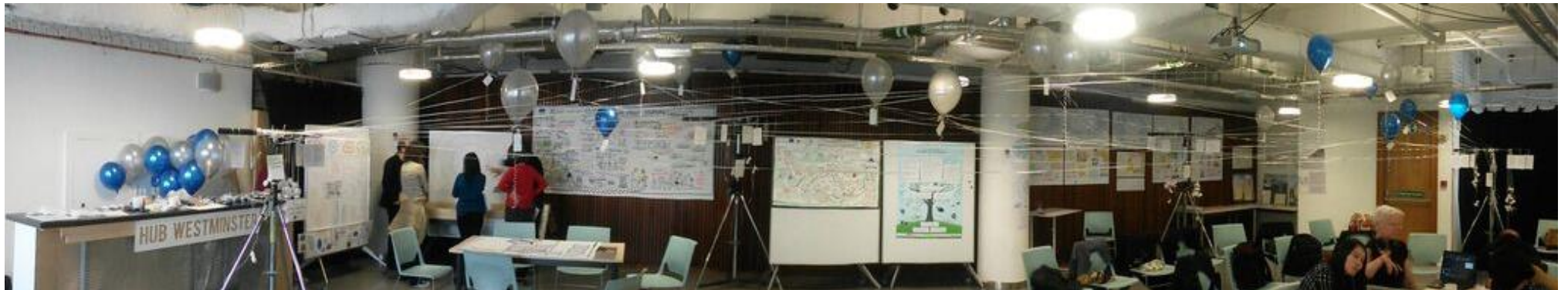
The showcase event for 'Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies' was held at the Impact Hub Westminster, London.

The event was opened with two workshops facilitated by Professor Marie Harder and Elona Hoover. In addition to providing a general overview through the project videos and a PowerPoint presentation, these sessions offered an experiential introduction to the project by asking participants to reflect on the differences between 'outcomes' and 'legacy' for a project they had participated in, and to relate the legacy to their values. Values-based statements ('prompts') from the project, printed on small cards, were used to broaden thinking and stimulate discussion.

Following the introductory sessions, a number of Project Co-Investigators hosted their own mini-workshops in which they presented specific methods and techniques that they had developed, including mind-mapping, the use of digital technologies, and the creation of a physical artefact to represent values and legacies as in the *Empowering Design Practices* project.

The final session of the event was a plenary discussion in which possible futures for the values-based approach were discussed. Potential new applications included neighbourhood planning, 'future cities' work, a Living Landscapes project, and evaluation of community development investment. A key challenge highlighted during the discussion was the time investment necessary for values-related approaches to legacy, and how to communicate the benefits to people who have not yet experienced them.

In addition to the scheduled workshops and discussions, The event also provided a space for the dissemination of project outputs in visual formats. These included the preliminary versions of the 'Evolving Legacies' maps which are included in the findings section of this report, and the 'Drawing Out Values' art work, as well as the 'visual capture' created by *Endless Possibilities* from the December 2014 Iterative Reflection meeting.



# Art installation, “A song of tethering: bestowing legacies from values”

Project adviser and artist Andy Cheng (in consultation with Elona Hoover and Gemma Burford) devised a dynamic three-dimensional art installation as a centrepiece for the ‘Starting from Values: Evaluating Intangible Legacies’ project showcase event in April 2015.

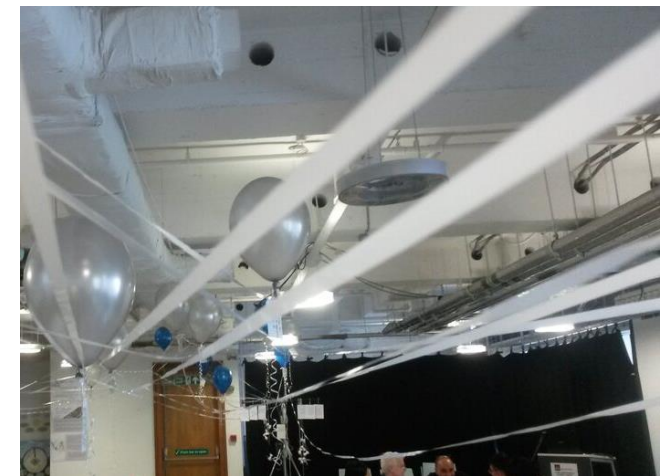
The installation, entitled “A song of tethering: bestowing legacies from values”, was based around four metal stands used as tether points, to which ribbons with inflated helium balloons could be attached. Three of these tether points displayed cards with values-related statements from the project, clustered around specific theme: *Creativity and Innovation*, *How We Work Together*, and *‘Making a Difference’ in Society*. The fourth, labelled *Anything Else...?*, was deliberately left undefined in order to encourage the articulation of other types of value statements.

Each participant was invited to think of a legacy from a project in which they had been involved, write it on a label, and attach it to either a blue helium balloon (if they regarded the legacy as broadly ‘tangible’) or silver (if they viewed it as ‘intangible’). The balloon was then connected to one or more tether points (up to a maximum of three), using thin ribbons, in accordance with the participant’s perception of its relatedness to the respective sets of value statements.

This interactive installation provided a vehicle for engaging participants in debate and exploration of ‘values’ and ‘legacies’, in a format which surpassed the confines of logical rationalism and access aesthetic and subjective expressions of understanding. It can be viewed as a three-dimensional sculptural essay featuring several interlocking themes and concepts, including insights from human neurology; notions from complexity theory (utilising iterations of simple rules to work through an instability and confusion. to allow a state of stability and elegance to emerge); and the utilisation of spatial modality to enhance the symbolic expression of connection and disconnection between articulated legacies and diverse concepts of values, evoking a sense of festivity and ritual union appropriate to the closure of the project.



Visualisations of human neurons



Images of the installation

The End

Thank you!

