At the University of Warwick, we are excited to share details of some of our projects relating to Coventry City of Culture.

We are connecting people and places through our work to enhance and accentuate the cultural importance of our city and its residents. We want to stimulate and promote research excellence that makes a positive impact in Coventry.

We hope that this guide will help the City of Culture Creative Producing Team identify research projects that they would like to interact with, and act as a catalyst for further collaborative research.

Please feel free to contact any of the researchers mentioned in this guide and/or our dedicated City of Culture Research Development Officer, India Foster via email or on 02476 522 491.
Mental Health and Wellbeing: We possess a unique combination of experts in psychiatry, obesity, public health, sleep, cardiovascular health, youth mental health, psychology, social sciences and community paediatrics, as well as a new cross-faculty Centre for Mental Health and Well Being.

Digital Humanities: We unite the strongest arts and humanities departments in the country with academic technologists with expertise in a range of technical fields. We are currently collating a number of projects and datasets related to Coventry and the City of Culture 2021. Many of these will become digital maps and trails for people to explore the history and culture of Coventry, from the history of Coventry’s cinemas, politics and industries to biographies of Coventry residents and maps of the stars above us.

Community, Safety and Rights: We run projects examining Human Rights Education and Implementation, access to justice and how cuts to civil legal aid affects vulnerable groups. Our Criminal Justice Centre comprises one of the strongest groups of criminal justice scholars in the UK, whilst our Centre for Operational Police Research focuses on organisational and individual behaviour in policing, as well as the legal regulation of criminal investigations and suspects’ rights, with a large number of police forces as partners.

Environmental Humanities: This is a diverse and emerging cross-disciplinary research area that investigates the complex relationships between human activity (cultural, artistic, economic, and political) and the environment. Analysing and addressing environmental issues requires an understanding of the relationships between nature, culture, sciences, social sciences and humanities.

Cultures of Work and Inclusive Growth: Our Institute for Employment Research has more than 30 years’ experience in researching the labour market and its relationships with the wider economy. It has strengths in employment, work and gender, and has undertaken numerous projects on the future of work and inclusive economic growth. Warwick’s Centre for Lifelong Learning has also been established for more than 30 years, and offers a range of flexible study options, with more than 1,000 local adults currently engaged in learning. In addition, Warwick Business School has a rich and extensive history of collaborating with policy makers, the healthcare sector and charities, in order to ensure organisations are embracing the future of change and creating a fairer world.

In this document, you’ll discover some of our current research projects under the themes of a Caring, Dynamic and Collaborative city.
COVENTRY: A CARING CITY

Coventry is a city where many of our staff and students study, live and work. A place many of us call home. A place that we care about.

The University of Warwick has thriving research centres related to this theme. For example, Centre for Human Rights in Practice, works with Coventry Women’s Voices, the Coventry Law Centre and Coventry Citizen’s Advice Bureau to produce Coventry specific reports such as the ‘impact of benefit sanctions on people in Coventry’. The Centre for the Study of Women and Gender assisted with this report looking at the impact of cuts upon Women in Coventry. Our Centre for Operational Police Research considers research areas such as Stop and Search Disproportionality and Factors Affecting Domestic Abuse whilst working with West Midlands Police.

Warwick has other related research centres such as the Institute for Employment Research which considers areas such as work-life balance. We have growing research groups in Mental Health and Wellbeing and a network of active student and staff volunteers.

We have developed a range of research projects that highlight and support the caring role of our city. From projects working with asylum seekers and refugees, to creating public art with homeless young people, we are committed to supporting the city and its people across a range of issues.
Coventry has welcomed and helped resettle several hundred refugee children and their families in the past few years. This research project provides a case study of a Coventry school’s involvement in this process of resettlement by working with refugee and migrant children from the Middle East and North Africa attending this school. Researchers will utilise the data to support the work that schools (more generally) undertake with the children in the city. This is part of ongoing research with refugee children through the Positive Youth Foundation (PYF), an agency supporting children and young people in Coventry.

The researchers have previously worked with creative arts and community organisations to explore the process of social identity formation in adolescent Syrian refugees. They are also helping to assess the educational needs of refugee and migration children that are attending PYF. Through this collaborative approach with PYF, researchers hope to identify key focal points of assistance within a broader city based network of statutory and non-statutory support for recent migrant children.

The project is a collaboration with the Positive Youth Foundation, Dr Michael Wyness and Monireh Partovi, (Centre for Education Studies, Warwick), Dr Annamaria Pinter (Applied Linguistics, Warwick) and Professor Sheena Gardner (Applied Linguistics, Coventry).

For further information, please email Michael Wyness.

‘NEW MIDLANDERS’ SELF-REFLECTIVE PHOTO ARTWORKS WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Through a series of guided workshops, asylum seekers and refugees have developed self-reflective photo artworks.

The creation of self-reflective photo artworks and testimonials from people fleeing persecution allowed researchers to explore how photography can engage with and support communities. The project highlighted how photography can help bridge cultural divisions, and conveyed critical issues facing refugees in the UK.

This was a collaborative venture with Darryl Georgiou (Art and Design, Coventry University), Tarla Patel (International Student Office, Warwick), Dr Harbinder Sandhu (Warwick Medical School) and colleagues at Coventry Peace House.

For further information, please email Harbinder Sandhu.

IDENTITY AND RESETTLEMENT AMONG YOUNG REFUGEES IN COVENTRY

Coventry has welcomed and helped resettle several hundred refugee children and their families in the past few years.

This research project provides a case study of a Coventry school’s involvement in this process of resettlement by working with refugee and migrant children from the Middle East and North Africa attending this school. Researchers will utilise the data to support the work that schools (more generally) undertake with the children in the city. This is part of ongoing research with refugee children through the Positive Youth Foundation (PYF), an agency supporting children and young people in Coventry.

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For further information, please email Michael Wyness.
In England, and across the UK, there is a mounting sense of crisis about language learning.

In this project, researchers aim to understand the implementation of language education within the city of Coventry from the perspective of national policy and local curriculum initiatives over the last 50 years.

Developing language abilities is important for engaging with linguistic and cultural diversity, and language education makes an important contribution to the cultural life of a city or country. It is therefore useful to understand how engagement with diverse languages has been promoted within language education from a historical perspective. This project aims to create a positive impact on languages provision, both in Coventry and more widely. The findings of the project can be used to support schools in developing their local language education policies and approaches (such as through workshops for school leaders) and can contribute to future policy development (such as through a policy briefing paper).

For further information, please email Richard Smith.

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**RECLAIMING COVENTRY CANAL FESTIVAL**

Reclaiming the Coventry Canal Festival will unite Coventry’s vulnerable communities to symbolically reclaim the canal - a unique element of the city’s industrial and environmental heritage. The project will involve outdoor activities co-ordinated by local artists and organisations to illuminate the canal’s historical, environmental and cultural heritage. Special attention will be given to traditionally under-represented communities and the values they attach to waterways.

After the festival, attendees will move to the waterway to symbolically take to the canal while local artists perform from the top of a barge along the canal. This is a collaborative project involving Coventry University, Coventry Peace House, Sergio Ruiz Cayeula (Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University) and Alastair Smith (Global Sustainable Development, University of Warwick).

For further information, please email Alastair Smith.
SOCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK - ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Tackling social deprivation is central to this research project, which involves a variety of academics exploring social isolation and loneliness. The project aims to raise awareness and understanding amongst urban planners of the effects of social isolation and the need for social urban spaces.

As part of this project, David Jenkins and Kimberley Brownlee (Philosophy, University of Warwick) are discussing the possibility of running events in 2021 to engage directly with the people of Coventry to gather ideas on the importance of social rights for health and well-being.

For further information, please email David Jenkins.

HOMELESS MONOPOLY

This project will create a prototype board-game featuring real life testimonies and scenarios of homeless and ex-homeless people in the Coventry area, that will be contributed to through a partnership with Coventry Cyrenians. The game will be piloted with local schools with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging empathy in young people towards issues faced by Coventry’s homeless and street sleepers.

Using co-creative arts methodology and the approach of gamification, Homeless Monopoly will engage Cyrenian volunteers, secondary and tertiary students and research practitioners in a new collaboration, with results presented as a prototype board game and demonstration of a location-based gamified city walking trail. There are ambitious plans to develop this into a large scale game to be played in the streets of Coventry in 2021. Nadine Holdsworth (Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick) is working with Coventry Cyrenians and Jacqueline Ann Calderwood (Disruptive Media Lab, Coventry University).

For further information, please email Nadine Holdsworth.

ROUTE 10

Route 10 is a research and development project focused on health and healing. It is helping to create a new dance theatre work for touring, with potential outreach and community work. The project unites academics from Coventry University and the University of Warwick to develop a programme and explore routes for participation. Local company Mercurial Dance is working closely with Coventry and Warwick academics to develop this exciting and novel approach.

For further information, please email Alan Dolan.

For further information, please email Nadine Holdsworth.
COVENTRY: A DYNAMIC CITY

Coventry’s past, present and future, its education, activism, public spaces and green spaces make it a truly dynamic and exciting city.

At the University of Warwick, we have always encouraged activism and volunteering amongst our staff and students. Our researchers working in this area will focus on diverse topics such as television history, heritage and memory, cultural and media policies, global (including local) sustainable development. We are home to national centres tasked with paving the way for green technological solutions to local, national and global problems.

Our research examines and investigates local history, personal stories of the city, spaces, places and buildings and the history of the city’s representation whilst also looking to the future working on intelligent vehicles of the future and driving innovation in transport, energy, materials and manufacturing.

COVENTRY LIVES

This project will create biographies of Coventry citizens. Stretching from medieval times to the present day, biographies will be generated by a team of researchers and utilise crowd-sourced information. They will be presented on a digital map and timeline and will be tagged to allow communities to curate their own histories.

The research team will source oral histories of local people, with emphasis on hearing how lives can help record a changing city. These histories will be sourced through a combination of targeted interviews and inviting people to upload their own material. Either through 3D modelling or by relating locations on the map to photos and drawings, the team will digitise drawings and photographs of pre-war Coventry to demonstrate how it may once have looked.

The team will also work closely with schools to foster greater awareness of local history. Creative writers will run workshops on biographies and autobiographies, working with pupils, parents and grandparents to add another dimension to project. The research is led by Professor Mark Knights (Department of History, University of Warwick) and Steve Ranford (Digital Humanities, University of Warwick).

For further information, please email Mark Knights or Steve Ranford.
SENSING THE CITY

Scheduled to take place over three years, Sensing the City is a practice-based research project involving a series of site-specific studies of urban rhythms, atmospheres, textures, practices and behavioural patterns in Coventry.

The project will utilise written notes, as well as sound and oral recordings, photography, performance and film and make use of the performing human body as a data-gathering sensor itself, as we hear, see, smell, touch and taste our surroundings. The text, sound and images gathered will be presented at an exhibition at the Herbert Gallery in January 2020, followed by a one-day symposium. The project’s findings will be presented in a format accessible to both the general public and urban planning professionals on the website.

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the project is led by Professor Nicolas Whybrow (Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick) in collaboration with Dr Michael Pigott (Film & TV Studies, University of Warwick), Dr Natalie Garrett Brown (Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University) and artist Carolyn Deby (Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick and sirenscrossing, London).

For further information, please email Nese Ceren Tosun.

LITERACIES FOR LIFE IN THE CITY OF CULTURE

This is pilot project has established Coventry Community Writing Centre, focused on ‘real-life writing’ in the city. The writing centre offers free-of-charge support and feedback on practical writing tasks required for economic and social success. The centre is located in Coventry’s Central Library and opens on Tuesday afternoons throughout June. The project is also collecting examples of official writing—such as formal letters—that people have received, and recording experiences of these writings being unclear or problematic. The research team will analyse these documents, along with people’s experiences of writing, to understand the linguistic and communicative landscape of real-life writing in Coventry. Through the project, researchers hope to instigate new writing practices, leading to a more just and inclusive linguistic and communicative landscape.

Christopher Strelluf (Centre for Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick) and Catalina Neculai (Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University) are working on the project with Coventry Libraries.

For further information, please email Christopher Strelluf.
SCREENING RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

The Screening Rights Film Festival is an international festival of social justice films which is now in its fifth year. The festival came to Birmingham and Coventry in 2018, and featured screenings of some of the most interesting and highly acclaimed new films, as well as post-screening discussions involving directors, producers, writers, activists and experts.

Screening Rights aims to instigate debate on the potential of film to trigger personal, social and political change. Michele Aaron (Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick) is the festival’s Director, and is working to make 2021 its largest and most successful year yet. The Festival will be primarily hosted at Warwick Arts Centre, whilst involving a range of other venues across Coventry.

For further information, please email Michele Aaron.

WINDRUSH STRIKES BACK

In 2017, participatory workshops on environmental justice, climate change, climate debt and reparations for climate justice were held in Birmingham and Manchester. The events featured activist art, speakers and activities for children and families. They united a spectrum of people from different backgrounds to learn and share knowledge and experiences about the Caribbean’s fight for climate justice. Some of the researchers and organisations involved went on to hold a Coventry-based event in July 2018, where members of the Caribbean community gathered for an inter-generational celebration and reflection on the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the HM Windrush.

These public events helped to create an innovative collaborative project entitled Windrush Strikes Back - a collective of activists, academics and engagement practitioners. Windrush Strikes Back held public workshops in Birmingham and Coventry in January 2019. During these workshops, attendees learned how to become ‘Decolonial Detectives’ to help the team research the presence and perspectives of African Caribbean people and their histories, from the Tudors to the Windrush and beyond. This work is ongoing, and includes visits to various locations, such as Birmingham City Library and the Warwickshire archives.

For further information, please email Leon Sealey-Huggins.
TO WALK WITH WATER

Research suggests that the regeneration of water in the city requires new values of culture, creativity and compassion in order to create a more inclusive urban river environment in which young people play a key role. As a result, a project is underway to engage young people in new content creation and storytelling relating to cultural value of the river in Spon End.

Joanne Garde Hansen (Centre for Culture and Media Policy Studies, University of Warwick) and Jana Fried (Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University) are working with Talking Birds and Antitype Films to deliver the project.

For further information, please email Joanne Garde Hansen.

VIRTUAL MEDIEVAL COVENTRY WITH THE HERBERT

Alan Chalmers (WMG, University of Warwick) is creating full multi-sensory virtual environments with the Herbert Gallery. This exciting project will allow the public to experience the three industries of Coventry’s medieval past. The public will experience the sights, the sounds and even the smells of the dyeing, weaving and tanning industries.

For further information, please email Alan Chalmers.

SPON END STORIES

This project is creating a story about Spon End - one of the oldest parts of Coventry. It will encompass local voices to narrate the memories and histories of the people who live, work or simply pass through the suburb. Stories will be collated in a booklet and accompanied with quotes, maps and photos of the area. A launch event is also planned, and we are working with the community to capture real stories and experiences.

For further information, please email Marijn Nieuwenhuis.
wWw is an online portal connecting street life in the cities of Krakow and Poznan in Poland with street life in Coventry. The Polish community in Coventry has particular links to the cities of Krakow and Poznan, and connections between the three cities will be achieved through real time projections onto the window of Theatre Absolute's Shopfront Theatre and similar venues in Poland. wWw seeks to open a live street level conversation between the cities and their citizens, connecting residents of the two countries, as well as establishing connections between people on a local scale. The project is a collaboration between Projekt-Project - exploring site specific projection (School of Media and Performing Arts, Coventry University) - and the AHRC-funded Projection Project, (Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick). Adrian Palka (School of Media and Performing Arts, Coventry University) and Richard Wallace (Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick) are working with Talking Birds and Theatre Absolute as part of this project.

For further information, please email Richard Wallace.

Concrete Cinema is a community-based, cinema-inspired artistic project developed in collaboration with the Coventry Biennial of Art. It unites residents of Coventry’s (in)famous Brutalist buildings—specifically Pioneer House in Hillfields— and their experience, love and hate for the space they inhabit. The project will help deliver creativity to peripheral areas of the city by the establishment of a place-making workshop. This project is a collaboration between Michael Pigott (Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick), Coventry Biennial (Ryan Hughes), and Miriam De Rosa (Centre for Postdigital Culture, Coventry University).

For further information, please email Michael Pigott.

Credit: Richard Nicholson
#THISISCOVENTRY2022:
EXPLORING CULTURAL
LEGACY AND SOCIAL VALUE
OF CREATIVE AND SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES IN THE CITY

This project explores the legacy narrative in the context of Coventry City of Culture. It provides creative and social enterprise organisations in the city with an opportunity to come together to develop and plan a vision for achieving value for their organisations and the communities they serve - beyond 2021.

Dr Haley Beer (Warwick Business School, University of Warwick), Melissa Smith (Feel Good Community) Richard Tomlins (International Centre for Transformational Entrepreneurship, Coventry University) and Gabriela Matouskova (Social Enterprise CIC, Coventry University) are working together on this exciting, collaborative project.

For further information, please email Haley Beer.

COVENTRY:
A CITY OF CULTURES

Since at least Roman times, the land occupied by the modern day city of Coventry has been a cultural crossroads. Its unique character is a manifestation of complex cultural interactions.

The project, which involves Coventry University, the Herbert Gallery and Museum and the University of Warwick, will introduce local schools and the general public to cultural diversity in Roman and Medieval Coventry. Through school workshops, public lectures and online resources (including teaching materials) the project will create a lasting legacy for Coventry City of Culture 2021 and beyond. Paul Grigsby (Classics and Ancient History, University of Warwick) and Daniel Anderson (Centre for Arts, Memory and Communities, Coventry University) are collaborating on this project.

For further information, please email Paul Grigsby.

SHAKESPEARE WUZ
SHAKESPEARE IZ HERE:
THINK-TANKING COVENTRY 2021

This project will gather 12-15 Warwick graduates/associates from across Humanities who are now working in the UK’s creative industries (as writers, makers and producers, but also as administrators, developing business models that support funding bids and investment) for a two-day think tank session. The aim of the session is to explore table proposals for development into a final project deliverable for Coventry City of Culture 2021. The researchers want to open doors to show Coventry’s young people that they belong to Warwick, as Warwick belongs to Coventry.

For further information, please email Carol Rutter.
GHOST TOWN: CIVIC TELEVISION AND THE HAUNTING OF COVENTRY

This project extracts television programmes made in and about Coventry out of the archive, and rescreens them around the city in traditional and non-traditional spaces. The project is initiating conversations about the city’s past, present and future. The project examines the cultural value of the television archive to people living in the city, as well as what Coventry means to its inhabitants and visitors. Dr Helen Wheatley is working with colleagues from the University of Warwick’s Department of Film and Television Studies, a range of non-higher education partners, including Culture Coventry, Coventry Cathedral, the Media Archive for Central England (MACE), Kaleidoscope and the BBC.

VISUAL HERITAGE OF INDUSTRIAL COVENTRY

Helen Wheatley (Film and Television Studies, University of Warwick) and Ben Kyneswood (Sociology, Coventry University) are working with Photo Archive Miners and the local public. This project will scope visual and audio-visual material for future industrial photography exhibitions in Coventry and Italy. The project team will examine the photographic archives of Richard Bailey and Richard Sadler and the broadcast archives of MACE, the BBC, and others to identify historic businesses and industrial activity and use participatory workshops to record the stories, themes and issues that together reveal the working life of Coventry’s past.

For further information about any of the above, please email Helen Wheatley.

THE CITY IN THE BOX, THE BOX IN THE CITY: THE ROLE OF THE TELEVISION ARCHIVE IN CITIES OF CULTURE

This research is closely related the Ghost Town project, and considers the relationship between the television archive and Cities of Culture more broadly. Kat Pearson will be working on this project alongside Helen Wheatley (Film and Television Studies / Centre for Television History, Heritage and Memory Research) and the Media Archive for Central England and Illuminations. The project will result in a doctoral thesis about television and cities of culture, new collaborations and plans for legacy projects for MACE in the city, and a new documentary about the building of Coventry Cathedral for BBC4.
COVENTRY: A COLLABORATIVE CITY

Whilst all of the projects in this guide are collaborative in nature, the following demonstrate particular collaborations with schools, communities, cultural groups and venues such as the Moat House Community Trust, The Herbert Art Gallery, The Belgrade Theatre, Grapevine, Groundwork UK, Wriggle Dance Theatre, New Art West Midlands, Coventry City Council, Foleshill Women’s Training Centre and Highly Sprung Performance Company.

DATABEERS

Databeers is an ongoing series of public engagement events to showcase the data science research performed both at the University of Warwick as well as in the local community, with future events across the West Midlands and Warwickshire. In collaboration with Coventry City Council, University of Warwick’s Federico Botta, Edward Hill and Sophie Meakin (Warwick Business School Behavioural Science Group) take data to local people.

For further information, please email Federico Botta.

‘CAN’T WE DO IT OURSELVES?’

The Coventry Family Health Club was the 1940s dream of GP Dr Kenneth Barlow, who wished to discover if people could plan and build their own self-sufficient community. The ideas behind the Coventry Family Health Club inspired this project’s researchers to encourage local people to think more about healthy eating and how food can help build communities. Sophie Greenway (Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick) and Dr Marina Chang (Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University) collaborated with the Moat House Community Trust to run a series of public events, including film screenings and discussions, in June 2018. Marina and Sophie are keen to continue work on the project.

For further information, please email Sophie Greenway.
MAPPING WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE IN COVENTRY

The Votes for Women campaign was a long and difficult struggle fought by women and men in streets and neighbourhoods across Coventry. The Mapping Women’s Suffrage in Coventry project plots the diverse locations, lives and activities of many unknown Votes for Women campaigners. The project will work with local schools and community groups to help populate the project’s interactive map and provide a rich picture of the history of women’s suffrage in the city.

For further information, please email Sarah Richardson.

‘EATING INTO ELSEWHERE’ AND ‘UNMADE, UNTITLED’ – HOME-HOSTED PERFORMANCES

In 2017-2018 Dr Emma Meehan, Carol Breen (Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University) and Carmen Wong (Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Warwick) collaborated with the Coventry Irish Society and other Irish cultural, sport and social clubs organisations in Coventry to create a series of cook-along interviews exploring experiences of food, identity and belonging among first generation Irish women in Coventry.

Subsequently, a 2018-2019 project entitled Eating into Elsewhere is exploring how we might engage in ‘belonging’ through adaptive cooking practices in an age of globalised migration. Hosts invite participants from their communities to watch performances, mirroring the ethnographic cook-along with interviews with five migrant Coventry cooks.

‘Breakfast Elsewhere’ features an Arabic breakfast dish from the diasporic kitchen of Rola N, who now makes Coventry her home. ‘Unmade, Untitled’ is another related project that engages audiences in ritualistic kitchen practices to tell Carmen Wong’s (University of Warwick, PhD student) auto-ethnographic experience of ‘unbelonging’, where making a meal helps provide a feeling of belonging.

These ‘performances’ are participative and encourage an open dialogue of listening, speaking and cooking whilst being with others and contemplating personal memories. Four community organisers (Belgrade Theatre / City of Culture / Grapevine) will host performances in their kitchens. For further information, please email Carmen Wong.

Image credit: Coventry University
COVENTRY COOKS: COMMUNITY CAFÉ EVENT

This local community food initiative stems from PhD research into childhood obesity across different ethnic groups in Coventry. For migrant families, a paucity of traditional ingredients, unfamiliarity with British produce, a loss of their ‘grow-your-own’ culture and scepticism about taste are all barriers to eating healthily.

Traditional recipes from individuals and community groups in Coventry will be collated and shared, aiming to highlight their nutritional value. The project will also make suggestions for adapting the recipes to readily available British produce and, where necessary, altering it to improve its health properties. Potential outputs include a ‘cook and share’ initiative or a cookery book.

Marie Murphy, Oyinlola Oyebode, Rebecca Johnson (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Coventry University), and Mark Hinton (Community Development Manager, University of Warwick) are working with Coventry City Council Public Health Department and Groundwork West Midlands to deliver the project.

For further information, please email Marie Murphy.

VIRUS HUNTERS

Most people are familiar with the concept of a virus, but it’s a little known fact that viruses actually outnumber every living thing on our planet. What’s more, viruses aren’t visible through a standard light microscope – so how can they be detected? This project is designed to raise public awareness of viruses and bacteriophage (bacterial viruses), and ask salient questions such as How common they are? How do they contribute to antibiotic resistance? How they might be used as disease treatments?

Ian Hands-Portman, Saskia Bakker and Ellie Fletcher (Warwick Undergraduate) (School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick) will work with the Freshwater Habitats Trust to ask 20 local schools to provide water samples from their area. These will be translated into images on the electron microscopes in the Advanced Bioimaging Research Technology Platform at Warwick. Images will be uploaded to Zooniverse (people-powered research website) so that the public can help identify virus types. The results will be used to create a database of water types by postcode and uncover correlations.

For further information, please email Ian Hands-Portman.
TRANSMISSION

Thanks to a collaboration between Jess Rollason (School of Life Sciences, Coventry University), Kevin Moffat (School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick) and Coventry arts organisation, Highly Sprung Performance Company, Transmission is a party. A party with a difference!

Transmission will show and share insights into infection, both viral and bacterial. An innovative mix of lectures, practical demonstrations and dance, the project will equip audiences with a better understanding of the role of science in researching and combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Transmission will immerse audiences of international students from both universities, as well as the general public, in scientific research.

For further information, please email Kevin Moffat.

REIMAGINING WOMEN’S EXPERIENCES WITH LEGAL, POLITICAL AND CIVIL INSTITUTIONS

This project will bring together people from the School of Law, the Centre for Lifelong Learning and colleagues at Coventry University, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Foleshill Centre for Women, Women’s Aid, CRASAC, as well as local artists to explore ideas around a piece or an event on the theme of reimagining women’s experiences with institutions. The institutions involved are the focus of research of those academics who are participating, such as criminal justice (legal), political parties and movements (political), and marriage (civil). Encounters with these institutions, particularly for minority or marginalised women, can be exclusionary, discriminatory or challenging. The idea behind the project is to rethink women’s lived experiences.

The aim of the workshop (likely to be held in June 2019) is to begin planning a collaborative project and outputs. The final project is likely to be performed or exhibited in the Shop Front Theatre Coventry. It will be heavily be shaped by all the participants - and is also likely to involve service users from the organisations involved.

For further information, please email Laura Lammasniemi.
This research project involves developing an interactive dance theatre show in collaboration with children and families from socio-economically deprived areas of Coventry and Leamington Spa. The project knits together arts and science to examine the perception of touch in young children and families, exploring how the subjective and psychophysiological perception of touch changes depending on the environment and emotional relationship of those being touched.

The on-going project, which launched in 2017, is a collaborative venture involving Professor Sotaro Kita (Psychology, University of Warwick) and Dr Sara Reed (Media & Performing Arts, Coventry) working with Wriggle Dance Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre and Coventry Library Service. Results of this project will lead to the creation of a new professional, touring, interactive dance theatre show for 3-8 year olds and their families.

For further information, please email Professor Sotaro Kita.

TRIAL PERIOD FOR THE STUDIO

The Studio Van combines the arts practice expertise of Coventry University with the outreach and participation expertise of Warwick Arts Centre. This innovative project is designed to share the skills and creative thinking approaches vital for our jobs market, civic duties and community building. It accesses hard to reach communities to provide an artistic space in cultural cold spots.

A trial period will ensure that the Studio Van is responsive to the needs of the local community. Dr Vish Roy (Cultural & Media Policy Studies, University of Warwick), Helen Cuthill (Associate Dean, Enterprise and Commercial, Coventry University) and Professor Richard Tomlins (International Centre for Transformational Entrepreneurship, Coventry University) and will be collaborating with New Art West Midlands on the project.

For further information, please email Vish Roy.
AND FINALLY....

We have had so many collaborations with colleagues from Coventry University and local organisations that have enabled Warwick researchers to undertake really exciting projects in the city that we haven’t been able to include them all here.

Over the last few years we have also worked with Coventry’s Foyer and the Coventry Peace House to create mosaic workshops and produce public art with young people aged 16-24 who are struggling with homelessness. Researchers have taken the public on explorations of the cultural oral traditions of Kashmir in the Coventry Muslim community via an event in Coventry Cathedral that showcased poetry and music by the well-known Sufi writer, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh.

Some of our scientists linked up with Coventry Libraries and Schools and ran workshops where attendees used Lego to solve problems. Researchers have worked with Theatre Absolute, Coventry University Social Enterprise CIC and HOPE 4 the Community CIC to provide parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder the opportunity to come together in writing gyms (these are mental work-outs to help get words onto a page) and through the use of art and drama to help parents voice and express the emotional and social challenges that they face and overcome.

We have showcased works of art by Primary school aged children to help raise awareness of climate change and schools that participated could use elements of the competition towards attaining Eco-Flag Status. The results were truly fantastic and the winners received £500 for a school eco-project and lots of arty goodies, presented by the Lord Mayor of Coventry. We’ve had Mary Creagh MP come and join other ‘Green Women of Coventry’ and discuss her passion for environmental protection in a public discussion on International Women’s Day.

The vast majority of the projects discussed in this guide are collaborative, and whilst we have attempted to align them to the City of Culture themes of Caring, Dynamic and Collaborative, you will hopefully appreciate that many straddle multiple themes.

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON.
FUNDING

The majority of the projects featured in this guide have received some or all of their funding from one or more of the following sources:

• **The University of Warwick’s Global Research Priorities (GRPs) of Connecting Cultures, Food and Sustainable Cities**
  Our GRPs respond to complex global problems that can only be tackled through collaborative research excellence. The GRPs unite academics from different disciplines to address some of humanity’s most pressing issues.

• **The University of Warwick and Coventry University City of Culture Open Calls**
  These calls are funded by Coventry University and the Sustainable Cities, Food and Connecting Cultures GRPs at the University of Warwick. The first Open Call was launched in summer 2017, where 13 collaborative projects were funded across both institutions. The 2018 call funded a further 13 projects and built on the work done by initiatives including the Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value, the City of Culture Partnership, and Coventry City Council’s Cultural strategy, these awards invited applications for either the continuation or completion of small-scale work, or for groundwork for larger projects. For information on the third call, please click here.

• **The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)**
  The AHRC is part of UK Research and Innovation, a new funding body that works with universities, research organisations, charities, businesses and government to support a strong UK research environment. The AHRC funds research in arts and humanities - including post-graduate training.

• **The University of Warwick Public Engagement Fund**
  This fund acts as a contribution/pilot fund to support a larger project and is exclusively for the support of Public Engagement with Research.