



# STARTING FROM VALUES

Evaluating Intangible Legacies  
of Connected Communities Projects

What we mean by 'starting from values' is taking what is important to people and organisations in their work as the starting point to evaluate projects.

## Why the values lens?

Projects often involve working with different partners and stakeholders involved, and they will share values, but also have their own.

Evaluating the outcomes of projects

WHQGV WR UHÁHFW WKH YDOXHV RI IXQGHUV  
and what can be easily measured...



This project was born from a shared interest in exploring the legacy of community-engaged research projects through the lens of values.

We started by investigating values and legacies within two different contexts. We did this by co-designing locally relevant values-based approaches.

CASE STUDY . The Authority Research Network  
We investigated... the values of the network  
and legacies of relevant joint projects led by members of the Network.

## Introducing the 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. Members collaborate through conceptual retreats and joint research projects.

Projects in the Connected Communities theme were funded with the aim of building a new interdisciplinary research community and were explicitly theoretical.

They enabled members of the ARN to more effectively connect with academics and practitioners, and move the theoretical work being developed into new domains.

## Whose values? Which legacies?

Members of the network were interested in articulating what is important to them as a collective, and capturing the legacies of multiple joint projects through this lens.

## STARTING FROM VALUES

### What did we do?

The values elicitation process was integrated into a research retreat, which



## WHAT DID WE FIND?

¶ 6 ORZ WKLQNLQJ· LV LQYDOXDEOH DQG LQÁXHQFHV SUDFWLFHV WYBWKQADPQW beyond the Network.

A central part of research retreats, 'slow thinking' opens up spaces to listen to different kinds of thoughts and ideas, engage with different or new kinds of communities - human and even non-human.

“ Valourising the 'slow' is really important... we create these incredibly intensive environments which are really productive and exhausting at the same time but that are also fun, and happy and full of life” Leila, University of Brighton

6 ORZ DSSURDFKHV WR WKLQNLQJ KDYH LQÁXHQFHG \$51 PHPEHUV LQ WKHLU )ULHQGVKLS VKDSHV KRZ ZH GHÀQH RXUVHOY research, teaching and community engagement activities.

“ We've developed a strong toolkit for short practices for getting SHRSOH WR VWRS DQG UHÁHFW RQ WKLQJV LQ GLIIHUHQW ZD\V EHIRUH \RX start discussing them, before you start speaking.” Sam, University of Bristol

Friendship is a key legacy for ARN. Building possibilities of friendship as a way of working and doing work.

Friendship is a condition for doing good thinking and theorising.



## Introducing the Scaling-Up Co-Design project

Scaling-Up Co-Design was funded through the AHRC Connected Communities theme. It formally ended in June 2014.

The project set out to explore how the impact and reach of the work of civil society can be scaled up through co-design practices.

The project involved 6 community partners, 5 academic partners and an independent researcher.

## Whose values? Which legacies?

The focus was to understand the legacies of the Scaling-Up Co-Design project, but from different perspectives.

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

The shared values of the entire project team

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

## STARTING FROM VALUES ... OF THE PROJECT TEAM

### What did we do?

We started by brainstorming

We then used values prompts developed from a previous project

:H DGDSWHG WKHVH WR ÀW WKH FROODERUDW  
research context and ran a second workshop with the project team

:H LGHQWLÀHG LPSRUWDQW OHJDFLHV

:H ÀQDOLVHG ZLWK DQ RQOLQH SROO

### What insights did we gain?

7KH SURFHVV KHOSHG WKH WHDP WR UH DUW

○—————

## STARTING FROM VALUES ... OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Silent Cities

Intangible legacies revealed by the values

OHQV ZHUH HQHUU\ IULHQGVKLS FRQÀGHQFH

and the importance of inspiration and new ideas such as cross-pollination.

“ Deep friendships gave me the  
HQHUU\ DQG FRQÀGHQFH WR W DON  
about co-design in an authoritative way. This enabled me to  
HPEHG FR GHVLJQ LQWR 6KHIÀHOG·V %LJ /RWWHU\ ELG IRU P WR UHGXFH  
isolation and loneliness for older people. The bid was successful, with  
the work on co-design cited as the key factor.” Justine, Silent Cities

### Fossbox

Innovative partnerships and challenge generated new ideas.

“ 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  
GDWD SULYDF\ UHODWLQJ WR ¶ELJ GDWD· 'HPRFUDWLF GHÀFLW LQ ¶ELJ GDWD·  
is now a key area for new work, and we have already run two pilot  
workshops.” Paula, Fossbox and Flossie

“ Developing a values  
framework for our  
organisation has  
provided a practical  
tool to help us all think  
about our work more  
holistically.” Louise, The  
Glass-House

Fossbox also designed and integrated digital tools to their values approach.

The values lens work very  
quick moved from looking at  
the legacies of Scaling-Up





# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED...

Unearthed **new legacies** and **new layers and shades** to existing legacies

Enhanced **legacies** by providing a rigorous approach to deepening our understanding and thinking about next steps

A **new way of conceptualising legacies** as inherently values-based...  
...and an approach for articulating these with **authority and rigour** that **recognises** the absolute need for **creative, arts-based and critical humanities** research and practice.

Built **capacity among project partners** by embedding the 'meta-design' approach.

Several partners have already facilitated the integration of values approaches in ongoing work with other Connected Communities projects:

- Authority Research Network – as a network
- Empowering Design Practices project
- Co-designing Asset Mapping: comparative approaches
- Ethno-ornithology World Archive project

Community partners have led the development of values-based approaches in their own organisations, and **achieved**

**EURDGHU EHQHÀWV**

**New approaches for articulating values** in collaborative projects

# ...INSPIRATION FOR FUTURE WORK

The project has inspired **new areas of research and collaboration**

**...new approaches to teaching and learning**

Are you collaborating with other organisations?

Are you in a partnership project?

Try the list of prompts we have developed for clarifying values in collaborative projects!

Visit the project website (link p.19)



# HANKS

Starting from Values' project team: Marie Harder, Julian Brigstocke, Katerina Alexiou, Theodore Zamenopoulos, Justine Gaubert, Colin Foskett, Sophia de Sousa, Paula Graham, Elona Hoover, Gemma Burford, Ann Light, Andy Dearden, Andy Cheng, Andrew Church and Busayawan Lam.

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From the Scaling-Up Co-Design project

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