



Making Connections: Collaboration in Research and Practice

Making Connections: Collaboration in Research and Practice is a national one-day conference that will be asking 'What Happens When Cultural Institutions and Academics Collaborate?'

Facilitated by the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) and Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) schemes¹, cross-institutional partnerships have become an increasingly popular way of conducting research across a range of disciplines. With an emphasis on interdisciplinary connections and public-facing research, collaborations between non-academic and academic organisations are on the rise. This conference aims to critically explore the benefits, challenges and impact of collaborative research. Through themed panel sessions and roundtable discussion, it will provide an opportunity for those working with museums, galleries and other cultural institutions to explore the dynamics of collaborative partnerships and provide a co-creative space for knowledge exchange.

We invite papers that aim to explore our key areas of **approaches, connections** and **legacies**. What research methods are useful in institutional research? How do you work with and read material culture? What are the implications of being 'embedded' in a museum, gallery or cultural institution? How can researchers balance autonomy with collaboration? How can you take your project beyond the thesis? How can you maintain collaborative relationships and begin new ones? Are the traditional boundaries between definitions of academic and non-academic research still relevant?

We welcome papers from any stage of an AHRC CDA, or a collaborative PhD, as well as from early career researchers who have already completed their PhD. Papers can have either a methodological focus or share empirical case studies relating to collections or practices.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words (max), for papers 15-20 minutes in length, should be sent to Leanne Green (lgreen@iwm.org.uk) by **5 August 2013**.

Please note: We are also interested in receiving proposals for posters in addition to, or instead of, papers if delegates wish to showcase the approaches, outcomes or legacies from their own collaborative research projects. Please email Leanne Green (lgreen@iwm.org.uk) to indicate your interest in submitting a poster (A3) to the conference, and a brief outline of what your poster would contain.

For further details see our website: <http://makingconnectionsconference.wordpress.com/>.

Or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mcconf14.

¹ If you would like to find out more about the AHRC CDA and CDP schemes, please see: www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Pages/Collaborative-Doctoral-Awards.aspx