

Benefits and Challenges of Multidisciplinary Working: Experiences from the Imagine Supported Project

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Benefits and Challenges of Multidisciplinary Working: Experiences from the Imagine Supported Project

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Context

- IMAGINEConnectivity 2013-2014 - SHU funded initiative
- To create interdisciplinary teams who have the potential to attract external funding and to produce outputs which will contribute to the University's research profile.
- Sandpit event September 2013



The Project

Title

History and well-being: an exploration of motives for and benefits of participation in community history

Time

Jan 1st 2014 - 30 June 2014

Team

Alison Twells (History)

Penny Furness (Social Psychology)

Chris Dayson (leisure and community regeneration/urban studies)

Maxine Gregory (Recreation & outdoor economy)

Sadiq Bhanbhro (Anthropology & Public Health)

Sam Smith (Oral historian)

Aim

Bringing multidisciplinary insights to explore the relationship between involvement in community history and well-being.

Outputs

- The final project report
- A summary of findings was uploaded on the South Yorkshire Through Time website
- A joint presentation at the Faculty Research Day in June 2014
 - A presentation in the Imagine Research Cafe 2015
- A peer reviewed paper in People, Place and Policy Journal

Benefits

- Research questions - the way different disciplines are needed to illuminate them -- rather than just focusing on what different historians have said about X.
- More confident - using research produced from different disciplinary perspectives.
- The range of available methodologies - the scope of different disciplines/methodologies
- Helped to develop wider projects on the applications of history.
- Broad range of interests, expertise, research history & perspectives of the team
- Broaden perspectives somewhat - Critical & Historical
- Research skills can be easily transferable between subject areas.

- Communication - primarily contact via email rather than face to face.
- Timescales - completing multi-disciplinary projects where there are a number of different leads, different working styles and differing expectations and different strategic aims and priorities etc.
- Writing for a journal which was outside familiar/comfortable zone.

Thanks

