



**Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum conference 2021
Researching Well - Good practice and ethics in third sector research
Wednesday 17th February 2021 | 9.30am – 2.30pm on Zoom**

Programme

- 9.25 **Join the conference** with the link sent by email
- 9.30 **Welcome by Steven Marwick, Director, Evaluation Support Scotland**
- 9.35 **Morning plenary**
What does ethics mean in practice? Chaired by **Jane Cullingworth, University of Glasgow**
Gayle Munro, National Children's Bureau
Theory vs practice in research ethics within the third sector: some experiences and challenges in the field
DRILL ethics committee members Alison Koslowski, University of Edinburgh and Peter Scott, University of Portsmouth
Supporting researchers working in the third sector
Rebecca Sludden, Public Health Scotland
Learning from implementing an institutional ethics review process
- 10.30 – 10.40 Coffee break
- 10.40 – 11.40 **Workshops**
- 11.40 – 12.00 Break
- 12.00 – 13.00 **Workshops**
- 13.00 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Afternoon plenary**
Putting ethics into practice Chaired by **Steven Marwick**
Consultation on TSRF guide to applying ethical principles
- 14.20 **What have we learnt today?**
- 14.30 Finish

- You have received an email with the links to all sessions and your allocated workshops.
- The main plenary Zoom room will be open throughout the day. If you get 'lost' please enter this room and someone will help you.
- Need a rest? Try our very short 'Pilates at your desk' before we start the conference or during the conference breaks. Links to Pilates sessions are in the email.

By the end of the conference participants will:

- know more about good practice in ethical third sector research
- better understand how to overcome ethical issues in third sector research
- make connections and gain ideas.

Chairs



Conference Chair – Steven Marwick

Steven is Director of Evaluation Support Scotland and chairs the Third Sector Research Forum. Steven previously held policy and research posts for the Community Fund lottery fund and for Scottish Government, and he was a member of the Economic and Social Research Council's evaluation committee.



Chair of morning plenary session - Jane Cullingworth

Jane recently completed a PhD at the University of Glasgow, exploring the relationship between the third sector and the state. She is currently involved in a number of projects at the University of Glasgow, including [The Collaborative](#), an initiative to build the university's relationship with the local third sector. Jane is co-chair of the Voluntary Sector Studies Network, a network that brings together academics and practitioners interested in third sector research.

Speakers

Theory vs practice in research ethics within the third sector: some experiences and challenges in the field - Dr Gayle Munro

Researchers working within the context of the voluntary or third sector are frequently working with populations who present with a range of life experiences and sometimes support needs. Many voluntary sector researchers may combine different roles involving research, policy and practice. Some organisations have privileged 'access' to populations which is unlike that granted in most academic research positions. How does such a research context play out within a sector which does not always have the governance structure in place to provide an ethical sounding board for researchers? Is there more we can be doing across the sector to help ensure a stronger infrastructure for third sector research?

Gayle's presentation will reflect upon some of the challenges faced by researchers in the third sector, drawing on her experience of carrying out research with homeless populations, people with a history of migration, people trafficked into exploitation and children and young people. This session will discuss specific challenges related to the issue of consent, the role of gatekeepers and 'access', research design vs research in practice, the concept of 'harm', interpretation of results and the dual role of researcher/practitioner.



Dr Gayle Munro has worked in research in the voluntary sector, both in the UK and overseas, for nearly 20 years. Gayle currently leads the research and evidence at team at the National Children's Bureau (NCB) where she chairs NCB's Research Ethics and Advisory Group (REAG). Gayle previously managed the research team at The Salvation Army and was also vice-chair of their ethics advisory committee. Gayle has a doctorate in migration studies and has published and delivered training on the challenges of research governance in the third sector.

Supporting researchers working in the third sector: The experience of the Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning (DRILL) Ethics Committee –

Prof Alison Koslowski (Professor of Social Policy and Research Methods, University of Edinburgh) and **Dr Peter Scott** (Senior Lecturer in Employment Relations, University of Portsmouth), on behalf of the DRILL Ethics Committee

Our presentation reflects on the work of the DRILL Ethics Committee. The National Lottery funded DRILL programme (which ran between 2015 to 2020) was established to support a programme of co-produced research undertaken by disabled people's organisations and led by disabled people, across the four nations of the UK. The DRILL Ethics Committee was established in 2017 to provide ethical scrutiny and approval for co-produced disability research projects that had no access to University ethics committees because they did not involve academic partners. The DRILL Ethics Committee reviewed thirteen third sector co-produced research projects supported by the DRILL programme. Today, we reflect on the evaluation of our ethics review processes, including ethical issues such as negotiation of consent, anonymity, accessibility, and confidentiality within the context of co-produced disability research. We consider what wider lessons there may be for independent ethical scrutiny of social research undertaken by third sector organisations.



Alison Koslowski is Professor of Social Policy and Research Methods at the University of Edinburgh. She is also an Honorary Professor at University College London based at the Thomas Coram Research Unit. Her research considers employment and care reconciliation, with particular focus on leave policy. She was the Chair of the DRILL Ethics Committee and is a member and charity trustee of Edinburgh Limb Loss Association.



Dr Peter Scott is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth, where he has chaired the Faculty of Business and Law Ethics Committee since 2016. His research interests include disability and employment and the political economy of employment relations under recent UK and devolved governments. He was a member of the DRILL Ethics Committee.

Learning from implementing an institutional ethics review process – Rebecca Sludden

NHS Health Scotland introduced an ethics review process as part of their Research and Evaluation Governance Framework in 2017/18. The Scottish Government expects all NHS Boards to have a research governance framework in place. We developed a bespoke governance framework, as most of the research studies commissioned and conducted by NHS Health Scotland were out with the remit of the NHS Research Ethics Service. These studies involved social or market research, service evaluation or service development work. In order to ensure proper scrutiny and oversight of this research, we created a mechanism for an internal ethics review through our governance framework. This presentation will reflect on how we implemented an institutional ethics review process and highlight specific issues for others to consider in developing a similar process.



Rebecca Sludden is the Research Services Officer in Public Health Scotland, and previously performed this role for NHS Health Scotland. Her role is to deliver a specialist research commissioning and governance service. She developed a bespoke research governance framework for use in NHS Health Scotland and will soon begin developing a research governance framework for Public Health Scotland.

Workshops

Connections are Key: Unlocking the Heart of Relationships Based Practice

Delivered by: **Rowan Anderson** and **Ffiona Taylor**, (Partnership Drugs Initiative, PDI, Corra Foundation)



The purpose of this workshop is to share the experiences of the PDI team in considering ethical and safeguarding frameworks to help keep both the people participating in the study and the researchers safe. You will get insights into the ethical frameworks behind two pieces of third sector research conducted with children and families affected by alcohol and drugs, and the practitioners who support them.

During the workshop you will get a chance to explore the issues, ask questions about how Corra Foundation overcame the challenges and see some resources to help.

Supporting the peer researcher journey: ethics, safeguarding, and support

Delivered by **Jo Finlay** (Research Manager, Mental Health Foundation), **Dr Pamela Jenkins** (Senior Research Officer, MHF), **Chris White** (Citizenship and Participation Officer, MHF), **Rebecca Johnson** (PhD student, MHF/Glasgow Caledonian University), **Rachel Taylor** (PhD student, MHF/University of Strathclyde)



Part one of this workshop explores issues and ethical questions to consider when embarking on a programme of peer research. Approaches to address these issues and considerations will be illustrated by a range of practical project examples from the Mental Health Foundation. Part two of this workshop will present how approaches to peer research are applied in practice, with an overview of new and developing work.

Getting research heard and used: understanding achieving policy influence

Delivered by: **Dr Sarah Weakley** (Policy Scotland, University of Glasgow), **Nick Bibby** and **Dr Mariola Tarrega** (Scottish Policy and Research Exchange, SPRE)



A key part of our work is disseminating research findings and encouraging decision makers to use them, but how can we do this to maximise influence in an ethical way? In this workshop we'll talk about positioning your research and expertise for decisionmakers at all levels of government and practice, and you'll work together to plan a strategy for achieving influence.

Life as we know it - Participatory Art Practice as Research

Delivered by: **Iain Shaw** and **Lauren La Rose** (Media Education) and **Briege Nugent** (Independent researcher)



An interactive media arts workshop based on the experiences of the Peer Researchers Media Education works with. Utilising Media Education's 30-year experience of working in collaboration with young people, you will be supported to conduct storytelling and filmmaking exercises that we currently use for our creative reports. All training will be provided and no previous media experience is required to attend. For this session you will need a mobile phone, tablet or device you feel comfortable using.

Reflecting on digital youth work research during COVID-19

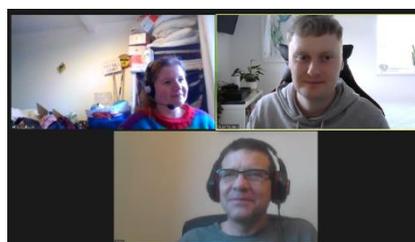
Delivered by: **Dr Amy Calder** (YouthLink Scotland) and **Kelly McInnes** (Northern Star Associates)



This session will explore the use of Transformative Evaluation to examine the impact of digital youth work on young people from LGBT Youth Scotland during COVID-19. This will include reflecting on the process of conducting the research in an online setting as well the wellbeing of the practitioners involved.

Supporting young peer researchers through a COVID-19 research project

Delivered by: **Sean Peacock**, **Jenny Wood** and **Jamie Hamilton** (A Place in Childhood)



At this workshop, you will hear about A Place in Childhood's self-funded research into children and young people's experiences of the first COVID-19 lockdown. We will discuss this before encouraging participants to share their own challenges of commissioning and conducting research. Then, in a breakout activity, we'll ask participants to design their own research projects that respond to a real or imagined crisis for a specific marginalised group. This is an opportunity to discuss best practice in research involving peer researchers and vulnerable groups and share in an engaging learning experience.

Other contributors

Pilates at your desk



I am Amy Robertson, a contemporary dancer and Pilates instructor. Initially Pilates was something I did to complement my dance training and career. Like so many others, it wasn't until recovering from a back injury that I discovered what Pilates could really do for my mind and body. Pilates was the route to pain free movement for me and this is why I chose to train and become a certified Pilates instructor in the hope I could share what regular, varied movement can do for us.

There's no getting away from the desk bound work of today and the challenges it can create. I am excited to take you through some short exercise sequences that will invigorate, energise, stretch and strengthen you from your desk. All of which will hopefully lead to better posture, less pain, improved concentration, more mobility and feeling more comfortable in your workspace.

For more information see Amy's website: <https://www.amymoves.com/>

Photo credit - Darren Bell

General conference information

You will have received emails with important information. These have all the links that you need to access the plenary sessions, workshops and Pilates videos.

Zoom instructions

Please ensure:

- You display your name and organisation/institution name, place of work
- You are on mute
- Your video is on, if you wish
- You select "speaker view" to focus on the speaker and "gallery view" to see everyone
- You use the chat function if you want to ask a question. When asking a question please prefix with 'Question for

We will record the speaker presentations and upload on the TSRF website. We will take some screenshots of the conference plenary session. If you do not want to be seen please tell us in the chat function.

Zoom buddies – what are they?

Zoom buddies will be hosting the zoom meetings for the plenary sessions and each workshop. They will let you in to the sessions from the waiting room. If you need help when in a plenary session or workshop please message the zoom buddy using the chat function.

Virtual reception desk

The main plenary room will be open from 9.25am – 2.30pm.

If you get 'lost' you can go to the main/plenary room to ask for help, or email info@evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk

Need a break?

See programme for scheduled coffee/tea breaks and lunch.

If you feel like a stretch or some relaxation see our short 10 minutes **'Pilates at your desk'** videos. Links are in the email you received just before the conference.

Have your say ...

Feel free to network through the chat function. Ask questions, respond to our polls, give us feedback throughout the day and tweet us at @TSRFScot using hashtag #TSRF21

After the conference ...

If you'd like to keep in touch with the TSRF please sign up to our quarterly newsletter [here](#). After the conference we will upload the conference report and presentations to the [TSRF webpages](#).

We hope you enjoy the conference.

Thank you for your interest in Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum.

TSRF Resources

Conference blogs:

[**Reflecting on digital youth work research during COVID-19**](#) – blog about the workshop led by YouthLink Scotland and Northern Star

[**Supporting children and young people's participation in crisis**](#) – blog about the workshop led by A Place in Childhood

[**Corra and the Storyteller's Quest**](#) – blog about the workshop led by Corra Foundation

[**'Life as we know it': A Participatory Evaluation and Peer Research project**](#) – blog about the workshop led by Media Education and Briege Nugent for Life Changes Trust 2020-2021

TSRF Publications:

[**Evidencing genuine co-production in the third sector \(2017\)**](#)

[**Third Sector Partnership Compass \(2016\)**](#)

[**Evidence from Elsewhere: Gathering, analysing and using other people's evidence \(2017\)**](#)

[**Evidence for Success: Collaborating with academics \(2016\)**](#)

Infographics:

[**Top tips to use research from other UK jurisdictions or countries**](#)

[**Top tips to communicate research effectively**](#)

What the Forum does

Scotland's Third Sector



Scotland's Third Sector Research Forum brings together third sector, academic and public sector partners to:

- promote and share research about and from the third sector
- encourage the use of third sector research to improve policy and practice
- produce resources and deliver events to support third sector researchers and encourage collaboration with academic partners.

You can read more about the Forum's work [here](#) and download [previous evidence papers](#).

Follow **TSRF** on Twitter [@TSRFScot](#)

Sign up to receive the quarterly TSRF newsletter [here](#).



The Scottish Third Sector Research Forum is supported by the **Scottish Government Third Sector Unit**.



Evaluation Support Scotland manages the day-to-day activities of the Forum.

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