

Zine but not heard?



Led by **Eva A Sprecher** and **Eleanor S. Armstrong**

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Our Research interests



Ellie S. Armstrong:

Researcher in social studies of outer space (UDelaware / UCL)

PhD research on Space Science exhibitions in London science museums, and informal science education around space science.

Research interests: space science, museums, science education, informal education, social justice, intersectional methodologies, queer feminisms



Eva A Sprecher:

PhD student at UCL (Psychoanalysis Unit) examining experiences of fostering relationships.

Research Assistant at the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families - working on a randomised-controlled trial of a foster care intervention (Reflective Fostering)

Research interests: foster care, lived-experience, social care, mixed-media data, participatory work



UCL Grand Challenges Doctoral Students' Small Grants

- Previous collaboration on “Fresh Voices”
- Funding call shaped our discussion together
- Initial discussions around “cultural understanding” theme, but took strategic steps on “Justice and Equity”
- Led to advocacy not just understanding.





dave lucas
@davidewlucas

Being over-researched and remaining under-served is an under-researched health determinant.

3:42 PM · Nov 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Care-experienced people are generally “over researched but underserved”

Objectives of our project



1. To facilitating conversation and communication between the foster care community and individuals who organise informal (science) education (e.g. science communicators, facilitators, ECRs)
2. To coproduce, develop, and evaluate a framework for the use of zines as a tool for conversations between groups with power differentials.
3. To increase competence, confidence, skillsets, and knowledge of informal educators in working inclusively with the foster care community
4. To provide experiences of trust, engagement and representation of the foster care community in a research project



What were we going to do? What did we do?



2019: Ethical approval, identifying collaborators, advertisement, training peer researchers, recruitment of care experienced participants, bookings and recruiting to educator workshops

2020: notify attendees to educator workshop, run participant voice zine making workshops, exhibition of zine make in workshops, run educators workshop (inc. peer researchers and Q&A), evaluation, archiving the project online, presenting at conference

anticipated timeline: Aug 2019-June 2020.

2019: went according to plan

2020: Young person's workshop then lockdown 2 days later. Research aspect completed remotely and zine-making done by care-experienced artist and researchers rather than participants (based on data). Brought on-board collaborators Dr Delyth Edwards and Rosie Canning and rescheduled workshop remotely (November 2020)

2021: Publish and disseminate findings, follow up with educators on commitments

actual timeline: Aug 2019 - Jan 2021

Reflections and Challenges



Challenges:

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Workshop activities limited
- Face-to-face data collection limits
- Timelines for project affected
- More challenging to physically bring foster care community and informal researchers together

Communication and collaboration - on whose terms?

- Barriers to engaging in visual methods
- Level of engagement and collaboration to be determined individually

Relationship-building remotely

Protecting academic publication vs. easy sharing

Reflections:

Allowing participants the option to delegate tasks or engagement at a certain point

Objectives can stay constant while the activities of a project may change drastically

Need for focus on action and commitments rather than 'story mining'

Holding yourself accountable to participants and collaborators (especially when it is inconvenient!)



Three key digital tools



□ Teams:

- Hosting meetings with collaborators
- Hosting the final workshop with informal educators
- Special features - use of breakout rooms (!), option for subtitling

□ Canva:

- Use for pulling together data and artwork into a zine format
- Special features: existing design templates, easy importing and editing of images, produces high quality PDFs, easily shareable designs with no specialist software, excellent free package

□ Twitter:

- Used to identifying and reaching out to collaborators (workshop co-designers and the artist) and some recruitment
- Special features: allows researchers to 'give of themselves' in advance of asking for participation or collaboration



Thank you for listening



Twitter: @EASprecher and @ellietheelement

no typical care

story activity zine

Responding to the experiences of foster carers and care-experienced young people of fostering relationships

What is No Typical Care Story about?

There are many young people living in foster care in the UK in the care of foster carers. Foster carers, young people who have experience of foster care, researchers and professionals connected to foster care all agree that **relationships** in foster care are very important. But what are the relationships between young people in foster care and their foster carers actually like?

In this project we listened to foster carers and young people with experience of foster care to learn from their experiences of relationships in foster care.

In No Typical Care Story we share some of what these people shared with us along with some illustrations created by a care-experienced artist inspired by what was said.

Please consider your own wellbeing while learning with us

This project was funded by:
UCL Culture Train & Engage
UCL Grand Challenges Small Grants



Prompts & responses

Dr. Delyth Edwards and Rosie Canning have developed questions inspired by the data from this study, to direct informal educators in museums, heritage, and science communication

Throughout this zine there are prompts to help you think about how you engage and support care-experienced people and their families in public settings and your professional work.

At the end of the zine are a series of pages with activities for you to work through having read these experiences, and reflected on your own work and life experiences.

We used this zine as part of an activity workshop on the 27th November 2020, you can learn more about this workshop on our website.

www.zinevoices.com

You can learn more about our contributors here:
Dr. Delyth Edwards: @delythsedwards
Rosie Canning: @Rosie_Canning

"Because, no trust is a big thing, if you don't have any trust. These it just doesn't work at all. Because, if I trust someone then I trust them with, like, deep secrets and that. And you don't want you don't want them going around and telling everyone so if you can't trust anyone then it really reflects on you and you feel like you can't tell anyone and it just builds up inside?"



This resource was created in collaboration between Eva A Sprecher, Dr Eleanor S Armstrong, Iksha Tuit, Debbie Hill, Dr Delyth Edwards, Rosie Canning, and our anonymous care-experienced artist contributor, and of course the participants in this research work who are:

Young people: Pete, Freddy, Frank, Stefan, Kayla, Alex, Leigh, Jade

Foster carers: Chloe, John, William, George, Aleks, Jo, Nathalie, Bella, Louise*

The research for this project was approved by the UCL Ethics Committee (14653/002) and supervised by Dr Michelle Sleed and Dr Nick Midgley

For any questions about this project please email:
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*Please note all participant names are pseudonyms