

*Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference*  
University of East London, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019



**50**  
YEARS

# Promoting epistemic justice through knowledge exchange

**Professor Richard Holliman**

OU Academic Lead for Engaged Research

[open.ac.uk/blogs/per](https://open.ac.uk/blogs/per)



The Open  
University

**50**  
YEARS

**INAUGURAL LECTURES**

OUR  
MISSION

OUR  
VISION

OUR  
VALUES

open to:

- people
- places
- methods
- ideas

increase reach

- teaching
- research
- KE
- PSB+/OERs

social justice

- inclusive
- innovative
- responsive
- responsible

# A progressive agenda for engagement



1. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in R&I
2. Researchers and innovators know why, when and how to actively involve people in their work and are supported and incentivised to do so
3. Young people feel empowered to participate in R&I
4. Society plays an active role in shaping the direction of R&I

Normative

addressing  
epistemic  
injustice

Substantive

improving  
research  
quality

Instrumental

value for  
money;  
sustainability



## **Fairness in Knowing: Science Communication and Epistemic Justice**

**Fabien Medvecky<sup>1</sup>** 

“...whether science communicators acknowledge it or not, they get to decide both which knowledge is shared (by choosing which topic is communicated), and who gets access to this knowledge (by choosing which audience it is presented to). As a result, the decisions of science communicators have important implications for epistemic justice: how knowledge is distributed fairly and equitably.”

OXFORD

# EPISTEMIC INJUSTICE

Power & the Ethics of Knowing

MIRANDA FRICKER

## Epistemic injustice

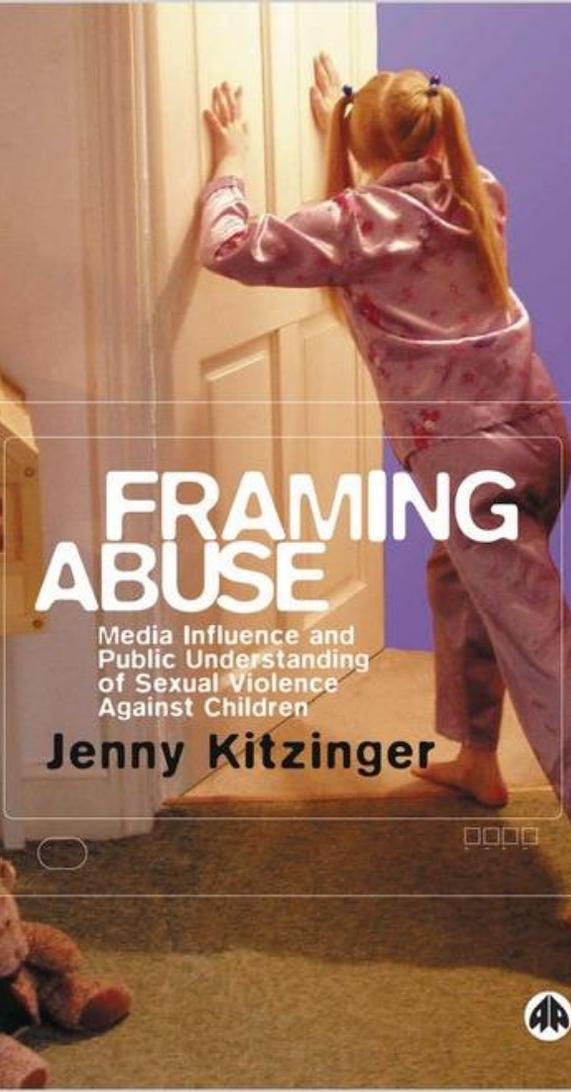
“...there is a distinctively epistemic type of injustice, in which someone is wronged specifically in their capacity as a knower.”

[Fricker, 2007](#)

## Hermeneutical Injustice

“...stemming from a gap in collective hermeneutical resources – a gap, that is, in our shared tools of interpretation...”

[Fricker, 2007: 6](#)



# Young Commissioners

Darren Sharpe, Angela Harden, Emma Green

“In this presentation we will describe the impact of the research we have undertaken to develop and test a young commissioner’s model which empowers young people to actively participate in the commissioning of health and social care services. As well as building resilience amongst young commissioners...”



## Media coverage of cloning: a study of media content, production and reception



“...a speaker suffers testimonial injustice [...] if prejudice on the hearer’s part causes him [her] to give the speaker less credibility than [s]he would otherwise have given”.

Fricker, 2007: 4

# Developing and investigating a participatory radio intervention

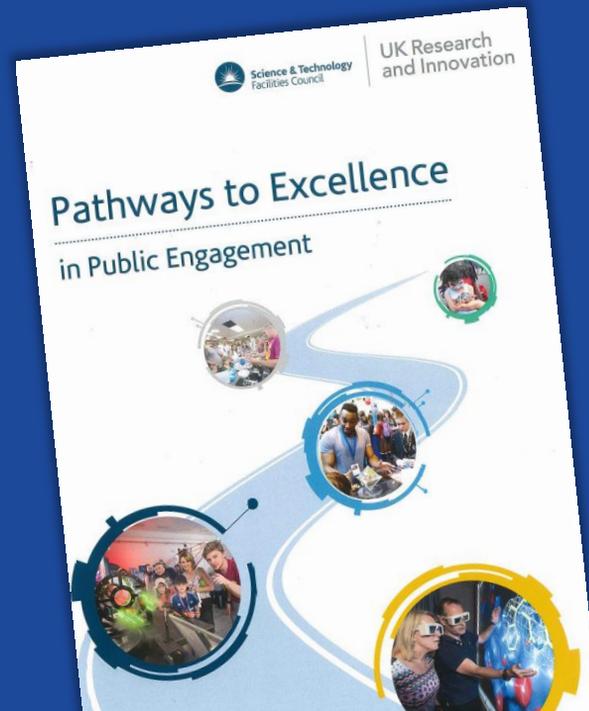
Tom Gerken

“Previous research in the area of participatory media has shown that the whole performative space of participatory radio can support the inclusion, non-formal learning and employability of socially excluded groups.”

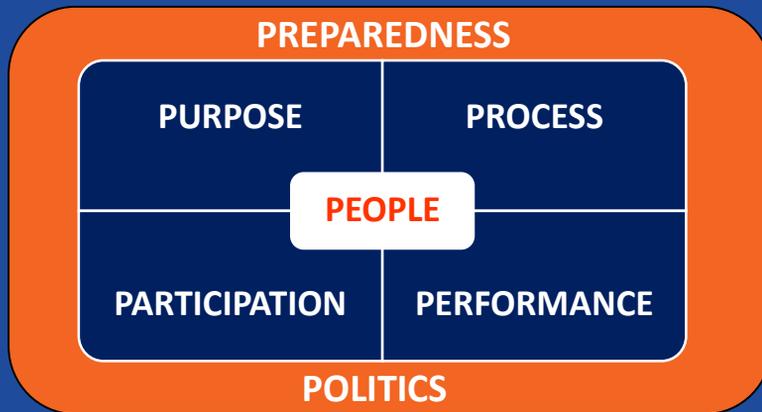
# The importance of high-quality planning

“We just did our [...] grant. I wrote the Ptol section. I consulted no one, and I did it in about two hours and that included a coffee break. I think I pretty much wrote it off the top of my head.”

(Principal Investigator)



# Engaged Research Design



Holliman et al. 2017



# A strategy for creating publics

Designing public-centric  
forms of public engagement  
with research

- targeting ‘publics’ through representation
- the role of ‘publics’ in research
- public self-organisation

Mahony, 2015

# Tower Bridge: poetry, the community & the spectacle

Anna Robinson

“I have been working with other artists and local residents; dancers, performance artists and residents of a local care-home in Bermondsey. The event [...] will be open to local residents and tourists alike, thus will have two different types of audience with differing senses of ownership on the stories and images presented.”

# Looking forward to today



- Linking our mission, vision and values
- A progressive agenda for engagement
- Engaged Research Design
- Engaging Research:  
[www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per](http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per)



The Open  
University

50  
YEARS

[50.open.ac.uk](https://50.open.ac.uk)