

PhD Opportunity

Reframing Critical and Socially Engaged Arts Practices from a Creative Health / Health Humanities Perspective

Supervisory team

Dr John Cussans, Professor Sandra Nicholson

Director of Studies:

Dr John Cussans - Senior lecturer in Fine Art, course leader for BA Fine Art and BA Fine Art with Psychology and leader of the [Arts and Health Research Group](#)

John has an informal, collaborative and socially engaged arts practice informed by anthropology, critical theory, media studies and psychology. Since 2009 he has worked with the Haitian artists collective Atis Rezistans, most recently at documenta15 in Kassel and Rising festival in Melbourne in 2023. He is the author of *Undead Uprising: Haiti, Horror and the Zombie Complex* (2017) and is working on a long-term arts research project *The Skullcracker Suite* investigating the politics of decoloniality in British Columbia. His book *Drawing Analogies: Diagrams in Art, Theory and Practice*, written in collaboration with David Burrows, Dean Kenning and Mary Yacoob, will be published by Bloomsbury in March 2024.

Supervisors:

Professor Sandra Nicholson- Founding Dean Three Counties Medical School, University of Worcester

Sandra received her primary medical qualification from Leicester University in 1988, MRCP in 1993 and practiced as a GP for over 30 years. She has extensive experience of working at medical postgraduate and undergraduate levels with doctors, multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals, students and patients in primary and secondary care contexts. She has served on a variety of national committees and accepted inter/national invitations to promote medical education scholarship, research and in particular widening participation. Successful funding bids include 'Supporting healthcare professionals through Covid-19: understanding how arts-based methods can support non-verbal communication', UKR, Jan 2021 £249,42 and 'Evaluation of arts-based learning in Medical Education' (Seed Funding), Wellcome Trust, August 2015- Jan 2016, £30,000

Application Process

To begin the application process please go to [Art and Design MPhil/PhD Webpage](#) and click on 'How to Apply' in the top menu. This PhD could be carried out on a part time or full time basis so please select the relevant application link. On the application form please make it clear that you are applying for one of our advertised projects so we can direct it straight to the relevant people.

The Interview

All successful applicants will be offered an interview with the proposed Supervisory Team. You will be contacted by a member of the Research School Team to find a suitable date. Interviews can be conducted in person or over Microsoft Teams.

Funding your PhD

For more information about Doctoral Loans please visit:

<https://www.worc.ac.uk/study/fees-and-finance/doctoral-loans.aspx>

During your PhD you can access the Research Student Support Scheme to support dissemination costs associated with your research, up to £500 a year.

Research at the University of Worcester

Research is central to the University's mission to make a difference in everything that we do. We are committed to delivering excellent research which extends the boundaries of human knowledge but which also improves people's lives by enabling better health outcomes, improving food security, developing environmentally sustainable solutions for crop production and socially sustainable solutions to our ageing population, enhancing public knowledge and understanding of the past and present.

The University hence focuses its research around five high-level challenges facing society, locally, nationally and globally:

- [Human Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Sustainable Futures](#)
- [Digital Innovation](#)
- [Culture, Identity and Social Exclusion](#)
- [Professional Education](#)

The success of our research is reflected in our continuous improvement in external research assessment processes. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, REF 2021, the University saw a near 50% increase in the scale of its research and 12% increase in quality, building on its performance in REF 2014 when it was the UK's most improved university in terms of Research Power, a combination of scale and

Our commitment to our students is reflected in the results of the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), which we ranked 1st for overall research student satisfaction nationally. Key to our success in this area is the Research School, a focal point for all our research students.

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