

PRAGUK

Steering Group Meeting Notes: key conversations

PSG Meeting 3: 12/12/2017, UAL

- **Governance structure and influencing:**
 - Oriana Baddeley and Nick Fells appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively.
 - Tracy Banton, Director of Research Services, Goldsmiths, acted as Secretary to PSG.
 - Professor Justin Lewis accepted an invitation to join the PSG from its February 2018 meeting.
 - Anne Boddington, Maria Delgado, and Justin Lewis appointed as REF2021 Sub-Panel Chairs.
 - Proposals discussed for the enhancement of PRAG-UK with appointments to the PSG of industry practitioners and influencers and the formation of a PRAG-UK Advisory Board.
 - The possible collaboration of PRAG-UK with [The Creative Industries Federation](#) (link), national organisation for the UK's creative industries, is being negotiated to create a cross-industry and education sector voice, Arts in education.
 - PRAG-UK will apply to ResearchEngland (previously HEFCE) to become a nominating body for population of REF2021 panels.

- **The problem of preserving our practice research heritage (traceability)**
 - Practice portfolios and other outputs risk being lost in the aftermath of REF-style exercises potentially depriving the sector of an inheritance of practice research typology, thinking and development. A digital platform that supports the evolution of PR projects and generates a unique traceable identity number (similar to the *doi* for textual works) is required.
 - A common problem for institutional repositories is the limitation in aggregating the items of the portfolio.
 - The ORCID ID system may provide a solution and some HEIs are developing in-house solutions to capturing the research process, eg P-Log at Goldsmiths.
 - The FSG's institutions plan to share the costs of a roundtable event in 2018 designed to pump prime the *Web of Arts* project.
 - The *Web of Arts* project outlining portfolios as exemplars is the subject of an evolving research grant bid to the AHRC.

PSG Meeting 4: 12/02/2018, UAL

○ Governance structure, remit and influencing:

- [David Sweeney, Executive Chair of Research England](#) (link), attended the meeting to discuss Practice Research in REF2021.
- Jane Boggan, REF2014/REF2021 Panel D Advisor and REF Excellence Manager, Goldsmiths; Sharon Cole and Jeremy Barraud, both Deputy Directors of Research Management and Administration, UAL, were co-opted on to the FSG.
- Tracy Banton, Director of Research Services, Goldsmiths, acted as Secretary to the PSG.
- PRAG-UK is now recognised as a nominating body by ResearchEngland: a meeting to discuss nominations for Panel Assessors in 2019 will be held.
- Extending the PRAG-UK remit to address [the new national Industrial Strategy](#) (link to PDF), via ResearchEngland's [Knowledge Exchange framework](#) (link), is being considered as creative practice's strength in the economy is better aligned to these initiatives than to REF2021.
- The PSG has commissioned a website, www.prag-uk.org, designed by Dominique Baron-Bonarjee, and set up a Twitter account, @PRAG_UK, to promote PRAG-UK's activities and as tools in creating national, and international, networks using email distribution lists to disseminate.
- Communications and advocacy for academic, lay, subject associations, and international audiences that engage the research communities, and not solely practice researchers, are key to creating understanding that REF-style exercises require new modes to fully include practice research.
- Liaison with REF2021 Panel Chairs (both main and sub) is vital for PRAG-UK's remit.
- REF has been exported to a number of countries (in particular Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore) and international debate will strengthen the argument to governments.
- www.prag-uk.org will include a blog site on themes of particular concern; blog posts, adopting the ResearchEngland (HEFCE) Guidelines, are planned on fractional practice appointments whose contribution links the academic and creative industries sectors; and ECR career development.
- PSG members will act as champions of PRAG-UK and be pro-active in the promotion of group activities and aims to a broad multi-sectorial audience including subject associations. An annual activity plan will be developed.
- The first roundtable town meeting with representatives invited by the PSG to be held on 11 May.

○ REF2021: Portfolios, institutional repositories and traceability of practice research:

- Research income from industry and the Arts Council is not recognised in REF2021 as part of the research income measure; it should be included in Unit of Assessment [UoA] research environment description.
- As discussed in the February meeting, a classification number for a key aspect of the PR would allow traceability beyond the REF exercise even where the number linked only to a component of the practice research and not the full portfolio.
- ResearchEngland does not require participating HEIs to use a repositories recognising the limitations of such platforms to store some creative formats.
- PRAG-UK will formally respond to the consultation on the first set of criteria to be published this summer.
- Kim Hackett, REF Manager, will meet with the PRAG-UK Chair to discuss the Group's key issues.

- The PSG will invite key Main Panel D members to future meetings to further promote key issues in the exercise.