



ScotPEN Annual Gathering 2020

3rd - 28th August 2020

SCOTTISH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

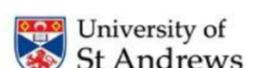
Report of the ScotPEN 4th Annual Meeting for Public Engagement
Professionals in Higher Education and Research

3rd – 28th August 2020
Hosted online by the University of Edinburgh

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of EDINBURGH



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Welcome

Welcome to the report of the ScotPEN 2020 Annual Meeting for Public Engagement Professionals (PEPs) in Higher Education and research. The 2020 event was held online throughout the month of August. Although it was disappointing that we were unable to welcome delegates to Edinburgh and catch up in person, the online format did bring advantages. By repeating and recording sessions we enabled more people to take part than in previous years and bring people together from across Scotland and beyond. The series of online events were hosted and coordinated by the University of Edinburgh and included sessions run by Jamie Gallagher, Evaluation Support Scotland (ESS), the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) and BeExperimental. 77 delegates joined us from Scotland, England, the Netherlands, South Africa and Austria.

ScotPEN is an inclusive network of people involved in public engagement in Scotland, from universities and research institutes to third sector and private organizations and also free-lance professionals. Supported by funding from Wellcome's Institutional Strategic Support Fund, the five Scottish ISSF-funded universities are taking turns to host ScotPEN from 2017-2021. Following exploratory meetings in 2017, it was decided that this would include an annual meeting for PEPs.

These meetings are intended to

- Facilitate collaboration and sharing of good practice in Scottish HEIs relating to public engagement (PE) and public engagement with research (PER)
- Support policy and strategy development for these fields in Scotland
- Focus on topics suggested by members

An important aspect of PEPs' meetings is that learning from the meetings is shared widely. This report itself is intended to act as a useful resource; the session summaries focus on tools and opportunities to get involved and benefit from the network. The Links and Resources section includes links to session recordings.

Programme

Week 1

Welcome Session (Monday 3rd August 11:00 -12:00)

A welcome from this years' annual gathering hosts at the University of Edinburgh and updates from ScotPEN.

Online Engagement Panel (Tuesday 4th August 10:00 -11:00)

Jamie Gallagher hosts a panel discussion with Lewis Hou, Sophia Collins and Dan Vo about creating great engagement online.

Week 2

Meaningful Online Engagement (Monday 10th August 14:00 -16:30)

The first of two opportunities to attend the NCCPE's course about meaningful online engagement

Online Evaluation (Tuesday 11th August 10:00 -12:00)

The first of two opportunities to get expert advice about evaluating your online activities with ESS

Week 3

One-to-one peer networking sessions (Monday & Tuesday)

Online Evaluation (Wednesday 19th August 14:00 -16:00)

The second opportunity for this course

Meaningful Online Engagement (Thursday 20th August 10:00 - 12:30)

The second opportunity for this course

Week 4

One-to-one peer networking sessions (Wednesday & Thursday)

International Engagement Panel (Tuesday 24th August 10:00 -11:00)

Jamie Gallagher hosts our second panel discussion on International Engagement with Edward Ducca, Annette Kinkert and Mahmoud Mania

Science Cocktails Social (Friday 28th August 16:30 - 18:00)

Join us for some Science Cocktail Demonstrations with BeExperimental

Contributors

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Attendees

Over the course of the month 77 people took part from Scotland and beyond! We were joined by Public Engagement Professionals from the wider UK, Europe and afield as South Africa.

The attendees who opted to be listed were:

Ken Aitchison	Midlothian Science Festival	ken@midlothiansciencefestival.com
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Tansy Hammarton Erin Hardee Becky Hothersall Vicky Ingram Mikey Jarrell Olivia Johnson sarah-jane judge Ally Keir Deborah Keogh MennatAllah Labib Hannah Ladd-Jones Anne Sofie Laegran Hazel Lambert Calum McAndrew Suzanne McEndoo Shonagh McEwan Kirsty McIntyre Alison McLure Deborah Mcneill Fiona Murray Helen Nickerson Molly Osborn Suzanne Prak-Sandilands Jayne Quoiani Heather Rea Simon Reynolds Senga Robertson- Albertyn Ellie Roger Kirsty Ross Aurora Sicilia-Aguilar Stephanie Sinclair Dawn Smith Mhairi Stewart Nicola Stock Fiona Travers Amanda Waite Faye Watson Anne-Marie Weijmans Laura Wicks Lana Woolford	University of Glasgow University of Dundee University of Glasgow SUPA Institute of Physics STFC / UKRI, Royal Observatory Edinburgh Visitor Centre University of Edinburgh Heriot-Watt University Royal Conservatoire of Scotland University of Edinburgh University of St Andrews University of Edinburgh University of Edinburgh University of St Andrews University Of Strathclyde University of Edinburgh University of Glasgow Institute of Physics Glasgow Science Festival University of Edinburgh University of Edinburgh University of Edinburgh University of Glasgow University of Edinburgh University of Edinburgh University of St Andrews University of Dundee University of Edinburgh University of Strathclyde University of Dundee University of Edinburgh Edinburgh Napier University University of St Andrews University of Edinburgh STFC (Royal Observatory Edinburgh) University of Edinburgh University of Glasgow University of St Andrews Heriot-Watt University University of Edinburgh	Tansy.Hammarton@glasgow.ac.uk e.hardee@dundee.ac.uk becky.hothersall@glasgow.ac.uk vicky.ingram@supa.ac.uk michael.jarrell@iop.org olivia.johnson@stfc.ac.uk s-j.judge@ed.ac.uk a.keir@hw.ac.uk d.keogh@rcs.ac.uk M.M.A.Labib@sms.ed.ac.uk helj2@st-andrews.ac.uk a.s.laegran@ed.ac.uk hazel.lambert@ed.ac.uk calum.mcandrew@gmail.com suzanne.mcendoo@strath.ac.uk shonagh.mcewan@ed.ac.uk kirsty.mcintyre@glasgow.ac.uk alison.mclure@iop.org deborah.mcneill@glasgow.ac.uk f.murray@ed.ac.uk helen.nickerson@igmm.ed.ac.uk molosb@gmail.com suzanne.prak- sandilands@glasgow.ac.uk jayne.quoiani@roslin.ed.ac.uk h.j.rea@ed.ac.uk simon.reynolds@st-andrews.ac.uk srobertsonalbert002@dundee.ac.uk ellie.roger@ed.ac.uk Kirsty.Ross@strath.ac.uk asiciliaaguilar@dundee.ac.uk stephanie.sinclair@ed.ac.uk dawn.smith@napier.ac.uk ms313@st-andrews.ac.uk Nicola.Stock@roslin.ed.ac.uk fiona.travers@stfc.ac.uk amanda.waite@ed.ac.uk faye.watson@glasgow.ac.uk amw23@st-andrews.ac.uk l.wicks@hw.ac.uk lwoolfor@ed.ac.uk
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Session Highlights

Welcome Session

Key messages:

- Get involved with the new Working Groups!
- Look out for the ScotPEN Journal Club.
- You can communicate with ScotPEN through the mailing list, the Facebook group and the new Twitter account. Look out for Facebook mentoring coming soon.

Online Engagement Panel

Key messages:

- The online world is so big, even people who have been doing engagement online for a long time don't feel like experts
- Remember who you're talking to on the other side of the screen
- There are a lot of voices in online environments, pay attention to the ones that are missing

Meaningful Online Engagement Workshop delivered by NCCPE

Key messages:

- Engagement principles are the same online as in person
- The purpose of your engagement should determine what you do and which technologies you use

Online Evaluation Workshop delivered by ESS

Key messages:

- Build evidence gathering into your activities
- Test your methods and make them engaging for participants
- Encourage feedback by saying how you will use it
- Think about your points of contact as opportunities to gather feedback

International Engagement Panel

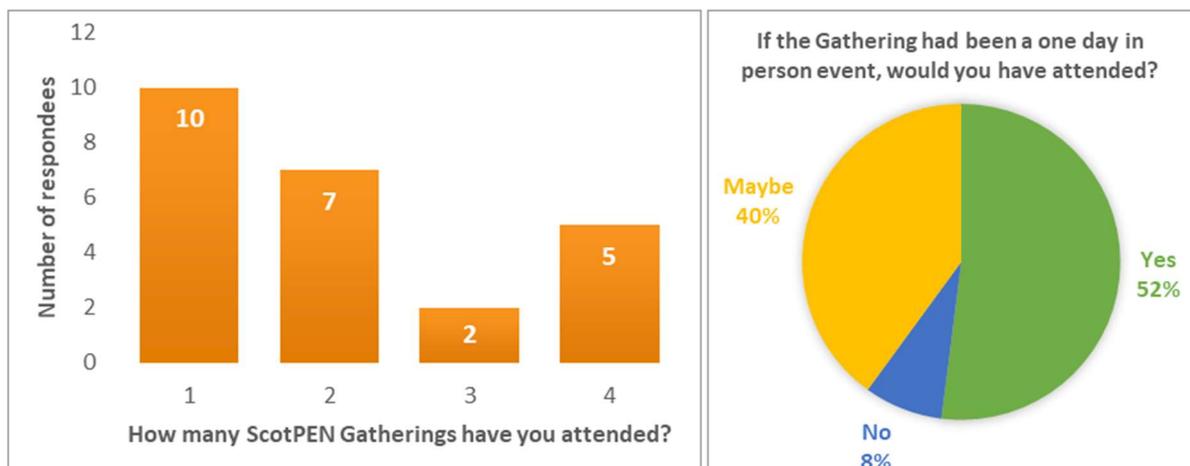
Key messages:

- Work with local researchers and communicators
- Knowledge of local cultural and religious norms and common misconceptions are key

The Gathering in numbers

77 people signed up for one or more events. 30 people attended the Welcome Session, 46 attended the panel on Online Engagement, 35 attended the panel on International Engagement 50 attended the Meaningful Online Engagement sessions, 40 attended the Evaluating Online Engagement sessions, 24 were matched for peer one-to-one catch ups, and 12 people joined in with the cocktail making. There were very few no-shows at the ESS and NCCPE sessions with the number of people attending about the same as the number who signed up. The social cocktail making had the lowest turnout and less than half the people who signed up attended.

24 people completed the online survey after the Gathering. Everyone who filled in the form is based in Scotland. Of those who completed the form, 10 were attending their first ScotPEN Gathering and half would have attended if it were in person.



Comments and Feedback

The comments reported here reflect all the responses returned. Where multiple comments were similar, one is reported and “liked” to show how many responses it represents.

Comments on individual sessions

The individual sessions were well received with Jamie Gallagher’s panels and the NCCPE Meaningful Online Engagement workshops emerging as highlights. The cocktails proved challenging to participate in for people with families.

Welcome Session

Very positive and informative

The intro session was a bit stilted but useful context.

Panels with Jamie Gallagher

I thought the session on online engagement was excellent. The discussions between the panellists and also audience were good

Jamie was amazing, and showed how professional live online engagement can be.  x2

International Engagement gave me a lot of food for thought  x2

The panels were particularly good. Well chaired with fantastic speakers bringing new insight to my work.

I thought the online engagement session was appropriate online - showed in practice both the pros and cons.

Meaningful Online Engagement delivered by NCCPE

The NCCPE workshop in particular was great, really enjoyed it.  x5

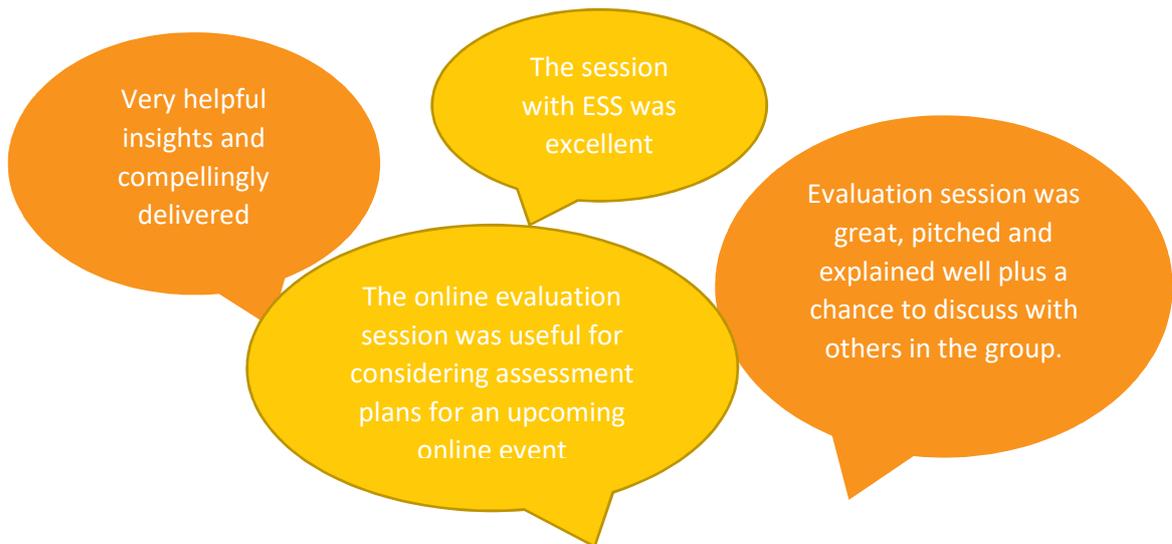
I learned as much from watching HOW they ran their session.

It felt like a really important time to be together discussing issues NCCPE

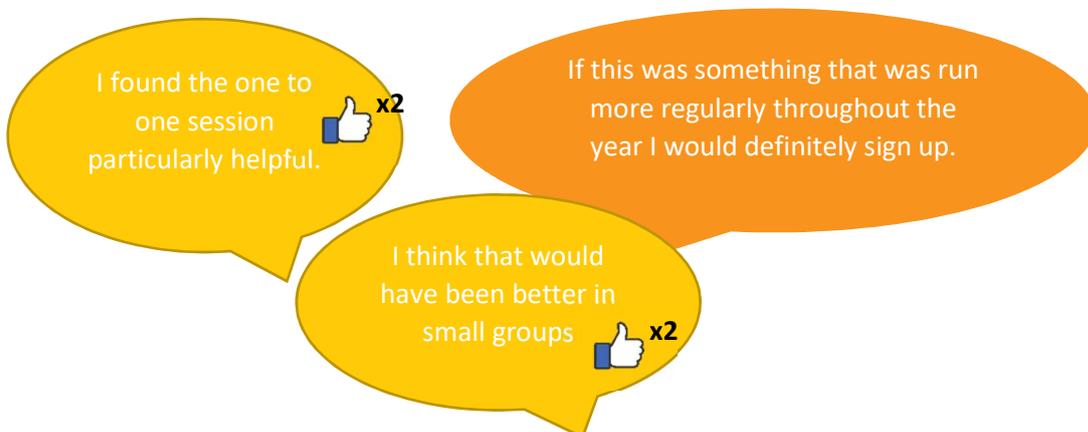
[this] topic [is] of great importance on where I currently am with my public engagement work

Really well presented and facilitated.

Evaluating Online Engagement delivered by Evaluation Support Scotland



One-to-one Peer Networking



Science Cocktails Social delivered by BeExperimental



Comments on online conference as a whole

The format of the Gathering, online and spread out rather than in a single day, proved popular.

- the fact that the sessions have been spread over a few weeks is much appreciated as it meant I could take some annual leave without missing everything (x11)
- Really appreciated the repeated sessions, (x6)
- [short, spread out sessions] reduced screen fatigue and allowed more time for reflection/digestion of content. I took in more information (x4)
- Being online meant I was able to attend (x3).



I'll be able to watch the recording of the one I had to miss, which is always a bonus!

Responders were happy with the topics covered (x5) and the overall organisation (x7).

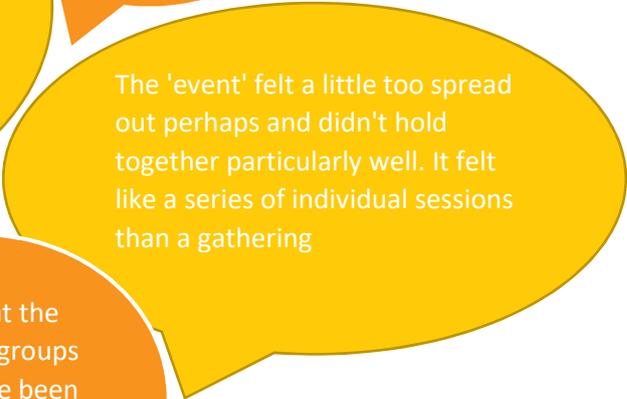
But there's room for improvement



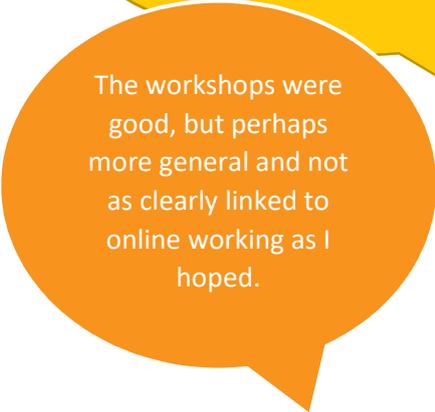
As a newcomer and not a public engagement professional I did not know many people in the virtual room, and felt that the discussions in the main forum were mostly between experts. I did not feel very comfortable putting my own comments in the chat.



It got a bit overwhelming with the number of emails coming through



The 'event' felt a little too spread out perhaps and didn't hold together particularly well. It felt like a series of individual sessions than a gathering



The workshops were good, but perhaps more general and not as clearly linked to online working as I hoped.



I felt that the breakout groups could have been better if they had a facilitator.

Online vs in person

There is no clear consensus on whether an in person or online format works best. Strengths and advantages in both approaches were highlighted

Online Advantages	In Person Advantages
Opened up the meeting to people whose jobs are not solely public engagement focused	Meeting new people on screen is a bit weird
No travel (and associated time and cost)	Cocktails would definitely have been better in person
Range of international panellists that might not have been possible in person	More connections can be made
Training sessions	Incidental conversations are useful
Not as tiring as on a single day	Social elements
Easier to fit in	Networking

Answers to “What will you take away from the ScotPEN Gathering 2020 to use in your future public engagement activities?”

The key takeaways for attendees were:

- Tools, ideas and advice (x14)
- New contacts (x6)
- Inspiration for how to run things online (x3)
- Food for thought (x2)



I feel that the ScotPEN network is great and I need to use it more - to discuss challenges and share best practice.



Some of what was covered, made me realise that there are some things that I am already doing really well but there were other matters discussed/covered which made me think about how I could improve what I am doing.



A sense of community, which was heightened by the conference still going ahead virtually, at a time of crisis

What attendees would like to see next year



Links and Resources

One of the great advantages of hosting the conference online is that many of the sessions could be recorded. Links to recordings can be found here!

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/iad4researchers/scotpen-annual-gathering-2020/>

Some of the online tools that came up in the sessions included

- Padlet www.padlet.com
- Jamboard <https://jamboard.google.com>
- Kahoot <https://kahoot.com>
- Mentimeter <https://www.mentimeter.com>

Some great examples of innovative online public engagement projects that came up were

- The Great Science Share for Schools <https://www.greatscienceshare.org/>
- I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here <https://imascientist.org.uk/>
- Parenting Science Gang <http://parentingsciencegang.org.uk/>
- BBC People's War <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/>
- Jamie's A-Z of Online Engagement <https://www.jamiebgall.co.uk/link>

Evaluation Support Scotland and NCCPE both have great resources on their websites

- <http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/>
- <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/resources>

ScotPEN 2021

The next ScotPEN Gathering will be hosted by the University of Dundee in 2021.