

April 2013-April 2014, an AHRC-funded associated project
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Research Questions

1. How does a cultural support agency understand its role and evolve its agenda within the wider policy and economic landscape?
2. What are the particular challenges of developing entrepreneurial skills and establishing micro-businesses within different parts of the creative sector?
3. What can academic research bring to an understanding of agency-client knowledge exchange and how can future knowledge exchange be best facilitated?
4. What key lessons can be drawn from the experience of the service and its clients in relation to the challenges involved in framing and executing policies for support of cultural enterprise in the 21st century?

Progress to Date

- Extensive ethnographic research, including:
- 26 interviews with Cultural Enterprise Office (CEO) staff and advisers.
 - 11 interviews with CEO 'stakeholders'.
 - 17 interviews with CEO clients.
 - Observation of 85 hours of CEO-client interactions.
 - Submission of 1 team-authored journal article.
 - 3 international conference presentations – London, Hildesheim, Ottawa – in the fields of geography, cultural policy, and political science.

Meeting the challenges of research

- Generous access was granted by CEO, meaning that the team had to be extremely sensitive throughout the fieldwork period, in order to minimise disruption to the organisation and its staff.
- Research was conducted during a time of considerable upheaval within the Scottish creative sector. This required careful liaison with key creative sector figures and members of staff from the partner organisation.
- Extreme pressures of time stemming from a 1-year AHRC grant meant that CCPR needed to seek funds to keep the PDRA in post, in order to fully capitalise on the material gathered.



Value Added

- Value added by outputs far outstripping those predicted in the original case for support.
- The project provided CCPR with useful qualitative data regarding the creative sector in Scotland, and required us to tackle questions of methodology. Our groundbreaking work on Knowledge Exchange and ethnography will inform CCPR's teaching strategy and early career training.
- The project facilitated a closer relationship between CCPR and key creative sector stakeholders including the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Creative Edinburgh. This is of benefit to both CCPR, and stakeholder organisations.
- Our research helped guide CEO through a period of organisational restructuring.

Next Steps & Planned Outputs

Next Steps:

- Analysis of implications of research for policy implementation and analytical modelling.
- Capitalising on the project's unique attributes to capture further funding.

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Outputs:

- 2 journal articles.
- A short monograph, titled *Curators of Cultural Enterprise*, now in preparation for Palgrave MacMillan.
- 3 conference presentations in August/October 2014.
- 5 Knowledge Exchange events, including one internationally-focused end-of-project seminar.