# Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society: Visiting Arts Fellowship 2021

The Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society (CBSS) at the University of Edinburgh is seeking **expressions of interest** for the first round of our Visiting Arts Fellowship programme. These fellowships will bring artists and creative practitioners who want to engage in social and ethical aspects of health and medicine into our vibrant community of social science and humanities researchers addressing a range of topics relevant to medicine, health and society.

This first round of the Visiting Arts Fellowship programme focuses on **performance arts.** The Fellowship will be a yearly programme and the next two rounds, and their artistic focus, will be announced in due course.

## What we can offer you

* Funding of up to £20,000 to cover your time and any production costs. This can be used flexibly but we imagine a part-time basis for several months during 2021 to allow for a fruitful partnership (it could be, for example, full-time for a few months or 2 days a week for a year)
* Desk space in our interdisciplinary environment (if we return to office- working)
* Expertise in a range of disciplines including bioethics and law, history of medicine, and sociology of science, medicine and healthcare
* Support to develop your project and its outputs
* Visibility to allow your work to reach new spaces and networks
* International connections and new partnerships
* Potential to work with [Edinburgh University Collections](https://collections.ed.ac.uk/)

## What we expect from the Fellowship

* An interdisciplinary performance project to be developed with CBSS members. This may a full production or a work in progress towards a larger piece.
* Attendance of fortnightly CBSS seminars and contribution to them and other Centre-wide business and discussions
* Presentation at a CBSS seminar towards the end of the fellowship
* Ability to bring different expertise and to ask questions/think about issues in new ways
* Involvement in CBSS public engagement and knowledge exchange events where possible
* Dissemination of information and ideas from CBSS to colleagues in their home base

## Possible outcomes

* Ideas for new research
* Interdisciplinary workshop
* Publication, including comment pieces
* New ideas for how CBSS and artists can work together
* Creation of a performance or work in progress for future performances

## Criteria

* Scotland-based
* Professional performance artist (the focus of future rounds will be announced in due course). This includes theatre, live art, dance and music.
* Interest in exploring a new, societal and health-related dimension to their work
* We particularly encourage applications from women, nonbinary and LGBTQ+ applicants, applicants of black and other minority ethnic origins and applicants who identify as disabled
* We welcome applications from artists at any stage of their career

## What to do if you are interested

Please send:

1. CV of no more than two pages
2. Completed access rider (form available on the CBSS website)
3. Expression of interest of no more than two pages. The expression of interest should include: a) Statement of practice (please introduce and outline your work and practice) and b) Proposal (please give a rough idea what project you would like to pursue and how this links to work at CBSS)
4. Indication of costs with breakdown to show time/production costs. Please note that we welcome applications from existing partnerships but that the total funding will not go above £20,000 whether that goes to an individual or to different people. You may wish to refer to the [Scottish Artists Union Rate of Pay](https://www.artistsunion.scot/pay_rates_2020) for guidance around day rates.
5. Indication of intended timings

**Please send all of these to** [**cbss@ed.ac.uk**](mailto:cbss@ed.ac.uk) **by 13th November 2020 at 12 noon.**

Applicants are recommended to get in touch with Stephanie Sinclair ([stephanie.sinclair@ed.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.sinclair@ed.ac.uk)) Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange Co-ordinator at CBSS with any questions, or for further information before submitting.

Candidates will be shortlisted in December 2020 and interviewed via video calling in January 2021. The successful candidate can then start from early 2021 but can start later if necessary.

# More information about the Centre

The Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society (CBSS) is a multidisciplinary research centre that builds on the University of Edinburgh’s unique history of leadership in social studies of science and medicine to scrutinise the complex social, cultural and technological landscape that characterises contemporary biomedicine and health care.

Our work is anchored in seven key research themes, each representing a key site of fundamental socio‐technical transformation in biomedicine and society. These are:

* Beyond Disease
* Beyond Bodies
* Beyond Engagement
* Beyond the Legal
* Beyond the Global
* Beyond Data
* Beyond Sex

**Beyond Bodies** explores how the ‘body’ is understood and transformed through interaction between biomedicine and publics, and between humans and health-related technologies.

**Beyond Disease**examines how new biomedical practices, including novel ways of accessing and interpreting data through data intensive research, challenge and define disease entities, diagnostic categories, treatment options and the processes of preventive, predictive and personalised care.

The **Beyond Engagement** theme seeks to develop new, critical understandings of the role of ‘engagements’ in relation to knowledge production. ‘Engagements’, as we conceive of them, go beyond traditional or standard forms of “public engagement” as it is often understood, to span a broad range of activities that involve different actors and groups in the research process. Patient-led research, “patient and public involvement”, citizen science, co-production in research, and even research participation itself are all potentially forms of engagements, offering the opportunity to reconceptualise traditional roles and relationships within the process of knowledge production. By bringing together our own experiences across these different activities with interdisciplinary academic approaches to theorising and analysing the role of engagements and engagement practices, we aim to deepen our normative understanding of what engagements can and should achieve, and to connect this to our own and others’ practice.

Our research in **Beyond Legal** explores the multiple ways in which law and regulation intersect with health and biomedicine. We examine the various roles, understandings and effects of law in relation to Biomedicine, Self and Society: for example, shaping and being shaped by health care and research practice; reinforcing or disrupting normative ideas around health, bodies and society; and directing and responding to health care and biomedical innovation. Through this, we aim to develop new interdisciplinary understandings of how law and regulation are constructed, (co-)produced, understood and operationalised in relation to health care and biomedical research and innovation.

**Beyond Global** explores how new spatial and temporal configurations of health and illness are created through the movement of people and pathogens, goods and policies, data and finance, and through the activities of the agencies that seek to promote or regulate such movement. Drawing on feminist, intersectional and decolonising perspectives, it seeks not just to describe these processes, but to understand and critique their implications for equity and social justice in high- as much as low- and middle-income settings.

Data plays a central role in biomedicine, not just as a means of apprehending, understanding and engaging with health and illness, but as an increasingly prominent element, in its own right, in biomedical work practices, infrastructures and value propositions. We accordingly look **Beyond Data** to examine how the development of ever more extensive and complex data practices contributes to the changing epistemic, social, ethical, legal and economic relations of biomedicine.

**Beyond Sex** engages with sexual and reproductive health that includes, but also moves beyond ‘reproduction’ as the primary foci. While surrogacy, fertility and maternal health are important, we are also keen to consider how non-reproductive experiences (menopause, sterility, endometriosis, sexual rights, hormone therapy, gender, etc) shape our questions around biotechnologies & biomedical practices within SRHR. The theme will focus on and critically engage with if, how and where sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) & social justice intersect with biomedicine, health and wellbeing, by paying attention to bodies, illness, technologies and mobilities. In particular, we ask how the concept of sex mediates the relationship between bodies, health, technologies and how moving beyond (not away from sex) changes the lens with which we approach these configurations.