

Project title

Exploring the use of Image Theatre in research with people with dementia and their informal carers in online environments

Exchange Fellow

Liz Strange
Artistic Director
Strange Theatre

Academic Collaborator/Mentor

Nicholas Jenkins
Chancellor's Fellow
Health in Social Science

Duration of Project

January 2014 – August 2014

Project Overview

The main objective of this KE Fellowship is to develop new ideas and practical techniques for using Image Theatre and other performing arts methodologies to research the lived experience of dementia in online environments.

In so doing, it will strengthen an on-going collaboration between Strange Theatre and the School of Health in Social Science at the University of Edinburgh. Liz Strange (Artistic Director, Strange Theatre & Knowledge Exchange Fellow) will be joining the School of Health in Social Science over the spring and summer of 2014. Liz will be sharing her experience, knowledge and skills in using creative methods and digital technologies to communicate with people living with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers.

Liz will work closely with Dr Nick Jenkins, Chancellor's Fellow HiSS, in order to undertake supervised reading and explore the key methodological principles that, from different approaches, inform their respective work. NJ has established a dynamic and inter-disciplinary group of researchers from across the School of Health in Social Science and Edinburgh College of Art to develop new ideas and innovative research proposals. Members of the network include Prof Chris Speed (Chair of Design Informatics) Sophia Lycouris (Reader in Choreography) and Jonathan Wyatt (Senior Lecturer in Counselling & Psychotherapy). This research group plan to develop a research proposal around the use of Digital Technologies in Dementia. This shall be submitted for Research Council Funding (e.g., AHRC). In addition, LS and NJ plan to work together in order to pilot an online creative workshop intended for people with dementia and their carers.

The primary outcome will be a strengthened collaboration between Strange Theatre and the School of Health in Social Sciences and a shared agenda for future work. This will further the School's strategic aims in developing creative approaches to exploring and promoting user involvement and well-being amongst users of health and social care services.