**ARP 2024-5**

**Ethical Action Plan**

**Name of practitioner-researcher:**

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| 1. **What is your project focus?**   My project seeks to explore the role of Contextual and Theoretical Studies in design education. With the growing emphasis on employability and technical competency within the design field, as well as the growing use of AI tools, engagement with theoretical and historical knowledge seems to be increasingly marginalised within design education. This marginalisation is further compounded by the emphasis on reading and writing as key skills through which contextual and theoretical knowledge shared and assessed.  To examine this topic, I would like to understand how students perceive the impact of CTS on their practice/career/personal development once they leave university (i.e. what is the long-term impact CTS might have had on their personal and professional journey); secondly, I want to explore how students experience reading and writing as part of their creative practice.  The focus of the project will be to interview LCC Design School alumni and, in response, implement the findings as part of the curriculum design for the 2025/2026 academic year in dialogue with the CTS team. |
| 1. **What are you going to read about?**   I want to explore texts that investigate the role of writing as a creative practice; designers turned writers/researchers, as well as the importance of reading and writing in creative education, in addition to the research on writing in art and design education.  Some sources are below:  Borg, E. (2007),‘Writing in fine arts and design education in context’*, Journal of*  *Writing in Creative Practice,* 1:1, pp. 85–101  Francis, P. (2009) *Inspiring Writing in Art and Design: Taking a Line for a Write*. Bristol: Intellect.  Lockheart, J. (2018) “The importance of writing as a material practice for art and design students: A contemporary rereading of the Coldstream Reports”, *Art, Design & Communication in Higher Education,* 17 (2), pp.151-175.  Lupton, E. and Miller, J.A. (1996) *Design, Writing, Research: Writing on Graphic Design*, New York: Kiosk.  McCannon, D. (2011), ‘Towards the hybrid essay: The “Visual Essay Project”’*, Journal of Writing in Creative Practice,* 4:2, pp.131–40.  Melles, G. and Lockheart, J. (2012*),* ‘Writing purposefully in art and design:  Responding to converging and diverging new academic literacies’*, Arts*  *and Humanities in Higher Education,* 11:4, pp. 346–362.  Rintoul, J. (2017) *Integrating critical and contextual studies in art and design: possibilities for post-compulsory education.* London: Routledge.  Wood, J. (1998),‘The culture of academic rigour: Does design research really need it?’*, Design Journal,* 3:1, pp. 44–57 |
| 1. **What action are you going to take in your teaching practice?**   I will not be intervening directly into my teaching practice, although the reflection from this year’s teaching will be integrated into the project.  Given that my role as Contextual and Theoretical Studies leader means I have the responsibility for curriculum development and planning, the action will be to organise an away-day planning session with the CTS team to consider how to integrate the findings of my research into next year’s delivery.  TS Leader and ongoing curriculum development that is central to my role. |
| 1. **Who will be involved and how?**   LCC graduates from BA Design School courses; CTS staff (lecturers and senior lecturers)  Former students will be involved through a semi-structured interview; CTS staff through a planning/away day.  N.B. If any of your participants/co-researchers will be under 18, please seek advice from your tutor. |
| 1. **What are the health & safety concerns, and how will you prepare for them?**   There are no particular health and safety concerns outside of data protection.  the students will be informed of my research, aims and objectives. Interviewees will be provided with a consent form and detailed information about the project and how their contribution may be used. |
| 1. **How will you protect the data of those involved?**   Any data will be stored securely on OneDrive. Student responses from interviews will be anonymised; students who do not wish to be included will have the opportunity to do so. |
| 1. **How will you work with your participants in an ethical way?**   As stated above, I will be careful to make sure any views are represented accurately and only those students who want to participate can. The aims of the research will be shared openly in writing and my positionality will be clearly stated at the start of the research. |