

Symposium Abstracts for Panel Sessions

The creativity and health and care workshop symposium is part of the ongoing investigative process of the programme and designed to extend the programme's reach and pose the key emerging questions to a broader audience of interest. The panel sessions aim to provide an opportunity for discussion and debate around those key questions and areas of interest and for the sharing of experiences, thoughts and ideas from symposium delegates and organisers. Sessions will therefore be discursive, interactive and exploratory in nature.

PANEL SESSION 1

Option A - Personal/Institutional Creativity

Deborah Munt, Hannah Bradby, Carol Massey

For the health and social care workforce, what does creativity look like? As a means of thinking about how to recognise creativity in a health and social care workplace, this session explores a notion of a form of creativity that gives and a form of creativity that takes.

Are there different forms of creativity that are 'giving' and 'taking' and how does this relate to a division between 'personal' and 'organisational' creativity? Are 'giving' and 'taking' forms of creativity linked in a feedback cycle? What are the implications of different forms of creativity for: the individual health care worker; for his or her colleagues; and for service users? If we are able to divide creativity into different forms, what are the implications for nurturing creativity in the workplace? Is the possibility of creativity in the workplace dependent on the local culture?

Option B - Creative Spaces

Martin Heaney, Ann Wallis, Mary Robson

It can be challenging to define and justify 'creative space' as part of a professional life in health and social care.

This participative session will use reflective means to gather definitions and characteristics of creative space and their potential health-giving benefits and identify ways they can be applied in the workplace.

Option C - Creativity and Innovation

Dr. Janet Hargreaves, Suzy Willson, James Oliver

Creativity and innovation are concepts often used interchangeably, however the apparent similarity belies a number of tensions and differences. Is there a single understanding of innovation that we all share? Is it a good thing? Overused/ misused?

This session will use concept analysis to explore the notion of innovation, attempting to identify its value and meaning for creativity in health and social care. What are the current uses of the words innovation and creativity within the healthcare system? Have these terms become too linked with ideas of business and productivity? Is there a tension between the use of 'innovation' as in business and innovation that has value socially? The session will end with a description of The Performing Medicine project [which uses the arts to train medical students]. The project recently won the Times Higher Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts. How is this project innovative? What are the practical and conceptual challenges of implementing this kind of work within institutions?

Option D - The Risk of Creativity

Catherine Jacobs, Von Allen, Dr. Emma Brodzinski

To be creative is to take a risk. Creativity may result in exciting, new discoveries but also has the potential to open up conflicts, expose vulnerability and fail to achieve the intended goal.

This session will draw on case studies from practice in health and social care settings to explore the 'crisis' of creativity and its problems and possibilities.

PANEL SESSION 2

Option A - The Value of Creativity: A Total Waste of Time?

James Oliver, Von Allen, Dr. Emma Brodzinski

This session will explore creativity as a 'time out of time'; a space to explore and experiment. Participants will be invited to participate in a creative intervention and to reflect upon the benefits (or not!) of such activity – with particular reference to the health and care context.

Option B - Fast-track Creativity

Carol Massey, Martin Heaney, Deborah Munt

In discussing the creative process in health and creativity workshops there emerged on a number of occasions the notion that creativity takes time. More time than is usually available in health and care sector planning processes. One panel member (creative sector practitioner) talked of the importance of slowing down, of interrupting the usual pattern, breaking the cycle and getting off the treadmill in order to focus, reflect, generate ideas, experiment, test, judge, provoke, explore (all commonly associated with the creative process).

A second panel member (health sector professional) slightly perturbed by this notion, questioned whether creativity could actually be 'fast' – and more in line with the pace of change. What if 'slow' is not an option? Does that mean that an organisation cannot be creative? Can we 'fast track' creativity?

Expanding on this further what if, despite there being some individuals who are committed to the value of creativity, the environment or culture you work in is generally unsympathetic to the idea of creativity and the conditions unsupportive? What value does creativity add and how can it be made visible and tangible – does it always have to be 'sold' as experiential, ethereal and magical? What more do you achieve by being creative –and is it worth it?

This session will consider, with panel members and participants, what creativity might look like in a fast moving environment and consider what ideas can be put forward for seeding ideas on the stoniest of ground.

Option C - Creative Narratives

Dr. Janet Hargreaves, Hannah Bradby, Mary Robson

Health and social care professionals are regularly in a position to interpret events on behalf of the recipients of their services. Sometimes patients want the health professional to tell them the meaning of their symptoms; at other times the professional's interpretation can deny a service-user's humanity. Competing narrative interpretations of events suggest some of the complexity involved in the provision of services that are sensitive, competent and appropriate. This workshop will explore 3 interpretations of one set of events to consider the uses of narrative in health and social care settings.

Option D- Sustaining Creativity

Catherine Jacobs, Ann Wallis, Suzy Willson