



University of Brighton

Community
University
Partnership
Programme

THE CUPP
HELPDESK



The Cupp helpdesk

The Cupp Helpdesk is a service designed to give free guidance to local community, voluntary and public organisations based in Brighton, Hastings and Eastbourne. The advice and assistance is provided by a bank of researchers from Universities of Brighton, Sussex, and community organisations. It often is the beginning of long term mutually beneficial relationships between community organisations and the universities.

General support

Between them the members of the Cupp Researcher's group have many years of research experience and of working in partnership with a wide variety of community and public sector organisations. So, whether it is figuring out how to start a project, wanting to test the views of your user group, or understanding how well things are working, get in touch and see how we can help.

Specialist advice

Each member of the Cupp Researcher's group is a specialist in a particular subject area and we are especially keen to respond to enquiries which connect to our areas of interest and expertise.

Who can use the helpdesk?

The Helpdesk service is available to all community, voluntary and public sector organisations based in Sussex.

It is aimed at organisations that:

- have ideas for research or development but require guidance to get the process underway:
- are conducting research but require guidance to review their methods/tools:
- are interested in developing research or other partnerships with the University.

Priority for support will be given to those working with disadvantaged communities and neighbourhoods, and voluntary and community sector organisations.

What is Cupp?

Cupp is an award winning community university partnership programme. We share a strong belief in the potential for communities and universities to work together. Their combined resources have been seen to make a tangible difference to the effectiveness of the community sectors, the quality of university education and research and the lives of local people.

Our experience

Cupp has been part of the University of Brighton since 2003 and has become a central part to the university's corporate mission. We have many years of experience of creating, developing and nurturing mutually beneficial partnerships between the university and its local community. Through our strong student community engagement programme and a broad range of local and regional projects Cupp encompasses over 130 academics, 1000 students and 500 community partners.

Our areas of interest and expertise

Children and families

Social and economic disadvantage, resilience, children with complex needs.

Regeneration and change

Architectural, social, cultural and economic – particularly in coastal areas.

Community needs

Community development and working with communities of interest e.g. LGBT, disabilities.

Information technology

Problems of unequal access and ‘digital exclusion’.

Housing

Effects of poor housing & poverty on health, inequalities & disadvantage.

Age and Ageing

Exploring the needs and priorities of older people locally.

Art and inclusion

Use of art in community development and addressing inequalities.

Environment

Environmental issues affecting the quality of life of local communities.

Public participation and citizenship

User involvement and user movements.

Health & social care

Health inequalities, social exclusion, workforce in health & social care, occupational therapy, ethical issues.

Sport and Inclusion

Popular culture, football and identity.

Mental Health and Community Psychology

Social inequality and mental distress,
cultural representations of mental health.

Employment and education

Experiences of work and education.

Participatory approaches to research

User involvement, client-practitioner
relationships, partnership
working and evaluation.

Gender

Gender inequalities, employment
and education.

Diversity and Community Cohesion

Mass communication and anti-racism;
identity, ethnicity and leisure in coastal
environments; ethnic and political violence,
youth and conflict, violence and migration.

*“I could have spent ages and ages
hunting for the right statistical
methods, but being referred to the
relevant academic within the Uni meant
I could get hold of the information I was
after and gain some useful tips.”*

*“...sometimes it's painful, but it has
helped to have someone ask us difficult
questions. Our work is better as a result.”*

*“There's a huge amount of specialist
knowledge there (the university) and
it's great to be able to tap into it to
help our work.”*

What the community say

The Cupp Helpdesk Researchers

Researcher's group Brighton & Hove

Bobbie Farsides, Brighton & Sussex Medical School

Bobbie is Professor of Clinical and Biomedical Ethics. Her research focus is ethical issues relating to healthcare. She has conducted a number of studies looking at scientists' and health care professionals' experience of working in ethically challenging areas of the health service. More recently she has begun to explore the patient experience, particularly in relation to organ donation and diseases affecting the brain.

Alice Fox

Alice Fox is a senior lecturer in Inclusive Arts Practice and the director of the Arts Council funded learning disabled Rocket Artists group. Her practice-based research uses performance, visual art and film to collaborate with people with learning disabilities. Their shared aim is to promote inclusion and challenge existing barriers into the broader aspects of the art world and wider society.

Fred Gray, Professor of Continuing Education, University of Sussex

Fred Gray is University of Sussex lead for the South East Coastal Communities project. His main research interest is around historical and contemporary change – architectural, social, cultural and economic – in seaside towns in Britain and other Western countries.

Elizabeth Harrison, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Sussex

Over the last fifteen years Elizabeth has conducted research in the area of international development, with a particular focus on participation and the relationship between policy makers and those they aspire to help. Applying the lessons from this to the UK context, she has recently worked on projects concerned with ageing and consultation; and with the effects of global economic crisis on UK communities.

Angie Hart

Angie Hart is Professor of Child, Family and Community Health and the Academic Director of Cupp. She has a practice background in child and family psychotherapy, so has many years experience of working in both the university and in the community. Her main research interest is in resilience and young people in adversity. As the adoptive parent of three children with special needs she is also involved with voluntary organisations supporting disadvantaged children and their families.

Flis Henwood

Flis is a Professor of Social Informatics in the School of Applied Social Science at the University of Brighton. Her research is concerned with how information and communication technologies (ICTs) are used by individuals, communities and organisations. She is particularly interested in whether and how poor access to ICTs, and/or low levels of engagement by users in the development of ICTs, might result in social disadvantage in terms of poorer access to health, education etc.

Nichola Khan

Nichola's research interests have addressed violence amongst male youth in Karachi involving Pakistan's ethnic nationalist 'Mohajir' party. She is currently developing a teaching/research programme which will address community recovery from political and environmental violence in Pakistan's North West. Additionally, she is conducting ethnographic fieldwork on role of affect in creating migration networks for Afghans in the UK (Brighton, London) and Peshawar (Pakistan)- and will develop these findings to inform practitioners working with local Afghan communities.

Jacqueline O'Reilly

Jackie is Professor of Comparative Employment Relations and Human Resource Management. Her research interests are in gender and employment, working time, welfare and care systems. Her work as a sociologist has borrowed from traditions in politics, law, political theory and labour economics.

The Cupp Helpdesk Researchers

Researcher's group Brighton & Hove

Carl Walker

Carl Walker is a critical community psychologist in the School of Applied Social Science at the University of Brighton. He is a senior lecturer and course leader in the MA Community Psychology. His research interests include critical community-oriented approaches to mental distress with a particular focus on social inequality, employment and debt. His recent work has focused on collaboration with local community organizations to better understand how problems of debt and employment can be constructed, negotiated and resisted through collective action.

Ruth Woodfield, Reader in Sociology in the Department of Sociology, University of Sussex

Ruth is a member of the Gender and Inequality research group. She has worked on equality issues in a number of areas, mainly in employment and education, exploring how people from different backgrounds have different experiences of work and education and how to address disadvantage. She works on projects using a wide variety of research methods.

Peter Ambrose

Peter is a Visiting Professor in Housing and Health following his retirement from 35 years teaching and researching in urban studies at the University of Sussex. His research interests centre on the implications of poor housing and poverty on health.

Daniel Burdsey

Daniel Burdsey is a Senior Lecturer in sociology at Chelsea School of Sport, University of Brighton. His research addresses: the experiences of minority ethnic groups in sport, leisure and recreation; the relationships between professional football clubs and their communities; and issues around ethnicity, identity and community in coastal locations. Away from the university, Daniel undertakes varied voluntary work in East Sussex with homeless/houseless people, and with asylum-seeker, refugee and “new” migrant communities.

Marylynn Fyvie Gauld

Marylynn is a Senior Lecturer at the University. Her research interests have predominantly been focussed on aspects and perceptions of old age, health, mental health and physical disabilities and the discriminatory effects of social construction of people positioned within these groups.

Paul Gilchrist

Paul is a Research Fellow based in the Chelsea School. His research focuses on people-environment relationships, in particular the political and historical dimensions of sport, leisure and popular culture. He has conducted research and consultancy on aspects of sport and cultural policy. More recently, his research addresses the uses of space and place in relation to the development of lifestyle sport.

The Cupp Helpdesk Researchers

Researcher's group Eastbourne and Hastings:

Mike Hall

Mike has a background in philosophy, political economy, politics, and public policy. His current research interests centre on learning and education, in particular relating to so-called 'non-traditional' learners in university level education. One aspect of this interest focuses on individuals' stories of their learning, their stances towards learning and their learning strategies.

Gaynor Sadlo

Gaynor is Professor of Occupational Science and leader of the occupational therapy team at Brighton. Related to public health, occupational science is the study of what people do, how they do what they do and the effect this has on their health and wellbeing.

Her particular focus is on how engagement in creative activities seems to be an essential aspect of human health. Disability issues are another major concern. Gaynor's other research interest is in innovative learning and teaching; she has a life-time's expertise in the theory and processes of problem-based learning.

Fiona Smith

Fiona is a principal lecturer based in the Chelsea School at the University of Brighton. She is Artistic Director of the all male Kick-Start Dance Company. Fiona is an executive member of the National dance Teachers Association. Her research interests include, teaching dance composition, the development and promotion of boys in dance and the male role model in dance teaching.

You can access both the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex researchers through the Helpdesk.

For more information or to register for the helpdesk contact Polly Rodriguez, Helpdesk Manager, University of Brighton on 01273 643229 (Monday to Thursday) or p.v.rodriguez@brighton.ac.uk

Sign up to receive our email update at:
www.brighton.ac.uk/cupp

Join our social network:
www.cuppcop.ning.com

Follow us on twitter:
<http://twitter.com/cuppbrighton>

Helpdesk coordination with the University of Sussex is provided by River Jones, Convenor of Community Engagement, Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex on 01273 872987 or r.l.jones@sussex.ac.uk



Get in touch



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www.brighton.ac.uk/cupp