

European Researcher's Night at Manchester Museum

Friday 27th September 2019

5-9pm – Adult social

What is it?

Friday 27 September is European Researcher's Night, and for the fifth year running, Manchester Museum will be hosting this special evening research extravaganza. This event will bring Manchester's finest researchers together to showcase and discuss their work with an adult audience.

There will be research and researchers, music and drinks, and a lively and sociable atmosphere.

The event is funded by the Natural History Museum, who have held parallel events in London and Tring for several years running.

European Researcher's Night is a Europe-wide initiative, bringing together thousands of researchers across Europe to share their research with the public in a social setting.

Get Involved

We are looking for 50+ researchers to join us at the Museum to share their research with our curious audience. We want to encourage all researchers to get involved, whatever the research theme may be; the only criteria is that you can share it somehow with the adult audience who will be attending. We are especially keen for research that connects to our collection, as we would love to get objects out on the night. So if you've got something interesting to share, get in touch (see contacts below).

What will happen on the day?

The Museum will be open later than usual: European Researchers Night will be open to the public from 5-9pm.

There are a 3 ways you can participate:

- 1) **Research Stations** – Host an interactive table-top activity to get a conversation started. The aim of a research station is to get chatting with the public, so leave your poster boards behind and bring your best conversation starters and any eye-catching objects, equipment and demonstrations. The smallest practical station would be two researchers at a time, and researchers would need to work in rotation for the duration that a station is running. A limited number of large, flagship stations are possible on the night and these may have 10 or more researchers.

- 2) **5 minute talks** - got something interesting to say in 5 minutes? Then step onto our soapbox to give us an entertaining 5 minute talk. Think whistle-stop tour / 5-minute thesis to share some insights into your work.
- 3) **Story telling** - This has become a popular activity, particularly for those researchers who spend time in the field, at sea or in other unusual circumstances. This approach has the potential to captivate otherwise “research reluctant” audiences with compelling stories. 15 minute stories based around your experiences as a researcher. Short training exercises are also available to help you prepare.

We are open to you trying your hand at any of our activities but bear in mind, if you are on a research station, it needs to be manned all evening, so you'll need to find a colleague to keep the conversation flowing while you're away.

Is this for you?

European Researchers Night is open to a wide array of researchers including:

- Research leaders
- Research groups
- Postgraduate students
- Early career researchers

What are the themes for this year?

This year's theme is broad: **Research in the City**

More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas. On one hand, our cities face a range of tough challenges, from climate change, air and water pollution, and flooding, to deprivation, social inequalities and population health. On the other hand, cities are places of innovation and enterprise, art and culture, and science and technology; where great ideas and opportunities are found.

1. Is your research connected to Manchester?

Are you doing your research **in** Manchester? Is your research **about** Manchester?

2. Is your research connected to cities?

Are you doing research about the urban **environment**, urban **spaces**, **places** or **people**?

Does your work respond to the **challenges** or **opportunities** that arise from **urban living** or **urbanism**?

Otherwise, if you think you might have an interesting science project or research which may not fall under any of these categories but would still like to participate, please get in touch with us and we would be more than happy to accommodate you.

What do you get from it?

A fun night of conversations around your research. We will evaluate the event and include questions around the impact of research for you to use to evidence your public engagement activities. We are hoping to get a significant audience so you could reach lots of curious adults and students.

Thinking of applying?

Fill out our European Researchers Night Manchester application form at <https://forms.gle/6bH2BRdidFpQ1HJZA> by **Friday 16 August 2019**. The form isn't too long: the idea is for you to give us a feel for what you might be interested in contributing.

Sharing your work

We want the event to be as accessible as possible and for the audience to really engage with your work, so we might ask you further questions after you've submitted your application, or ask you to modify your idea – we hope you won't mind collaborating with us.

Got a question?

Contact Anna Bunney, Engagement Manager: anna.bunney@manchester.ac.uk