

# CULTURE COMMS

## Culture Comms 2016 at Wellcome Collection Speaker biographies



**Conference chair: Sara Wajid, Senior Manager, Public Programmes, National Maritime Museum**

Sara is a former journalist turned cultural producer. She works at National Maritime Museum running the public programmes and trying to convince audiences that there's more to maritime history than master and commander. As a feature writer she specialised in cultural politics, race and Islam and wrote for The Guardian, New Statesman and Times Higher Education Supplement. She runs a network of BAME museum professionals called Museum Detox. @waji35

### Meet the journalists

**Anna Russell, Wall Street Journal**

Anna Russell covers arts and culture for the Wall Street Journal in London. She writes across multiple fields, including visual art, film, books, television, theatre and occasionally travel. Before joining the London bureau in 2015, she wrote for the Journal's arts section in New York. She also ran the WSJ Book Club, in which contemporary authors select and discuss a favourite read. Before joining the Journal, she interned at Newsweek/The Daily Beast, Condé Nast Traveller and The New York Daily News. She studied English at New York University. @anna\_russell



**Emily Gosling, Freelance**

Emily is a freelance writer based in London, and currently editorial resident with AIGA, having previously worked as deputy editor at It's Nice That and reporter & what's on editor at Design Week. She specialises in art, design, culture and women's issues. @nalascarlett



**Marisa Bate, Senior Editor, The Pool**

Marisa Bate is a London-based journalist covering stories that impact women's lives, with a particular interest in politics, society and culture. After graduating from Goldsmiths College with an MA in 20th Century Literature, Marisa was a staff member at Red Magazine and The Guardian, before becoming the first employee of the The Pool, a recently launched website for women from Sam Baker and Lauren Laverne, where she is now senior editor. On a freelance basis, Marisa has also worked for leading trend forecasting agencies in both London and Amsterdam, and written for The Observer, Cosmopolitan and Glamour magazine.



**Laura Gallant, Photographer and Photo Editor, BuzzFeed**

Originally from New York, Laura Gallant has been a photo editor and staff photographer at BuzzFeed UK for a year focusing on editorial and documentary-style shoots. She has shot Margot Robbie, Daniel Radcliffe and the Olympic Team GB to name a few. Before BuzzFeed, Laura worked at Time Out New York. Laura loves intimate portrait photography, striking visuals and story-telling through images. @LauraMGallant @BuzzfeedUK



## Leading from the press office

**Sharon Atkinson, Director of Communications, York Minster**  
Sharon Atkinson is Director of Communications for York Minster where she oversees media relations, marketing and stakeholder engagement. Sharon started her career in media and marketing in the civil service as a government press officer. She moved into commercial PR working for global communications company Fleishman-Hillard UK before taking up a post as Head of Communications for the National Care Standards Commission, forerunner to the Healthcare Commission. In 2004 she was appointed Director of Communications at the Nursing and Midwifery Council, a post she held until July 2013. @York\_Minster



**Josephine Chanter, Head of Communications and External Affairs, Design Museum**

Josephine Chanter has been Head of Communications and External Affairs at the Design Museum since 2006. She has a broad portfolio including brand, marketing, PR, public affairs and digital communications. Since joining the museum, Josephine has led the communications team through a period of transition during which the museum doubled its income and increased its visitors by 20%. Josephine has led the museum's digital transformation as it prepares to relocate to Kensington at the end of 2016. During this time, she has established the museum as the second largest museum or gallery in the world on Twitter, commissioned an award winning iPad/iPhone app and recently launched the museum's multi award winning website.

**Will White, Communications Manager, National Media Museum**

Since 2013, Will has led the external affairs department at the National Media Museum in Bradford, heading up the marketing and press teams. While at University Will ran and edited Fest, the independent Edinburgh Festival newspaper, before spending three years in marketing at the Edinburgh Fringe. He moved to London to work at Visiting Arts, the British Council's international arts exchange agency, before becoming communications manager at BookTrust. There he delivered several national media campaigns – including the 'Save Bookstart' campaign (which forced a Government u-turn) and managing the Children's Laureateship of Julia Donaldson.



**Chair: David Bryan, National Council Member, Arts Council England and Director of Xtend UK**

David Bryan is a National Council Member of Arts Council England and Director of Xtend UK Ltd, a management consultancy working in organisational change, leadership and diversity. His arts management experience began with establishing a specialist bookshop in 1976, which culminated in the first Black Bookfair in the UK. As the director of Brixton Village arts centre he created a platform for Black Comedy and diverse theatre. He has produced Black Theatre festivals, exhibitions, film festivals and dance events. He has been a consultant to emerging and established arts institutions, provided diversity training on behalf of the Arts Council, been a board member of several arts organisations and lectured at Goldsmith College, Birkbeck College, City Lit Institute and South Bank University.

## Bonding with broadcasters

**Bill Hobbins, Commissioning Editor, Sky 1 & Sky Arts**

Bill Hobbins joined Sky in 2015 from Lion Television where he was entertainment executive, co-executive producing Sexy Beasts for BBC3 and the new series of Horrible Histories specials for CBBC.

As creative director at CBBC, he ran the in-house development team, creating the BAFTA award-winning Absolute Genius with Dick and Dom. Bill also held roles at Mentorn, producing Robot Wars for BBC2, and at RDF where he looked after several series of Scrapheap Challenge for Channel 4. At Sky, Hobbins oversees Wild Things for Sky 1 and Landscape Artist of the Year for Sky Arts.





**John Mullen, Series Producer, BBC Arts Night**

John Mullen is a Series Producer in BBC Arts. Over the past 15 years he has produced programmes on a huge range of subjects relating to arts and culture, from global architecture to grime music.

**Shirley Mann, freelance film maker and journalist**

Shirley Mann is an experienced journalist and broadcaster as well as the owner of Harvest Creative, a small media company specialising in environmental clients. She has worked across newspapers, radio and television and spent many years as a producer/director/presenter for the BBC's World Service, Radio 4 and TV programmes such as Countryfile. She was Environment Producer with the BBC for several years and when she set up Harvest Creative, she concentrated on working for organisations that reflected her ethos. She now produces films for organisations such as Natural England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, does media training and communications training, lecturing, copy writing and PR. @shirleymann07



**Eleanor Garland, Late Night Woman's Hour, BBC**

Eleanor Garland is an Executive Producer with the BBC and has made programmes for Radios 1,2,3,4,5live and the World Service. She has spent most of her career on Radio 4 and has worked on the Today programme, The Food Programme, Home Truths, In Touch, You and Yours and Any Questions & Answers, amongst others, as well as a range of documentaries in science, health, travel and the arts. She is currently producing Woman's Hour & Late Night Woman's Hour. Her documentary The Boy With The Violin won Best International Doc. Prize at the Asia Pacific Awards.

**Reaching new audiences**

**Bethan Jinkinson, Digital Editor, BBC World Service**

As Digital Editor for the BBC World Service, Bethan Jinkinson works to ensure all World Service English programmes have a strong and effective digital/social strategy. She oversees the output of the BBC World Service website and its social media offer. She is always looking for new ways to reach and connect with new audiences - through social media, podcasts, our app and website and internal and external digital promotion. She is passionate about leading digital and organisational change. @bethjin



**Penny Mills, Area Director London, Audience Agency**

Penny is responsible for delivering projects with clients across London and also specialises in audience development planning, understanding audiences and evaluation. She has recently delivered projects for Artichoke's Lumiere London, Historic Royal Palaces, Wellcome Collection, Shubbak Festival, the Photographers` Gallery, Team London Bridge, Roundhouse, Sadler's Wells and a wide range of Strategic Touring projects across artforms (funded by ACE). She is expert in working strategically with organisations to generate insights which result in meaningful audience development planning, income generation and engagement. @penelopemills @audienceagents



**Tony Heaton OBE Founder of the National Disability Arts Collection and Archive (NDACA) and Chief Executive of Shape Arts**

Tony has been involved in the arts and museums sector for over 25 years with a particular emphasis on access and inclusion, and is also a practising sculptor. His work 'Monument to the Unintended Performer' was installed on the Big 4 at Channel 4 TV Centre in London to celebrate the 2012 Paralympics. He was invited to re-create his sculpture 'Great Britain from a Wheelchair' as Lecterns for Lord Coe and Sir Phillip Craven at the Paralympic opening and closing ceremonies, and his sculpture 'Squarinthecircle?' is situated outside the school of architecture, Portsmouth University. Tony was previously Director of Holton Lee, developing the architectural award-winning Faith House Gallery and fully accessible artists' studios. www.tonyheaton.co.uk





**Holly Conneely, Head of Marketing, Royal Court Theatre**  
 Holly Conneely is Head of Marketing at the Royal Court Theatre. Prior to this she was Marketing Director at the Tricycle Theatre where she worked for five years, having originally joined the organisation as the Marketing Officer. She has experience leading marketing teams to deliver strategic objectives, develop branding, manage campaigns, enhance digital innovation, and ultimately drive a conversation between the organisation and the audience.

## PR success stories from real people

### **Russell Dornan, Web Editor, Wellcome Collection**

Russell Dornan works on digital content and engagement at Wellcome Collection, looking after the website, blog and social media channels. He's responsible for commissioning and editing digital content and for developing digital projects related to exhibitions and other work carried out at Wellcome Collection. Russell is particularly interested in using Instagram and audience participation in creative or unexpected ways.



### **Liz Barrett, PR Consultant**

Liz is a leading PR consultant with experience working on capital projects, crisis communications and PR strategy. She was Acting Head of Communications at Tate, Head of Communications at English National Opera and Acting Head of Communications at the V&A. She was an Account Director for Sutton PR during the company's inception, leading on new business, and directing communications, strategy and advocacy for Frieze Art Fair, Manchester International Festival and a large number of private galleries, institutions and collectors. She is currently a freelance consultant and publicist working with clients such as Tate, V&A and private creative enterprises.



### **Jude Habib, Founder and Director, sounddelivery**

Jude is a BBC trained reporter and producer with over 20 years' experience of unearthing stories that need to be told. She founded sounddelivery in 2006 to give charities and the people they support the skills and confidence to tell their stories. Since then Jude has trained thousands of individuals in storytelling, helping to raise awareness and inspire action on a range of social issues. At the BBC Jude focused on human interest storytelling, developing and delivering high-impact social action campaigns across radio, television and digital. These included Ring Around Carers, Africa Lives, Children in Need and Comic Relief. Jude is a certified TPMA trainer and mentor, and a Fellow of the School for Social Entrepreneurs. @judehabib @sounddelivery



## Committee bios

### **Chair: Clea Relly**

Clea Relly is the Chair of Culture Comms and is incredibly proud that an idea that started over drinks with colleagues has grown into the seventh Culture Comms conference. She loves how it brings out the best in people: the diligent volunteers, the enlightening speakers, the generous hosts and the enthusiastic delegates. Her years spent at Westminster, The National Archives and the Museum of London give her a solid understanding of the sector, but Culture Comms keeps her on her toes between the school runs. info@culturecomms.org. @CleaRelly



### **Catharine Braithwaite**

After being told by teachers that talking in class was never going to deliver her dream job, it was her destiny that Catharine would find her way into PR. After 20-plus years this is still her ideal career. Roles at the Manchester Art Gallery and Tate Liverpool gave her the confidence to go on to Manchester International Festival, Liverpool Biennial, Manchester Museums Consortium, to name a few. cat@we-r-lethal.com, @catharinebee





**Charlotte Sluter**

Charlotte is Senior Account Manager at SUTTON, a global arts and culture communications agency with offices in London, Hong Kong and New York. She works with the Whitworth, Leighton House Museum, The Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting and the Art Fund. Charlotte loves history and before joining the agency worked at IWM (Imperial War Museums) on the First World War Centenary and reopening of IWM London. With over five years of in-house and agency experience Charlotte has collected a wealth of memories, travelled the world, and been given a thank you in a children’s book. [charlottes@suttonpr.com](mailto:charlottes@suttonpr.com) @Sutton\_PR twitter / @sutton Instagram

**Emily Philippou**

Emily is Media Manager for Wellcome Collection, this year’s conference venue. With a background in health and pharmaceutical PR, followed by brief stints at Purple PR and the National Media Museum, she has found a happy little niche here in the home of medicine, life and art. Career highlight headlines include ‘I botoxed my baby’ and ‘Take me to the cosmic vagina’. [e.philippou@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:e.philippou@wellcome.ac.uk) / @Emily\_Philippou



**Jenny Stewart**

Jenny is a freelance publicist and PR advisor interested all things cultural. After years in London and stints at the Design Museum, Royal Museums Greenwich and Avalon she struck out on her own last spring, combining derelict house renovation in rural Ireland with work for the Glasgow Comedy Festival, the London Design Festival and a non-stop 24/7 public reading of the Chilcot Report in its entirety at the Edinburgh Fringe. She recently adopted an emotionally disturbed staffordshire bull terrier, and since doing so has found dealing with irascible trustees, tight deadlines, and the inevitable creative-industry curveballs a lot less intimidating.

**Katie Owen**

Katie Owen has worked in the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Media Team for the past 19 years. She is still waiting for her National Lottery numbers to come up (and no she sadly doesn’t have the inside track on winning numbers) but continues to use the following hashtag as her general life motto #StayHopeful.



**Sagar Shah**

Sagar is Communications Officer at the Barbican. He took a circuitous route into arts communications, having previously managed a record label, promoted concerts and worked in live television. He currently juggles working at the Barbican with occasionally pretending to DJ. [sagar.shah@barbican.org.uk](mailto:sagar.shah@barbican.org.uk), @bloodyawfulsaga



**Sarah Carr**

Sarah is the Marketing and Sales Officer at the Science Museum where she works on commercial projects across the Science Museum Group, however, spends far too much of her time politely explaining to visitors that “the dinosaurs are next door”. Prior to joining the Science Museum she worked on the project to deliver The Postal Museum and Mail Rail. [sarah.carr@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.carr@sciencemuseum.ac.uk), @SarahJCarr

