

When Art Meets Science

Lapidus Research Day, 31 July 2015

Research in the Arts:

‘Our national research programme explores questions across artforms and regions, **building collective knowledge and supporting the development of effective policy.**’

‘The arts bring happiness, and the arts make things happen.’

-Arts Council

Research in Healthcare:

‘Research and clinical trials are an everyday part of the work done in the NHS. The people who carry out research are mostly the same doctors and healthcare professionals who treat people. Their aim is to **find better ways of looking after patients and keeping people healthy.**’

-NHS

Similarities

Systematic

Seeking knowledge

Being useful / doing good

Communicated to interested others

Differences

Standardisation levels

Role of researcher

Generalisability

Focus on predictions

Use of emotion

Terminology

Super Size Me:

‘Morgan Spurlock’s (2004) Super Size Me is an exemplar for any person exploring how art and science can collaborate in examining a particular phenomenon with the goal of changing human behavior. Spurlock conducts an experiment in which he eats food only from McDonalds for 30 days and documents the physiological changes in his body—weight, cholesterol levels, and so forth. I was delighted when I saw this film, and I recommend it widely as a research model emerging from contemporary art and culture.’

-Shaun McNiff

The Future?

‘As we develop new methods of art-based research, it is my hope that we can pursue our goals in ways that lessen the divide between art and science and between different kinds of research. I favor a simple focus on doing “research,” systematically examining and passionately imagining phenomena in whatever ways address the needs of the particular situation.’

-Shaun McNiff