

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award

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| Project Title | | | |
| Commoning Digital Practices for Art and Culture | | | |
| LEAD INSTITUTION | | | |
| Name of HEI institution | Coventry University | | |
| Lead regional city | Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> | Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Leicester <input type="checkbox"/> Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PARTNER ORGANISATION | | | |
| Name of organisation | NN Contemporary Arts | | |
| Website URL | https://nncontemporaryart.org/ https://www.instagram.com/nncontemporaryart/ https://www.facebook.com/nncontemporaryart/ https://twitter.com/nnpress?lang=en | | |
| THE RESEARCH PROJECT | | | |
| <p>An innovative collaboration between NN Contemporary Art (NNCA) and the Centre for Postdigital Cultures (CPC), Coventry University, sees a PhD candidate working with the art organisation to explore digital resources, tools and infrastructure with a view to democratising and disseminating art and culture locally within Northampton.</p> <p>NNCA in collaboration with Library Stack are constructing a new lending library using the organisation's digital platforms. The idea is to develop a new type of digital curatorial activity that enables the use, presentation, loan and conservation of digital art. The intention is to utilise methods and resources inspired by the knowledge commons to curate and extend the organisation access, enabling subscribers to view digital artworks online. The addition of a digital library will also benefit those who cannot easily visit the gallery in its physical location (be it for reasons to do with health, age, disability or social and economic inequality). The library will include content developed from its locale; from artists and writers that have a specific connection with NN Contemporary Art. Formats of materials include PDF zines, downloadable exhibitions, experimental sound compositions, magazines about experimental sound art, fonts channelling cultural histories, and political artworks in the form of custom browser extensions.</p> <p>The PhD research project is a key element of the NNCA's strategy to investigate the implications for curating and programming digital platforms and archives. The research will enable CPC to further explore its engagement with the way in which open, democratic practices associated with the knowledge commons can impact upon art and culture in urban space. The CPC's current Research England-funded COPIM Project and forthcoming EU-funded SPACEX project are both dedicated to discovering ways in which open access to the arts and humanities can be advanced.</p> <p>This project is particularly timely because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the related reduction of access to art and culture, which has meant museum and gallery directors have had to seriously rethink their use of digital technology for the purposes of local engagement. This situation has driven an urgent review of how the digital is brought to bear on the way artworks are collected and accessed locally.</p> <p>The award-holder will be jointly supported by CPC and NCCA throughout the four years. At CPC the award-holder will receive doctoral research training and engage with the wider network of scholars</p> | | | |

on the COPIM and SPACEX projects. NCCA will provide supervision, mentoring and practical support in particular for the second year placement and *Commoning Digital Practices Playbook* distributed at a final event.

We hope to recruit the fully-funded PhD candidate in the summer of 2022 for a project start in September 2022.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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| Lead HEI Supervisor: | Professor Mel Jordan |
| Lead HEI Supervisor Email: | Mel.jordan@coventry.ac.uk |