



M RES Arts - Summer Tasks 2023

Preparatory Exercise

Please devote an hour or so to consider the following questions. They will help you think about what you want from your research and the methods that might be appropriate. We will discuss your ideas during Induction Week and at the start of the module.

What is the purpose of your research? Is it to achieve specific changes – in the processes of making art, design or drama, or how practitioners engage with wider society? Or is it more about achieving a deeper conceptual understanding of certain phenomena in visual and material culture? Perhaps it is a combination of both.

What is your role in the research? Are you an objective observer, or will you participate with others to create subjective experiences? Will you have to reflect upon changes within yourself?

Preparatory Exercise (continued)

What is the nature of the knowledge you hope to produce? Is it factual, technical or quantifiable? Or is it qualitative and dependent upon context and subjectivity?

At this point, do you already envisage using a number of different research methods? If so, what are they, and can you picture how they will work together to produce the different types of knowledge you desire?



Exercises: please devote an hour or so to the following exercises. They will help you think about what you want from your research and research sources. We will discuss your ideas during Induction Week and at the start of the module.

Exercise One: Self-Reflection

Your pre-existing beliefs (political, social, cultural) and experience will inevitably shape the direction of, and give momentum to your research. This exercise will help you reflect upon *your* voice in your research, and what place it should have.

How do you think your personal values shape your research? Think about your assumptions about the roles and place of the arts and design in society. What are their functions, and who should they be for?

Exercise Two: Five Minute Reading

Postgraduate research entails quickly identifying those research texts which will repay deeper attention. This exercise gives a flavour of that process.

Find a book relevant to your research, that you have not read before. Examine it for five minutes, then note all the salient points you can about it. You should aim to note the key messages of the book relevant to your research. This might include the content, its case studies, research methodologies, or theory - or all four.