CAPOD Funding Report

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>Ethics, Affect and Responsibility: Global Citizenship and the Act of Reading</th>
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<td>Date of event</td>
<td>17th September 2016</td>
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1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):
Featuring a keynote address by social psychologist Dr Keon West (Goldsmiths) about his use of ‘imagined contact’ to increase empathy and overcome intergroup prejudice, the workshop featured a selection of master classes addressing topics including literature and race, bibliotherapy and refugee, communities, and the possibilities of structured reading for disadvantaged youth. Master classes were led by expert academics with experience putting their theoretical work into practice, and were interactive in nature.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.
It was interesting to hear from a social psychology perspective the research that is being done to explore how literature can be used to increase empathy. This will be useful for my involvement with community reading schemes, and other future reading projects in both university and non-university settings. Dr. West’s talk also opened up possibilities for collaboration and exchange between social psychologists and literary critics, which I found extremely stimulating. The workshop I attended in the afternoon run by Tom Sperlinger from the University of Bristol was a really useful opportunity to share knowledge and practise regarding running shared reading groups in community settings, and it was also interesting to learn about the English Literature and Community Engagement degree programme they have started to offer at Bristol. I was particularly interested in the students’ experience of this programme and how running community projects might impact on or develop their research practise.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.
I will be keeping in touch with the project, looking out for further events that will situate this discussion in a global context and consider the worldwide impact of using literature as a tool for activism. I also now have contact details for the speakers from the day, and met several other PhD and postdoc students who are interested in similar projects, so will keep in touch with them. I will also consider how I might incorporate some of the ideas from the day, especially those expressed by Dr. West about ‘imagined contact’ and intergroup empathy into both my research and my use of reading in community settings. This includes working with the shared reading charity Open Book and festivals such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).
I now have a couple of paper handouts with additional resources for use with shared reading groups which I would be happy to share, as well as an overview of the University of Bristol’s new degree programme.
5. Tips/experience learned from the event

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event