Wednesday 26th October 5.00-7.00  Wolfson Research Exchange


With Alison Ribeiro de Menezes (Hispanic Studies), Fabienne Viala (Hispanic Studies), Jo Garde-Hansen (Cultural Policy Studies), Helen Wheatley (Film and TV), Mark Philp (History), Sarah Shalgosky (The Mead Gallery), and others.

The engagement and impact agendas have become increasingly important components of people’s academic lives thanks to the pressures from funding councils and from the REF agenda. As a part of that process, the curating of exhibitions has also become something that more and more academics are considering, or including in funding bids, or in their work.

How valuable is this move? Are exhibitions useful as a form of impact? Do they have other purposes? And are their purposes over-dominated by the impact agenda? And if you are going to do an exhibition, how do you get it right – either in terms of engagement or impact?

These questions are rarely openly addressed and discussed in academic communities, and yet we can learn from each other about how best to undertake these such activities, and we can fruitfully reflect collectively on their value as a component of an academic research agenda, especially in the Arts and Humanities. Are exhibitions (and performances, etc.,) there to spread research findings, to engage the public in our research work, or are they an integral part of much arts and humanities research? Or are they in fact a distraction from research?

In this session, academics from across the arts and humanities, together with those involved in exhibition curation, will discuss the place of exhibitions in contemporary academic research.

The Memory Group (EHRC), Department of History