

# Research: How and Why

- WELCOME
- You are successfully logged in.
- Please make your yourself comfortable and grab a cuppa before we start at 6.30pm.
- If you haven't used Zoom before, do familiarise yourself with how to mute your microphone.

# Research: How and Why

- DURING THE PRESENTATION PLEASE MUTE MICROPHONES TO LIMIT BACKGROUND NOISE.
- DO FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS AT ANY POINT – JUST UNMUTE!
- YOU CAN ALSO USE THE CHAT FUNCTION TO ASK QUESTIONS, I WILL DOWNLOAD THIS AT THE END OF THE SESSION TO ALLOW FOLLOW UP.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY POINTS TO RAISE AFTER THE SESSION, PLEASE DO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON THE FORUM THREAD .
- PRESENTATION NOTES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE SESSION AND POSTED ON THE FORUM THREAD AND ON THE PADLET. LINK TO THE PADLET IS IN THE FORUM THREAD HEADING.
- INTRODUCTIONS

# Research: WHY

- Going to start with why first ...
- Context – other talks in this series have covered learning logs, reflective writing, approaching an assignment.

# But I don't want to influence my work ....

- Occasionally as tutors we hear objections from students about research, or that it is completed after the project.
- Use research to stimulate your ideas – broaden your thinking.

# It is really hard to copy

- One of the best ways to learn is to try and copy existing work.
- This can really help you understand technical fundamentals – focal length, depth of field and lighting.



Edouard Manet, 'Woman with a Cat',  
about 1880-2



Francesca, curator, 'Woman with a Cat',  
2020



Jan van Eyck, 'Portrait of a Man (Self Portrait?)', 1433



Belen, designer; 'Portrait of a Man (Self Portrait?)', 2020

Fig. 2

# Rankin shoots Bailey

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p010wn00>

# To watch other sections from this programme

- Search – 7 Fashion Photographs That Changed the World on YouTube

Research: HOW

# Cultural connections

- When researching a topic – think laterally on resources.
- Use film/TV programmes/literature/poetry/music/other art disciplines.
- Examples:
  - FSA photographers – read John Steinbeck
  - Germany between the wars – Franz Kafka or Christopher Isherwood
  - Dystopian future/AI – Blade Runner
  - Robert Frank – Early Wim Wenders films/Jack Kerouac
  - Early Cindy Sherman – Hitchcock films

# Delve deep and explore wide

- Think laterally on these resources ...
- This is where other students/friends/family can be invaluable in helping you think outside of the immediate subject area.
- Follow up references in the reading that you are doing ... if a particular point/footnote interests you follow the train of thinking.
- Look at the references in key texts – the reading lists are starting points for you to explore further.
- You don't need to read the whole book – be selective.

# Be curious

- <https://youtu.be/ZrVVvXOIwQc>

# Be curious

“So remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. **Be curious**, and however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. It matters that you don’t just give up.”

Professor Stephen Hawking from speech given at Cambridge University in 2017 [my emphasis].

# OCA Library – Introducing Helen Barrett

- Students are welcome to contact Helen for any help (e.g. using the Online Library, with their referencing and even if they are looking for research outside of UCA/OCA).
- Contact details are
  - [library@oca.ac.uk](mailto:library@oca.ac.uk)
  - [Ask the Librarian](#) on OCA Discuss
- As part of the OCA Learn launch, Helen has also created a Library guide for photography students <https://ucreative.libguides.com/OCAPhotography>
- Helen works work Monday to Friday 8.30-14.30

# Referencing

- Be rigorous in recording references.
- Be methodical.
- Use a rolling bibliography which you can annotate.
- OCA uses the Harvard Referencing system.
- Link to the UCA guide (which OCA has adopted) is here:  
<https://www.uca.ac.uk/library/academic-support/harvard-referencing/>

# Referencing Software

- Via the UCA Library website you can access information on referencing software packages.
- UCA recommends Paperpile and Zotero
- More information is here: <https://www.uca.ac.uk/library/academic-support/referencing-software/>

# Research: ACTION

- Think when you can research.
- Be organized and line up material to read in dead time.
- If you find it hard to sit down to read, set a timer – start with 10 minutes a day.

# Research Take Aways

- This has been taken from one of my current student on EYV.
- Each blog post has an outline summary of photographer and work – with links.
- Then in THEIR OWN words the student has listed the key elements to them from the work. This is in notated form – no need for lengthy reviews.

# The 30-Second Rule

- This approach echoes the previous slide.
- (I've shared this rule before but think it is a really valid approach – especially when viewing work or watching talks).
- Having a quick summary of each source is useful to refer back to (particularly when you want to come back to a source at a later date).
- Link to a great article on this is in the bibliography.

# My 30 Second Summary of The 30 Second Rule

- If you only do one thing
- DO THIS
- Immediately after every lecture, meeting or significant experience
- Take 30 seconds, no more, no less
- To write down the most important points

## RULES

- 1 it's not note taking
- 2 it's hard work
- 3 detail is a trap
- 4 you must act quickly
- 5 you learn to listen better, and ask better questions
- 6 you are able to help others more
- 7 it gets easier and more valuable

# Have a system of taking notes

- Written – notebook; journal; record cards; physical artifacts - postcards, articles out of newspapers etc.
- Digital – Evernote, Dropbox, or similar apps; draft word document; notes apps; audio files – BACK UP REGULARLY.
- Think about a draft document where open tabs are backed up .... I'm very guilty of open tab syndrome!



# What if it isn't relevant to current work ..

- Find a way of storing useful information that may not be relevant to current work.
- In creative writing, students are encouraged to keep a 'Commonplace Book' – it is a place to record knowledge

# Alive vs Dead Time

- There is so much content being share online at the moment, discussions/talks.
- Don't try and watch everything!
- Do share really good resources that you have seen/watched/heard.
- Do pay attention to how good online content is shared/produced ... books/slideshows/ physical work/exhibitions – make notes and keep examples – really good for reference.

# Be critical of your sources

- Remember to validate your sources.
- Question everything.
- Think who is telling the story ... historiography is the study of the writing of history.

# Decolonising the curriculum

- Think about your perspective – does this influence your interpretations, your starting point for research?



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**Decolonising the curriculum – a 'serious need'?**

Art Education Cross Discipline Diversity

Posted: 07/05/20 09:25 | 15 Comments

In July of last year our photography lead Gina Lundy shared a student's learning log post that complained of the under-representation of Black and Minority Ethnic photographers in the Expressing Your Vision course. It was a strongly worded grievance and as the author and unit leader I felt I had a duty to address it. So I went back to the coursebook to see if I could understand where she was coming from. EYV was written with globalism very much in mind – several Japanese and other non-western photographers and theorists are referenced prominently in the text and one of the case studies speaks directly to cultural identity from a non-white perspective. I felt EYV was a progressive course – it didn't need 'decolonising'. I wrote to the student acknowledging that black photographers were 'woefully under-represented' but pointing out what we'd already done to make the course more inclusive. Nevertheless, a student who identifies as Black and/or Minority Ethnic had reported a sense of alienation – was I sure that my understanding was correct?

- <https://www.oca.ac.uk/weareoca/education/decolonising-the-curriculum-a-serious-need/>

# Research: USE

- Feed your research into your learning log.
- Use reflective writing to incorporate research threads into your thinking.
- Remember to keep your annotated bibliography up to date ... this where the brief notes can be invaluable when you want to return to a source.

“If you only read the books that everyone else is reading,  
you can only think what everyone else is thinking.”

HARUKI MURAKAMI from *Norwegian Wood*

# Notes from previous talks are available via Padlet

- The PowerPoints are available via the forum and on an OCA Padlet - <https://oca.padlet.org/andreanorrington/laq2kvhc5mpg>
- Guidance on Padlet coming on next slide – click past if you don't need it.

# Padlet

- This is a new online resource that OCA are introducing with students.
- If you don't have an account (via OCA already) go to:  
<https://oca.padlet.org/>
- Then log in 'With Google' and use your OCA email and password.
- (Don't Google 'Padlet' and sign up for an account unless you also want one use for non-OCA purposes – in that case DON'T use your OCA email for this).

Andrea Norrington 1m

## Photography Zoom Talks 2019/2020

Tutor led Zoom talks for OCA Photography Students - Level 1/2 (HE4/5)

### New Year, New Resolutions

#### New Year, New Work Resolutions

document

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connections.

If you're connected someone in the system. You will need:

• A camera

• A microphone

• A stable internet connection

#### New Year, New Work Resolutions A

PDF document

padlet drive

### Reflective Writing

#### Reflective Writing

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### Learning Logs

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#### Learning Logs

PDF document

padlet drive

# Link to feedback form

- Please do provide feedback on these sessions as they are part of a pilot programme with OCA.
- [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxGQ399ZAZXYjfzwYNFrJx2\\_RmITGWaZUBNjjiBKtarLHRBw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxGQ399ZAZXYjfzwYNFrJx2_RmITGWaZUBNjjiBKtarLHRBw/viewform)

# Bibliography

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# List of Illustrations

- Fig. 1 *Francesca, curator, 'Woman with Cat'*, (2020) The National Gallery [Photograph] At: <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/national-gallery-staff-have-been-recreating-paintings-from-its-collection-while-in-lockdown-042020> (Accessed 13/05/2020)
- Fig. 2 *Belen, designer, 'Portrait of a Man (Self Portrait?)'*, (2020) The National Gallery [Photograph] At: <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/national-gallery-staff-have-been-recreating-paintings-from-its-collection-while-in-lockdown-042020> (Accessed 13/05/2020)