

I am because we are - finding the **HEaRT** of Community Psychology

The 4th Community Psychology Festival 23rd & 24th September 2018, Hertford Theatre

Summary of Proposed Contribution

Please submit this form by **Friday 29th June 2018** to maria.gureshi@nhs.net with the subject header 'Festival 18 Contribution'. We welcome contributions that relate to our overall theme: "I am because we are - finding the **HEaRT** of Community Psychology" and connect to one of the **streams** below.

Title of contribution	"I have joined the fight, and it's a fight I hope to help win": UG psychology work placements enable and galvanise students to 'make a difference'
Name(s) of Presenter(s)	Lizann Bonnar and Patricia Mooney
Organisation	University of Strathclyde
Contact email address	lizann.bonnar@strath.ac.uk
Contact Address & Phone Number	School of Psychological Sciences and Health, University of Strathclyde, 40 George St., Glasgow, G1 1QE
Streams (highlight all that apply): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1) Power <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Play <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) Work <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Sustain	Type of session (highlight): <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop / masterclass <input type="checkbox"/> Debate or discussion forum <input type="checkbox"/> Performance <input type="checkbox"/> Film <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research paper / Symposium <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
Preferred Room (capacity): Check venue/rooms at Hertford Theatre website: http://www.hertfordtheatre.com/venue/page/42 <input type="checkbox"/> Auditorium (400 max) <input type="checkbox"/> River Room (50 max) <input type="checkbox"/> Gallery (50 max) <input type="checkbox"/> Studio/Dark Room (50 max) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No preference <input type="checkbox"/> Outside space (benches)	Preferred length of contribution (in minutes): 20 or whatever suits the organisers Preferred day: Sunday Happy to present it twice (both days)? Yes Technical requirements: Nothing additional to below. (Projector and chairs will be provided. Laptop will be available with Microsoft Powerpoint. Please specify if you require any other software, including for audio and video files)

Please submit your 250-word summary in the box below **using Arial 11 point.**

Summary:

(Please offer an accessible, engaging, and clear description of your contribution. This text will appear in the book of Abstracts so that people attending the Festival can read about and join your session if interested)

A report on the future of UG psychology education in the UK (HEA Psychology Network, 2011) recommended that “Departments facilitate placements, community work, and international study” in order to enhance students’ employability and their ability to apply psychological knowledge and skills in the real world. In 2017-18, 39 final year Psychology students at University of Strathclyde took an optional credit-bearing work placement module. Students successfully applied (independently) for placements that involved supporting and empowering others (e.g. local women’s aid, one-to-one work with people with dementia in NHS wards, working in residential units for young people with autism, and supporting people with mental health issues who are homeless). Participating students commented on the experience as “transformative” and that they felt proud for doing work that “made a difference” to the lives of others. In a published essay, one student wrote, “I started studying psychology to help others but I was never sure how – without the opportunities provided to me by this module I would still be uncertain as graduation looms” (Anonymous, BPS Scotland Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference Magazine, 2018; p.13). Reports from placement organisations noted that they benefited from the students’ psychological knowledge and skills, and academic staff have been inspired. Given the size of the UK UG psychology population (~77,000 in 2016-17), we (participating student and staff) argue that providing this population with the opportunity to participate in work placements is beneficial to students, organisations and their clients, universities, and ultimately to wider society in the pursuit of social progress.