

Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor, with input from the non-HE Partner Organisation.



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

SECTION 1: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT			
Proposed Project Title:	Crafting Resilience: Designing informal support structures to foster solidarity and praxes of hope in the criminal justice system		
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>	'Crafting Resilience' explores the opportunities that craft practices, and their digital augmentation, can bring to staff who support women in touch with the criminal justice system; focusing on their opportunities to build resilience and materialise hope and care. Drawing on feminist theories, the candidate will collaborate with staff at Changing Lives women's criminal justice hubs to develop a comprehensive body of practice-based and theoretical work, drawing on three strands of inquiry:(1)participatory craft workshops facilitating informal peer-support;(2)co-craft bespoke, dialogic objects with individuals;and(3)develop a comprehensive theory of craft processes as resilience and praxes of hope for similar settings.		
Host Academic Institution:	Northumbria University		
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation:	Changing Lives		
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:	Dawn Harrison	Email Address:	Dawn.Harrison@changing-lives.org.uk
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation <i>(if more than one)</i> :			
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:		Email Address:	
Primary AHRC Subject Area:	Design: History, Theory and Practice		
Secondary AHRC Subject Area (if Interdisciplinary):	Choose an item.		
Does the project Include a creative practice component?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
If you have listed two subject areas above, do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:

(Maximum 750 words)

This PhD explores the role that digitally augmented craft processes and dialogic objects play in building resilience and praxes of hope among staff at Changing Lives' (CL) women's criminal justice support hubs. Using participatory craft practices the candidate will work on three interrelated threads:(1)explore participatory craft processes as informal peer-support;(2)co-create bespoke, dialogic crafted objects to support individuals;and(3)develop a comprehensive theory of digitally augmented craft processes, resilience, and praxes of hope for similar settings.

Research context: Working in the criminal justice system, particularly within a charity, requires deep commitments to hope and care for the people you support. It also requires incredible resilience, which will be strengthened by strong informal support structures among colleagues. Working conditions in such roles correlate directly to staff wellbeing and their ability to deliver successful services to the women they support. To ensure this, Ingram(2015) points to the importance of a combination of formal and informal support structures, and Kiliniç(in preparation) argues that creative strategies can support reflection and self-management over the long-term. CL already have strong formal support structures in place, but are striving for better informal support; not least because they will become increasingly important in the ongoing cost of living crisis (providing even more stress to staff) as well as expected cuts in charity funding.

Craft practices such as stitching, particularly if carried out in groups or in participatory manners, can help foster shared understanding, solidarity, peer-support, and can function as praxes of hope (see eg. Greer2014,Cortés-Rico2020,Shercliff&Holroyd2020,Strohmayr,2021). Furthermore, craft materials can function to externalise experiences that cannot be put into words, providing alternative avenues for building shared understanding. Digital augmentation can make these artefacts interactive, layering their meaning and potential and turning them into dialogic objects that respond to interactions. The candidate will work with staff to externalise, reflect on, and materialise their love and care for co-workers and women they support; together they will explore how making these interactive artefacts can support their co-making of informal, everyday, support structures by crafting stronger "living webs of care" (Bellacasa,2017) through praxes of hope (Haran,2010,Strohmayr,2021).

Research questions:

1. How can participatory craft practices support the building of informal peer-support structures for resilience and praxes of hope among staff in criminal justice support services?
2. How can staff externalise experience and materialise "living webs of care" through interactive craft objects to build shared solidarity and increase resilience for themselves and their team?
3. What role can crafted dialogic objects play in maintaining individual resilience and praxes of hope among staff in support roles?

Research Aims:

Aim1. Develop a **comprehensive literature review** on topics of resilience, craft, praxes of hope, and criminal justice support services

Aim2. Facilitate **a series of participatory workshops** with support workers to understand diverse needs of informal peer support structures

Aim3. **Co-craft bespoke dialogic objects** with and for 3-5 staff members

Aim4. **Develop toolkits** based on learning from Aim2 and Aim3, and **facilitate service design workshops** with staff and management to explore their potential uses

Aim5. Build a **comprehensive theory of craft processes, resilience, and praxes of hope with and among support staff** by weaving together theoretical learning (Aim1) and empirical findings (Aims2, 3, 4)

Methodology and timeline:

This project uses participatory craft and action research approaches, working in collaboration with support staff at CL to enable craft processes and explore how they relate to resilience and praxes of hope. After familiarisation with the context through ethnographic fieldwork at CL, the candidate will carry

out:(1)participatory craft workshops with staff;and(2)bespoke participatory craft processes with individuals. Within these methodological parameters, the candidate will develop appropriate research and design methods in conversation with the supervisory team, participants, and the students' expertise and interests. They will also build on existing participatory trauma-related work at CL.

Months0-12:Familiarisation with University and CL;Aim1;Aim2

Outcomes:A written literature review(Aim1) and charity-facing visual report(Aim2) including implications for support structures

Months13-20:Aim3

Outcomes:3-5 bespoke objects co-designed with staff;an analysis of these objects, linking to outcomes from Aim1&Aim2

Months21-24:Aim4

Outcomes:3-5 toolkits with instructions for objects made in Aim3; a visual report for CL including implications for the design of new support structures within the organisation

Months25-36:Aim5

Outcomes:a comprehensive theory of interactive participatory craft practices and resilience among staff in support roles; a webinar with CL staff and management to share findings

Months37-42:working with supervisors to finalise PhD

Provide details of any resources and facilities, including any high cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that may be required to complete the project successfully, and where you will seek these resources (e.g. NBCDTP; partner resources; departmental/school funds). Please include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

Depending on the candidate's experience and expertise, they may need and/or wish to complete additional training, or may wish to shadow staff to better understand the research context. Where necessary and appropriate, they can participate in CL or their partners' training, as an in-kind contribution by CL. If other training incurs a cost, they will apply to NBCDTP (~£250). To support the candidates wellbeing and resilience while working in trauma-responsive services, they will be offered two clinical supervisions with expert CL staff every year, as an in-kind contribution.

Fieldwork and research costs will be minimal for this project since it is primarily carried out locally, and without expensive equipment. However, the candidate may seek funding for the following: ~£500 to cover material costs for Aims2,3, and 4; printing and material costs for toolkits (~£500); and regional transport costs for bus, train, or petrol costs(~£550/year). The candidate will obtain inductions and have access to workshops that contain specialist equipment such as sewing machines, laser cutters, or electronics equipment at NU.

Where appropriate, the candidate can apply for internal funds at NU (eg. funding to cover conference attendance) and CL (eg. funding for workshop refreshments and dissemination events).

Outline the arrangements for communication between the non-HE partner organisation and the academic host institution in regard to project management and monitoring academic progress:

(Maximum 200 words)

Main communication channels between the main supervisor (Strohmayer) and collaborator supervisor (Harrison) are well-established already, as they are co-investigators on a British Academy Fellowship. The candidate will spend time physically and virtually at CL premises regularly eg. at bi-monthly Trauma Pathway Group meetings, team meetings, training where appropriate; and more intensive weekly visits in years 2 and 3 for the participatory fieldwork with staff.

Strohmayr will be the main academic contact; Kiliņç and Koulidou will provide further support. Harrison will facilitate CL inductions and collaboration with non-academic partners beyond the initial partnership, introduce the student to relevant staff and volunteers who may act as mentors or participants, and encourage the trust-building among stakeholders.

Supervisory meetings between the candidate and Strohmayr will take place bi-weekly, bi-monthly with Kiliņç, and quarterly with Harrison and Koulidou; or more often where appropriate. This includes ensuring project milestones like Project Approval and Annual Progressions at Northumbria are met, and planning for dissemination, including publications at major academic and other venues as appropriate.

What benefits will there be for the student and the non-HE partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

For the candidate

- Access to expert managers and staff to carry out their research
- Unique access to inner workings of a national charity to network with staff, managers, and wider service networks
- Participatory research allows for multifaceted impacts of research, with clear indications of real-world changes the candidate is making through their research
- Developing links with other charities, public services, and researchers in the UK (and internationally) for potential future avenues for work or research
- Gaining real-world experience of delivering participatory research and training
- Being encouraged to and supported in submitting manuscripts to world-leading publication venues, developing their research portfolio
- Developing international research networks and leadership skills by participating in PGR and wider seminar series at NU

The candidate will gain deep insight into an interdisciplinary and highly publishable field, laying a foundation for a post-doctoral academic career at the intersection of design and criminology, a growing field of research at Northumbria and internationally.

Benefits for CL

- Development of novel services and insights at the cutting edge of digital and creative practice
- Potential to influence development of CL-wide Trauma Pathway, meaning impact of work can go beyond women's criminal justice services (and beyond CL)
- staff will feel immediate impacts through participatory involvement, improving their current practice
- staff and service users will develop new research, craft, and technology skills
- Increased awareness and skills development in designing support structures for staff

The project will create novel service delivery, training, toolkits, and artefacts, with lasting impact across craft, scholarly, and support spaces; showing off CL's expertise in trauma-responsive support. Using this, CL will be able to show commissioners the impact of their work and advocate for the further need of such creative services.

State what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the non-HE partner organisation will be making over the duration of the award:

(Maximum 100 words)

- Quarterly supervision with Harrison throughout
- Biannual clinical supervision
- Delivery of relevant training, including shadowing of staff at all six women's criminal justice hubs across the Northumbria Region
- Space to carry out research and access to staff; especially in months 13-24

- Facilitation of networking opportunities to participate in CL service delivery nationally, and with other third and public sector services (eg. presenting their work at national events to widen impact, or to build new connections for future projects)
- Support to communicate research outcomes within CLs and other criminal justice support services national services
- Support from PR team for media engagement

Describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the student will be undertaking with the non-HE partner organisation:

(Maximum 300 words)

The candidate will engage with the CL supervisor and other staff regularly to attend meetings, participate in the Trauma Pathway Group every two months, and shadow staff where appropriate. The schedule and nature of involvement with CL will be developed in collaboration between the candidate, supervisory team, and other relevant CL staff.

The candidate will:

- Months 1-12: introduce the Trauma Pathway Group to the project; presenting the plan, potential risks, and intended outcomes. They will complete NU and CL project and ethics approvals in conversation with Harrison and regional management
- Months 13-24 work more independently with CL staff. They will visit the hubs where staff work at least weekly to gain an understanding of the space, shadow staff, and plan the research with staff, before carrying out participatory craft workshops with staff
- Months 25-36: feed back outcomes from the project to the CL team in the Trauma Pathway, other managers nationally, and in virtual and in-person events to disseminate research findings from toolkits and reports they produce
- Months 36-42: work with their supervisor and other staff to further disseminate research findings

The supervisory team are experienced in and aware of ethical risks of carrying out participatory, in-the-world research in sensitive settings, and will support the candidate mitigate these risks, including managing and following strong institutional ethics procedures at NU, CL, and MoJ.

The project has the potential to create novel approaches to creatively working with and reducing the impacts of secondary trauma that staff who support women in the criminal justice system face on a daily basis. It will provide resources for other organisations to pick up this work and implement it in their own services, providing opportunities for impact within and beyond the collaboration. Results will be published in academic and charity-facing venues publicly.

SECTION 2: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

Primary (or Co-) Supervisor:	Dr Angelika Strohmayer	School or Department:	School of Design, Northumbria University (NU)
		Email Address:	angelika.strohmayer@northumbria.ac.uk
Secondary (or Co-) Supervisor:	Dr Stephanie Kiliñç	School/Department:	Centre for Applied Psychological Science, Teesside University (TU)
		Email Address:	S.Kilinc@tees.ac.uk
Name of the Advisor based at the non-HE Partner Organisation:	Mrs Dawn Harrison	Organisation/Institution:	Service Manager, Criminal Justice, Northumbria Region, Changing Lives (CL)
		Email Address:	Dawn.Harrison@changing-lives.org.uk
Name of additional internal or external advisor or academic supervisor, if any:	Dr. Nantia Koulidou	Organisation/Institution:	Department of Art and Design, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)
		Email Address:	n.koulidou@shu.ac.uk

Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisor(s) will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected student:

(Maximum 500 words)

This project builds on more than 7 years of collaboration between Strohmayer and CL on electronic-textiles and trauma-informed support services, and an ongoing research project on crafting infrastructures of inclusion with Harrison, funded by the British Academy, Ministry of Justice, and other third sector funders.

Dr Angelika Strohmayer is Assistant Professor at Northumbria University's School of Design, co-leader of the Design Feminisms Research Group (DFRG), and co-editor of the Meaningful Design Processes section of Interactions Magazine. She has over a decade of experience of working and researching with, in, and for charities supporting people in complex life situations in the UK and internationally. She uses interdisciplinary, impact-driven, participatory, and design-led methodologies in charity settings to understand and advance creative use of textiles and technologies to improve safety, wellbeing, and inclusion for people who are marginalised, primarily working with women. Her collaborative work has been published in a monograph (2021); funded by the EPSRC, British Council, Welsh Crucible, the EU, and AHRC; and she has won several 'best paper' awards for her publications. She is currently supervising two other PhD students working on related topics, including a Northern Bridge CDA.

Dawn Harrison is the women's criminal justice manager for the Northumbria region at Changing Lives, and is co-Innovation Fellow funded by the British Academy. She has over a decade of experience of working in criminal justice services at public and third sector organisations. She has extensive experience of designing & delivering creative interventions in criminal justice settings, and has a track-record of caring, reflective, and supportive staff management.

Dr Stephanie Kılınc is a registered Health Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Teesside University with over twenty years experience in qualitative health research, and more recently co-production and participatory approaches. As a Trustee for a local charity, Neuro Key, for seventeen years, they have co-produced a self-management tool for people living with long-term conditions(MyLifeTool)and a creative programme(MyCreativeLife)using activities to support reflection on self-management, as part of a 2019/20 fellowship hosted by Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), which later was delivered to national charities. She supervises a number of doctorate students in Health, Clinical and Counselling Psychology(one PhD DoS completion; four taught doctorate DoS completions; currently DoS to eight students).

Dr Nantia Koulidou is a design researcher, senior lecturer in Jewellery at Sheffield Hallam University, and member of the Digital Materiality Lab. Her expertise lies in bespoke design methodologies for sensitive contexts and in making digital jewellery that people value. She has 10 years of experience in working with people to deliver bespoke dialogic objects in various contexts: dementia, end of life, bereavement, and migration. Understanding how people feel, and experience a situation is an important part of her design research practice. She offers new interpretations of design research by enriching the role of creative and design practice to offer methodologies that are rooted in craft, empathy and dialogue. Recently, she received an ADMRC funding to develop a Digital Jewellery Toolkit for Personally Meaningful Explorations and Turing Staff Mobility Funding to explore its impact.

SECTION 3: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected student will be joining and its suitability:

(Maximum 500 words)

The central academic setting of this project will be the DFRG at Northumbria's School of Design. This is a diverse group, sharing an ethos of feminist, collaborative, and interdisciplinary design research involving various stakeholders, including expertise in working in sensitive settings. The group has both physical and virtual space in the school, creating a vibrant post-digital research community with a weekly writing group, bi-weekly workshop series, and frequent cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial collaborations.

The School has a strong research focus and an active group of PhD students who are funded internally and externally – including three current CDA Northern Bridge funded students (started in 2020, 2021 and 2022), one of which is based in DFRG and another is co-supervised by a DFRG academic. The group is formally made up of 6 faculty and 11 PhD students, but extends into the school and regional design community working in public, private, and third sectors. On top of the growing peer support within DFRG, the school runs a weekly training programme, peer support meetings, and other support structures for PGR students to help them find their own place within the research community.

The candidate will also benefit from the Early Career Research Network and interdisciplinary research seminars offered by the Centre for Applied Psychological Science, Teesside University. Furthermore, the candidate will also have access to the expertise and resources within the Digital Materiality Lab at SHU.

Across all supervisory universities, students are already working on projects that closely relate to this topic, such as human-centred design for mental health care, craft in the criminal justice system, or the relationship between e-textiles and trauma-informed service delivery.

Changing Lives also forms a vital part of the research environment. They are a national charity, based in the North East, who support people in difficult life situations and work closely with other public and charity services, and cultural organisations. The women's criminal justice team in Northumbria have 6 hubs in the region, all of which will become bases at which the candidate will work, particularly during fieldwork-intensive periods. They are fore-runners in the delivery of trauma-informed services after setting up their Trauma Pathway Group to develop trauma-informed policies and services. They are also actively working to incorporate evidence-based practice in their work, shown for example by integrating working with Northumbria University as part of their Women's Strategy, their collaboration on Strohmayer's BA Innovation Fellowship, and several members of staff co-authoring articles with Strohmayer. They are exploring how they can better support their staff, for example through a 12-month experiential training programme on peer-reflexive practice (in collaboration with Dr Strohmayer), and are keen to further improve working conditions. They work closely with other third and public sector organisations, including the Ministry of Justice and Probation Services, making them a perfect partner to help the candidate develop professional and research networks.

The candidate will become part of a team that already works together closely, who are experts in their fields, and who other organisations look towards to develop their own trauma-informed policies and services.

SECTION 4: PERSON SPECIFICATION

In the event that your application is successful we would like to advertise the award on the Northern Bridge Consortium website as soon as possible following the announcement of the results. We'd therefore be grateful if you could complete the following Person Specification.

For further information about this Collaborative Doctoral Award and to submit an expression of interest, please contact:		
Lead Supervisor (or alternative Contact)	Dr Angelika Strohmayer	Email: angelika.strohmayer@northumbria.ac.uk
Expressions of interest must be received no later than (dd/mm/yy):		10 January 2023
Expressions of interest should be accompanied by the following documentation (e.g. 2 page CV; personal statement):		A 2-page CV and a personal statement indicating the candidate's reason for being interested in this project, any previous experience they may have in this space (professional, volunteer, or personal experience), and the contribution they would make to the project.
Interviews for shortlisted candidates are expected to take place: (e.g. Week Commencing dd/mm/yy)		First two weeks of February 2023

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Note applicants must also meet the criteria for the acceptance on a doctoral programme as set out by the host institution's Postgraduate Admissions Service.

Education and Professional Qualifications	Essential Criteria	Applicants should possess an Undergraduate degree of at least upper second class Honours (UK), or equivalent from an overseas university plus a Masters degree in a relevant discipline completed <i>or</i> in progress and due for completion before the start of the PhD. Applicants who do not hold these qualifications must demonstrate equivalent intellectual competence: a record of high-quality and relevant professional practice or work experience that has equipped the applicant with outstanding research skills
	Desirable Criteria	Qualification, training, or experience in a support worker-related area
Research and Impact Experience and Training	Essential Criteria	The ability to manage the research project and meet timescales. Experience of research skills and methodologies relevant to the project
	Desirable Criteria	Experience of working with or in third sector or statutory support services
Professional Practice and Job-related Experience	Essential Criteria	
	Desirable Criteria	Experience of working in a support role, working with people experiencing disadvantage, or working in other sensitive settings

Interpersonal Skills	Essential Criteria	Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to initiate, develop, and maintain good working relationships
	Desirable Criteria	
Other Factors	Essential Criteria	The ability to develop and maintain a good work-life balance. Ability to set and maintain boundaries for self emotionally, in order to protect personal wellbeing
	Desirable Criteria	