

Researcher-Led Initiative Fund Application Form

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Researcher-Led Initiative (RLI) Fund.

Applications are invited from University of Sussex doctoral researchers and early career research staff for funding to support short-term, well-defined training and development or public engagement projects.

The deadline for applications is Friday 16th November 2018.

Please ensure that you have read the [guidance](#) before completing your application.

Name

Sussex e-mail address

My project is secondarily about collaborating with the public library service of Brighton and Hove to make my research more accessible to people outside academia. Additionally, we hope to create a space for the discussion of crime novels in the libraries as the existing reading groups focus solely on traditional literature and the fantasy/ sci-fi genre. By doing so I hope to create a platform for women to feel comfortable to speak out about everyday sexism incidents, feel supported and empowered.

Why do you want to engage with the public? What do you hope to achieve by engaging?

My research focuses on the crime subgenre of domestic noir, its definition, characteristics, themes and most importantly, its popularity in today's society. The publishing industry claims it to be a newly 'invented' subgenre and its definition was given by the creator of the term, the author Julia Crouch. Popular novels falling within the subgenre are novels such as *Gone Girl* (2012) and *Girl on the Train* (2015). By placing the subgenre in its historical and literary

Press.

Rehberg Sedo, D., 2004. Badges of Wisdom, Spaces for Being: A Study of Contemporary Women's Book Clubs [online]. Thesis (PhD). Simon Fraser University.

Waldman, K., 2018. One Year of #MeToo: "He said, she said" is a literary problem, too. The New Yorker [online], 10 October 2018. Available from: <https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/one-year-of-metoo-he-said-she-said-is-a-literary-problem-too> [Accessed 13 November 2018].

What are the objectives of the activity? Please list the steps you will take to achieve these objectives.

The objective of this activity is to bring together a diverse range of women to discuss the subgenre of domestic noir to

- 1) Understand if and how the books relate to the women's everyday lives.
- 2) Understand the reason for the genre's popularity in the last few years (since 2012 with the publication of the genre's flagship *Gone Girl*).
- 3) Create a discussion forum for women to discuss #MeToo moments in their lives through the lens of domestic noir books in a friendly and empowering environment.

I hope to achieve this by taking the following steps:

- To engage with women from different backgrounds I will provide the books for the reading groups' participants (up to 25 women) free of charge. The groups will take place in different local libraries around Brighton and Hove (Jubilee, Moulsecoomb, Patcham and Hove), which present a neutral, accessible and friendly space.
- The

of women. I believe that this will make my research not only more impactful but also more relevant. Moreover, it will also allow me to practice important research skills such as recruiting and facilitating focus groups as well as transcribing and coding data.

What is the potential legacy of the project?

Having had an initial meeting with the Library Service Manager, there is scope for the reading groups to continue on a monthly basis bringing women from different backgrounds together to read and discuss domestic noir books. Currently Brighton and Hove Libraries do not have a crime fiction specific reading group and this group could be expanded and opened up to more members.

In regards to my research, I hope that this will become a significant part of my thesis elaborating on the experiences of women and how these are reflected in domestic noir novels. If the project is successful, I would also like to investigate further avenues into possible working with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence together with the School of Psychology at Sussex.

Please outline your public engagement experience to date

I have very limited outreach experience as I have just started my PhD. During my MA I created my own interactive crime narrative as part of my dissertation that I then exhibited in the local student community to

code.

Supporting statement

You must submit a supporting statement (in PDF format) from your School's Director of Doctoral Studies (for doctoral researchers) or Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (for research staff).

Your School's Director of Doctoral Studies or Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange's name, title and electronic signature should also be included.

If you have any difficulty with this, please contact researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk or call 01273 873366.

Upload your supporting statement here

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