King's Engaged Researcher Awards 2026

Awards Shortlist

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Breakdown of Nominations

We are pleased to announce that we received 101 incredibly strong nominations for the 2026 KERN Awards. We were very impressed with the high quality of this year's submissions, which come from across the University and demonstrate a fascinating range of Public and Community Engagement with Research activities. The shortlisted nominations are announced by category.

Faculty Name	Nominations	Shortlisted
Arts & Humanities	18	6
Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	1	1
Dickson Poon School of Law	9	5
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	11	6
King's Business School	4	2
Life Sciences and Medicine	29	17
Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	8	3
Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	6	2
Social Science & Public Policy	12	2
Professional Services Directorate	3	2

Communicating Research (Local)

Lifelines: Rethinking Ageing across Generations (A&H)

Martina Zimmermann, Laura Purseglove, Reuben & Co, Camille Aubry, Nathan Clarke, Michaela Tranfield, Rupert House Independent Living and Walnut Tree Walk School

This free exhibition as Science Gallery London (29 May - 2 Aug 2025) brought together a wide range of voices to explore how science, medicine, wider culture, and policy contribute to how we understand ageing. It was developed as part of The Sciences of Ageing and the Culture of Youth (SAACY), a research programme funded by a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship. Working with sector-leading national charities Age UK and Ageing Better, as well as local partners Brixton Windmill and InCommon, Lifelines offered an open space for conversations across generations. Complete with film, objects, photographs and animations it prompted visitors to ask what can we do to foster more inclusive stories and practices to improve experiences of ageing for everyone.

The Promise: A Co-Created Immersive Performance (DPSOL)

Shaila Pal, Brian Mullin, Tian Brown-Sampson, King's Legal Clinic, Windrush Justice Clinic and Windrush survivors and community groups

The Promise is a powerful immersive theatre piece co-created by artists, survivors of the Home Office - Windrush scandal, King's Legal Clinic staff and students, and community organisations. Informed by King's research and the testimonies of victims, The Promise brought to life the human story behind the scandal and enabled new critical insights into the ongoing harms of the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Promise's innovative approach has led to increased engagement by policy makers on the system's flaws, and mobilised support for justice with 96% of attendees recommending the performance and 100% endorsing legal reform.

King's at St Thomas' Insight Day / Sparking Futures (FOLSM)

Alice Taylor-Gee, Apithanie Fraser and The Baytree Centre

This collaborative Insight Day, now in its third year, welcomes 15 young women and girls from The Baytree Centre to St Thomas' Campus, where they engage with cutting-edge research in biomedical and surgical engineering, as well as MRI technology. Through lab tours, conversations with researchers, and career storytelling, the event aims to inspire future pathways in science and medicine. It showcases King's research in an accessible

and engaging format, tailored to a marginalised audience, with a strong emphasis on inclusion and dialogue.

Communicating Research (National)

The Science or Fiction Podcast (IOPPN)

Kathryn Bates

The Science or Fiction Podcast is an established youth-led platform that bridges the gap between research, lived experience and public understanding. We explore topical issues in mental health and society, such as 'Do smartphones damage mental health?', 'Why are young people lonely?', 'Is sleep important for the brain?', separating evidence from sensationalism in the media. We platform underrepresented voices in science by training young people as producers and content creators and interviewing experts from diverse backgrounds. Our aim is to empower listeners with knowledge of scientific research around mental health, psychology and neuroscience.

Preventing Deaths from Anaphylaxis: Harnessing Information from Coroners to Save Lives (FOLSM)

Georgia Richards and the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation

Led by Dr Georgia Richards at King's College London with the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, this initiative analysed national data following death investigations by coroners to identify preventable factors following fatal anaphylaxis. The findings, which were presented in Parliament on 21 October 2025, outlined five key recommendations to reform the inquest system and save lives. The event brought together bereaved families, coroners, policymakers, researchers, and food-industry leaders, demonstrating how engaged research can translate evidence into policy and action for national allergy safety.

MERCY (DPSOL)

Cari Hyde-Vaamonde

MERCY is an innovative platform using interactive 3D environments to communicate complex ideas about AI in the justice system to diverse audiences. Developed through collaboration between legal research and artistic practice, it has evolved through iterative feedback from different user groups across the UK. Activities include presentations at AI UK Westminster, workshops at the King's AI Festival, and use as a teaching aid in

business education and law. Most recently it being paired with part of another nominated project - The future of AI in the justice system: building fair practices and public trust. The MERCY project continues to develop through regular collaboration between researchers, artists, and software engineers.

Communicating Research (Global)

Making Adoptees Whole (A&H)

Gonda van Steen

Van Steen's research restores the first identity and agency of Greek-born adopted persons. Her work has benefited some 4,000 Greek-born adoptees (and their descendants), who were sent to the USA in the 1950s-60s and who have been looking for their roots and their records. Van Steen has been leading a campaign of consciousness-raising and policy change to secure three R's for the 'historic' Greek adoptees: Records, Research, and the Restoration of their Greek citizenship. With the May 2025 change of the related law in Greece, prompted by Van Steen's research and activism, she has now achieved widespread awareness, the adoptees' access to their files, the restoration of the birth citizenship of the first 12 adoptees, and global recognition.

Working Girls (DPSOL)

Prabha Kotiswaran

'Working Girls' is a documentary film by Indian filmmaker, Paromita Vohra, based on research by the interdisciplinary EU-funded Laws of Social Reproduction Project which examined women's labour performed in raising families and sustaining society including through unpaid domestic and care work, paid domestic work, surrogacy and egg donation, erotic dancing, and sex work. By documenting the lives of domestic workers, dancers, mothers, farmers, health workers, surrogates, sex workers, union leaders, and grassroots organisers, the film explores essential but invisibilised work. It redefines what we think of as "work", assumptions about labour, gender, and power and communicates key research insights in order to inspire a deeper understanding of social reproduction and the law among audiences.

Privacy and Safety Risks of FemHealth Apps in an Era of Restricted Reproductive Rights (NMES)

Ina Kaleva

Female-mobile health (FemHealth) apps can empower women to better manage their health and wellbeing. Our group, in collaboration with industry and policymakers, examined the data practices of these apps, user experiences, and developer privacy practices. We found that many FemHealth apps engage in problematic practices—collecting sensitive data about users, family members, and physicians; selling it to third parties; and sharing it with government agencies. These practices expose users to risks like gender-based violence, stigma, workplace discrimination, and legal repercussions. We are currently co-designing with end-users novel in-app privacy protections and developer resources for FemHealth apps.

Collaboration (Local)

Hopeful Futures (A&H)

Kirstie Hewlett, Agathe De Canson, Southwark Council Climate Team, Lambeth Council Climate Team, Tower Hamlets Climate Team, Angela YT Chan, Jo Brinton and Stephen Bennett

Hopeful Futures explored how creative and participatory methods can enable deliberative fora on local climate adaptation planning and action to be more effective, develop agency amongst participants, and generate new sources of evidence to influence policy. A series of four deliberative mini-public workshops in Autumn 2024 brought together a diverse group of Londoners with researchers, an artist and policy officers to explore what a well-adapted London of 2050 might look like, and the steps needed to reach that vision. The project was underpinned by a strong collaboration between the academic team, London Councils, the local boroughs, and artists involved in the project, with the research outputs now influencing local climate policy and deliberative practice in local government.

Unfiltered (IOPPN)

Angie Pitt

Angie has single-handedly designed, delivered and evaluated the 3-year project ‘Unfiltered’, a novel approach to research co-production with adolescents which will increase social mobility. She developed this as part of her PhD with two local secondary

schools based on the principals of inclusion and reciprocity: asking what the pupils and school, as well as the research team, needed. The schools have a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, so the programme was designed to be inclusive of all pupils , raise aspirations among STEM A'Level students, support access to university and give teens an opportunity to develop research and leadership skills. In return, the teens have co-designed real, impactful research with the team at King's.

Lewisham Youth Brain Health Project (SSPP)

Kritika Samsi and Fola Afolabi

The Youth Involvement & Engagement Lab, Lewisham Young Mayor and Young Advisors Team, Kritika Samsi (KCL) & SPIN-Dementia Network+ partnered to co-produce (with Alzheimer's Research UK funding) this six-month pilot to train and support seven young people from Lewisham to become Youth Brain Health Champions (YBHCs). The young people who led the project were from diverse and underserved communities, such as being carers or having family member(s) living with dementia. The YBHCs produced four radio programmes at Radio Lewisham, coordinated outreach activities to engage young people, and promoted dialogue on brain health and dementia prevention. The project emphasized inclusivity and embedded a youth-led and place-based approach towards dementia prevention.

Collaboration (National)

The PD-Ballet Study (IOPPN)

Aleksandra Podlewska

The PD-Ballet study, supported by the NIHR and delivered in partnership with English National Ballet, is investigating whether ballet dancing could improve non-motor symptoms (such as mood, pain, and sleep issues) in people with Parkinson's disease. The study involved weekly group dance sessions and was very well attended by participants. With a focus on inclusivity, 20% of participants were from diverse backgrounds. This project was part of Aleksandra's PhD and she has been instrumental in successful delivery of the key aims. Preliminary results show promising improvements in apathy and other neuropsychiatric outcomes.

Closed Doors (DPSOL)

Joanna Underwood, Hannah Piggott, James Wright and King's College Hospital Homeless Team

'Closed Doors' examined the challenges of finding face-to-face help with homelessness applications, and the impact on hospitals in London. Through working with local partners and clients experiencing homelessness, King's Legal Clinic identified that people are seeking housing help from hospitals, due to scarce walk-in council housing advice services. The Clinic collaborated with local hospitals and the King's Policy Institute to examine council 'closed door' policies, demonstrating that they added to NHS pressures. Research was co-developed with a stakeholder group comprised of local and national government, charities, hospital staff and advice agencies, to ensure mutual benefit and relevance.

Preventing Deaths from Anaphylaxis: Harnessing Information from Coroners to Save Lives (FOLSM)

Georgia Richards

Led by Dr Georgia Richards at King's College London with the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, this initiative analysed national data following death investigations by coroners to identify preventable factors following fatal anaphylaxis. The findings, which were presented in Parliament on 21 October 2025, outlined five key recommendations to reform the inquest system and save lives. The event brought together bereaved families, coroners, policymakers, researchers, and food-industry leaders, demonstrating how engaged research can translate evidence into policy and action for national allergy safety.

Collaboration (Global)

The 2YoungLives Project (FOLSM)

Cristina Fernandez Turienzo

The 2YoungLives project is a global collaboration between King's researchers and the Sierra Leonean grassroots organisation, Lifeline Nehemiah Projects (LNP). Together, they co-developed a community-based mentoring intervention for pregnant adolescents (under 18). This partnership was fundamental to the success of a cluster-randomised trial, published in The Lancet, which demonstrated the intervention is feasible and significantly reduces a composite of maternal and perinatal mortality. The collaboration model is built on mutual trust and valuing community expertise.

International Law for Climate Justice on the African Continent (DPSOL)

Leslie-Anne Duvic-Paoli

This project builds on Dr Leslie-Anne Duvic-Paoli's research on the international legal obligations of states to prevent environmental harm. Working with the African Union and its 55 member states, she served as Legal Counsel representing the continent before the International Court of Justice in its landmark advisory proceedings on climate change. Bringing to the world's highest court the voice of a region that has contributed least to global emissions yet suffers most, she translated her research into arguments for climate justice. She also advanced legal training and capacity building. It informed the ICJ's first advisory opinion on climate change that clarified and strengthened the duties of developed states to act.

Participatory Research (Local)

Bridging the Gender Data Gap (KBS)

Caitlin Schmid

Bridging the Gender Data Gap (funded by the ESRC) is a collaborative research project led by King's College London in partnership with the Women's Budget Group. Through 12 workshops across the four UK nations, it engaged 170 participants – including community organisers, local authority officials, charities, academics, and grassroots activists – to explore how well census data enables gendered, place-based and intersectional analyses. It used co-production to uncover data gaps, generate policy-relevant insights, and strengthen data literacy while fostering dialogue between diverse stakeholder groups and centring lived experience. It demonstrates how participatory research can reshape official statistics for greater equality and inclusion.

The Book of Knowledge (FOLSM)

Katharine Low, Maryam Shaharuddin, Katrina Rawson-McKenzie and Amy Russell

The Book of Knowledge was a collaborative participatory research project, co-hosted between The Bridge (community partner), Maryam Shaharuddin (independent artist) and Dr Katharine Low, a participatory artist researcher based at KCL. Bringing together an intergenerational group of women, the project explored the theme: "What I'd Wish I'd Known and What I'd Like to Pass On". Through monthly creative workshops involving

conversation, food, and reflection, we explored new ways of thinking and talking about women's health and wellbeing, exchanged knowledge, experiences and supported one another. The project culminated in a co-created book that shares our learnings, a public exhibition and a community-written article.

Unfiltered (IOPPN)

Angie Pitt

Angie has single-handedly designed, delivered and evaluated the 3-year project 'Unfiltered', a novel approach to research co-production with adolescents which will increase social mobility. She developed this as part of her PhD with two local secondary schools based on the principals of inclusion and reciprocity: asking what the pupils and school, as well as the research team, needed. The schools have a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, so the programme was designed to be inclusive of all pupils, raise aspirations among STEM A'Level students, support access to university and give teens an opportunity to develop research and leadership skills. In return, the teens have co-designed real, impactful research with the team at King's.

The MORE Project (FOLSM)

Abigail Easter, Zahra Khan, Hannah Rayment-Jones, Yahye Mohamud, Zoe Vowles, Kaat De Backer and Jane Sandall

The MORE project has built on our long-standing reciprocal relationships with NIHR ARC South London's maternity and perinatal mental health theme's Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Network members. The project started as a collaboration between the PPIE lead, peer researchers and researchers with peer-led listening events in Lambeth to understand how the maternity journey is experienced by a diverse group of south London women. We have further built on this through undertaking a participatory Photovoice research project, showcasing this at a recent stakeholder event 'Developing holistic approaches to address inequalities in maternity and perinatal mental health and care.'

Participatory Research (National)

HIDDEN-CKD (FOLSM)

Kate Bramham and Africa Advocacy

HIDDEN-CKD is a partnership between King's College London, Kidney Research UK, Africa Advocacy Foundation and South London faith/community groups. People with lived experience from African and Caribbean communities co-designed a kidney-health screening and education programme, delivered by 31 trained peer educators in trusted spaces, reaching >2,000 people, finding >20% new cases and supporting GP follow-up. Peer educators gained accredited skills, paid roles, and co-authorship/presenter credits. Embedding co-production and cultural competence throughout shifted research from hospital-based to community-led, generated evidence on early detection, reshaped King's practice, and created a national model highlighted by UK Kidney Association in the NHSE 10-Year Workforce Plan.

Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Museums and Class Differences (A&H)

Serena Iervolino

Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Museums and Class Differences is a participatory research project advancing sectoral change around class equity in museums. Building on Inequalities, Class and the Pandemic (2021–23), the project works with networks such as Museum as Muck and Museum Detox to examine how class differences shape institutional culture, professional identity, and inclusion. Through co-produced research and dialogue, the project develops sector-wide guidelines and practical tools to embed class awareness within Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) frameworks, exemplifying how academic research can drive structural reform and social justice in cultural practice.

The Improving Personalised Care and Support Study (NMPC)

Clair Le Boutillier

The improving personalised care and support study was undertaken to gain a better understanding of how personalised care and support planning works (or not) from the perspectives of people who are living with colorectal cancer, and their clinicians, and to co-design improvements. Funded by THIS Institute and sponsored by King's College London and Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, the study explored the experience of the Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) and asked what's important to people involved in the personalised care and support process. Underpinned by design thinking, the study used creative methods (video-reflexive ethnography and participatory co-design) and engaged people at professional, policy and practice levels.

Participatory Research (Global)

The 2YoungLives Project (FOLSM)

Cristina Fernandez Turienzo, Lucy November, Jane Sandall, Paul Seed, Andrew Shennan, Mangenda Kamara, Prince Tommy Williams, Philemon Kamara, Francess Williams and Aminata Mansaray

The 2YoungLives project is a community-based mentoring intervention for pregnant and parting adolescent girls in Sierra Leone. Developed in partnership with local communities and grassroots organisation Lifeline Nehemiah Projects, it provides holistic support from pregnancy up to one year after birth. A pilot cluster-randomised trial, published in The Lancet, demonstrated the intervention is feasible and significantly reduces a composite of maternal and perinatal mortality. The project's core is participatory research, co-designing solutions with girls and community stakeholders to overcome barriers like stigma and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Solace-AI (FOLSM)

Iain Marshall

Solace-AI is a Wellcome Trust-funded international collaboration led by King's College London with partners in Ethiopia, South Africa and beyond, developing an AI-driven evidence synthesis system for climate-health emergencies. The project adopts a community-based participatory research approach, working with diverse stakeholders (including policy makers, humanitarian practitioners, health workers, and climate-affected communities) to co-design the system. Through stakeholder meetings, Policy Labs, and community engagement in Ethiopia, partners with lived experience of climate impacts actively shape research priorities, case study selection, evaluation methods, and system design to ensure the AI produced outputs are contextually relevant and grounded in community needs.

IMPACT (FOLSM)

Seeromanie Harding, Simon Anderson, Rosana Emmanuel, Roger Gibson, Abdul Abdulkadri, Ieda Vargas Dias, Paulo Jardim, Antonio Grande, PAHO, The Ministry of Health (Dominica), and the Ministry of Health, Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (Brazil)

IMPACT is a multisectoral program to improve Indigenous adolescent mental health in Brazil and Dominica. The region is home to ~55 million Indigenous people. High rates of

Indigenous youth substance use, suicide and poor mental health are linked to land loss due to deforestation, illegal mining, and climate-related disasters. Anchored by Indigenous youth voices, IMPACT connects families, schools, social and health services, and communities to strengthen resilience. It combines participatory creative arts and systems thinking to support sustainable Indigenous ecosystems. It transforms schools into hubs for prevention with the training of teachers, parents, leaders, and health workers in adolescent mental health, and youth co-created cultural activities that are integrated into curricula.

Transforming Research Culture

Ethnicity, culture, and COVID-19 vaccine behaviour in South Asian and Caucasian pregnant women (NMPC)

Samia Kaddeer

During the pandemic, COVID-19 vaccines were offered to pregnant women in the UK. Uptake was unequal across ethnic groups. This study aimed to explore attitudes, beliefs and decision-making processes in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine, with focusing on the novel approach of exploring ethnicity and cultural factors that may have influenced COVID-19 vaccines uptake.

King's Community & Health Research Board (FOLSM)

Alice Taylor-Gee, Rashmi Kumar, Shantell Lake, Vita Moltena, Smarajit Roy, Leila Hidayat, Polly Waterworth, Samantha Johnson, Sophie St Vie and Adelaide MacKenzie

King's Community & Health Research board consists of local residents and BMEIS researchers that explores the process of engagement between researchers and local communities in Lambeth, supporting the development of engagement through local and lived knowledge and their networks. Members meet 4- 6 times a year, both online and in person and includes a variety of people, of different ages, experiences and backgrounds but all have an interest in community, health and research. Outcomes include a co-designed community project fund; advising researchers in engagement best practice with underrepresented groups; and identifying priorities in the community that would benefit from research.

Preventing Deaths from Anaphylaxis: Harnessing Information from Coroners to Save Lives (FOLSM)

Georgia Richards and the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation

Led by Dr Georgia Richards at King's College London with the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, this initiative analysed national data following death investigations by coroners to identify preventable factors following fatal anaphylaxis. The findings, which were presented in Parliament on 21 October 2025, outlined five key recommendations to reform the inquest system and save lives. The event brought together bereaved families, coroners, policymakers, researchers, and food-industry leaders, demonstrating how engaged research can translate evidence into policy and action for national allergy safety.

King's Health Partners Digital Health Hub Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Group (FOLSM)

Annie Howitt

The DHH PPIE group are leading a shift in how digital health products are developed, in academia and its commercial spin-outs. The group is a key component of establishing and ongoing work of a national resource supporting the innovation of digital health technologies (DHH, funded by the EPSRC). The group have led multiple streams of work that embed lived experience into the design of new digital health technologies, including training and direct collaborations, ensuring that they are equitable and impactful. The group are champions of co-design in research and their communities, ensuring accountability and open transparency of health technology advancements.

Integrated Education, Research and Service

Uberisation of the Nursing Sector in the US (A&H)

Funda Ustek Spilda

This study examines how on-demand nursing platforms in the US are reshaping health care. Drawing on original research, it reveals the real impact of these platforms in care provision, patient safety and working conditions for healthcare workers. The research exposes how on-demand nursing platforms are also lobbying state legislatures in an attempt to exempt themselves from existing labour regulations. As gig nursing platforms falsely promise to empower workers to meet their needs, the study reveals the impact of platformisation in the healthcare sector.

Language Acts and Worldmaking Laboratory (A&H)

Elisa Sampson Vera Tudela, Hackney Collective of Primary Schools, Chris the King Sixth Form Colleges, Thomas Tallis School, Myriam Angueira, Florencia Herrera, Andres Kalawski, Clara Obligado and Karoline Pelikan

Language Acts and Worldmaking Laboratory (taught since 2021) is a radical, inclusive second year module in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. The module arises from the AHRC flagship project Language Acts and Worldmaking. It integrates research, education, and service through engagement with language learners in schools and international cultural partners, building enduring and creative relationships. Co-created with students and rooted in multilingual experience, it empowers learners to develop agency from the skills of language learning in real-world contexts. Recognised nationally for teaching innovation, it fosters civic leadership, intercultural awareness, and transformative education aligned with King's Vision 2029.

qVault.ai (FOLSM)

Isaac Sung Him Ng and Mandeep Gill Sagoo

qVault.ai is a student-staff partnership translating AI education research into inclusive, evidence-based tools. Backed by over £30k in research grants, it co-designs AI question generators, flashcards, and clinical simulators with more than 15 contributors across FoLSM and NMES. Over 200 MBBS students have participated in pilots shaping research on cognitive engagement, responsible AI adoption, and sustainable digital education. Findings have been disseminated through multiple international conferences and institutional showcases, complemented by national awards for partnership impact and research excellence. Its growing body of work, ranging from behavioural-science analyses to forthcoming book chapters, captures King's experience of bottom-up innovation in responsible AI education.

Root to Tip (PSD)

Rachel Gibson, Fatima Wang, Gillian Brooks, Graeme Collie, Fiona Lavelle, Balazs Bajka, Peter Rory Ellis, Eric Cui Wu, Georgia Browne, Lisa Connellan and Sarah McLoughlin

Root to Tip is the first initiative under the King's Food Living Laboratory, co-designed to reduce food waste and improve dietary fibre intake by using whole fruits and vegetables—including peels, stalks, and rinds to develop new and unique recipes. The project has

delivered a full cycle of research, menu development, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation across King's campuses via a collaborative group of staff, students and alumni. Despite decades of public health nutrition policies, most of the UK population have suboptimal intake of fruit, vegetables, and fibre. In addition, food waste significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and most food waste comes from plant sources. Root to tip aims to address this.

Outstanding Individual (ECR)

Kaat De Backer (FOLSM)

Kaat De Backer's doctoral research project, the MUMS@RISC study has collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders, including women who are often described as 'difficult to engage'. Kaat put the lived experience voices of infant removal at birth due to safeguarding concerns at the heart of her research. She used a range of (creative) methods to make sure her research findings found their way to those that need to hear about it, including women with lived experience, health and social care professionals, policymakers, but also wider society, to reduce the stigma towards this group of mothers and their families.

Caitlin Schmid (KBS)

Dr Caitlin Schmid connects King's research with policymakers, third-sector organisations, and civil society by translating complex gender data into accessible, actionable insights. Through participatory workshops, open-access tools, and strategic partnerships, she supports policymakers, civil-society leaders, and practitioners in applying an equality lens to data use and policy design. Her leadership on the Gender Equality Index UK and ESRC-funded project Bridging the Gender Data Gap has fostered collaboration across government, NGOs, and communities, influencing policy and practice. Demonstrating leadership, creativity, and public engagement in advancing data-driven gender equality, she exemplifies King's commitment to research for the public good.

Clement Sefa-Nyarko (SSPP)

My academic career is defined by methodological innovation, thematic depth, and strategic engagement. Through participatory, interdisciplinary methods, culminating in the development of Hermeneutical Ethnography under my UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, I am advancing understanding of justice and governance in minerals and

climate transitions. Sustained partnerships with academics and non-academics, including the Government of Ghana and German Institute for Development Evaluation, have shaped a user-informed research portfolio. Public engagement, like the Vital Signs exhibition at Science Gallery London (2024–2025), exemplifies my commitment to bridging research, policy and society for inclusive, global impact.

Angie Pitt (IOPPN)

Angie has single-handedly designed, delivered and evaluated the 3-year project 'Unfiltered', a novel approach to research co-production with adolescents which will increase social mobility. She developed this as part of her PhD with two local secondary schools based on the principals of inclusion and reciprocity: asking what the pupils and school, as well as the research team, needed. The schools have a high percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals, so the programme was designed to be inclusive of all pupils, raise aspirations among STEM A'Level students, support access to university and give teens an opportunity to develop research and leadership skills. In return, the teens have co-designed real, impactful research with the team at King's.

Outstanding Individual (Established Academic)

Richard Wingate (IOPPN)

Professor Richard Wingate is an established neuroscientist and educator whose career exemplifies sustained, innovative public engagement with research. As Editor-in-Chief of BrainFacts.org and author of The Story of the Brain in 10½ Cells he has brought neuroscience to new public audiences. He has advised and curated public exhibitions (Brains, Photo51, Between), pioneering collaborations with artists, and delivered impactful young person and festival outreach. At King's, he has embedded engagement into teaching through innovative modules Communicating Science and Synthetic Anatomy and mentored new generations of researchers as outreach practitioners. His work combines excellence in science with creativity and societal impact.

Katharine Low (FOLSM)

Kat Low is an academic practitioner-researcher working as a theatre-maker with communities to research and amplify health-related concerns. Specifically, she works with communities deemed to be 'vulnerable' and often with women around women's health issues. Her ethics of practice involve emancipatory research practices, radical kindness, play and finding joy in the quotidian. As a neurodivergent practitioner, much of

her practice and research lies in curating spaces where people can explore health concerns on their own terms, accessibly and collegiately. Since 2016, Kat has delivered collaborative practice-based performance research with women living well with HIV and the HIV charity Positively UK.

Abigail Tucker (FODOCS)

Abigail has been involved with diverse engagement projects throughout her career at King's. In the last two-years she has: co-ordinated UK public engagement activities as a member of the Royal Society of Biology Public Engagement group; Engaged with patients and an artist through an Arts Council England funded project "Dry mouth dialogues"; and co-led an international project focusing on supporting women in science funded by the British Council. She is a member of the "Biologist of Tomorrow" policy group, liaising with Parliament to ensure future biologists have the tools and knowledge to succeed.

Outstanding Individual (Professional Services)

Alice Taylor-Gee (FOLSM)

Alice Taylor-Gee is Senior Public Engagement Manager at King's College London, leading innovative patient, public and community engagement across biomedical engineering and health research. Alice has pioneered approaches that embed lived experience into research design, delivery and translation. She has secured significant external funding, built sustainable partnerships, and developed new frameworks for inclusive engagement. Her leadership has enabled under-represented voices to shape cutting-edge health technologies, directly influencing research priorities, improving equity in access, as well as building an incredible collaborative and inspiring environment for her team members. Alice exemplifies King's commitment to Service with Impact and advancing equality through engagement.

Asma Bashir (IOPPN)

Asma Bashir is a passionate Public Engagement Manager at King's College London dedicated to developing, sharing, and celebrating best practice in public and community engagement with research (P&CER) across many forms. Underpinned by her time as a practicing neuroscientist, Asma's dedication to P&CER has yielded countless collaborations across King's and beyond, all of which focus on delivering positive change at all levels through widening participation and knowledge dissemination initiatives. Asma has earned an incredibly positive reputation for her high-quality projects and

collaborative mindset as she enthusiastically leads conceptualisation, delivery, and evaluation of multiple institution-wide P&CER projects on the RMID team.

Kathryn Boast (NMES)

Kathryn established the NMES outreach programme, creating many new opportunities for young people, their supporters and local communities to engage with STEM research. Since joining King's in 2023, she has led the NMES Outreach Team, which was shortlisted for a 2025 King's SHINE award. She established the STEM Outreach Student Ambassador programme, helping 100+ students thrive in outreach, and recently set up the NMES PhD Outreach Network. Kathryn maintains important relationships with external organisations, including the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Ogden Trust, and King's Maths School. Kathryn wrote the NMES Outreach Strategy in consultation with academics, as well as producing well-regarded internal guidance, and consistently supports researchers with their engagement projects.

Peter Gallivan (NMES)

Over the two years Peter has worked at King's he has been instrumental in developing and running a wide range of Outreach programmes within the NMES Faculty. These events have reached over 7000 people, from primary and secondary school children up to parents and teachers. These varied events have helped bring to life the amazing research taking place within the NMES faculty, showcasing our work to a wider public audience. We have also empowered young people from underrepresented communities develop key skills, helping them to pursue study at King's and/or careers in the wider STEM sector.