# Culture

# We cannot unsee

# **Innovation Case Study**

## What was the question?

What is the potential of science fiction to convey the experiences of people who live with a range of psychological conditions?

### Who were the collaborators?

David Edgar, British Film Institute; James Holcombe, no.w.here; and various academics from King's: Dr Zerrin Atakan, Neuroimaging; Dr Vaughan Bell, Visiting Clinical Psychologist; Dr Laura Goodwin, Psychological Medicine; Professor Neil Greenberg, Psychological Medicine; Professor Edgar Jones, Centre for Military Health Research; Professor Craig



Morgan, Health Service & Population Research; Professor Graham Thornicroft, Health Service & Population Research; and Dr Lidia Yaguez, Psychology.

### What did we do?

Supported by the Wellcome Trust Small Arts Awards, the project team created six experimental short films that challenge the ways in which we understand and see the world. The aim was to empower and give creative agency to those who experience the world differently. The team attempted to find ways of representing neuro-diversity in nonpathological ways. The project was both informed by science and inspired by science fiction.

### What was the outcome?

Producing the six films was challenging and revealing both for the artists and the scientists. It opened up new aspects of research for everyone involved. The artists found that working with academics brought a new depth and dimension to their work, while the academics in turn found that being questioned about their research into mental illness and brain injury, and how it could be conveyed through art and narrative, was highly beneficial. The film is available here: <u>vimeo.com/147462548</u> (password: wecannotunsee).





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