

Co-creating sustainable communities: Dissertation In Place

Team members - Good Place Innovators

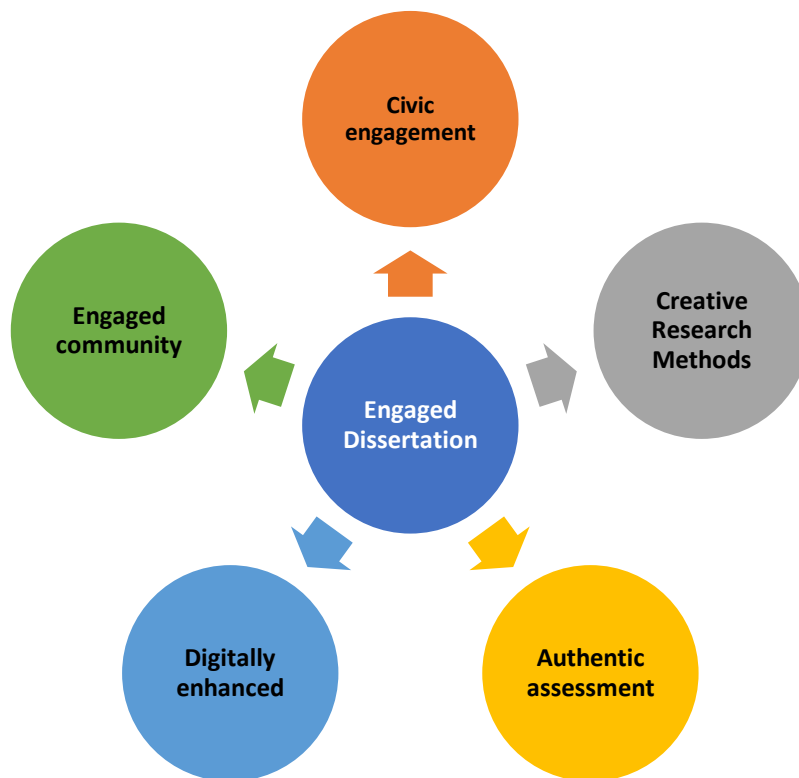
Name	Department	Project role
Radka Newton	Senior Teaching Fellow, Entrepreneurship and Strategy	PI Team leader Engagement lead
Jekaterina Rindt	Lecturer, Marketing	Co-I Education practice framework development lead
Emma Watton	Senior Teaching Fellow, Entrepreneurship and Strategy	Co-I Scholarship lead
Andreas Strobl	Senior Lecturer, Entrepreneurship and Strategy	Co-I Education practice implementation lead
Jennifer Carter	Teaching Fellow, Entrepreneurship and Strategy	Co-I Student experience lead
Phil Devine	Digital Education Facilitator, LUMS	Digital lead
Andy Holgate	Library Digital Skills Developer	Resources lead
Martin Thornton	Digital Media Engineer, ISS	Visualisation lead
Jane Dalton	Owner of Groundswell Innovation	External partner and community engagement lead

Engaged Scholarship Project Proposal

[The Good Place Innovators team](#) proposes to develop *an innovative, engaged and digitally enhanced* dissertation framework for Postgraduate (PG) Dissertations. The project addresses the need for greater authenticity and relevance of PG dissertations and demonstrates a direct commitment to **LUMS' Innovation in Place** and **responsible management education** agenda. At the University level, we contribute directly to the University Civic Charter and the government's Levelling Up agenda and address local policymakers concerns over the graduate talent retention shortage in Lancashire.

The team has a reputation for collaborative engagement with external stakeholders which forms the foundation for co-creating curricula focused on place-based challenges. Our external partner - **Groundswell Innovation** - commits to fostering engaged and impactful knowledge exchange and facilitates meaningful links to local communities and dissemination of our practice.

To achieve this, students will work on local community innovation challenges identified by Groundswell Innovation that are aligned with relevant UN SDG's that impact the regional ecosystem. The following figure shows the components of *the engaged dissertation framework*:



Civic engagement ensures the dissertation themes are co-created with the local community delivering true impact and enhancing the campus connection with the city and the region. Our aim is to provide an authentic assessment that is relevant to students' future aspirations as responsible leaders advocating the career development and University employability agenda. The engaged dissertation embraces creative research methods, such as ethnography, non-participatory observation, and videography essential for students' development of systems thinking and empathy. Digital enhancement is a core opportunity to enable accessibility, inclusivity, independent learning and advancing the innovative integration with LinkedIn learning.

Project operationalisation

- The project is a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project and will provide empirical evidence around the value of place-based pedagogy and assessment in responsible management education. We will enquire into current good practice through a **systematic literature review** and collation of **best practice** through the wider HE networks.
- We adopt a participatory qualitative research approach to identify parameters of authentic place-based assessment in conjunction with digitally enhanced education involving regional stakeholders, students and staff. The funding will enable us to pilot a **community knowledge exchange lab** including policy makers and private sector representatives to ascertain a desirable practice for the engaged dissertation process ensuring benefits for the community and students.
- We will prototype an **engaged dissertation framework** and pilot it with current postgraduate students iteratively developing an approach that we intend to implement in 2024/2025.

Funding

Item	Cost
<i>Engagement fellows:</i>	
Development fellow(s)	200 hours @£16 ph = £3,200
Digital design fellow(s)	200 hours @£16 ph = £3,200
Scholarship fellow(s)	100 hours @16ph = £1,600
<i>Community knowledge exchange lab set up:</i>	
Groundswell Innovation engagement facilitation	£3,000
Community engagement mapping event (subsistence, material design and print)	£1,000
Community engagement ideation event (subsistence, material design and print)	£1,000
Student and community testing activities and evaluation	£2,000
Digital material design and development	£4,000
Total	£19,000

Academic teaching team hours allocation

Academic	Hours
Radka Newton (project lead and management of fellows)	150
Jekaterina Rindt (digital framework)	100
Emma Watton (practice-based learning framework)	100
Andreas Strobl (quality assurance framework)	100
Jennifer Carter (student experience assessment)	100

Planned outputs

We plan to initially implement *the engaged dissertation framework* on the redesigned MSc Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme before offering it more widely within the school on other PG Programmes. The project will be promoted via its website that will be hosted within the established portfolio of [The Good Place Innovators](#). In addition, we aim to develop scholarly outputs in the form of a journal article (e.g. JME) and conference presentations to disseminate our findings through national and global teaching and learning networks (e.g. CABS, EFMD, Advance HE).