

# Blue-Sky and Long-Term Thinking: One-Year Journey Through the Future Research Leaders Programme (2021-22)

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**DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY**  
LEICESTER

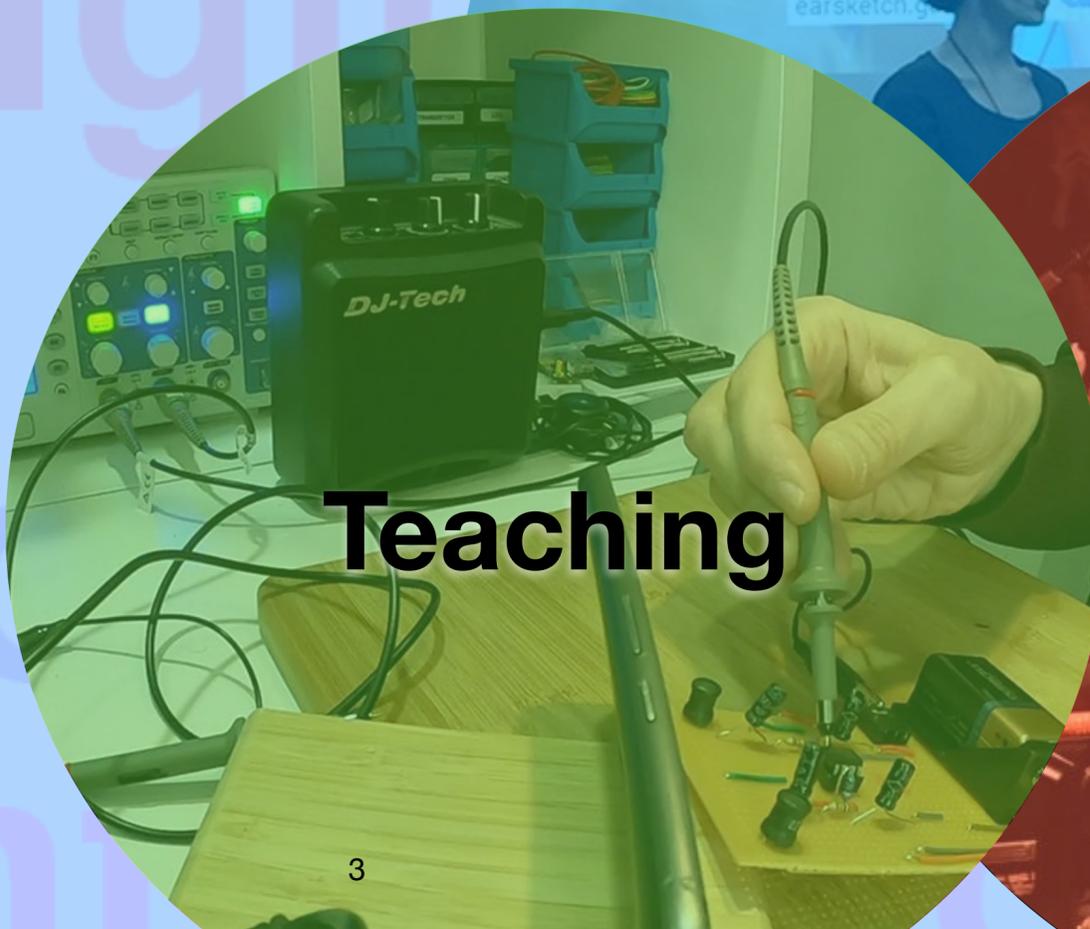
# About me and my research

music  
informatics  
design  
engineering  
new media  
sound art  
anthropology

HCI + Sound  
& Music  
Computing



**Research**



**Teaching**



**Practice**



<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/research/research-faculties-and-institutes/technology/mtirc/mtirc.aspx>

# **Lessons learned and achievements**

# Initial goals/expectations

- Achieve the **skills to think strategically** about my research.
- Improve my **research performance**.
- Understand better how to become a **genuine future leader**.
- Find forms of **external income generation** to my and DMU's themes.
- Develop a **research network** and use the £1000 **leadership development fund** to meet with potential partners of a research project as well as to buy materials to start exploring ideas.

# Key activities

- Learning about **successes and failures** in our research.
- Developing a **publication strategy**: high-quality & world-leading research.
- Understanding **REF**: UoAs, research environments, case studies, key individuals.
- Understanding **impact**: technology applications, society, economy, evidence of change in attitudes/ behaviours.
- **Interviews** with key research leaders in my field.
- Understanding relevant **funding bodies**: language, expectations.
- Developing a **research network** and **pitching your idea**: Networking activities seen as potential income generation.
- **Reflections on my blog**: <https://annaxambo.me/blog/>

# Lessons learned

- **Be strategic with your research** - Get to know your research environment. Planning vs random/serendipity: have an 'open' plan and be open to new opportunities. Start small and increasingly attempt bigger grants/projects.
- **Blue-sky thinking** - Get to meet new partners, think the unimaginable, be proactive and go beyond your comfort zone.
- **Long-term thinking** - Impact is a long game, research needs time to mature, ambitious but executable.

# Achievements

- **Three research projects are in the pipeline!** Able to work on 3 research projects in parallel: small (£45,000), medium (£250,000) and large (£1.7M)!
- Attended the online event ***Data Art for Climate Action*** (<https://dataclimate.org>) to meet like-minded researchers and artists related to one of the research grants (February 2022).
- Ongoing **field trips** to visit new partners, get to know their sites and strengthen the concept of one of the research grants (June 2022).
- Successful with DMU's '**Living in a Digital Society**' 2022 '**Spotlight**' **Funding Application** to complete one of the research grants & run 3 pilot studies with the help of one research assistant (June 2022).

# **Expected contributions to DMU**

# Expected future contributions

- Write **successful grants** and bring **talented people** into the institution.
- Promote **cross-pollination** between departments with **interdisciplinary projects**.
- Be proactive in contributing to my **research environment**.
- Bring **international research** to DMU through research-related public activities (workshops, seminars, performances, art exhibitions, and so on).
- Show to the **world** what we do at DMU through our research projects (timely topics, high-quality research).
- Bring new technologies and ideas to the **classroom**. Give opportunities to **students** to participate in the research projects and activities.
- Contribute to the next **REF** with high-quality & world-leading research.

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My colleagues at MTI<sup>2</sup>

Future Research Leaders 8 Cohort

Leicester Media School

Faculty of Computing, Engineering &  
Media

De Montfort University



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