**ARP 2024-5**

**Ethical Action Plan**

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| 1. **What is your project focus?**  * To create a video essay based on the issue of Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, its impact on climate change and how the appalling unethical conditions the miners work in, is often overlooked in the West. This mining, often involving dangerous conditions and slavery, highlights a global issue. * My hypothesis is that many people including staff and students don’t know about this, so my goal is to raise awareness at CSM and address these injustices through research and education in the format of a video essay. * At Central Saint Martins, a framework for embedding climate, racial, and social justice into the curriculum exists, but there are overlooked human rights violations linked to the technologies used in educational teaching. Specifically, cobalt extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which raises ethical concerns, with cobalt being essential for batteries used in our day to day media devices, and how this impacts climate. * A video essay is an effective tool for disseminating this message because it is highly accessible, it engages viewers emotionally and intellectually, leveraging visuals and narration to convey complex issues like the exploitation behind lithium-ion batteries. It also encourages reflection on how institutions like UAL can embed ethical practices into their curriculum, aligning education with climate and racial justice efforts. |
| 1. **What are you going to read about?**   Cobalt Red by Siddharth Kara 2023  UAL Climate PolicyUAL Climate, Racial and Social Justice Principles [Laura Knight](https://canvas.arts.ac.uk/userprofile/50804/Laura-Knight) -  MA Communicating Complexity 1 Dec 2022  BERA-[Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research, fifth edition (2024)](https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-fifth-edition-2024)  "Art-Based Action Research in the Development Work of Arts and Art Education" by Timo Jokela and Maria Huhmarniemi 2019  How to do media and cultural studies- Jane Stokes 2002  https://www.gov.uk/data-protection#:~:text=The%20Data%20Protection%20Act%202018%20is%20the%20UK's%20implementation%20of,called%20'data%20protection%20principles'.  video essays  HEFCE, “Supporting higher education in further education colleges: Writing higher education strategies”, May 2009, <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/141/1/09_05_supp.pdf>  **Keathley, C., Mittell, J., & Grant, C. (2019).** *The Videographic Essay: Criticism in Sound & Image*. Caboose.  **Grant, C. (2013).** *Déjà-Viewing? Videographic Experiments in Intertextual Film Studies*. *Mediascape: UCLA's Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*.  **Faden, E. (2008).** *A Manifesto for Critical Media*. *Mediascape Journal*. |
| 1. **What action are you going to take in your teaching practice?**   As a media technician with experience in the production process, I am going to create a video essay that highlights the issue of cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, focusing on its impact on climate change and ethics. My goal is to raise awareness among staff and students at Central Saint Martins about the human rights violations associated with technologies we use daily, particularly the extraction of cobalt for batteries. This video essay will be informed by the research I conduct about what staff and students know about the origins of theirportable technology. The Video essay will serve as both an educational tool and methodology for dissemination. Furthermore, my intention for the video essay is to engage UAL as an institution to reflect, and question the types of portable battery operated technologies we use, in the technical media workshops. |
| 1. **Who will be involved and how?**   Students and staff will actively participate in this action research project by contributing to the video essay through interviews and questionnaires. Their insights and perspectives on the ethical concerns surrounding cobalt mining and its connection to the technologies we use daily will shape the narrative of the project. This involvement will not only inform the content but also encourage participants to reflect on how these issues relate to climate and racial justice within our curriculum. By engaging with the research, they will play a critical role in raising awareness and fostering institutional change at Central Saint Martins. |
| 1. **What are the health & safety concerns, and how will you prepare for them?**   When discussing sensitive topics like cobalt mining and modern slavery with students, it's essential to consider their emotional and psychological well-being. there is potential for students to feel distressed, especially when detailing exploitation, child labour, and human rights violations. I aim to provide a trigger warning, as well as a safe, respectful environment for discussion, allow space for students to process and reflect, and provide support resources, such as counselling services. Additionally, avoid graphic descriptions, and be aware of the diverse backgrounds of students, as some may have personal connections to such issues.  When discussing the slavery linked to cobalt mining with staff, it’s important to ensure a professional, respectful tone while being mindful of their emotional and intellectual responses to the topic. Staff may have varying levels of familiarity with the issue, so provide well-researched facts while avoiding overwhelming or distressing details. Offer opportunities for open discussion, and be prepared to address any concerns that arise, such as ethical implications for their own work or how these issues might be addressed within institutional policies. Providing resources for further reading and support is also beneficial. |
| 1. **How will you protect the data of those involved?**   To protect participant data in educational research under the UK’s Data Protection Act 2018, several key practices should be followed:   1. Informed Consent: Ensure participants understand how their data will be collected, stored, and used, and obtain their consent. 2. Anonymization: Personal data should be anonymized or pseudonymized to prevent identification. 3. Data Minimization: Collect only the necessary data for the research. 4. Secure Storage: Store data securely using encryption and access controls. 5. Right to Access and Erasure: Allow participants to access, correct, or delete their data upon request.   These steps ensure compliance and protect participants’ rights. |
| 1. **How will you work with your participants in an ethical way?**   I will work with participants in an ethical way by ensuring their involvement is entirely voluntary and based on informed consent. I will clearly explain the purpose of the video essay and how their input will be used, whether through interviews or questionnaires. For the questionnaires, I will collect quantitative data to gain fact-based insights into what people know about cobalt mining and its associated ethical issues. All data will be anonymized, and consent will be obtained through full disclosure, especially during technical workshops with students. For staff, the process will be slightly different—I'll speak with them in person as well as follow up with email communication to ensure transparency and comfort. Confidentiality will be maintained, and participants will have the chance to review any material involving their contributions before it is finalised. Throughout, I will prioritise open dialogue and respect for each participant’s views. |