A 2 day workshop at Winchester School of Art (25-26th April, 2018) looking at the emotional, psychological and philosophical implications of heart transplantation from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives. Approx 50 people with a special interest in organ transplatation attended: transplant recipients; a broad range of medical practitioners including nurses; consultants; transplant co-ordinator, psychiatrists; scientists; ethicists; artists; art historians; academics; philosophers; curators; a TV producer, and students. Through presentations; group discussion and practical workshops we shared perspectives on organ transplantation with an emphasis on donor family experience.

Participants have described the workshop as: 'an enormously rich, multi-layered and respectful 2 days of dialogue reflecting long, deep engagement and commitment by the project team' (Helen Pynor, artist); ‘A thoroughly invigorating event, particularly due to the highly relevant but diverse backgrounds of the contributors, what a wealth of expertise in one room' (Emily Scott-Dearing, Curator); 'A genuine interrogation of how interdisciplinary working might take place. The event allowed me to make links with people from other disciplines at my own university (situated at the other end of the country) who I hadn't previously encountered, as well as re-establish links with Australian and Canadian contacts that I had met previously. The work shared was thought-provoking and stimulating, and the event will have significant impact as I continue to work in this area.' (Tim Jeeves artist and transplant recipient); 'An excellent networking opportunity'; 'An excellent interactive engagement across the disciplines' (Donna McCormack, Academic); 'The workshops were informative, inspiring and provocative. The opportunity to make important new connections across multiple disciplines was rare and rewarding. Challenged my thinking and pre-conceptions. Expanded my thinking in an area that I am quite well informed in.' Laura Machin, Medical Ethicist; 'Raised new research questions to develop and expand research program/agenda. Established relationships that will lead to new research.’ (Susan Abbey, Transplant Psychiatrist).

The 2 day workshop comprised:

Presentations:

Introduction to the Hybrid Bodies project - Susan Abbey, Transplant Psychiatrist and original team member, UHN Toronto.

Rachael Buchanan – Medical Producer, BBC News ‘Presumed consent in the UK?’

Laura Machin – Academic at Lancaster University working on medical ethics, ‘Reimagining Donation’.

Stephanie Parsons PhD student and associate lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University,'Investigating the Emotional Management of Suffering during the Organ Donation Process'.

Tim Jeeves – Artist and transplant recipient, ’Not Just the Incredibles - everyday experiences of transplantation’.

Nicola Triscott - Cultural producer, curator and writer, specialising in the intersections between art, science, technology and society 'Co-enquiry: Cross-disciplinarity and interpretation'.

Katie Morley ‘Writing to Your Donor Family’

Small group workshops led by members of the existing Hybrid Bodies team which addressed the following questions:

Organ donation and difference – Different cultural beliefs (ethnic and class) about donation.

Trans- multi- inter- disciplinary research – how can we work together more effectively? What does it mean to work effectively?

Interpretation strategies – writing gallery wall texts

The future of body intervention – mechanical and human

What is the role of the art research in medical projects?

The symbolic nature of the organs - do certain organs hold more significance than others for donor families/recipients?

Accidental intimacy - What does it mean to live with someone else’s DNA inside you? How does deceased organ donation affect the grieving process?

How we use words/language in talking a out organ donation – thank you letters – what needs to be expressed and what cannot be expressed

Practical workshops involving drawing, making and storytelling.

Informal artist talks about the works on display in the gallery.

Q&A sessions, feedback and general discussion.

Building on the one day symposium held at University of Westminster Harrow Campus on 23rd November, 2017, the main aim of the workshop was to bring together a broad range of participants from both academic and non academic backgrounds in the UK, and to provide an opportunity for in-depth exploration of: interdisciplinary approaches to issues arising around transplantation as well as looking at the way in which artworks can embody some of the issues that have arisen during the Hybrid Bodies project. The event was strategically designed as a workshop, and invited participants from across the UK were targeted for their expertise. Whilst it involved an intense period of preparation on the part of the PI in addition to her normal workload, the outcome was enormously successful, providing a forum for non-hierarchical knowledge exchange across a wide range of disciplines. The event began with presentations to provide content for further discussion and thought. As evidenced by the list above, these covered a range of topics