Using arts based methods to elicit seldom heard voices

‘To make people realize that disability is just a silhouette that disappears
As the headlights of WHO WE ARE
Shine through the mirage’
excerpt from Salad Cream on Toast group poem

Performance poetry - a form of social action to touch the hearts and minds in a transformative way as the poet/performer becomes the educator - grounded in social justice, equity and citizenship through PAR. Numerous performances include the cultural Olympiad 2012, House of Commons 2015, and ESRC Festival of Social Science, 2017. A learning tool and film has also been developed.

‘This is the place where people follow their own shadows in endless circles, where you are alone in a crowd, where you are either non existent or all eyes are on you, The place of many hiding places, some in full view’
excerpt from This is the Place: A Bournemouth Poem

Last year we extended this methodology to explore homelessness - balancing the orthodoxy of homeless research by focusing on experiences and subjectivities of homeless people. A key output is a poetry book written by participants and performed at the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2017. We aim to develop further research on rural homelessness using creative methods.

Professor Lee-Ann Fenge