

Exploring 'Expose-a-thons'

Using an 'EXPOSition marATHON' as a way of connecting student projects with local cultural organisations.

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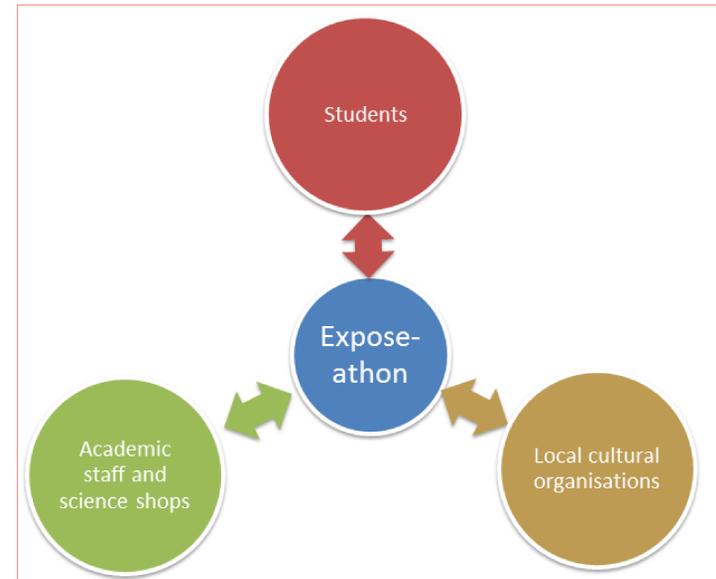
Project manager

**Science Shop Language,
 Culture & Communication**

Context/Method

For over 40 years, The Science Shops of the University of Groningen connect socially relevant questions from non-profit organisations to research by students. In order to keep reinventing ourselves as a valuable part of the university, I would like to introduce an interactive and challenging activity called: **Expose-a-thon**. During one weekend:

- **Students** from the Faculty of Arts will:
 1. Develop an exposition about a relevant topic
 2. Learn to combine scientific concepts with perspectives/methods from the working field
 3. Learn to think and work interdisciplinary
 4. Build a network with key players from local cultural organisations
- **Cultural organisations** will:
 1. Get a free exposition made by students
 2. Can cherry-pick students with talent for later projects
 3. Can enlarge and strengthen their network
 4. Can (re)establish relations with the university
- **Science shops** will:
 1. Give students an extra-curricular opportunity to discover
 2. Strengthen themselves as an mediator between non-profit organisations and student projects
 3. Get great PR!



Challenges/Dilemmas

The process from the idea of an expose-a-thon to an actual activity encounters multiple dilemmas and challenges:

1. Who do we include or exclude?
2. How do you manage these relations altogether?
3. How do you ensure quality for all partners?
4. How do you make this activity a long-term success?
5. How do you connect with the goals of all partners?

Reason/Motivation

I've been a student of history at the University of Groningen and worked for a myriad of cultural organisations in the past. The benefit of being part of both groups is that I know where the questions of both parties lie.

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| Students: | Where am I going to work? What are my strengths and weaknesses? How am I able to find a job? |
| Cultural organisations: | How can we get students more involved in our work?
How can we show our collection more broadly? |

To connect these is an exciting and fun challenge! **But... how?**

Your input