Labs Beyond the Sciences

## USSRF Proposal Overview

Supervisor: [Dr Tim Huzar](https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/academics/teaching-and-learning/faculty/faculty-huzar), Lecturer in Philosophy

This project would look at the potential value that a laboratory research model — used extensivelly in the STEM subjects — could have for interdisciplinary student-led research at the BISC.

Labs integrate researchers across their careers to work collaborativey on a specific research goal. In the sciences, labs involve first year and upper year undergraduates, postgraduate students, PhDs, and faculty. Labs in this way span pedagogy and research.

Collaboration is at the heart of the lab model and offers valuable experience for more junior participants. Labs also have the potential to increase the speed at which research is produced, and can result in more novel research than an individual could produce working on their own.

Could such a model work in an interdisciplinary context such as the BISC?

The hypothesis for this project is that interdisciplinary laboratory models would be well suited to the BISC, given our emphasis on interdisciplinarity, experiential learning, and research that is linked to our teaching and that integrates student research.

## Outcomes

In the project the student would do research into **the way laboratories have been used beyond the STEM subjects**. They would collaborate with the supervisor in **producing a report** looking at examples of humanities, social sciences, and interdisciplinary labs, taking field trips to these labs where possible. The student researcher will identify the potential strengths and weaknesses of the laboratory model, and consider whether such a model could be successfully implemented at the BISC.

Once completed the report would be presented to the BISC community and submitted to an undergraduate journal for publication.

## Student Experience

The student would be able to develop discovery-based learning by reviewing the current pedagogic literature on the use of laboratories beyond the STEM subjects, forming the basis of our report. The supervisor will support them in learning how to do research and how to write a report, and contribute to the final drafting of the report.

Accompanying the publication of the report, the student would give a presentation to the BISC community detailing their findings. While the supervisor will be present to help answer questions, the student would take a lead in delivering the presentation, allowing them to develop their presentation skills.

By compiling the initial research, co-authoring the report, and presenting its findings to senior colleagues, the student researcher would develop valuable skills that would enhance their future research endeavours.

## Supervisor Experience

Dr Huzar has extensive experience of innovative pedagogic methods that operate in an interdisciplinary manner. He is currently the module convenor of the module Observation and the Everyday at Birkbeck College, University of London. This module works across the humanities and social sciences and encourages students to develop their observational skills as a valuable mode of developing knowledge alongside textual reading.

Dr Huzar is highly research active and have extensive experience of collaborative research endevours that have produced lasting knowledge exchange. He co-organised an international conference on the work of Adriana Cavarero, which resulted in a collected volume published by Fordham that he co-edited and which was published in 2021. He has supervised numerous undergraduate dissertations while working as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton.

This USSRF project would produce a valuable output for the BISC. It would offer direct research skills that would be relevant for a range of future research endeavours for the student, and the supervisor has the necessary skills and experience to ensure the project is a success.