

Inclusive practice for engaging exhibits:

Insights from “Sensing Volcanoes”

Bridie V Davies

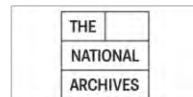
bridie.davies@manchester.ac.uk



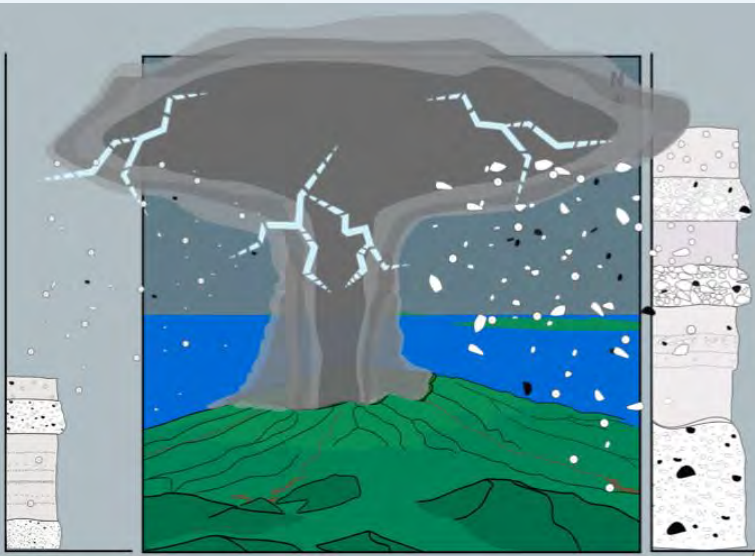
My Linktree

With many thanks to:

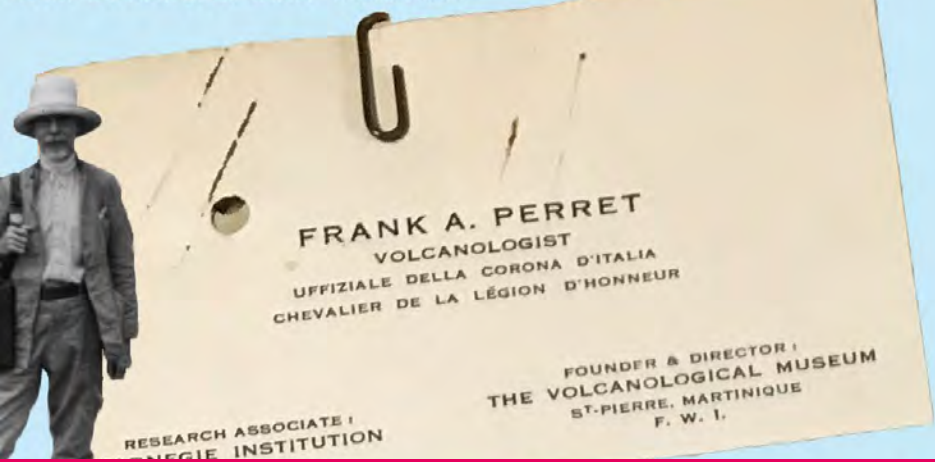
Jenni Barclay, David Pyle, Martin Mahony, Karen Pascal, Richard Robertson, Erouscilla P. Joseph, Thiffanie Williams, Jazmin Scarlett and the rest of the Curating Crises Team



Curating Crises

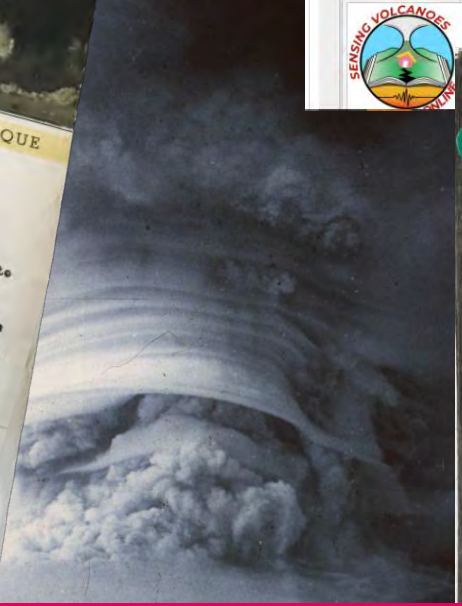


Social Volcanologist, sensor & Networker:



MUSEE VOLCANOLOGIQUE • ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE
 Professor MacGregor, F.R.S.
 c/o British Consul, Fort de France.
 May 5, 1936.

...
 Martinique. Your good Consul believes you to
 troductions to the Authorities here, who will
 te the Observatories at Fort Desaix and on the
 ll be his privilege, after which I wish you to
 riginencies of the last days before leaving my
 sence - I am entirely at your disposal.
 volcanoological museum here at St. Pierre, and
 little trip with me up the Rivière Blanche
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 erving, if convenient to you. Horses will
 like to make on Sunday, the ascent via
 n be arranged, though I will not
 his depends on



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Exploring knowledge of unrest at Caribbean volcanoes between 1890 & 2000: from the archives & beyond...

UWI SEISMIC mvo UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD UEA NORWICH UNITED KINGDOM THE ROYAL SOCIETY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

WELCOME TO THE CURATING CRISES DATABASE!

Here you can find archive materials relating to volcanic eruptions and associated hazards (e.g., earthquakes) in the Caribbean between 1890 and 2000.

The team at Curating Crises have put together some Exhibits that highlight some of the interesting stories they've uncovered.

Please explore the website to learn more about how knowledge was generated and transferred during times of volcanic unrest.

RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS

- Telegram from Ministrant to DevDiv - 22nd December 1971 - funding for seismometers
- Discussion of funding for seismographs needed for longer term monitoring as recommended by Prof Sutton
- Telegram 86 from Thurlow to Mitchell - 31st December 1971 - Support from the Bahamas
- Bahamas able to provide 2 doctors and four nurses for up to three weeks upon request
- Telegram 230 from Mitchell to FCO - 31st December 1971 - Equipment for Tomblin
- Request for equipment from Toblin
- Letter from Smith to Boothroyd - 29th December 1971 - financial aid
- Letter in support of providing financial gift to St Vincent

FEATURED COLLECTION

Tempest Anderson photos - St Vincent 1902

Photos taken by Tempest Anderson during his visit to St Vincent in the aftermath of the 1902 eruption. He recorded the physical changes to the...

FEATURED EXHIBIT

Sensing Volcanoes online!

Welcome to our online exhibit featuring content from the Sensing Volcanoes exhibition, as seen at the Royal Society from the

Curating Crises



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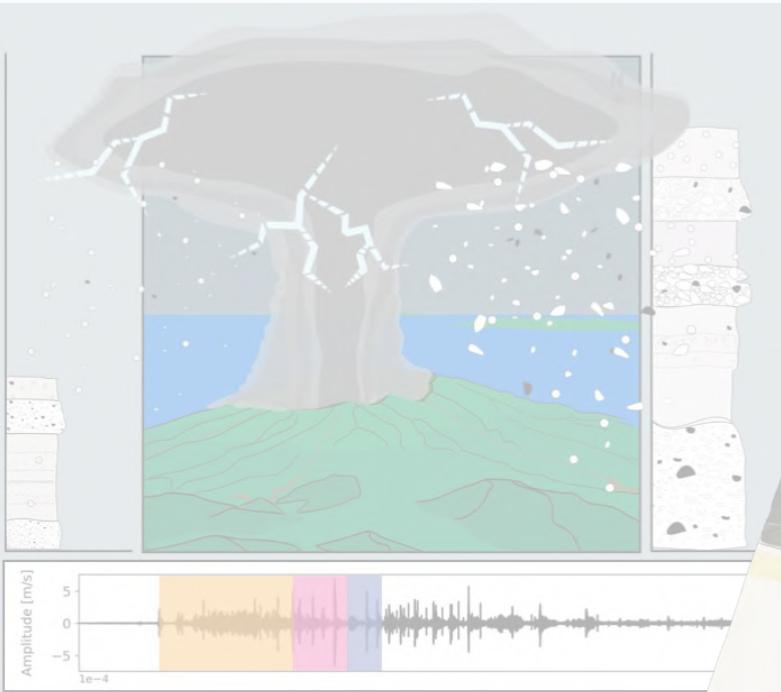
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Social Volcanologist, sensor & Networker:



Introducing “Sensing Volcanoes”



A celebration of Caribbean “volcano observers” past and present

Explores how knowledge about Caribbean volcanoes was/is generated and shared (and by whom) in the socio-political context of colonial structures and practices.

Asks who is/ was considered a **“trusted observer”** and why?

A collaboration between scientists, artists and archivists from the UK, US and Caribbean

First exhibited (in full) at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2023

Combined (hi)stories from the archives, interviews, music, art and observations about volcanic eruptions in the Caribbean from 1890 – present

Details how volcano-observing techniques have developed through reconstructions of historic instrumentation based on archive materials

CURATING CRISES:

First-hand accounts, “hidden (hi)stories” & ongoing community projects

DETECT:

history of “volcano-sensing”

IMAGINE:

Visualisation of sub-surface processes & eruption scenario game

SENSE:

Accounts of eruptions, volcano scent & observations using senses from the archives



Curating Crises >> “Sensing Volcanoes”

Centering diverse voices

Democratizing Science

Lessons Learned



Parachute science? Expedition in the aftermath of the 1902 eruption on St Vincent



Courtesy of **Shemron Yorke** for the [Changing Landscapes](#) project



Fishermen at Wallibu after 1902 eruption. During the eruption boats were used to escape dangerous volcanic flows.

Centering diverse voices - past and present



Stacey Edwards, Thiffanie Williams and Dr Erouscilla Joseph our guests at the Royal Society evening soiree



Residents of Rosebank – St Vincent 1902



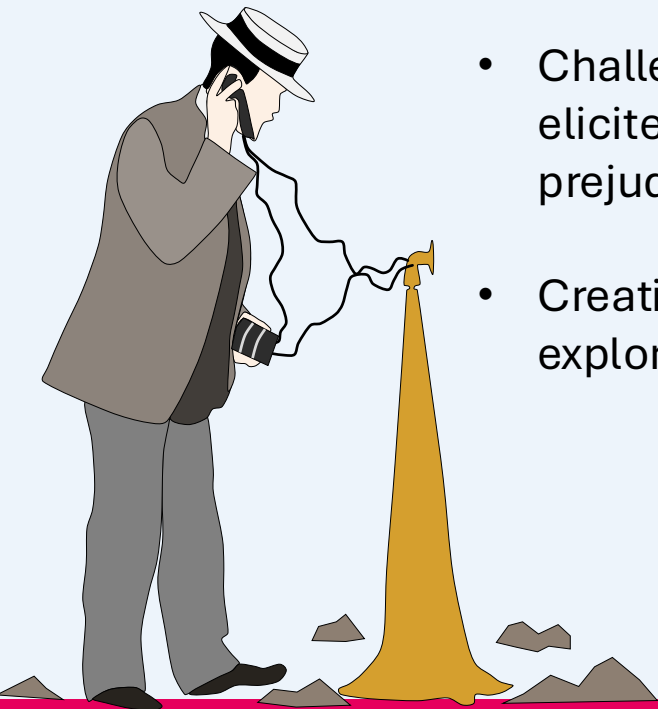
Michal Camejo demonstrating the exhibit to MP Chi Onwurah

Democratizing Science: Interrogating the past to reflect on the present

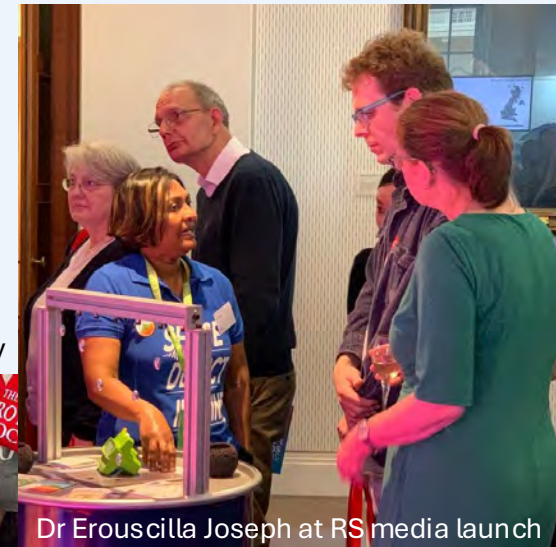
- No “shiny new science discovery”
- Personal and historical stories foster **emotional connections** with the audience
- Emphasizing the value of imagination & observation – **anyone can be (and is) an observer**

- Challenging perceptions of “**trustworthiness**” elicited conversations around biases and prejudice
- Creating **space for sharing experiences & exploring uncertainty**

- Duty of care to volunteers and publics given the nature of topics covered – ***insensitive approaches will alienate audiences!***



“story time” with Prof Jenni Barclay



Dr Erouscilla Joseph at RS media launch



Prof Richie Robertson interviewed by RS media

“the volcano exhibit **was really good at meeting different needs either by age or ability**, I thought that the activities were well laid out and everything was explained in a really clear way. I felt that this was in contrast to other exhibition stands where it didn't feel the wide audience had been taken into consideration”
[visitor feedback]

“I spoke to a woman from Java who really appreciated us talking about the importance of using our senses to observe volcanoes & **loved the stories about local knowledge as she had experienced similar things** on her side of the world”
[volunteer feedback]

“Having **volunteers with such a wide range of backgrounds** and volcanological outreach experience was a really inclusive good mix and **worked well for communicating with the diverse audience.**”
[volunteer feedback]

“I think our stand was a place for more varied conversations and general engagement”
[volunteer feedback]

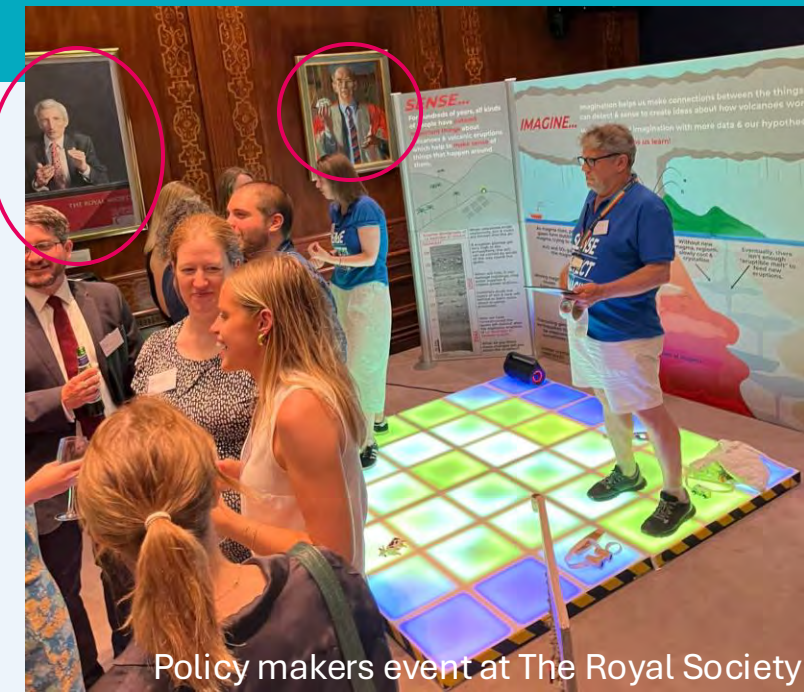
“some **visitors did express sadness and shock** at hearing such personal, firsthand, accounts of the effects of volcanic activity on individual's lives.”
[volunteer feedback]

“Very interesting conversation with a woman from Tottenham who has close family links to Montserrat and **'turns up to anything that mentions Montserrat'**. Was interested to hear of follow-on events”
[volunteer feedback]

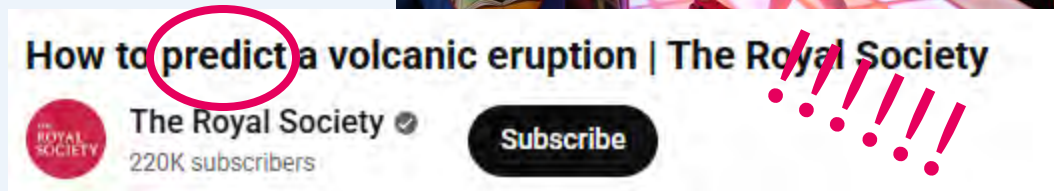
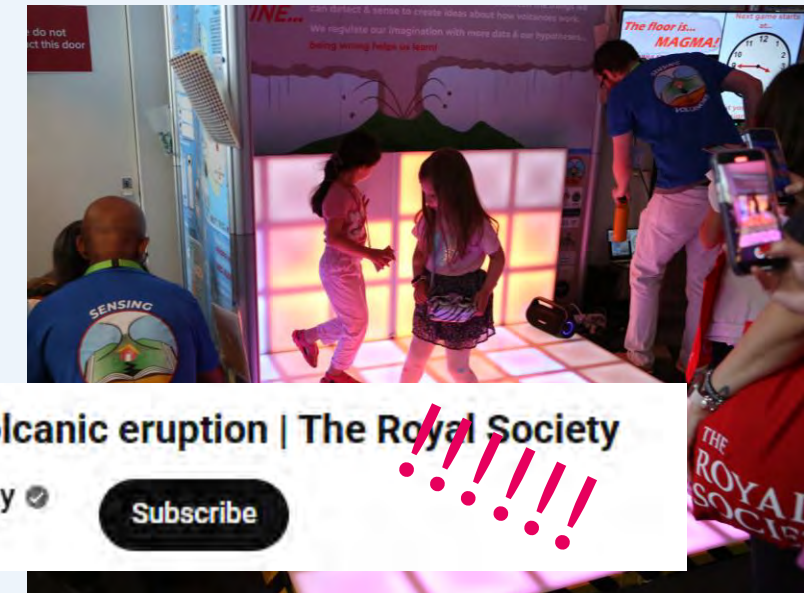


Lessons Learned / top tips:

- **Embed inclusivity from the outset**
 - What are our goals and how will we achieve them?
 - Whose voices are being centred?
 - Does our exhibit space alienate potential visitors?
 - How do we make space for new perspectives?
 - **Access needs**
- **Get all your facilitators on the same page**
 - Hands-on training is preferred if objects/activities are involved
 - Consider their needs too, breaks, preferred interaction style, written copies of information?
- **Don't underestimate how much time and energy this will take**
 - And how much that time costs (including compensation for collaborators) – approx. 20K for Sensing Volcanoes at RS + my salary
- **Create and protect space for reflection & learning**
 - Before, during and after activities (short & long term)
- **Inclusive projects are harder to “sell” to the media / funders but make for richer interactions**



Policy makers event at The Royal Society



Giving thanks to some (no longer) hidden observers of the Caribbean

Ian O'Kelsick

Samson Edwards

K P E Teisheira

Martha Booth

Emmieline Miller



Montserrat

St Vincent

W O Barzey

Rebecca Brown



Greta B Scotland

Mary Ann Robertson

Whilhelmina Paterson