

CS Co-labs launch

Funded through SEI-Y 'Breakthrough fund' and Involvement @ York

Inclusive Citizen Science group

20/08/26



Welcome!

Housekeeping:

- *Joined today by colleagues from SEI, UoY and beyond*
- *Comments in chat are visible to all meeting attendees, including your name*
- *Questions - happy to take questions throughout. We will also have dedicated time at the end*
- *To raise a question - please use the dedicated Q&A function. Here you have the option of posting as yourself or anonymously*

Today's session will cover:

- Who you are, and who we are
- What CS Co-labs is and how you can take part?
- What topics will we cover, what topics would you like to cover?

Followed by Q&A and informal discussions.

Who are you?

First, we'd like to know who you are and why you're here.

If you feel comfortable to share, please add to the chat:

- Your name
- A sentence about your work
- Why you're here

e.g.

Sarah Laptain

PhD Researcher, Inclusive Citizen Science group

To introduce you to CS Co-labs

Who are we?

We are the **Inclusive Citizen Science** group at the **Stockholm Environment Institute** here at the **University of York**. We:

- conduct participant-centred research for environmental sustainability;
- strive to understand, use and improve best practice in citizen science and inclusive engagement;
- empower citizens of the world, enhancing research and improving lives.



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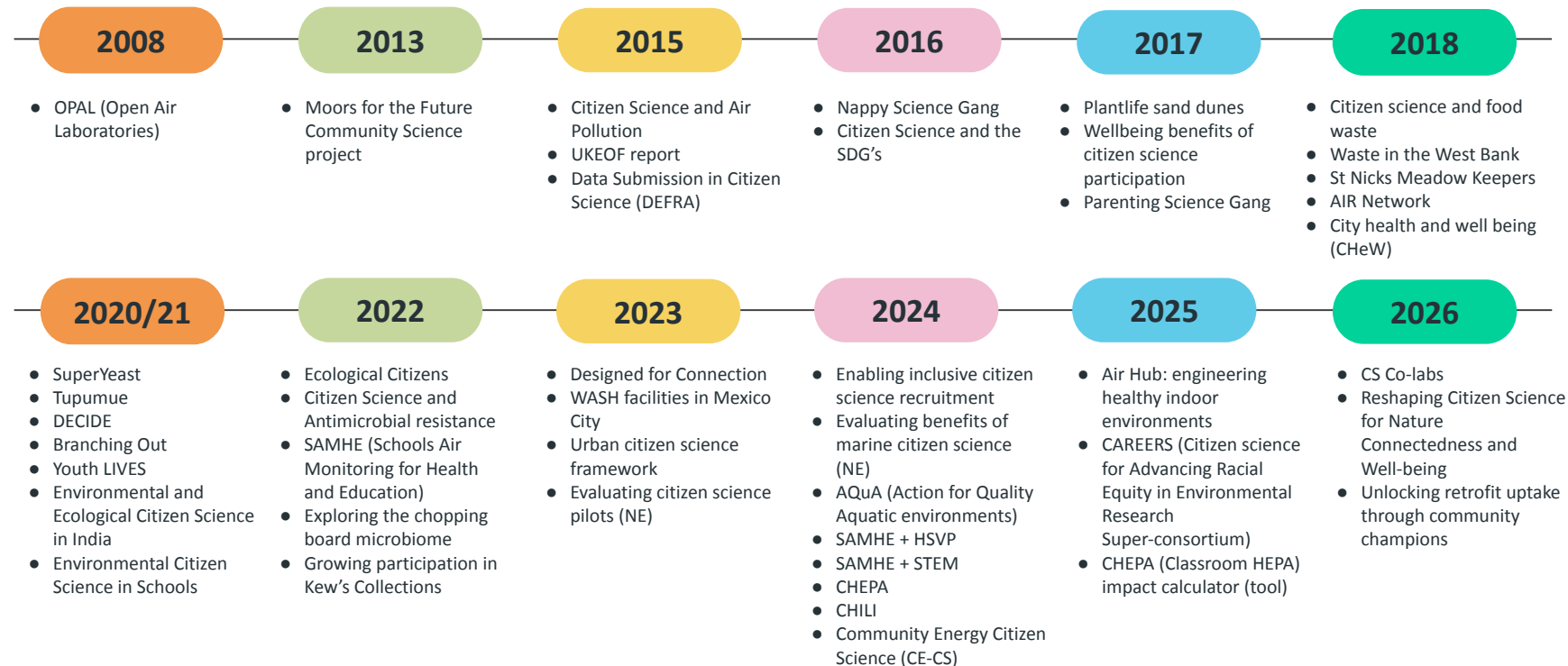
PhD Researcher
SEI York



Sarah Moore

Public Engagement Coordinator
SEI York

Our work



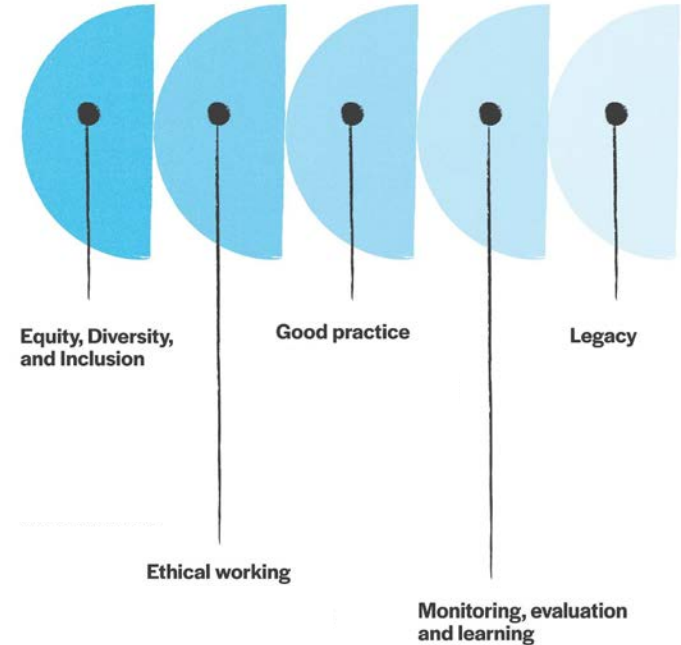
Our specialism

Within the group, our expertise covers both the ***theory*** of citizen science and the ***practice*** of citizen science across a range of topic areas.

Theory = **expertise in citizen science methods, how to design and deliver participant-centred, inclusive, and scientifically rigorous projects.**

Practice = **applying these methods across environmental and health research**, including:

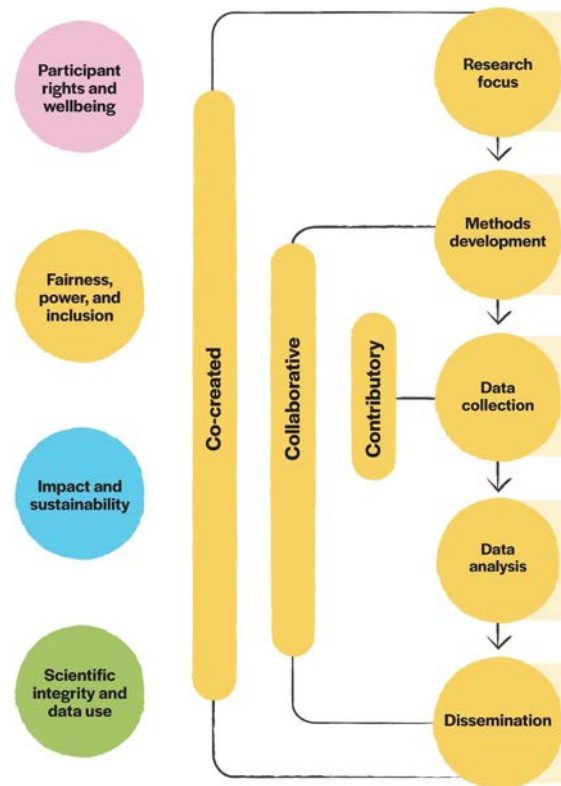
- Air quality and indoor environments
- Schools, young people, and environmental education
- Water quality monitoring
- Biodiversity and biological recording
- Energy transitions
- Digital tools and data collection
- Creative methods and adjacent participatory methods



Aspects underpinning our work

What citizen science is to us

- Citizen science is the involvement of people beyond the project team in creating or transforming knowledge. Participation can range from contributory to co-creation.
- It is a rigorous scientific approach that should be mutually beneficial to both participants and researchers through knowledge exchange and shared learning. At its best, it can help democratise how knowledge is produced.
- It's complex, evolving and sometimes messy, requiring flexibility as needs and roles change.
- There is overlap with other participatory approaches. We see these connections as useful bridges for learning rather than strict boundaries.
- Citizen science is not a silver bullet. It doesn't solve all problems and is not appropriate in all circumstances.
- Citizen science is more than engagement or communication.



So, what is CS Co-labs?

CS Co-labs is a project designed to create a **shared space** for those interested in using citizen science methods to **access support, learn from each other's experiences and explore new approaches.**

Our objectives are to:

- Provide a regular and accessible space for tailored citizen science support
- Build stronger relationships as a foundation for shared learning
- Create a set of open-access resources
- Create a clearer pathway for future collaborations and funding

But it is also...

- A chance for us to connect
- An opportunity for us to better understand each other's work

What are we offering?

During CS co-labs we will:

- **Deliver discussion sessions**

Open events you can book onto to share experiences and to build discussion on specific topics (*from September 2026*)

- **Deliver 'clinics'**

Appointments you can book with members of our group to discuss ideas, challenges, collaborations, or anything related to citizen science (*from September 2026*)

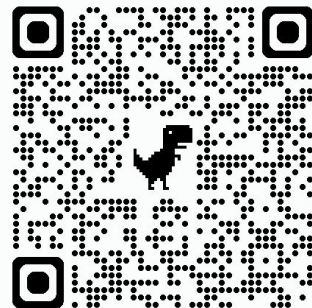
- **Facilitate a participant advisory board**

A closed board that will meet with the project team to ensure that the work we do takes account of participant perspectives. Periodically we'll invite the board to join discussion sessions

- **Develop accessible resources**

Ways to share findings and knowledge with the wider community

**Join the mailing list
for instructions on
on how to book:**



Help shape the discussion

We want to make sure the discussion sessions are on topics that are useful and relevant to you.

We will activate a Teams Poll, to choose 5 topics you would most like to see covered (details on next slide)

If there is a topic you are interested in that does not appear in the list, please feel free to get in touch with us to let us know, and we can inform you when you can book a clinic appointment.



Potential discussion topics

Inclusive Participation

Who participates/is excluded, why people participate and accommodating different needs

Digital Tools in Citizen Science

Selecting platforms, using digital tools to scale CS participation or support learning through technology

Citizen Science data management

Including data collection and quality assurance, ensuring CS data is useful to both communities and researchers

Building a Citizen Science team

Participant training, professional and non-academic roles, skills development and formal/informal learning

Communicating CS and its value

Explaining CS to project teams, participants, and external audiences, recognising participants' work

Equitable collaboration

What involvement by participants and when, co-design and how to avoid unreasonable demands

Ethics and safeguarding

Inc. conflicting values, responsible technology, boundaries and whether participation is appropriate

Citizen Science and policy

CS evidence contributing to policy, whose knowledge is recognised, and working with decision-makers

Funding and resourcing Citizen Science

Finding funding, resources for delivery, maintaining projects and responding when plans or funding changes

Key points

- We are the Inclusive Citizen Science group at SEI York, conducting participant-centred research for environmental sustainability.
- We see citizen science as a rigorous, collaborative approach that involves people beyond the project team in creating or transforming knowledge.
- CS Co-labs is a shared space for support, learning, discussion and collaboration around citizen science.
- CS Co-labs involves bookable clinics, discussion sessions, a participant advisory board, and accessible resources.

Thank you & questions

Thank you for attending our launch.

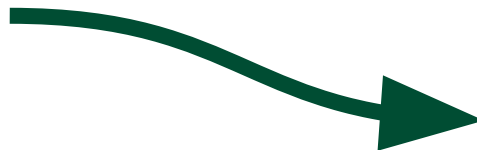
We welcome any questions you have about the project.

First discussion session:

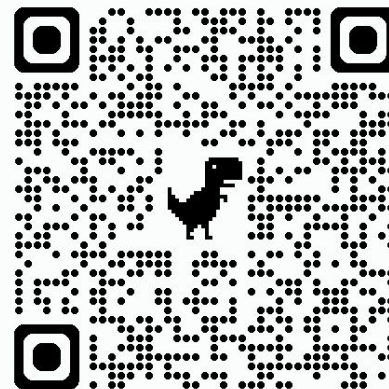
Wednesday 9th September 1-2pm, online

Join the mailing list to:

- receive invitations to discussion sessions
- get instructions for requesting a clinic
- hear about new resources



Mailing list sign-up



Menti - Help shape the discussion



We want to make sure the discussion sessions are on topics that are useful and relevant to you.

Using the QR code or code **5738 7315** at menti.com, choose your preferred topics on the [mentimeter](https://mentimeter.com)

If there is a topic you are interested in that does not appear in the list, please feel free to get in touch with us to let us know, and we can inform you when you can book a clinic appointment.

