



humanKINDER

Emma BARRETT PALMER

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Emma brings passion, integrity, creativity and vision to the table, as a demonstrated expert in social innovation. She is the Founding Director of humanKINDER, a creative consultancy whose mission is to develop ideas to amplify silenced voices for systems change. With a degree in Law and French and professional experience as a community educator in the UK and Guadeloupe, learning, justice and values orientation are core components of her approach.

Emma consolidated her knowledge and understanding of social lab methodologies as part of the founding team at Social Innovation Lab Kent, the first social lab emerging from UK government in 2007. She subsequently led a pioneering programme working alongside citizens, exploring and delivering tangible solutions across diverse policy areas, including Just Coping Families, Prisoner Resettlement, Dementia Friendly Communities and Reframing Migration. Working alongside global design partners, she co-produced the inter-disciplinary Starting With People Method Deck and contributed to international publications including The International Journal of Dementia Care (UK and Australia), Design des Politiques Publiques: Chantiers ouverts au public (La 27e Région, France) and Touchpoint - The Journal of Service Design. She published articles at eureka21.eu and social-labs.com with public speaking engagements in France, Slovenia, Netherlands and Denmark.

## The Dementia Diaries: a resource for young people

Emma Barrett and Laura Embery describe how a process of creative co-production in Kent led to the development of a powerful resource on dementia for young people, which is now being distributed internationally

Emma Barrett is the Programme Manager with the Social Innovation Lab Kent and Laura Embery is the Project Officer for Dementia Friendly Communities with Kent County Council. To follow up on this article, email [Emma.Barrett@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Barrett@kent.gov.uk)



The editorial group in action at a meeting with Matthew Snyman

The International Journal of Dementia Care

**THIS DIARY BELONGS TO SARAH**

**FOCUS**  
Grandpa's symptoms are getting worse.

**RESOURCES**  
Dementia: Basics book or diary sheets  
Power Point  
Large piece of paper with an outline of a village for the Class Charter Project

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**  
WALT  
WILF

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**  
MUST:  
SHOULD:  
COULD:

**STARTER**  
**Chinese Whispers:**  
Start with Chinese whispers – each row from a different side of the classroom. It could be related to this lesson (if people being with dementia can feel angry or sad). Ask the last person to say the phrase out loud. Ask how their statements can get confused.

**MAIN**  
**Read pages 28-29**  
Discuss how dementia symptoms are getting worse.  
Add to the Class Charter Project for changes by writing these symptoms in a different colour.  
**Read pages 30**  
Discuss how Sarah and her family are trying to support her changes.  
Ask what would happen if you were someone to find out as well. Discuss different reasons to this phrase. Ask why it might make you angry and your original statement has been altered.

**DEVELOPMENT**  
**Read pages 11-13**  
In groups of three, choose one of the recurring events in this extract (the hub and ring sleep or the supermarket) and either:  
- create three subtitles to show how the event progresses.  
- show three images to show how the event progresses.  
Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

**PLENARY**  
How do you think changes might be feeling?  
Show students PP2 and ask them to discuss which symptoms might describe how changes in feeling and why.  
How might his family be feeling?

**EXTENDED LEARNING**  
Write a diary entry from the point of view of Grandpa about what changes were missing and the price had to be paid alongside the changes with the scenarios.

**SARAH LESSON 2 of 4**

The Dementia Diaries Learning Resource

One of Emma's notable strengths is delivering projects with personal commitment, depth and legacy. Today, seven years after the book The Dementia Diaries was first published, she is working with a partner in the US to disseminate The Dementia Diaries to all schools in California.

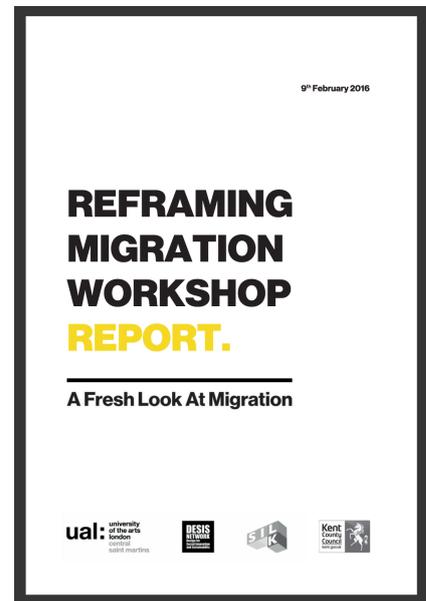
In May 2019 she shared the resource at the UN World Health Assembly 72 with members of the global Dementia Alliance in Geneva. This NHS award-winning book and the Braincell Boogie film were co-created with an Editorial Board of grandchildren of loved ones living with dementia, a rule of thumb that Emma follows in every piece of work she undertakes.

Her work on dementia caught the eye of the Innovation Lab at the Department of Finance, Northern Ireland Civil Service Public Sector Reform Division, where she was invited to co-produce and direct a [Dementia Lab for Northern Ireland](#). Again - people first - she insisted this Lab was held in Supported Accommodation in Shankill Road in Belfast, so the highest participant representation could be people living with dementia and their loved ones.

Emma's last project within UK government was in response to observed community unrest in East Kent in 2015 and her volunteering work in Calais Refugee Camp, just 23 miles from the Kent coast.

Emma partnered with Professor Ezio Manzini (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) and Professor Carla Cipolla (University São Paulo, Brazil) and the global Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability network, to co-produce [Reframing Migration](#) which amplified positive practices of migration across Europe and explored a collaboration framework with "people on the move".

Emma's work with displaced communities was a wake-up call and compelled a professional change. She recognised the engagement limitations of working within a government setting and set out to prototype a roaming "Lab" model in a repurposed army catering tent. Between 2017-18 she lived on the road cooking with her family with displaced communities in [The Welcome Tent](#) revealing "Recipes of HOPE" from her 16,000 mile journey which represent a Welcoming Europe.



The Welcome Tent,  
Dutch Design Week,  
Netherlands, 2017

Emma hopes that her work at humanKINDER - a business to nurture people and planet - will contribute to the paradigm shift she believes is needed to dismantle prevailing hierarchies and systemic racism to enable access to resources and justice for all.

*Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

**PROFESSIONAL ROLES**

2019	Key-note Speaker	European Academy of Design Conference, Scotland
2018	Co-Founding Supporter	The North Star Press Agency, United States
	Evaluation prototyping	Dutch Design Week, The Netherlands
	Judging Panel	Hans Sauer Stiftung Award, Germany
2016	Co-Founder	The Welcome Tent
	Founding Director	humankINDER Ltd
	Advisory Board	Global Health Aging, United States
	Advisory Board	BorgerDesign public sector design, Denmark
2015	Advisory Board	Leapfrog: Transforming public sector engagement by design, UK
2012	Fellowship	Royal Society of Arts, UK
2007-16	Programme Lead	Social Innovation Lab Kent, UK
2006 -11	Trustee Director	Kent Children's Fund Action Network, UK

**QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING**

2014-6	Working with Trafficked Children CPD, University of Bedfordshire
	Introduction to International Learning CPD, British Council
	Dementia Congress CPD, Journal of Dementia Care
2011	MSc (Merit) Applied Social and Community Research, Brighton University
2007	Diploma in Management, Chartered Management Institute
2006	Foundation Studies in Youth Work, Informal Education and Community Learning [OCN/NVQ level 3], YMCA George Williams College, London
2005	LLB Law (Europe) with French, Nottingham Trent University and University of Montpellier (ERASMUS)
2000	European Convention on Human Rights, Summer School, Strasbourg, France

REFERENCES

Emma is one of the most socially minded and articulate people I've come across in my career. She really believes in people, and the change they can make - to themselves, their families and their communities. Emma is the enabler of that change. Through her incredible social innovation and service design toolkit, she breaks down problems and puzzles and rebuilds them as communities where everyone feels like they've played their part in making something bigger than themselves. It's a joy to watch. On the Dementia Diaries she nurtured a project that went all the way to the G8 and at least 2 Prime Ministers! A book by young people for young people about Dementia. It's travelled the world and even took us to Denmark on a book tour, where we discovered many more people that the book resonated with. As Emma always says, 'start with people' - it's a lesson I've taken into every project I've done since.

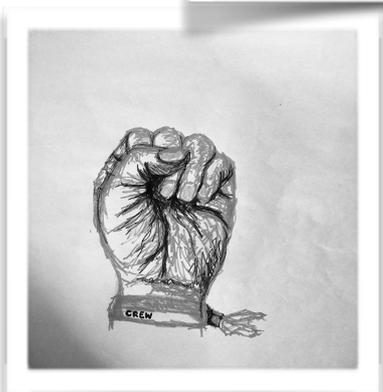
Matthew Snyman - Creative Director - Continuous

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Emma is one of the most passionate people I know with a strong belief in creativity and design for a better world. As soul mates we support each other in co-design projects. Like lately The Welcome Tent that is travelling around Europe and will also land in Eindhoven during Dutch Design Week, 2017. It will be a true celebration of humanity by letting visitors experience through creative interventions how sharing our cultural values enriches us all. The Welcome Tent combines different creative disciplines: from design to music to poetry to cooking. Emma masters them all...

Ingrid Van Der Wacht - International Project Manager - Dutch Design Foundation

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16000 mile journey from Calais to Greece  
in an ex-army catering tent  
repurposed for peace