In the LOOP

Discovering Liveability

Our Regular Newsletter

#004 | 17th September 2026

Issue 4 of **In the Loop** is here!

In this quarterly newsletter, you'll find all kinds of updates from the Discovering Liveability project, along with exciting work from our growing network of researchers, practitioners, lived experience experts, and other collaborators.

Top three announcements

1

Our Lived and Living Experience Hub launch event is being postponed to Wednesday 18th November

Due to circumstances outside of our control, we have had to move our Lived and Living Experience Hub launch event to the later date of Wednesday 18th November. We are still very excited to be sharing the launch of the Hub with you, and you can find out more information about the event further down in this newsletter. You can still book your free place via the original link here, and you can contact us at discoveringliveability@ed.ac.uk if you have any questions. If you have already signed up, you do not need to do so again.

2

Liveability Photo Spotlight

When the Discovering Liveability first started, a few of our team members wondered...what might it look like to see different perspectives responding to the idea of 'liveability' in photos?



This summer we opened this question out to anyone with the launch of our Liveability Photo Spotlight initiative.



Visit our webpage to find out more and take part in just two easy steps!

3

Our team is (still) growing! Welcoming new team members

Earlier this month we welcomed three new team members to the project!



Freya Pollaidh Ward-Lowery
(they/them)

Freya is a researcher living in Sheffield, with a background in social and digital anthropology, semiotics and the study of masculinity. Freya's research interests as part of Work Package 1 include co-production, surfing and suicidality – and the ways in which masculinities might affect all of the above. When not at work, Freya likes swimming and being outside.



Kaushalya Herath
(she/her)

"I'm an interdisciplinary social researcher and ethnographer interested in gender, inequality, belonging and how people at the margins navigate and reshape the places and institutions around them. My research has taken me from ethnographic work with women on the streets of Colombo, Sri Lanka, to exploring belonging, inclusion and research cultures in the UK. I'm particularly fascinated by everyday life and what we can learn when we take seriously the knowledge and experiences of people who are often overlooked."



Ruth Chartoff
(she/her)

"Hi, I'm Ruth! My research interests centre creative, co-collaborative methodologies, embodiment and affect, and reclaiming suicidal authority and knowledge through lived/living experience. I am passionate about abolitionist, anti-carceral suicide care and user/survivor activism, and my work within WP1 coalesces around a survivor-led reimagining of suicide care and intervention practices. Outside of work, I enjoy running obscenely long distances and trying new vegan recipes!"

Writing, Publications & Events

This summer, Discovering Liveability Co-Investigator Hazel Marzetti shared the first article from her Wellcome funded Rain Within the Rainbow project which aims to improve understandings of LGBTQ+ suicide and suicide prevention in the UK.
📃 What is suicide prevention? A critical conceptualisation between theory and practice in UK LGBTQ+ suicide prevention.



Blog posts

Here's a rundown of the latest blogs we've published:

- ***Just Tryna Stay Alive: What UK Rap and Hip Hop Tells Us About Liveability***. Written by Research Assistant Nakkita De Silva.
- ***The personal IS political in suicide research.*** Written by Research Assistant Debbie Solomon.



Events

***National Suicide Prevention Alliance Conference (NSPA)'s Annual Conference 2026: Strong Together: Shaping the Future of Suicide Prevention* – 21st October**

You can catch Hazel Marzetti and Lynne Gilmour at the NSPA conference in London on the 21st of October. Hazel will be delivering a plenary session on behalf of the DL team and Lynne will be leading a workshop on the impact of wealth inequality on liveability.

About the conference:

Suicide prevention is powered by people. On 21 October, the National Suicide Prevention Alliance (NSPA) is bringing together the individuals, organisations and communities from across the UK driving change at their Annual Conference 2026: Stronger Together: Shaping the Future of Suicide Prevention.

Expect inspiring speakers, practical insights, honest conversations and valuable networking opportunities with colleagues from across the sector. Some of the Discovering Liveability team will be presenting at the event too!

Find out more about the event and secure your ticket today: Suicide Prevention Conference, London: 21st October 2026

Events continued

More Than a Story: The Hidden Impact of Lived Experience Engagement **– 28th October**

This event is part of our Lived and Living Experience Hub and will take place online for free on the 28th October.

Drawing on her Churchill Fellowship, More Than a Story, Maria Roberts will share learning from the UK and Australia about gathering suicide lived and living experience with safety and purpose. The session will explore some of the less visible aspects of this work, including emotional labour, repeated storytelling, identity, power, consent, organisational readiness and what it means to be "working while healing". It will consider how we can move beyond valuing people primarily for their stories and create opportunities for meaningful and supported involvement.

Click here to find out more and book your free place.

The Canmore Trust Third Wellbeing Conference Frontline Policing: Suicide Prevention and Suicide Postvention **– 29th–30th October**

Discovering Liveability Principal Investigator Amy Chandler will be presenting on Discovering Liveability and the wider work of our Critical Suicide Research Group on Friday 30th October.

About the conference:

Our third wellbeing conference is delivered in collaboration with the Scottish Police Federation and will explore:

- the impact of society's current mental ill-health and suicide crisis on frontline police officers;
- the impact of frontline policing on the suicide community – those who have experienced suicidal crisis and those who have lost to suicide.

and will ask the questions:

- how can we improve support and encourage wellbeing for serving police officers in order to reduce suicidal behaviour?
- how can frontline police officers learn from the suicide community to reduce trauma at the interface?

Sign up here.

Events continued

Poverty and Suicide in Scotland: Where are we now and what happens next? **– 4th November**

The Discovering Liveability team will be leading this in-person event as part of the University of Edinburgh's Festival of Social Science on the 4th November, featuring a one-hour panel discussion followed by a blackout poetry workshop. This event brings together research, campaigning and creative activity to explore the relationship between poverty and suicide prevention in Scotland.

Keep an eye out on our social media in the coming weeks to find out how you can book your place, or follow this link to read more about the event.

Lived and Living Experience Hub launch **– 18th November**

This online event marks the official launch of the Discovering Liveability Lived and Living Experience Hub and offers the opportunity to hear from members of the Discovering Liveability team about the work we have done on the project so far, including individual work package poster presentations and a chance to explore our recently launched Liveability Photo Spotlight gallery. We invite you to share in creating the aims and vision for the Hub itself, and find out all about the exciting programme of events we have planned for Sep 2026-June 2027.

We hope you join us in shaping the future of the Hub as an organic and evolving space for developing conversations and connecting people across all areas of suicide research.

Click here to find out more and book your free place.



Conferences

The summer and early autumn have been a busy time for conferences, events and talks, with many team members travelling across the UK and beyond to share initial findings from across all 4 work packages.

- In July, Discovering Liveability Research Fellow Paro Ramesh recently attended The International Conference on Social Media & Society(#SMsociety), presenting a poster about some of the challenges she encountered in researching suicide and social media after the Online Safety Act. You can read more about Paro's experiences and reflections on this in a blog she wrote earlier this year: Safe space or digital cage? The new rules of researching lived experience online

Conferences continued

- In the last week of August, a whole team of Discovering Liveability researchers travelled to Lithuania to present work at the 21st European Symposium for Suicide and Suicide Behaviour (ESSSB).

- Principal Investigator Amy Chandler delivered a plenary: Imagining Alternatives to Suicide Prevention Through Liveability and Lived Experience and Work Package leads and researchers delivered presentations on meta-ethnographies, policy and campaign analysis from across all project work packages.

- Last week Discovering Liveability team members presented at British Sociological Association's MedSoc conference and Co-Investigator Sarah Huque delivered a keynote on critical perspectives on suicide prevention at the Discovering New Perspectives in Suicide Prevention conference in Dundee.

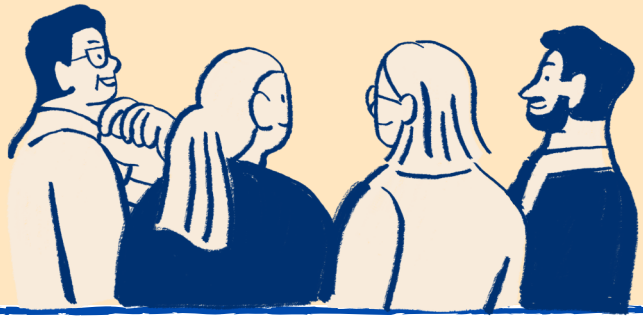
- This week (16th September): Multiple researchers from the Discovering Liveability team led a workshop focused on 'liveability' and suicide prevention at the Lincoln County Council's annual suicide prevention conference.

- This week (18th September): Care in Action: A Virtual 988 conference – Work Package 2 are running a workshop, sharing their meta-ethnography findings and inviting some input and reflections on what the concept 'liveability' means to us within community led suicide prevention approaches.

- Next week WP3 researcher Paro Ramesh will present on findings from their campaign analysis at the British Sociological Association's special event on theorising from lived experience/activism.

Year 3: Research Activities

September 1st marked the beginning of Discovering Liveability's third year! After two years of growing our team and undertaking essential groundwork to deepen understanding across our different work package focus areas, we are now moving into an exciting phase of activity: ethnographic fieldwork, interviews, policy engagement workshops, the development of co-produced research projects led by lived experience and a whole series of hub events!



Thank you for reading!

If you would like to sign up to receive future newsletters, head to our blog site and enter your details into the subscription box:
https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/discovering-liveability/

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Next issue: December 2026