



Art by @drawingrosie



MY JOURNEY TO PRODUCING COMICS

- Project manager - making things happen and making them better
- Event producer for cultural festivals
- Entrepreneur - turning ideas into reality + growing businesses
- Graphic Novel Reading Room
- Worked for UoS Geography as 'knowledge exchange support' and produced the first comic for them

COMICS PROJECTS FOR UOS SO FAR



What does it mean to be an unpaid carer?

What are the challenges of juggling work whilst also caring?

Through a personal story, this comic reveals the difference that adjustments in the workplace make to carers, helping them to remain in employment whilst also improving their finances, health and wellbeing.



Illustration by Savannah Storm

Editing and Production by Gabi Putnoki

This comic was created and funded by the Centre for Care and the Sustainable research from the Centre for Care and the Sustainable



CHOICE & COMPASSION

dementia care stories



respecting dignity, independence, and rights in dementia care

WHY USE COMICS FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION?

- We live in a visual culture
- Audiences attention spans are short, comics are quick to read
- Simplified representation of people encourages more empathy
- Comics are very widely read (app. 31% of adults read comics), audiences are more diverse
- Compresses findings, highlights essence, visually accessible and engaging, can communicate non-verbal aspects
- Can be print or online (cheap to disseminate through social media)
- Can be used for non-linear storytelling, good for presenting complex, interdisciplinary and systems topics

BENEFITS FOR ACADEMICS

- **'Best awards** won in the past had really **clear visuals around communicating the research and its impact'** - according to our Research, Partnership and Innovation colleagues
- **Improves grant success** rates, **increases further funding** opportunities and **fosters stronger connections with the public**
- Finding innovative ways will **make your research stand out** so more people see it eg. lobbying the new government with proposals
- **Win-win-win situation**
 - **Academics** can communicate their research in an accessible way
 - **Audiences** can learn about interesting research in a digestible, visually appealing package
 - **Artist** can get commissions and be paid fairly for their amazing work

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

- Discussing and agreeing on **topic, scope, price and deliverables**
- **Commissioning an artist** based on specifications
- (Sometimes) signing a **contract** & generating **purchase order**
- **Meeting the artist and the team** together
- Creating **project document** with all information about target audience, scope, dissemination and objective for the comic
- **Writing script** - depending on the research with the researchers (I fill in the gaps)
- **Illustration** stages with feedback in between each stage
- **Deliverables** sent by artist
- **Printing** and **other dissemination** of comic (web, SM, in person) - **documenting impact**

EXAMPLE OF A SCRIPT DOCUMENT

Facts/key
take-aways:

Hopes and
aims:

Housing

Facts:

Unlike many
non-care-
leaved gradu-
ates, care leavers
often have a far
home to return
to support
while they
work a complete

Story 1 - WITH SUPPORT

PAGE 1

Title/Heading: **The difference GOOD support makes at work**

Sc: The interior of their home, in the living room, daytime.

(one large illustration, no border) Domestic scene of having lunch around a table, family of 3 together, B feeding dinner to her mum. Grandma's walking stick is visible. Homely, comfortable, happy scene.

Introductions in speech bubbles:

B: Hi, my name is Beth.

Jean: B: I'm Jean, Beth's mum.

Jake: And I'm Jake. And that's Oto. (gesturing at the cat)

A grey tabby pet cat (playing with a plant) and a garden in the background.

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The difference GOC



What does it mean to be an unpaid carer?

What are the challenges of juggling work and caring?

Through a personal story, this comic explores the challenges of juggling work and caring, the difference adjustments make to carers, helping them to continue their employment whilst also improving their finances, health and wellbeing



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University of Sheffield | **CIRCLE**

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

Research and Development 1

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Illustration by Savannah Storm
Editing and Production by Jabi Putnoki

This comic was created as part of the Care in Comics project at CIRCLE (University of Sheffield), co-funded by the Centre for Care and using research from the Centre for Care and the Sustainable Care Programme.



The hidden lives of working carers and how workplace support can make all the difference

CARE MATTERS
When work and care collide

PROCESS - FUNDING APPLICATION STAGE



- **Pre-award stage**
 - Have engagement with external partners, **discuss best ways of dissemination early on**
 - **cost in accessible outputs** including visual storytelling into your funding application
 - AND also **use visual storytelling in your pitch** for funding (eg. infographics etc.)
- **Research execution stage**
 - **Internal KE funding** within universities - eg. Sheffield has funding pot available 3x / year
 - **External KE funding** opportunities
 - Some funding bodies, such as UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), may offer **specific funding for impact**-related activities, including KE
 - check if your funding body offers separate pots for KE-related activities or offers **advice on budgeting for impact**
 - Approaching the Arts Council of England or other **professional funding bodies** is also an option for innovative output

HOW TO ENSURE IMPACT AND ACTION

- **Dissemination** and **target audiences** are discussed and decided at the beginning of the project
- We provided **recommendations** in each of these comics for target audiences
- Requested **social media tiles** as deliverables
- **QR code** leading to corresponding webpage with **downloadable comic & further information** with links
- Using **analytics** through webpage & social media
- My end:
 - I **share them with comics world** eg. Webtoons, SM
 - I can take on dissemination as an extra

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH



Contact details

- For any **questions, comments and feedback** we can chat in person or via email
- If you like these comics, please **follow and recommend me**
- I'm always looking for new projects so get in touch with any ideas



Link to comics

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