

Myths and Misinformation



Wyn Griffiths
Middlesex University London
Faculty of Science and Technology

I have been a:

Product Designer, Environmental Artist, Project Engineer, Participatory Artist, Design Engineer, Exhibition Designer, Mechanical Design Engineer, Designer, Artist, Social Entrepreneur, Academic, Principal Investigator, Design and Engineering Consultant, Pracademic, Public Engagement Researcher, Creative Director...



The inadequacy of labels

“students need a **broad education** because **we do not know** how different the world will be and what specific skills students will need in the decades to come. **What we do know**, however, is that people must be prepared to adapt and to work in a world of unknowns with **the confidence that, by asking good questions, thinking critically, collaborating** with others, and persisting, they can learn whatever is necessary.”

‘The Future of Work’ – Stanford University

BA Product Design
BEng/MEng Product Design
BEng/MEng Design Engineering

What we ask for:

n Points & including one
Maths/Numerate subject...

BA Product Design
BEng/MEng Product Design
BEng/MEng Design Engineering

What we really want:

Critical thinking

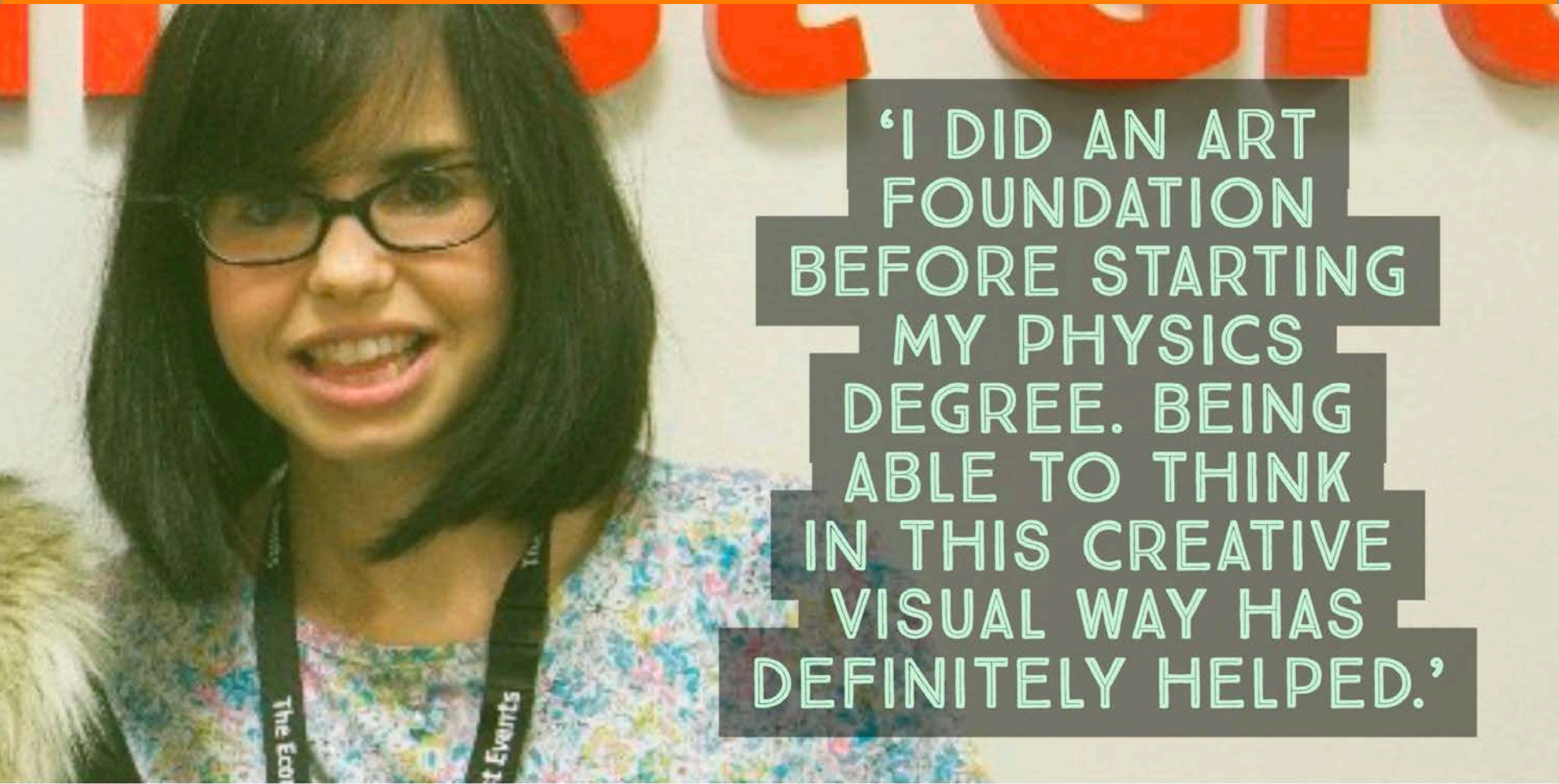
Creative problem solving

Inventiveness

Creative expression

Visual thinking

Collaboration, imagination, experimentation



‘I DID AN ART FOUNDATION BEFORE STARTING MY PHYSICS DEGREE. BEING ABLE TO THINK IN THIS CREATIVE VISUAL WAY HAS DEFINITELY HELPED.’



The Edtech Podcast @PodcastEdtech · Jan 29

Listen to [@jesswade](#) on why creativity & science go hand in hand. Ep51 recorded [@Bett_show](#) [#bett2017](#) [#STEAM](#) [#STEM](#)



Too early 'specialisation' leads to students self-selecting silos and barriers



PLAY
PRIORITY
AREA

"Both scientific research and science fiction begin with the same two words: **'What if?'**"

■◀ Maggie Aderin-Pocock: 'The Clangers inspired me to become a space scientist'





Relateable ‘What ifs?’

ART/SCIENCE
DESIGN/ENGINEERING
PHILOSOPHY/PSYCHOLOGY



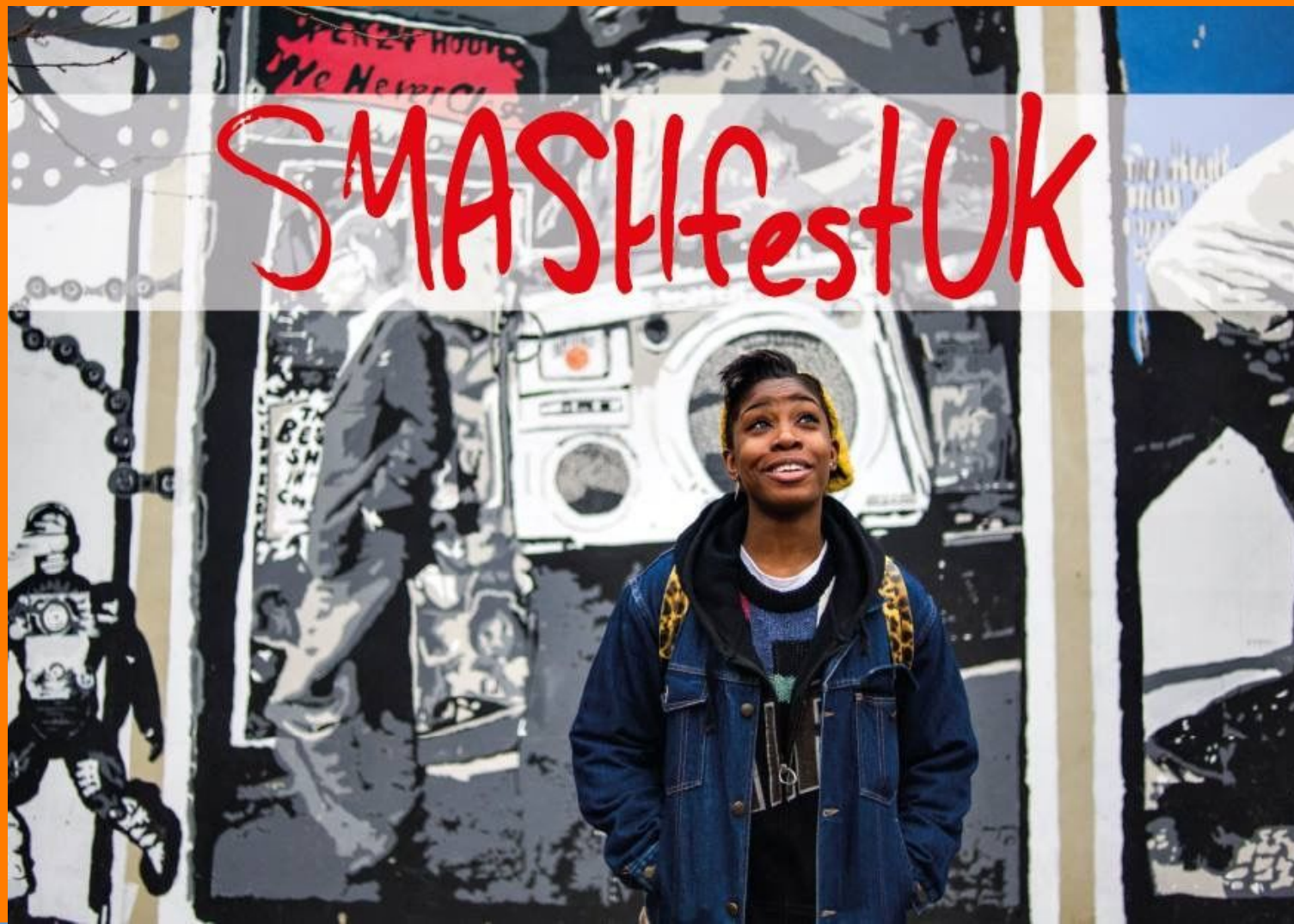
Design fictions
Speculative scenarios
Hands-on thought
experiments

Project-Based Learning

A compelling, meaningful issue or opportunity



Breaking barriers – connectedness of all things,
across disciplines, in the human experience,
through a hyper-realistic narrative



“Widening participation and working to alleviate imbalance in gender, ethnic and socio-economic diversity is an ethical requirement and urgent mission for Higher Education.

Universities shouldn't be 'ivory towers', but open, collaborative hubs; active in the heart of their local communities, helping to build science, cultural and social capital.”



Thank you



Wyn Griffiths

Middlesex University London
Faculty of Science and Technology