

# Sam Dodd

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## Personal Profile

I specialise in creative community engagement projects, editing, writing mentorship, and project management for small arts and literacy organisations.

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Interests: radical histories; marginalised histories; public libraries, prison libraries and archives; spatial justice; city farms; counter-mapping; psychogeography; creative writing; writer development, community engagement; information ethics, access & inclusion; participatory research; and autoethnography.

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I am a Writer-in-Residence at [House of Annetta](#) for their summer residency, May – August 2022.

## Education

MSc Library Science (Distinction): City, University of London (2019-2021)

BA (Hons) Creative & Professional Writing (2:1): University of East London (2011-2014)

## Publications

Masserano, E., Dodd, S., Maddison, S. & McWatt, T. (2021) 'Stories of COVID-19: Social Pasts & Futures in the CityLife Project,' *The Sociological Observer*, 3(1). Available at: <https://www.sociology.ie/publications.html> (Issue 3)

McWatt, T., Dodd, S. and Maddison, S. (2015) (eds.) *EastLife: An Anthology of Life Writing*. London: University of East London ([PDF format](#), [.epub format](#), [.mobi format](#))

## Employment History

Spitalfields City Farm, Spitalfields, London – March 2022 to present

Project Worker – Community Wellbeing Club (part-time)

The Community Wellbeing Club is a community engagement project funded by the Mayors COVID Loneliness Recovery Fund and partnered by Tower Hamlets Ideastores Libraries and Recovery College, identifying and working with local community members who are experiencing higher levels of isolation as a result of the pandemic and ill-health from long-COVID. The project aims to engage individuals in ecotherapy and horticulture tasks once-weekly as farm volunteers, then offer them an optional monthly art therapy class and mindful movement class, both run by local practitioners. We are also holding monthly cook-ups as part of this project, creating and eating dishes made from food we grow on the farm and donated by food charities we partner with.

CityLife Community Life Writing Project, University of East Anglia – October 2014 to present

Co-Founder, Project Manager, Editor & Research Assistant (part-time)

CityLife is an intergenerational community engagement, life writing and research project based at UEA, gathering life stories from older urban community members by pairing volunteer student creative writers with them for conversational sessions, from which they produce biographical stories. CityLife immortalises the history, vibrancy, diversity and ever-changing landscape of the East End and wider London, and platforms unheard voices for a new way of storytelling and holding meaningful exchanges. I have contributed to research design, methodology and field work in the project over its four different phases, the latest of which is through the British Academy; project development, writer training and the ethical framework; participant safeguarding and effective collaboration with our community partner organisations; field research including sourcing information on marginalised groups and their support services and networks; and establishing a network of partners for the project that includes centres and establishments such as Toynbee Hall, Age UK, Aging Well Dagenham, Pepper Pot Day Centre, Cody Dock and Stones End Day Centre. I have coordinated and been involved in the editing and production of ca.100 stories from the communities we work in, and I am a co-editor of our first publication, *EastLife*. I manage

all contact with writers and community elders. In the latest phase, COVID: Lockdown Stories, I trained new writers, met with community leaders and participants in the project, and coordinated the storytelling sessions - which for the first time in CityLife history, took place remotely.

Arkbound Foundation, Power of the Pen Writing Programme – October 2021 to March 2022

Therapeutic Writing Mentor (part-time)

The Arkbound Foundation is a charity that aims to widen access to literature and improve diversity within publishing, running projects that empower people from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived communities to get their voices heard whilst seeking to build resilience for the most excluded communities through the power of literature and journalism. The Power of the Pen programme is aimed at those experiencing worsened mental health as a result of the pandemic. I prepare the curriculum weekly and facilitate the group sessions.

The Poetry Society, Covent Garden, London – September 2017 to December 2018

Executive Assistant (temporary contract; extended twice)

In this role at a small charity, I looked after the administration on our two quarterly publications, the running of the office, the Director's schedule, governance and board administration, supplier management, Health & Safety, central admin and team coordination, H.R., database management, troubleshooting of I.T. issues, the generic mailbox, incoming/outgoing mail, and phone lines.

First Story, Caledonian Road, London – March 2017 to August 2017

Executive Assistant (six-month contract)

For this small arts and literacy outreach charity, I looked after the administration on National Writing Day, office management, database management, the Director's schedule, governance and board administration, and central admin and team coordination.

English PEN, Farringdon, London - October 2015 to November 2016

Memberships & Office Administrator (part-time)

In this role at a small arts and human rights charity, I took care of memberships and office administration, database management, and events assistance. I also assisted with reconciliation processes, organised board meetings, and assisted with the meeting of governance deadlines.

Prison Reading Groups, Roehampton University, London – January 2015 to January 2016

Project Manager (part-time; one-year contract)

PRG is a small charity that supplies books to over 40 reading groups within UK prisons. My duties were: administration; finances; events organisation; reporting; liaison with publishers & funders; liaison with prison librarians; and volunteer management.

Free Word, Farringdon, London – October 2014 to April 2015

Programme Producer (part-time; six-month contract)

Funded by the EU and Arts Council England, Free Word was a literature, literacy and freedom of expression arts charity. My duties were: leading Weather Stations, a global literary project bringing together five countries, authors and schools to tackle the subject of climate change creatively; events, itineraries, booking travel and speakers, publishing and volunteer management.

### Volunteering & Awards

March 2021-present: gardening and farmyard volunteer at Spitalfields City Farm.

March 2020-June 2021: Distributor of Dope, a solidarity newspaper for homeless people.

March 2020-May 2021: Telephone befriender for Toynbee Hall, social welfare charity.

September 2019-May 2020: Student Representative for MSc degree programme.

January 2016-January 2017: Running the book corner for Family Days at HMP Wandsworth, coordinating the delivery of a free book and activities for each visiting child, with Give a Book.

September 2015: Completed charity trustee training course with Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets.

November 2014: 'Dean's Prize for Outstanding Contribution to the UEL Community'.

May 2013: Founded UEL English PEN, a student-led sub-group of English PEN.

May 2012: Event Coordinator for Book Slam, organising a large-scale event in a derelict building.

September 2011 to May 2014: Student Representative for BA (Hons) degree programme.