



Small-Scale Practitioner Research.

*How everyday inquiry
can strengthen your
practice*

CDI Student Conference
25th February 2026

Introducing...

Natalie Freeman

MRes Social Science Research Methods (University of East Anglia)

Topic: How students experience career provision at school, and how it influences engagement with HE career services.

Gemma Smith

MSc Career Guidance and Development (University of the West of Scotland)

Topic: How Does a Cancer Diagnosis Impact Career Development and Decision Making, and the implications for Career Guidance practice

Stephanie Kenyon

MA Career Development and Employability (University of Huddersfield)

Topic: Maternal role models: exploring their influence on daughters' experience of returning to work after having children.

Valerie Rowles

MA Applied Linguistics (University of Nottingham)

Topic: The role of language in constructing unconscious attitudes towards careers

CURIOUSITY

The word 'CURIOSITY' is written in a playful, 3D-style font. Each letter is a different color: C (pink), U (purple), R (teal), I (dark purple), O (green), S (blue), I (pink), T (green), Y (orange). A yellow lightbulb with rays emanating from it is positioned above the second 'I'.

Over to you...

- What's something in your placement, study or work that you'd love to understand better?
- What situation keeps coming up where you feel unsure how to respond?
- What pattern are you starting to notice in how people experience careers support?
- What assumption about this profession are you beginning to question?



Get in touch!

Natalie Freeman

UEA Employability Skills Award Manager

n.freeman@uea.ac.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalie-freeman-rcdp-88aa5628/>

Stephanie Kenyon

Careers and Education Adviser

skenyon@skcareers.co.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephaniekn/>

Gemma Smith

Careers Adviser, Skills Development Scotland

Gemma.smith@sds.co.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gemma-smith-rcdp/>

Valerie Rowles

Independent career development professional

valerierowles@yahoo.co.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/valerierowles/>