

## Arts and health fusion: enhancing dementia care and well-being

The research led by **Cardiff Metropolitan University** on improving the quality of life for people with advanced dementia has demonstrated profound societal impact. By creating and evaluating objects designed with playfulness, creativity, and touch in mind, such as the innovative HUG™, the team has contributed to increased functional and cognitive ability in 87% of dementia patients involved in trials. Similarly, **Wrexham University** has bridged the arts and health sectors with research into the impact of art on health. Both examples demonstrate the collaboration between the arts and health practices that have spurred significant advancements in social care and benefiting a broad spectrum of people.

## Shaping migration narratives

Research at **The Open University in Wales** has played a crucial role in benefiting a broad spectrum of people including refugees and migrants. Understanding that misinformation poses serious threats to the safety and perceptions of migrants, the research team developed an inclusive approach to promote better understanding and safety. They bridged gaps between policymakers, support organisations, and migrants, and collaborated with international broadcasters to create a multilingual platform for accurate migration information. By offering online workshops for asylum seekers and refugees in Wales, they have improved access to education and learning.

Through these efforts, this research demonstrates a substantial positive impact, driving changes in policy and public perception.

Research into “**Making Ethnic Minority Women Visible**” ignited public debate on the lack of memorials dedicated to Welsh women. This in turn led to the creation of statues to the inspirational headteacher Betty Campbell in Cardiff in 2021. Writer Elaine Morgan’s statue followed suit in Mountain Ash in March 2022 and more recently, the pioneering poet, campaigner, and mariner, Cranogwen, was honoured with a statue in Llangrannog in June 2023. This is just one example of how research can have tangible impacts that reach beyond academia, leaving a lasting legacy of positive change for generations to come.



*Betty Campbell statue in Cardiff*