

**Prof. Damian Murphy (Chair) | Director, XR Stories**



Damian is Professor in Sound and Music Computing at AudioLab in the Department of Electronic Engineering, University of York, where his research focuses on the development and creative application of immersive audio and virtual acoustic modelling. He is an active sound artist, and the Director of the £15m [XR Stories](#) Arts and Humanities Research Council funded Creative Industries R&D Partnership exploring the next generation of interactive and immersive storytelling for the UK's creative screen industries.

**Dr. Sondess Missaoui | Research Associate, Digital Creativity Labs**

[Sondess](#) is a Research Associate in Artificial Intelligence at the University of York. Her research interests include Information Retrieval and Information Filtering, Natural Language Processing, Deep learning, News Verification & User-centred Artificial Intelligence. Sondess is a co-Investigator in "After #AidToo: how can women report abuse?" a project funded by City Global Challenges Research Fund.



**Lucy Hammond | Marketing & Projects Producer, Pilot Theatre**



Lucy is currently Projects Producer for [Pilot Theatre](#). Her projects include several immersive plays and experiences including A Restless Place in some 18th century cells, a gig with John Foxx in a Cold War Bunker and the interactive theatre show Traitor, directed by Esther Richardson and Cecilie Lundsholt, where audiences broke into a building after dark. As Creative Producer and Director, Lucy's project, also called 'Traitor' (adapted from the play) combines, virtual reality, film and a live actor. The piece premiered in competition at Tribeca Film Festival 2019. Lucy's most recent project 'The Archive'; is an interactive game exploring happiness, launching Summer 2021.

**Kate O'Connor | Industry Consultant | XR Stories & SIGN**

Kate is Chair of the BFI Research Committee and member of the BAFTA Learning and New Talent Committee. In 2015, Kate established a consultancy practice, which specialises in education, training and skills in the creative industries, in the UK and internationally. In 2016, she was appointed Executive Chair of the newly formed Animation Council, part of the UK Screen Alliance. Kate is a co Director of XR Stories and [SIGN](#) run by the University of York and Chairs the Partnership Steering Board.

