

UK CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
AWARDS

SHORTLISTED

2024

Research by a Career Development Professional

Contributing to the development of the evidence base for our sector should be seen as a core part of every practitioner's role. It is essential that our practice continues to evolve to ensure that what we do is pertinent to the context and the needs of the clients we serve. In recent years practitioner research has taken on a higher profile, and this award celebrates practitioners who have become champions for research.





Danny Mirza
Lead Consultant
Coventry University London

Danny Mirza's research pilot pioneers the integration of generative AI in career development, demonstrating its positive impact on student engagement and career readiness. Launching one of the first initiatives to actively use AI with students, his work offers a model for ethical AI use in higher education. The research underscores the necessity for career professionals to upskill in AI, aligning with student needs and advancing the profession. This nomination reflects his significant contribution and the potential for lasting change in career guidance through innovative AI applications.



Dr Denise Taylor
Later Life Coach
Amazing People

Denise, at 60, embarked on a groundbreaking research journey focusing on the often-neglected stage of life - retirement. Recognizing a gap in evidence-based research, she explored how individuals find meaning post-retirement. Stage 1 involved a systematic review, unveiling personality factors crucial for a positive adjustment. Stage 2, delved into the lived experiences of individuals, revealing themes like curiosity and proactivity.

Denise's work challenges the narrow focus on financial aspects in retirement planning, advocating a deeper consideration of life purpose. The research is now widely available through her book. The extensive outreach through newsletters, radio interviews, and collaboration with organizations underscores the practical impact of her research.

Denise's commitment goes beyond academia, demonstrated by plans for masterclasses, talks, and local groups. As she pursues further research on elderhood and old-old age, this award would not only enhance her credibility but also inspire others to pursue goals and learning at any age.



William E. Donald
Associate Professor
Ronin Institute

Associate Professor William E. Donald is a disabled and housebound academic ranked in the top 2.06% for research impact in the field of career development over the last five years. Will has a unique ability to bridge academia and industry by producing high-quality research that has a real-world impact on career practitioners and their clients. Will's ability to publish extensively in academic journals and practitioner outlets evidences the versatility of his writing and the ability to communicate complex ideas in accessible ways. He has developed an international reputation and recently published a book (2024) and a handbook (2023). Additionally, Will uses his research to inform his own practice of supporting university students, recent graduates, and early career scholars to navigate their careers. Will also advocates for inclusive spaces for knowledge exchange, evidencing a commitment to ensuring diversity of voices in the profession, which is further reflected in his research outputs.

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