

## ***Ethics in Built Environment Research (September 2014 – September 2015)***

Supported by a Bartlett Small Grant of £8000, plus additional Faculty funding of approx. £3000, and UCL Grand Challenges funding of £1000, this research project took the first step in identifying specific issues arising in built environment research, with staff and student members from across the Bartlett, and a steering committee from across UCL, this project involved four conferences, with presentations from the major June conference documented on line:

- *Ethics in Built Environment Research*: Bartlett Research Exchange (October 2014)
- *Ethics in Built Environment Research*: PhD Seminar (March 2015)
- *Practising Ethics in Built Environment Research*: International 2 day conference (June 2015)

The project was led by Professor Jane Rendell, who was Director of Architectural Research (2004-11) and Vice Dean Research for the Bartlett (2010-13), the project brought together researchers from across the Bartlett and UCL, whose collective expertise covers action-based, humanities, participatory, practice-led, social science and science methods, including:

- Public engagement in interactive design – Dr Martin Austwick
- Planning research, public engagement and work with community groups – Dr Claire Colomb
- Participatory research into sustainability and energy use – Dr Lai Fong Chiu
- Health and performance of occupants and building design – Professor Dejan Mumovic
- Organizational behavior and change in project-based industries – Dr Satu Teerikangas
- Governance in the global south. Dr Michael Walls has written on and worked extensively in the Horn of Africa, and particularly the Somali areas, in which his focus has included the interventionist roles played by external agents, including donors and the diplomatic community and their ethical, practical and social effects.

UCL Steering Committee members included Professors Andrew Barry (Geography), Jane Holder (Laws) and Susan Michie (Psychology); and Dr Saladin Meckled Garcia (Political Philosophy) and Sean Wallis (UCL UCU).

The project developed an understanding of the role ethics plays in built environment research – specifically in terms of the methodologies chosen by researchers and their relation to disciplinary procedures/institutional settings – seeking to include more engaged participants, greater clarity around how data can be used/shared, improved public trust through greater transparency, clearer more relevant working processes on ethics for researchers. To do this, the research has positioned built environment research between academia, on the one hand, and the built environment professions, on the other.

This project employed three research assistants – Dr Charlotte Johnson, Dr David Roberts, and Sol Perez Martinez.

Dr Charlotte Johnson conducted 17 interviews on ethics with Bartlett staff, findings included in a paper delivered at the *Practising Ethics in Built Environment Research*

Dr David Roberts examined ethical codes in the Built Environment profession, findings included in a paper delivered at the *Practising Ethics in Built Environment Research* and reported in the *Architect's Journal*

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/riba-and-arb-ethical-codes-attacked/8685535.article>.

PhD student Sol Perez Martinez helped organise *Practising Ethics in Built Environment Research*.

The project established the social infrastructure and intellectual context necessary to build a Bartlett-wide awareness of ethics, and to identify the existence of specific discipline-based ethical issues in academia and related professions.