

# Cities

Cities  
Methodologies  
Programme

# Programmes



# Introduction

Led by UCL Urban Laboratory, Cities Methodologies is an ongoing programme of events and exhibitions dedicated to presenting, sharing and experimenting with new methods of urban research. Each iteration takes a new form. Audiences encounter an eclectic array of approaches to the analysis of cities worldwide.

From the start, six years ago, Cities Methodologies has been a pan-UCL cross-faculty initiative and has resulted from close collaboration between the UCL Urban Laboratory and the Slade School of Fine Art. We are pleased to once again be able to hold the exhibition in the galleries of UCL's Slade Research Centre. Previous shows have travelled as far afield as Bucharest (2010), and IB Tauris will publish an anthology of highlights in 2015.

Following on from the spring 2014 edition, the programme for October represents the breadth of urban research currently being undertaken, not only at UCL, but within the wider local and international communities of researchers and practitioners developing new methods to tackle urgent challenges at the heart of cities and urban life.

We welcome you to participate in the exciting programme of talks, screenings, workshops and launches that accompany this year's diverse schedule. All events are free, but please check the listings on the following pages for details of how to book for certain events. Also, check the Urban Laboratory's website for up-to-date information.

We welcome your responses to the exhibits and events:

@UCLurbanlab  
#CitiesMethodologies  
urbanlaboratory@ucl.ac.uk  
ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

The Bartlett, Faculty of the Built Environment UCL Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences UCL Engineering Slade School of Fine Art

Design: Guglielmo Rossi  
www.guglielmorossi.com

# Exhibits

## Ground floor

Throughout the week, **CAFF** (Edwina Atlee, Samuel Barton) will be open for business.

Not only will it function as a typical greasy spoon, complete with weak tea and assorted snacks, it will also host a mix of organised discussions, crits, and film screenings, along with a space for eavesdropping and chance encounters.

## Studio 1

The first studio on the fifth floor asks questions about how architecture and planning affects communities. **Cally Calls** (AIR studio), centres on the small neighborhood of the Cally — Caledonian Road — the identity of which is threatened by the arrival of powerful global corporations to the new King's Cross, just down the road. The **Failed Architecture timeline** (Failed Architecture) questions perception, reality and presentation to open up new perspectives on urban failure in Sharjah, Tallinn and Budapest.

## Studio 2

The lines between 'public' and 'private' spaces in the city are explored in the second studio. **Favela transcripts of everyday life** (Ana Rosa Chagas Cavalcanti) scrutinises the borders between public and private through recourse to favela dwellers' knowledge and confessions. **The visual documentation of the demolition process within a contested regeneration site** (Howard Read) compares the inherent qualities of experimental drawing with documentary photography in order to capture, analyse and critique the destruction and disappearance of a social housing estate. **Last Breath: (De-)constructing urban matter and memory** (Thomas Dekeyser) depicts four condemned spaces in Phnom Penh, Melbourne and London. Each one was made quasi-public right before demolition to allow artists to contribute a piece of work that would last no more than 48 hours.

Join us for a Lunchtime Presentation of studios one and two on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October between 13.00 and 14.00

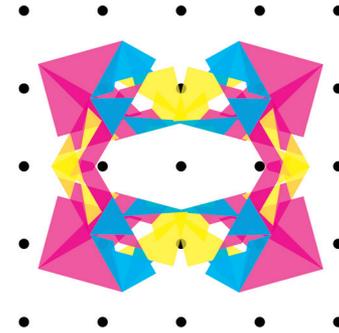


### Studio 3

The largest studio collates experimental visual methods that investigate a wide range of cities worldwide. We begin close-to-home with **Neighborhood Watch** (Max Colson) from UCL Urban Laboratory's Leverhulme Trust Artist-in-Residence. The project is a photographic investigation into 'welfare dependency', critically responding to newspaper coverage and television shows, such as Channel 4's *Benefits Street*. In another photographic research journey, the architecture of **Bus Stops** (Julian Cox) was documented on an 18,000km cycle ride from the UK to India, after it was noticed how these unassuming structures on the outskirts of cities reflected local environments. The pop-up book, **Legend: An A-Z of the Lea Valley** (Hilary Powell) by UCL Chemistry's Leverhulme Trust Artist-in-Residence, charts an imaginative history of the Lea Valley as it undergoes radical reconstruction. **After the Storm** (isik.knutsdotter) explores narratives of urban change through collaborative performance and workshops. **Visaginas: Looking at the Town through Photography** (Povilas Marozas) uses the political, cultural and emotive lenses of photography as they represent this Lithuanian municipality built for workers engaged in the construction of the Ignalina Nuclear Plant. **From Garden City to Garden Left-Overs** (Deniz Altay, Kayahan Kaya, Esin Sarica Özese, Evren Özese, Yesim Paktin) focuses on the significance of gardens as socialising spaces in Bahçelievler, Ankara by transporting the visitor into a typical Turkish garden in the suburb. Through work of students on the MSc in **Social Development Practice** (Laura Hirst and contributors) at the Development Planning Unit, UCL, this exhibit presents participatory photography as a research method for looking at democratic urban governance processes in the city of Kisumu, Kenya. It focuses on neighbourhood planning associations and issues of diversity. **Visioning Change** (Stephanie Butcher) documents the work achieved by co-ordinating efforts with a local community in Ethiopia to produce a block of composting toilets, adapting a set of participatory methodologies for people with visual impairments to inform the process. **7 Isles Unclaimed** (Ranjit Kandalganar, Vinita Gatne, Polly Phipps-Holland, Tarek Salhany) charts the possible alternative trajectories for the 'former city' of Bombay with a radically different architectural, social, environmental, economic, and physical landscape. **Community Mapping** (Nicola Antaki) is

a tapestry created by embroiderers in Mumbai of a map designed by children in a local school tasked with answering: 'how do we learn in the home environment?'

Join us for a Lunchtime Presentation of studio three on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October between 13.00 and 14.00



### Studio 5

Data visualisation and exchange, and the relations between technologies, energy flows, cities, embodiments and subjectivities, are explored in studio five. **The Scrollers** (Regner Ramos) looks at gay sociability app Grindr to explore its influence on the use of urban spaces. **Psychogeography in the digitally expanded city** (John Wild) is an exploration of the invisible geography of wireless communications equipment that has been overlaid onto the physical space of the city. **Archive of the Artist-led** (Michael Heilgemeir) is a collaborative mapping effort to generate a common data and knowledge base on artist-led urban interactions. **The Pop City** (Karolina Sobel) is an experiment to see how anthropologists and artists responded to the request to take photographs using an analog pop-camera following 'the points of energy in cities'. **Mapping the New Metropolitan Mainstream** (Michael Edwards, Myfanwy Taylor) is a participatory project by the International Network of Urban Research and Action to formulate alternative mapping data. **The Thick Topography** (Cristiano Lippa, Fabiano Micocci) uses overlaid panels of red plexiglass to study the skylines of six cities worldwide. **Market Top Trumps** (Alice Sweitzer, Carmen Campeanu, Charlie Clemons and Tilly Fowler) is a game developed to understand the social dynamics of a typical London market facing 'gentrification'.

Join us for a Lunchtime Presentation of studio five on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October between 13.00 and 14.00



### Studio 6

This studio presents various research archives of everyday labour and leisure spaces. **London's Lost Cinemas** (Chris O'Rourke, Sam Nightingale) presents an interactive map showing forgotten cinemas and photographs of the spaces they once occupied. **Ethnographic Conceptualism in the City** (Michał Murawski, Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll, Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov) is an experimental methodology deploying conceptual art as an anthropological research tool. Verbal, photographic and filmed 'data', collected from ethnographic conceptualist projects are on display. Also partly drawing on ethnographic methods, **Hand Car Wash** (William Haggard, Josh Carver, Matt Clayton) is an investigation into the informal sites of operations at the very margins of legality within the cash economy. **Youth Engagement Index** (Urbego) asks what makes young people feel part of communities and how urban leaders can encourage the young to invest in their urban future.

### Studio 7

Studio 7 explores spatial perception through three scales: the mind, the street and the universe. **Navigating SOHO** (Fiona Zisch, Panagiotis Mavros, Claudia Cialone, Dominik Zisch) utilises new technologies that investigate how the human brain functions in a navigation exercise. **100 Days of Leake Street** (Sabina Andron) uses re-photography to emphasise the energy and material settings of graffiti in the urban environment, problematising street art's criminalisation and management. Another work that uses visual multiplicity, **Constellations** (Simson & Volley) is a series of 88 drawings, each representing the constellations used in modern astronomy. The work considers the beauty of the night sky and its absence from contemporary urban experience.

### Studio 9

In the final studio an installation, **Saltworks** (Katy Beinart), is dedicated to the material and metaphorical characteristics of an everyday substance — salt. Narratives of migration, regeneration and memory are woven together through multiple exhibits.



All events take place in the Slade Research Centre unless otherwise stated

# Programme

Monday 27 October

## Engineering Exchange launch

18.00—20.00

Venue: Roberts Foyer Engineering Building, UCL, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7JE

This launch event will consist of brief talks from key project members of the Engineering Exchange, hosted by UCL Engineering. Please book via Eventbrite: [uclengineeringexchangelaunch.eventbrite.co.uk](http://uclengineeringexchangelaunch.eventbrite.co.uk).

Tuesday 28 October

## Cities Methodologies exhibition launch

18.30

Join us for the opening of Cities Methodologies 2014. All welcome, no prior booking required.

Wednesday 29 October



## Walking Stoke Newington

10.00—13.00

Meeting place: ZAZA, 99 Stoke Newington High Street, N16 8EL

Always, when we create a city definition, certain scales are weighted with more importance than others. This walk focuses on a small corner of a city in order to search for traces of how communities are made and to look at how certain areas 'protect' themselves and resist development by creating collective identities.

Please book via Eventbrite: [walkstokenewington.eventbrite.co.uk](http://walkstokenewington.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Youth Engagement Index

11.00—19.00

This workshop will present a summary of the results of the application of the Youth Engagement Index in Valencia, Medellin and Bucharest. Participants will feature from the public and private sector, academia and civil society, as well as the wider public.

## Lunchtime presentations

Studio 5 13.00—14.00

Gallery presentations featuring discussions from the exhibitors in studio five. Informal — feel free to bring your lunch!

## CAFF: Lunch Hour

13.00—14.00

Screening of James Hill's Lunch Hour, a film that highlights the anxieties and ambiguities of this odd portion of the day in London in 1961. Where might romance fit into the workday? It's a question of accommodation — but it's complicated.

## Telling Untold Stories

14.00—15.30

The stories and experiences of many marginalised communities and individuals living in cities often go unheard in debates around design, use and inhabitation. This panel highlights and describes the opportunities and challenges of working with vulnerable communities to facilitate telling their stories.

Please book via Eventbrite: [tellinguntoldstories.eventbrite.co.uk](http://tellinguntoldstories.eventbrite.co.uk).

## 7 Isles Unclaimed

14.00—16.00

7 Isles Unclaimed imagines an image repository of speculative fiction regarding the reclamation (or lack thereof) of land masses for the city of Mumbai (formerly Bombay) — originally composed of 7 islands that underwent a series of reclamations forming a peninsula. This workshop will investigate how histories are recorded and how they can be altered by the removal/addition of events that were critical in the development of a city.

Please book via Eventbrite: [7islesunclaimed.eventbrite.co.uk](http://7islesunclaimed.eventbrite.co.uk)

## Mapping the New Metropolitan Mainstream

15.00—17.00

The New Metropolitan Mainstream (NMM) project of the International Network of Urban Research and Action (INURA). This workshop will directly contribute to the London mapping of the NMM. All who have knowledge they wish to contribute to this new map of London are welcome to participate. The first of two workshops.

## From Garden City to Garden Left-Overs:

18.00—19.00

### Spatial appropriations in the gardens of Bahçelievler, Ankara

This lecture from Deniz Atlay (Assistant Professor, City and Regional Planning, Cankaya University, Ankara) examines the findings of research inquiring into the way gardens of apartment blocks are used, appropriated and reclaimed by residents in an early republican era (1938) housing cooperative in Ankara, Turkey, revealing the significance of the gardens appropriated by the residents to create socialising spaces.

Thursday 30 October



## Navigating SOHO:

10.00—13.00

### Introducing a Series of Interdisciplinary Experiments

*Meeting place: Meet in Soho Square, W1D*

Current knowledge of how the human mind and brain function during navigation comes predominately from lab-based studies. This event takes participants on an interactive walking tour of Soho to demonstrate technologies developed to investigate spatial awareness and navigation. Please book via Eventbrite: [navigating-soho.eventbrite.co.uk](http://navigating-soho.eventbrite.co.uk). From 12pm in the Slade Research Centre, there will be a one-hour talk on urban navigation and spatial awareness. Open to all, no booking required.

## Lunchtime presentations

Studio 3 13.00—14.00

Gallery presentations featuring discussions from the exhibitors in studio three of the Slade Research Centre. Informal — feel free to bring your lunch!

### CAFF: Frank O'Hara's Lunch Poems

13.00—14.00

Join us for the first lunchtime based recital of Frank O'Hara's glorious, joyful, delightful and entirely edible Lunch Poems. Turn up on time to get a seat at the table!



### Urbanism in Humanitarian Settings: Stories, Systems and Spaces

14.00—16.00

Provoked by the action of international agencies after the Haiti earthquake in 2010, this session will discuss the following questions: what are the differences between urbanists and humanitarians in the ways that the two groups conceive, imagine and operate in urban space? Can these be more fully understood through discourse analysis and inter-disciplinary research? And what does this mean for real-time discourse and intervention and research in cities?

Please book via Eventbrite: [humanitarianurbanism.eventbrite.co.uk](http://humanitarianurbanism.eventbrite.co.uk)



### After the Storm workshop

15.00—17.00

Initiated by a collaborative multimedia performance of *The Storm* on the opening night — a metaphorical account of the processes of regeneration — join this workshop that will explore the themes of public space and the changing city.

### London Aspects of Change 50th Anniversary Reading Group

16.00—18.00

A reading group based on the introductory chapter of *London: Aspects of Change* by Ruth Glass. This is the place in which the word 'gentrification' was first used in a publication. This will be a wide ranging discussion about the presentation of London in this piece, how the text may remain relevant in contemporary London, and what lessons those of us engaging with London, academically or otherwise, might take from this important piece of work.

### Grounding Knowledge:

17.00—18.00

### Reflections on Community-Driven Practices in South East Asia

This event seeks to showcase the long-standing and multi-faceted collaboration around the co-production of informal settlement upgrading in South East Asia between two Development Planning Unit MSc programmes, the Asian Coalition of Housing Rights, the Community Architects Network and the communities with which they work. The event will present the methodologies developed by the partnership in the contexts of field trips and studio work. Participatory design, community mapping, strategic action planning, scenario development and new media combine to co-produce knowledge and disseminate findings.

### Urban Pamphleteer #3 launch: Design & Trust

18.30—21.00

Join us for the launch of *Urban Pamphleteer #3: Design & Trust*, the third in a series of publications that confront key contemporary urban questions from diverse perspectives. 'Design & Trust' asks what the consequences are of prioritising defence and security as a first principle in design — an issue that has recently fired up the news agenda in public campaigns to remove 'anti-homeless' spikes and critiques of 'hostile architecture' in public spaces. Discussion with the editors and contributors, followed by drinks. All welcome.



Friday 31 October



### 100 Days of Leake Street

10.00–12.00

Meeting place: Exit 5 of Waterloo Railway Station on York Way  
Get your hands dirty on our tour of Leake Street, known as the “training ground” for London’s graffiti writers. You will learn about ownership, legal graffiti sites, graffiti styles and histories, and also be encouraged to use provided spray paint to ‘tag’ a space in the tunnel.

Please book via Eventbrite: [100daysleakestreet.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/100-days-of-leake-street)

### Ethnographic Conceptualism in the City

12.00–14.00

Ethnographic Conceptualism is an experimental methodological approach, which deploys conceptual art as an anthropological research tool. This discussion event features the exhibitors and an invited discussant, Jesse Shipley (Associate Professor, Haverford College) to explore if it is a suitable approach for translating the ‘holistic’ gaze of anthropology to large-scale urban settings.

### Lunchtime presentations

Studios 1 and 2 13.00–14.00

Gallery presentations featuring discussions from the exhibitors in studios one and two of the Slade Research Centre. Informal – feel free to bring your lunch!



### CAFF: Sitting as a research methodology

13.00 - 14.00

Come and sit around the CAFF table and discuss what it means to plant your backside in the name of research, whether in the name of arts, humanities, or sciences. We have a diverse group of researchers and artists in attendance to share their thoughts.

### Concrete Heart Land

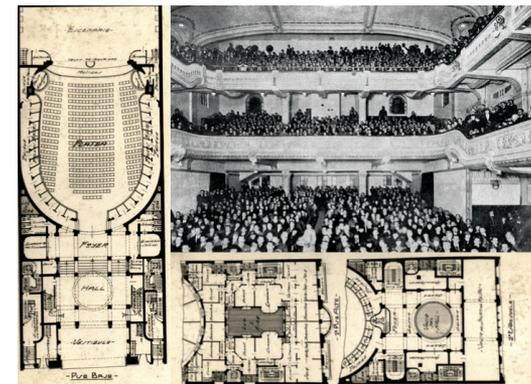
15.00–16.30

Film screening and Q&A with the directors of *Concrete Heart Land* (2014), an experimental documentary exposing the social cleansing of the Heygate Estate in South London and marking the moment the estate was finally lost as social housing to make way for a ‘regeneration’ scheme.

### Mapping the New Mainstream Metropolitan

15.00–17.00

The second of two workshops formulating alternative mapping data for London.



### The archive in the city:

17.00–18.00

#### Reading space into written sources

Short papers from two historians, followed by discussion with a historical geographer and attendees answering how written sources can speak to us about theories of space in the city that emphasise planning and infrastructure.

Monday 27 October

Tuesday 28 October

Wednesday 29 October

Thursday 30 October

Friday 31 October

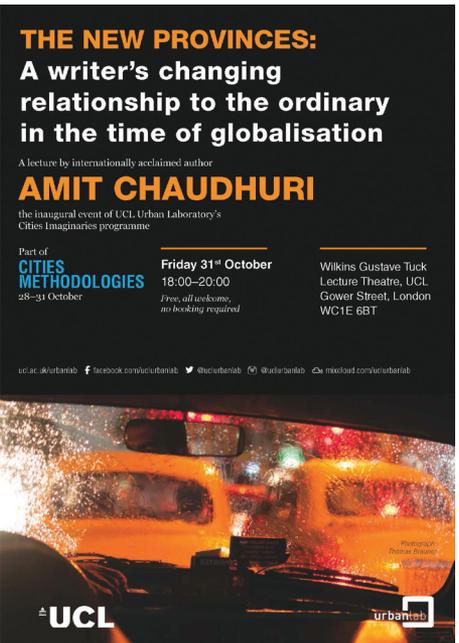
Film screening
Lecture, seminar or talk
Publication launch
Walk
Workshop
UCL Urban Lab events

p.7	10.00–13.00	Walking Stoke Newington	p.9	10.00–13.00	Navigating SOHO	p.12	10.00–12.00	100 Days of Leake Street
p.8	11.00–19.00	Youth Engagement Index	p.9	13.00–14.00	Studio 3 Lunchtime presentations	p.12	12.00–14.00	Ethnographic Conceptualism in the City
p.8	13.00–14.00	Studio 5 Lunchtime presentations	p.10	13.00–14.00	CAFF: Frank O'Hara's Lunch Poems	p.13	13.00–14.00	Studios 1&2 Lunchtime presentations
p.8	13.00–14.00	CAFF: Lunch Hour	p.10	14.00–16.00	Urbanism in humanitarian settings	p.13	13:00–14:00	CAFF: Sitting as a research methodology
p.8	14.00–15.30	Telling Untold Stories	p.10	14.00–17.00	After the storm	p.13	15.00–16.30	Concrete Heart Land
p.8	14.00–16.00	7 Isles Unclaimed	p.11	16:00–18:00	London Aspects of Change 50th Anniversary Reading Group	p.13	15.00–17.00	Mapping the New Metropolitan Mainstream in London
p.8	15.00–17.00	Mapping the New Metropolitan Mainstream in London	p.11	17.00–18.00	Grounding Knowledge: Reflections on community-driven practices in South East Asia	p.14	18.00–20.00	Cities Imaginaries lecture: Amit Chaudhuri
p.9	18.00–19.00	From Garden City to Garden Left-Overs	p.13	17.00–18.00	Archive in the City			

p.9 18.00–20.00  
Engineering Exchange

p.9 18.30  
Exhibition launch

p.11 18.30–21.00  
Urban Pamphleteer #3 launch: Design & Trust



18.00–20.00

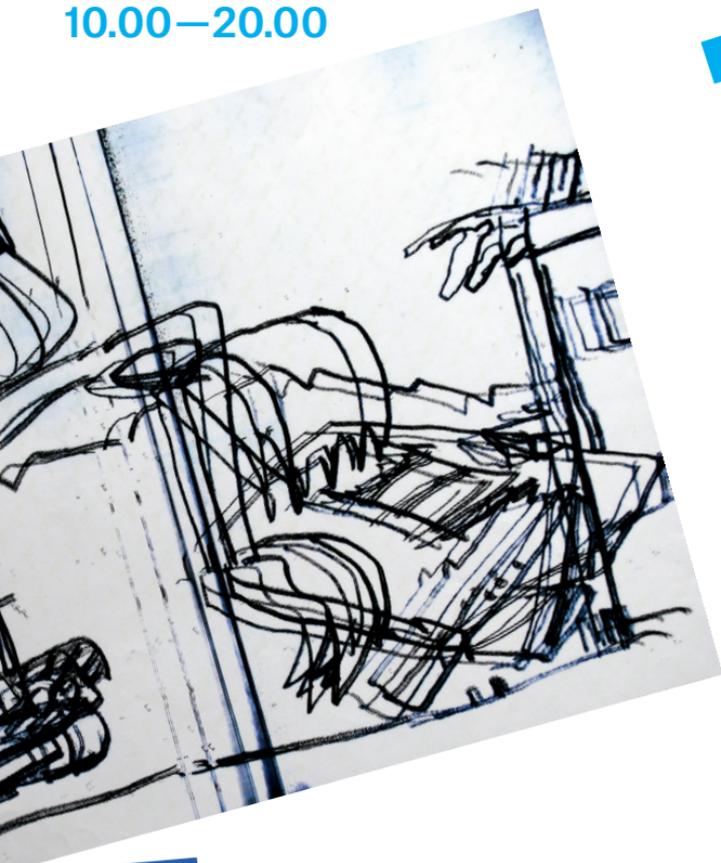
### Cities Imaginaries Lecture: Amit Chaudhuri

Venue: Wilkins Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL, Gower Street, WC1E 6BT

Join us for the Inaugural Lecture and launch of UCL Urban Laboratory's 'Cities Imaginaries', a programme exploring representations of the city in world literature and media. We are pleased to be hosting the multi-award winning contemporary novelist Amit Chaudhuri, who will give the lecture 'The New Provinces: A Writer's Changing Relationship to the Ordinary in the Time of Globalisation'. All welcome. Seats are on a first come, first served basis.

Exhibition launch  
Tuesday 28 October 18.30

Exhibition and events  
continue 29–31 October  
10.00–20.00



# Metropolis