



Established in 2005, the **UCL Urban Laboratory** is a cross-disciplinary university-wide initiative to bring together and enhance ground-breaking teaching and research on cities and urbanization at UCL. Our activities build on the full spectrum of work across the arts and sciences, with participation from a wide range of subject areas with urban interests and expertise including anthropology, architecture, architectural history, development planning, engineering, English, film studies, fine art, geography, history, history of art, planning, population health, Science and Technology Studies, Scandinavian Studies, urban history, urban design, urban studies and more. Students, researchers and faculty at all levels, from these and other disciplines are able to get involved.

Urban research at UCL draws on a rich heritage of ideas including the path-breaking insights and experimental methods of figures such as Patrick Abercrombie, Reyner Banham, Peter Cook, Ruth Glass, Peter Hall, Derek Jarman and Otto Königsberger. The engagement between UCL and wider public debates over the future design and planning of cities is a distinctive feature of UCL's research and teaching. The focus on cities also has a strong international dimension, building on extensive networks across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. From this foundation, at the UCL Urban Laboratory we nurture critical, experimental, independent and cross-disciplinary thinking.

We run regular lectures, seminars, workshops and exhibitions that will be of interest to students at all levels, most of which are free and open to the public. Current activities cohere around five themes, described on our website: housing and dishousing, ecology and metabolism, change and crisis, imagination and design, data and place. We pursue these themes through cross- and inter-disciplinary methods, prioritising collaborative research, public and community engagement, and the development of international comparative frameworks.

How to get involved:

- Visit our **website**: www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab
- Subscribe to the **Urban Circular** mailing list (<http://tinyurl.com/cxptnlb>), which provides regular listings of urban events going on at UCL and elsewhere.
- Like us on **Facebook**, where news and events are posted on our page. Search for "UCL Urban Laboratory".
- Follow us on **Twitter** @UCLurbanlab <http://twitter.com/UCLurbanlab>
- Come and meet us at an **introduction for students** on Wednesday 24th September at 5pm in the Pearson G22 Lecture Theatre. All welcome.

Our regular activities include:

Cities Methodologies

Annual exhibition and events programme

This annual event is a pan-UCL cross-disciplinary initiative to showcase innovative methods in urban research, drawing together work from undergraduate programmes, through to PhD studies, staff, and the wider urban research community. An eclectic annual

London exhibition and events programme takes place in the first term each year, together with a coordinated programme of 'spin-off' exhibitions in other cities internationally.

London Action and Research on Regeneration Group (LARRG)

Hosted by the UCL Urban Laboratory, the London Action and Research on Regeneration Group (LARRG) was inaugurated in 2013. The aims of the group are to facilitate and undertake research and action linked to live cases of development and 'regeneration' in London, to support links between academic and activist communities, compare cases across the city, use resources effectively to address common issues, and make links to international networks. Members come from a range of academic, practice and community-based organisations to form working groups on a range of projects.

Stadtklang

Music night for urbanists

Launched in 2013, Stadtklang is a Sunday evening get-together and music event for anyone interested in cities and urban life. Organised through the Urban Laboratory, events are an opportunity to meet like-minded people away from the seminar room, office, studio or lecture hall and hatch plans, compare ideas and share experiences. Stadtklang events take place in the Arcola Theatre bar, Hackney.

Stadtkolloquium

Urban PhD Research Seminars and Annual Workshop

An annual interdisciplinary work-in-progress workshop for PhD students to present and discuss their research projects. This is an open and informal space to discuss theoretical, practical or methodological questions and problems. Individual colloquia, feedback sessions and reading groups are also held throughout the year. The Stadtkolloquium aims to create a supportive environment for urban researchers who would like feedback and to meet peer PhD students from other departments. Lively round-table discussions are held on diverse urban questions across various disciplinary backgrounds.

Urban Lab Films

Public film and events programme

A public programme of multi-genred screenings on cities, urbanization and life in urban societies accompanied by talks, panels, readings and performances drawn from a range of academic, artistic, professional and community groups and held in venues around London. These events use film as documentation or provocation, to tell stories, and to prompt debate and mobilise new approaches to urban challenges. Examining cities at different scales in all their human, built and environmental complexity, recent themes have included: Revolutions, Cities and Sexuality, Defensible Space, Olympic Legacies, Estates, Contemporary Italian Cities and Demolition.

Details are circulated on the Urban Circular listing and our website. Students can suggest film titles and discussion themes and help curate events. Contact: urbanlaboratory@ucl.ac.uk

Urban Pamphleteer

Publications that confront urban questions from diverse perspectives

Written in a direct and accessible tone, the intention of these pamphlets is to draw on the history of radical pamphleteering to stimulate debates on important urban questions and instigate change. There are frequent launch events and issues are distributed free of charge in print and as PDFs via the Urban Laboratory website. Recent issues have focused on Future & Smart Cities; Regeneration Realities; Design & Trust; and Heritage and Renewal in Doha. Supported by UCL's Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities Programme,

Writing Cities

Workshops for PhD and Masters Students

Annual workshops and one-to-one supervisions run by a professional writer who offers advice on effective and creative writing.

MPhil/PhD Student Affiliation to the Urban Laboratory

MPhil/PhD students who would like to be informally affiliated with the UCL Urban Laboratory, and to have a link to their work and an abstract posted on the Urban Laboratory website, should complete and return the form posted at:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/programmes/phdaffiliation>

Please note that this does not change your registration/supervision status or home department, or incur additional fees. Enquiries to: urbanlaboratory@ucl.ac.uk

Urban Laboratory Student representatives

Students from UCL's urban programmes are represented on the Urban Laboratory Steering Committee by two postgraduate research students, elected in the first term, and contactable via the Urban Lab website. Feel free to get in touch with your student reps with feedback or suggestions at any time.

Urban Laboratory Contacts

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For details of other staff members associated with the Urban Laboratory see our website www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab