

2018



CRITICAL AND CREATIVE URBAN RESEARCH, TEACHING, PRACTICE AND PARTICIPATION

UCL URBAN LABORATORY



ACTIVITIES REPORT



2015

UCL URBAN LABORATORY

ACTIVITIES REPORT
2015—2018

Welcome,

UCL Urban Laboratory is a crossdisciplinary centre for critical and creative urban thinking, teaching, research and practice, which has made a vital contribution to the research culture at University College London for more than a decade.

This new edition of our Activities Report provides an overview of the key areas of activity and engagement which we have programmed over the last three years (2015—18), in collaboration with a wide range of committed academics from across departments. We are indebted to the Faculties which continue to support our work: the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Engineering, Social and Historical Sciences, and Arts and Humanities— as well as to UCL Grand Challenges, Global Engagement Office and Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, which have provided support for specific projects. We would also like to thank all our partners from different sectors outside UCL who have worked with us to develop and deliver our vision of an ‘engaged urbanism’ which offers new approaches to urban problems, grounded in an understanding of everyday realities.

The first part of this report contains details of selected highlights from the last three years followed by an update on our recent activities. The next section presents key areas of our research and engagement, the programming we are developing around the new Urban Room to be located at the university’s new campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (UCL East), and our Artists’ residencies and Visiting Researchers. The report also summarises our teaching activities, through the MSc Urban Studies, PhD affiliation scheme, and Urban Lab Exchange short course programme, as well as presenting our updated survey of urban expertise at UCL. Finally, we present snapshots of all the people who constitute the UCL Urban Laboratory, through our Co-Director, Steering Committee, International Advisory Board network, and core office team, as well as the partners we have been privileged to work with in the last three years.

Thank you for your commitment, creativity, and contribution, without which none of this could have been achieved. We look forward to taking forward with you new projects, initiatives and ambitions in the coming years.

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UCL Urban Laboratory

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List correct as of December 2018

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Filippo Minelli, *The only emergency is the absence of emergency*. Smoke performance as part of the series *Bold Statements*, Somerset House, London, March 2, 2016. Part of the exhibition *Venturing Beyond: Graffiti and the Everyday Utopias of the Street*, produced by Approved by Pablo and curated by Rafael Schacter.

It has been an exciting journey to be involved with the Urban Laboratory since 2008, first as Co-Director, and from 2011–2018 as Director. I'm delighted that Dr Clare Melhuish, whose outstanding record of interdisciplinary research speaks for itself, was appointed to the role in May 2018, and I look forward to working with her. The landscape of higher education has shifted massively since 2011, and the urgency to work towards more ethical and people-centred modes of urbanisation intensifies and is widely recognised in international urban policy agendas.

The increasing energy around the Urban Lab, as a cross-faculty initiative that works outside the comfort zones of established disciplines, demonstrates the growing commitment of the university to radical, transdisciplinary, public-facing academic work. Over the last three years we have worked hard to develop a model for how things can be done differently at UCL East when it opens its doors in a few years. At this new site, the Urban Lab will work with partners to set up a new Urban Room and Memory Workshop, providing a physical space that represents commitment to publicly-engaged research and teaching on cities and urbanisation, as a local and global concern. The new campus will offer a place to continue the work of the Urban Lab in promoting urban knowledge that works across the qualitative and quantitative, articulates overlooked urban cultures and experiences, and in parallel with formal urban education, curates and widely circulates this knowledge in accessible and impactful ways.

Ben Campkin
Director, 2011–2018

UCL Urban Laboratory has become one of UCL's best known and longest-established cross-disciplinary research centres, at the forefront of experimentation with methods of critical, creative, interdisciplinary, and outward-facing urban research. Bringing together expertise from across the arts, sciences, and humanities, it has made a major contribution to modelling new modes of research, teaching and engagement across the urban field, which has been recognised nationally and internationally.

As the Urban Laboratory's incoming director, I believe we can become still more visible, diverse and dynamic in the theoretical and empirical contribution we make to the development and dissemination of cutting-edge urban knowledge. We are fortunate to be based in London, a laboratory in itself for studying rapid urban change and rich cultural pluralism within international networks of mobility and exchange. Yet our capital is also a site of stark social and spatial inequalities, urban deprivation, and ecological failure, which are reproduced across cities around the globe. In the coming years we will seize the opportunities which London offers, particularly in the context of the new facilities at UCL East, to develop our profile as a leading authority in the field of urban research, embracing an anthropological and holistic vision of the city as social and material habitat, not simply technical milieu.

Clare Melhuish
Director, 2018–

Urban Lab illustrates a key characteristic of UCL’s culture; its ability to invent and support structures to overcome conventional disciplinary boundaries. This is something at which UCL excels and where it has on several occasions in the last two hundred years generated entirely new areas of study and knowledge. Urban Lab may be the latest example in this history, recognising that the issues raised by cities are completely transdisciplinary in nature; that they require the whole range of physical, social and cultural approaches provided by every department in UCL if they are to be effectively addressed.

Cities are now the dominant form of human habitation on the planet and generate the largest part of our impact as a species on our planet and its future. Urban Lab works in the interstices between faculties and departments in UCL and the communities with which they engage, curating different disciplinary approaches around a number of thematics, each selected to require debate and discussion across conventional boundaries. This is an active and creative process of spotting promising themes, nourishing discussion and providing an environment for experimentation. Over the last ten years as Dean I don’t think that I have seen a more effective investment in new intellectual activity.

Professor Alan Penn
Dean, Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment 2009—19

Urban Laboratory has been an important platform for UCL’s cross-disciplinary urban research, teaching and practice for almost 15 years. During that time, it has grown its public profile significantly, positioning UCL as a leading centre in this area. The breadth and interconnections of its activities embody the core principles of our research strategy, particularly our commitment to fostering highly interdisciplinary research that engages directly with public discourse and creates the conditions necessary for positive environmental change.

I have been delighted that we have been able to draw on the expertise of Urban Lab to support the physical and conceptual development of our new campus, UCL East. The Urban Lab team has co-ordinated a set of urban programmes for Pool Street West around the Urban Room and Memory Workshop public-facing space, designed to facilitate community engagement as a core part of the activities of the Future Living Institute in East London. Its work is a truly excellent example of how interdisciplinary expertise can drive innovation on a local, as well as a national and international scale.

Professor Michael Arthur
UCL President & Provost

2005 Inspired by discussions between geography and architecture, the UCL Urban Laboratory was established by geographer Matthew Gandy, quickly drawing in colleagues from other fields such as anthropology, engineering, film studies and urban sociology.

2005—08 The Urban Laboratory continues to grow, launching a dedicated website, and creating the Urban Salon seminar series in partnership with several London universities.

2008—11 The Urban Laboratory is awarded £ 250,000 by the Provost’s Strategic Development Fund (PSDF).

2008 Interdisciplinary Urban Studies MSc launched and now recognised as a flagship programme in the field.

2009 Inaugural Cities Methodologies exhibition—‘a marketplace of urbanism’—initiated with the Slade School of Fine Art.

We begin hosting PhD students, and continue to have a wide range of ‘affiliated’ research students from across the university.

2011 Urbanist and architectural historian Ben Campkin becomes director.

2011 Ongoing institutional commitment and funding for the Urban Laboratory is provided by a pioneering collaboration between UCL faculties.

2013 Launch of the first *Urban Pamphleteer*, containing a range of articles on Future & Smart Cities. The seventh issue was published in summer 2018.

First full-time researcher appointed with funding from UCL Estates to work on university-led urban regeneration case studies, published in 2015.

We become a partner in the Urban Lab+ international network of urban laboratories, funded by the European Union’s Erasmus Mundus programme

2015 The City Centre in UCL’s Department of English merges with the Urban Lab to form Cities Imaginaries, a new strand of work on the cultural representation of cities, led by Matthew Beaumont.

Dr Rodrigo Firmino joins Urban Laboratory from Curitiba, Brazil, as a visiting researcher on surveillance and security.

2016 Launch of Cities Methodologies anthology *Engaged Urbanism* with Free Word Centre.

LGBTQ+ nightlife spaces research initiated by Ben Campkin and Lo Marshall, in collaboration with community groups Raze Collective and the Queer Spaces Network. A comprehensive report commissioned by the Greater London Authority is published in 2017.

2017 Urban Lab Exchange launches to deliver professional short courses.

2018 Anthropologist Dr Clare Melhuish becomes Director.

URBAN LAB HIGHLIGHTS

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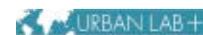
Eight international urban laboratories convened in London in 2015 for a major international forum on urban higher education

Between 2014 and 2016 we worked with our international counterparts to address critical questions around built environment education. Working in partnership the labs engaged in conversations focused on how interdisciplinary, practice-oriented and international approaches could engage with issues of urban social inclusion and exclusion.

The Urban Lab+ London Symposium hosted at UCL on 16 and 17 September 2015 was a major international forum on global approaches to urban higher education. It comprised a public presentation of collaborative projects by the eight urban laboratories; a public panel discussion, reception and exhibition with contributions from academics, practitioners, policy makers and activists; and peer-reviewed papers and presentations. Keynote speakers included Susan Parnell (African Centre for Cities), Adrian Lahoud (RCA), and symposium respondent Jane M Jacobs (Yale-NUS College). It also provided the occasion for the launch of *Urban Pamphleteer* #5, Global Education for Urban Futures.

In 2016 the Urban Laboratory also participated in a collaborative installation with the network as part of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. 'Turning Tables: Reporting from the Education Front' was exhibited at Palazzo Mora, one of three participating venues in the collateral event 'Time Space Existence'. The exhibit comprised a round table, with a place for each Urban Lab+ partner and a spare place for guests, in which to present installations investigating critical urban issues such as the commons, climate change and social relations.

Partner universities of the Urban Lab+ International Network were Technische Universität Berlin, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Università della Calabria, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute Mumbai, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University College London.



Right UCL Urban Laboratory 'place-mat', part of Turning Tables exhibition, Palazzo Mora, Venice Biennale 2016. Designed by Guglielmo Rossi.

Left Mapping relationships, a workshop with CLUSTER Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training, and Environmental Research. Image courtesy Cristina Cerulli/ Beatrice De Carli/ Florian Kossak.

UCL URBAN LAB

We host and support transdisciplinary approaches to understanding cities and urbanism: experimentation at the interface of architecture and planning, the arts and humanities, and science and technology; public collaboration and participatory research; and dissemination and impact beyond the academy, to address societal challenges.

We work across faculties, and with a diverse spectrum of external partners, including arts organisations, community groups and stakeholders, local city councils, architects and urban practitioners, we host visiting researchers and artists in residence each year, and UCL's large community of urban masters and doctoral students shape our vibrant community of scholars.

ENGAGED, ACCESSIBLE, COMPARATIVE URBANISM

We build on traditions established by pioneering urbanists at UCL such as Ruth Glass, Peter Hall, Otto Königsberger and Reyner Banham, who spoke accessibly across disciplines to a wide audience, from a perspective rooted in empiricism, local engagement, and international comparison.

'LONDON CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, THE CITY IS TOO VAST, TOO COMPLEX, TOO CONTRARY AND TOO MOODY TO BECOME

Aspects of Change

A LABORATORY FOR CREATIVE, CRITICAL THINKING, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND ACTION ON CITIES AND URBANISATION WORKS

UCL.AC.UK/URBANLAB @UCLURBANLAB #URBANPAMPHLETEER UCL.AC.UK/URBANLAB

'IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND HOW IDEAS ABOUT DECLINE AND REGENERATION OPERATE IN DIFFERENT CULTURAL FORMS BECAUSE OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN JUSTIFYING AND FACILITATING PARTICULAR MODES OF TRANSFORMATION'

Ben Campkin, 2013, *Remaking London: Decline and Regeneration in Urban Culture*. London: IB Tauris

'EVERY CITY, EVERY URBAN SITE, EVERY EMERGING URBAN CONDITION OR ISSUE, NEEDS ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE METHOD OF EXPLORATION'

Ben Campkin and Ger Duijzings, 2016, *Engaged Urbanism: Cities, Methodologies*. London: IB Tauris

UNIVERSITY-LED ETHICAL REGENERATION

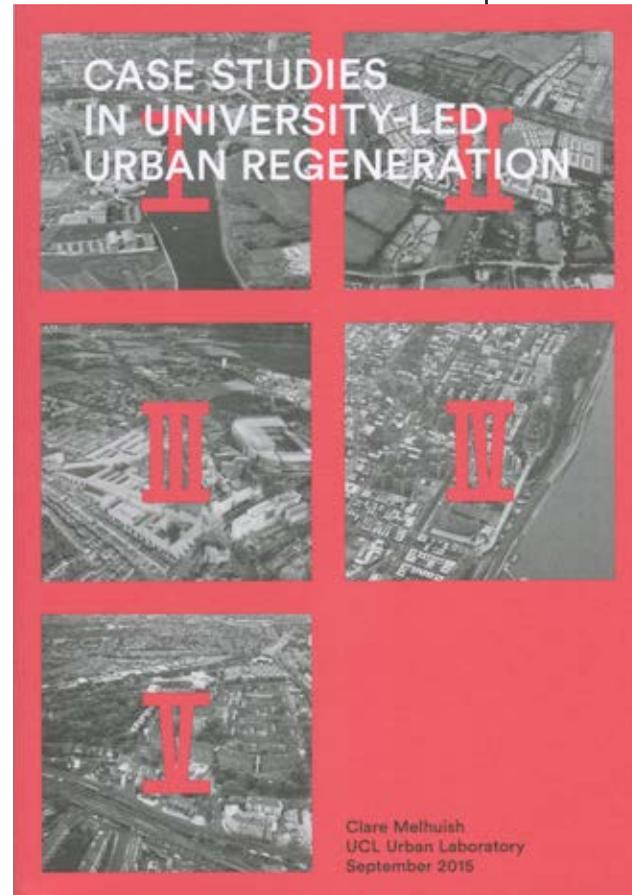
We cross university frontiers within London and internationally to explore new methods and realities. We are leading a proposal for new, shared programmes of collaborative urban research, teaching and co-production between scholars, practitioners and citizens, at UCL East, the university's planned new campus in east London.

TURNING TABLES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GUGLIELMO ROSSI FOR THE TURNING TABLES EXHIBITION AT PALAZZO MORA, VENICE BIENNALE 2016. DESIGN BY GUGLIELMO ROSSI.



Set of five case studies published in 2016, analysing the processes and impacts of urban regeneration initiatives led by universities in the UK and US



Case Studies in university-led regeneration was published online in 2015 and in print in 2016, marking the culmination of two years of research and analysis by Clare Melhuish, funded by UCL Estates. The report has informed the vision and implementation of the UCL East project. It examines the key drivers for university development, the governance structures and narratives which universities mobilise to move development forward and the strategies for engagement with communities and other urban actors which universities are constructing in the context of spatial expansion projects. The print edition was launched with a dissemination event at UCL in January 2016, which provided a public platform for eight key research informants to speak about the projects. Between 2015 and 2018 the research has been widely circulated at national and international academic conferences, public and industry events, including The Urban University Conference (Northampton) 2015, Association of American Geographers (San Francisco) 2016, Loughborough RADAR 2016, CoreNet One Big Day (London) 2017, York Festival of Ideas 2018, and The Class Conference (Milan) 2018. It has also generated new research funded by the UCL/ University of Gothenburg Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, to be published in an edited volume (2020), and contributed to the formation of the Bartlett Global Centre for Learning Environments launched in 2018.

The following extract is taken from an article published in The Class of 2020 Foundation's Annual Trend Report 2019.

'In 2014, a five-point framework for a university-wide renewal of principles around place-making and social engagement was announced by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England). Failing to anticipate the European Referendum of 2016, it declared the arrival of the 39 LEPs and European Structural Funds for regional development as 'the only secure source of funding for universities over the coming years' (Melhuish 2014), due to cuts in public funding for higher education and increased competition for students. Universities were urged to address five specific areas: engagement with local schools; local skills agendas; social innovation and social enterprise; cultural engagement; and local economic growth.

As in the UK, universities across Europe are being promoted as agents of urban regeneration both because they can generate economic activity and produce skilled localised workforces to power the knowledge economy, and offer stability and 'sticky capital' (to use the term coined by Murrasse 2001) as anchors for development with a long-term commitment to place and community participation. They are being asked to invest in widening participation programmes locally and increase access to students from non-traditional backgrounds, but at the same time many are under pressure also to 'internationalise', by attracting more students and staff from overseas, teaching some courses in English, and maintaining their institutional rankings in the international league tables. This presents a challenge to universities to balance local, place-based demands and global reach equitably.

As Wiewel and Perry have indicated: 'The urban location and centrality of universities to the nature and well-being of cities means that cities and countries can be expected to turn to their universities as part of strategies to respond to the new challenges and opportunities that global economic competition poses for urban regions' (Wiewel and Perry 2008: 304; see also Perry and Wiewel 2005).

If this is indeed the case, then universities need to grasp the capacity and potential which they have as power-houses of critical thinking and influence, as well as urban landowners and developers, and embrace a role as agents of inclusive, equitable, cosmopolitan urbanism. As so-called anchor institutions, collaboratories, living laboratories, 'planning animateurs' (Benneworth and Hospers 2007), and 'non-campus campuses' (Hayward 2001), universities as institutions, working in partnership with other urban actors, are well-positioned to develop new kinds of social and spatial resources that can help to make cities better places'.

Melhuish, C., 2018, 'From ivory tower to the non-campus campus: university interventions in the urban landscape', in Beijer, J. (ed) *Annual Trend Report*, Amsterdam: The Class of 2020 Foundation, pp. 26–29.

Left Case study report, published September 2015, London: UCL Urban Laboratory. Designed by Guglielmo Rossi.

Bottom New York University, approved Core Plan by Grimshaw for Washington Square consolidation. Image courtesy NYU/ Grimshaw/ Michael van Vakenburgh Associates.



EDGE — SITUATED PRACTICE IN ART, ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

A collaboration with the 2017 Folkestone Triennial which brought together architecture, public contemporary art and urban ‘placemaking’



Jordan Rowe, Urban Laboratory Centre Manager, writes:

A multi-disciplinary range of speakers, performers and creative masterclass leads, drew on their own individual approaches and fields of operation to generate a wider conversation on the creative use of interstitial spaces, inspired by the notion of a ‘situated practice’ (and the simultaneous launch of the Bartlett’s new Situated Practice MA). Discussions considered the multi-layered and complex situations artists and the arts find themselves in during processes of urban change.

Held across three months, the trio of symposia were situated in three ‘edge’ locations brought together by the High Speed 1 rail link as a launchpad for exchange: the first event at UCL’s Bloomsbury campus considered the area’s historic and newly developed gateway sites for knowledge and transport (‘Gateway’—September); the second event held at the Here East ‘maker space’ considered the transformation of Stratford from edge location to emerging destination (‘Periphery’—October); and the ambitious culture-led regeneration of Folkestone, a seaside town on the littoral edge of England, was the focus of the final event (‘Border’—November).

Keynote speakers were drawn from the world of practice, including the acclaimed artists Jeremy Deller, Jill Magid and Do Ho Suh, and architect Friedrich Ludewig, director of ACME Studio who are proposing a new integrated project on Folkestone’s seafront. Yet the depth of knowledge ran much deeper, with interventions from lauded multi-disciplinary collectives Assemble, MUF and The Decorators, arts organisations Stroom Den Haag, SPACE, and Edinburgh Art Festival, curators and critics Princess Marilyn Douala Manga Bell, JJ Charlesworth, and Diane Dever, alongside a range of critical thinkers, architects, poets, and historians.

Top left Calling Time: A Logistics and Performance Workshop led by artist Leah Lovett, Edge: Gateway, September 2017.

Second left Terra Cruda—Terra Secca masterclass led by artist Florian Roithmayr, Edge: Gateway, September 2017.

Top right Do Ho Suh, Edge: Periphery, October 2017. Credit: Jacob Fairless Nicholson.

Bottom right Kreider + O’Leary, Edge: Periphery, October 2017. Credit: Jacob Fairless Nicholson.

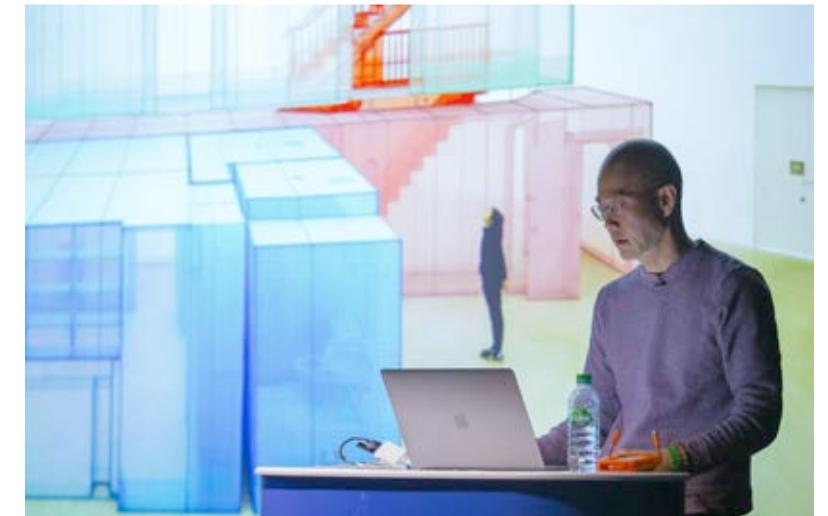
2017

17

To programme this ambitious series—convened by Kieren Reed (Slade School of Fine Art), James O’Leary (Bartlett School of Architecture) and Lewis Biggs (Folkestone Triennial)—day tickets were sold at a range from £5—£15, with discounts for those joining us at all three events. With over 600 attendants, feedback collated from the series was incredibly positive—with an average score of 8.4 out of 10.

Each event was preceded by a film screening that broadened out the themes emerging from each symposium, organised with the Open City Documentary Festival and students from the Bartlett’s Film + Place + Architecture Doctoral Network. A sold-out screening at Bloomsbury’s Horse Hospital of essay film *Finisterre*, alongside Rosa Barba’s *Disseminate and Hold*, and William Raban’s *About Now MMX*, led into a screening of *Foreign Parts* and artist films at Here East, and an intimate evening at The Waiting Room on Folkestone’s Harbour Arm for a showing of Marc Isaacs’ *Calais: The Last Border*.

The cohesive design identity for *edge* produced by Matthew Chrislip successfully brought together the complex programming elements of the series.



One-day symposium in 2018 foregrounding creative responses to the challenges of climate change for cities

Cities will have to confront the as-yet unknown effects of climate change, whether that's a rise in sea levels, more frequent and severe storms, or increasingly extreme heat. Convened by writer and architectural historian Paul Dobraszczyk, Unmoored Cities centered the notion that the creative imagination has a vital role to play in considering these challenges.

Paul Dobraszczyk writes:

We began by imagining a London overtaken by the sea. One of Professor CJ Lim's speculative proposals had small central enclaves in the city protected by immensely high walls, whilst another saw arks disassemble into self-sufficient floating habitats. Drawing on the example of the polders in the Netherlands, the paper was an embrace of new ways of living in the face of the inevitable.

Whilst not directly connected with climate change, the case of Kiruna in northern Sweden was laid out by anthropologist Viktoria Walldin. Working as part of White Arkitekter, her practice has the daunting engineering task of moving an entire city two miles away in order to avoid collapse into an adjacent iron-ore mine. Her presentation demonstrated how such a project may not be as outlandish as it sounds, but that the pragmatics require a thoroughly participatory approach to design, embracing the needs and desires of all citizens.

In the 'Airborne' panel, PhD student Thandi Loewenson used her imagined cities of Mailo and Melencolia—where structures lift off from the ground—to interact with the very real plight of those forced to scavenge the landfill sites on the edge of Lusaka, Zambia. Curator Rob La Frenais presented a range of transport devices he's co-developed that provide radical alternatives to fossil fuel-powered vehicles. This led neatly into Royal Holloway's Sasha Englemann whose work with artist Tomás Saraceno aims to create aerial forms of transport and habitation



Top Tomás Saraceno, Observatory, Air-port City (2008). Psycho Buildings, Hayward Gallery June 2008.

Far left Living Infrastructure. Drawing courtesy Simone Ferracina.

Left 'Blocker BaRachel in her workshop': A performance at Chunga Landfill featuring Rachel Mwanza, Chunga Waste Recyclers Association, Mailo/Lusaka, April 2018. Credit: Thandi Loewenson.

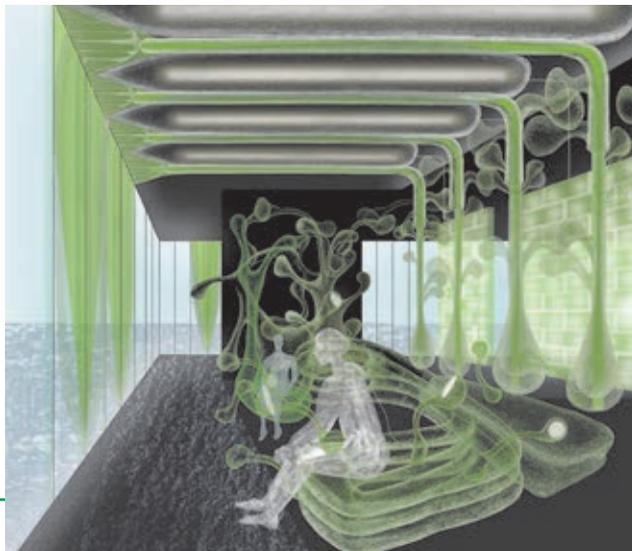
Right IJburg floating houses, Amsterdam. Credit: Paul Dobraszczyk.

that are entirely powered by the energy of the sun. As earlier, all three speakers emphasised that radical change can only come about through participation, and that a bottom-up approach should form the bedrock of the urbanism of the future.

The final panel returned to a London flooded by its tidal river. Designer Matthew Butcher's projects demonstrated how we'll need to develop a completely new relationship with water in the future, one that accepts its hostility. Architect Shaun Murray presented a series of extraordinary drawings which map ecologies of erosion, flows of fluid and friction of materials related to two abandoned piers on the River Thames. He argued for an immersive urbanism that designs the relationship between things and not the things themselves. Finally, historian Robin Wilson took us back to 1864 when the Thames was filled with commercial ships, through a utopian analysis of James Whistler's painting Wapping. Displaying an intimate relationship between people and the river, this reading of an unmoored city reminded us of how history always informs future imagining and how utopian desires of the past might be recovered today.

The diversity of the day's papers was summed up by sociologist Jennifer Gabrys who saw in the bewildering variety of projects an unmooring not just of cities, but of politics, the social and the architectural. In all of the papers, the act of imagining was not about providing solutions to problems but rather of working with them—an acceptance that doesn't paralyse but rather invigorates and excites. In all the papers, adaptation to climate change was not seen as a form of resignation or defeat, but rather a dynamic way of making new kinds of cities and new ways of being in the world that are more just, equitable and responsive to whatever comes.

Unmoored Cities was organised with financial support from the Architecture Projects Fund of the Bartlett School of Architecture. This text is adapted from a Medium article published in August 2018. Recordings of the day can be found on the Urban Laboratory's Soundcloud page.



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Activity strand encompassing the curation and creation of cultural representations of cities and urban life, featuring an annual lecture

Led by Urban Lab Co-Director Matthew Beaumont, Professor of English Literature at UCL, since 2014 this broad public programme of screenings, salons, exhibitions, performances, workshops and other events explores the aesthetics and semiotics of cities past, present and to come. Cities Imaginaries is the successor to the UCL Department of English's City Centre, which from its launch in June 2010 was an attempt to co-ordinate a range of different research projects on aspects of the cultural and literary history of the metropolis from the Middle Ages to the present. Through the Cities Imaginaries activity strand, artists, critics and scholars based in the Humanities can interact with UCL and other communities in producing and debating historically-informed radical urban imaginaries for the future. It was launched in October 2014 with an inaugural lecture by the prize-winning novelist, musician and composer Amit Chaudhuri. Since then, several other high-profile cultural figures have delivered the annual Cities Imaginaries lecture, including Urvashi Butalia, Linton Kwesi Johnson, and in 2018, David Olusoga.



The historian, broadcaster and film-maker, who had previously collaborated extensively with academics in UCL History researching the legacies of British slave-ownership, offered an impassioned and thought-provoking historical journey through periods of housing crisis in the UK.

(See Multimedia Appendix p. 58, for details of online review by Jordan Rowe)



Top David Olusoga, Cities Imaginaries Lecture 2018. Credit: Jacob Fairless Nicholson.

Left 'Mona'. Image courtesy of Urvashi Butalia/ Granta.

Right *Stadtklang: Sonic Utopias*, March 2016, Somerset House, London. Credit: Jacob Fairless Nicholson.

Sunday evening get-together and music event exploring the sounds of the city, in collaboration with the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London



Launched in 2013 and generally hosted in the Arcola Theatre Bar in east London, events have included artist, writer and psychogeographer Laura Grace Ford and musician, sound engineer and producer Jack Latham, presenting and discussing sound work using field recordings from the Church Street area in Edgware; the late writer, theorist and k-punk blogger Mark Fisher presenting his audio essay 'London Dreaming' in 2015; and writer Dan Hancox in conversation with Dr Richard Bramwell from Loughborough University to discuss Hancox's critically acclaimed book *Inner City Pressure: The Story of Grime* (William Collins, 2018).

Special events have taken us further afield. 'Sounds of Urgent Utopia' was hosted at The Africa Centre as part of the #FutureTrends exhibition, with architects, curators, theorists, musicians and writers exploring the influence of African cities, culture and sound on the way the future is imagined today. And as part of the celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Thomas More's book *Utopia*, we hosted 'Sonic Utopias' at Somerset House in 2016, screening Afrofuturist documentary *The Last Angel of History* (John Akomfrah, 1996), alongside live sets from NTS Radio DJs and discussion with writer and theorists Kodwo Eshun and Ayesha Hameed.



Screening programme engaging audiences with the work of filmmakers depicting cities, the urban landscape, and life in urban societies

Originally set up in 2011 as a successor to The Bartlett's Urban Film Society, Urban Lab Films introduces participants to a diverse, wide range of filmmaking and viewing across the globe.

Since 2016 we have established a screening partnership with Bertha DocHouse, the UK's first dedicated documentary cinema, based at Curzon Bloomsbury. Through this collaboration a series of sold-out screenings have included the UK premieres of *Natura Urbana: The Brachen of Berlin* (dir. Matthew Gandy, 2018) and *The Experimental City* (dir. Chad Freidrichs, 2017), alongside new releases and special one-offs, such as *Cities of Sleep* (dir. Shaunak Sen, 2015), *New Town Utopia* (dir. Christopher Ian Smith, 2017), and *Equal by Design* (dir. Peg Rawes and Beth Lord, 2016).

In 2017 we were a founding partner of ArchFilmFest London, a new biennial launched during the London Festival of Architecture. Urban Lab Films' line-up explored sensory interactions with the built environment as a means to provoke a deeper understanding of how people are

affected by transformative architectural change. As part of this, the acclaimed *Oslo, August 31st* (dir. Joachim Trier, 2011) was screened at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, for which we secured funding from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London to invite the film's director Joachim Trier, and writer Eskil Vogt, to participate in a post-show discussion.

Over this period we have also continued to work closely with the annual Open City Documentary Festival, and in 2015 we hosted a London on Film study day with the British Film Institute, which considered film's pertinence as a medium for evaluating urban change in the city.

Other new locations for screenings since 2015 include the Omnibus Theatre, Oxo Tower Bargehouse, Bloomsbury Studio, and The Horse Hospital. A full list of films screened over the period can be found in the events appendix of this publication.

Urban Lab Films is curated by Jordan Rowe.



Left *The Experimental City*, dir. Chad Freidrichs, 2017.

Right *Vertical Horizons: The Shard, a Spectacle of Capital in the City?* Image courtesy Aris Komporozos-Athanasίου/ Public Seminar.

Audio tour of the City of London mapping the contours of financialisation, launched in October 2018

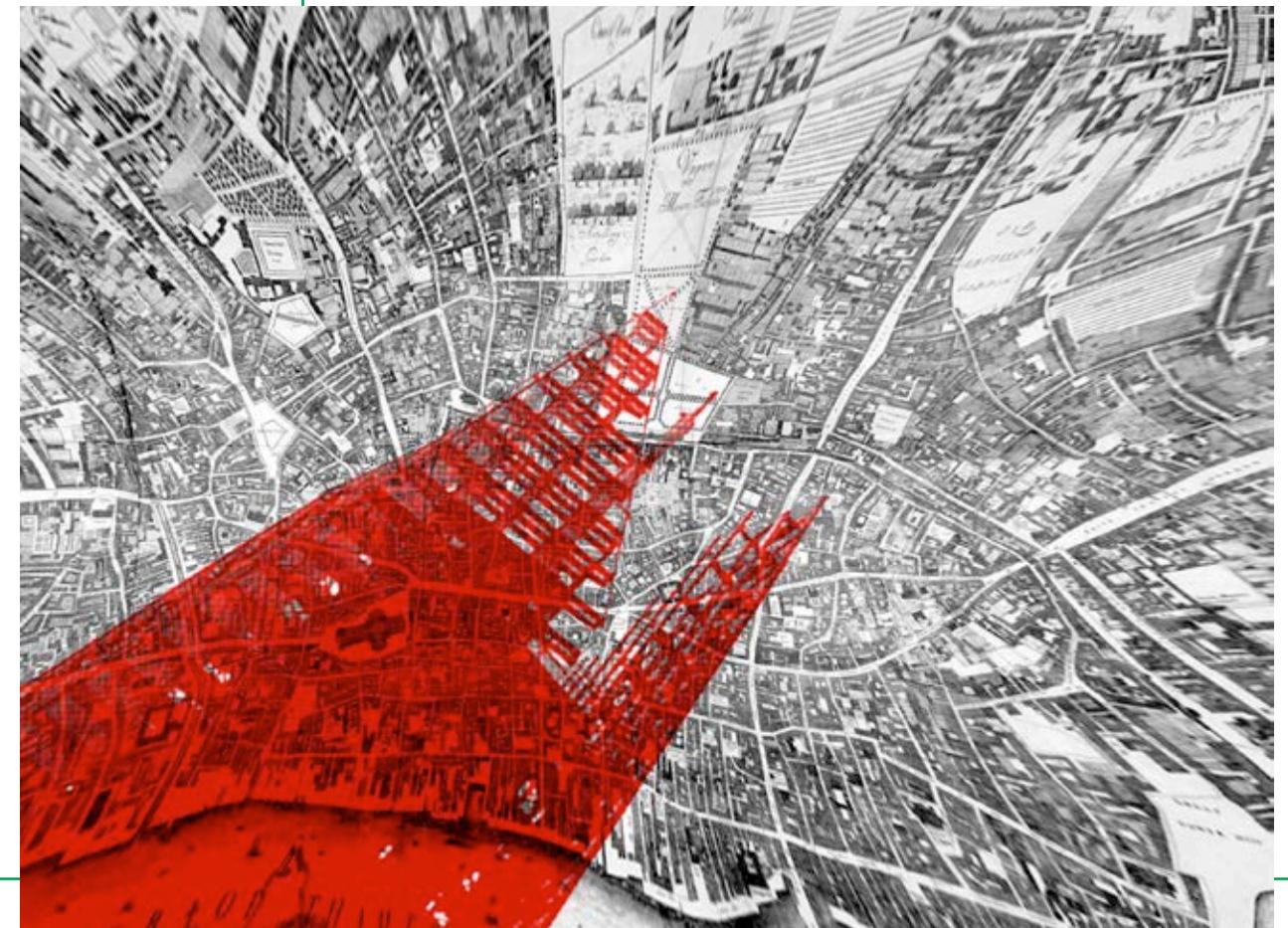
In a series of podcasts, fifteen activists, artists and interdisciplinary academics navigate the historic streets of the Square Mile, exploring the intersections of finance and the imagination. Topics range from algorithms to architecture, colonial legacies to anarchist histories, and yoga to children's play, as a way for us to understand the speculative powers at work both for and against financialisation.

The tour was recorded from an earlier walking event held in the City in April 2018, organised by Urban Lab Steering Committee member Aris

Komporozos-Athanasίου with Max Haiven of the ReImagining Value Action Lab at Lakehead University, Canada.

Accompanying the audio tour are a series of short articles published in Public Seminar, the online platform of The New School for Social Research in New York.

Visit the interactive map to listen to the audio tour: bit.ly/counterspeculations-map



A manifesto for the public authoring of our cities, produced across UCL, policy and industry

A call-to-action for academics, digital practitioners and citizens, *Power to the Citizen!* outlines key ideas emerging from a 2017 debate on data co-creation in the digital city. Challenging the rhetoric of unimaginable convenience, efficiency, predictability and connectivity pushed by the narrow smart city agenda, the manifesto contests that the 'smartness' of cities is in fact the product of an intricate knowledge and insight borne by its citizens.

The project was made possible through funding received from the UCL Grand Challenge of Transformative Technologies, which was secured in collaboration with UCL's Engineering Exchange for work exploring the concept of smart cities and its impact on London's communities.

The project was led by Claire McAndrew in The Bartlett School of Architecture, with Sarah Bell and Charlotte Barrow at Engineering Exchange, and Jordan Rowe at UCL Urban Laboratory.

Participants in the panel included curator and author Lucy Bullivant, researcher Nicolas Fonty, the GLA's Smart London Strategy and Delivery Officer Stephen Lorimer, Adam Dennett from The Bartlett's Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, and Ava Fatah gen. Schieck from The Bartlett School of Architecture.

Read the manifesto at powertothecitizen.com



Anthology curating work from eight editions of our Cities Methodologies exhibition

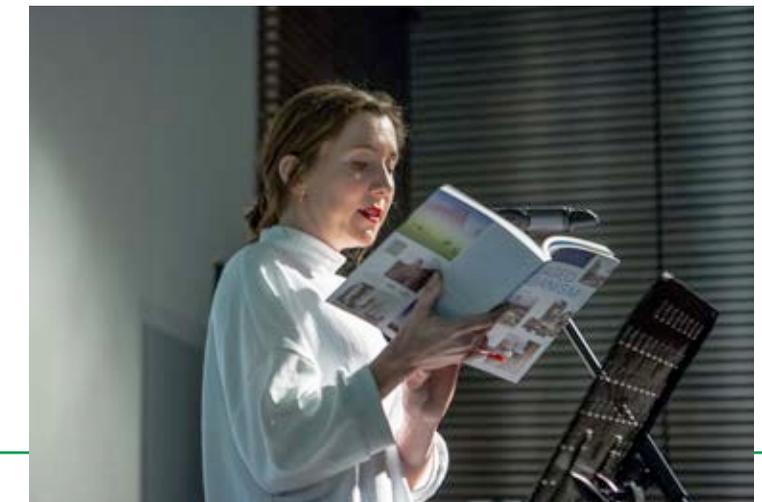
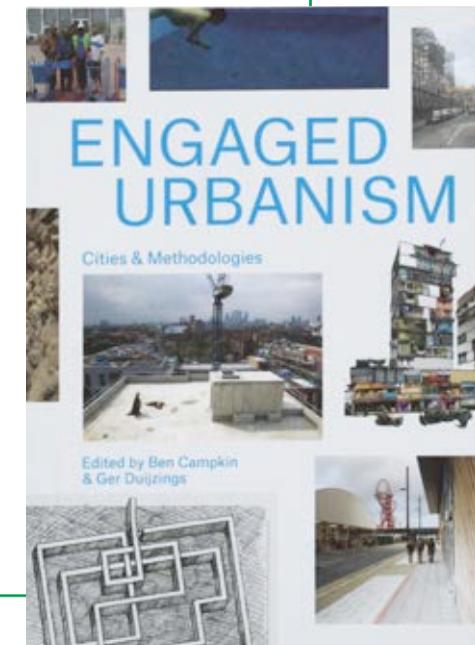
This volume published in 2016 explores innovative and experimental methodologies designed by academics, artists, activists and others to produce new knowledge about cities, working across academic disciplines. What binds them together is a commitment to understanding the social, cultural and material realities of the contemporary metropolis. Through the creative juxtaposition of methodological statements and experiments the volume as a whole, edited by Ben Campkin and Ger Duijzings, captures something of the dynamic experiences, discourses and other realities that constitute today's cities worldwide. Going beyond the immediate research context, it also questions which methods of presentation and communication are being used to disseminate research findings, and who the findings of the research are being shared with.

The edited volume includes framing chapters by Urban Laboratory Co-Director Jennifer Robinson and founding director Matthew Gandy. The book was launched in December 2016 at London's Free Word Centre with presentations from Guardian journalist Aditya Chakraborty and Public Works co-founder Andreas Lang, editors Ben Campkin and Ger Duijzings, and a number of contributors to the book.

Bottom Campkin, B., and G. Duijzings (eds), 2016, *Engaged Urbanism: Cities and Methodologies*. London: I.B. Tauris.

Right Henrietta Williams presents her contribution to the publication at the book launch, Free Word Centre, December 2016.

Left *Power to the Citizen!* pamphlet, November 2018. Designed by Unlimited.



Series of six lectures exploring the meaning of the term ‘urban laboratory’

Clare Melhuish, curator of the series, writes: The term ‘urban laboratory’ has been extensively applied in urban innovation discourse, and has acquired currency in urban studies where ‘a very loose usage of “laboratory” and “experiment” seems to be the norm rather than the exception’ (Karvonen and van Heur 2014: 383). As described by Andrew Karvonen (KTH Stockholm) in his opening lecture, urban laboratories may often be characterised as low-carbon districts, platforms, living laboratories, innovation zones or testbeds in specific city contexts, where they are designed to be change-oriented in addressing a range of sustainability challenges. Cynthia Myntti’s (New York University Abu Dhabi) lecture focused on the human dynamics involved in mobilising change through different kinds of partnership, in the case of the American University of Beirut’s Neighbourhood Initiative. Valeria Ribeiro Corossacz’s (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) talk provided insights into race, class and gender dynamics in a wealthy neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro, considering the power relations which shape the production of urban geographies

and lived experience in the city.

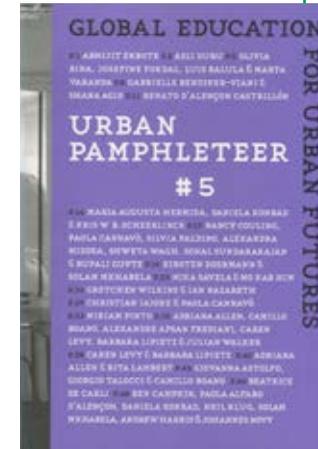
Andy Pratt (City, University of London) identified typologies from the creative industries—the recording studio, incubator, and ‘crit’—as more progressive models for the shaping of urban laboratories. In Sarah-Marie Hall’s (University of Manchester) lecture, we gained insights into the importance of the smart phone as part of everyday urban infrastructures, and the significance of everyday settings in which to study the impact of personalised technologies on patterns of urban living. Finally, Pat Noxolo (Birmingham University) drew attention to the need to recognise the differentiated ways in which embodied knowledge filters and defines social dynamics and lived experience in the ‘urban vortex’. Noxolo brought the series to a provocative close. Her talk highlighted the dynamic and unpredictable nature of the energy flows which direct urban processes, as a focus for investigation, in counterpoint to the characterisation of urban experimentation within urban innovation zones as fragmented and relatively static which opened the series.



Left Cover image from *The Experimental City*, 2018, Karvonen and Evans (eds), London: Routledge. All rights reserved for De Ceuvel. Credit: Niko Cutugno.

Right Issues of *Urban Pamphleteer* are distributed for free in print and online. PDF issues can be accessed via donations on the *Urban Pamphleteer* website.

Publication series edited by Ben Campkin and Rebecca Ross confronting key contemporary urban questions



Written in a direct and accessible tone, and designed by Bandiera, the pamphlets are intended to engage multiple audiences, drawing on the history of radical pamphleteering to stimulate debate and instigate urban change. Between 2015 and 2018 we have published three issues in the series:

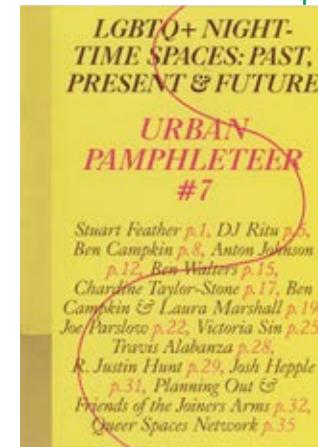
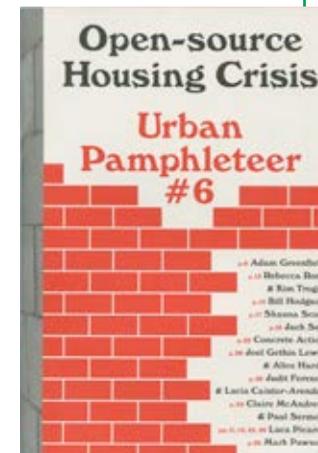
Urban Pamphleteer #5: Global Education for Urban Futures (September 2015), edited by P. Alfaro d’Alençon, B. Campkin, R. Gupte, S. Mkhabela, J. Novy and M. Savela. This issue brings together contributions from members of the Urban Lab+ network to stimulate a critical discussion about the future of higher education focused on cities and urbanisation. Contributions engaged with live projects or taught through approaches defined as practice-oriented or laboratorial. Yet it is not always clear how these ambitions can best be achieved.

Urban Pamphleteer #6: Open-source Housing Crisis (November 2016) This issue interrogates new ways of approaching London’s rapidly escalating housing crisis, through open-source methods. Originally inspired by Stewart Brand’s 1968 whole Earth Catalog: Access to Tools, it presents the notion of thinking in alternative, communal, tech savvy and creative yet practical (even if idealistic) ways about society’s problems. These seemed well-matched to our contemporary urgent need to invent new ways to approach London’s rapidly escalating housing crisis and engage critically with its underlying logics.

Urban Pamphleteer #7: LGBTQ+ Night-time Spaces: Past, Present & Future (July 2018). Guest editor L. Marshall with B. Campkin and R. Ross. #7 gathers

perspectives, provocations and vignettes on London’s LGBTQ+ night-time spaces, past, present and future, with a focus on the different tactics being used to queer night-space. It features examples that suggest how and why different venues, events and clusters are produced; how, when and why they have opened or closed; the scenes that have recently emerged, or are imagined, and how these connect with historical ones, and with other places.

This issue was featured in an online review by It’s Nice That, a platform for ‘championing the most exciting, and engaging work online, in print ... to the widest possible audience’: ‘In contrast to the previous six issues of *Urban Pamphleteer*, the team chose to involve colour in the seventh issue. “When we first started thinking about the theme of LGBTQ+ night-time spaces, we set ourselves the challenge to involve colour without referencing clichés of the rainbow flag”, explains Rebecca. Deciding on yellow, pink and purple, the creatives agreed that this colour scheme serves “as a loud, but also quite subtle, visual wink toward solidarity against rigid or binary categorical thinking.”’ (www.itsnicethat.com/articles/urban-pamphleteer-issue-7-publication-061218)



2018

11 DEC. Flat Out! Dancing the City at a Time of Austerity LECTURE

06 DEC. From Postcolonial Critique to Decolonizing Urban Studies SEMINAR

30 NOV. (Re)financing London's Future: Building Collective Knowledge on Alternatives to Housing and Transport Infrastructure Delivery SYMPOSIUM

27 NOV. Towards Vital, Vibrant and Material Geographies of the Mobile Phone in Austerity LECTURE

13 NOV. Knowledge Curation as a Relational and an Embedded Process LECTURE

08 NOV. Urban Lab Films: The Experimental City FILM SCREENING

30 OCT. White Middle-Class Households: Race, Class and Sex Inequalities in the Urban Landscape of Rio de Janeiro LECTURE

17 OCT. UCL Urban Laboratory Open House RECEPTION

16 OCT. The Neighborhood Initiative at the American University of Beirut: Reflections on the First Ten Years LECTURE

07 OCT. Stadtklang: Inner City Pressure PERFORMANCE

03 OCT. Comparing and Contrasting Sustainable Urban Developments WORKSHOP

02 OCT. Laboratories as a New Mode of Urban Governance LECTURE

09 SEPT. Open City Documentary Festival: Home of the Resistance + Uppland FILM SCREENING

07 SEPT. Open City Documentary Festival: Film in Place PANEL

14 JULY Urban Pamphleteer #7 Launch: LGBTQ+ Night-time Spaces, Past, Present and Future LAUNCH

14 JULY Centre Pieces: a Public, Documented Conversation on the London Lesbian and Gay Centre ROUNDTABLE

05 JULY Bareback Museum PERFORMANCE

25 MAY Unmoored Cities: Radical Urban Futures and Climate Catastrophes SYMPOSIUM

24 MAY Urban Lab Films: New Town Utopia FILM SCREENING

22 MAY David Olusoga: Cities Imaginaries Lecture LECTURE

08 MAY Urban Rooms, Civic Schools & City Learning SYMPOSIUM, EXHIBITION

03 MAY Writing the City [Into the Urban] SYMPOSIUM

22 MAR. Queer(y)ing London SEMINAR

12 MAR. Bank Job EXHIBITION

19 MAR. Cross-disciplinary Conversations on Sexualities, Queerness and Space SYMPOSIUM

07 MAR. Urban Lab Films: Natura Urbana: The Brachen of Berlin FILM SCREENING

23 FEB. Queering the London Plan: Preparing an LGBTQ+ Community Response to the Mayor's Consultation WORKSHOP

13 FEB. The London Salon: Queer Night Scenes PERFORMANCE

2017

20 NOV. Urban Geopolitics: Rethinking Planning in Contested Cities LAUNCH

04 NOV. EDGE: Border SYMPOSIUM

03 NOV. EDGE Film Series: Border FILM SCREENING

07 OCT. Stadtklang: Sounds of Urgent Utopia PERFORMANCE

07 OCT. EDGE: Periphery SYMPOSIUM

06 OCT. EDGE Film Series: Periphery FILM SCREENING

22 SEPT. University Urbanism: Campus Development and Urban Regeneration SHORT COURSE

14 SEPT. EDGE: Gateway SYMPOSIUM

08 SEPT. Edge Film Series: Gateway FILM SCREENING

25 JULY Power to the Citizen! Data and Co-Creation in the Digital City SEMINAR

15 JUNE Lessons from Lavani PERFORMANCE

10 JUNE Black Shirts: the 18b Testimony of Flora Poole, Spinner PERFORMANCE

10 JUNE Vertical Horizons: In the Shadow of the Shard FILM SCREENING

08 JUNE Urban Lab Films: Oslo, August 31st FILM SCREENING

25 MAY Urban Lab Films: Cities of Sleep FILM SCREENING

15 MAY Urvashi Butalia: Cities Imaginaries Lecture LECTURE

07 MAY Stadtklang: Savage Messiah PERFORMANCE

27 MAR. Towards a New Vocabulary of Urbanisation LECTURE

26 MAR. New London Vernacular/ Urban Qualities SYMPOSIUM

02 MAR. Urban Lab Films / Bartlett Film Exchange: The Seven Sisters Indoor Market FILM SCREENING

24 FEB. Urban Lab Films: Committed Ethnographies FILM SCREENING

23 FEB. Anti-eviction Mapping and the Housing Crisis SEMINAR

11 FEB. #Haters PERFORMANCE

26 JAN. Undead Promenade: Deconstructing the High Line LECTURE

20 JAN. Surplus in Neoliberal Urban Space SEMINAR

12 JAN. The Shard—Vertical Horizons EXHIBITION

2016

09 DEC. Engaged Urbanism: Cities and Methodologies LAUNCH

29 NOV. Timescapes of Urban Change: London — Barcelona, a Regeneration Comparison SYMPOSIUM

17 NOV. Urban Pamphleteer #6 Launch: Open-source Housing Crisis LAUNCH

11 NOV. Cities in the BRICS: What are We Comparing? SEMINAR

07 NOV. Street Art World LAUNCH

20 SEPT. Refuge, The Subaltern & Urban Space SEMINAR

19 JULY. Night Scenes WORKSHOP

29 JUNE. The Storm: A Utopian Forecast for London? PERFORMANCE

22 JUNE. Community Mapping and Citizen Social Science SEMINAR

15 JUNE. Urban Lab Films: Equal by Design FILM SCREENING

14 JUNE. Global Undergrounds LAUNCH

10 JUNE. The Centre Cannot Hold? SYMPOSIUM

28 MAY. Turning Tables: Reporting from the Education Front, La Biennale di Venezia EXHIBITION

25 MAY. Urban Lab Films: I, Anna FILM SCREENING

25 MAY. Cities After Hours SYMPOSIUM

19 MAY. Linton Kwesi Johnson: Cities Imaginaries Lecture LECTURE

16 MAY. Global Urbanisms, Regional Specificities SYMPOSIUM

03 MAY. Urban Lab Films: Brixton Conversations FILM SCREENING

27 APR. Shaping the Digital City: Visualising the City with Data and Light LECTURE

21 APR. Urban Development by Project: Comparative Perspectives SEMINAR

12 APR. Utopia Discourse with Matthew Beaumont LECTURE

05 APR. Utopia Discourse with Ruth Austin LECTURE

20 MAR. Stadtklang: Sonic Utopias PERFORMANCE

08 MAR. Urban Lab Films: Guarded Elites and Paranoia in the City FILM SCREENING

20 FEB. Soho Spirit: Our Space or a Space in Our Minds? SYMPOSIUM

02 FEB. Differentiated Mobilities in Contested Cities: Towards Comparative Approaches WORKSHOP

26 JAN. Beyond the Red Line: How are Universities Re-imagining Cities and Urban Communities through their Spatial Development Plans? SEMINAR

20 JAN. The Engineer and the Plumber: Mediating Mumbai's Conflicting Infrastructural Imaginaries SEMINAR

2015

09 DEC. Invisible Surplus Space: Art in Urban Settings SEMINAR

09 DEC. Socio-Technical Design in Post-apartheid South Africa LECTURE

07 DEC. Splintering Surveillance as a New Territorial Layer? LECTURE

02 DEC. Writing Comparisons WORKSHOP

30 NOV. Change by Design Report Launch: Euston's Contested Sites LAUNCH

08 NOV. Stadtklang:

London Dreaming with Mark Fisher PERFORMANCE

26 SPET. Photography and Manipulation: Documenting Virtual Control SEMINAR

17 SEPT. Urban Pamphleteer #5 Launch: Global Education for Urban Futures LAUNCH

16 SEPT. Urban Lab+ London Symposium 2015 SYMPOSIUM

18 AUG. Exploring Virtual Control WORKSHOP

11 JULY. Defining Forms of Control in the Contemporary City SEMINAR

09 JULY. Virtual Control – Security and the Urban Imagination EXHIBITION

04 JULY. The Malleable Spectacle: London on Film SYMPOSIUM

02 JULY. 'Placing' Culture in Urban China SYMPOSIUM

22 JUNE. The Case of Robin Hood Gardens SEMINAR

18 MAY. Reactivating the Social Condenser! Architecture against Privation SYMPOSIUM

13 MAY. Urban Lab Films: Cities After Hours FILM SCREENING

13 MAY. Cities After Hours SYMPOSIUM

30 APR. Urban Lab Films: Nights in the Electric City FILM SCREENING

26 MAR. Nightwalking LECTURE

11 MAR. Un-Learning from Lynch: Cinema and Architecture in the Alley Behind the Marketplace LECTURE

24 FEB. Urban Revolution Now LAUNCH

29 JAN. The Fabric of Space LAUNCH

RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

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Left Fabulous Facades performance, 2018. Credit: Rafael Pereira do Rego.

Below The London Salon: queer night scenes, February 2018, Museum of London. Credit: Ivan Denia Photography.

Research charting the changing profile and loss of LGBTQ+ night-spaces in London since 1986

Since 2016 research led by Ben Campkin with Urban Lab Research Assistant Lo Marshall has used surveys, statistical data, mapping, interviews, archival study, case studies, public workshops and performance to investigate London's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer spaces. A pilot phase, gathering data from 1986 to the present, was initiated in collaboration with Raze Collective, a performers' network, and Queer Spaces Network, a campaign responding to the loss of queer spaces and heritage.

The second phase saw the construction of a dataset of licensed premises focusing on the period 2006 – 2017. This was supported by and provided evidence for the Mayor of London and Night Czar. The research has shown that the number of LGBTQ+ venues fell by 58% in the period, with closures often prompted by development. It has pointed to disparities in access to formal, licensed premises within the LGBTQ+ community. The project has been reported in the print and broadcast media internationally (e.g. The Economist, BBC News, The Telegraph, Time Out, The New York Times, and LGBTQ+ media). The research has been

cited in the Mayor of London's Cultural Infrastructure Strategy, Culture and the Night-time Economy Supplementary Planning Guidance and Draft London Plan; and contributed to the establishment of an LGBTQ+ Venues Charter by the Greater London Authority. Recent publications include an edited issue of *Urban Pamphleteer* and an article co-authored by Campkin and Marshall in *Soundings*. The research informs Campkin's monograph in progress on the history of queer night-spaces in London from the 1980s to the present, and collaboration with Whitechapel Gallery on an exhibition (Queer Spaces: London, 1980s—Today, April—August 2019). The researchers have also won a UCL Public Policy grant to work with Camden Council on social isolation within the LGBTQ+ community.



Urban heritage research cluster in the UCL-University of Gothenburg Centre for Critical Heritage Studies

The Urban Laboratory played a key role in the successful bid to fund a new Centre for Critical Heritage Studies at UCL. The partnership with the University of Gothenburg (UGOT) was launched in 2016. Clare Melhuish is UCL lead in the Curating the City research cluster, working with Dean Sully (UCL Institute of Archaeology), Henric Benesch (UGOT School of Design and Crafts) and Ingrid Martins Holmberg (UGOT Department of Conservation). The cluster has developed a programme of research activities and publications exploring the dilemmas faced by academics and practitioners, policy-makers and citizens, when it comes to negotiating the relationship between the urban past, present and future.

We are interested in questioning the ways in which heritage can be used to generate particular, often exclusionary, narratives of urban identity, and to legitimise certain kinds of urban intervention.

The work of the cluster is transdisciplinary, across the overlapping fields of urban anthropology, archaeology, architecture and design, conservation, and cultural studies, and their associated methods. During the first three years of funding we have focused on two key themes: universities and urban heritage, and heritage and creative practice.

We organised two closed workshops in London (November 2016) and Gothenburg (April 2017), to discuss and critique university development initiatives within a framework of heritage discourse. The workshops were attended by a mix of academics, artists, curators and community stakeholders from UCL, University of Gothenburg, and other

institutions, focusing in particular on the development projects led by UCL (UCL East) and University of Gothenburg (Project Nackrosen). We presented findings from the workshops in the conference 'Universities: space, place and community', organised by the Research Group on University History at the University of Manchester in September 2017, and are currently co-editing a volume for publication in 2020, *Universities and Urban Heritage*.

In 2018 we organised two workshops with heritage experts and creative practitioners at the 'Hidden Sites' of House Mill in east London, a Grade I listed tidal mill, and Åskhult by, a deserted farming hamlet south of Gothenburg which has been restored as a visitors' destination. We explored the potential for intervention in heritage sites by creative practitioners, as a means of disclosing the 'latency' of historic sites and activating them in the present as a field of dynamic encounter between contemporary and past city dwellers.

The outcomes from both of these research strands will be presented in a joint centre conference at the University of Gothenburg in November 2019.

The Centre for Critical Heritage Studies operates as an inter-faculty research centre led by the Institute of Archaeology and supported by the Institute of Advanced Studies UCL in partnership with the University of Gothenburg.



'Hidden Sites' of heritage workshop, with artist Cecilie Gravesen, held at House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow, 2018. Credit: Dean Sully.

Change by design workshop in Cape Town. Credit Alexandre Apsan Frediani.

Workshops in London and Cape Town in 2015 brought together a range of local stakeholders to discuss the impacts of urban regeneration

Collective imaginations for contested sites in Euston

Urban Laboratory hosted an event attended by various speakers from different organisations and institutions, including Camden Council, HS2 Euston Action Group, CitizensUK and Architects for Social Housing, to discuss the findings from the 2014 Architecture Sans Frontières-UK London workshop with local people from the Euston area. This was implemented in partnership with Citizens-UK, UCL Development Planning Unit (DPU), Urban Laboratory and the University of Sheffield School of Architecture to produce a Citizens Charter capturing local needs and aspirations for the planned large-scale development around Euston Station linked to the construction of HS2.

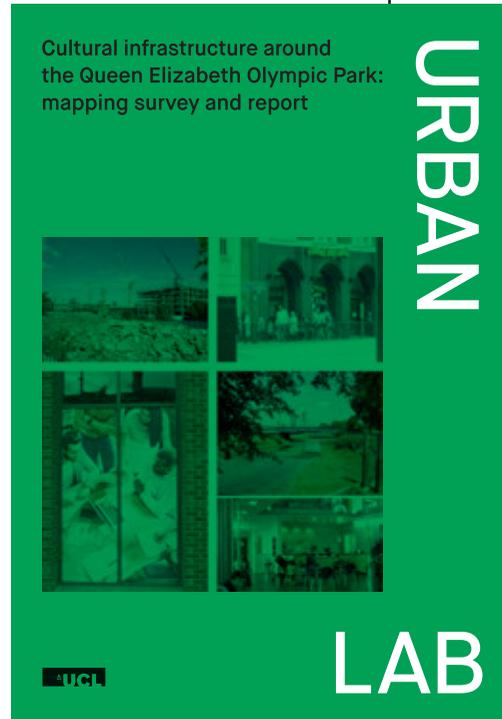
Re-imagining regeneration through participatory design in Cape Town

This two-week workshop was organised by Architecture Sans Frontières-UK in partnership with Development Action Group and supported by the DPU, Urban Laboratory and the Sheffield School of Architecture. It focused on conducting a series of participatory design activities to support the re-imagination of the objectives and processes of urban regeneration taking place in the neighbourhood of Woodstock. The workshop involved international built environment professionals, academics and students as well as local activists and practitioners.



Research to measure the future impact of UCL East on local cultural infrastructure

In 2017 we produced a report identifying and presenting existing and new data on cultural infrastructure in the environs of UCL East. The new data revealed a substantial network of community-based cultural organisations which either pre-date the Olympics, or owe their existence to Olympic legacy funding which has since been withdrawn. They perform an important role in sustaining resilience across the area's diverse populations, but face significant challenges in the post-Olympic landscape. The report affirms the importance of UCL East in providing explicit support for existing social and cultural infrastructure, and acts as a baseline to evaluate the university's impact on these communities once in operation.



Top Cultural infrastructure around the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: report by Clare Melhuish and Ben Campkin.

Left Hub67 community centre in Hackney Wick. Credit: Clare Melhuish.

Right Visualisation of UCL East buildings © Stanton Williams.

We are playing a leading role in developing the university's new campus in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

New spaces for transdisciplinary research and local/global engagement focused on the urban will form part of the new Future Living Institute at UCL East. Ben Campkin was appointed as joint Academic Lead for the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment to co-ordinate the new cross-disciplinary urban programmes which will be housed at Pool Street West (Phase 1). Urban Lab is developing two programmes, the MASc Global Urban Lab (led by Jennifer Robinson) and MRes London Lab (led by Ben Campkin) which will be co-located with a public-facing Urban Room and Memory Workshop, a space for events, workshops and engagement with local stakeholders, professional audiences, and the wider public. The Memory Workshop will be a digital resource centre run by Culture Lab, forming a vital resource for UCL urban researchers and their partners.



Our Leverhulme Trust-funded artist residencies have supported collaborations between academics and practitioners



Above *Virtual Control—Security and the Urban Imagination*. Credit: Max Colson.

Left *Vertical Horizons*. Credit: Tom Wolseley.

Max Colson 2014—15
Hide and Seek: The Dubious Nature of High Security Spaces

Tom Wolseley 2015—16
Vertical Horizons: In the Shadow of the Shard

This residency, supervised by Ben Campkin, extended the photographic investigations of artist Max Colson's photojournalist persona (the paranoid Adam Walker-Smith) and his enquiries into the hidden infrastructure of security design and control embedded in the UK built environment.

Colson's performative photographic practice dramatises the use of security features in public space, questioning how design engenders feelings of safety or a sense of individual or collective distrust. The project aimed to heighten viewers' awareness of the way that security design, surveillance and paranoia interact within the urban environment. The photos also use humour to emphasise the limits of the medium as documentary evidence and suggest the influence of human bias on photojournalistic investigation, questioning issues around surveillance and security design in relation to the credibility of the investigation itself.

In reflection, Max has said that residencies such as those offered by the Urban Lab provide great opportunities for artists to engage with cutting edge research outputs and methodologies, and for the academy to present and interrogate research ideas using unconventional and 'un-academic' means.

The residency culminated with Max's first solo British exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects from 9 July—27 September 2015, titled *Virtual Control—Security and the Urban Imagination*.

Artist-filmmaker Tom Wolseley collaborated with Andrew Harris to make *Vertical Horizons*, a meditative essay film about Western Europe's tallest building, The Shard. This feature length film, Wolseley's most ambitious yet, asks questions about the relationship between the individual and the larger global dynamics that appear to be manifesting themselves in the changing contemporary landscapes of capital cities such as London.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Urban Lab and its diverse range of practitioners enabled *Vertical Horizons* to have a deeply researched knowledge base and a wide scope of direction. This created access to a variety of significant stakeholders related to the planning and construction of the finished building, alongside conversations with researchers in the area, particularly Martine Drodz of the Laboratoire Techniques, Territoires et Sociétés in Paris.

Urban Lab, and Harris specifically, helped with research methodology, clarification of the project, and informative discussion with other staff, students, and the public.

The film has been screened as part of a solo exhibition at ROOM Gallery; ArchFilmFest London at the OXO Tower Wharf Gallery; La Ville Vertical conference in Lyon; The Centre Cannot Hold symposium at Calvert 22; Edge: Situated Practice in Art, Architecture and Urbanism at UCL and the UCL Festival of Culture. Essays on the work have been published in *Public Seminar*, and in the forthcoming book *Re-Centering the City: Urban Mutations, Socialist Afterlives and the Global East* (Murawski, M. and Bach, J. (eds), London: UCL Press, 2020).

Our research community is enhanced by residencies for a mix of early career and established scholars



Rodrigo Firmino
Honorary Senior Research Associate
2015–16

‘My year at the Urban Lab allowed me to conduct fieldwork in London, and develop research ideas on the relationship between “the digital” and cities, and practices of securitisation and surveillance in Latin America. Being hosted in a multidisciplinary hub meant I could go beyond the original research agenda, and my interactions with colleagues across UCL included speaking at the Situating Architecture lecture series, in the Bartlett School of Architecture, and the Ephemeral Cities seminar series at Birkbeck; I also curated an Urban Lab Films screening called ‘Guarded elites and paranoia in the (Latin American) city’; whilst an unexpected by-product of this period was an experimental project with the Jeremy Bentham Auto-icon at UCL, ‘Watching Jeremy, Watching Me, Watching Jeremy’. The insights and support I had from the Lab and its academic staff assisted in the completion of relevant projects and publications, including the book *Unplugging the City: The Urban Phenomenon and its Sociotechnical Controversies* (Routledge, 2017), a book chapter on the hyperconnected city in the book *The Routledge Companion to Urban Imaginaries* (Routledge, 2018), and a number of journal papers.’

Rebecca Ross
Honorary Senior Research Associate
2016–19

‘In this role I am well-positioned to work on projects and facilitate interactions between UCL and Central Saint Martins, where I run the MA in Graphic Communication Design.
I have been preparing a manuscript about the history of London’s postcodes and developing some broader arguments about addresses and pointers to location. London’s postcodes have been transmuted over their 150-year history through multiple successive and intertwined cultural, spatial, economic, and technological iterations. Today they hold the distinct status of being concurrently machine precise and culturally resonant. In addition to exploring this history, my research explores these implications as new schemas for encoding and decoding location, with new associated forms of subjectivity which are rapidly proliferating.
I am also one of the founding editors of *Urban Pamphleteer*. Given my interest in interactions between graphic design and urban studies, I have begun to reflect on the series, as it develops and matures, in relation to certain conventions of academic publication on the one hand, and on the other to broader concepts of publication and public audiences.’

Still of postcode being translated into phosphor marks to enable mechanical mail sorting by 1960s postal worker. James Ritchie (dir.), *Thirty Million Letters*, British Transport Films: 1963.

Documents of Urban Change: Experiences of absence in Burgess Park and the Aylesbury Estate. Credit: Felipe Lanuza.

Felipe Lanuza
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
2017–19

‘I investigate and represent the multi-layered dimensions of absence in the changing environment of Burgess Park and the neighbouring Aylesbury Estate, in the context of urban regeneration in South London. These range from the disappearance of traces and fragments of the industrial past and the dense urban fabric that has given way to the park, and the on-going demolition of the Aylesbury’s housing blocks leading to displacement and dispossession. The multidisciplinary academic environment of the UCL Urban Laboratory has provided generous support and a fertile ground for this research to develop, furthering my methods to analyse how the changes of both sites are connected, which I further represent and criticise by combining architecture, photography and film.’

Anita Burth Kurka
Visiting Researcher
2018

‘The objective of the visit from my home institution, the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), was to spend some time at UCL’s Urban Laboratory studying strategies used in research into the contribution made by universities to urban regeneration in London. Meetings were conducted with professionals from UCL Public Engagement, and included a visit to the university’s new campus site in East London.
The visit expanded my understanding of the university’s presence in the city and how it relates to land values, gentrification and the desirability of economic “convergence”. The studies will contribute to my research in Brazil, leading to an International seminar at UNIFESP with the participation of UCL’s Urban Lab.’



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We sit at the heart of an expanding network of urban expertise at UCL

Urban Laboratory was in the vanguard of initiatives to create cross-Faculty platforms at UCL. In 2009 it informed the creation, launch and progression of UCL's second Grand Challenges strand, Sustainable Cities (GCSC), and Urban Lab member academics and researchers have provided the levels of sustained leadership and collegial commitment needed to ensure GCSC's effectiveness in benefitting UCL and wider society since then.

GCSC provided financial support at the start of the Urban Lab's now much respected and widely appreciated Urban Pamphleteer series in 2013, and Urban Lab members have continued to deliver Grand Challenges-supported activities in the intervening years. The Urban Lab has also provided a great institutional exemplar in its response both to UCL's Research Strategy (emphasising Leadership, Cross-Disciplinarity and Impact) and to UCL's institutional development strategy, UCL 2034. It has demonstrated commitment both to 2034's London strategy and its global engagement priority.

Ian Scott
Director, Grand Challenges and Cross-Disciplinary Development Office of the UCL Vice-Provost

We updated information in 2018 on the large and diverse network of urban researchers across the university, building on a previous survey by Jennifer Robinson in 2014, funded by UCL's Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities. The data provides insights into the range, depth and location of urban research at UCL and represents a valuable resource for building connections within and beyond the institution.

230+
UCL staff identified as being engaged in urban teaching and/or research.

30+
UCL Schools/Institutes producing work overlapping with the interests of the UCL Urban Laboratory.

60+
Number of countries that UCL staff are producing urban-related research on/within.

50+
Urbanism-related courses across UCL at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Strategic Review

2018 evaluation of our impact both within and outside the academy. Researched and produced by Joseph Cook.

In order to provide evidence to inform and support the Urban Laboratory's strategic planning process over the next three years, we completed an evaluation of our reach and impact. The data and information gathered presented an objective survey of the audiences our work is currently reaching, the areas and activities our various stakeholders believe we should be tackling, and valuable insights into how we compare with other urban labs and centres for urban research, both in London and across the globe.

95.1% of survey respondents consider 'Urban Inequalities & Social Justice' to be relevant to their work and interests.

92.9% of survey respondents consider 'Community Engagement & Participation' to be relevant to their work and interests.

86% of survey respondents agreed that the UCL Urban Laboratory 'hosts events that are relevant to their work and interests.'

81.5% of survey respondents agreed that the UCL Urban Laboratory is 'on the cutting edge of urban research and discussion'.

70% of the UCL Urban Laboratory's Facebook followers are located outside the UK.

25000 people follow the UCL Urban Laboratory on Twitter.

Poster for end-of-year student event on the urban night. Designed by Daniel Cooper.

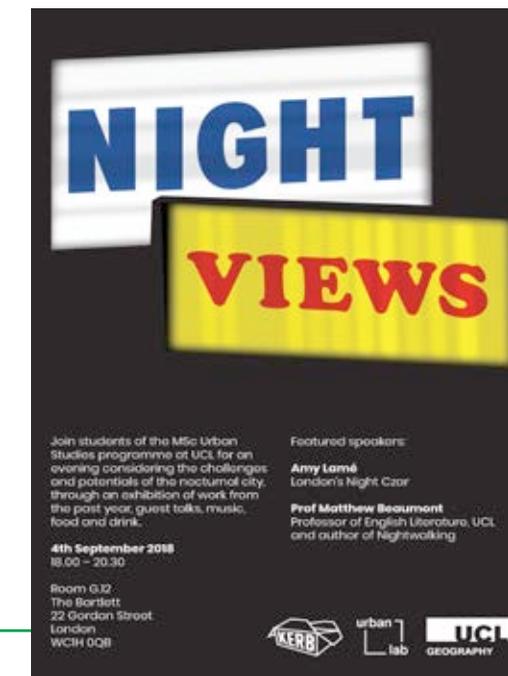
Internationally recognised MSc launched by the Urban Laboratory in 2008

Administered by UCL Geography, the course has greatly benefited from its ongoing relationship with the Urban Lab's interdisciplinary agenda and pedagogical programme. The course engages with staff across UCL departments, including Architecture, Planning, Anthropology, DPU, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, English, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy. The programme is run by Andrew Harris and co-convened with Ben Campkin, Pushpa Arabindoo and Clare Melhuish.

Notable strengths include the recruitment of high-calibre students from widely varying academic and professional backgrounds. Through a varied instructional programme that includes classroom teaching, field visits, essays and project-based assessment activities, and a range of additional learning supports, students are given a

strong critical foundation in urban studies while developing a range of skills that will enhance their future personal and career ambitions.

During 2017–18, the programme focused on the theme of the 'urban night'. This offered a means of exploring cross-disciplinary differences and connections across a topic that is of considerable current interest within policy, practitioner and academic circles. It was also an opportunity to showcase the broad array of exciting research around this theme currently being undertaken by staff and students associated with the Urban Lab. An end-of-year event organised by students featured two short presentations: from Amy Lamé who talked about her role as London's first Night Czar, and from Urban Lab Co-Director Matthew Beaumont who spoke about the importance of the night for urban thinking.



Our affiliation scheme provides opportunities for UCL doctoral students to engage in urban-focused events and activities

[The UCL Urban Laboratory] has been useful in communicating the sheer range of activities available at UCL, and showing me what else is happening. Very exciting. I've loved being involved.
PhD Affiliate

The Urban Lab is an everyday inspiration when it comes to thinking about engaged research and creative forms of dissemination.
PhD Affiliate

I started engaging with the Urban Lab in the early stages of my PhD back in 2015. Over the past three years, I have attended various Urban Lab events, such as screenings, workshops and panel

discussions, during which I met some of my closest collaborators. More recently, the Urban Lab helped me organise a workshop bringing together activists, communities and researchers to think through new solutions for the provision of affordable housing and the financing of sustainable transport solutions. Without the Urban Lab's financial support, this event would not have taken place, and I could not be more thankful to an organization that continually seeks to spark intellectual and political debates and activities that push disciplinary boundaries, and that are relevant to the (urban) world, beyond the Ivory Tower.
PhD Affiliate, Enora Robin (UCL STEaPP)

STADTKOLLOQUIUM

Interdisciplinary academic forum for doctoral students working on urban research

Stadtkolloquium aims to provide ways for doctoral students to air theoretical, practical and methodological questions and issues amongst peers in a friendly and constructive environment. Our past activities include annual workshops organised for and by PhD students at different stages, a series of monthly colloquia, reading and writing groups and informal meet-ups. Stadtkolloquium

is affiliated with the Urban Laboratory, but also works independently with other institutions to encourage the dissemination and discussion of PhD research. Stadtkolloquium warmly welcomes the involvement of doctoral research students based at institutions elsewhere in London and the United Kingdom as well as those studying in other countries.

This new initiative offers opportunities for urban knowledge exchange between academics, professionals, practitioners and communities

We launched Urban Lab Exchange in 2017, following receipt of a Bartlett Enterprise Development grant. It has been designed as a platform to bring together academics specialising in urban research, professionals working in architecture, planning, development, and urban policy, arts practitioners and community and neighbourhood interest groups, including organisers and activists, to address key global and local urban challenges. One- and two-day short courses and bespoke sessions provide strategic and fine-grained perspectives on themes such as ethical regeneration, gentrification, housing, security and design, public and private space, urban heritage, nightlife and the night economy, smart cities, and university-led urban development. Our pilot course, 'University Urbanism: Campus Development and Urban Regeneration' ran in September 2017, attracting a mix of enthusiastic participants from university estates teams, local authorities, and architectural and urban design practice.



Academics and practitioners visit the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park development site in east London.

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DIRECTOR

Clare Melhuish

An anthropologist specialising in architecture and the built environment, Dr Melhuish was appointed Director of UCL Urban Laboratory in 2018. Her work focuses on the design and social impact of large-scale interventions in the urban environment in the post-war period, and she has conducted comparative research on university-led urban regeneration to inform UCL's plans for the development of a new campus in east London (UCL East).

CENTRE MANAGER

Jordan Rowe

Jordan project manages the communications, programming and administration of the Lab in close coordination with our academics. A UCL graduate with a background in History and Urban Studies, he has presented, chaired panels and been an invited contributor to events and workshops on a range of themes, most recently on his research topic of city museums.

CO-DIRECTORS

Pushpa Arabindoo

Associate Professor in Geography and Urban Design, Dr Arabindoo's research focuses on documenting the urban transformations in the Indian city of Chennai, emphasising its specificity as she investigates middle class activism, subaltern politics, ecological citizenship and urban sustainability, tying them to wider debates within urban studies.

Matthew Beaumont

Professor of English Literature at the UCL Department of English, Prof.

Beaumont is the author, among other books, of *Nightwalking: A Nocturnal History of London* (2015) and the editor of *Restless Cities* (2010). He is currently completing a book on walking and metropolitan modernity and commencing one on insomnia and metropolitan modernity. He is responsible for the Urban Lab's Cities Imaginaries strand, which organises an annual lecture whose speakers have included Amit Chaudhuri, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Urvashi Butalia and David Olusoga.

Camillo Boano

Professor of Urban Design and Critical Theory in the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), Prof. Boano's interests centred on the complex encounters between critical theory, radical philosophy and urban design processes, engaging with informal urbanisations, urban collective actions, and camp urbanisms. He is working on a series of interconnected research projects in Latin America, South East Asia and Middle East on habitability and city-wide upgrade.

Ben Campkin

Previously Director of UCL Urban Laboratory (2011–2018), Ben Campkin is Professor of History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism at the Bartlett School of Architecture. With cross-disciplinary research focussing on urban decline and 'regeneration' in London, housing, and London's LGBTQI nightlife spaces, Prof. Campkin is co-series editor of *Urban Pamphleteer*, a founding member of qUCL, co-convenor of the MSc Urban Studies, and Chair of the UCL Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities Executive Group.

Ellie Cosgrave

Dr Ellie Cosgrave is Lecturer in Urban Innovation within the City Leadership Laboratory at the UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy. Her work focuses on the ways in which engineering design and leadership of cities may be re-thought to create more inclusive and sustainable urban environments. She convenes a Masters of Public Administration with a particular focus on urban innovation, and is the director of the City Leadership Lab.

Andrew Harris

Dr Andrew Harris is convenor of the MSc Urban Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. Dr Harris has worked extensively on the role of culture and the visual arts in urban-regeneration strategies as well as on the three-dimensional geographies of cities, with expertise in London and Mumbai.

Jennifer Robinson

Jennifer Robinson is based in the department of Geography. Her new book, *Comparative Urbanism: Tactics for Global Urban Studies*, takes forward her post-colonial critique of urban studies to develop methodological foundations for a more global urban studies. Her current collaborative research investigates the politics of large-scale urban developments and city-wide strategic planning, especially in London, Shanghai and Johannesburg.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Yasminah Beebeejaun

An Associate Professor in the Bartlett School of Planning, Dr Beebeejaun's research focuses on the relationship between spatial planning and ethnic

and gendered identities; community engagement in decision-making; and exploration of the creation of inequalities both within historical and contemporary debates about nationhood, colonialism, and postcolonial society in post-war Britain and North America

Sarah Bell

Director of the Engineering Exchange and Professor of Environment Engineering at UCL's Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, Prof. Bell's research investigates the sustainability of urban water systems, particularly social and policy factors as they relate to engineering. Her work also addresses community engagement with engineering and infrastructure provision.

Claire Colomb

Dr Colomb is a Reader in Planning and Urban Sociology at the Bartlett School of Planning, and Academic Director for Paris in the new UCL Cities partnerships Programme. As a sociologist and urban planner, her research interests span urban governance, policies and politics, European spatial planning, and urban sociology.

Kalliopi Fouseki

Associate Professor at UCL's Institute for Sustainable Heritage, Dr Fouseki's research interests fall within the field of heritage management, including heritage values; heritage, conflict and cultural diplomacy; urban and rural regeneration; and energy efficiency in historic neighbourhoods. Dr Fouseki is also Course Director of the MSc Sustainable Heritage and the Lead for the Heritage Risk and Resilience research strand at ISH.

Alexandre Apsan Frediani

Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani is an Associate Professor in UCL's Development Planning Unit. He is a development planner specialising in squatter settlement upgrading policies and participatory approaches to development. Areas of expertise include human development, housing, urban development, participation and Amartya Sen's Capability Approach.

Haidy Geismar

Professor of Anthropology and co-convenor of the MSc Digital Anthropology, Prof. Geismar's research interests include intellectual and cultural property; indigenous rights; new forms of cultural representation; and the anthropology of art, critical museology and the South Pacific. She is also faculty lead for the development of UCL's new campus in East London, heading up the Culture Lab initiative.

Aris Komporozos-Athanasiou

Joining our Steering Committee in autumn 2018, Dr Komporozos-Athanasiou's research centres on the emergence of new social and political morphologies in finance capitalism. Current projects include a collaboration with Judith Butler and Chiara Bottici exploring the intersection of financialisation and new forms of global fascism. He leads the UCL Sociology & Social Theory Research Group.

Susanne Kuechler

Head of Department at UCL Anthropology, Prof. Kuechler has conducted fieldwork in island Melanesia and Eastern Polynesia. She is an elected fellow of the British Academy and Academy of Social Sciences, Member of the Council

of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fyssen Foundation, and Co-Editor of the Journal of Material Culture. Her current research is on image-based modelling of complexity.

Barbara Lipietz

Lecturer and Course Director for MSc Urban Development Planning at UCL's Development Planning Unit, Dr Lipietz's research work focuses on the politics of urban development planning policies and practices. She convenes the DPU's research cluster on Urban Transformations and is Secretary of the Urban Planning Advisory Group to the UNISDR's Secretary General.

Susan Moore

Dr Susan Moore is Associate Professor in Urban Development and Planning and Programme Director for MSc International Planning in the Bartlett School of Planning. Her research deals with the relational geographies of urban (and suburban) development and built form, specifically the formation of development cultures and the normalisation of 'best practice' in planning and development. Most recently her work explores platform urbanism, and the use of social media in localised participation practices in East London.

Michał Murawski

An anthropologist of architecture and cities based at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, Dr Murawski is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow and Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Critical Area Studies. His work, focusing on Warsaw and Moscow, examines the complex social lives of monumental buildings and on the

architecture and planning of Eastern European communism.

Florian Mussgnug

Reader in Italian and Comparative Literature and convenor of the BA Comparative Literature, Dr Mussgnug's research examines world literature from diverse geographical and cultural angles. He has recently been appointed Academic Director for Rome of the Cities partnerships Programme, a cross-UCL initiative supporting, funding and promoting the work UCL academics carry out with partners in global cities.

James O'Leary

Associate Professor in Architecture and Situated Practice at the Bartlett School of Architecture, James directs the Situated Practice MA. He is also a partner in Kreider + O'Leary—a collaborative pairing who make performance, installation and time-based media work in relation to sites of architectural and cultural interest. His current research explores the contested spaces of the 'peacewalls' in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Kieren Reed

Senior Lecturer and Head of Department at the Slade School of Art, Kieren Reed's practice encompasses sculpture, performance and installation, from studies in form to the production of architectural structures. He has co-lead Urban Lab's Cities Methodologies exhibition programme and the recent Edge symposium series, in collaboration with the Folkestone Triennial 2017.

Rafael Schacter

Dr Rafael Schacter is an anthropologist, author, and curator,

working on issues related to public art, global art, and socially engaged art practice. A lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, he has published several books including the award-winning World Atlas of Street Art and Graffiti (2013) and most recently Street to Studio (2018).

Ava Fatah gen Schieck

Reader in Media Architecture and Urban Digital Interaction, teaches on MSc Architectural Computation —Bartlett School of Architecture. Ava's research is practice based and focuses on Architecture, Interaction Design, and ubiquitous computing (MR, AR and VR). Through urban play, action research and working with local communities, she leads a unique Living 'Media Architecture' Lab since 2011.

Helena Titheridge

Joining our Steering Committee in 2018, Prof. Titheridge is based in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at UCL. Her current research focuses on the social dimensions of sustainability, in particular the links between social exclusion, transport provision and other urban systems.

Michele Acuto
University of Melbourne, Australia

Ipek Akpınar
Istanbul Technical University, Turkey

Stephen Barber
Kingston University, UK

Neil Brenner
Harvard University, United States

Mustafa Dikeç
Ecole d'Urbanisme de Paris

Paul Dobraszczyk
Independent researcher, UK

Michael Edwards
University College London, UK

Adrian Forty
University College London, UK

Bas Van Heur
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Jane Jacobs
Yale-NUS College, Singapore

Roger Keil
York University, Canada

Julia Lossau
Bremen University, Germany

Ayodeji Olukoju
Caleb University, Lagos, Nigeria

Vyjayanthi Rao
The New School, United States

Rebecca Ross
Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, UK

AbdouMaliq Simone
University of Sheffield, UK

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- 2018
- AUTUMN 2018
Urban Laboratory Lecture Series
PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/sets/urban-laboratory-lecture>
- 08 NOV. Urban Lab Films: The Experimental City panel discussion VIDEO <https://youtu.be/SC6DaeZOzUw>
- 08 NOV. Urban Lab Films: The Experimental City programme ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/urban-lab-films-the-experimental-city-programme-notes>
- 17 OCT. Power to the Citizen! PUBLICATION <https://powertothecitizen.com>
- 17 OCT. Counterspeculations: Audio Tour of the City of London PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/sets/counterspeculations>
- 07 SEPT. Film in Place PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/film-in-place>
- 15 AUG. Unmoored Cities: What Speculative Futures Exist for Cities in the Face of Climate Change? BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/unmoored-cities-what-speculative-futures-exist-for-cities-in-the-face-of-climate-change-d8f365764a21>
- 14 JULY Urban Pamphleteer #7: LGBTQ+ Night-time Spaces, Past, Present and Future PUBLICATION <http://urbanpamphleteer.org/lgbtq-night-time-spaces-past-present-future>
- 14 JUNE Animating the Interstice: Protest as a Creative Act on the
- Fringe of the ‘Creative City’ BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/animating-the-interstice-protest-as-a-creative-act-on-the-fringe-of-the-creative-city-ce6902a06962>
- 24 MAY New Town Utopia panel discussion VIDEO <http://dochose.org/online/video/filmed-qna/new-town-utopia-panel-discussion>
- 24 MAY Historian and broadcaster David Olusoga delivers 2018 Cities Imaginaries Lecture on the UK’s ‘Orwellian’ housing situation BLOG <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/events/2018/05/25/david-olusogas-2018-cities-imaginaries-lecture-on-the-uks-orwellian-housing-situation>
- 18 FEB. Queer London Night Scenes TWITTER MOMENT <https://twitter.com/i/moments/963401405900914688>
- 17 JAN. Night Vision ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/about-us/bartlett-review-2017/essays/night-vision>
- 17 JAN. Life on the Edge ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/about-us/bartlett-review-2017/short-stories/life-edge>
- 17 JAN. Space for Education ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/about-us/bartlett-review-2017/essays/space-education>
- 2017
- 30 NOV. Re-orientating the Euro-centric Bias in Planning and Urban Studies BLOG <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/events/2017/11/30/re-orientating-the-euro-centric-bias-in-planning-and-urban-studies>
- 29 NOV. Folkestone on the Border: A Dislocated City Living ‘in-

between’ BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/folkestone-on-the-border-a-dislocated-city-living-in-between-b083a425ce31>

12 OCT. Lessons from Lavani BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/lessons-from-lavani-bdf5289b942e>

25 JULY POWER TO THE CITIZEN! Data and Co-Creation in the Digital City VIDEO <https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/7625>

06 JULY LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006-present PUBLICATION https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/LGBTQ_cultural_infrastructure_in_London_nightlife_venues_2006_to_the_present.pdf

25 MAY Cities of Sleep Panel Discussion VIDEO <http://dochose.org/online/video/filmed-qna/cities-sleep-panel-discussion>

27 APR. Towards a New Vocabulary of Urbanisation PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/christian-schmid-towards-a-new-vocabulary-of-urbanisation>

25 APR. New London Vernacular—Pioneering Urbanity in an Expanding Capital VIDEO <https://vimeo.com/223595672>

16 JAN. Three Years of Urban Pamphleteer ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/review/2016/themes/history/three-years-urban-pamphleteer>

16 JAN. The Power of Unlikely Connections ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/review/2016/themes/place/engaged-urbanism>

16 JAN. Night-time Politics ARTICLE

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/review/2016/themes/equality/night-time-politics>

2016

16 DEC. Timescapes of Urban Change: Postcards from Regeneration in Barcelona and London BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/timescapes-of-urban-change-postcards-from-regeneration-in-barcelona-and-london-e9601bd172f6>

01 DEC. Engaged Urbanism: Cities and Methodologies PUBLICATION <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/research/cities-methodologies/layout-components/engaged-urbanism-cities-and-methodologies>

17 NOV. Urban Pamphleteer #6: Open-source Housing Crisis PUBLICATION <http://urbanpamphleteer.org/open-source-housing-crisis>

08 NOV. LGBTQI Nightlife in London: From 1986 to the Present PUBLICATION https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/LGBTQI_nightlife_in_London_from_1986_to_the_present_-_interim_findings.pdf

15 SEPT. What’s happening to London’s LGBTQI Nightlife Spaces? BLOG <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/events/2016/09/15/whats-happening-to-londons-lgbtqi-nightlife-spaces/>

13 SEPT. Connected Spaces, Controlled Movements: notes from a Brazil-UK exchange at the UCL Urban Laboratory BLOG <https://medium.com/@uclurbanlab/connected-spaces-controlled-movements-notes-from-a-brazil-uk-exchange-at-the-ucl-urban-laboratory-d518a798e927>

16 APR. In Urban Development, Universities Can Be Better Neighbours ARTICLE <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/urban-development-universities-can-be-better-neighbours>

16 FEB. Soho Spirit: Our Space or a Space in Our Minds? PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/sets/soho-spirit>

26 JAN. Beyond the Red Line: How Are Universities Re-imagining Cities? PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/beyond-the-red-line-how-are-universities-re-imagining-cities>

2015

15 SEPT. Urban Pamphleteer #5: Global Education for Urban Futures PUBLICATION <http://urbanpamphleteer.org/global-education-for-urban-futures>

15 SEPT. Case Studies in University-Led Urban Regeneration PUBLICATION <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/research/university-regeneration>

01 JULY Virtual Control: Security and the Urban Imagination BLOG <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/events/2015/07/17/virtual-control-security-and-the-urban-imagination>

22 JUNE The Case of Robin Hood Gardens PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/sets/the-case-of-robin-hood-gardens>

15 MAY Reactivating the Social Condenser! Architecture Against Privation PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/sets/reactivating-the-social>

15 MAY Ben Campkin on Regeneration and ‘Imaginations of Decline’ PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/ben-campkin-regeneration-decline>

30 APR. Urban Lab Films: Nights in the Electric City Programme ARTICLE <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab/docs/NITEC-programme.pdf>

15 MAR. Matthew Beaumont On Nightwalking PODCAST <https://soundcloud.com/uclurbanlab/nightwalking>

We work with a wide range of organisations beyond the academy. Key partnerships over this period include:

ArchFilmFest London
 Bertha DocHouse
 Creative Folkestone / Folkestone Triennial
 Department of Visual Culture at Goldsmiths, University of London
 Economic and Social Research Council
 Free Word
 Institut d'études avancées de Paris
 Museum of London
 Open City Documentary Festival
 Radar at Loughborough University
 Relmagine Value Action Lab at Lakehead University
 Somerset House
 University of Gothenburg

The Museum of London was delighted to partner with UCL Urban Laboratory during our City Now City Future season (2017–18). This partnership encompassed a range of activities that brought a diversity of voices, critical research, and activist attitudes into our public programmes around LGBTQ+ Night time spaces —from queer night salons and oral history roundtables to the opportunity to support Urban Pamphleteer #7. Thank you for working with us!

Lauren Parker
 Head of Creative Partnerships,
 Museum of London

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UCL Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment
 UCL Engineering
 UCL Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences
 UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities

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UCL Bartlett Visiting Fellowships
 UCL Beacon Bursaries
 UCL Global Engagement Fund
 UCL Grand Challenges Small Grants

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 CONICYT
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 The Leverhulme Trust
 UCL ChangeMakers
 UCL Cities partnerships Programme
 UCL Grand Challenge of Cultural Understanding
 UCL Grand Challenge of Transformative Technology
 UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

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