

# STUDENT INTRO

# URBAN

# LAB



**UCL Urban Laboratory is a world-leading cross-disciplinary centre promoting critical, creative and collaborative inquiry into urgent urban problems**

Formed with the intention of bringing together the best urban teaching and research at UCL, the centre investigates, proposes, and disseminates critical solutions to a wide range of social, physical and technological urban and built environment issues, with a focus on the grand challenges of our time.

We currently operate through the prism of eight priority areas, each led by one of our Co-Directors or Director:

**Feminist Cities**

**Globalising Urbanisms**

**Housing Urbanism**

**Queer Infrastructure**

**Urban Heritage**

**Urban Nights**

**Urban Verticality**

**Wasteland**

We also run regular lectures, seminars, workshops, exhibitions and performances - the vast majority of which are free and open to the public.

Find out more at [ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab](http://ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab) and subscribe to our newsletter at [bit.ly/urbancircular](http://bit.ly/urbancircular)

Emergency: 2020-21 annual theme:

This year the world has been engulfed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to measures controlling and restricting movement of populations across urban and rural areas. These new rules will fundamentally alter our interactions as an academic community on and off campus during the coming year.

But this is not the only global emergency in recent times to have particular implications for urbanism – from the climate emergency to terrorism, war and political conflict to financial crises, and policing and activism. The aim of this year’s annual theme is to explore the characteristics and consequences of ‘emergency urbanism’ in its different forms, through a series of online/hybrid format events, research, and a small grants scheme for project proposals from both students and staff.

Find out more: [bit.ly/emergency-theme](http://bit.ly/emergency-theme)



Upcoming events and publications include:

### **Black Urbanisms podcast series**

Our new podcast series delves into the topic of ‘Black Urbanisms’. What does this term mean in a historic and contemporary sense, and how do geographies of the Black presence around the world alter its relevance and practice? How can we better understand or design cities through a theory of Black Urbanism?

Launching on Thursday 22 October, and available to listen on Soundcloud, Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

### **Cities Imaginaries annual lecture**

Cities Imaginaries is UCL Urban Laboratory's activity strand encompassing the curation and creation of cultural representations of cities and urban life. Previous annual lectures have been delivered by high-profile cultural figures, including David Olusoga, Urvashi Butalia and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

On Thursday 26 November we will host the curator, cultural historian, broadcaster and director of V&A East, Gus Casely-Hayford. Further details to be announced.

### **Urban Lab Films**

Public programme of screenings on cities, urbanisation and life in urban societies, using film as documentation or provocation, to tell stories, and prompt debate. Earlier this year we produced an online collection of films from the first nine years of our programme, available to [watch at home](#).

In collaboration with London’s leading documentary cinema Bertha DocHouse, we are organising to host a new online film series in November 2020, free and accessible to students worldwide (rights issues pending). Keep an eye out!

See: [ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/films](https://ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/films)

### **Urban Pamphleteer**

Publication series drawing on the radical history of pamphleteering to stimulate debates on important urban questions. Our most recent issue gathers diverse perspectives on skateboarding. Past issues have looked at smart cities, regeneration in London, urban security design, heritage and renewal in Doha, urban education, open source solutions to the UK housing crisis, and LGBTQ+ night-time spaces.

Read online for free: [urbanpamphleteer.org](https://urbanpamphleteer.org)



## **Masters module: Histories of Global London**

Urban Lab runs two elective modules in the second term, open to all UCL masters students. The course takes London as a primary case study to understand how the city's built environment has been shaped by its global connections and associated population flows, from 1900 to the present.

See: [ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/study/postgraduate](https://ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/study/postgraduate)

## **PhD/MPhil affiliation**

If you are a postgraduate research student and would like to be affiliated with the Urban Laboratory - and have a link to your work or an abstract posted on the Urban Laboratory website - please complete the affiliation form on our website. Affiliated students have priority registration for our PhD workshops and are kept informed of our other activities and opportunities.

See: [ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/study/mphilphd](https://ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/study/mphilphd)

## Connect with us

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## Contacts

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For details of other staff members associated with the Urban Laboratory in your departments, including members from Anthropology, the Bartlett School of Planning, Civil Engineering, Slade School of Fine Art, and SSEES, visit [ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/people](https://ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/people)

