

# Researching (in) the City

*Embeddedness, Relations  
+ Collaborations*



SHU\_Architecture

## AHRA PhD Symposium 2021

Sheffield Hallam University *School of Architecture*

**Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1st April 2021**

(online)

The AHRA PhD Symposium 2021, hosted by Sheffield Hallam University School of Architecture, seeks to ask how architectural research might be embedded within different organisations, places and networks in multiple ways, thus beginning to redefine the role of such research and its relationship to the city. While embedded and ethnographic methods have become more widespread, we see potential in further exploring the particular approaches, relations, networks and collaborations that emerge from socio-spatial studies within or between urban organisations, agencies, Municipalities and groups. We welcome contributions from PhD students in architecture, urbanism, landscape and related disciplines to share the methodologies, experiences, challenges and potentials of research across but within the city.

The symposium is delivered through collaboration with 4 organisations from Sheffield and Leeds with whom we have a relation, with each 'hosting' one of the 4 themes of the symposium and to which we invite contributions:

**Practices / Care**

**Spaces / Memory**

**Ecologies / Constellations**

**Economies / Dreaming**

The themes are not prescriptive, and we look forward to exploring the many overlaps between them. They will be used to inform workshops on day 2 with the local organisations.

### **Invited Speakers**

Prof. Tatjana Schneider (TU Braunschweig)

Dr Suzanne Hall (LSE)

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words to

[ahra.phd.symposium2021@shu.ac.uk](mailto:ahra.phd.symposium2021@shu.ac.uk)

**Deadline 15th January 2021**

Please identify 2 of the above themes in order of preference that you feel your work speaks to.

### **Outline Schedule**

#### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

8 parallel sessions of pre-recorded presentations will run online, with live discussion following the talks.

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

SHU\_Architecture PhD students and tutors, with the host organisations, will run workshops with participants from each node, revisiting themes from the PhD student presentations in relation to the organisations concerns and experiences.

### **Practices/ Care** with SADACCA

<https://www.sadacca.co.uk/>

To care is to recognise our interdependence and precarity in relation to one another. What are the (public) spaces of care within our cities, landscapes and streets? How can we recognise them and support such practices to flourish across difference and what role might collaborative research have in this? What does it mean both personally and institutionally, to open ourselves to others, or to establish practices and ethics of care? What knowledges and subjectivities are required? Sheffield and District African and Caribbean Association has a long history in the city of Sheffield, established in the 1950s, by first generation African and Caribbean members of the local community, as an important social space. Its current programme includes elder care, a library with the experiences, contributions and journeys of people of African descent, work around mental health, and programmes to support young entrepreneurs establish themselves.

## **Spaces / Memory** with East Street Arts

[www.eaststreetarts.org.uk](http://www.eaststreetarts.org.uk)

We are interested in the kinds of space that embedded research might reveal and/or produce; to consider the spatialises at different scales of such approaches. How are spaces produced (Lefebvre, Massey) through research practices, and what are their characteristics? East Street Arts in Leeds is an arts organisation that works at a national level to find and transform different kinds of spaces for artists, including studios, galleries, live/work spaces, print workshops and community spaces. ESA are also interested in questions of archives, and their role in the operation of the organisation and the production of space that it enacts. Therefore we append Space with Memory to encourage contributions that might speak to the relation of these terms through analysis of embedded research in the city.

## **Ecologies / Constellations** with Regather Cooperative

<https://regather.net/>

Embedded spatial research practices situate themselves in existing relations between organisations, spaces, infrastructures, and various flows (economic, labour, knowledge etc). Drawing on contemporary ecological thinking (Tsing, Haraway, Guattari) we invite contributions that interrogate the ecosystems that embedded research both reveals and generates. We also introduce the term *constellations* to this node, as a way to think relationally otherwise, since constellations have for centuries been used to tell stories, frame myths and hold things together across different scales and temporalities. Regather Cooperative in Sheffield is a social enterprise as an ecosystem that includes a farm, orchard, community apple press, agroforestry project, veg box scheme, and community venue.

## **Economies/ Dreaming** with Foodhall

<https://www.foodhallproject.org/>

What role can the imagination play in thinking with others? How can we move beyond seemingly inescapable constructs such as capitalism, that shape our understandings of what the spaces in which we live, work and play are and can be? Can we understand our disillusionment with current solutions, not as a dearth of hope, but as a point of opportunity for radical shifts beyond what we take for granted? (Androtti). Can we dream with others, and what are the organisations, or spaces that support this? Feminist economic geographers have drawn attention to the many ways in which we sustain ourselves that are outside of or beyond capitalism, wage labour and the market economy, that may offer more ethical and just forms of relation (Gibson-Graham, Healy). What role does research have within this picture? Foodhall is a pay-as-you feel cafe and social space that is working to extend forms of mutuality and non-hierarchical forms of sociality. They are also convening publics to establish a National Food Service that would position food as a basic right, and one which should be enjoyed with others.

## Brief Selected Bibliography

- Andreotti, Vanessa. "(re) imagining education as an un-coercive re-arrangement of desires." *Other Education* 5, no. 1, 2016. pp 79-88.
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