



UmArts Symposium: Centring Arts Research

Wednesday 10 November 2021

Online Presentations: 09.30-12.00 CET

Live in the UMA Auditorium: 12.00 – 15.30 CET

Umeå School of Architecture, Arts Campus, Umeå University.

- 9.30am **Welcome address:**
Dieter Müller, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Umeå University
Ele Carpenter, Director UmArts
Chair: Bodil Formark, UmArts Research Support & Collaboration
- 09.45 – 10.30 **Research Infrastructures & Ideas:** Presentations x 3 (10 min talk + 4 mins Q&A)
Richard Julin, Artistic Director, Accelerator, Stockholm, Sweden
Kristen Krieder, Head of School, The Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, UK
Rowan Bailey, Director, Centre for Cultural Ecologies University of Huddersfield, UK
- 10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break
- 10.45 – 11.30 **Research Infrastructures & Ideas:** Presentations (10 min talk + 4 mins Q&A)
Lise Autogena, Director ADMRC, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
Roberto Bresin, NAVET, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden
Christian Skovbjerg Jensen, Director of Inter Arts Centre, Lund University, Sweden
- 11.30 – 12.00 Panel discussion with all presenters.
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-13.30 **Practice based Infrastructures:** Live Presentations
Sandi Halil and Alessandro Petti, Decolonising Architecture, Palestine/Sweden
- 13.30-14.00 UmArts Presentations: (10 min talk + 4 mins Q&A)
Robert Mull, The Global Free Unit, Turkey/Sweden
Toms Kokins, Sweden's Timber Empire, Latvia/Sweden
- 14.00-15.00 Coffee and Discussion
- 15.00-15.30 Plenary



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

UmArts

Introduction

How do we support knowledge producing practices across the arts, design and architecture within, and in partnership with, university research structures? How can we rethink and expand the idea of the Arts Research Centre? What are the key questions and themes for critically engaged artistic research today?

Interdisciplinary Arts Research Centres are setting up new infrastructures for supporting and developing practice-based research in the visual arts, design, and architecture; and between the arts, humanities and sciences. This symposium will bring together different approaches to forming Art Research Centres across Europe to consider the opportunities to support critically engaged practice through academic research agendas. We will consider how these research infrastructures are built through partnerships between artists, academia and contemporary art spaces, to enable many forms of dissemination and impact from social engagement, publishing and exhibition making.

Speakers include: Lise Autogena, Director of the Art, Design and Media Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University; Rowan Bailey, Director of the Centre for Cultural Ecologies in Art, Design and Architecture, University of Huddersfield; Roberto Bresin, NAVET, KTH, Stockholm; Richard Julin, Artistic Director, Accelerator, in partnership with Stockholm University; Kristen Krieder, Head of School, The Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, UK; and Christian Skovbjerg Jensen, Director of Inter Arts Centre, Lund University, Sweden.

The symposium will foreground practice-based research platforms addressing colonialism, migration and empire with presentations by Sandi Halil and Alessandro Petti, Decolonising Architecture, Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, alongside researchers within UmArts including Robert Mull and the Global Free Unit, and Toms Kokins work on Sweden's contemporary Timber Empire.

We hope that this event will be the start of an Arts Research Centre Network, to share good practice, research methodologies, common challenges, and develop new funding collaborations.

Ele Carpenter
Director of UmArts



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Um...arts

Speakers

Lise Autogena is Head of the Art, Design and Media Research Centre (ADMRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. Part of the Culture and Creativity Research Institute, led by Director David Cotterrell. ADMRC is an established centre of excellence that foregrounds creative, arts-led approaches to applied research that interacts with and transforms society and culture. Researchers are involved in the development of new methods and techniques for research which have produced new insights in the creation of designs, works of art, film and media that contribute to social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being regionally, nationally and internationally. Research activity takes place across three broad domains: Creative Practices in Health and Wellbeing; Physical and Digital Making: Theory and Practice and Social, Cultural and Philosophical Narratives.

www.shu.ac.uk/art-design-media-research-centre

Lise is an artist and Professor of Cross Disciplinary Art. Her practice-led research has involved large scale performances, site-specific works, and multimedia installations, usually developed in collaboration with organisations and individuals across many specialist fields. These projects have used custom built technologies and visualisations of global realtime data to explore how the economic, geographic, technological and societal systems we are creating, impact on our human experience and sense of self in the world. Lise is currently establishing Narsaq International Research Station in Greenland www.autogena.org/narsaqresearchstation.g

Rowan Bailey is Director of the Centre for Cultural Ecologies in Art, Design and Architecture (CEADA), University of Huddersfield, UK. CEADA works across the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Huddersfield and is primarily focused on ecologies of creative research practice. 'Cultural Ecologies' not only embraces new strategies of production through aesthetic, technological, geopolitical and social exchange, it also actively engages place-based making approaches to arts and culture within the public realm. This includes co-productive collaborations with local councils, arts and cultural organisations, community groups and creative practitioners at all stages of career. Temporary Contemporary is one project within the centre that takes a place-based approach to creative and cultural production. <https://research.hud.ac.uk/institutescentres/ceada/>

Rowan is a cultural theorist and practitioner, who has research interests in feminist new materialisms and brainbodily thinking, ecologies of place-based practices in the public realm, sculptural thinking across the arts and sciences. She is also Director of Graduate Education in the School of Arts and Humanities overseeing a portfolio of research degrees (MAs and PhDs) in the fields of art, design, architecture, fashion and textiles, creative writing, music, history, English literature, cultural studies and linguistics.



Um...arts

Roberto Bresin is Director of NAVET, a new research centre at KTH, Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. NAVET's goal is to become a meeting place for research and projects in the intersection of art, technology and design, with the purpose of facilitating and creating opportunities for exchange and research collaboration among artists, designers, engineers, humanists, natural and social scientists. NAVET's vision is that Sweden should have a leading position in the intersectional area Art, Technology and Design, with a practical and critical approach that stimulates research, innovation, creativity, and the development of a sustainable society. NAVET wants to put the human in the centre, which also implies to question what the human is in an age of technology. www.kth.se/navet

Roberto's research interests are expressive music performance, emotion in sound and music performance, sound in interaction, and sonification. He is Professor of Media Technology at the [Division of Media Technology and Interaction Design \(MID\)](#), [School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science \(EECS\)](#), since 2014, and heads the [Sound and Music Computing group](#). He is also the Director of Studies (Programansvarig) for the [Degree Programme in Media Technology](#).

Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti are part of the architectural collective DAAR (Decolonising Architecture Art Research). Sandi is Professor at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Lund University, Alessandro is Professor in Architecture and Social Justice, Decolonising Architecture, Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm.

DAAR combines conceptual speculations and pragmatic spatial interventions, discourse and collective learning. Their artistic research is situated between politics, architecture, art and pedagogy. In their practice art exhibitions are both sites of display and sites of action that spill over into other contexts: built architectural structures, the shaping of critical learning environments, interventions that challenge dominant collective narratives, the production of new political imaginations, the formation of civic spaces and the re-definition of concepts. www.decolonizing.ps

Alessandro Petti also co-leads the Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Studies series of postmaster courses, public seminars, field studies, publications, and discursive exhibitions that together form a platform for education and research at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. <https://www.daas.academy/>

Richard Julin is the first artistic director of the cross-disciplinary contemporary art exhibition venue Accelerator that opened in 2019. Accelerator is an exhibition space where art, science and societal issues meet. It is part of Stockholm University. The mission of Accelerator is to engage actively with society, producing exhibitions of international and Swedish contemporary art.

Accelerator's programme is driven by an ambition to contribute towards a transparent and empathetic society by opening up opportunities for art to spark discussions and interdisciplinary dialogue. In the Art + Research programme, Accelerator's artistic team collaborates with researchers



UmArts

whose work relates to current issues and themes explored in the exhibitions. The collaboration results in a public programme comprising lectures, discussions and seminars in which artists, researchers, students and the general public are invited to participate.

<https://acceleratorsu.art/en/>

Richard Julin has taught on the International MA in Curating Art at Stockholm university since its inception in 2003.

Toms Kokins is a practicing architect and a lecturer at Umeå School of Architecture where he is responsible for Studio 1 “Carftopia. Exploring building cultures”. Both in praxis and research Toms is interested in developing resource conscious and context specific architectural tools and methods, that can empower local communities. His work ranges from individual architecture commissions to public space strategies for municipalities in Latvia and international multidisciplinary live project workshops engaging students, professionals and local communities. He is currently researching resource driven colonization in contemporary Europe, focusing on Sweden’s expanding industrial forests. This project is also supported as an UmArts Small Visionary Project. <https://www.umarts.se/>

Kristen Krieder established the MARs Mountain of Art Research at Goldsmiths University of London to develop a lively research environment within the Department of Art including over forty new doctoral researchers. She has recently taken up the role of Professor and Head of The Ruskin School of Art at the University of Oxford, where research through art making is entwined with research about contemporary art, each mode of enquiry enriching the other within the larger context of a world-leading, research-intensive university. Research is at the heart of the Ruskin's activities across the disciplines of fine art practice, curatorship, criticism and art history. The Ruskin’s dynamic, interdisciplinary structure allows artists and theorists to work closely together and to respond quickly and flexibly to developments within the wider contexts of art, academia and an increasingly uncertain international climate. In particular, they aim to lead by example in artistic research that intersects with politics, psychology, philosophy, and medical sciences. <https://www.rsa.ox.ac.uk/research>

Kristen is a writer and artist who works in collaboration with the architect James O’Leary to engage with sites of architectural and cultural interest through performance, installation and time-based media. Her research stems from an interest in the poetics of thought, its materialization as form, and a concern with how artworks relate to the world.



UmArts

Robert Mull is Professor of Architecture and Design at the University of Brighton and Visiting Professor at Umeå University where he is developing the [Global Free Unit](#) where architecture engages with global challenges such as climate change, equality, diversity, scarcity, and displacement. At Umeå School of Architecture, Robert Mull is working with Amalia Katapodis and Sangram Shirke to research how displaced populations establish and maintain their identity and wellbeing whilst in transit and during the process of permanent settlement. They are working in the Turkish City of Izmir where Syrian refugees have become trapped following the 2016 EU- Turkey deal. With students from Umeå University and local partners they are using participatory methods to design and build a classroom on the roof of TIAFI Community Centre which provides practical and educational support to Syrian woman and children. The project is also being supported as an UmArts Small Visionary Project <https://www.umarts.se/>

Christian Skovbjerg Jensen is Director of the Inter Arts Centre (IAC) a platform for artistic research and experimentation, and part of the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts at Lund University. It acts as a meeting place and a work space for researchers and artists from various disciplines and backgrounds, who use the facilities for their projects. IAC also offers several residency programmes in cooperation with partner institutions. <http://www.iac.lu.se/>

Christian is a curator working with the intersection of arts, science and technology, both in his role as Director of Inter Arts Center and as a practicing curator. His interests lie in performance, sound-based art and public art, and the development of practice based artistic research. He has organized and curated a wide range of public art projects and exhibitions, such as Sid Ned! (2006) and TUMULT (2010). Later he was one of the curators of the 6th Momentum Biennial (2011) and at the moment he is working on the research-based exhibition project Sites, sounds and screens - new approaches to sites, locality and technology in collaboration with KØS - Museum of art in public spaces.

www.umarts.se



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY