

Department of Critical and Historical Studies Research Students

Introduction to PhD study in the Department

Archival Practices - Art History and Critical Theory - Contemporary Art History and Theory – Craft - Curating - Design History and Material culture – Film, Photography & Performance History and Theory - Heritage, Museum and Galleries - Media and Culture – Visual and Material Culture

Research in the Department of Critical and Historical Studies is located physically and intellectually in the creative art school environment of the Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture. We focus on the modern and the contemporary, cultures of display and curating, and collaborate with various institutions, organizations, archives and collections.

The Department supports innovative approaches to PhD research and our students engage with the full spectrum of thesis modes from the classic 80,000 word thesis to those including varying degrees of practice such as art, design or film work, archival, curatorial or publication projects. The written element is adjusted according to the balance between practice, history and theory and its length will be agreed in consultation with your supervisors as your research progresses.

The Department has two University accredited Research Centres of Excellence – The Modern Interiors Research Centre and The Visual & Material Culture Research Centre. All of our PhD students are a part of one or both of these research communities according to subject focus. Please see the links below for further details of our current and graduated PhD students and potential supervisors for your selected area of study:

- The Modern Interiors Research Centre (MIRC)
<http://fada.kingston.ac.uk/research/modern-interiors-research-centre/>
- The Visual & Material Culture Research Centre (VMCRC)
<http://fada.kingston.ac.uk/research/visual-and-material-culture-research-centre/>

Kingston University also has its own galleries that are open to proposals for research collaboration and events:

- [Dorich House Museum](#) (near to our Kingston Hill campus)
- [Stanley Picker Gallery](#) (on Knights Park campus)

The Stanley Picker Gallery is dedicated to innovative new practice across art, design and architecture. Housing modernist design and art collections, Dorich House Museum is 'one of Kingston's hidden treasures'.

Current PhD students in the Department:

Ben Angwin, Maria Aroni, Michael Borozdin-Bidnell, Laura Elliott, Lucia Farinati, Gareth Fletcher, Fuller, Rachel Fuller, Robert Garnett, Sarah Hayward, Nina Holmes, Marianne Keating, Neville Knott, Pirkko Koppinen, Christina Lambrou, Donna Loveday, Amber Lamonby-Pennie, Meakin, Kerry Katya Micallef, Joana P. B. Neves, Kaja Pawelak, Anne Pfautsh, Lucia Savi, Catherine Sidwell, Stephanie Stroh, Rachel Van Greuning, Vanessa Vanden Bergh

Past students:

Mary Pearce, Valerie Webb, Michael Robinson, Daniel Palmer, Emma Ferry, Anthony Escott, Keren Protheroe, John Russell, Judith Carmel-Arthur, Fiona Fisher, Lisa Hockemeyer, Patricia Lara-Betancourt, Hazel Frizell, Julia Parker, Hannah Rumball, Harriet Mckay, Fred Vermorel, Olivia Fryman, Pat Wheaton, Anthea Winterburn, Ruth Debney, Kathryn Baird, Rahat Masud, David Cowlard, Jim Backhouse, Juliette Kristensen, Mercy Kagia, Sarah Zaidan, John Keefe, Rosalind McKeever, Ann Rau Dawes, Fran Carter, Maria Costantino, Lyanne Holcombe, Jonathan

Stafford, Claudia Marfella, Aleksandra Zavjalova, Alice Planel, Lina Stergiou, Jane Wildgoose, Yoshiko Shimada, Eliza Tan, Alexandra Reynolds, Paddy O'Shea, Patrick O'Neill, Karima Al Sholemy, Sancha Briffa

PhD application guide

In submitting your PhD application, please provide the following:

1. Research proposal (not more than 1500 words)

The most important element of your application for a research degree is your research proposal. If you are invited for an interview, the proposal will be used as the basis for discussion. You will also be asked to make a verbal and visual presentation of the content of your proposal. Your proposal will establish your reasons for undertaking a research degree.

You may, if you wish, use the headings below to define the sections of your proposal or you may use them as a checklist for the contents of a proposal presented in a different way. Do not feel that you need to express your thinking using dense or 'academic' language unless that seems appropriate.

Title: This should express the main area of enquiry, imply its questions and potential argument. While being a working title, which will inevitably change over time, it is important that you are as specific and precise as possible. The title should be brief, and reflect the main question or preoccupations of the project.

Subject area: Define briefly your subject area and field(s) of enquiry, including if your project combines disciplines.

Research questions, aims and objectives: State the research question(s) of the project and the main concerns of the investigation, including a set of aims and objectives that will guide your research. It is worth thinking through this section in detail to ensure that the PhD is manageable. If your proposal is practice-based or has a practice element, use this section to explain the practice you wish to engage with and how it might be assessed as research (e.g. through film, exhibition etc).

You may find it helpful to think about the main concerns of the project as questions you are asking, to which you hope to find the answer. If you find it difficult to articulate your aims and objectives you might find it helpful to think of your aim as the most significant questions or problems you hope to tackle. Your objectives are the steps by which you will meet this aim.

Your proposal should usually have one or two aims, followed by a series of around 4 objectives. The idea is that by the time you have met all your objectives, you should have achieved your aim. Breaking down your project into objectives, should help you develop an initial work plan.

Context: It is essential to identify the contemporary and historical work – scholarly and practical - that relates to your field of investigation. This helps to:

- show that you are aware of the field in which you are working
- demonstrate that your proposed research will have a distinct feature which will make it potentially original
- form the basis of links with other research work to which you will contribute or on which you will build

Please include reference to your own previous work in the subject area, and state how this new project builds on what you have done before. In the case of practice-based work please include images and/or specific links to websites.

Theoretical context: There is a great choice of options in this area; none of them exclusive. An element of theoretical context is important for every kind of project, though the degree of will vary, particularly for practice-based work. A theoretical context helps to support your knowledge claims and avoid assertions.

Methodology: Your method is the way you go about conducting your research. It can also be thought of as the way of finding and ordering evidence in support of your knowledge claims or argument. You may need different method for different objectives. Your research method and approach will need to be indicated and in practice-based areas of study you may like to think about the following:

- try to describe the basic methods and procedures you will adopt in discovering and recording research information
- if it has a practice-based element, how does the theory relate to the practical experimentation? What is the theory for? What process of experimentation will you use?
- how will you record what you do and keep track of what you have done?

Work plan: Outline what you see as the major stages of the work (probably not more than 5) and the minor subdivisions (if appropriate). If aspects of the research will run concurrently, in what order do the different Objectives need to be approached?

Format of final submission: What shape do you see the PhD having? For example:

- Written thesis: Max 80,000 words in length
- Scholarly edition / Catalogue + written component: (c30,000 words approx.)
- Creative practice + written component: (E.g. film, exhibition, archive + c20-40,000 words)

We have no proscribed length for the written component of a practice-based PhD as this depends upon what each PhD needs and the above are indicative only.

2. Sources/bibliography

Please list the main reference works which you will use for your research, as you perceive it at this stage (normally no more than 1 page of A4). These may be films, paintings, TV programmes, curated collections or websites as well as books or journal articles and any archives or other collections of primary material. You can use the Harvard referencing system for all of these, as follows: surname(s) of author(s) / editor(s), initials, date of publication (in brackets) title and sub-title (if any), volume / series and issue number (if any), edition (if not the first), place of publication (if known), publisher.

3. Kingston University postgraduate application form

Please send applications to fadaresearch-enterprise@kingston.ac.uk
MARK YOUR APPLICATION "FOR C&HS"

Who to contact for further advice

For specific queries on preparing your proposal and documentation contact:

Dr. Jana Scholze, Director of Postgraduate Research in the Department of Critical & Historical Studies. J.Scholze@kingston.ac.uk

Detailed information on general aspects of research degrees in the Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture at Kingston University (e.g. fees, duration of study, word count) is available at these two weblinks:

http://fada.kingston.ac.uk/research/degrees/research_degrees.php
<http://www.kingston.ac.uk/research/postgraduate-research/>

If your enquiry is about the application process or funding availability and deadlines or you have made an application and would like an update on its progress please contact our Faculty Research Office e.day@kingston.ac.uk

If you have specific questions about research degrees in The Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture contact: **Professor Fran Lloyd**, Faculty Director of Postgraduate Research
F.Lloyd@kingston.ac.uk