

Project Reference: CTE_DDRC_Troiani_001_25-26

About the Project

This is an exciting PhD opportunity within the College of Technology and Environment (CTE) at London South Bank University (LSBU). The successful candidate will receive a tuition fee waiver beginning in September 2025 for 4 years, including the write-up year.

Project Title

Social Network and Spatial Production Studies: Using Creative Digital Technologies

Project Overview

The School of Architecture & Planning invites proposals for a PhD project investigating the creative use of digital technologies including filmmaking, photography, computational diagramming, or techno-ethnography to generate retrospective and future archives mapping how individuals and their social groups in architectural design or a related design field, , in any country in the world, create and impact on post-WW2 urban and rural architectures and landscapes.

The proposal should focus on specific local, national, or transnational knowledge exchanges with select actors that map the theoretical or built production, maintenance, restoration, and conservation of associated built/environmental elements.

Exploring the space between minorities and majorities from the Global South and Global North who are design producers in disciplines including, but not exclusively, architecture, town planning, film, photography, and digital drawing could be explored.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to propose projects that:

- develop their own creative methodological design practices in theoretical or practice-based PhD research;
- locates critical moments and patterns of social and labour justice and injustice related to gender, class, race etc., anywhere in the world;
- expand their own and Troiani's individual or collaborative research on the social production of space and parity in design (Refer to the reference list below);
- publicly exhibit their research digitally or physically in an open exchange with users and the greater public.

The proposed research should align with the is a new interdisciplinary university-wide research centre addressing local, national, and global opportunities and challenges related to digitalisation and datafication. The Digital x Data Research Centre encourages an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach, drawing from science and technology, the arts and humanities. For more details refer to: <https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/centres-groups/digital-and-data-research-centre>

Who Are We Looking For?

- Open to any UK or international candidates. Starting in September 2025.
- The candidate must meet the minimum entry requirements for our PhD programme by clicking the '[Apply](#)' link.
- Applicants should have an academic or professional background in architecture, urban design, spatial planning, or a related field.
- Previous research experience—academic or practice-based—in design history is highly desirable but not essential.

- Candidates should be motivated to explore interdisciplinary research approaches, drawing on design and visual culture studies.
- Candidates with experience in qualitative or practice-led methods, including oral histories, photographic surveying, filmic research, etc., are encouraged to apply.
- An interdisciplinary mindset and openness to ethnographic, auto-ethnographic, or reflective practice methods will strengthen your application.
- We welcome applicants interested in rethinking architectural production through the lens of social networks and their associated power relations.

Selection Criteria:

- Academic Qualifications - You should normally have at least a 2.1 honours degree from a UK University or an equivalent qualification in architecture, urban design, planning etc.
- Research and Analytical Skills – Ability to research subjects using libraries, the internet, and other information resources, ability to conduct comprehensive literature reviews, experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, strong research design and methodology skills, ability to independently collaborate with stakeholders, and excellent academic writing and communication skills.
- Professional Skills - Project management and organisational skills, ability to work independently and as part of a team, problem-solving and critical thinking skills, and adaptability and willingness to learn new skills.
- Software and Modelling Experience - Experience developing and utilising spreadsheet-based models (e.g., Microsoft Excel) to an advanced level. Experience with other software packages relevant to the discipline would be an advantage.
- Communication Skills - The candidate should be highly motivated, able to collaborate, have good visual, oral, and written communication skills, and communicate the work's outcomes to commercial, industrial, and scientific audiences.
- Teamwork and Collaboration - Ability to work with industrial and academic supervisors.
- Language Proficiency - Overseas applicants must have a minimum English language IELTS score of 6.5, with at least 5.5 in any of the components.
- Understanding of Equality and Diversity - Able to demonstrate an understanding of equality and diversity and their practical applications.
- Visa and Legal Requirements - Non-EU/EEA nationals may need to apply to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for clearance from the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS).

Training & Development Opportunities

Doctoral students at London South Bank University ([LSBU](#)), through the London Doctoral College ([LDC](#)), benefit from a rich and structured training environment designed to support academic excellence and professional development. All PhD candidates are offered a comprehensive programme of workshops and seminars covering essential research skills, including research design, data analysis, academic writing, ethics, and project management. These sessions aim to support students through every stage of their doctoral journey—from literature review and methodology to thesis completion and viva preparation. Postgraduate researchers can access advanced, discipline-specific training aligned with their research focus. LSBU's doctoral training environment is designed to build deep expertise in a chosen research area and the broader skills necessary for successful careers in research, industry, and beyond.

About the College

The College of Technology and Environment (CTE) at London South Bank University (LSBU) is a newly formed academic college, launched in January following the university's recent reorganisation. Led by Executive Dean Professor Chris Harty, CTE brings together four schools: Architecture & Planning, Construction, Property & Surveying, Engineering & Design, and Computer Science & Digital Technologies. The college fosters a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment, addressing the complex challenges of the built and digital environments. CTE strongly emphasises research, with doctoral students playing a key role in shaping and contributing to the college's research agenda.

CTE prepares students to become future leaders through innovation, industry partnerships, and a commitment to sustainability. With a focus on real-world impact and academic excellence, the college is set to drive forward LSBU's vision of delivering applied knowledge that transforms lives and communities locally and globally. The university has five centres, and any academic staff and students in the college can join. These research centres are described below.

For Enquiry

Contact Person

Before applying, please contact the main supervisor, **Professor Igea Troiani** (PhD), Head of the School of Architecture and Planning at LSBU. Co-supervisors include Professor Geoff Cox (PhD) , Professor of Art and Computational Culture at LSBU and Dr Elisavet Hasa Lecturer in Architectural Design at LSBU.

E-mail: igea.troiani@lsbu.ac.uk

In your email, include:

- Details of your current level of study and academic background.
- A summary of any relevant experience.
- A brief paragraph about your motivation for pursuing this PhD project.

Fee Waiver

The fee waiver is available for 4 years (48 months), including the writing-up year, examination period, and submission of the corrected thesis.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted via the programme page using the link below:

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/architecture-phd>

You should upload the project statement (proposal), qualifications, CV, and other relevant documentation to the application portal. Remember to state the correct reference number and the appropriate supervisor.

List of References

- Troiani, I. (2024) *Work-life Balance in Architecture: Playing the Game*, London: Routledge. ISBN HBK: 978-0-815-39218-7.
- Troiani, I. and S. Ewing eds. (2021) *Visual Research Methods in Architecture*, Chicago, Bristol: The University of Chicago Press/Distributed by Intellect Ltd. ISBN: HBK 978-1-789-38186-3.
- Troiani, I. and Ewing, S. eds. and authors. (2021) *Spaces of Tolerance*, London: Routledge, 2021) ISBNs: HBK 978-0-367-67665-0.
- Troiani, I. ed. and author and H. Campbell eds. (2019) *Architecture Filmmaking*, Chicago, Bristol: The University of Chicago Press/Distributed by Intellect Ltd. ISBN: 978-1-783-20994-1.
- Troiani, I. and Zaman, Q. M. eds. (2017) *Transdisciplinary Urbanism and Culture: From Pedagogy to Praxis*, Switzerland: Springer Verlag. ISBN HBK: 978-3-319-55854-7.
- Troiani, I. Swenarton, M., and Webster, H. eds. (2017/2007) *The Politics of Making*, London: Routledge. ISBN HBK: 978-0-415-43101-9.