

Architectures of Education is a three-day programme with presentations, workshops, keynotes and screening reflecting on cultures and architectures of education today, and speculate about what futures may lay on the horizons of knowledge production. The event brings together some of the brightest thinkers and practitioners investigating the relationship between architecture and cultures of education today.

Throughout the twentieth and into the twenty-first century, as pedagogical ideals change, so have their architectural form. The spatial organisation of learning is a field of design that includes the positioning of bodies, the texture and colour of surfaces, the proportionality of objects, curricula and programmatic offerings, time scheduling, and beyond. Similarly, learning can be seen as a subject of design, as the process of surplus education unfolds outside the classroom. With the advancement not just of new learning models but new learning technologies, the classroom and education of tomorrow may not look like how it did today.

Speakers include: Ramon Amaro, Sarah Amsler, Kehinde Andrews, Aoife Donnelly and Kristin Trommler, Tom Holert, Anna-Maria Meister, Irit Rogoff, ruangrupa (farid rakun), Ho Rui An, Ola Uduku and Mary Vaughan Johnson.

The conference is complemented by an online issue with contributions that draw from and expand upon the conference, crossposted on e-flux Architecture and The Contemporary Journal in collaboration with Kingston University.

Architectures of Education is a collaboration between Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham Trent University, University of Nottingham, Kingston University and e-flux Architecture.

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Contemporary

Fri 8 Nov
Learning Structures

2 – 3.30pm **Tom Holert**
Anna-Maria Meister
Moderated by Nick Axel

3.30 – 5pm **Aoife Donnelly & Kristin Trommler**
Moderated by Sam Thorne

6.30 – 8.30pm **Keynote: Irit Rogoff**
Moderated by Carolina Rito

Sat 9 Nov
Education Otherwise

12 – 1.30pm **Kehinde Andrews**
Ola Uduku
Moderated by Dimitra Pavlina Nikita

2.30 – 3.30pm **Ramon Amaro**
Moderated by Bill Balaskas

3.30 – 4.45pm **Ho Rui An**
Moderated by Sofia Lemos

5 – 7pm **Keynote: Mary Vaughan Johnson**
Moderated by Ana Souto

Thu 7 Nov, 3–6pm; Fri 8 Nov, 10am–1pm; Sat 9 Nov, 10–11am
Workshop: *Educating hope otherwise*
Sarah Amsler

Sat 9 Nov, 10–11am
Workshop: *Collectivism in space - Gudskul Ekosistem*
ruangrupa

Fri 8 Nov
Learning Structures

2 – 3.30pm

Tom Holert
Anna-Maria Meister
Moderated by Nick Axel

Tom Holert

Educationalising or Failing the City? The 1967 Rice Design Fete

The post war era, and particularly the decades following the launch of the “Sputnik” on October 4, 1957, were marked by an exceptional expansion of education on all scales. Determined by Cold War geopolitical concerns and further invigorated by the structural adaptations necessary to accommodate the changes in technology and industrial production (as well as the advent of the “knowledge economy”), the educational sector received considerable subsidies to allow for the increase of skilled workforce and techno-scientific competitiveness. Among the effects of this educational turn on a grand (and, arguably, global) scale was an unprecedented intensification of the planning and construction of educational facilities (schools, universities, libraries, community centers, etc.) and the introduction of new types of learning environments and curricula. Departing from the proposals for an educationalised urban environment presented by Cedric Price and Robert Venturi to the participants of the 1967 Rice Design Fete in Houston, the talk will attend to the infrastructural thinking that entered the discussion of education, politics, and planning around 1970.

Tom Holert is a researcher, writer, and curator. He is co-founder of the Harun Farocki Institut in Berlin and the author of the upcoming book *Knowledge Beside Itself. Contemporary Art's Epistemic Politics* (Sternberg Press/The MIT Press, 2020). He recently curated the exhibition *Neolithic Childhood. Art in a False Present, c. 1930* at HKW, Berlin in 2018 (with Anselm Franke) and co-edited the accompanying publication (diaphanes, 2018). He's currently organising the research and exhibition project *Education Shock. Learning, Politics, and Architecture in the Global 1960s and 1970s*, at HKW (forthcoming September, 2020), a follow-up of the exhibition *Learning Laboratories. Architecture, Instructional Technology, and the Social Production of Pedagogical Space around 1970* at BAK (Basis voor actuele kunst), Utrecht in 2016–17.

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Anna-Maria Meister

Radicalism and Institutions

Radical Pedagogies is a long-term international collaborative research project investigating experiments in architecture education in the 1960s and 1970s. But how does the entanglement of pedagogical institutions play out with the very attempts to undo them? This talk will investigate multiple strategies and frictions between radicalism and institutionalism: how if one wants to change architecture education at its root (radix) negotiates the built-in conservatism and inertia of the very institutions of said education. As diverse as the case studies, the answers will be multiple, demonstrating architecture's potential for redefining not just itself, but society at large—as well as its failures in doing so.

Anna-Maria Meister is Assistant Professor for the History and Theory of Architecture at TU Darmstadt, and works at the intersection of architecture's histories and the histories of science and technology. Her work focuses on the production and dissemination of norms and normed objects as social desires in German modern architecture. Meister received a joint PhD degree in the History and Theory of Architecture and the Council of the Humanities from Princeton University, and holds degrees in architecture from Columbia University, New York, and the TU Munich. She was a fellow at the Max-Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, and a postdoctoral fellow at the TU Munich. Her work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the Graham Foundation, the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, DAAD, and Columbia University, among others.

Nick Axel is Deputy Editor of e-flux Architecture and Head of the Architectural Design department at Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam.

3.30 – 5pm

Aoife Donnelly & Kristin Trommler
Moderated by Sam Thorne

Aoife Donnelly & Kristin Trommler

The Work of David & Mary Medd

The Medd's work originated in the golden post-war period in England, a time of optimism and experimentation, when governments 'increased their commitment to the building or renewal of democracies through public

schooling'. These fertile conditions produced a body of work described as 'humane functionalism', that greatly influenced subsequent thinking regarding design for education in the UK. Proposals were informed by careful observation of teaching activities and learning experiences, part of a close collaboration between architect, educator and policy maker, an atypical arrangement that allowed the wider dissemination and implementation of their findings and built work through the Building Bulletins. In this talk, the scene from which the Medd's work emerged will be set, its enduring value discussed, as a model for collaborative research and design, in terms of its radical ideas spatially and pedagogically and the tangible architectural heritage left behind.

Aoife Donnelly & Kristin Trommler are registered architects and educators, based in London. Their research and practice focus on the generation of sensitive and carefully composed projects, that engage with questions around the democracy of place or space and value the experience of the user. They seek solutions that resonate with cultural, historical and physical contexts and that try to simultaneously be inventive, playful, structurally and materially considered, and moving. Together, Donnelly and Trommler have a broad experience of the public realm, arts/ cultural and educational projects. They practice, research and teach in parallel, having co-lead a design unit at Kingston School of Art's Architecture Department since 2012. There, they have introduced and embedded an enabling culture of live projects, engaged in collaborative and participatory design processes, that serve community/ arts and play situations.

Sam Thorne is Director of Nottingham Contemporary.

6.30 – 8.30pm

Keynote: Irit Rogoff
Moderated by Carolina Rito

Irit Rogoff

Becoming Research

In this lecture, Irit Rogoff explores the 'Research Turn' within art and curating and of how research has moved from being a contextual activity that grounds production and exhibition of art, to a mode of inhabiting the art world in its own right. The claim for the shift in our understanding of research is that what previously had been a form of working from 'inherited knowledges', we are currently thinking about research as 'working from conditions'. Our conditions are daily impacted by precarity, scarcity, sustainability, security

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and financialisation - these necessarily impact subjects, methodologies and audiences of research. The centrality of contemporary arts practices in developing new forms and expressions of research, grounded in invention and speculation rather than in proof and verification, is at the heart of this 'turn'.

Irit Rogoff is a writer, educator, curator and organiser. She is Professor of Visual Culture at Goldsmiths, University of London, a department she founded in 2002. Rogoff works at the meeting ground between contemporary practices, politics and philosophy. Her current work is on new practices of knowledge production and their impact on modes of research, under the title of *Becoming Research* (forthcoming). As part of the collective freethought Rogoff was one of the artistic directors of the Norwegian Triennial *The Bergen Assembly* September, 2016 and editor of *The Infrastructural Condition* published in its wake. Rogoff is also co-founder in 2017 of "The European Forum for Advanced Practices", a Europe-wide forum for engaging with and developing a set of principles for Advanced, Practice Driven form of Research. In 2019 Rogoff received an honorary doctorate from Aalto University in recognition of her work in developing and instituting the field of Visual Culture.

Carolina Rito is Head of Public Programmes and Research at Nottingham Contemporary and coming Professor of Creative Practice Research in the Centre of Arts, Memory and Communities at Coventry University.

Sat 9 Nov
Education Otherwise

12 – 1.30pm
Kehinde Andrews
Ola Uduku
Moderated by Dimitra Pavlina Nikita

Kehinde Andrews

Back to Black

We launched the first Black Studies degree in Europe but whilst the subject may have been new to the university it has a long history in the UK. Black communities have created our own knowledges and educational spaces outside of mainstream institutions because we have previously had no choice due to racial exclusion. The Black supplementary school movement is an

excellent example of such community production of education, which has more than a fifty-year history in Britain. The main impact of the Black Power movement was a legacy of community education rooted in Black communities through organisations and in particular Black owned bookshops. But as we have entered into mainstream spaces the community networks that produced knowledge have been neglected as we have fought for recognition in the system. The value of Black Studies is that its intellectual heritage is knowledge produced in struggle, but if the avenues for that knowledge production are slowly dying that has serious implications for the type of education we will create in the future. Whilst we are working in the house, we must be building education outside in the communities we should be serving.

Kehinde Andrews is Professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University. His research focuses on resistance to racism and grassroots organisations. His latest book *Black to Black: Retelling Black Radicalism for the 21st Century* was published in 2018. He also wrote *Resisting Racism: Race, Inequality and the Black Supplementary School Movement* in 2013 and is editor of the Blackness in Britain book series with Zed Books. Kehinde has written opinion pieces for outlets including the Guardian, Independent, Washington Post and CNN. Kehinde is founder of the Harambee Organisation of Black Unity; and co-chair of the Black Studies Association.

Ola Uduku

Contemporary School Design and Architectural Challenges for the African Classroom in a 21st Century Educational Landscape

Africa remains the continent which has one of the largest populations of children who are not in school, and also the largest number of displaced families in the world. This means that the structures, including built infrastructure, through which education is delivered for much of the continent, has proved inadequate and is unfit for delivering 21st century education needs. This presentation discusses the context and background to Africa's continued deficit in appropriate schools or learning spaces for its youth. It then seeks to explore what education might mean in different African cultures using contextual and "rights-based" models related to access and provision of sites for education. It also considers the effect of emerging educational technologies on pedagogic practice in the 21st century African learning space. It concludes by suggesting new models and paradigms for local-global educational partnerships that seek to help create the means by which large educational deficits in Africa and other Southern regions might be addressed through both

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working more closely with local cultures and emerging technologies.

Ola Uduku is Research Professor in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture. Prior to this she was Reader in Architecture, and Dean International for Africa, at Edinburgh University. Her research specialisms are in the history of educational architecture in Africa, and the contemporary issues related to social infrastructure provision for minority communities in cities in the 'West' and 'South'. She is currently engaged in developing postgraduate research and teaching links in architecture urbanism, heritage and conservation between West African Architecture schools and those in North West England. Currently she is researching the architecture of humanitarian and development aid, and tourism architecture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dimitra Pavlina Nikita is a Lecturer in Education Studies and Early Years at Nottingham Trent University.

2.30 – 3.30pm

Ramon Amaro
Moderated by Bill Balaskas

Ramon Amaro

Speculative power and the distributive terms of Black survival

It is said that to imagine one's future is to build another possible world, where the outcome of events that define who or what we are, or more so what we have become, are projected beyond that which is known. This future, what Kara Keeling describes in *Queer Times, Black Futures* as an interregnum or time in between, is a condition of both practice and thought, in which the becoming of the self is as such only in as much as it is a process of unbecoming or a change that reforges us into something or someone different than what has previously been known. According to Keeling, this forging and reforging of ourselves is as affective as it is extinguishable. It is affective in the sense that it indicates a capacity for change, or what one might call a survival in the now, in response to the immediacy of a life which has been suffered and/or is sufferable or yet to be suffered in the practices of the everyday. It is temporal in the sense that the relation between this self (in the now) and our future self/selves, is informed by conditions "not entirely of our own making", yet are defined, beyond the flesh, by the capacity to undo the terms of survival as such. If "we were never meant to survive," as Keeling argues, then how might we think through the spatial-temporal coordinates of the racial imaginary? And, how might we negotiate the terms of Black extinction in racialised ecologists?

Ramon Amaro is in the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London and a researcher in machine learning, the philosophy of mathematics, black ontologies, and philosophies of being. Amaro completed his PhD in Philosophy at Goldsmiths and holds an MA in Sociological Research from the University of Essex and a BSE in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Ramon Amaro is a former research fellow at Het Nieuwe Instituut, and visiting lecturer at the Royal Academy of Art (KABK) in the Netherlands.

Bill Balaskas is the Director of Research at the School of Art & Architecture of Kingston University.

3.30 – 4.45pm

Ho Rui An

Moderated by Sofia Lemos

Ho Rui An

Student Bodies, 2019

HD video, colour, sound, 26'

Student Bodies is a work of pedagogical horror that approaches the fraught history of capitalist modernity and radical culture in East and Southeast Asia through the figure of the student body. Beginning with the students of Satsuma and Choshu from Bakumatsu-era Japan, who were the first students from the country to study in the West, the work considers the student body as both collective and singular, metaphor and flesh, standing in for the body politic of the region across the successive periods of “miraculous” development, crises and recoveries through to the present day. The “star capitalist pupil” of the United States, as Chalmers Johnson said of Japan in the postwar period, becomes in the next moment, the dead student protester on the streets, with each reincarnation exploding established analytical frameworks based on class, culture or the nation-state.

Ho Rui An is an artist and writer working in the intersections of contemporary art, cinema, performance and theory. Working primarily across the mediums of lecture, essay and film, he probes into the ways by which images are produced, circulate and disappear within contexts of globalism and governance. He has presented projects at the Gwangju Biennale (2018), Jakarta Biennale (2017), Sharjah Biennial 13 (2017), Haus de Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2017), NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (2017) and Para Site, Hong Kong (2015). In 2018, he was a fellow of the DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm.

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Sofia Lemos is Curator of Public Programmes and Research at Nottingham Contemporary.

5 – 7pm

Keynote: Mary Vaughan Johnson
Moderated by Ana Souto

Mary Vaughan Johnson

A Meaningful Response to Climate Change in Architectural Education

Responding to climate change is not only our ethical duty as educators in preparing our students for their future but it is also our moral responsibility as inhabitants of this world. In his reflections on habit as the principle of human nature, Felix Ravaisson, uncovered a continuity between mind and body, freedom and necessity, will and nature, revealing its inaccessibility to perception thereby challenging for the first time modernity's principle of objectivity. The dilemma we face is the resulting aspiration of modernity's notions of progress as overcoming nature through the use of technological forces. Concepts of sustainability in architecture have therefore tended towards technologies that continue to support a way of life that is not sustainable. By reflecting on my own research of the toilet rooms of the Maison de Verre (1928-32) I hope to demonstrate not only architecture's potentiality towards sustainability based on hybrid technologies but even more significantly that any meaningful change must begin with a critique of our own habitus.

Mary Vaughan Johnson is head of department in Architecture and Landscape at Kingston School of Art. She was previously Chief Docent and Curator of the Maison de Verre in Paris, France for nine years during which time she developed her research on the toilet rooms of this Modern icon. The research explores private and public spheres in architecture and was funded by the Association de la Maison de Verre. Vaughan-Johnson has published and presented on the subject both locally and globally. While in Paris she co-founded and was Resident Programme Director for the Catholic University of America's School of Architecture Studies Abroad. In addition to her academic career of more than twenty years in the US, France and currently, UK, she also practiced as an architect in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Florida, USA.

Ana Souto is Principal Lecturer in Architectural History, Nottingham Trent University, UK.

Workshops

Sarah Amsler is an educator who researches and teaches about the politics of knowledge, education and hope as dimensions of movements for social and global justice. This work includes theoretical and experimental inquiries into affective and relational pedagogies of being and becoming otherwise; methods for working with expanded forms of reality that include absent and emergent possibilities; and radical educational responses to social and civilizational crisis. She is an Associate Professor in Education at the University of Nottingham and a member of the Women on the Verge and Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures collectives.

***ruangrupa* is a contemporary art organization founded in 2000 by a group of artists in Jakarta. As a nonprofit organization, it works to advance art ideas in urban context and the broad scope of culture through exhibitions, festivals, art laboratory, workshops, researches and book, magazine, and online journal publications. In 2019, ruangrupa were appointed curators of Documenta 15 in Kassel, Germany. Member of ruangrupa, farid rakun is a visiting lecturer in the Architecture Department of Universitas Indonesia and Jakarta Biennale interim director.**

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Colophon

Organized by Nottingham Contemporary with Kingston University
and e-flux architecture

Nottingham Contemporary

Curators: Carolina Rito and Sofia Lemos

Programme Assistant: Ryan Kearney

Event Technicians: James Brouwer and Craig Parr

Gallery Assistant: Karen Lunt, Catherine Masters and Navdeep Gohil

e-flux architecture: Nikolaus Hirsh and Nick Axel

Kingston University: Mary Vaughan Johnson and Bill Balaskas

Related Events

CAMPUS Talks: Elvira Dyangani Ose

Offsite at Bonington Gallery, Nottingham Trent University

Thu 14 Nov, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Artists' Film: The Otolith Group *O Horizon* (2019)

Tue 19 Nov, 6.30 - 8.30pm

CAMPUS Talks: Gurminder K. Bhambra

Thu 5 Dec, 6.30 - 8.30pm