

Practice  
Research  
Symposium

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Asia  
April  
6 – 8 2018

Candidate  
Abstracts &  
Images

Architecture  
& Urban Design

Media &  
Communication

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# Research through Design Practice



We seek out practitioners who have developed a body of work demonstrating mastery of their field, invite them to reflect upon the nature of that mastery within a critical framework, to speculate through design on the nature of their future practice and demonstrate their findings publicly.

We argue that architects and designers have a responsibility to the furtherance of their practice domain and that this examination of the nature of their mastery promotes and extends the fundamental knowledge base of their profession, and thus its ability to serve society.

CHÚNG TÔI TÌM KIẾM NHỮNG NGƯỜI HÀNH NGHỀ ĐÃ HÌNH THÀNH MỘT TỔNG THỂ CÔNG TRÌNH DỰ ÁN THỂ HIỆN SỰ TINH THÔNG TRONG LĨNH VỰC CỦA HỌ, MỜI HỌ ĐỂ DIỄN GIẢI BẢN CHẤT CỦA SỰ TINH THÔNG TRONG MỘT PHẠM VI CÓ TÍNH PHẢN BIỆN, ĐỂ SUY ĐOÁN THÔNG QUA THIẾT KẾ VỀ BẢN CHẤT HÀNH NGHỀ CÔNG VIỆC TRONG TƯƠNG LAI VÀ ĐỂ DIỄN GIẢI NHỮNG KHÁM PHÁ CỦA HỌ VỚI CÔNG CHÚNG.

CHÚNG TÔI CHO RẰNG KIẾN TRÚC SƯ VÀ CÁC NHÀ THIẾT KẾ CÓ MỘT TRÁCH NHIỆM TRONG VIỆC NÂNG CAO LĨNH VỰC HÀNH NGHỀ CỦA HỌ, VÀ VIỆC XEM XÉT BẢN CHẤT SỰ TINH THÔNG CỦA HỌ LÀ NHẪM ĐỂ CAO VÀ MỞ RỘNG KIẾN THỨC CƠ BẢN DỰA TRÊN NGHỀ NGHIỆP CỦA HỌ, VÀ TỪ ĐẤY LÀ KHẢ NĂNG ĐỂ PHỤC VỤ CỘNG ĐỒNG.

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## 06 PRS Opening

The Artist as Architect: A Case Study  
Presented by Dr Peta Murray

## 08 Overview of Events

### Program

09 School of Media and Communication  
10 School of Architecture and Urban Design

### Progress Reviews

14	Géraldine Borio	PhD (Architecture and Design)
15	Michael Budig	PhD (Architecture and Design)
16	Johnny Chiu	PhD (Architecture and Design)
17	Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz	PhD (Media and Communication)
18	Andrew Currie	PhD (Architecture and Design)
19	Laurel Flores Fantauzzo	PhD (Media and Communication)
20	Holger Kehne	PhD (Architecture and Design)
21	Tobias Klein	PhD (Architecture and Design)
22	Terry Lam	PhD (Media and Communication)
23	Christian J. Lange	PhD (Architecture and Design)
24	John Lin	PhD (Architecture and Design)
25	Marc Nair	PhD (Media and Communication)
26	Khoa Trong Nguyen	PhD (Media and Communication)
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28	Alvin Pang	PhD (Media and Communication)
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30	Andrew Stiff	PhD (Architecture and Design)
31	Dongwoo Yim	PhD (Architecture and Design)

## Candidate Biographies

35	Géraldine Borio	PhD (Architecture and Design)
35	Michael Budig	PhD (Architecture and Design)
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## Supervisor Biographies

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50	Anna Johnson	Supervisor, School of Architecture and Urban Design
51	Peta Murray	Supervisor School of Media and Communication
52	Adam Nash	Supervisor, School of Design
53	Gretchen Wilkins	Supervisor, School of Architecture and Urban Design
54	Jessica L. Wilkinson	Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

## The Artist as Architect: A Case Study

Dr Peta Murray

Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Media and Communication, RMIT

Co-Founder and Creative Director of The Groundswell Project

PhD, RMIT University | Diploma of Creative Industries, Victoria University | MA, QUT | Diploma of Education, University of Sydney | BA (Hons), University of NSW

Peta Murray is a carpenter's daughter turned paracademic. In this address she will present on her 'hands-on' playful, participatory and performative approach to thinking-through-making, and share instances of its application in both real world and examination settings. Dr Murray brings a breadth of experience as a playwright and a theatre-maker to her current role as a researcher-practitioner, where her focus is on culture jamming, arts activism, and on how we might reimagine ageing as a creative act.

Peta Murray. Photo Credit: Dorine Blase



Missa Pro Venerabilibus. Photo Credit: Rachel Main

# Overview of Events



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## Friday 6 April

PRS Opening Drinks and Opening Remarks  
The Artist as Architect: A Case Study, Dr Peta Murray  
6:00pm  
Venue: Pham Ngoc Thach studios

## Saturday 7 April, 9:00am - 5:00pm

PhD Progress Review and Milestone Review Presentations (by prior arrangement)  
RMIT PNT Campus, 21 Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City

PRS dinner (by invitation only)

## Sunday 8 April, 9:00am - 4:00pm

PhD Progress Review and Milestone Review Presentations (by prior arrangement)  
RMIT PNT Campus, 21 Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City

# Media and Communication



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## Saturday 7 April

Building 5, Level 1, Room 3

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9:30 - 10:25  | <b>Laurel FLORES FANTAUZZO</b><br>2nd Milestone Review<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT     |
| 10:30 - 11:25 | <b>Marc NAIR</b><br>Confirmation of Candidature<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT            |
| 11:30 - 12:25 | <b>Thierry BERNARD</b><br>Pre-Application<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT                  |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch   |
| 13:30 - 14:25 | <b>Sandra Nicole ROLDAN</b><br>Confirmation of Candidature<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT |
| 14:30 - 15:25 | <b>Khoa Trong NGUYEN</b><br>Confirmation of Candidature<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT    |

## Sunday 8 April

Building 5, Level 1, Room 3

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9:30 - 10:25  | <b>Alvin PANG</b><br>2nd milestone review<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT           |
| 10:30 - 11:25 | <b>Terry LAM</b><br>PhD Progress Review<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT             |
| 11:30 - 12:25 | <b>Jhoanna Lynn B. CRUZ</b><br>2nd milestone review<br>AN, DC, PM, JW, MAT |

AN=Adam Nash  
DC=David Carlin  
PM=Peta Murray  
JW=Jessica Wilkinson  
MAT=Michelle Aung Thin



## Saturday 7 April

Building 5, Level 2, Room 2 & 3

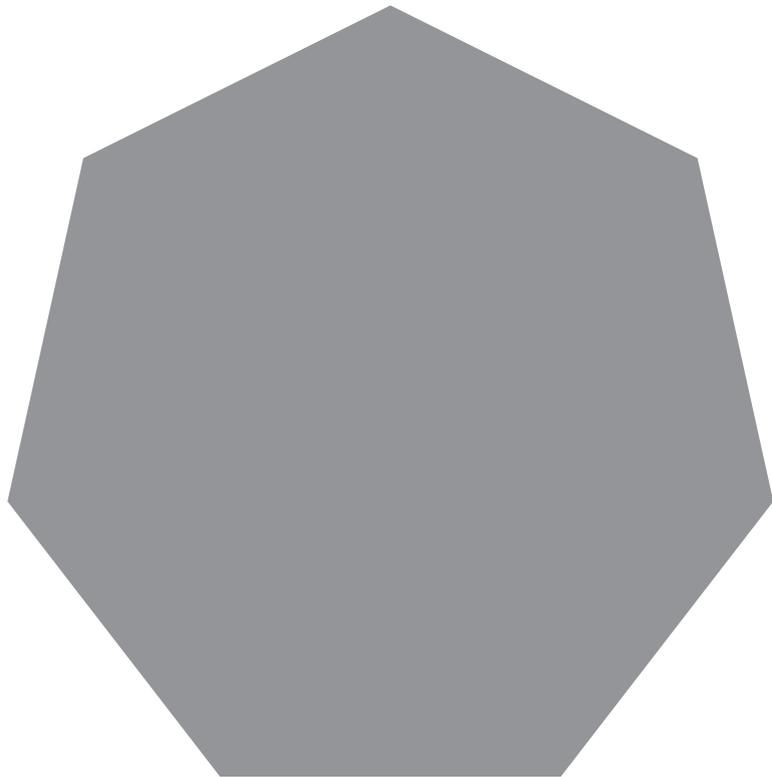
- 9:00 - 9:30 Tea & coffee
- 9:30 - 10:25 **Michael BUDIG**  
PhD Progress Review  
GC© GW NB AJ
- 10:30 - 11:25 **Andrew CURRIE**  
PhD Progress Review  
GC\* GW NB AJ©
- 11:30 - 12:25 **Tobias KLEIN**  
2nd Milestone Review  
GC AJ\* NB GW© SH(r)
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:25 **Christian LANGE**  
PhD Progress Review  
GC GW NB AJ©
- 14:30 - 15:25 **Géraldine BORIO**  
2nd Milestone Review  
GC© GW NB AJ\* SH(r)
- 15:30 - 16:00 Tea & coffee
- 16:00 - 16:55 **Dongwoo YIM**  
2nd Milestone Review  
GC AJ\* NB GW© SH(r)
- 17:00 - 17:55 **Olivier OTTAVAERE**  
2nd Milestone Review  
GC AJ\* NB GW© SH(r)



## Sunday 8 April

Building 5, Level 2, Room 2 & 3

- 9:00 - 9:30 Tea & coffee
- 9:30 - 10:25 **Andrew STIFF**  
PhD Progress Review  
GC© GW NB AJ
- 10:30 - 11:25 **Johnny CHIU**  
3rd Milestone Review  
GC\* GW© NB AJ SH(r)
- 11:30 - 12:25 **John LIN**  
PhD Progress Review  
GW GC NB AJ©
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:25 **Holger KEHNE**  
2nd Milestone Review  
GC AJ© NB GW PM(r) SH(r)
- 14:30 - 15:25 **Jason HILGEFORT**  
PhD Progress Review  
GC GW© NB AJ
- 15:30 - 16:00 **Desiree GRUNWALD**  
Pre-Application  
GC©, GW, NB, AJ
- 16:00 - 17:30 Panel Conferrals



### ***Parallel Works: Looking for the 'In-Betweens'***

The word 'in-between' is enigmatic. So far I have been using it to describe a condition that could be felt with certain intensity but that I had difficulty to explain. Certain spatial situations I have experienced and observed have interested me because of the multi-dimensions and the richness of parameters they encapsulate.

Le Corbusier is known for being the father of five pragmatic rules of modern architecture, however when he talks about 'ineffable space' or 'space beyond words' he is referring to a sensitive and subjective experience. It's a tridimensional territory that cannot be measured but is directly perceived through emotions. In traditional Japan and Korea, 'Ma'

is not referring to emptiness but to a volume filled with invisible relationships. Enclosures are built around these voids and eventually become houses or temples.

So far, the practice has been exploring and interpreting this notion. To ground the research, I have done some observations and interventions in leftover or unplanned places within the urban context in Asia.

I have now expended my investigation to another territory: Peng Chau, a small island within the big city of Hong Kong. Neither urban, neither rural this ambiguous condition is providing a testing ground to reflect on the way ambiguous space are generated.



### ***Tectonic Accentuations A Procedural Framework for Structural Surfaces***

The 'digital turn in architecture' has brought radical changes to the design and fabrication of architecture. It has also intensified the relation of man and machine. A debate on the conflict of manual crafts versus machine making roots in the early 19th Century, when the invention of artificial production was critically observed. While the interest of the academic discourse then lay in the comprehension of formal details and their fundamentally guiding principles, the recent decades brought a much more complex set of new concepts: individual versus network, topology versus typology, compression versus big data and so forth. More important for this project is the notion of virtual versus real.

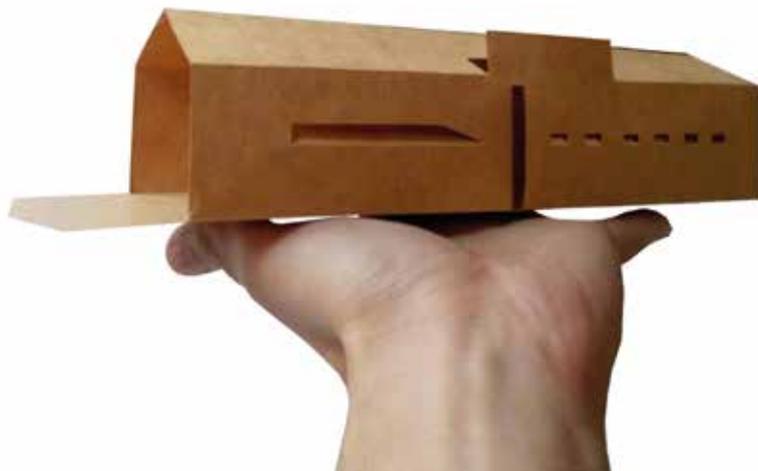
This research follows the ongoing reclamation of physical experiments in the context of computational tools. It will investigate a series of design cases on structural surfaces to compare formal articulations and tectonic systems. It will establish a taxonomy of tectonic systems and will examine design, fabrication and material processes to describe the level of coherence between formal results and underlying principles. It aims to redirect the attention to the architectural design expertise and emphasise a computational support for accentuation of form over the more engineering specific notion of optimisation.



**Image and Impression: Making Fast Architecture in Taipei**

This body of architectural work grows out of my commercial practice in Taipei. It works within an environment pressured by constant time and money constraints, while it is also obsessed with creating an instantly memorable visual image. How can architecture in Taipei meet the brute commodity demands on an architectural project, while recognising the individual user and their spatial experience in that process? The works of my practice JC Architecture (JCA) accept the commercial demands on the built work and use the techniques of strong figuration and graphic form to create an instant impression, or a visual short-cut.

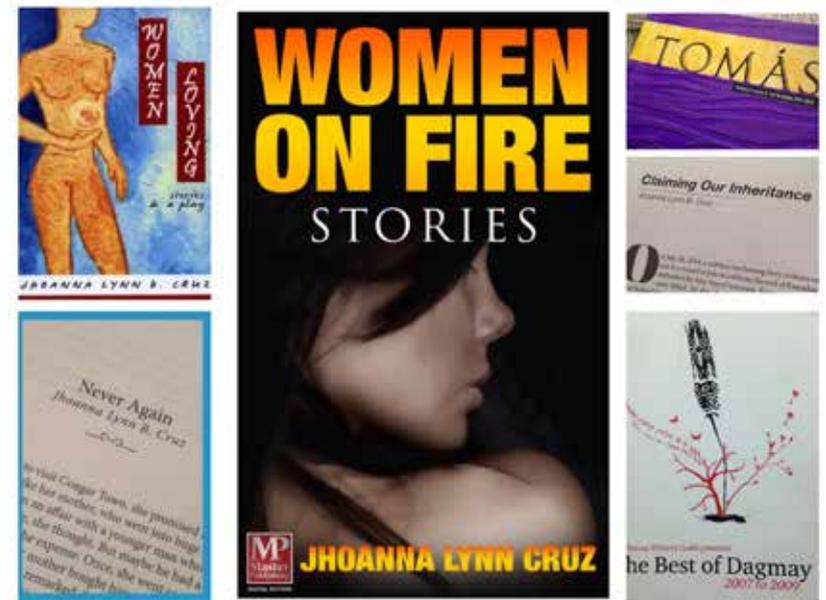
The architectural gestures can be reduced in scale to a hand held icon, operating like a pictogram. This simple figuration allows the architectural ideas to be scaled and transported globally, but also to be miniaturised, and opening the dialogue with the small scale of the interior and of the fine context of urban Taipei. Can the reduction of architectural ideas to a logo-like image actually help the engagement with built form, be integrated with a spatial experience, and be more than a thin skin?



**Or. So. I. Thought: Queering Life/Writing**

This portfolio presents progress in my examination of my migrant identity in Mindanao and my practice of writing nonfiction, particularly in a memoir project and in my weekly opinion column in a local daily. Guided by queer theory and Helene Cixous's *Ecriture Feminine*, I explore ways of em-bodying my queer feminist self in my writing. A significant development is my debunking of my preliminary method of periautography towards a nonlinear and conceptual approach to the memoir form. My memoir, tentatively entitled *Abi Nako*. *Or So I Thought* draws attention to my false expectations of my move to Davao City, which has led to my decade-long adventure of literally and figuratively 'getting lost', which,

as Rebecca Solnit claims, is actually a path of discovery. This research also uses Kazim Ali's concept of genre as 'a form a drag' to gain deeper insight into the past and present life material I am working with in nonfiction in order to fashion my queer writing self. In a similar vein, I have tried to stretch the form of the opinion column by incorporating segments of memory and the quotidian into my advocacy, as a means of finding my own way in the morass of Philippine politics. Through this, my research takes a different trajectory towards what I do not yet know about my own thinking about my past, as well as the writing of nonfiction, particularly as a queer writer.



***CONTAIN & CONNECT: formulating a response to modernity in time of pervasive change***

This research contends that the importance of formulating a response to questions of modernity, tradition, localisation and universality are amplified in countries undergoing rapid and pervasive socioeconomic and cultural change. I argue that separating the building envelope and its interior provides a resilient framework for navigating these concerns. Adopting a language of abstract modernist affords the building envelope a robust neutrality that is impervious to constant change, and resistant to cultural and compositional obsessions. In contrast, the interior becomes a personalised condition responding to the specificities of client, program, place and time. A condition deeply connected to the actual life of the project and free to reflect the personality of its occupants. Evidenced by four principal projects, my research explores three distinct approaches

to personalisation deployed by my practice, OUT-2 Design. Common to each approach is a desire to create a dynamic and engaging design vocabulary around what we consider to be as clear and concrete connections to client and project specificities. The first approach draws on the use of concrete objects; products manufactured by the client and co-opted from large-scale production. The second involves engagement with local contractors and craftspeople through small-scale, customised production. The third explores how, in the absence of physical objects, other specificities such as intent, aspiration, location and personality can serve as the concrete connection that informs personalisation. The research concludes with a speculative project that explores how we have synthesised what we have learned to confront the challenges of working in a country in flux.



***Archipelagic Texts: On Hyphenated Subjectivity in a Creative Writing Practice***

This milestone will present new examples of a continuing cross-genre practice in young adult fiction and literary journalism. This presentation continues the exploration of a disputed, hyphenated subjectivity. Working with reflections from relevant theorists, writers, and thinkers across literary and psychological fields, the writer examines concepts and complications of truth, genre, identity, and market prestige. She further interrogates a hyphenated writer's particular motivations, composed of an individual drive

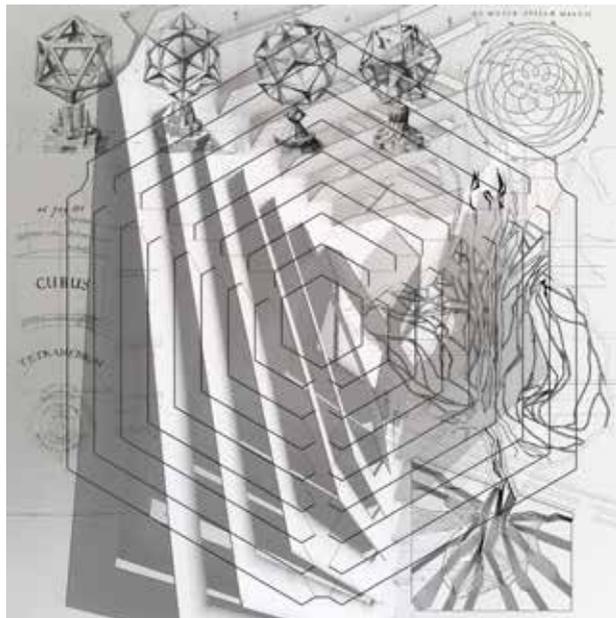
toward truth-telling and self-representation. Such motivations may also look to prestigious gatekeepers of the international literary market to validate a complicated subjectivity. This presentation will include excerpts from a novel-in-progress, as well as examples of published work on recent violence in the Philippines.



***A systemic basis for complexity in contemporary architecture***

This investigation is centred around the question, how architecture might engage and articulate the ever-increasing complexity within culture and the built environment? Critiquing the inertia and autism within the pluralist rhetoric patchwork of current architectural culture, where 'styles' and programs are equally defined in opposition to others as to the idea of a continuous historical progression, it employs the dialectical method to construct an expanded toolset of contingencies, continuities, commonalities, inherent linkages and drivers that can be found within architectural design processes by Plasma Studio, predecessors and contemporaries. Sets of dualisms such as 'abstract-material', 'rational-sculptural', 'conceptual-pragmatic', 'axiomatic-

contingent', 'stereotomic-enfolded' etc. are employed to introduce value, range, process and transformation to the analysis of architectural projects with the aim to articulate an expansive, elastic, 'multilectic' web that aligns with experiencing multiple, ambiguous, lateral relationships, to sense a wider cultural, social, humanistic field - the complexity and diversity of contemporary life. By combining historical and theoretical contextualisation and analysis with design research, the methodology aims to unearth fundamental principles and diagrams, framing architecture as systemic organisational practice with potential to invigorate the existing as well as projecting the new.



Wenzel Jamnitzer, Johannes Kepler, Holger Kehne- Perspectiva Corporum Regularium

***Computer Aided Design (CAD) – Digital Craftsmanship (DC) (DC) – Sublimation and Reification as radical model operations to articulate a paradigm shift in the use of (CAD) in Art and Design***

The current architectural discourse on the use of CAD software largely focuses on the optimisation of form for an increase in efficiency in planning and construction processes. Building Information Modelling (BIM) sums up the complete vacuum of design in today's digital tools. This exclusion has led to a quasi monotheism in the use of digital tools – post the design process and a sequencing that is very much comparable to the global advent of the industrial revolution. The consequence back then was the separation of design and form making – previously as a dialogue between material conditions and tooling processes. The result was and is the disenfranchised worker/ maker/designer, detached from the craft – or simply – the end of craftsmanship as a design process. This research articulates a radical shift in the application of CAD software,

reconnecting craft, defined by Richard Sennet as an interplay of tools, methods and materials, as a completely new holistic modus operandi of digital design environments. I will establish digital tooling workflows and analyse them comparatively with traditional craftsmanship and tooling to establish a new design vocabulary for a discourse on Digital Craftsmanship. In particular, the translation from the digital as a perceived binary input-output logic will be challenged through the introduction of Sublimation and Reification as conceptual framework and technological resolution between 3D scanning and 3D printing – conversely transitioning the essential hand-eye craftsmanship argument into a new method of digital practice. This new relationship will be tested through a series of prototypes including models, artefacts and spaces.



### ***Advancing visual narrative in immersive storytelling***

A key focus for Virtual Reality (VR) development is VR cinema, where people can enjoy a feature film in a totally immersive virtual dome by wearing a Head Mounted Device (HMD). Since most of the research in VR focuses on the technological side, not much exploration in the narrative or film language inside this new media form has taken place. So, much of the content provided for VR cinema is based on the traditional type of filmmaking. There is a need for a new or advanced narrative pattern to introduce richer visual language to create new types of narrative for the new possibilities in VR

media. Areas like 'narrative space', 'point-of-view', 'proxemic relationship' and 'feeling of presence' are yet to reaffirm. Hence, there is debate around the immersive environment as the 'empathy machine' in the digital era. The film industry currently chooses to adapt the traditional way of filmmaking rather than open to new possibilities. This project looks at the opportunities of bringing new knowledge to immersive storytelling and introduces the possibility of advancing the technique to the community of practice.



Terry Lam, TV commercial for Hong Kong and China

### ***Serial Architectures, Systems of Multiplicities and Singularities – Towards an Architecture of Progressive Heterogeneity***

In the last two decades, the use of computation has significantly informed and changed the conceptualisation and production of architecture. Today, by using calculus-based software, architecture can be realised as algorithmic prototypes first. As a result, it is possible to generate many different versions out of the same information.

With this approach and computer-aided manufacturing procedures at hand, the conception of modularised architecture as proposed by modernism has been challenged. We are now witnessing a shift from the architecture of modularity towards an architecture of variability and adaptability.

The fundamental question that forms the basis for this PhD is straightforward: can Architecture through computational methods of design and making overcome the modernist concept of standardisation? Can Architecture be thought of as species, proposing multiplicities and singularities within the same typologies simultaneously?

The PhD will reflect on previous and current explorations and strategies examined in my practice and unfold, contextualise and theorise the methods of production that have been developed successively over time. The research will further explore the anomalies, opportunities and constraints in the field of digital production and making, and speculate on future trajectories.



***Making Architecture in a Place without Architects: A new context for design***

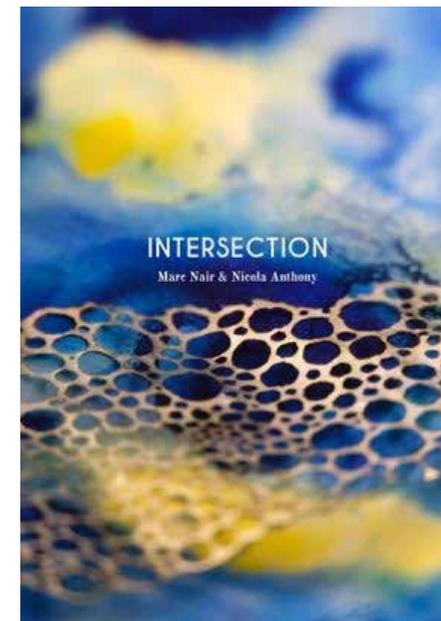
In 2005, the Chinese government announced its intention to urbanise half of the remaining 700 million rural citizens within 30 years. At the same time, Rural Urban Framework (RUF) was established as a research and design studio to investigate the processes of rural urbanisation through engagement by making buildings. The intervening years have led to the design and completion of community centres, hospitals, schools, libraries, houses and the planning of entire villages. Not only has the work re-defined these basic building programs for rural contexts, the processes of making architecture have often taken place in settings without prior engagement with architects – leaving it open for new definition. These projects require new collaborative and funding models involving charities, government and the university. *A new context* refers to how the design

process has adapted itself to a situation of rapid transformation, where the literal site of building is often more dynamic and ever-changing. This demands that buildings be designed to evolve. It also means that each project has the potential to address the question of site in different ways. This PhD presents the retrospective and the projective projects of RUF as a design methodology responding to three different contextual transformations. One – the rural to urban transition, two – the evolution of the vernacular and three – the collision of traditional and modern building methods. Encountering sites as indeterminate and volatile situations, can design strategies incorporate qualities of uncertainty and contradiction, looking beyond the immediate site of building to embrace the evasive as a new context for design?



***No Two Snowflakes: Exploring facets of artistic collaboration***

Through a series of diverse projects that revolve around poetry and prose and involve media such as photography, podcasts, dance and virtual reality, this presentation explores the nature of each collaboration; considering how content, medium and output shape discrete artistic processes. Artists involved are active agents not just in their own practice, but in recognising and responding to the technique, approach and style of their co-collaborators. This, coupled with a shared cultural context, physical space and dynamics of how the eventual collaboration will be presented, places the emphasis on process as much as it does on product.



***Displaced: The unearthing of memories and the search for mother and meaning***

This practice-based research PhD reflects upon a screenwriting and moving image career spanning 20 years to inform the development of a practice that explores the concept of motherland through the remediation of memory.

Sounds and music are often associated with evoking powerful, emotional memories. This research takes its starting point from an interview I conducted 10 years ago of a man's journey to find his mother's remains in post-75 Vietnam and the music I heard as a child. These audio triggers will instigate the production of short and long-form visual experiments that explore the representation

of memory while embodying the essence of motherland in relation to the 'Viet Kieu' (overseas Vietnamese) experience.

The aim of this research is to investigate the intersections between the binaries that shape a displaced filmmaker: Vietnamese-American, refugee-native, freedom-duty, and memory-reality to unearth creative visual narratives that personify the relationships. Personal memories, the reflection on past work, the community of practice, and the extensive exploration of memory films and the depiction of memory in film will guide the practice and research.



***Concrete approximations: Responsive falsework at incremental scales***

Through the lens of specific materials and the interaction with their active properties, the research focuses on alternative procedures of construction that challenge typical generic forms of building.

In developing unique methods of fabrication, the aim is to create designs that have the potential to impact and influence the monotony of mainstream construction systems. Each design is considered as a prototype that adheres to the limitations of material and structural logics, exploiting the gap between digital inputs and physical outputs as a productive space for design-research innovations.

The practice work involves laboratory experiments with materials such as concrete, applies knowledge gained from different types of material experiments to site-specific design-build structures and investigates the economic feasibility of realising larger scale architectural projects through the specific industrial production practices found in the Pearl River Delta.

How some of the conducted material experiments and invented prototyping techniques inform the making of architecture at larger building scales, constitutes the main research question.



***Notes Towards A Practice All Over The Place***

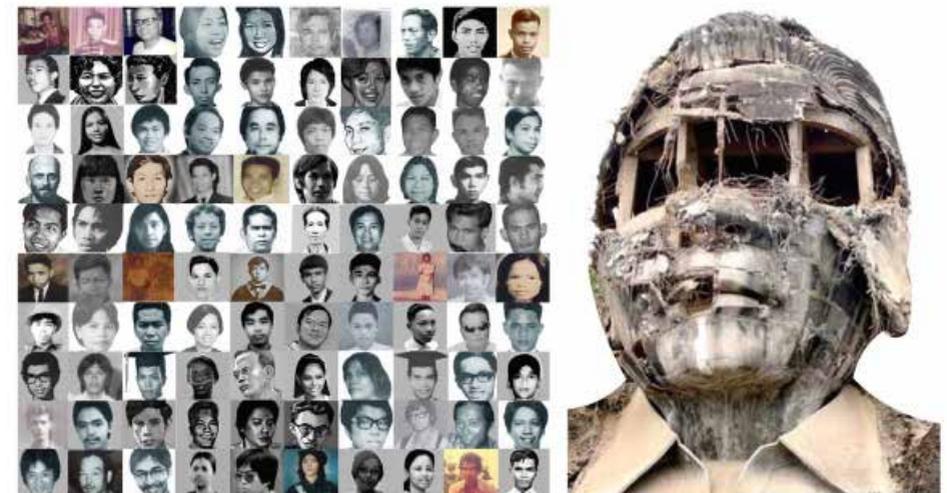
For my mid-candidature packet, I present and examine my recent writing in ways that continue to interrogate, complicate and qualify my own broader practice, as part of ongoing research into meaningful engagement with multiplicity in writing. Using concepts of 'segmentivity' (Rachel Blau DuPlessis) and perspectives extrapolated from Actor-Network-Theory (especially Latour, and his recent readers in the humanities), I reflect on and test what it may mean to compose creative writing – and a writing practice – from heterogeneous, 'fragile, revisable, and diverse' elements.



***Mapping Our Memories of Martial Law***

This presentation will address the candidate's continued examination of how memoir can serve as a counterpoint to monuments of the Marcos dictatorship, in a cultural context that privileges orality over the written word, and tangible symbols over documented fact. Excluded from official martial law narratives, the writer's [Roldan's] generation must now reiterate their lived experience of Marcos atrocities in the face of historical revisionism. The writer will present new examples of her practice to position memoir as the

intersection of individual and collective history, conflict and trauma, space and place, memory and forgetting. She continues to explore how space retains traces of traumas, and how places that have disappeared may survive as acts of writing. To posit that memoir writing is also place-making, she refers to Hirsch's 'post-memory', Nora's 'les lieux de memoire', and works by Massey, Ingold, and Casey.



***Intimate Spaces: An archive of creative observation***

This research takes the form of a detailed reflection, through creative practice, on the processes of collecting, archiving and re-producing physical and ephemeral data from the urban realm, with a specific focus on Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The research investigates place through the collection of audio visual data. The results of this work will be collected into an archive of audio visual material that will establish these spaces as contextually significant to HCMC in a period of rapid change and development within the city.

The urban infrastructure of Ho Chi Minh City is a unique window into the experiential relationship between the inhabitants and

their immediate built infrastructure, and this project will capture the significance of the spaces through different lenses of colour, scale and movement through a process of creative observational filmmaking.

This research and archive are developed with a clear role for both in situ observation and a secondary process of creative observation on discrete events, movement and space. Using the uncelebrated places of the 'egoless' city, an intimate portrait of how spaces are formed and operate can inform the development of the civic archive.



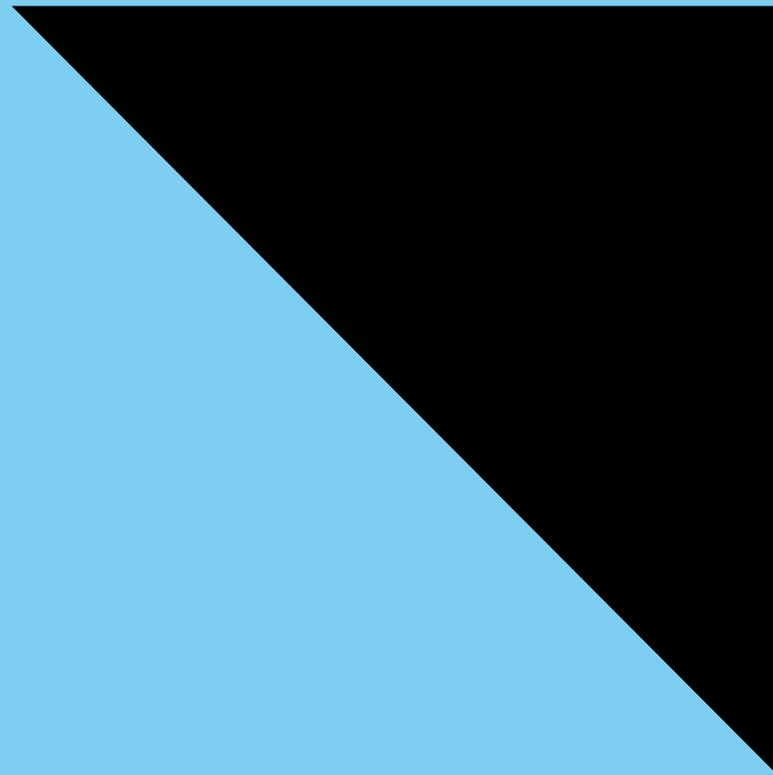
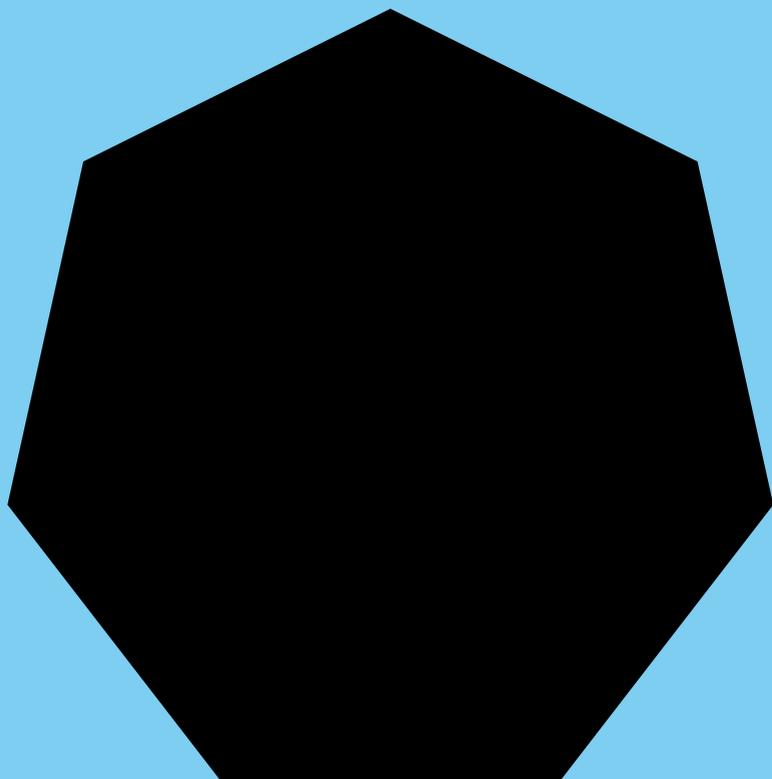
***New Microdistrict as Future Housing Model***

This research is to propose a housing model both in Pyongyang and Seoul that reflects aspects of microdistrict and urban production. Microdistrict is a socialist urban planning idea that tried to define a minimum size of neighborhood unit supported by neighborhood amenities, such as daycare, school, service facilities, and production workshops. Although many microdistricts in post-socialist cities have diminished since the Fall of Wall, the idea of integrating residential program and supporting facilities, including production program, is still valid in the present. Especially, the slogan of 'local production and local consumption' is growing as part of strategies to enhance the social chain between consumers and producers

and to strengthen sustainable community. Through its recent presence in some western cities, the idea of local production and local consumption had existed in the microdistrict concept in socialist cities. Therefore, the research is to find the tangent point where the aspects of microdistrict and the ideas of local production meet by proposing a new microdistrict model both in Pyongyang and in Seoul. By proposing two projects in two different locations, one in a socialist city where it has the old microdistrict, and another in a capitalist city where urban production is becoming an important aspect to bring back to the urban living, it may be possible to see the potentials and flexibilities of the new microdistrict.



Candidate  
Biographies



April  
2018

### Géraldine Borio

Géraldine Borio is a Swiss Registered Architect who graduated from the Swiss Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL | ETH). She is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong, Department of Architecture. She is the co-founder of Parallel Lab, Hong Kong and Wut Tung Sat, Peng Chau. Prior to that, she worked with various firms in Tokyo, Beijing and Hong Kong and has taught at HK Poly U and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is the co-author of the books *Hong Kong In Between* (MCCM | Park Books, 2015) and *The People of Duckling Hill* (HK Poly U, 2015).



### Michael Budig

Michael Budig is an architect, researcher and educator. He is Assistant Professor at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, where his research focuses on innovative form and construction intelligence, hybrid systems and composite materials in combination with engineered timber. He held academic positions as affiliate faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and senior researcher at ETH Zurich's Future Cities Laboratory. Prior to that, he worked with Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and the University of Innsbruck. He was director of moll.budig architecture, a multi-disciplinary office on architecture, urbanism and design strategies. Built projects include industrial and residential buildings that have received international recognition.



### Johnny Chiu

Johnny Chiu is the founder of J.C. Architecture, an international design firm recognised for its fresh perspective and concept-driven work. Headquartered in Taipei, his projects have been the recipient of several awards such as I.D. Magazine – Best of Year, iF, IIDA, Reddot, and Good Design. With a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University, he also founded OUT Scholarship, sponsoring design students to travel the world. His growing portfolio has put him on the cover of several media outlets, including *Interior Design Magazine*, *Frame*, and *Wallpaper*. *Prestige Magazine* named Johnny Chiu 'Top Four Young Power' in Taiwan.



### Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz

Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz wrote *Women Loving* (2010), the first sole-author anthology of lesbian stories in the Philippines, also available as an eBook entitled *Women on Fire* (2015). She has a Master of Arts in Language and Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from De La Salle University Manila. She is Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Mindanao. Cruz has presented her work in literary events in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, and Australia. Her recent work appears in the 'New Asia Now' issue of *Griffith Review* and the Asia-Pacific anthology *The Near and the Far* (2016) edited by David Carlin and Francesca Rendle-Short.



### Andrew Currie

Andrew Currie is an Australian-born architect who has lived and worked across South-East Asia for more than 30 years.

In 2004 Andrew established OUT-2 Design, an architecture and interior design practice with offices in Hong Kong and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Today, OUT-2 Design is primarily focussed on projects in Vietnam, working with both international and local clients in four main areas: commercial offices, international education, bespoke hospitality, and multi-residential communities.



### Laurel Flores Fantauzzo

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo is the author of *The First Impulse* (Anvil Publishing), a work of literary journalism that documents a love story and a mystery in Metro Manila. She is the co-editor of *PRESS: 100 Love Letters* (University of the Philippines Press), an anthology of women's love letters across the Asia-Pacific. She has earned residencies and fellowships from Hedgebrook, Fulbright, and Erasmus, among others, and was a finalist for the PEN/Fusion Award in Nonfiction in 2016. She teaches in the Writers' Centre at Yale-NUS College.



### Holger Kehne

Holger Kehne is an architect trained in Germany and the UK. He aims at engaging practice and academic research in unison, beginning in London where he gained extensive academic experience as unit master in the Diploma School of the Architectural Association while setting up and developing the architectural practice Plasma Studio, winning numerous accolades such as BD/Corus' Young Architect of the Year Award and Architectural Record's Design Vanguard in 2002 and 2004 respectively. He relocated to Hong Kong, where he has been teaching at the University of Hong Kong since 2011. His academic research is context- and material-driven and explores the systemic relationships between urbanism and architecture.



### Tobias Klein

Tobias Klein works in the fields of Architecture, Art, Design and interactive Media Installation. His work generates a syncretism of contemporary CAD/CAM technologies with site and culturally specific design narratives, intuitive non-linear design processes, and historical cultural references. Before joining City University Hong Kong in the role as interdisciplinary Assistant Professor in the School of Creative Media and the Architectural Department, he was employed at the Architectural Association and the Royal College of Art. His works are exhibited internationally, with examples at the Antwerp Fashion Museum, the London Science Museum, the V&A, the Bellevue Arts Museum, Museum of Moscow and Vancouver. He publishes internationally, most recently on the translation from craftsmanship to digital manufacturing.



### Terry Lam

Terry is a media creative and brand strategist with over 17 years of experience in film, advertising and digital media industry. He has a thorough understanding of both creative process and design workflow, gaining many international media awards.

Terry has been an animator, visual effects supervisor and CG director. He has worked on over 20 Hong Kong movies. He was Executive Creative Director at CTV Media Group in Beijing. In 2014, Terry was re-allocated to Seoul to focus on creative consultancy for VR and mixed reality projects between Hong Kong, China and Korea. Terry is Teaching Fellow for the Digital Media faculty at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



### Christian J. Lange

Christian J. Lange is a founding partner of Rocker-Lange Architects, a research and design practice based in Hong Kong and Boston. He is a registered German architect and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong, where he teaches architectural design and classes in advanced digital modeling and robotics. A strong emphasis in his work is the implementation of computation and novel fabrication methods in the design and construction process. His work and research has been published internationally and featured in over 30 exhibits, including the Venice Biennale 2010 and the Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi city Biennale 2012, 2014 and 2018.



## John Lin

In 2005 the Chinese government announced its plan to urbanise half of the remaining 700 million rural citizens by 2030. At the same time, Joshua Bolchover and John Lin set up Rural Urban Framework (RUF), a research and design collaborative based at The University of Hong Kong. Conducted as a non-profit organisation providing design services to charities and NGOs, RUF has built or is currently engaged in various projects in diverse villages throughout China and Mongolia. As a result of this active engagement, RUF has been able to research the links between social, economic, political processes and the physical transformation of each village.



## Marc Nair

Marc Nair is a poet and photographer. He writes as a traveler, observing place, culture and the quirks of human nature. He is working on a new collection of poetry, *Vital Possessions*, that will be launched in August 2018. The book considers our relationship between nature and urbanity.

Photo by Dalene Low



## Khoa Trong Nguyen

Khoa Trong Nguyen is a Writer/Director of two feature films in Vietnam. His education includes a BA in Fine Arts from UCLA and an MFA in Cinema-TV Screenwriting from USC. He currently works as the Discipline Lead of the Design Program at RMIT Vietnam and is a founding member of the Mixed Reality Studio, which explores AR, VR, and MR to produce applications and content for social impact in Vietnam. Khoa also serves as the chief advisor for YOLO Pictures, a production company that produces TVCs, documentaries, promotional and corporate videos, and music and viral videos in Vietnam.



## Olivier Ottevaere

Olivier Ottevaere is an architect and educator whose work investigates new procedures of construction that seek greater structural logic and more active participation of material, through prototyping. Since 2012, he is the founding principal of Double(o) Studio, an architecture practice based in Hong Kong. He is the recipient of several international awards and his built work has been exhibited and published widely. Prior to teaching at the University of Hong Kong, Olivier has taught design studios at various universities such as the AA in London, SUTD in Singapore, EPFL in Switzerland and at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen. He graduated from the Cooper Union and from the Bartlett School of Architecture.



### Alvin Pang

Alvin Pang is a poet, author, editor and translator. He has over a dozen books to his name, and has been translated into over fifteen languages. He is Editor-in-Chief of a public policy journal, *ETHOS*, and has taught creative writing at Yale-NUS College. He was Singapore's 2005 Young Artist of the Year for Literature, and was conferred the 2007 Singapore Youth Award (Arts and Culture). Recent publications include *Tumasik: Contemporary Writing from Singapore* (2010), *Other Things and Other Poems* (2012), *When The Barbarians Arrive* (2012), and *UNION: 15 Years of Drunken Boat / 50 Years of Writing from Singapore* (2015).



### Sandra Nicole Roldan

Sandra Nicole Roldan is a writer whose fiction and nonfiction most recently appeared in *Storytelling ASIA*, *High Chair*, *Kritika Kultura*, and *Mondo Marcos*. She was awarded a 2016 workshop fellowship at Seoul Art Space, a 2007 Philippines Free Press Award for the essay, and a 2006 LTI Korea writing residency. She is Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman where she teaches creative writing and literature. Sandra is working on her first essay and story collections, and is collaborating on an oral history project with fellow Marcos martial law babies. She lives in Quezon City.



### Andrew Stiff

Andrew Stiff's design practice investigates the process of collecting, archiving and (re) producing physical and ephemeral data from an urban realm. Using and exploring the possibilities of digital tools, his practice employs moving image media. His work has been shown internationally from the US, Hong Kong, Japan and in South East Asia, as well as a number of venues in Europe.

Andrew Stiff is an Associate Lecturer at RMIT University Vietnam. His other roles include Research Coordinator for CoCD [Centre of Communication and Design], with particular interest to including more practice based outcomes within the university.



### Dongwoo Yim

Dongwoo Yim is the co-founder of PRAUD and Assistant Professor at Hongik University Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Design. He received his masters degree at Harvard University and bachelor's degree at Seoul National University, and currently is a PhD candidate at RMIT. He is the winner of Architectural League Prize 2013, and the author of *Pyongyang*, and *Pyongyang After*, and the co-author of *(Un) Precedented Pyongyang*, *North Korean Atlas* and *I Want to be METROPOLITAN* among others. His works have been exhibited worldwide including the award winning Korean Pavilion in Venice Biennale 2014, Museum of Modern Art in New York, DNA Galerie in Berlin. Dongwoo was an adjunct professor at Rhode Island School of Design from 2011 through 2017, and visiting assistant professor at Washington University in St. Louis in 2016.



# Supervisor Biographies

April  
2018



## Michelle Aung Thin

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

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Michelle began her writing life as an Advertising Copywriter in London, England. Her novel, *The Monsoon Bride* (Text 2011), was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards as an unpublished manuscript and received a Readings Foundation/Wheeler Centre Fellowship. She was the first Asialink resident to Myanmar in 2014 (funded by Arts Victoria), where she researched her current project – a story that traces the parallels between contemporary Yangon and historical

Rangoon and addresses questions of home and belonging. Other research interests include how Myanmar's writers are using mobile and smartphones in their practice. Michelle holds a PhD from The University of Adelaide and teaches both creative writing and copywriting for advertising. Michelle is the 2017 National Library of Australia Creative Arts Fellowship for Australian Writing (supported by the Eva Kollsman and Ray Mathew Trust).



## Nicholas Boyarsky

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Urban Design

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Dr Nicholas Boyarsky PhD, AA Dipl, BA(Hons), RIBA, ARB trained at the Architectural Association in London, graduating in 1988. He worked for Zaha Hadid, Michael Hopkins, and Stefano de Martino before establishing Boyarsky Murphy Architects in London with Nicola Murphy in 1994. His PhD was titled *Serious Play – a Deltiology of Practice*.

Alongside his architectural practice Nicholas has lectured and taught at many European, North American and Far Eastern schools of architecture and contributed to conferences, symposia and workshops. He has been a Visiting Professor in the US, at Cornell, RISD and NJIT, at Bergen Architecture School in Norway, and at NCKU in Taiwan. He directed

Syracuse University's London architecture program from 2007 to 2010. Nicholas taught a design studio at the Bartlett, London, in the Masters of Urban Design until 2012 and he is currently teaching a fifth year studio at Oxford Brookes as part of a collaborative research project with schools of architecture in Stockholm, Estonia and Bosnia Herzegovina based on post-communist urban landscapes. Nicholas is a founding member of the Urban Flashes network. His work with the Alvin Boyarsky Archive has led to the development of the travelling exhibition 'Drawing Ambience' and two publications. He is an Adjunct Professor of RMIT University.



## David Carlin

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

David Carlin is a writer and creative artist whose books include *Love in the Ruins*; *Survival Guide for Life after Normal* (co-authored with Nicole Walker, Rose Metal Press, forthcoming 2019), *The Abyssinian Contortionist* (UWAP, 2015) and *Our Father Who Wasn't There* (Scribe, 2010). David is Co-President of the NonfictionNOW Conference, Co-Director of non/fictionLab and WrICE, and Professor, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University.



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## Graham Crist

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Urban Design

Graham Crist is an Australian registered architect and associate professor of architecture at RMIT in Vietnam where he is head of the new Master of Architecture program in Saigon.

He is the founding director of the design practice Antarctica, which leans toward socially engaged public architecture and speculations for the wider population. Antarctica is the recipient of AIA Architecture awards, published projects in *Architecture Australia*, *Architecture Review* and *Monument*. It has participated in a number of large scale exhibitions including Melbourne Now and the Australian Venice Biennale show 'Abundance'.

Graham writes frequently for professional journals *Architecture Review Australia* and *Architecture Australia*. Prior to founding his design practice he has worked in the

offices of Donaldson Worn in Perth, and Denton Corker Marshall in Melbourne. He has formerly been the program director of architecture at RMIT in Melbourne, and coordinator of its masters program and coordinator of its design studios.

Graham's bachelor and masters education was completed at the University of Western Australia where he taught before coming to RMIT. His PhD was completed at RMIT and supervised by Professor Leon van Schaik. Entitled *Sheds for Antarctica: the Environment for Architectural Design and Practice*, it aimed to bridge the space between everyday contingencies and architectural form-making.



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Dr Anna Johnson is a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture and Urban Design at RMIT University. She is Asian Architecture and Urbanism coordinator in the Masters of Architecture, and International Student Coordinator. She completed her PhD in 2014 which focused on the critical and generative relationship between writing and drawing as explored through her practice. Her design work has been speculative and engaged in potential relationships between generative drawing, allegory, narrative and the strategic employment of writing as a design driver equal to drawing.

She is an established architectural writer with over 10 published books on Australian contemporary residential architecture, South East Asian architecture and design practice research. Her current book to be published by Thames & Hudson, co-authored with

Associate Professor Richard Black, looks at the critical relationship between landscape and houses in non-urban settings. This book explores contemporary architectural strategies and thinking concerning site – the landscape – and what that now means in Australia and New Zealand. The term landscape itself is interrogated for its scenic, picturesque associations that, by default, establish a particular distance and indeed hierarchy between land and building. Johnson and Black propose a more immersive, qualitative and engaged relationship with landscape that draws on a spectrum of influences from indigenous patterns of occupation and use, to climactic and historical readings as well as looking to broader cultural, artistic and architectural trajectories that inform our reading and hence landscape/architectural relationships.



Peta Murray is a former high school drama teacher turned professional writer become late-blooming academic. She began writing full time after her play, *Wallflowering* was workshopped at the Australian National Playwrights' Conference in 1988. *Wallflowering* went on to be performed nationally and internationally and continues to see production to this day.

Other plays include the AWGIE-award winning, *Spitting Chips*, on the theme of adolescence and bereavement, and *This Dying Business*, premiered at an international conference on Palliative Care. Peta is the author of *The Law of Large Numbers*, about the impact of poker machine gambling addiction on regional Australian communities, of the Gold AWGIE-winning *The Keys to the Animal Room* on family violence, and of *Salt*, winner of the Victorian Premier's Award for Drama. In 2003 Peta was awarded the Australian Government's Centenary Medal for Services to Society and Literature.

In her 'other life' as a researcher, Peta is interested in the application of transdisciplinary, dramaturgical and arts-based practices as modes of inquiry and as forms of cultural activism. Her triptych of works on elderhood and the artist, *Ware with a Translucent Body* premiered at Footscray Community Arts Centre between 2014 and 2016. *Vigil*, a performance-lecture on death literacy was presented at the Melbourne International Festival in 2017, under the banner of *Survival Skills for Desperate Times*. Critical writing includes a chapter in *Creative Manoeuvres: Writing, Making, Being* (2014), contributions to AXON and to New Writing, and a creative essay for TEXT.

Peta is co-founder and Creative Director of the not-for-profit arts-and-health organisation, The Groundswell Project.



## Adam Nash

Supervisor, School of Design

Adam Nash is an artist, composer, programmer, performer and researcher in digital virtual environments as audiovisual performance spaces, data/motion/affect capture sites, artificially intelligent, evolutionary and generative platforms. His work has been exhibited in prestigious galleries, festivals and online worldwide. He is Associate Dean of Digital Design in the School of Design at RMIT University.



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## Gretchen Wilkins

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Urban Design

Associate Professor Gretchen Wilkins is Head of Department – Design at RMIT University Vietnam, where she oversees programs in Architecture, Fashion, Digital Media and Design Studies. Gretchen led the development of RMIT's Master of Architecture program in Vietnam since 2014, and ongoing establishment within the academic and professional communities in Southeast Asia. At RMIT Melbourne Gretchen launched and directed the global Master of Urban Design program based in Asia, Europe and Australia, and led the 'Cities' stream in the Centre for Design Practice Research (D\_Lab). Her PhD in Architecture focused on the integration of industry with urban density, especially in rapidly developing cities. This research continues through the 'Future Factory' postgraduate design studios, and the FarmHD project – an Australian-government funded project researching high-rise farming and food security in Hong Kong and Australia. ([www.farmhd.org](http://www.farmhd.org))

Before arriving to RMIT Melbourne in 2008 Gretchen was an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and co-principal of the architectural practices Wilkins+Comazzi Design and Ply Architecture. She is the editor of *Distributed Urbanism: Cities after Google Earth* (Routledge) and *On-The Spot: Atelier Hitoshi Abe* (Michigan Architecture Papers). She has published and exhibited design research internationally, including in *Architectural Design*, Princeton Architectural Press, the Storefront for Art and Architecture and the Urban Lab+, UCL. Her research has been supported by the Japan Foundation, the Australia-China Council, the Holcim Forum for Sustainable Development, and the James L. Knight Foundation.



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Jessica L. Wilkinson is a poet, critic and editor, who has published two poetic biographies - *marionette: a biography of miss marion davis* was published by Vagabond Press in 2012 and shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards; *Suite for Percy Grainger* was published in 2014, a poem from which won the 2014 *Peter Porter Poetry Prize*. She is working on a third book, on the life and work of choreographer George Balanchine, with a side section on Australian prima-ballerina Lucette Aldous. In 2011, Jessica founded

*Rabbit*: a journal for nonfiction poetry, which will celebrate its 24th issue in April 2018.

*Rabbit* also publishes small single-author collections in the *Rabbit Poets Series*, which supports work by new Australian poets. She has recently co-edited the *Contemporary Australian Feminist Poetry* anthology (Hunter Publishers, 2016) with Bonny Cassidy. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and Literary Studies from the University of Melbourne and is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at RMIT University, Melbourne.



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