

Public Talks, Lectures, Training (since 2020)

Ecopedagogies Symposium, Chair, and Presenter on *Orchards and Orchardng as Ecopedagogy*, July 2024. <https://ecopedagogies.cargo.site/>

John Rylands and CIDRAL, symposium, Heritage and Archival Correspondences: The attentive public and the 'impact' of discovery, invited presenter on *correspondence in/through community-based research*, May 2024

<https://events.manchester.ac.uk/event/event:p2hr-lr6ep9hy-m457ao>

UnNatural History at WOW Festival Manchester: Tania Kovats' MOONMOTH, May 2024

<https://invisibledust.com/projects/unnatural-history-at-wow-festival-manchester/>

Creative and Civic futures Research Cafés exploring the significance of non-human presence and agency in theory and practice for imagining Civic Futures, Chair and organiser, April – May 2024, (Recordings: <https://www.creative.manchester.ac.uk/research/creative-and-civic-futures/>):

Plants in Civic Futures

Materials in Civic Futures

Animals in Civic Futures

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/civic-futures-research-cafes-3229179>

Institute of Historical research, workshop contribution with Anna Batz, Canal and River Trust , History & Policy: Mobilising the Environmental Humanities, March 2024.

<https://www.history.ac.uk/events/history-policy-mobilising-environmental-humanities>

Royal Geographical Society conference, London, panels (x 2) methods for animal geographies research, and NERC CASTOR project, Sept 2023

AALERT: Arts and the Artist in Landscape and Environmental Research Today Network (AHRC) workshop, London, invited paper on the *e/affect of arts*, Nov 2022

Workshop delivery on Deep Qualitative Methods, for project *Co-developing innovative urban policy strategies on poverty and austerity in Manchester (CAPE funded)*, Dec 2022

<https://www.cape.ac.uk/collaboration-projects/>

Hunar Symposium Conference on arts and conflict, presentation on *post-war memorialisation in Kosova*, Nov 2022

<https://hunarsymposia.com/conference-schedule>

Manchester Climate Change Youth Board Conference, guest presenter on *creativity and climate justice*, Nov 2022

<https://www.manchesterclimate.com/events/youth-climate-change-conference>

Aberdeen Robert Gordon University, PGT research methodologies, invited speaker on *socially engaged arts-based research*, Sept 2022

Talking Place Symposium, Intl Anthony Burgess Foundation, paper on *place-based community climate resilience*, Sept 2022

<https://womentalkplace.com/>

Royal Geographical Society conference, Newcastle, papers (x 3) on *animal geographies, community resilience, recovery*, Sept 2022

BlueDot festival, invited Chair in-conversation with Prof Carly McLachlan, Tyndall Centre, July 2022

Manchester Histories Festival, invited Chair in-conversation with author Celeste Hicks, June 2022

Related podcast with Manchester University Press:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpUfh30OibM>

Sustainable Futures Seminar, Creative Climate Resilience, June 2022

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hS_PviPRv-g

University of the Basque Country, Summer Course *Patrimonio cultural y perspectiva de género*, invited keynote on heritage as social practice, Feb 2022

<https://www.womenslegacy.eu/en/the-provincial-council-of-bizkaia-organises-the-first-course-on-cultural-heritage-and-gender-perspective-in-collaboration-with-the-university-of-the-basque-country/>

Manchester Metropolitan University, *Treescaping Voices of the Future Seminar Series - Session 1*, invited speaker on community practice and co- production, Feb 2022

https://bham-ac-uk.zoom.us/rec/share/VmPpfCjMwU2RPnJLbF-ZYQddetRgZFOSBxRQwIKrZfV3rA-2OxvgziV_hX8caFet.y1feKR2O2vVg_uoC

Passcode: QR8qiy!j

Botanical City: plants, stories, lives (film and event, Whitworth Gallery/ ESRC), Nov 2021

Plants make life possible: they are crucial to existence and to wellbeing, especially also in urban environments. Yet they are often disregarded, or considered ornamental extras. Our words reveal this: 'vegetating' means being passive, barely alive. At a time of environmental crisis, the spaces we share with plants, and our relations with them, need to be reimagined. This event explores different ways of being through and with plants, with panellists whose approaches include poetry, community and climate action, botany, and indigenous perspectives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq0tnn7yGow>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2gtgpjxxghvuau9/Botanical%20City%20Event%20Video.mp4?dl=0>

Panel Member, Community Participation workshop: Ignition Project, (RHS, Groundwork, Uni of Salford), Nov 2021

<http://hub.salford.ac.uk/ignition-living-lab/>

Interview "I'm committed to art that does something" (Green New Deal Podcast) Nov 2021 (recorded on 8 Oct 2021)

This week on the show we are joined by Dr Jenna Ashton (@heritagemcr). Jenna is a Lecturer in heritage studies at the University of Manchester and her current project, Community Climate Resilience, is working with working class communities in Miles Platting and Newton Heath through folk pageantry (@CreativeResMcr). We look at what folk pageantry actually is, how art can help develop working class spaces and galvanise communities, and how we should use art and crafting to help imagine future utopias.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/im-committed-to-art-that-does-something-interview-with/id1501980017?i=1000542626650>

Living with Loss in the City: Implications for Age Friendly Communities (GMCVO and Ambition for Ageing), Nov 2021

An Ambition for Ageing seminar, led by Dr Jenna C. Ashton, University of Manchester. The seminar explored the complexity of loss as perception and lived reality in the city, and its implications for health and civic participation. Research examples of destruction (or the threat of) to natural and built environments in Manchester raise questions for how change is managed, and how society is cared for at a local and policy level. Issues of grief, memory, connectivity, resilience, culture, and inequalities come to the fore, demanding loss be taken seriously within ageing-related research and practice. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7s31cNioZk8>

Observer, COP26 1- 12 Nov 2021:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/manchester-researchers-to-attend-cop26-negotiations/>

Ecologies and Communities: Heritage as a social and multi-species practice (Scottish Civic Trust), Nov 2021

Concepts of ecology and community increasingly come to the fore in discourse fuelled by environmental concerns, as well as analysis around social cohesion and diversity. Ecology is the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings. Community concerns the people living in one particular area, or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality. But what does it mean to make or perform community today? How do communities come together? What is the role of identity and power within community structures? How do issues and realities such as migration and diaspora, or homelessness and spatial redevelopment impact a concept of "Community"?

Both ecology and community concern the interconnectedness of things, and the complexity of layered relationships and interactions within, and between, human and more-than-human existence. Notably, ecology and community are tied up with practices and processes that are spatially situated. Multi-species ethnography and scholarship emphasises the plurality of communities and organisms, and offers ecological models for building and evolving new communities in times of stress, fear, grief, loss. This talk will consider how multi-species approaches offer opportunities for an expanded field of heritage studies and heritage practice, as we begin to consider the role of "ecology" and "community" for addressing the climate emergency, inequalities, and global movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zicUPbt85PE>

Invited speaker and plenary keynote for conference *(De)constructing Heritage Cultural Heritage, Citizenship and Belonging*, Leibniz University, Hannover. (online) Pedagogical Development for Heritage as Social Practice, 20-21 Sep 2021

<https://www.cinc.uni-hannover.de/de/forschung/forschungsprojekte/forschungsprojekte/cher/>

Manchester Festival of Climate Action: Day 4: collaboration/ culture (University of Manchester), 11- 14 Oct 2021

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/climate-festival/>

How does the cultural sector move beyond bins, lightbulbs and building-based adaptations to more fully and creatively address the climate and ecological emergency for the people of our city region? The opportunity in Manchester is for visible and compelling change, for the cultural sector to build upon its reputation and track record and make a discernible step-change – in terms of active carbon reduction, civic engagement, social justice and education.

BBC Radio 3, Free Thinking, "Can Arts Help Save the Planet?"

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wlkc>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/dr-jenna-ashton-discusses-art-and-climate-change-on-bbc-radio-3/>

Is encouraging action still art? What does it mean to make art about the environment? Eleanor Rosamund Barraclough brings together a curator, researchers and artists to discuss these questions. She hears about suggestions from artists, inspired by the forward thinking Gustav Metzger (1926 - 2017), collated by curator Hans Ulrich Obrist. These include the idea from Futurefarmers that we "make an unannounced visit to a farm and take a good long look at the farmer's bookshelf" or Forensic Architecture's call for us to "Look at an air bubble" or Olafur Eliasson's "Look down, look up" and a poetic call to action inspired by the writer Audre Lorde (1934-1992): you can find an episode all about her work in the Free Thinking archives. Lucy Neal

describes a project that has involved a forest camp in Coventry looking back at the ideas of the suffragettes. Wayne Binitie shares his experiences of taking photographs of melting ice sheets, recreating them in a gallery and making sound and music. Dr Jenna C. Ashton describes her work with communities in Manchester thinking about how they face up to changes in the climate and reflect those in a pageant planned for next year.

August – Oct 2021, AirSpace Gallery – InsideOutsideHouse Residency/ “House of Octaversilia”
Sept- Oct 2021, AirSpace Gallery, British Ceramics Biennial <https://www.insideoutside.house/>

Methods for Change Showcase Event: Panel 1: Transforming Communities (Aspect), May 2021
<https://aspect.ac.uk/news-and-events/methods-for-change-showcase-event/>

This final showcase event brought together the Methods for Change academic contributors and a range of professionals from policy, charity, business and creative sectors. In the panel discussions, and an interactive session, we unpicked the importance and opportunities for social science methods to create transformative change in these sectors.

We hope that PhD students, early career academics, people in research or development roles across various professions found inspiration in these discussions for their own practice.

Commissioned participant, Diversity in the Environment Hackathon, IYP Collective and Esmee Fairbairn, April 2021

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latest-news/hackathon-addressing-lack-diversity-environment-sector/>

Report outcome:

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latest-news/addressing-lack-diversity-environment-sector/>

Commissioned workshop on heritage studies practice and theory: National Youth Theatre UK, project “Silent Statues”, online (UK), 100 participants aged 14 - 25, March 2021: <https://vod.voxburner.com/programs/nyt-tiktok-v1mov-8439b6>

Invited panel member on place-based approaches. Creative Europe, Creative Carbon Scotland, Scottish Government, *Cultural Adaptations* conference online. March 2021:

<https://www.culturaladaptations.com/>

Manchester Histories Salons: Environmental Campaigning and Access to Green Spaces. (Manchester Histories), Feb 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtjBdF1ib30&t=21s>

In the first of our insightful salons we explore the history of environmental campaigning and the demand for urban green spaces from the beginnings of industrialisation to today. Dr Jenna Ashton, Lecturer in Heritage Studies in the School of Arts, Languages and Culture at The University of Manchester is in conversation with Helena Craig, retired lawyer, birder, committed conservationist and Chair of Black2Nature.

Carbon Literacy Training (via Carbon Literacy Project and MAST) Jan 2021 (cert awarded March 2021) <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

Vox Pop - Brave New World (Manchester Museum), Nov 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppA-7l-K-Zk>

On the 25 November 2020 Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum and Simon Curtis, Head of Production, Royale Exchange Theatre brought cultural organisations across Manchester together to explore how Manchester's cultural sector can address the climate and ecological emergency.

Methods for Change – ASPECT – invitation as participant, Oct 2020 – May 2021

<http://aspect.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Methods-for-Change-Final-Report-September-2021.pdf>

Arts, Communities and Resilience (Sustainable Futures, UoM), Oct 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0r8ypJCQ34>

The Future of Trees: Trees for Community Storytelling, Remembrance & Witnessing (Manchester Environmental Research Institute, UoM), Sep 2020

In this presentation, Dr Jenna C. Ashton reflects on the presence and relevance of trees in her work spanning feminist social practice arts, heritage, and ecological and social justice. Trees appear as active participants, points of connection, witnesses, sites of activism and folklore, as valued members of communities. Trees are frequently incorporated into Western language of natural capital or nature based solutions. However, Ashton argues that trees hold a powerful cultural potency for inspiring urban environmental action, which could be further explored at community level.

<https://emarketing.manchester.ac.uk/uomepscomms/lz.aspx?p1=VgFDA1MVM2OTU2MTYxODg6Rjc1NEFDMTk4M0NDREE2MTY4MzIBQ0FFRkMwMkVCNkY%3D-&CC=&p=0>