

# NAFAE RESEARCH STUDENT CONFERENCE

Royal College of Art, Battersea,  
Dyson Building, 1 Hester Road,  
London SW11 4AN



**Royal College of Art**  
Postgraduate Art & Design



# LIVING RESEARCH: THE URGENCY OF THE ARTS

What does arts and humanities research have to offer in our current socio-political climate? This conference for research students takes as its focus the way arts research methods and practices might be put to use in our contemporary moment. We ask, what 'work' can a PhD do? By this we do not mean how might our research be instrumentalised or applied, but rather how might it lead our interactions with, and understanding of, the world.

Hosted by the Royal College of Art, London, the **LIVING RESEARCH** conference will run six strands of thinking around creative propositions engendered by a single word. The categories; Collaboration, Documents, Entanglement, Environment, Me and Reenactment, are currently in use within the RCA's School of Arts and Humanities, bringing together researchers across disciplines, developing creative methods to explore terms that demand urgent enquiry. It is hoped they will allow for a wide range of responses, in both content and form.

★ 15TH  
MARCH  
2019

Beginning with **ENVIRONMENT** as both concept and site, we examine its multiplicity, as hostile, or in distress. In **REENACTMENT** we explore methods of return, repetitions and copying that often allow a habitation of the past in order to forge future encounters. The pleasures and difficulties of living and working together may be explored in **COLLABORATION** and further complicated as a kind of *passagenwerk* of erotic praxis, artificial intelligences and quantum consciousness in **ENTANGLEMENT**. The traces, artefacts and the problematic and violent histories of living with ourselves may be exposed in **DOCUMENTS**, taking us through to a spotlight on **ME** and the slippery subject of subjectivity, with the potential of subversive tactics and shifting, multiple positions and voices.

## Strands and potential fields of enquiry

### STRAND 1: COLLABORATION

plurality assemblage  
interdisciplinary  
polyvocality  
participatory QTIPoC  
Common Ground  
publics comparative  
synchronicity chorus

### STRAND 2: DOCUMENTS

archive formless event  
artefact chronicle  
poetics witness power  
hive surveillance  
trace

### STRAND 3: ENVIRONMENT

social constructed  
climate deep listening  
technosphere  
anthropocene hostile  
tentacular spatial  
psychedelics material

### STRAND 4: ENTANGLEMENT

encounter multiversal  
erotic praxis  
radical matter  
curved time  
artificial intelligence  
quantum consciousness  
science fiction  
complexity  
perversion flesh

### STRAND 5: ME

subjectivity  
autobiography  
persona autofiction  
performance  
translation  
shame narration  
exhibitionism  
masturbation  
interiority

### STRAND 6: RE-ENACTMENT

inhabitation  
mimesis repetition  
transcription copy  
fetish fiction history  
doubling genealogies  
appropriation



The conference is open to all research students in UK and the rest of the world, at any stage of their studies. There is no conference fee but delegates' institutions should be a member of NAFAE or they should take an individual annual student membership subscription.

## TIMELINE

### 10TH NOVEMBER 2018

Call for proposals; 300 word abstracts to be submitted on proforma downloadable from NAFAE website [nafae.org.uk](http://nafae.org.uk) and emailed to [admin@nafae.org.uk](mailto:admin@nafae.org.uk)

### 6TH JANUARY 2019

Closing date for abstracts to be received

### 1ST FEBRUARY 2019

Response to delegates

### 15TH MARCH 2019

Living Research Conference  
Royal College of Art  
School of Arts and Humanities  
(Battersea campus)

Enquiries to:  
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