

# CALL FOR PAPERS

6-7 APRIL 2017

The **AHRA** and **Prokalo** invite proposals from graduate students for contributions to its  
**14th Annual Research Student Symposium:**  
**Research as Open Work**

The theme of the 14th Annual Research Student Symposium: **Research as Open Work** references Umberto Eco's *Opera Aperta*. Eco argued that works of art- whether music, painting, or architectural compositions - should be understood as specific "closed" forms that simultaneously offer open and multiple interpretations and performances, constructed by the different perspectives of each listener, viewer, or inhabitant. While research is not synonymous with works of art, it is often constructed as a specifically 'closed' form yet is also open to readers, viewers and users. The Symposium theme therefore foregrounds and questions the 'openness' of research work and how research that is conceived as 'open work' might offer new understandings of conditions or ethics of openness, how contemporary humanities research acts as and contributes to public and responsive (responsible) scholarship.

Relatively recent qualifications of humanities research as *architectural* (driven by specificities of spatial, urban and design for occupation), *digital* (driven by open source web, democratization of knowledge), *environmental* (driven by global climate crises/ change), *medical* (driven by health), demonstrate the formations and reformations of fields of studies as specific interdisciplinary congruences. This asserts and opens onto a scope or -scape of particular production and practice such as: architecture, the digital domain, the environment, medicine. Do these qualifications **limit, foreground, enhance** or **blur** the productive limits and boundaries of knowledge, the degrees of open and closed relationships between institutions and society, or between disciplines and their research practice conventions?

**Doctoral researchers** at different stages of their careers are invited to respond to the theme and to meet and discuss the emergent approaches to their particular research praxis and current research topics in: **architecture, cultural theory, landscape, urbanism and design**. We are particularly interested in collaborative and multi-, inter-, trans-, and a-disciplinary practices that are refined through work which operates through conditioned humanities research, and/or crosses between scholarship and policy, academy and practice, and vice versa.

---

The Open Work, trans. Anna Cancogni (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989). See Ewing, S and Periton, D 'An Open Issue' in Architecture and Culture Volume 4 issue 2, July 2016 pp167-171



The format of the event will be as follows:

**Thursday 6th April**

**'Refining'**

AHRA conference day of selected papers in chaired sessions with plenary speakers

**Friday 7th April**

**'Rough and Ready'**

research 'work in progress' workshops with invited academics, plenary & keynote speakers

<http://ahrapostgrad2017.weebly.com>

We are calling for paper proposals and workshop proposals across this two-day conference that engage with the theme **'Research as Open Work'** - Please interpret this as you wish.

[DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: **8th of January 2017**]

-----  
- **Guide for authors** -

Papers will be 15 minutes long allowing research students to discuss their research methodologies and issues arising from their work in a collegiate and friendly environment. To submit your paper extract (no more than 1000 words) for peer review please click here: [<http://ahrapostgrad2017.weebly.com/extract-submission.html>](http://ahrapostgrad2017.weebly.com/extract-submission.html).

- **Guide for proposed workshop facilitators and collaborations** -

Workshops will be programmed in before lunch and after lunch slots so will be around 2 to 3 hours long (this is slightly flexible). To submit your proposal (MAX 1000 words or equivalent if multimedia) for peer review please click here: [<http://ahrapostgrad2017.weebly.com/extract-submission.html>](http://ahrapostgrad2017.weebly.com/extract-submission.html).

**[ALL EXTRACTS (OR EQUIVALENT) WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK & CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS]**

Submissions will be reviewed by the organising committee, members of the AHRA steering group and University of Edinburgh Interdisciplinary scholars. Submissions will be selected for inclusion in the symposium on this basis.

-----  
**Important Dates**

Deadline for submission: **8th January 2017, 5pm**

Notification of acceptance and feedback: **early Feb 2017**

Deadline for final amended abstracts for online upload: **3rd March 2017**

**Organising committee:**

The organising committee is comprised of **Suzanne Ewing** (Head of the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA) and a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design and Theory) in collaboration with **Laura Bowie** (3rd year PhD candidate, Cultural Studies) & **Rebecca Crowther** (3rd year PhD candidate, Landscape Architecture) on behalf of the PhD Community as well as a panel of invited research students and academics from within Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA).

-----  
[Please address any enquires to Rebecca & Laura at [ahrapostgrad2017@gmail.com](mailto:ahrapostgrad2017@gmail.com)]