

Engineering and Innovation Research Studentship 2023/2024



Project title:	Regenerative Design for Place Resilience
Discipline	Design
Key words:	Regenerative Cultures, Restorative Design, Reconciliatory Design, Place Resilience, Co-Design, Social Justice.
Supervisory team:	Alessandra Campoli, Theodore Zamenopoulos.
URL for lead supervisor's OU profile	Professor Theodore Zamenopoulos: https://www.open.ac.uk/people/tz98 Dr Alessandra Campoli: https://www.open.ac.uk/people/ac33657

Project Highlights:

- Opportunity to engage with live research projects;
- Work with non-academic partners to conduct socially responsible research nationally or internationally;
- Develop skills in mixed methods approaches in design research;
- Develop skills in community-based participatory action-research.

Overview:

In light of recent social, environmental and cultural developments, the term 'sustainability' has been questioned and often considered inadequate to reflect the complexity of our goals.

The notions of 'regenerative cultures' and 'regenerative design' are slowly replacing sustainable cultures and design. "The aim of creating regenerative cultures transcends and includes sustainability" (Wahl, 2017).

The need to **design as nature** and as place to overcome the Story of Separation is at its core. This is a form of design that "*engages all the key stakeholders and processes of the place – humans, other biotic systems, earth systems*" Reed 2007: p677) to grow the capability of people and the 'more than human' participants to coevolve as ecosystems (Rauschmayer et al, 2013). "Instead of doing less damage to the environment, it is necessary to learn how we can participate with the environment

— using the health of ecological systems as a basis for design" (Reed 2007: 764).

We are looking for a design PhD student to conduct research focussed on regenerative, restorative and reconciliatory design practices, particularly in the context of growing capabilities for resilience.

Examples include:

- Exploring different types of regenerative design practices and their value for place resilience (where place includes communities, biotic and earth systems) .
- Co-developing regenerative design practices or strategies with under-represented or marginalised communities.
- Analysing the role and impact of design in place resilience strategies.

The research will aim at advancing knowledge on the transformative role of regenerative, restorative, and reconciliatory design practices for place resilience and the methods and practices that can facilitate them (processes, tools, technologies).



Figure 1. [Design Thinking Community Workshop at Bikalpa Art Centre in Kathmandu, photo by Alessandra Campoli, 2022].

Methodology:

The project is expected to describe a methodological strategy and approach that would be appropriate for the proposed research questions. This may include case studies or co-design projects with under-represented or marginalised communities. It may include abductive or inductive research strategies and the use of mixed methods to collect and analyse data i.e. combining qualitative and quantitative methods.

References & Further reading:

1. Whal, D.C. (2016) *Designing Regenerative Cultures*. Bridport: Tryarchy Press
2. Reed, B. (2007) "Shifting from Sustainability to Regeneration", *Building Research & Information*, 35:6, 674-680, DOI: [10.1080/09613210701475753](https://doi.org/10.1080/09613210701475753)
3. Rauschmayer, F. and Lessmann, O. (2013) 'The Capability Approach and Sustainability', *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 14(1), pp. 1–5. doi: [10.1080/19452829.2012.751744](https://doi.org/10.1080/19452829.2012.751744).

Further details:

Students should have a strong background in design and enthusiasm for design for community regeneration and participatory design. Experience in co-design, working with disadvantaged, marginalised or misrepresented communities and/or practice-based research is desirable.

Please contact Professor Theodore Zamenopoulos or Dr Alessandra Campoli to discuss your proposal:

theodore.zamenopoulos@open.ac.uk

alessandra.campoli@open.ac.uk

Applications should include:

- A 1000 word cover letter outlining why the project is of interest to you and how your skills match those required
- an academic CV containing contact details of three academic references
- an Open University application form, downloadable from: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process>
- IELTS test scores where English is an additional language

Applications should be sent to

STEM-EI-PhD@open.ac.uk by 15.02.2023