

Critical Spatial Practices

This Bring Your Own Idea proposal, convened by the Landscape Research Collective (LRC) of the Sam Fox School, will bring together scholars and creative practitioners working at the intersection of spatial and political concerns, with a particular eye to the ways landscapes—urban, rural, wild—enter into the field of the political. While this convening is organized topically around the politics of landscape, it goes further in staking a claim for a specific methodology or orientation—something we might call *practice*. We wish to convene a multi-disciplinary range of critical, creative practitioners from across the WashU campus and the wider St. Louis community, for whom research and practice are inextricably linked. From a range of practices—poetry, design, history, art, literature—the participants will bring to the table a particular way of seeing and, importantly, of responding-to and communicating, the imbrications of politics and space.

This group will stake out a position for practice within the broader research university context, and to articulate a pro-active position whereby a practice-friendly model of research and production might be effectively communicated. Our meetings, which we imagine to be evening tea/cocktail gatherings, will bring to the table not only topical specificity—the ‘what’ of research— but, importantly, a focus on the ‘how’ and the ‘why’ of what we do as well. Creative practice poses unique questions for the research university; we look to learn from one another as we provide models that open up scholarship to new modes of production and reception. We set as a primary goal writing a collective statement of practice that can be published in one of the widely-read emerging journals for critical research and practice. We also aim to create an intellectual space that the LRC can claim as its own - opened by a practice that invents itself, practice directed towards openness. We're concerned to open a practice for landscape studies.

As our list of affiliated faculty will make clear, and in keeping with the spirit of the convening, we are hoping to open the conversation to an extended community—within WashU and beyond. Our list of invited participants connects members of the university community with scholars and practitioners across St. Louis, with the aspiration of building a large network to elevate regional awareness of spatial practices. We believe that this initiative can thrive under the sort of transversal linkages that we foresee making through this platform. From this platform we can communicate—across the city—WashU’s dedication to a broader discourse uniquely tuned to contemporary questions of politics and landscape. This a condition that is not so much discovered as produced - and explored through strategies and examples.

<i>Convenors:</i>	<i>Invited Affiliates:</i>
<p><i>Jesse Vogler</i> <i>Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture</i></p> <p><i>Rod Barnett</i> <i>Chair, Landscape Architecture</i></p> <p><i>Michael Allen</i> <i>Senior Lecturer, Architecture & Landscape Architecture</i></p>	<p><i>Mark Beirn</i> <i>PhD Candidate, History</i></p> <p><i>Flannery Burke</i> <i>Associate Professor, SLU, History</i></p> <p><i>Jennifer Colten</i> <i>Lecturer, Art</i></p> <p><i>Katheryn Davis</i> <i>Hurst Writer in Residence, English</i></p> <p><i>Sage Dawson</i> <i>Lecturer, Art</i></p> <p><i>Douglas Flowe</i> <i>Assistant Professor, History</i></p> <p><i>Michael Frachetti</i> <i>Associate Professor, Anthropology</i></p> <p><i>Devin Johnston</i> <i>Professor, SLU, English</i></p> <p><i>Gavin Kroeber</i> <i>Independent Curator</i></p> <p><i>Jasmine Mahmoud</i> <i>Post-doc, AMCS</i></p> <p><i>James McAnally</i> <i>Luminary+ Temporary</i></p> <p><i>Tim Portlock</i> <i>Associate Professor, Art</i></p> <p><i>Michelle Repice</i> <i>Lecturer, AMCS</i> <i>Assistant Director, Academic Services</i></p> <p><i>Stephanie Schlaifer</i> <i>Communications Coordinator, Sam Fox School</i></p>