

# London Doctoral Design Centre

## LDoc Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA) 2018 – Call For Applications

The London Doctoral Design Centre (LDoc) is pleased to announce calls for applications for three new CDA projects to commence in September 2018. The projects are hosted between:

- Kingston University & Crafts Council (covered in this document)
- Royal College of Art & IBM
- University of Arts London & BOP Consulting

### Kingston University & Crafts Council

#### LDoc Introduction

Funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, LDoc is a collaboration between three internationally leading London based higher education institutions: the Royal College of Art (RCA), Kingston University (KU) and University of the Arts London (UAL) The Centre provides cross institutional PhD studentships and training, working in collaboration with key industry partners.

The Centre promotes and supports world-class Design Research Study and knowledge exchange. It offers a concentration of high-level skills and expertise in creative, critical and ethical thinking that prepares graduates to contribute to the creative and cultural industries and wider professional world.

LDoc embraces the breadth of Design Research Study in process, material, making, manufacture and theoretical practices, with particular expertise in: Design Innovation, Critical Design, Communication Design, Curation, Design and the Environment, Architecture, Design and Well Being, Digital Media, Performance, Interaction Design, Fashion Futures, Materials Futures, Service Design, Socially Responsive and Inclusive Design, Sustainability, and Vehicle Design.

LDoc offers a cross-institution specialist Design Research Training and Knowledge Exchange Programme, developed in response to the changing needs of an emerging generation of Design researchers both as pioneering and visionary individuals and as a growing cohort determining future research agendas.

LDoc generates access to the creative economy and wider cultural sectors through our Partners comprising key institutions, organisations, business and industry. This offers unparalleled opportunities for research, knowledge exchange and public engagement

Examples of current LDoc research projects can be found [here](#).

#### Kingston University & Crafts Council Introduction

Established by Royal Charter in 1971, the Crafts Council is the national agency for craft. Our goal is to build a strong economy and infrastructure for craft, to grow and diversify audiences, and to champion high quality craft practice nationally and internationally.

Attracting over 2.8 million visitors each year to our exhibitions, fairs and online showcases, we also curate the Crafts Council Collection, support makers' professional development, stimulate the British contemporary craft market, carry out research, and promote craft education.

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The case for diversity as a stimulus of creativity and innovation is well-established, yet culturally diverse practice is currently underrepresented in the publicly-funded UK craft sector. The proposed research will identify and examine ethnic diversity in craft production, investigating how diverse practices, heritages and traditions contribute to, and influence, craft in the UK. The project will produce evidence to inform policy and practice that in turn will promote and celebrate diversity in UK craft.

With a history of rich and productive collaborations between Kingston School of Art and the Crafts Council for over a decade, a PhD studentship offers the opportunity to build on and strengthen the success of this relationship. Our combined and complementary areas of expertise and skill sets, as well as our mutual research interests (e.g. Kingston's "thinking through making ethos"; equality and diversity award; research strengths in design history, theory and practice, and extensive 3D workshops and film studios), suggests that this could be a very fruitful partnership.

Kingston School of Art has an established track record of CDAs (8 completions to date). The Crafts Council has experience of designing and managing collaborative research funded by the research councils, including PhDs and academic residencies. Kingston and Crafts Council staff have collaborated on the following:

- Daniel Charny, curator of Crafts Council/V&A partnership exhibition *The Power of Making* (2011)
- Jana Scholze, co-curator of Crafts Council/V&A partnership exhibition *What is Luxury?* (2015)
- Stephen Knott, contributor to Crafts magazine, contributor to the exhibition catalogue for the Crafts Council's *Build Your Own* (FACT, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, 2015-16)
- Catharine Rossi, contributor to Crafts Council exhibition catalogue *Hidden Agenda: Socially Conscious Craft* (2014), and Crafts magazine, 2015 Collect catalogue and public programme for 2014 Collect
- Teaching-based live project collaborations through MA Curating Contemporary Design.

The Crafts Council is keen to identify, support and develop the breadth of UK craft practice and influences. As a national body, it advances contemporary craft practice through research and advocacy, professional development and learning programmes and by showcasing exceptional contemporary craft through touring exhibitions and collections.

The project will investigate the role in craft discourse and production of interactions between different cultural practices, expanding knowledge and generating evidence to inform policy and practice to better champion and develop diverse craft practices among makers from migrant and diasporic communities.

## The Studentship Vision

The research will investigate, and thus increase visibility of, the creative contribution of ethnic diversity in craft. It has the potential to transform what is understood as UK craft.

By examining the contribution, and interplay, of diverse cultural traditions to craft, evidence produced will give fresh direction to arts policy and programmes to enable diversity of practice and engagement to grow. Exploring craft practice in a sample of BAME communities, the project will identify how different craft traditions interconnect, and will interrogate the drivers of those connections.

The research will initially scope a range of craft practices and definitions of craft in different UK cultural contexts, in order to then identify specific communities of makers, professional and/or amateur, that will form the basis for the fieldwork. It is envisaged that the research student would employ design ethnographic methods (including participant-observation, interviews and potentially

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film), organise maker workshops, and co-create content for a dedicated website, including a potential digital and physical exhibition. As part of the PhD, a final report would be produced specifically for policymakers and arts organisations to disseminate knowledge of how development and research organisations can best support the diversity of contemporary craft/heritage in the UK.

The proposed PhD student, co-supervised by Kingston and the Craft Council, will have a background in the history, theory and practice of craft and/or design, ethnography and/or filmmaking. Applicants from BAME backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply.

## Questions To Consider In Your Application

- How has craft culture within migrant and BAME communities impacted upon UK craft culture as a whole, past and present?
- How might we identify migrant and ethnic craft communities under-represented in the funded UK craft sector? What research methods are appropriate to documenting/representing such groups and their practice?
- What issues arise for BAME makers in relation to dominant definitions and practices of craft production, circulation and consumption?
- What challenges and opportunities do migrant and BAME communities currently face?
- How can we support and showcase these communities' contributions to the UK craft sector?

## Proposed Supervisors and Subject Advisors

Julia Bennett, Head of Research and Policy, Crafts Council / Annabelle Campbell, Head of Exhibitions and Collections/Crafts Council

Professor Jane Pavitt, School of Critical Studies and Creative and Cultural Industries, Kingston University

Dr. Cat Rossi, The Modern Interior Research Centre, Kingston University

Dr. Stephen Knott, The Modern Interior Research Centre, Kingston University

## Application Process

Students wishing to apply for this CDA should first read through the project description and selection criteria in this document and the [LDoc application documents](#). In selecting applicants, the panel will be looking for proposals that directly address the themes and concerns outlined.

All applications for this CDA must be received by Kingston University no later than **12 noon on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017**. Applications should comprise of an LDoc application and Kingston University online application with supporting documentation. More information is available [here](#).

This is a 2-step application process:

### *Stage 1*

Applications will be considered by a panel convened at Kingston University and the selected applicant will be offered a place at Kingston University.

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This offer will include full supervision, mentoring and support from both Kingston University and Crafts Council for the duration of their studies.

## *Stage 2*

The selected applicant, together with CDA applicants from the RCA and UAL, will be submitted to the LDoc Selection Panel, where they will be considered for LDoc funding. The criteria for selection at this stage are in line with the standard LDoc selection process (please see the LDoc Application Student Guidance Notes for more information).

## *Notes*

1. Applicants offered funded studentships will receive a full fee waiver from their university and, where eligible, an AHRC stipend (for 2017/18 this was £16,553 for full time students).
2. LDoc CDA Studentships are further supported by an additional payment of £500 per annum to cover travel and expenses incurred through the partnership.
3. Full Time and Part Time (50% FTE and above) applications will be considered.

## *Please Note*

Applicants must be aware that success in stage 1 of the process (the offer to pursue the project at Kingston University) does not guarantee LDoc funding, but does guarantee supervision, mentoring and support from Kingston University and Crafts Council.

## **Submission Requirements**

- Completed LDoc application form, outlining your proposal in answer to this CDA
- Copies of your transcripts or certificates
- Two references (to be sent directly by your referees)
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form
- Completed Kingston University online PhD application and supporting documentation

## **Application Timeline**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Applications open:                      | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017  |
| Application deadline:                   | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 |
| Stage 1 successful applicant confirmed: | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2018     |
| Stage 2 funding outcome:                | Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2018       |
| Studentship begins:                     | September 2018                        |

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