



## **Faculty**

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## **LiAi Open Sense(s): Research as Praxis workshop**

This leaflet presents an overview of the workshop  
Open Sense(s): Research as Praxis, that is part of the Master's program  
"Laboratory of Immediate Architectural Intervention"  
during the 2014-2015 academic year.

\* Image sources:

Frank Dresmé, Amsterdam; Transductores: Collective Cartographies, Puerto El Morro. Guayaquil.  
Ecuador, 2013; Constant, New Babylon Paris, 1963.

# Open Sense(s): Research as Praxis

“Science is an essentially anarchic enterprise: theoretical anarchism is more humanitarian and more likely to encourage progress than its law-and-order alternatives”

Paul K. Feyerabend, *Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge* (1975), 9

This workshop aims to discuss and practise a variety of ways of exploring reality. It takes as a starting point a notion of reality that is not based on an essentialist difference between the objectual and the social since both realms can be seen as possessing the same complexity and agency. It is therefore conceived as an invitation to test and experiment with sensorial and relational methods that require sensitive and open senses and understandings in order to create and give meaning to such experience. However, each mode of exploration takes a certain methodical precision and has to be processed in specific ways in order to be shared meaningfully with others. Ultimately these methods produce valuable materials that can be activated and transformed in multiple phases of research and intervention projects. The following exploration modes will be put into practice:

- 1) Walk
- 2) Interview
- 3) Things/Traces
- 4) Sound
- 5) Image
- 6) Smell/Taste/Touch

Working in small groups, the students will chose (or be given) three of them, and will experiment with them during the first three days of the workshop, with daily meetings to process the materials and share the experience. The fourth day there will be a final edition and a collective reflection on how this way of interacting with reality can be useful for each one's projects. During the morning of the final day a further reflective step will be taken by expanding the discussion to the general task of the architect.

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“The ability to situate oneself methodologically (...) is not about paradigm competition but, much more profoundly, about a move away from a narrow scientism and toward an expanded notion of scientificity more capable of sustaining the social sciences as, in Dosse’s (1999) words, an ‘investigative workshop ... philosophy by other means’ rather than a ‘potentially hard science’.”

(Patti Lather)

“Reality is not so much a parade as it is a party, to which one is always late. When we arrive at a celebration which has already started everything seems a bit chaotic and we need to squeeze in somehow until we fit in the atmosphere.”

(Tomás Rodrigo-Villasante)

“In science studies we are ambidextrous: we focus the reader’s attention on this hybrid, this moment of substitution, the very instant when the future sign is abstracted from the soil. We should never take our eyes off the material weight of this action. The earthly dimension of Platonism is revealed in this image.”

(Bruno Latour)

“The idea that science can, and should, be run according to fixed and universal rules, is both unrealistic and pernicious. It is unrealistic, for it takes too simple a view of the talents of man and of the circumstances which encourage, or cause, their development. And it is pernicious, for the attempt to enforce the rules is bound to increase our professional qualifications at the expense of our humanity.

In addition, the idea is detrimental to science, for it neglects the complex physical and historical conditions which influence scientific change. It makes our science less adaptable and more dogmatic: every methodological rule is associated with cosmological assumptions, so that using the rule we take it for granted that the assumptions are correct. Naive falsificationism takes it for granted that the laws of nature are manifest and not hidden beneath disturbances of considerable magnitude. Empiricism takes it for granted that sense experience is a better mirror of the world than pure thought. Praise of argument takes it for granted that the artifices of Reason give better results than the unchecked play of our emotions. Such assumptions may be perfectly plausible and even true. Still, one should occasionally put them to a test. Putting them to a test means that we stop using the methodology associated with them, start doing science in a different way and see what happens.

Case studies such as those reported in the preceding chapters show that such tests occur all the time, and that they speak against the universal validity of any rule. All methodologies have their limitations and the only ‘rule’ that survives is ‘anything goes’.”

(Paul K. Feyerabend)

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# Research as Praxis //

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Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 - 10:00	Introduction / Presentaton of the workshop and of each of the methods.	Brief discussion and reflection on the experience of the previous day	Brief discussion and reflection on the experience of the previous day	Brief discussion and reflection on the experience of the previous day	Discussion about the meaning of this kind of methodological work for the students' projects and, more generally, for the work of the architect.  END OF THE WORKSHOP
10:30 - 12:00	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Group discussion on ways of (re) presenting the experience and the materials gathered	
12:00 - 13:00	Fieldwork (Lunch)	Fieldwork (Lunch)	Fieldwork (Lunch)	Lunch Break	
13:00 - 14:00	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Fieldwork	Final selection and editing of the materials. Preparation of the final presentation.	
15:00 - 17:00	Gathering and rough edition of materials. First discussion in small groups on the findings, possibilities and challenges of the method.	Gathering and rough edition of materials. Discussion in small groups on the findings, possibilities and challenges of the method.	Gathering and rough edition of materials. Discussion in small groups on the findings, possibilities and challenges of the method.	<b>Final presentation.</b> Discussion about the challenges and possibilities of the methods explored, and on the forms of (re)presentation chosen.	
17:30 - 19:00			<b>Public Talk: ?</b>		

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## **Open Sense(s): Research in Praxis Workshop //**

conceived collaboratively by Javier Rodrigo, Aida Sánchez de Serdio, Alberto Altés and Josep Garriga as part of the Master's program "Laboratory of Immediate Architectural Intervention" at Umeå School of Architecture (UMA), UMU.

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