

Dr Stephen Walker

link to staff pages: http://www.shef.ac.uk/architecture/people/walker_s

I trained as an architect and worked for architectural and design practices in London before joining the studio of Gabriel Allende and Antonio Ruiz Barbarín (*El Croquis*) in Madrid, where I worked for two years. Since returning to the UK, I worked in practice before studying for an MA in Architecture & Critical Theory at the University of Nottingham, and PhD at the University of Sheffield.

I taught part- and then full-time in the Faculty of Art and Design at Nottingham Trent University, where I worked for five years before taking up an appointment at the University of Sheffield in February 2001. I have taught design studio from 1st Year (B.Arch) through to 6th Year (M.Arch), and continue to teach humanities to all year groups within the School. I was dissertation coordinator for both B.Arch and M.Arch until 2015. I am currently Director of the Graduate School, where I also supervise PhD theses by written research and by design.

My own research work broadly encompasses architectural and critical theory and examines the questions that theoretical projects can raise about particular moments of architectural and artistic practice. A developing methodology has brought together aspects of theory with a broad range of practical work including Mediaeval Breton architecture, ring-roads and the work of contemporary artists. In particular, I have worked on the artists **Gordon Matta-Clark** and **Helen Chadwick**, about whom I have spoken and published extensively. More recently, I have been developing a project on the **architecture of travelling street fairs and fairgrounds**, with support from the RIBA Research Trust.

I was a founder member of **The Agency** Research Centre, School of Architecture (2009), and have been writing and editing various articles and collections as part of this group. I was a member of the AHRC peer review college (2007–15), and am an editor for *Field* journal. I'm also on the editorial steering group for *Architecture & Culture: the Journal of the AHRA*, and am a reviewer for the Architectural Press, Ashgate Publishers, Blackwell Publishers, Architectural Theory Review, Architectural Research Quarterly, The Journal of Architecture, and the Nordic Journal of Architecture.

PhD supervision & Environment

1st and Joint Supervisor:

Dr. Nadia Mounajjed, *Rethinking the Body, Memory and Architecture in the Age of Digital Techtonics* (with Chengzhi Peng) Completed, 2007.

Dr. Seyed Nader Pourmosavi, *Urban Renewal Policies: A Critical Analysis of Urban Renewal Policies in Iran, 1286–1400 AH/1907–2020 AD*. Completed 2011

Dr. Ruth Blacksell, *Typography After Conceptual Art* (Concordat Scholarship Studentship) Completed 2013

Dr Sara Mahdizadeh, *Critical Analyses of the Existing Situation of Historical Gardens, Garden Conservation and Heritage Before and After the Islamic Revolution in Iran*. Completed 2014

Dr Paula McCloskey, *Maternal Experience, Subjectivity and Art Encounters* (with Jenny Hockey, Emeritus Professor of Sociology) Completed 2014

Dr Lakshmi Priya Rajendran, *Understanding User-Space Relationships: A Phenomenological Approach* (with Rosie Parnell) Completed 2014

Dr Catherine Heatherington, *Disordered Narratives: Public Perception and Understanding of Regenerated Derelict Industrial Landscapes* (with Anna Jorgensen, Department of Landscape) Completed 2015

Dr Maryam Fazel, *Locative Media: From Transcendental Technologies to Socio-Formative Spheres* (with Mark Meagher) Completed 2015

Dr Ruxandra Berinde, *Moving Images Of Home: Architectural Autobiographies in Cinema* (with Renata Tyszczyk) Completed 2016

Dr Sukaina Almousa, *The Experience of Temporary Architecture: Tracing the Narrative and the Body/Mind Journey in Installation Art* (with Mark Meagher) Completed 2016

Dr Alona Martinez Perez, *The Architecture of the Periphery*, Completed 2016

As 2nd Supervisor:

Dr. Kim Trogal, *Affective Urban Practices: A Feminist Approach to the Ethics of Care in Contemporary Urban Practice* (with Doina Petrescu) Completed 2012

Dr Rully Damayanti, *Adding Meaning to Lynch's Theory of Imageability* (with Florian Kossak) Completed 2015

Dr Sam Vardy, *Self-Organised Architecture* (with Doina Petrescu) Completed 2016

Current PhD Students:

1st and Joint Supervisor:

- Taghi Amirhosseini, *Overhuman Architecture* (with Teresa Hoskyns)
- Michael Coates, *A Revolutionary Architecture: Self-build and Participatory housing practices in Britain* (with Flora Samuel, University of Reading)
- John Jeong, *The Blurred Boundary between Art and Architecture*
- Chada Romaci, *The Restorative Power of the Thai Temple*
- Piers Taylor, *Contingent Negotiation—Material, Making, People and Process* (with Sarah Wigglesworth)
- Ian Trowell, *Pasts, Presents and Futures at the Fairground* (with Tom Cassidy, University of Leeds)
- Claire Tymon, *Place-making. Place-shaking. Place-creating* (with Cristina Cerulli)
- Rosie Ward, *Performing the City* (with Flora Samuel, University of Reading)

2nd Supervisor

- Ahmed Louay Ahmed, *BIM Implementation* (with John Paul Kawalek, School of Management, and Mohamad Kasem, Teeside University)
- Maha Al-Ugaily, *SoundSpace* (with Renata Tyszczyk)
- Oliver Froome-Lewis, *Paths, Objects and Memories Collective Exploration* (with Flora Samuel, University of Reading)
- Fariba Fani Molki, *Domestic Space and Design in Persia* (with Tatjana Schneider)
- Ula Khalel, *University Campus Planning and Student Experience in Iraq* (with Florian Kossak)
- Kate Kilalea, *Transparency: Parallel Practices in Poetry and Architecture* (with Alan Piette, School of English)
- Kristanti Dewi Paramita, *The study of flows in the intersection between informal system and city network to inform architectural design methods towards Jakarta's future ecological development* (with Tatjana Schneider)
- Helen Stratford, *Performative Architectures* (with Doina Petrescu)
- Chwas A Sabr, *Regulations and Urban Form: A typo-morphological analysis of Erbil City* (with Florian Kossak)
- Amro Yaghi, *How Cities Turn Strangers Into Neighbours* (with Teresa Hoskyns)
- Litao Zhou, *Heterotopias in the Making: Spatial practices in Chinese Urban Villages with Spatial Agency for sustainable socio-economic developments* (with Tatjana Schneider)

PhD examining

- Lu Feng, 'Contemporary Surface Architecture: The Correspondence Between Surface and Space', 2008
- In-Sung Kim, 'The loss of time in architectural drawing', 2009
- Gehan Selim, 'Remaking urban spaces in Egypt: A study of Bulaq Abul Ela planning schemes 1960-2005', 2011
- Philip Henshaw, 'Post industrial projects in the Welsh Valleys'. University of Cardiff, 2011
- Hui Ju Chang, 'Victorian Japan in Taiwan: Transmission and impact of the 'Modern' upon the Architecture of Japanese Authority, 1853-1919,' 2012
- Felasari Sushardjanti, 'Enhancing Virtual City with Collective Memory To Support Urban Design Learning,' 2013
- Charalampos Politakis, 'The Human Body as a Building: Architectural Colossi and their Metaphors,' MSA (University of Manchester) 2014
- Adam Park, 'Performance as Mapping,' 2014
- Farzaneh Haghhigh, 'The Tehran Bazaar as Event,' The University of Sydney, 2014
- Jemima Unwin, 'An Investigation of the Effect of Street Lighting on Pedestrian Reassurance in Residential Environments,' 2014
- Miguel Paredes Maldonado, 'Feo, Inútil, Inestable: Pensamiento Crítico Contemporáneo y Procesos Proyectivos en Arquitectura,' ETSAM, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, 2015
- Shantaro Nozawa, 'Modernity at Home: The Body, Taste and Middle-Class Lives in Japan, 1890-1939,' 2015
- Carl Fraser, 'Protest in Contested Public Space', January 2016
- Shuyou Zhang, 'The Indeterminate Legends of Urban Space', February 2016
- Maria Mitsoula, 'The Loving Urban Landscape', ESALA, University of Edinburgh, April 2016.
- Jelena Stankovic, 'Mapping and Memory in Banja Luka, University of Dundee, August 2016

PhD Environment

- **Conference organiser:** AHRA Annual Research Student Symposium, University of Sheffield, 22nd October 2010
- Dr Lakshmi Priya Rajendran won the Society for Research on Identity Formation (SRIF) PhD Dissertation Prize 2015
- Dr Sara Mahdizadeh's thesis was highly commended in the Foundation for Iranian Studies (FIS) Best Dissertation of the Year Awards, 2015.
- **Conference organiser:** AHRA Annual Research Student Symposium, University of Sheffield, 6th April 2016
- **Symposium organiser** (with Teresa Hoskyns) National PhD by Design Network symposium, University of Sheffield, November 2016.

Director of the Graduate School, SSoA 2012–15

Director of PhD Programmes, SSoA 2015–

PhD Admissions Tutor, SSoA, 2013–14

personal details

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qualifications

BA(Hons) Architecture & Environmental Design	University of Nottingham	1987
D.Arch Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture	Kingston Polytechnic	1990
Certificate of Professional Practice (RIBA Part III)	University of Newcastle	1994
Registered with ARCUK (now ARB) No.0597 42B		June 1994
MA Architecture & Critical Theory (Distinction)	University of Nottingham	1996
PGCHE	Nottingham Trent University	1999
PhD Architecture	University of Sheffield	2008

architectural practice

The Brian Lowe Design Company (Pt.I student)	1987–8 (FT) & 1988–9 (PT)
Allende Arquitectos (Madrid) (architect)	1991–2
Ainsworth Spark Associates (Pt.III student)	1992–3
FalknerBrowns (architect)	1993–4
Geoffrey Reid Associates (architect)	1996

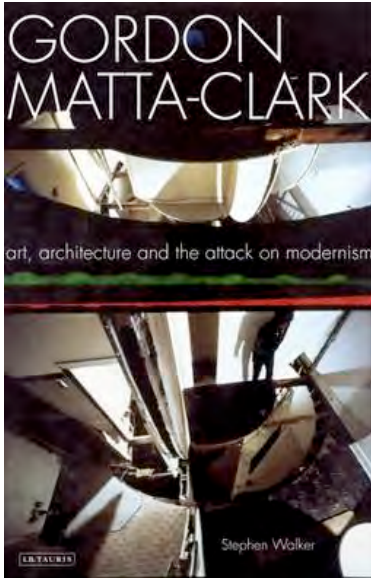
academic positions

Nottingham Trent University	(PT) 1995–7 & (FT: senior lecturer) 1997–2001
The University of Sheffield:	(lecturer 2001-2010: SL 2011; Reader 2013–present)

Research

Research Outputs (single authored unless stated)

key publications: monographs



Gordon Matta-Clark: Art, Architecture, and the Attack on Modernism,
I. B. Tauris, 2009 (reprinted 2012)

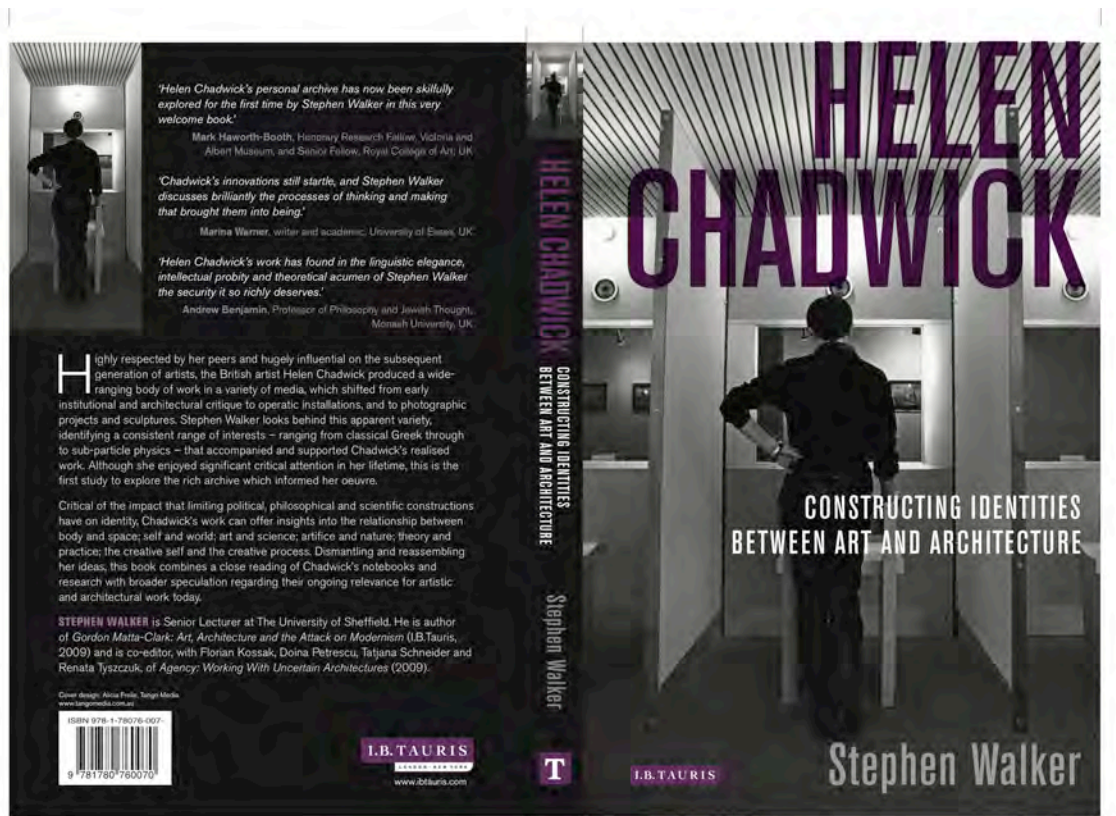
Responses to *Gordon Matta-Clark*:

“In this moment of Modernism’s reappraisal, Stephen Walker builds a necessary bridge between the oft-divided worlds of architecture and art. Connecting the avant-garde of early twentieth-century building to 1970s process art—each aimed to dismantle past disciplines to lay claim to the future—he illuminates a generative interplay at the centre of which is the prescient figure of Gordon Matta-Clark. Practicing an uncommon openness of mind and making, Matta-Clark shared his mode of creative questioning with the spectator through the dynamic, multi-perceptual experiences he created, just as Walker does now with the reader through this insightful treatise.”

—**Mary Jane Jacob**, Executive Director of Exhibitions and Professor [of Sculpture],
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

“Matta-Clark’s work is an event. As an event it unfolds in relation to both art and architecture. However that relation troubles any envisaged purity that either domain may be thought to have had. As such Matta-Clark’s work necessitates a reconceptualization of modernism. Stephen Walker’s scholarly and engaged study of Matta-Clark starts with that necessity. Rarely has an artist found a commentator whose writings evince the philosophical and historical acuity of this study. Walker announces the importance of Matta-Clark for a new generation.”

—**Andrew Benjamin**, Professor of Critical Theory and Philosophical Aesthetics,
Monash University



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Helen Chadwick: Constructing Identities Between Art and Architecture,
 I. B. Tauris, 2013

Responses to *Helen Chadwick*:

"Tragically short-lived, Helen Chadwick was a major artist of the 1980s and early 1990s. Although her innovations in a startling variety of media seem to ride the zeitgeist, they derived from deep and meticulous research. Her personal archive has now been skilfully explored for the first time by Stephen Walker in this very welcome book."

— **Mark Haworth-Booth**, Honorary Research Fellow, Victoria and Albert Museum and Senior Fellow, Royal College of Art.

"Helen Chadwick's remarkable notebooks reveal how the artist continually wrestled with profound questions of form and execution, ethics and passions, decorum and aberration. Stephen Walker has drawn deeply on this almost untapped rich archival material to provide a vigorous and searching picture of Chadwick's aesthetic and intellectual adventurousness. Chadwick's innovations still startle, and Stephen Walker discusses brilliantly the processes of thinking and making that brought them into being."

—**Dame Marina Warner**, writer and academic

Edited Books

Florian Kossak, Doina Petrescu, Tatjana Schneider, Renata Tyszczyk, Stephen Walker (eds.), *Agency: Working With Uncertain Architectures*, Routledge, November 2009

Edited Journal Special Issues

Florian Kossak, Doina Petrescu, Tatjana Schneider, Renata Tyszczyk, Stephen Walker (eds.) Editorial and selection of articles for *Architectural Research Quarterly* (special issue on 'Agency'), volume 13, number 2, 2009.

Cristina Cerruli, Florian Kossak, Doina Petrescu, Tatjana Schneider, Renata Tyszczyk, Stephen Walker (eds.) Editorial, selection and editing of articles for *Field: Journal* (special issue on 'Agency'), 2009.

Renata Tyszczyk & Stephen Walker, 'Ecology,' *Field: Journal* 4, November 2010.

Florian Kossak, Tatjana Schneider & Stephen Walker, 'Urban Blind Spots', *Field: Journal* 6, November 2014.

Ruth Blacksell & Stephen Walker, 'Architecture and the Spaces of Information', Special issue of *Architecture and Culture*, Vol. 4(1), March 2016.

Articles (post 2000)

'Accommodating the Apocalypse: An examination of the relationships between the economics of salvation and the architecture of the Breton enclos,' in *The Journal of Architecture*, Volume 6 (Autumn 2001), pp.249-277. ISBN 1360-2365

'Four Times Fictitious Architecture,' in 'Arquitecturas ficticias/ Fictitious Architecture' in *Exit: Imagen y Cultura* #6, May 2002. ISBN M0055549SH

'Baffling Archaeology: the Strange Gravity of Gordon Matta-Clark's Experience-Optics,' in *The Journal of Visual Culture*, volume 2 number 2, August 2003, pp.161-185. ISSN:1470-4129

Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng and Stephen Walker, 'Interactive Installations on the Threshold of Built Heritage' in Khaldoun Zreik, Reza Beheshti and Oqba Fakoush (eds.), in *Augmented Heritage: New Era for Architectural Design*, Europa, Paris, 2005, pp.139-150. ISBN 2-909285-32-4.

'Gordon Matta-Clark: Drawing on Architecture' in *Grey Room*, #18 (winter, 2005), pp. 108–131. ISSN 1526-3819

Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng and Stephen Walker, 'Virtual Interventions: The Impact of Interactive Soundscapes and Visual Stimulation on Physical Architectural Spaces,' in N. AlSayyad, V. Horayangkura & S. Murphy (Eds.), *Hyper-Architecture And The Hyper-Real*, IASTE 2006: Working paper series, Vol. 178. Berkeley, CA., USA: University of Berkeley, 2006.

'A52>A6>A601>A5250>A601>A516>A52 (Ring-Road as Sublime Site),' in *Space and Culture*, (The International Journal of Social Studies), Vol. 9, No. 2, 2006, pp.157-179. ISSN 1260-3312

Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng and Stephen Walker, 'Interactive Installations on the Threshold of Built Heritage' in *International Journal of Design Sciences and Technology*, 13 (1), 2007.

Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng and Stephen Walker 'Ethnographic Interventions: A Strategy and Experiments in Mapping Socio-Spatial Practices' in *Human Technology Journal*, 3, Special Issue on "Culture, Creativity and Technology" 2007, pp. 68-79.

'Cuius est solum, ejus est usque ad caelum et ad inferos', in *Architecture &*, Vol.01 ('Property'), Winter 2008, pp.4-6.

- Peter Blundell Jones, Florian Kossak, Doina Petrescu, Tatjana Schneider, Renata Tyszczyk, Stephen Walker, 'Before and After Agency', in *Footprint #4* (Agency in Architecture: Reframing Criticality in Theory and Practice), Spring 2009, pp. 113-122.
- 'Viral Architecture, "Viral Landscapes": the impact of modern science on Helen Chadwick's art' in *Leonardo* Volume 43, Issue 5 (October 2010) pp. 425, 458–463.
- 'Mole Architects: Thinking and Making,' in *Architectural Research Quarterly*, vol.14, no.3, 2010, pp.202–220.
- 'The Field and the Table: Rosalind Krauss' 'Expanded Field' and the Anarchitecture Group' in *Architectural Research Quarterly*, Vol.15, no.4, December 2011, pp.347-57.
- 'Re-Viewing The Handmaid's Tale', in *Architecture and Culture*, Vol.1, Issue 1, November 2013, pp.113–128.
- Florian Kossak, Tatjana Schneider and Stephen Walker, 'Post-Script: Urban Blind Spots,' in *Field: Journal* 6, November 2014, pp.113–22.
- 'Helen Chadwick's "Composite Image"' in *The Journal of Visual Culture*, 14(1), April 2015, pp.74–98.
- 'Illusory Objects and Fairground Architecture' in *The Journal of Architecture*, Vol.20 no.2, April 2015, pp.309–354.
- 'The Opening Ceremony: Immaterial Regulation and the Imaginary Architectures of Pleasure' in *Architecture and Culture*, Vol 3, No.3., 2015, pp.355–373.

Chapters (post 2000)

- 'Sacrificing Architecture? Gordon Matta-Clark's Building Dissections,' in Andrew Ballantyne (ed.) *Architectures: Modernism and After*, Blackwell Publishers, 2004, pp.118-141. ISBN 0631229434.
- 'Animate Form: Architecture's troublesome claims to Formlessness,' in Crowley, P & Hegarty, P (eds.) *Formless: Ways in and Out of Form*, Peter Lang, 'European Connections' series Vol.11, 2005, pp.239-253. ISBN 3-03910-056-4
- 'Gordon Matta-Clark: Matter, Materiality, Entropy, Alchemy,' in Katie Lloyd-Thomas, (ed.) *Material Matters: Architecture and Material Practice*, Routledge, 2007, pp.43-54.
- Nadia Mounajjed, Pepi Chourmouziadou and Stephen Walker, 'Body & Matter: Materiality and the Senses,' in Katie Lloyd-Thomas, (ed.) *Material Matters: Architecture and Material Practice*, Routledge, 2007, p.129.
- Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng, Stephen Walker, Nick Bryan-Kinns, & Jennifer Sheridan, (2007), Threshold (2006) in P. Wright & R. Dare (Eds.), *Post-Proceedings Of The First International Symposium On Culture, Creativity And Interaction Design* (pp. 57–61). York, UK: University of York.
- 'Making by Stealing: The Politics of Helen Chadwick's 'Creative + Manipulative Theft',' in Mark Swenarton, Igea Troiani and Helena Webster (eds.), *The Politics of Making*, Routledge, 2008, pp.257–71. 978-0-415-48800-6
- 'Centre or Periphery? The Architecture of the Travelling Street Fair,' in Abdelmonem & Morrow (Eds) *Peripheries*, Routledge (Critiques Series), Chapter 8, 2012, pp.54–66.
- 'Helen Chadwick: The Model Institution and Personal Identity,' in Soumyen Bandyopadhyay & Guillermo Garma-Montiel (Eds), *The Territories of Architectural Identity: Architecture in the Age of Evolving Globalisation*, Routledge, 2013, Ch.10.
- Lakshmi Priya Rajendran, Stephen Walker and Rosie Parnell, 'Four Themes to (Phenomenologically) Understand Contemporary Urban Spaces,' in Peter Benz (Editor) *Experience Design: Concepts and Case Studies*, Bloomsbury, London, 2014, Ch.II:4. 978-1-472-56939-4

- Ella Bridgland and Stephen Walker, 'Transgression or Temperance? The Newcastle Hoppings,' in Louis Rice and David Littlefield (Eds), *Transgression*, Routledge, 2014, pp.113–128.
- 'Moving Round the Ring Road' in Peter Blundell Jones and Mark Meagher (Eds.) *Architecture and Movement: The Dynamic Experience of Buildings and Landscapes*, Routledge, 2015, pp.135–141.
- 'Demystifying Cultural Research Methods' in Anne Dye and Flora Samuel (Eds) *Demystifying Architectural Research: Adding value to your practice*, RIBA Publishing, 2015, pp.81–6.
- 'Clear Zones', in Interboro (Eds), *The Arsenal of Exclusion and Inclusion*, Actar, forthcoming 2016.
- 'Don't Try This At Home,' in Antony Buxton, Linda Hulin & Jane Anderson (Eds), *InHabit*, Peter Lang (Cultural Interactions: Studies in the Relationship between the Arts Series) forthcoming 2016.
- 'Ready Steady Cook with Plato, Bergson and Matta-Clark' in Teresa Stoppani, Giorgio Ponzio, and George Themistokleous (eds) *This Thing Called Theory* Routledge, forthcoming November 2016.

Other outputs

- Nadia Mounajjed, Chengzhi Peng, Stephen Walker, Nick Bryan-Kinns, & Jennifer Sheridan, *Threshold*, a collaborative project funded by EPSRC Leonardo-Net network. Threshold was a site-specific interactive work. It aimed to explore how media technology can create spatial narratives and relational analogy between the body of the user and the architectural space. The threshold intervention was also useful in speculating on possibilities and potential uses of the interface in relation to architecture and the body. The piece was exhibited twice. For stage one, it was installed in June 2006 for the PSI # 12: Performing Rights Conference at the Queen Mary, University of London. In stage two, Threshold was re-exhibited at the same location for the First International Symposium on Culture, Creativity and Interaction Design (CCID 2006) on Tuesday the 12th of September 2006.
- Helen Chadwick; Thinking Between Art and Architecture; an Interview with Philip Stanley*, interview audio files, transcript and commentary on deposit in the collection of the Henry Moore Institute Library, Leeds, February 2008.
- Stephen Walker, 'Clear Zones', invited contribution to *The Arsenal of Exclusion / Inclusion*, curated by Interboro Partners, NY, shown at Open City, the 2009 International Architecture Biennale, Rotterdam.
- 'Postcode Lottery', invited contribution to *12 12 12*, Bank Street Arts, Sheffield, December 2012.
- Invited panel member, 'Steve the Autonomous Machine', Site Gallery, Sheffield, 5th December 2013.
- 'Understanding the Architecture of the Travelling Street Fair,' in David Gloster & John-Paul Nunes, (Eds) *RIBA Education Yearbook 2013*, RIBA, London, pp.110–113.
- 'Helen Chadwick's Keywords', invited contribution to the I B Tauris Visual Culture blog, 14th April 2014. see <http://theibtaurisblog.com/2014/04/14/helen-chadwicks-keywords/>
- Exhibition, *The Ilkeston Charter Fair*, curated for the Erewash Museum, (13th–25th October 2014) funded by an RIBA Research Trust Award.
- On the Move* (2010), Film 18 minutes, colour & sound
- A History of British Fairs: An interactive map of historic fairs in England and Wales between 1055 to 1872*

This interactive data visualisation, was the outcome of a collaborative mini-project with with Dr. Olwen Myhill using data from the Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, from the *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs* project, supplemented with further archival research on *Owen's Book of Fairs* by Jamie Reisner, and the *London Gazette* by Felix Walker.) The visualisation was built by Matt Southgate & Thomas Cains, with Mark Meagher, and is available online at <http://fairground-visualisation.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Guidebook to the Architecture of the Fairground, produced in collaboration with Dorian Moore, *Useful Arts*, and funded by the RIBA Research Trust. 2014–ongoing. Available at <http://fairground-guidebook.org/network/>

Uncommon Building, at **Uncommon Building: Collective Excavation of a Fictional Structure**, *Theatrum Mundi*, part of LSE Cities project, RoCo Gallery, Sheffield, 26th April 2016.