

F1A5037, PhD seminar in Theory, History, and Critical Studies of Architecture, 7.5 hp
KTH School of Architecture
Modules: 1. December 10-11, 2024; 2. March 5-6, 2025; 3. April 2-3, 2025
Examiner and Course Coordinator: Jennifer Mack, jmack@kth.se
Instructors: Anders Bergström, Katja Grillner, Helena Mattsson

ARCHITECTURAL HUMANITIES: THEORY, HISTORY, AND CRITICAL STUDIES



Stockholm suburb of Tensta, 1970.
Photo: Jan Delden.

An “Architectural Humanities” approach allows for broadened, speculative, and iconoclastic investigations of architecture, landscapes, and urbanisms. Research might, for instance, uncover unheard voices, invisible buildings, untold stories, and alternative forms of heritage. Histories of the recent past are brought into dialogue with theories and critical approaches to topics like memory, practice, gender, ecology and climate collapse, race and ethnicity, spirituality, conflicts and catastrophe, social marginality, and more.

In this way, the emerging field “Architectural Humanities” explicitly links a widened perspective on the built environment with innovative research methodologies while addressing historical, environmental, social, political, and cultural questions. In this course, architectural humanities is the lens through which we develop a conversation about research that begins from the humanities and uses methods spanning from artistic practice to ethnography to archival investigations (and beyond) to investigate the critical dilemmas of our time in relation to the built environment. The course interrogates the architectural humanities in connection with a wide range of empirical sources: literature, oral history, physical objects, buildings, landscapes, urban designs, films, representations, the news media, and more.

Beginning with a two-day symposium in December 2024 (Module 1: Ideas), with the specific topic of “What is Architectural Humanities?” students will interact with invited guest researchers across three panels as they listen, present, and discuss three themes. The course continues in the

spring term with two additional modules, March 5-6 (Module 2: Practices) and April 2-3 (Module 3: Time). The course will involve a significant amount of reading as well as an individual project study that will begin before the first module and is to be submitted shortly after the final module in April 2025. More information about assignments, readings, and expectations will be provided prior to the start of the course.

Please get in touch with Jennifer Mack with any questions about the course. If you would like to apply, please fill out the attached form and send it to jmack@kth.se by September 21, 2024. Enrollment will be capped at 12 students.