



## Philosophies - ResArc PhD Course

Contributing to the ResArc PhD course series:

Tendencies-Approaches-**Philosophies**-Communications

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**Application to the course due by Monday 29 January 2018** (but please try to notify us of your plan to attend the course as soon as possible)

### Course Outline

This course aims to address how the researcher in architecture can make use of the plethora of philosophies available to them, both from within and from without the discipline. We will place a special emphasis on the two-way conceptual traffic between architecture and philosophy, in the recognition of the reciprocal relationship of influence these two disciplines have historically maintained with respect to each other. What are the strategies and tactics that can be fruitfully employed to engage in diverse philosophies *from the point of view of* the discipline of architecture? How does the architectural researcher maintain a creative and critical relay between theory and practice? How can concepts and arguments (drawn from philosophy and elsewhere) be mobilized by the architectural researcher?

In light of past, present and looming crises, environmental, social, mental and technological, this Philosophies PhD course will take up the near-exhausted concept of the Anthropocene in order to explore how current research in architecture and cognate fields locates itself in relation to pressing matters of care. How do you identify your local environment-world when it comes to your ecologies of research practice? What kinds of 'things' are relevant to your research, how do you collect, define, invent, and make your research artifacts (from essays to architectural and artistic installations)? How do you bring modes of creative and critical thinking into engagement with your research practices? As such, the course is organized according to the three themes of: 1. environment-worlds; 2. things; 3. thinkables.

This series of seminars will depend on the projects that the participants bring to the table to share, and how we can collectivise our situated perspectives from the midst of our disciplinary domains.

We will discuss ways of: radically rethinking the literature review; reframing our research problems; expanding our methodological practices, with an emphasis on critical thinking and practice; and exploring possibilities for ethics in action.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

By attending this course participants can expect to develop skills in:

1. Ability to collaboratively **define** key concepts and arguments introduced in the course literature and beyond

2. Ability to **practice** close reading and critical and creative writing exercises and upload these onto a seminar Blog
3. Ability to **theorise** self-directed design research projects using key concepts and arguments
4. Ability to **create** new or hybrid concepts and thereby **develop** arguments pertinent to current research projects
5. Ability to actively **participate** in seminar discussions at a high level

## Course Credits

Participants can achieve either 5 or 7.5 credit points for this course.

- To achieve 5 credit points participants are required to attend 2 modules, and complete an assignment
- To achieve 7.5 credit points participants are required to attend 3 modules and complete an assignment

## Key Dates

**February 22-23 2018** at KTH Stockholm  
[Philosophies Course Module One – Environment-worlds](#)

**March 22-23 2018** at KTH Stockholm  
[Philosophies Course Module Two – Things](#)

**April 26-27 2018** at KTH Stockholm  
[Philosophies Course Module Three – Thinkables](#)

**September 20-21 2018** at KTH Stockholm  
[Conclusion-Examination](#)

## General Information

Course responsibility and Contact:

Hélène Frichot, KTH, [helene.frichot@arch.kth.se](mailto:helene.frichot@arch.kth.se)

**Further information on course content will be available at: [philosophiesresarc.net](http://philosophiesresarc.net)**

## ASSESSMENT (Teaching-Learning Activities):

1. Participants will be required to respond to a series of minor exercises across the three modules by using a combination of image (diagram, collage, and so forth) and text. These exercises will be discussed in class and uploaded to the class Blog.
2. Participants will be invited to incrementally contribute to the compilation of a **Heteroglossary** in response to the topics and readings discussed in Philosophies. This will be a lexicon of key terms that become useful to your companion researchers, as well as future participants in the course. Some of this conceptual labour will be undertaken in small group workshop sessions during the modules.
3. Participants will be asked to create a **Conceptual Guidebook**. You are encouraged to compile the activities and exercises undertaken across the three modules as a Guidebook that

highlights your specific research questions. Add to your **Conceptual Guidebook** a title, a contents page, an introduction, and responses to discussions, readings and exercises across the three modules. This will be compiled as a pdf document and emailed to [Helene.Frichot@arch.kth.se](mailto:Helene.Frichot@arch.kth.se) **Due Date: Friday 30 November 2018**

Dr Hélène Frichot, November 2017