

Workshop PLACE - Reimagining public space designing and planning for COVID-19

Implications on health and wellbeing

March 6-7, 2023

Online

Aim of the workshop

The COVID-19 pandemic has been characterised as the worst health crisis in a century, having triggered the worst economic prospects since the Great Depression (UN Habitat, 2020). It has a severe impact on every aspect of society, transforming everyday living, and the functioning of the economy, altering how cities are managed and governed, and exacerbating social and spatial inequalities affecting public health and wellbeing. Among various measures to protect health, restrictions on the use of public space and physical distancing have been key policy measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This has fundamentally changed peoples' relationship with public space and the way they engage and use spaces, which has significant implications on health and wellbeing but also poses a serious question on the research, planning and design of public spaces for healthy, equitable living in post-pandemic futures. The two-day online workshop will bring together experts and early career researcher from diverse disciplinary background including public health, architecture, urban planning, design, policy, psychology, arts to discuss the challenges, potentials, approaches and strategies to enable health and wellbeing through public space design during and post-pandemic context in UK and Germany.

Key questions

The two key questions the workshop addresses are:

- What are the challenges of public health and wellbeing in cities during and post-pandemic context?
- How can we reimagine public space planning and design in cities to enable equitable health and wellbeing?

Other important themes to be explored will include priority areas such as participatory design process, social justice and environmental inequality.

Eligibility criteria

- Participants must be Early Career Researchers: Early Career Researchers are defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience) and having up to 10 years post-PhD research experience.
- Participants must have a research or academic position at a recognised research institution either in the UK or in Germany.
- Please note that participants are expected to attend all sessions of the workshop.

Benefits of participation

- The workshop includes mentoring and networking opportunities. Participants are to be mentored by senior experts in the field of public health and planning: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sabine Baumgart (ARL), Prof. Dr. Gabriele Bolte (University of Bremen), and Prof. Laura Vaughan (UCL).
- There is an opportunity to win challenge prizes -£10K per project will be awarded - and generate relevant outputs.
- Participants will be funded to attend one-day post-workshop event in UCL where, among others, future collaboration will be discussed.

Application and deadline

The deadline for submission is **December 31, 2022**.

Application form ([download here](#)) must be completed and submitted to:

l.rajendran@ucl.ac.uk and

dahae.lee@tu-dortmund.de.

The workshop is organised by Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL) in collaboration with the Department of European Planning Cultures (Technical University of Dortmund), and supported by Research Links Challenge Grants UK-Germany Public Health Workshops grant from the British Council.