

ARCHITECTURE WORKROOM BRUSSELS



is looking for: A PhD STUDENT REWORDING

Architecture Workroom Brussels has a vacancy for a (m/f/x) PhD student REWORDING with a background or strong interest in Urban Design and Transitions.

Background

REWORDING invites applications for 11 Doctoral Candidates (DCs) to write a doctoral thesis on Participatory Design (PD) and to participate in an international and interdisciplinary training network of 6 academic and non-academic beneficiaries and 10 partner organizations across Europe. REWORDING is a EU-funded Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network that provides high-level training to doctoral researchers. Successful DCs will be employed by a host institution and will enjoy the opportunity to take on secondments within the REWORDING training network. As a DC, you will work on your own research project and work together with your fellow DCs and the consortium on important overarching questions through cross-discipline collaborations.

www.uhasselt.be/rewording

The DC who will start this PhD project will be hosted by Architecture Workroom Brussels.

Architecture Workroom Brussels is an independent innovation house for the transformation of the social and physical living environment. The organization's mission is to enable the transition to a solidarity-based, sustainable and circular urban landscape by means of design and architecture. It supports the development of new projects, coalitions and practices that provide solutions to tomorrow's important societal challenges, related to themes such as food, water, energy, mobility, housing and community.

www.architectureworkroom.eu

Job content

What is the aim of the REWORDING network?

Ecological challenges are experienced differently by different actors, communities and organizations, possibly leading to societal polarization. This can inhibit urgently needed actions around these issues. As Participatory Design (PD) researchers, we observe a need for design approaches that can bring diverse actors together to tackle these challenges in participatory ways, with particular attention to those who remain silent, both as human and non-human actors (e.g. plants, rivers and insects). The REWORDING network aims to investigate and outline such a careful and situated PD approach that can better understand and create synergies between the different worlds in which people live and work, and the more-than-human worlds they are entangled with. The REWORDING network will host 11 DCs who will each focus on a specific research topic. Will you become one of them?

What is the focus of this particular PhD project?

This project engages with the built environment, in places where the need or desire for a more fundamental, systemic transition is evident (flooding, drought, socio-economic fragility, energy transition, ...) . The researcher will engage in participatory ways with one or more of such contexts to investigate the methods for a structural and step-by-step transformation of these places in inclusive and sustainable ways. New roleplays between different societal stakeholders, and new participatory approaches and/or design-driven processes will be developed and tested during this PhD, contributing to the toolbox we need to successfully realize place-based system change and transition.

Objectives

(1) Perform Participatory Action Research (PAR) within a pilot setting of transdisciplinary transformation of built environments for socio-ecological sustainability.

(2) Identify, structure and advance tools, settings and methods that connect local communities' aspirations with governmental transition ambitions, to envision diverse co-ownership and collaboration models.

(3) Formulate the structural criteria and components of socio-environmental infrastructures and working methods to activate integrated local action and transformation.

Expected Results

(1) Participatory Design report on structural criteria and components in place-based system change of the built environment in Belgium;

(2) Collection and description of design practices and strategies for connecting between stakeholders in community-driven and transdisciplinary spatial transformation;

(3) Co-design of reworlding tools and typologies for co-ownership and collaboration in place-based system change.

Host

PhD with strong foundation in practice through employment by Architecture Workroom Brussels, cultural innovation house for the transformation of the social and physical living environment. The doctoral candidate will be enrolled in the PhD program at UHasselt.

Planned secondment(s)

(1) UHasselt, Liesbeth Huybrechts: the doctoral candidate will spend time at UHasselt for academic supervision.

(2) The doctoral candidate will have the option to select an additional non-academic or academic secondment to learn and gain hands-on experience about design-in-dialogue for community-driven socio-ecological transition.

MSCA Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for this position, you must not have resided or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Belgium for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the recruitment date (estimated around June 2024). Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account. You cannot already be in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment.

Curious about the other PhD projects within the REWORLDING network? Check www.uhasselt.be/reworlding. You may apply for max. 3 PhD projects within the REWORLDING network.

Profile

- You hold a Master of (interior) Architecture or Urban Design (or equivalent);
- Your academic results are excellent;
- You are interested in interdisciplinary research and have strong analytical skills;
- You can work independently and as part of a team;
- You have strong communication skills and are fluent in English (speaking and writing);
- You agree to do the foreseen secondment(s);
- You can demonstrate the necessary (participatory) design skills, clearly stated in your CV and/or portfolio uploaded with the application;
- You can demonstrate your affinity with the research topic through a brief research plan (max 3000 words) uploaded with the application. The research plan must contain an overall purpose, questions that the project intends to answer, an account of the methodological approach, a description of material collection and type of research material and an account of the theoretical framework. The research plan should explicitly address how the project will be relevant to the theme of the REWORLDING network and the specific research project, described above;
- You can be of any nationality but have to comply with the MSCA eligibility criteria;
- You are willing to take on teaching assignments to a limited extent;
- Knowledge of Dutch is a plus.

Offer

We offer an employment contract of temporary duration (36 months) in accordance with the provisions of the socio-cultural sector (PC 329.01). Within this agreement, you will conduct doctoral research with UHasselt as the university that will award the doctoral diploma and where you will also register as a doctoral student. In this way you get the unique opportunity to develop a full-fledged doctoral research within the practical context of Architecture Workroom Brussels.

Selection procedure

You can only apply **up to and including 15 December 2023**. Please send a motivation letter, Curriculum Vitae and eventual portfolio or Master Dissertation to info@architectureworkroom.eu. The selection procedure consists of a preselection based on application file and an interview. The interviews are planned in the **second half of January 2025**.

Further information

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