

Cultures of Resilience

«Cultures of Resilience» (CoR) is a two year, cross UAL project that aims to research and present a new cultural discourse on resilience. This is done in the hope of bringing about a more resilient society, better able to cope with the crises and disasters of the early twenty-first century. This project is a cultural experiment, so far conducted internally at UAL, by a large community of teachers, researchers and students across the colleges.

Resilience, when referred to in socio-technical systems, means a system's capacity to cope with stress and failures without collapsing and, more importantly, the ability to learn from the experience. Therefore, it should be considered a fundamental characteristic for any potential future society. The widespread adoption of this term in recent discourses demands the development and presentation of an effective, attentively discussed meaning of the term.

Armed with this meaning, and now focused on action, the first phase of the CoR project is brought to a close with the CoR Exchange at The Well Gallery.

CoR Exchange is an exhibition / program of events intended to bring together the CoR project groups and collaborators, to provide a space for the exchange of information and the documentation of research and actions associated with the project.

Over four days the event the CoR project groups will be presenting their research, performing actions and delivering lectures on the topic of resilience.

The Well Gallery will be split into two zones, the Studio and the Library.

Presentations, performances and pedagogic activities can be found in the Studio where they will be recorded and disseminated to a wider audience. In the Library, evidence and research will be documented as the CoR groups progress through the exchange event.



Day 1

Tuesday, 24 March

10:00 – 13:00
**Tracing Networks
of Evaluation**

Communities of Evaluation:
Marsha Bradfield, David Cross, Neil Cummings,
Anna Minshall, Xiaoyi Kang, John Hartley,
Deniz Paren, Karel Doing, Tobias Benedetto,
Neil Farnan, Molly Butt



We have enabled the values of competitive markets to dominate contemporary cultural production, we inhabit a mono-culture of evaluation, and this is not resilient. Taking our model from resilient ecosystems — where bio-diversity is essential for their reproduction we intend to explore different, varied, even conflictual evaluative communities.

Taking the University as an exemplar, we are mapping / tracing of some of its evaluative communities. These include student / staff interest compositions, our financial entanglements, our aspirations, and our energy flows. These tracings are enabling us to visualise evaluative networks, and assess their resilience.

Day 1

Tuesday, 24 March

13:00 – 14:00

FOOD

Brainstorming

Event

FOOD:

Lucy Orta, external guests



Collaborating with farming communities, growers and cooks, FOOD aims to engage graduates and staff across UAL, to employ their artistic skills to contribute to a strong horticultural, visual and culinary skills to develop a thematic and stage a collective FOOD event, to campaign for a holistic approach to FOOD.

A roundtable brainstorming discussion aimed at generating ideas and strategies for an open-air FOOD event, to be staged in the Chelsea Parade Ground, summer 2016. External guests will include a chef, cook, farmer, food curator, agronomist, and a contributor from The Politics of Food at the Delfina foundation. FOOD will be provided.

Day 1

Tuesday, 24 March

14:00 – 15:30
Senses
of Resilience

Fashion Weather:
LCF MA Fashion Futures students



A work in progress exhibition by MA Fashion Futures students. The cohort have immersed themselves in the exploration of the senses as a starting point for design.

Using user centred methodologies, they have been visiting the Whitfield Centre for autism and working with students and carers. These are their first prototypes.

During the event, students will present imagined scenarios in relationship to their prototypes and individual projects. Participants will be invited to interact, experience and share their impressions with the students.

Day 1

Tuesday, 24 March

15:00-17:00
**Gestures
of Resilience**

Inner Vision:
Sal Anderson, Errol Francis,
Antonia Attwood, Dolly Sen



Gestures of Resilience is inspired by exceptional people, individuals with a gift of life beyond the narrow definition of the norm. This project celebrates their knowledge and experience through personal and creative gestures of resilience.

Using film, performance and autobiographical presentations for and by people with experience of alternative inner vision, the event will produce transitory objects and ephemeral gestures.

17:30 – 20:30
**CoR Exchange
Opening —
Private View**

Day 2

Wednesday, 25 March

10:00 - 11:30

Airing

Neighbouring:

Anna Hart and Tilly Fowler (AIR)
with Kim Trogal



Neighbouring is an AIR research project prompted by the college arriving in a new neighbourhood. It seeks to examine what neighbourliness can be through walking and talking with people who live and work locally, and to nurture conversations across boundaries to develop resilient cooperative practices in the everyday.

Airing will place questions produced through a Neighbouring walk alongside a performative reading of key texts about conversations by Tilly Fowler and Anna Hart, with a live written response by Kim Trogal.

Day 2

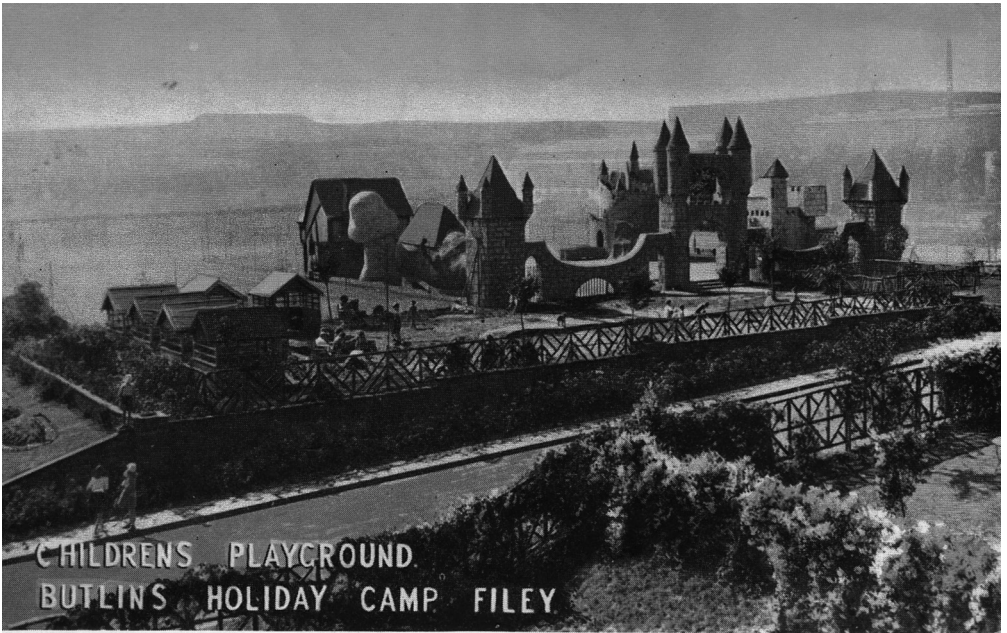
Wednesday, 25 March

11:30 – 13:00

**Do We Need an
Imaginist Butlins?**

Autonomous Arts Club (A.A.C.):

**Scott King, Bob Stanley,
Andrew Hunt**



We live in an increasingly leisure orientated society (coffee «boutiques» where shops once were, art galleries where industry once was). The original Butlins holiday camp model accommodated most aspects of life (housing, entertainment, childcare, dining) with an almost military rigidity; the only part of «real life» that was not covered was «work».

Participants will be asked to «flesh-out» a new social model. Would all chalets have allotments? Would adults undertake voluntary work on the site farm? Would there be a degree of trading with other communities? Or are other alternatives available? The emphasis will be primarily on «play» and the ethos is to turn all work into productive «play».

Day 2

Wednesday, 25 March

13:00 – 14:00

**How to be
a designer at the
start of things**

UAL Early-lab:

Nick Bell, Fabiane Lee-Perrella,
Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust,
UAL students



For the first Early-lab of 2015, a cross-UAL trans-disciplinary team of students will work with a group of young mental health service users to help scope out a new vision for the design of their local mental health service. A commission from the Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Health Trust's Child, Family and Young People Service in partnership with their Youth Council.

To work at the front end, to be involved early, is to get a chance to get to grips with things fundamentally at the root. Yet most of us find ourselves at the back end of the process. For designers to have any chance to participate in effecting the kind of change likely to help deliver a resilient future.

Day 2

Wednesday, 25 March

14:00 – 17:00
**What do you
value?**

Caretakers:

Sarah Temple with Sine Jorgensen, Camille Leproust, Andres Ayerbe, Romain Meunier, Jessica Bishopp, Callum Copley, Arianna Tilche, Loi Xuan Ly, Sarah Sajid, Netta Peltola, Sophie Chatellier, Rikke Holst



The Caretakers projects seeks to explore the important signifiers that we value most in modern life and yet do not consider or acknowledge. Selective conservation & preservation are now appropriate systematic strategies.

We feel that this identification of durable essentials now gives us clear insight into the future of resilient cultures and behaviours.

«If you want things to stay the same, they must change». The audience will interact and participate in Caretakers investigation by contributing their opinions – responding to the question: What do you most value? Participants will vote from the bridge over the Well Gallery with coloured life-lines, building up visual data on resilient values.

Day 2

Wednesday, 25 March

17:30-20:30
“they could have touched on some positives about being ‘in the real world’ more”

CaW: Fine Art Practice as a Strategy for Resilience

Sophie Chapman, Sid Charity, Anne Eggebert, Carolina Escobar Dias, Angus Frost, Georgia Gendall, Bryony Hussey, Lou Macnamara, Laila Musawi, Andra Raduca



CaW are recent CSM BA Fine Art graduates — a research group founded in 2014 to explore the proposition that fine art practice per se is a model for resilience (psychologically, socially and culturally). CaW’s activity is a critical evaluation of their experiences as they try to sustain their practices beyond university.

CaW discusses, performs and documents individual and collective experiences of the practical, social and political strategies that artists undertake to survive. We propose a system of resilience, collaboration, entropy and pretence. Our workshop / presentation may include *Mindfulness and Breathing*, *The Cover Letter Song*, and *What Do Artists Do All Day* video documentary.

Day 3

Thursday, 26 March

10:00 – 11:30
Prototyping
Generosity

Transience and Placemaking in Lewisham:
Lucy Thornett and Eclectic Collective



The project addresses the conflicts between transient and permanent residents in London's borough of Lewisham. The aim of the project is to encourage kindness and generosity within the local community through spatial interventions.

Students have observed and analysed the area and its inhabitants, and created characters, future scenarios and storyboards based on this observation to drive their design process.

The students will present their outcomes through a slideshow of images and films showing prototypes and testing on-site, observational drawings + storyboards and final storyboards documenting a time-based user experience of their design interventions. Their interactive prototypes will be exhibited as part of the event and left behind as evidence.

Day 3

Thursday, 26 March

11:30 – 13:00
Uncritical Care

Glanith & Klenz Arts:
Angela Hodgson-Teall,
Brian Sharp, Juliet Smith



The project draws from social sculpture inspired by healthcare staff from a hospital in South-East London, where Glanith and Klenz Arts have done extensive research into the hybrid roles of art and medicine. The project relies upon developing trust between individuals, allowing collaboration to evolve and mutual benefit to emerge over time.

The performance uses splenic palpation, double blind drawing and Caminhando (walking with scissors along a Mobius strip), interactions of a challenging but empathic nature.

Day 3

Thursday, 26 March

13:00-14:30
**Repair Before
the Break**

Elastic Learning Tools:
Rebecca Earley, Clara Vuletic,
Bridget Harvey



A broken object (disobedient, even if broken deliberately), calls itself to our attention. We must, if nothing else, sweep up the shards of a broken glass. Repair protests against discarding and buying new, it demands a new route where a bricolage of agents, methods, tools and materials create riotous new narratives for society.

“This workshop builds on the discourse of repair, and, with a select group of design students, begins thinking about repair before the break, asking what forms might be understood as resilient, flourishing and repairable. Beginning to prototype ideas for objects that communicate repairability, this workshop will be evidenced by drawings, mappings and possibly lo-fi objects.”

Day 3

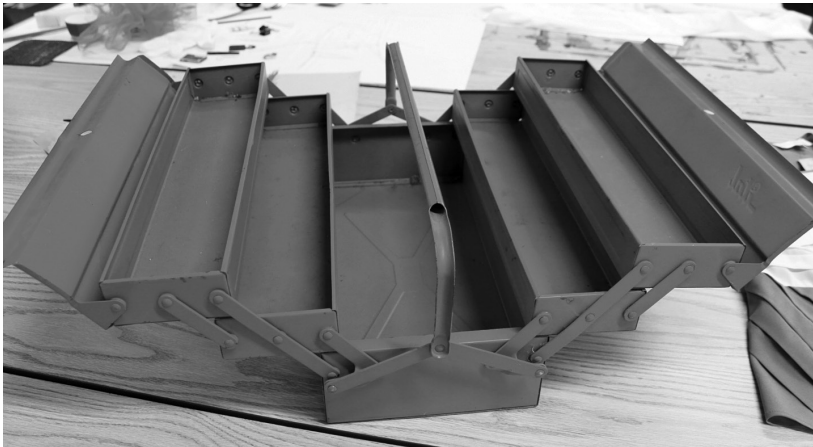
Thursday, 26 March

15:00-17:30

Cool School Tools

Elastic Learning Tools:

Rebecca Earley, Bridget Harvey, Trish Hegarty, Ilke Usluca, with staff and pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Regenerational Inventiveness. The nomadic toolbox encounters, responds and develops resilient textiles, filling with items from our everyday lives, changing and responding to each encounter.

Acting as both archive and starting point, it's form, function and contents may change, as may site, user and circumstance, but the basic premise remains constant: agents + tools = resilience.

Lining the gallery with plastic sheeting, wallpaper lengths and garments, primary school children will use the toolbox to radically upcycle t-shirts from the lost property department, mar-making through play with a range of toys. A wall installation, finished garments and film of the children before, during and after (by Wastebusters) evidence the workshop, as well as a curriculum resource pack.

Day 3

Thursday, 26 March

17:30 – 20:30

**Community
Responses
to Climate
Change 2025**

The Future of Urban Resilience:

**Patricia Austin, students from CSM MA:
Narrative Environments**



This is a collaborative knowledge exchange between MA Narrative Environments at CSM and Arup Foresight + Research + Innovation. Sixteen students worked in multi-disciplinary groups to create four animated scenarios, each from the viewpoint of a different persona, showing how communities in and around Kings Cross may fragment / cohere / transform as they encounter extreme weather events in 2025.

The Future of Urban Resilience will be screening four animated scenarios in the projection room of the Well Gallery. In the Studio space relics from these animations' production will be on display.

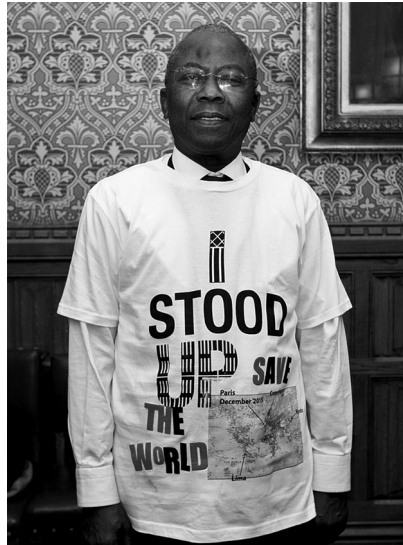
Day 4

Friday, 27 March

10:00 – 11:30
I Stood Up

Fashion Weather:

Dilys Williams, Renne Cuoco, Anna Fitzpatrick



Through conversations around attire, we are able to listen to the concerns of the city, as what we stand up in relates personal considerations to wider ecological, political, cultural and economic aspects of life.

I STOOD UP seeks to gather and voice concerns that we can act on individually and collectively, showing results to date alongside a space to voice concerns on a clothed body.

The following phase will explore cultures of resilience by bringing together those with concerns, finding ways to dissolve them and to develop briefs to designers based on the needs of wearers. During the event, students will present imagined scenarios in relationship to their prototypes and individual projects.

Day 4

Friday, 27 March

11:30 – 13:00
Shavasana Shirt

Elastic Learning Tools:
Rebecca Earley, Clara Vuletich,
Bridget Harvey



In order to drive the profound cultural and industrial change that is needed to achieve a more sustainable future, designers must be many things. Aside from creating less impactful materials, products and processes, we must design new systems and services to enable the way that we meet our needs to be lighter and brighter.

The gallery will be transformed into a yoga studio for a one-hour workshop. Becky and the PhD researchers will lead in the studio and via Skype from Australia; and whilst the participants meditate and move they will use transfer inks to mark make on their wallpaper yoga mats.

17:30 – 20:30
CoR Exchange
Closing —
Private View

CoR EXCHANGE Crew

CoR Project Leaders:

Ezio Manzini & Jeremy Till

With the participation of (in alphabetical order):

Sal Anderson, Antonia Attwood, Patricia Austin, Andres Ayerbe, Nick Bell, Tobias Benedetto, Jessica Bishopp, Marsha Bradfield, Molly Butt, Sophie Chapman, Sid Charity, Sophie Chatellier, Callum Copley, David Cross, Neil Cummings, Renne Cuoco, Karel Doing, Rebecca Earley, Eclective Collective, Anne Eggebert, Carolina Escobar Dias, Neil Farnan, Anna Fitzpatrick, Tilly Fowler, Errol Francis, Angus Frost, Georgia Gendall, Anna Hart, John Hartley, Bridget Harvey, Trish Hegarty, Rikke Holst, Andrew Hunt, Bryony Hussey, Sine Jorgensen, Xiaoyi Kang, Scott King, LCF MA Fashion Futures students, Fabiane Lee-Perrella, Camille Leproust, Lou Macnamara, Romain Meunier, Anna Minshall, Laila Musawi, Lucy Orta, Deniz Paren, Netta Peltola, Andra Raduca, Sarah Sajid, Dolly Sen, Bob Stanley, staff and pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, students from CSM MA: Narrative Environments, Sarah Temple, Lucy Thornett, Arianna Tilche, Kim Trogal, UAL PhD and MA/BA researchers, Ilke Usluca, Clara Vuletich, Dilys Williams, Loi Xuan Ly.

CoR Exchange Curatorial Team:

MA Culture Criticism and Curation students (in alphabetical order):

Pita Arreola, Elliott Burns, Louise Laage Toft, Beike Li, Jake Charles Rees, Tonya Wechsler, Yusi Xiong, Peilin Zhuang

With the guidance of Alison Green

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All the images included in the programme are courtesy of the CoR project participants.

CoR Project visual language (incl. the front cover design) – Studio Hato