

Dr Lucy Sabin

Artistic Researcher

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I'm a researcher and practising artist in the environmental humanities with a background in communication and media arts. My research interests include air, atmospheres and breathing, art-science, posthumanism, decolonial studies, intersectional feminism, and multispecies sensing.

Qualifications

- 2020-24 LAHP-funded PhD in Geography (Practice-related), University College London. Thesis title: *Aerography: Air quality and creative practice*. Passed (no corrections) on October 4, 2024. Supervisors were Andrew Barry (Geography) and Joy Sleeman (Slade). See <https://aerography.uk/>
- 2018-20 Master of Research (MRes) in Communication, Royal College of Art, London. Thesis: *Atmospheric cartography: Articulating ecological connectivity in air*.
- 2012-16 BA Liberal Arts majoring in French, Spanish, and Philosophy, Durham University, First Class Hons, with VC Scholarship for Academic Excellence. Erasmus Program 2015 in Facultad de Belas Artes, Universidade de Vigo.

Employment

- 2024- Postdoctoral Researcher – RE4GREEN (qualitative research, impact) Dept. Ethics, Law & Humanities, Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands.
- 2024 Postdoctoral Researcher – Patterns in Practice, Information School University of Sheffield, UK. Fixed term: June-August.
- 2023 School Tutor. Media, Arts, and Humanities, University of Sussex. Courses: Global Cinema, BA Film Studies; BA Media and Communication.
- 2023 Writing Tutor. MSc Human Geography, University College London.
- 2020-21 Visiting Lecturer. MA Graphic Design, Arts University Bournemouth. Courses: Master's Projects 1 & 2, MA Graphic Design.
- 2020 Technician. Creative Web Design, University for the Creative Arts.
- 2017-18 Visiting Lecturer. BA Graphic Design, University for the Creative Arts. Course: Interface and Interaction Design, BA Graphic Design.
- 2016-17 Communications Coordinator. SheCanCode. Farringdon, London.
- 2016 PR & Social Media Intern. Cancer Research UK. Angel, London.

Research visits and residencies

- 2023 Doctoral internship with the SYMBIOSE design research group.
Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris.
- 2022 mLAB Residency, Geography Institute, University of Bern.
- 2022 Transdisciplinary residency and research visit on Saharan dust,
Instituto Interuniversitario de Geografía, Universidad de Alicante.
- 2022 Symbiotic Stories collaborative residency at spudWORKS, Sway.
- 2020-21 Creative Associate (Digital), Modern Art Oxford, year of 2020.

Research grants and awards

- London Arts and Humanities Partnership. PhD Studentship. £61,704 (2020-23).
 - LAHP Research Extension Fund. £10,284 (2023).
 - LAHP Research Support Fund. £3,000 (2021-23).
- The Mead Travel Fund. Travel bursary. £850 (2023).
- Global Engagement Fund. UCL-PSL Doctoral Research Internship. £3,650 (2023).
- mLAB Residency, University of Bern. Artist-in-residence. £10,940 (2022).
- Arts Council England. Developing Your Creative Practice Award. £9,834 (2020-23).
- University of Oxford. TORCH Humanities Cultural Programme. £3,000 (2020).

Art exhibitions

- Summer Show, Brighton MET, July 2023.
 - o *Oily Palms* was exhibited in a collection of zines by local artists.
- Thresholds, AA Visiting School, Kunsthalle Zurich, August 2023.
 - o Performance art (untitled) from the perspective of a breathing building.
- Exposición, Institute of Geography, University of Bern, May 2022.
 - o Solo exhibition with artistic research and an immersive installation, accompanied by and a month-long events program on pesticides.
- Responsive Space, Modern Art Oxford, October 2020-January 2021.
 - o *Breathworks* – digital participatory arts, Instagram takeover, online exhibition, video installation, and mental health resources.
 - o *Breathing worlds* – large-scale collage, curated vitrine, co-authored dialogue, and events program in collaboration with Derek McCormack.
- Making Public, RCA Graduate Show, September 2019.
 - o *In memory of air*, sound art and interactive installation.
- Archives of Curiosity, Hockney Gallery, May 2019.
 - o *Lichen literacy*, mixed media installation for sensing air pollution with lichens.
- Radical Landscapes, The Plough Arts Centre, Great Torrington, March-April 2019.
 - o *Untitled worlds*, enlarged C-type prints of urban algae.
- Work-in-Progress Show, School of Communication, February 2019.
 - o Artistic research installation on sensing air pollution with lichens.

Art collectives / collaborations

- Founding member of Eco-Feminist Art-Science aka EFAS (2024-).
- Material Flows, transatlantic ECR research group (2022-).
- Symbiotic Stories Manifesto (2022).

Journal articles

- Sabin, L. (forth.). "Field(work) to exhibition: Doing artistic research on occupational exposures to pesticides with a chemical gaze." *Exchanges Journal*.
- Sabin, L. (2024). "Imag(in)ing Saharan dust." *Sentio Journal*, 6, 97-109. ISSN 2632-2455. <https://sentiojournal.uk/issues/issue-6-barriers-boundaries-belonging/>
- Sabin, L. (2024). "Breathe for Ella: Artivism, intersectionality and sensing air pollution." *Artnodes*, 33. <https://doi.org/10.7238/artnodes.v0i33.417688>
- Sabin, L. & Olcina Cantos, J. (2023). "Weathering Saharan dust beyond the Mediterranean Basin: An interdisciplinary dialogue." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 41(6), 1036-1057. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758231217789>
- Sabin, L., Komposch, N., & Mestrot, A. (2023). "Exhibiting toxicity: Sprayed strawberries and geographies of hope." *Cultural Geographies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14744740231183202>
- McCormack, D.P. and Sabin, L. (2021). "Breathing worlds." *Venti Journal* 2 (1). <https://www.venti-journal.com/mccormack-and-sabin>

Book chapters

- Sabin, L. and Olcina Cantos, J. (forth.). "Becoming with Mediterranean winds: A transdisciplinary dialogue in turbulent times." In: Vaughan, M., Nuttall, S. and Hofmeyer, I. (eds.), *Postcolonial air and atmospheres: Elemental life and climate crisis*. London: UCL Press.
- Sabin, L. (forth.). "Re-sensing." In: Gibbon, S., Glazer, E., & Sabin, L., and Barry, A. (Eds.). *Chemical exposures*. London: UCL Press.
- Sabin, L. (2022). "Chemo creatures in a digital ocean! The making of a speculative ecosystem." In: Travis, C. et al. (Eds.). *Routledge handbook of digital environmental humanities*. London; New York: Routledge, 242-254. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003082798-20>

Editorial work

- Gibbon, S., Glazer, E., Sabin, L., & Barry, A. (forth.) *Chemical exposures*. UCL Press.
- Sabin, L., & Dalle, M. (2019). *Archives of curiosity*. Limited edition. London: RCA.

Online publications

- Sabin, L. (2024). "What lichens teach us about the air we breathe." *Edge Effects*, November 21. <https://edgeeffects.net/lichens/>
- Sabin, L. (2024). "The human and environmental cost of perfect strawberries." *Pesticide Action Network*, February 14. <https://www.pan-uk.org/the-human-and-environmental-cost-of-perfect-strawberries/>
- Sabin, L. (2021). "Interview with boredomresearch." *Videoclub*, June. <https://videoclub.org.uk/interview-with-boredomresearch-by-lucy-sabin/>
- Sabin, L. (2021). "Following breathing." *The Polyphony*, January 8. <https://thepolyphony.org/2021/01/08/following-breathing/>
- Sabin, L. (2019). "Breathing and nothingness." *The Polyphony*, September 12. <https://thepolyphony.org/2019/09/12/breathing-and-nothingness/>

Selected lectures / presentations

- “Field(work) to exhibition: Doing artistic research on agrochemicals”. International Conference on Sustainability Culture [online], NCHU Taiwan, November 2024.
- “Thinking with Saharan dust.” Lecture. *Cases in Cultural Analysis*, UvA, June 2024.
- “Breathe for Ella.” Conference presentation. *Media Artivism*, UOC, May 2024.
- “Weathering Saharan Dust.” Online lecture. WISER, Wits, March 2024.
- “Practice-related approaches to studying material flows.” Hybrid seminar with Yale. *Human Geography Seminar Series*, Dept. of Geography, UCL, February 2023.
- “Writing and Making the Constructed Environment: Grounding Creative Practices in Histories of Technology.” Conference presentation, *SHOT*, New Orleans, Nov. 2022.
- “Elusive exposures.” *Chemical Exposures*, UCL, June 2022.
- “Suspension and the sneeze cloud.” Conference presentation. *Contagion: Spread the Word*. Queen Mary University of London, June 2021.
- “In the air.” Online lecture. *Alternative Epistemologies Festival*. IAS, May 2021.
- “Breathing worlds.” Panel presentation. TORCH, University of Oxford, October 2020.
- “Breathable for whom? Air quality in the geopolitical arena.” RCA, September 2019.

Creative workshops

- Symbiotic Stories: speculative design workshop with AI image generation, Information Experience Design Summer School, Royal College of Art, 2023.
- Breath work: somatic workshop as part of *Creative Methods in Health Geographies*, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, May 2023.
- LICHEN ART LABS: outdoor art and citizen science workshop in Green Park to accompany *WHAT ON EARTH* exhibition at The Koppel Project, London, July 2021.
- Breathworks focus groups: series of online workshops with gallery volunteers to iteratively co-design the participatory arts project at Modern Art Oxford.
- Lungs and Lichen: participatory two-part workshop combining breathwork with an outdoor citizen science survey. Know Your Home, Royal College of Art, March 2019.
- Atmospheric Cartography: series of design thinking workshops for postgraduates held at Brighton University and Royal College of Art 2019.

Digital learning resources

- *wildSpirals* creative instructional video for young people on ecological forms, to accompany the exhibition *In Search of Chemozoa*, Aspex Portsmouth, May-July 2021.
- *My friend the sea*. Breathing meditation for young people supported by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, distributed by Oxford Kindness Wave, April 2021.

Artist Interviews

- “‘Conspiracy theory’: James Waddell interviews Lucy Sabin.” *Still Point Journal*, November 15, 2021. <http://bit.ly/interviewls>
- “Filth.” *Art of Now* [episode on art and pollution], BBC Radio 4. January 28, 2021. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dpjh>
- “A day in the life – how Lucy lives and breathes art.” University for the Creative Arts, July 14, 2020. <https://www.uca.ac.uk/blogs/day-in-the-life-lucy-sabin/>

Image licensing / cover art

- Cover art for a special issue on 'Substitution' in *Society for Cultural Anthropology*, edited by Ulrich, Rudge, and Ehrenstein (2024).
- Cover art for *Chemical exposures: Toxicity in the Anthropocene*, a forthcoming anthology with UCL Press.

My key transferable skills

- Creative skills
 - o artistic research, photography, curation, graphic design, website design, digital methods, exhibition design, soundscapes.
- Research methods
 - o qualitative & participatory research, workshop design, group facilitation, interdisciplinary collaboration, exhibition ethnography.
- Writing skills
 - o (co-)editing, grant writing, research proposals, peer-reviewing, impact reporting, creative writing, and non-academic copy.

Languages I speak

English (native), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced)

Volunteering / Activism

Routes into Languages; Women in Technology; Environmentalism

Professional memberships

EASST, Royal Geographical Society, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), a-n The Artists Information Company.

References (my PhD examiners)

Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos
Professor of Law & Theory / Poet and visual artist
University of Westminster
Email andreaspm@westminster.ac.uk

Peg Rawes
Professor of Architecture and Philosophy
The Bartlett School of Architecture
University College London
Email m.rawes@ucl.ac.uk