

# PhD Impact statement

Lucy Sabin, August 2024.

Academically, the project contributes to timely discussions on air and atmospheres across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. In my capacity as co-editor for a forthcoming anthology with UCL Press, I have also built up a network and contributed to conversations on chemical exposures in the social sciences.

As part of the research journey, I have published peer-reviewed articles in *Venti* (McCormack and Sabin 2021), *EPD: Society and Space* (Sabin and Olcina Cantos 2023), *Cultural Geographies* (Sabin, Komposch, and Mestrot 2024), and *Artnodes* (Sabin 2024). Three additional papers have recently been accepted to international journals. By disseminating published works via my website, social media, and events, I have maximised their impact among the academic community. For instance, at a recent seminar co-organised by the IAS (UCL) and WiSER (Wits), I learned that one of my papers had been added to two undergraduate syllabi in the humanities. I have presented at events in Europe, the U.S., and online, focussing especially on “material flows” with a self-initiated collective of ECRs at Yale, Central St Martins, and UCL.

Many of the research outputs are the result of interdisciplinary and international collaborations with research visits at the University of Bern, the University of Alicante, and ENSAD, Paris. I have collaborated with fellow geographers, social scientists, artists, designers, a soil scientist, and a climatologist. These collaborations have been mutually beneficial for those involved and their interdisciplinary outputs have helped diversify departmental programmes. For example, during an mLAB residency at the University of Bern, I co-designed a month-long events programme featuring guest lectures, fieldtrips, and an exhibition on the theme of sprayed pesticides.

There have been numerous benefits outside academia in terms of public engagement. I was commissioned by the Koppel Project Exchange to lead a workshop with 14 participants on sensing air pollution with lichens as part of the WHAT ON EARTH exhibition programme (July 2-24, 2021). Moreover, my collaboration with Derek McCormack, *Breathing worlds*, was accessible to the public

of Modern Art Oxford via a large-scale collage and curated vitrine. The exhibits were designed as part of the Responsive Space exhibition (2 October – 23 December 2020). The exhibition received 3,574 visitors and a further 2,155 visits to the virtual exhibition (during Covid quarantines). *Breathing worlds* helped to instigate a partnership between MAO and the University of Oxford.

The broadest reach was achieved with *Breathworks*, a digital participatory arts project commissioned by MAO following my MRes in Communication Design at the RCA and continuing into the PhD. I staged an 'Instagram takeover' throughout August 2020, gathering 32 submissions for the online exhibition and many more contributions displayed in the gallery as part of the Responsive Space exhibition. On Instagram, the project reached 50,000 'users' and logged 12,000 views. *Breathworks* featured on BBC Arts, Art Daily, a-n The Artists Information Company, and The Oxford Times. The project inspired teaching resources for local primary schools in partnership with The Oxford Kindness Wave with a focus on mental health benefits.