

Dr Lucy Sabin

Artistic Researcher & (More-Than-Human) Cultural Geographer

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I'm an artistic researcher and interdisciplinary geographer with a background in communication and media arts. My research interests include atmospheres, arts-based research, art-science, ecojustice, queer feminist STS, media theory, post/de/anticolonial studies, chemical and more-than-human geographies.

My formal qualifications

- 2020-24 PhD Geography (Practice-Related), University College London, funded by LAHP.
Thesis title: *Aerography: Air quality and creative practice* (pass without corrections).
Residencies & fieldwork: Alicante, Huelva, Bern, London, Oxford, Paris.
Outputs: journal articles, conference papers, solo exhibitions, participatory arts.
Supervisors: Andrew Barry (Geography), Joy Sleeman (Slade School of Fine Art).
Examiners: Peg Rawes, Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos.
- 2018-20 Master of Research (MRes) Communication, Royal College of Art, London.
Dissertation: *Atmospheric cartography: Articulating ecological connectivity in air*.
Outputs: edited anthology, collective exhibitions, participatory workshops.
- 2012-16 BA Liberal Arts with French, Spanish, and Philosophy, Durham University.
First Class Hons, Vice Chancellor's Scholarship for Academic Excellence.
Erasmus+ Program 2015. Facultad de Belas Artes, Universidade de Vigo.

Forms of employment

- 2024- Postdoctoral Researcher 'Research in Environmental Technologies – Training in Europe' (RE4GREEN). Methods: interviews, surveys, co-design.
Department of Ethics, Law and Humanities, Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands.
- 2024 Postdoctoral Researcher 'Patterns in Practice'. Output: impact reporting.
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.
- 2016-18 Freelance Webs Designer and Communications Coordinator, London.

Peer-reviewed 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.). "Winds of the western Mediterranean (and beyond): Imaginaries of weather, climate, and coloniality 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/>

Some lectures and presentations

- “Re-sensing: chemical exposures and aesthetic tensions in a multisensory art exhibition”, 7th Nordic STS Conference, Stockholm University, June 2025.
- “Air, quality? Artistic methods for sensing atmospheres”, HEAT Conference, April 2025.
- “The ecological researcher: Reimagining responsible research through design thinking for just transitions”, Appropriate Science, Amsterdam UMC, April 2025.
- “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 Activism*, 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 / Selected reviews

- “MULTISENSORIK” by Mirko Winkel et al. (2023) in *Artographies* anthology (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783839467763-014>
- “‘Conspiracy theory’: James Waddell interviews Lucy Sabin.” *Still Point Journal*, November 15, 2021. <http://bit.ly/interviews>
- “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/>

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

- EASST Fund. Eco-Feminist Art-Science (EFAS) Catalyst Program. €1,500.
- 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

- A Bigger Book Fair, Peckham 24, May 2025;
- Summer Show, Brighton MET, July 2023.
 - o *Oily Palms* – zine and visual research on colonial legacies of palm oil.
- Thresholds, Architectural Association Visiting School, Kunsthalle Zurich, August 2023.
 - o Performance art (untitled): breathing, from the perspective of a 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).

Image licensing / cover art

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

Generally 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, interviews, surveys, interdisciplinary collaboration, exhibition ethnography.
- Writing skills
 - o (co-)editing, grant writing, research proposals, peer-reviewing, impact reporting, creative writing, and non-academic copywriting.

Languages I speak (or attempt to)

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

Vocational qualifications

2018-20	Yoga Teacher Training 500 hours, Vajrasati Yoga, Brighton.
2017	Yoga Teacher Training 200 hours, Shiva Shakti Yoga, Goa.
2017	Full Stack Software Development Bootcamp, Founders & Coders, London.
2015	Introduction to Website Development, Code First: Girls, Durham.

Volunteering / Activism

Women in Technology; Environmentalism (bioregioning)

Professional memberships

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

References (my PhD examiners)

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

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

My contact details

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