

# URSULA LANG

[ulang@risd.edu](mailto:ulang@risd.edu) • [www.ursulalang.net](http://www.ursulalang.net)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2017 – *present*     Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Ecology & Design Studies  
Department of History, Philosophy and the Social Sciences  
Rhode Island School of Design
- 2016-2017     Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Urban Studies Foundation  
Human Geography Research Group  
University of Glasgow, *January 2016 – August 2017*
- 2015     Independent Scholar & Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study  
University of Minnesota, *Fall semester*

## EDUCATION

- 2015     Ph.D. in Geography, University of Minnesota
- 2005     Master of Architecture, University of California – Berkeley
- 2000     B.A. double major Biology & Sociology/Anthropology, Swarthmore College

## TEACHING & RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Urban geography; Cultural geography; Political ecology; Design, landscape and place; Environmental justice; Qualitative methods, participatory research and visual ethnography; North America & geographies of globalization and deindustrialization; Politics of green infrastructure, sustainability and climate change; Feminist and ecofeminist geographies; Commons and commoning; Urban environmental futures.

**Pedagogy/approach:** Inclusion; Social justice; Teaching with writing; Student-led learning; Research/studio collaborations.

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- BOOK     *Living with Yards: Negotiating Nature and the Habits of Home*  
Advance contract, McGill Queen's University Press. *In progress.*

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- Strunk C and U Lang. *Under review.* – “Urban Gardening as More-Than-Urban-Agriculture.” *Case Studies in the Environment*.
- Lang U. (2018) “Keep off the grass! New Directions for Geographies of Yards and Private Gardens.” *Geography Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12397>
- Lang U. (2018) “Connective Tissues: Everyday Engagements with Urban Yards.” *GeoHumanities*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2373566X.2018.1447388>
- Lang U. (2015) “Inhabiting Yards, Inhabiting Suburbs.” in Archer J, P Sandul and K Solomonson, eds, *Making Suburbia: New Histories of Everyday America*, University of Minnesota Press.
- Lang U. (2014) “The Common Life of Yards.” *Urban Geography*. 35(6):852-869.
- Lang U. (2014) “Cultivating the Sustainable City: Urban Agriculture Policies and Gardening Projects in Minneapolis, MN.” *Urban Geography*. 35(4):477-485.
- Arnold J & U Lang. (2007) “Changing American home life: trends in domestic leisure and storage among middle-class families.” *Journal of Family and Econ. Issues*. 28(1):23-48.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – ARCHITECTURE

2005 – 2007 Architect, Arkin Tilt Architects - Berkeley, CA (Full time)  
Designed and managed public and residential projects at an architecture firm specializing in ecological design, renewable solar and geothermal energy, and sustainable building.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### **Rhode Island School of Design – History, Philosophy and the Social Sciences**

- Design Geographies
- Urban Natures & Resilient Cities, *first year seminar*
- Building Possible Worlds: Commons & Commoning
- Infrastructure & Society
- Geographies of Social Difference and Social Justice
- The City in Film
- Climate Futures: Experiencing our Changing Climate, *graduate seminar*
- Life in Common, *graduate seminar*

#### **University of Glasgow – Geographical and Earth Sciences**

- History of Geographical Thought (Tutor)
- Masters of Research in Geography, Methods Module: Ethnography and Interviews

#### **University of Minnesota – Geography Department**

- Introduction to Human Geography: Our Globalizing World (Instructor)
- Global Cities (TA)
- Urban Geography: Cities, Citizens, and Communities (TA)
- Changing Forms of the City (TA)
- Population in an Interacting World (TA)
- The City in Film (TA)
- Geography of the World Economy (TA)

#### **University of California at Berkeley – American Studies / Environmental Studies**

- Introduction to American Studies: Food in America (GSI)
- The History of American Popular Culture (GSI)
- History, Ecology and Representation of the American Forest (GSI)

### GRADUATE ADVISING

#### **Rhode Island School of Design – Graduate Thesis Committee Member**

Audrey Danze Blood, *Ghost, A Stone*, Printmaking MFA, 2018

A. Gavin Zeitz, *Arctic Commons*, Landscape Architecture MArch, 2018

### ACADEMIC ADVISING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2011 **Undergraduate Academic Advisor**, Geography and Biology, Society & Environment (UMN)  
Primary academic advisor for two majors, including graduate and professional school advising; career and internship advising; study abroad advising; senior project support; interdisciplinary curriculum development. Two semesters (0.75T).

## SELECT RESEARCH NETWORKS & EXPERIENCE

- 2018- Relational Poverty Network, Member. *Living with Green Infrastructure: Politics of adaptation in Glasgow's residential landscapes*. [LINK](#)
- 2016-2017 Collaborator, *Living, Playing and Working with Water*  
Minty Donald (Theatre Studies, University of Glasgow) and Nick Millar  
Participatory and performance-based project on resident and planning experiences with storm water drainage ponds in three housing developments in Glasgow.
- 2012-2013 Research Assistant, *The Great Transformation*  
PIs: Vinay Gidwani, Michael Goldman, Helga Leitner, Eric Sheppard (UMN, UCLA)  
Coordinated research methods approval for comparative project on development, livelihoods, and land tenure in Bangalore, New Delhi, and Jakarta.
- 2003-2004 Research Collaborator, Center for the Everyday Lives of Families, UCLA  
Jeanne Arnold, Anthropology/CELF  
Analysis of extensive data about domestic life from 60 middle class families in LA.
- 2000-2001 Research Assistant (FT), University of Vermont & Rocky Mountain Biology Lab  
Alison K. Brody, Professor of Biology  
Plant-animal interactions, pollination biology & insect ecology, alpine ecosystems.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### CONFERENCE SESSIONS ORGANIZED

- 2018 "Commons, Commoning, and Co-becoming: Nurturing Life in Common and Postcapitalist Futures." (with Neera Singh and Gustavo Garcia-Lopez)  
American Association of Geographers, New Orleans. *Five sessions*.
- 2017 "Geographies of Urban Verticality." (with I-Chun Catherine Chang)  
American Association of Geographers, Boston.
- 2014 "Cultivating Bodies: Learning, Feeling, Doing." (with Rebecca Sandover)  
American Association of Geographers, Tampa
- 2013 "Everyday Urbanism: Seeing and Making the City," (with Margaret Crawford)  
Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Toronto
- 2012 "Affective Attachments of Environmentalism." (with Katie Pratt)  
American Association of Geographers, New York

### CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 "Seeing the Nature of Property Through Visual Ethnography." American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 "The Value of Storm Water." Valuing Life: Centre for Place, Culture and Society. Wageningen University, Wageningen, NL. June.
- 2017 "Phenomenal Urban Ecologies." American Association of Geographers, Boston, MA.
- 2016 "Greening the already green?" Royal Geographical Society, RGS London.
- 2016 "Becoming Attuned to Weather." Royal Anthropological Society, London.
- 2015 "Beyond gardening: studying everyday yard spaces." American Association of Geographers, Chicago, IL.
- 2013 "Cultivating Everyday Environments." Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH), Toronto.
- 2013 "Inhabiting Yards." Emotional Geographies Conference, Groningen, Netherlands.

## WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL COURSES

- 2016 *Summer Institute in Urban Studies*, University of Manchester  
Intensive weeklong seminar including emerging theories and methods in urban studies, research strategies, and early career development.
- 2014 *Rethinking Environmental Consciousness*. Mid Sweden University/NIES. International research symposium of environmental humanities, the Anthropocene, material ecocriticism, and transnational environmentalism. Presentation: "Everyday Environmentalism."
- 2014 *Environmental Change and Memory in Iceland*. NIES/NABO/Svartarkot  
Interdisciplinary two week field course in northern Iceland, on landscape, saga literature, and contemporary environmental humanities.
- 2012 *Critical Participatory Action Research Workshop* (CPAR). Graduate Center at CUNY  
Intensive workshop on participatory and community research methods, theories and ethics.
- 2010 *Preparing Future Faculty: Teaching in Higher Education*. University of Minnesota  
Semester course on pedagogy, course design, and professional development.
- 2009 *Person, Planet, Cosmos: Imagining Ourselves in Nature*. Split Rock Arts Program  
University of Minnesota, Cloquet Forestry Station  
Weeklong writing retreat for creative nonfiction, led by Scott Russell Sanders.

## SERVICE

- 2017-present RISD: Research Advisory Council  
2017-present RISD: Brown University – IRB Board Member  
2017-present RISD: Division of Liberal Arts – Humanities Fund  
2017-2019 RISD: History, Philosophy and the Social Sciences – Warner Prize Committee Member, Chair  
2016-2017 University of Glasgow: Human Geography Seminar Speaker Series, Organizer  
2016-2017 University of Glasgow, Geography: AthenaSWAN (Gender in Academia, UK), Committee  
2007-2015 University of Minnesota: Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG), Officer  
2008-2014 University of Minnesota, Geography: TA and Pedagogy Committee, Co-founder

## NATIONAL SERVICE

- AAG – Qualitative Research Specialty Group, Treasurer/Secretary (2018 – 2020)  
AESS – Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Nomination Committee Member, (2017-2019)

Journal Article Reviewer for – *Local Environment*; *Social and Cultural Geography*; *Journal of American Planning Association*; *Emotion, Space and Society*; *Society and Natural Resources*; *Urban Geography*; *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Association of Geographers (AAG)  
Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS)  
Royal Geographical Society (RGS-IGB, UK)  
Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)  
Society of Architecture, City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH)