

# SANA MURRANI

Associate Professor (Spatial Practice)  
University of Plymouth

## EDUCATION

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- 2011 **PhD in Architectural Theory**, School of Art & Media, The Planetary Collegium, University of Plymouth. Thesis title: *Unstable Territories of Representation: architectural experience and the behaviour of forms, spaces and the collective dynamic environment*. Thesis abstract selected by the peer review panel of Leonardo ABstracts Service and published in Leonardo Electronic Almanac (LEA), Leonardo's e-journal in 2011.
- 2011 **Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice**, University of Plymouth, UK. Fellow of the Higher Education Academy [FHEA].
- 2003 **MSc Architecture** (Distinction), College of Engineering, University of Baghdad, Iraq. Thesis title: *Architecture, Gene and Genetic Systems*. Theorising Baghdad's urban morphology and growth in an old part of the city.
- 2000 **BSc Architecture**, College of Engineering, University of Baghdad, Iraq. Finalist project selected by a panel of Arab architects and academics to represent Baghdad School of Architecture for the Second Arab Architectural Fair for Graduation Projects held in the Institute of Fine Arts at Lebanon University, Beirut, Lebanon 2000. Project title: *Let's Bridge the Gap: an urban utopia* [work + live + play] in a highly congested site across the river Tigris in Baghdad.

## EMPLOYMENT & ROLES

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- 2019 – **Associate Professor (Spatial Practice)** and **Deputy Director for the Doctoral College** for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and **Master of Architecture Dissertation Subject Leader**, University of Plymouth
- 2017 – 19 **Associate Head of School for Graduate Affairs**, **PGR School Coordinator**, **Research Skills and Methodologies Training Leader** across the School and **Research Masters [ResM] Art, Design and Architecture Programme Leader** and **Masters Dissertation Leader for Architecture**, Art, Design and Architecture, University of Plymouth
- 2008 – 17 **Lecturer in Architecture, BA** and **Master of Architecture Dissertation Subject Leader** and **Design Studio Tutor**

## RESEARCH NETWORKS, GRANTS & CONSULTANCIES

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- **Founder of Displacement Studies Research Network:** <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/displacement-studies> Launched in January 2018, the network builds on successful key research partnerships with charities, NGOs, and other research institutes (globally) working at the intersection between displacement, heritage, and creativity to research, share, and enhance the impact and power of the creative agencies of displaced peoples, their culture, identity, heritage, health and well-being. In April 2018, the network was identified as a core member of the **UK Alliance for Disaster Research** and in September 2019 signed the **Global Alliance for Urban Crises** Charter. The network was established as part of a grant of £7K for a research sabbatical time between December 2017 and May 2018.

- **Principal Investigator** for *Creative Recovery: Mapping Refugees' Memories of Home, as Heritage* funded by the European Cultural Foundation, Courageous Citizens 2018. The project is in partnership with British Red Cross, Plymouth - Devon. Grant award: €10K, August 2018-October 2019. An extra funding of £5K was awarded by the Sustainable Earth Institute, University of Plymouth for widening the impact of the project.
- **Advisor and Collaborator** for a **Social Sciences KE Fellowship** – Public and Community led by **Oxford University** (Human Archaeology) with a Plymouth based Refugee charity for £17K – duration 6 months (start date February 2020). Title: **Co-designing a participatory project on the material dimensions of forced displacement with refugees in Plymouth, U.K.**
- **Research Consultant** for **Made in Migration**, project funded by the **British Academy and led by Dr Rachael Kiddey, Oxford University**. Mapping the material culture of displacement across the UK, Sweden and Greece. During 18 months – start of consultancy April 2020).

## RESEARCH DEGREE SUPERVISION (2011 – )

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- Radical Rivers: Blue Spaces for the 21st Century by Sally Sutton [expected completion September 2020 – role DoS].
- Play Dynamics: participatory/ dynamic architecture as an instrument for social activism by Alejandro Quinteros, Planetary Collegium [expected completion October 2020 – role DoS].
- Re-Imagine Your Town: Co created archives of community urban visions by Becalelis Brodskis, 3D3 Centre for Doctoral Training [expected completion December 2020 – role 2<sup>nd</sup>].
- The Quotidian Future: Contemporary Art from Artistic and Decolonial Curatorial Perspectives by Flounder Lee [expected completion September 2024 – role 2<sup>nd</sup>].
- Integrating transnationalism into a transmedia practice by Cândida Luiza Borges da Silva [expected completion March 2022 – role 3<sup>rd</sup>].

## RESEARCH DEGREE COMPLETION

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- Arhitectura 1950 – 1989. Interstitial Spaces of Communist Romanian Architecture by Ioana Popovici [completed PhD June 2019 – role DoS].
- In and out of memory: exploring the tension between remembering and forgetting when recalling 9/11, a traumatic event by Anna Walker [completed PhD August 2017 – role 3<sup>rd</sup>].
- Post-structural and Post Colonial Critique of Utopian Ideas by Richard Bower [completed PhD January 2015 – role 3<sup>rd</sup>].

## RESEARCH DEGREE EXAMINED AND CHAIRED

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- Saltram House: The Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Country Estate by Katherine Norley [ ResM Art History, September 2020]. Charing examination.
- Ideas Exchange: Design and the post bio-tech-body by Agatha Haines [PhD Transtechnology Research, July 2020]. Charing examination.
- Creative Caprice: Intrinsic Interest; States of Consciousness; Emotion & Practice-led Phenomenological Inquiry by Steven Evans [PhD Art and Media, July 2020]. Charing examination.
- Syncretic Narrative: Method for Navigation of Power and Resistance in War and Conflict by Diane Derr [PhD Art and Media, June 2020]. Internal examination.
- Anaylsis of the Ludic Dream State through Artistic Practice: A Technoetic Approach by Pamela Payne [PhD Art and Media, June 2020]. Charing examination.
- Vibrating Existence: Early Cinema and Cognitive Creativity by Guy Edmonds [PhD Transtechnology Research, May 2020]. Charing examination.
- Doppelkopf Neuroarchitecture. A Wicked Threshold Space by Fiona Zisch [PhD Architectural Design, UCL, April 2020]. External examination.
- The Liminal Event and Its Symbols: On the Interaction of Human and Technology by Blanka Domaglski [PhD Art and Media, January 2020]. Internal examination.

- Space-Time Aesthetics in the Meta-Environment: A Cybersemiotic Analysis by Claudia Ferreira Jacques de Moraes Cardoso [PhD Art and Media, July 2018]. Internal examination.
- University must be safe: Genealogy as a knowledge approach by Patrizia Moschella [PhD Art and Media, June 2018]. Chairing examination.
- Post African Futures: Decoloniality and Actional Methodologies in Art and Cultural Practices in African Cultures of Technology by Tegan Bristow [PhD Art and Media, December 2017]. Chairing examination.
- The (Not so) Intelligent House: User Perception in an Interactive Architectural Environment by Alexander Ćetković [PhD Art & Media, September 2017]. Internal examination.
- In Search Of The Domonovus: Speculative Designs For The Computationally-Enhanced Domestic Environment by Stavros Didakis [PhD Art & Media, August 2016]. Chairing examination.
- Theroia: The Veneration of Icons via the Technoetic Process by Katerina Karoussos [PhD Art & Media, June 2016]. Internal examination.
- Museum and Technology: aspects of multimodality and multimodality in the cultural assets field by Simona Caraceni, Plymouth University [PhD Art & Media, September 2014]. Internal examination.

### REVIEWER, READER & ADVISOR (ALL ARE ACTIVE)

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September	2019	<b>Reader for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Democracy Needs Imagination Call, The European Cultural Foundation (ECF).</b>
July	2019	<b>Reviewer for The Austrian Science Fund (ASF) - Elise Richter-PEEK-Position.</b>
June	2019	<b>Reviewer for Third World Quarterly (Routledge Journals).</b>
March	2019	<b>Reviewer for the Journal of Migration and Society (Berghahn Publishing).</b>
December	2018	<b>Advising Editor to Leonardo Reviews: The International Society for the Arts, Sciences, and Technology (MIT).</b>
October	2016	<b>Member of the Global Challenges Research Fund ESRC Peer Review College.</b>
October	2016	<b>Reviewer for Footnote: Delft Architecture Theory Journal.</b>
July	2014	<b>Reviewer for Leonardo Reviews: The International Society for the Arts, Sciences, and Technology.</b>
August	2011	<b>Reviewer for Routledge Architecture Section.</b>

### ORGANISED CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

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November	2020	Speaker at Housing and the City at Nottingham University, Architectural Humanities Research Association (AHRA) in collaboration with Routledge. Title of talk: <i>"I map, therefore, I am": Deep mapping and making home in displacement.</i>
October	2020	Invited speaker at Contemporary and Historic Archaeology in Theory Festival CHAT20. <i>Made in Migration</i> collaborative.
March	2020	Invited speaker at Human Rights Festival, Oxford Brookes University (theme of resilience).
November	2019	Invited speaker (and selected funded project) at the European Foundations Centre for Arts and Culture in their annual event, theme for this year is: <i>"Cultural Welfare: what role arts play in the health and wellbeing of citizens?"</i> which will take place in Turin, Italy on 21-22 November 2019.
November	2019	Invited speaker at the Global Health Café, University of Plymouth.
October	2019	Invited speaker at Oxford Brookes in the School of Architecture's Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP).
October	2019	Speaker at Bitesize Talks, the Arts Institute, Mariner: A Painted Ship Upon A Painted Ocean, The Levinsky Gallery.

- June 2018 Invited speaker at the Sustainable Earth Institute Annual Conference, talk title: Displacement, Disaster and Destruction, University of Plymouth – UK, 28th – 29th June 2018.
- June 2018 Co-organiser and chair of Q&A for The Shroud Maker, a performance for Refugee Week 2018, play by Ahmed Masoud. Plymouth Barbican Theatre.
- March 2018 Speaker at the UK Alliance for Disaster Research Annual Conference, talk title: Displacement and emplacement of spatial heritage, hosted by the Cabot Institute at the University of Bristol – UK, 27-28 March 2018.
- January 2018 Director of the Displacement Studies Research Network, launch event symposium: Human and Urban Displacement: From Crises to Creativity, title of talk: Rudimentary design, architecture, and urban integration: Getting out of context and moving from ‘for’ to ‘with’ the displaced, at the University of Plymouth’s Research Festival 2018, hosted by the Arts Institute, the Responsible Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation Research Group within the Institute for Social, Political and Enterprise Research (iSPER), the Sustainable Earth Institute, and Research and Innovation. University of Plymouth – UK, 25-26 January 2018.
- September 2017 Co-Director and Chair of the DRHA 2017: Data Ache, The 21st International Conference on Digital Research in the Humanities and Arts, hosted by the Arts Institute, University of Plymouth – UK 10-13 September 2017.
- August 2017 Speaker at the Off the Lip 2017: Cognitive Innovation Conference, led by CogNovo, University of Plymouth – UK 16-18 August 2017.
- June 2015 12th AHRA Research Student Symposium, Syncretic Architectures: new approaches between theory & practice, School of Architecture, Design and Environment, University of Plymouth, Plymouth - UK 11-13 June 2015. Symposium chair, member of the internal reviewing panel, main organiser and mentor for PhD students.
- December 2014 COGTALK: An evening of talks organised for the Cognition Institute on the social and cultural construct of Architecture. An evening with artist Tim Knowles, academic and architect Dr. Sana Murrani and Dr. Mathew Emmett.
- September 2011 Panel discussion at ISEA2011 Istanbul: The Volatility and Stability of WorldMaking as Téchne, Inter Society of Electronic Arts (ISEA2011) conference in Istanbul, September 14th-21st 2011. Workshop panellist.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- MURRANI, S., LLOYD, H., and POPOVICI, I. (working paper). **Participatory journeys into thick/deep maps: memoryscapes of the creative spatial practice of making-home in displacement.** *Journal of Migration and Society*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn.
  - MURRANI, S. 2020. **Review of Refugia: Radical Solutions to Mass Displacement**, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, feaa077, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feaa077>
  - MURRANI, S. 2019. **‘Contingency and Plasticity: The Dialectical Re-construction of the Concept of Home in Displacement’.** *Journal of Culture and Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354067X19871203> (7000 words, externally reviewed at 3.5-4\*)

- MURRANI, S. 2019. '**Urban Creativity through Displacement and Spatial Disruption**', In: Michael E Leary-Owhin and John P McCarthy (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Henri Lefebvre, The City and Urban Society*. London: Routledge. ISBN: 9781138290051. (7500 words, externally reviewed at 4\*)
- HOSALE, MD., MURRANI, S. and DECAMPO, A. 2018. '**Introduction from the Editors**' to *Worldmaking as Techné: Exploring Worlds of Participatory Art, Architecture, and Music*. Cambridge, Ontario: Riverside Architectural Press, pp. iv-xxvi. ISBN: 978-1-988366-09-8. (8000 words)
- MURRANI, S. 2018. '**Estranged Space Appropriated**', In: Hosale, MD., Murrani, S. and de Campo, A. *Worldmaking as Techné: Exploring Worlds of Participatory Art, Architecture, and Music*. Cambridge, Ontario: Riverside Architectural Press, pp. 296-319. (7000 words)
- MURRANI, S. 2016. '**Baghdad's thirdspace: between liminality, anti-structures and territorial mappings**', *The Journal of Cultural Dynamics* 28 (2), 189-220. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0921374016634378> (7500 words, externally reviewed at 3.5-4\*).
- MURRANI, S. 2014. '**To Cognise a Liminal Reality: on constructing a spatial and social assemblage of peripheral sites and situations in England**', In: *Architecture and Writing: ARCHTHEO '14 / Theory of Architecture Conference Proceeding Book*, 6th-8th of November 2014, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. DAKAM: Istanbul, 217-226.
- MURRANI, S. 2012. '**The Socio-Temporary in Architecture: Territories of Second-Order Cybernetics**', *The International Journal of Art, Culture and Design Technologies* 2 (1), 44-56.
- MURRANI, S. 2011. *Unstable Territories of Representation: Architectural Experience and the Behaviour of Forms, Spaces and the Collective Dynamic Environment*. PhD thesis abstract published in *LEA – LABS: Leonardo Abstracts Service*, UK. Leonardo Online: <http://www.leoalmanac.org/unstable-territories-of-representation-by-sana-murrani/>
- MURRANI, S. 2011. '**Third Way Architecture: Between Cybernetics and Phenomenology**', *Technoetic Arts: A Journal of Speculative Research* 8 (3), 267-281.
- MURRANI, S. 2009. '**Instability and Incompleteness in Architecture**', In: Ascott, R., Bast, G., Fiel, W., Jahrmann, M. & Schnell, R. (eds.) *New Realities: Being Syncretic*. Wien: Springer. 202-206.
- MURRANI, S. 2007. '**The Behaviour of Architectural Forms**', *Technoetic Arts: A Journal of Speculative Research* 5 (3), 133-149.

## NATIONALITY, LANGUAGES & CARREER BREAKS

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British-Iraqi.

English and Arabic (fluent).

28.11.2011 - 02.07.2012 (7 months maternity leave with my 1<sup>st</sup> child).

01.08.2015 - 01.03.2016 (7 months maternity leave with my 2<sup>nd</sup> child).