

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Fluid Citizenship

- **Format:**

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- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

The picturesque canals of London and their adjacent green spaces—bucolic wetlands and parks hosting flora and fauna one would hardly expect to see so close to Central London—simultaneously offer a respite from urbanity and architecture while also epitomising critical urban issues, particularly around contested mobilities, contested visions of space, and the increasing premium on waterfronts. Using the River Lea Navigation Canal adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as a case study, our research focuses on the modalities of mobilities—cycle lanes, Overground rail routes, bus routes, pedestrians, and boaters—that converge in parallel and perpendicular flows around the site. These modalities of mobilities provide a window into a critical analysis of larger issues around: (1) the challenges of governing small architectures (particularly their movement), (2) infrastructural subjects, subjectivities, and governance, (3) contested architectures of circulation, (4) the extent to which planning processes are inclusive and participatory, and (5) urban nomadism and mobile forms of belonging. Our methodology consists of a systematic literature review, analysis of planning documents, ethnography

(interviews, field-based observations), mapping, and socio-spatial analysis. The purpose of our research is threefold: (1) To problematise current models of citizenship and governance structures operating on and alongside the canal, (2) To propose a dual-pronged spatial and policy intervention to better enable the canals as mixed-use spaces, and (3) To envision ways to better integrate the canals into London's urban fabric, identity, and future as a global city that excels at multivalent transit and residence.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Francis Aguiard is an urbanist and architecture student currently studying for a Master of Architecture at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. He also holds an MSc in City Design & Social Science from the London School of Economics, where he studied as a Fulbright Scholar. During his time at the LSE, he researched coliving and other forms of emerging 21st century nomadism. Before returning to graduate school, Francis worked for Waggoner & Ball Architecture/Environment (WBAE) in New Orleans, his hometown. While there he developed designs and communication strategies for the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, the first regional water plan of its kind in the United States. At WBAE, he also worked as a team member on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and Presidential Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force's REBUILD BY DESIGN competition. His drawings from these projects have been featured in the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam and Lotus Magazine, as well as other publications and exhibitions.

Tiffany Lam is passionate about sustainability, social justice, and cities. She recently completed her MSc in City Design & Social Science at the London School of Economics where her dissertation research focused on the gender gap and other inequalities in cycling in London. She will pursue this research as a doctoral candidate at the University College London beginning in the fall. She has presented her research to Transport for London and Sustrans, a national UK organization that works on cycling infrastructure. Prior to attending the LSE, Tiffany worked as a Civil Rights & Employment paralegal at Cohen Milstein, a premier plaintiffs' law firm in Washington, DC. She worked on the landmark Supreme Court case against Wal-Mart for sex discrimination as well as high profile litigation against McDonald's for wage & hour, among other labor, violations. While in DC she also did cycling advocacy and education on the side with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. She received her undergraduate degree from Tufts University in Women's Studies and Peace & Justice Studies.