



University of the
West of England

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

What do we do with Sunlight?: A Review of the Effects of Contemporary Environmental Health Concerns over Designing for/with the Sun

- **Format:**

Pre-recorded Film

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Solar-responsive design approaches are gaining a renewed relevance in contemporary culture. Aggressive energy targets which demand heavily increased building surface areas to collect the utmost solar power increase the significance of debates around access to sunlight. Among these, perspectives which prioritize environmental health concerns that strongly relate but are not limited to issues of solar rights loom large. This is parallel to ascending global concerns about the impact of super-tall buildings and their shadows over surrounding buildings as well as public spaces. These impulses suggest novel solar oriented urban orders which prioritize – or leastwise do not neglect – the public right to access sunlight. This introduces a nascent medium through which to integrate environmental health issues – as well as those of social justice – into the discourses and practices of ecological urbanism.

This text reviews, explores and critically questions the potentials of such commitments centered around environmental health concerns on redefining not only the way building performances are evaluated but also the way through which cities get planned, designed and built. To this end, it touches on aspects of housing dealing with value in relationship to land development and public policy. The text also leaves an exploration of historical cases which explored various aspects of solar orientation by a reading of recent commitments to digital paradigms for urbanism.

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

Dr. Gizem Deniz Guneri Sogut received her B.Arch and PhD. in Architecture from Middle East Technical University. She conducted her Masters in Architecture and Urban Design at Columbia University GSAPP. She, then, pursued her post-doctoral research at Harvard University GSD. Major research interests include architectural utopias, urban architecture, collective urban form, landscape urbanism and environmental health.