TANGIBLE - INTANGIBLE HERITAGE(S): AN INTERPLAY OF DESIGN, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CRITIQUES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Interim Spaces in 21st century London: charting the legacy of creative temporary uses from the post war era to the early 2010s

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (with/without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
‘Interim Spaces and Creative Use’ is a documentary output of the research project under the same title which was funded by the Leverhulme Trust (RF-2012-518) with £45,000 over a period of two and a half years (1/10/12-31/3/15). The research project investigated whether vacant land can be beneficial for local communities if officially brought into interim uses. It built upon a historical review of interim spaces (UK and international) to focus on London in the late 2000s and early 2010s downturn. A number of initiatives in London were examined through an empirical study of local creative use in five interim sites representative of such initiatives. The research design comprised on-site filming and interviews with users, site surveys, a website, and a public workshop open to all participants.
Using the documentary as a starting point, the paper highlights links between past and present creative temporary projects developed in vacant urban spaces from the post-war context of London up to the early 2010s recession. Through these links, specific themes emerge, which provide insights into practices and ideologies relating to temporariness and vacancy and their tangible and intangible legacies for contemporary urban projects: from gardening as a vehicle for community cohesion, to the reuse of vacant land for environmental awareness and remediation and long-term regeneration. Most historical temporary projects are long gone, leaving no physical traces behind; some, however, remain and have managed to endure. The making of the documentary responds to the need to capture and protect the heritage value of such temporary interventions even after these may be physically gone or altered. The paper highlights the importance of tracing that legacy in how vacant space has been reimagined through temporary use in 21st century London, and its relevance for the longer-term production of the city.

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

Dr Krystallia Kamvasinou is a Senior Lecturer in Planning, Urban Design and Architecture at the University of Westminster, London. She teaches on both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and supervises Master and PhD theses relating to temporary urbanism, urban landscapes, public space, and community engagement in city design. Between 2012-2015 she was Leverhulme Research Fellow (RF-2012-518) investigating ‘Interim spaces and creative use’ with focus on London’s temporary land use initiatives since 2008. She has published extensively on the subject, including an article in *The Journal of Urban Design* (2015) and a chapter in the edited book ‘Transience and Permanence in Urban Development’ (Wiley-Blackwell 2017). She has co-organised two international conferences (Emerging Landscapes, June 2010, and Re-Imagining Rurality, February 2015) and co-edited *Critical Perspectives on Landscape* (a special issue of *The Journal of Architecture*, 2012) and *Emerging Landscapes Between Production and Representation* (Ashgate 2014). She is currently guest editor on a special issue of *Landscape Research* (forthcoming August 2018).