

CREATIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES SHORT COURSE 2023



**DR. HEETEN
BHAGAT**

Course Facilitator



**PROF. MONIQUE
MARKS**

Course Convenor



**DR. RACHEL
BAASCH**

Course Facilitator

INVITATION TO PRE-APPLY:

THE INVITATION:

The Urban Future Centre is offering an 8-week hybrid guided learning short course in creative research methodologies. We invite you to let us know if you are interested in participating.

WHO SHOULD SIGN UP:

- Researchers
- Advanced Postgraduate Students
- Creative Practitioners

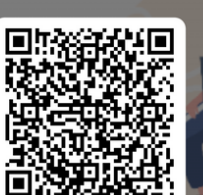
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

ESSENTIAL:

- Basic Undergraduate Degree (any discipline)
- Interest in the theory and application of creative research methodologies and methods

DESIRED:

- Based in Durban and surrounds
- Postgraduate Degree
- Currently working on a research project / creative work
- Experience working with qualitative research methods / experience with merging creative work and knowledge production



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The ways in which our society, environments and spaces are imagined and take shape, depend on the knowledges that we produce with different research methods. Today, the social and humanities turn in spatial research and vice versa (the spatial turn in social sciences and humanities) has provided researchers with new instruments to reveal and make sense of complex social, environmental and spatial phenomena, which are not visible with conventional research methodologies. New and improved knowledge of these phenomena help research to better anchor to social, cultural and political realities of urban places, and provide perspectives to how to transform them for sustainable and just urban futures.

This course aims to introduce its participants to the politics of knowledge production, and a selection of creative research methods. This will enable them to explore how their research and creative practices can engage with the nuances of their contexts and communities, through these methods. The methodologies come from a variety of disciplines, including emerging ethnographic practices, cultural mapping, creative writing, the performing arts (dance, choreography, theatre, music, sound, circus, poetry) and photography.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

The creative research methodologies short course has been designed as an 8-week hybrid guided learning experience. The first three weeks are dedicated to participants immersing themselves in literature and recorded lectures about creative research methodologies. Participants will then enter into a 1-week in-person exchange, where they will intensively examine, expose, trouble and make sense of creative research methodologies, and how they apply to their research and/or creative practice. The remainder of the course will be driven by each participant's intention for undertaking the course, and will either involve critically delineating possible methodological constructions and politics of knowledge in relation to their research project or creative practice; or testing out a method or methods in one's research project or creative practice, and discussing their contingencies in surfacing different data and/or representation.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The course is best suited to researchers and postgraduate students who are in the process of designing their research projects, and creative practitioners who are interested in exploring how their arts practice can be transformed into an enabler of, and participant in, knowledge production.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- An understanding of creative research methodology
- Skills of method making, representation and reflexivity

COURSE LEADERS:



PROF MONIQUE MARKS: HEAD OF URBAN FUTURES CENTRE (DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY)

Prof Monique Marks is an NRF B-Rated researcher. She was initially trained as a social worker, she has a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Natal, and writes predominantly in the field of criminology. She has published widely in the areas of youth social movements, ethnographic research methods, police labour relations, police organizational change, security governance, and most recently harm reduction.



DR RACHEL BAASCH: RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN THE NRF SARCHI CHAIR
GEOPOLITICS AND THE ARTS OF AFRICA (RHODES UNIVERSITY)

Dr Rachel Baasch was born in Kwa-Zulu Natal in 1987. She holds a BFA, MFA (Fine Art) and PhD (Art History) from Rhodes University. She has supervised Masters and PhD students and lectured in the Fine Art school at RU from 2017-20. Between 2021 and 2023 she worked as a lecturer and the Acting HoD in Fine Art and Jewellery Design at DUT. She has facilitated workshops and consulted on arts-based research, practice-based research, and creative research methodologies at RU, NMU and DUT.



DR HEETEN BHAGAT: POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW (ONE OCEAN HUB) AT URBAN FUTURES CENTRE (DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY)

heeten bhagat was born in Zimbabwe, and presently oscillates between Harare and Cape Town. Most recently, his work has been in the emerging terrain of pracademics – essentially looking to nurture collaborations and design experiments between academia and real-life systems. He approaches this work as a conceptual methodologist – bringing pragmatic and provocative programming to support decolonial & diversity-expanding processes in overlooked and underserved environments.



MS. AVRIL JOFFE: HEAD OF CULTURAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
(UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND)

Ms. Avril Joffe is an economic sociologist with more than 20 years professional experience in the field of cultural policy, culture and development and the cultural economy primarily on the African continent. Avril's areas of focus are cultural policy design, implementation and evaluation; value, mapping and assessment of the cultural economy for evidence-based policy making; strategic planning for the arts; cultural entrepreneurship; and, foregrounding arts and culture in urban and city development.



DR. KIRA ERWIN: SENIOR RESEARCHER AT URBAN FUTURES CENTRE (DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY)

Dr. Kira Erwin is an urban sociologist, whose research and publications focus largely on race, racialisation, racism and anti-racism work within the urban context. Her projects make use of creative participatory methods, and she collaborates with colleagues in various creative fields to produce forms of public storytelling that extend research beyond the walls of academia.