

Dr. Sven Anderson

Theatrum Mundi
MSCA Individual Fellow
2021 - 2023

UK Research Office (UKRO)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
Information Webinar Series

Session 2: Practical Matters
April 27, 2022

Presentation Structure

1. Research Background
2. Applying for an MSCA IF (PF)
3. Project Overview
4. Proposal Experience
5. Project Experience
6. Advice for New Applicants



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101032632.

Research Background

PhD, Technological University Dublin
The Graduate School of Creative Arts
and Media (GradCAM)
2016 - 2021

Integrative Sonic Urbanism

Artist-Led Strategies for Urban Sound
Design in the Contemporary City

Dissertation Structure

1. Introduction
2. Urban Sound Installation Practices in the Public Realm
3. Remedial Strategies for Urban Sound Design
4. An Integrative Approach to Urban Sound Design
5. Artistic Practice in a Local Authority
6. A Nomadic Project Space
7. Conclusion



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continuousdrift.com



SARAH PIERCE



BIRDCALLS





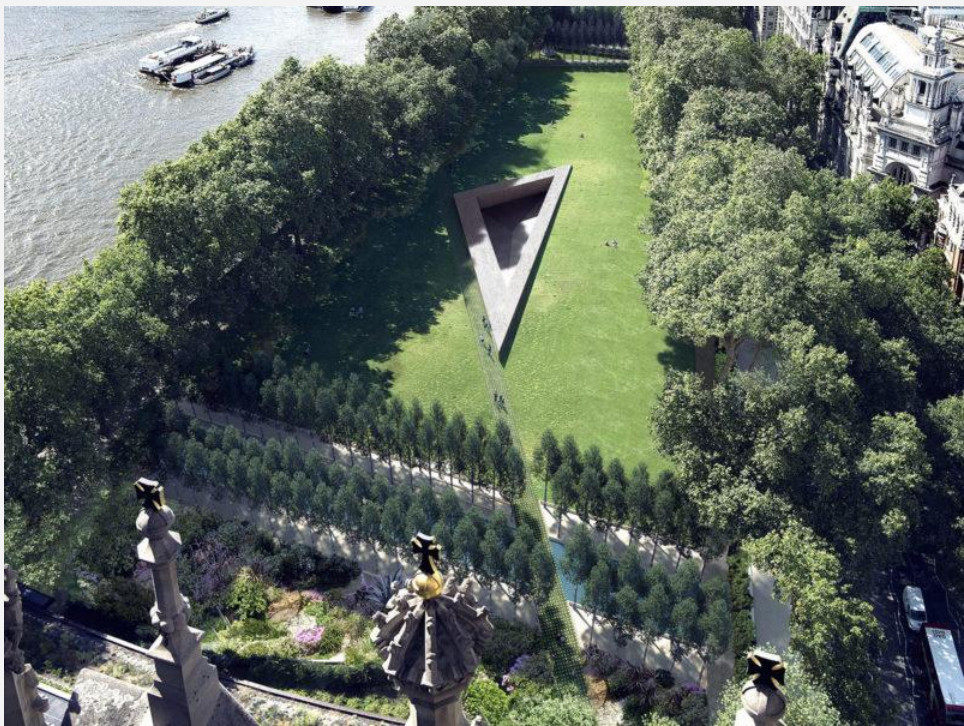
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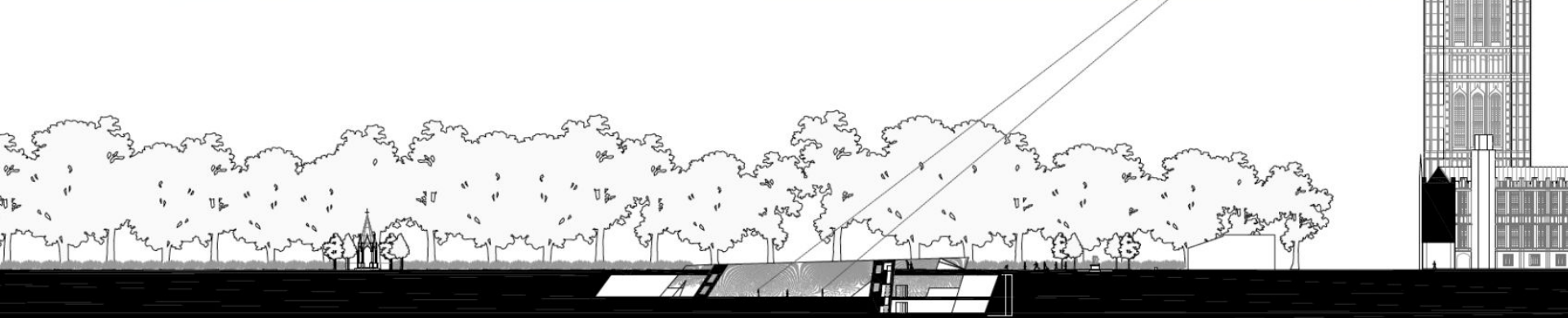
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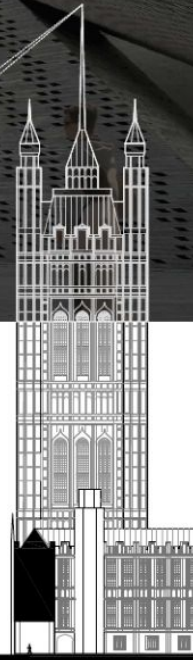


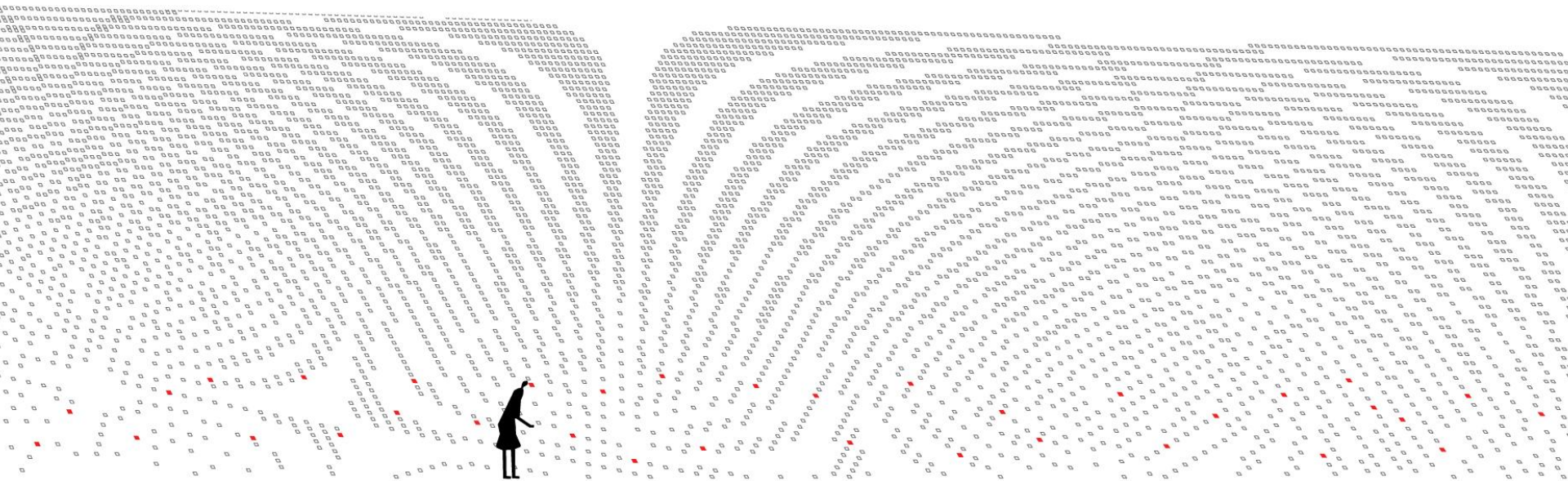


WALKING BACK TO THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER FROM THE CENTRE OF THE MEMORIAL



SECTION 1.1:500





CONTEXT

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Project Details

Sound-Frameworks

Collaborative frameworks for integrating sound within urban design and planning processes

Grant agreement number: 101032632

Research call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2020

Type of action: MSCA-IF-EF-SE (Society & Enterprise)

Duration: 24 months

Keywords: Urban sociology, urban theory, urban studies, global cities, territorialisation; Spatial and regional planning; Urbanization and urban planning, cities; Architecture, smart buildings, smart cities, urban engineering; Noise pollution; Urban sound design; Acoustic planning; Soundscaping; Placemaking; Public realm regeneration.



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Project Summary

Sound-Frameworks is an action-led research project that explores the role of sound in urban design and city planning.

Central to this fellowship is a focus on urban sonic experience as a driver for design in the public realm. Sound has remained a neglected dimension of this domain, generally coming into consideration only within late stages of design through efforts to ameliorate the impact of environmental noise. As the densification of urban territories accelerates, the role of sonic experience as an essential factor to be addressed by urban designers must be reassessed.



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Project Summary

Sound-Frameworks will explore new methodologies for integrating sound in urban design through the production of three interrelated, open-access resources:

1. A sound in practice survey
2. A publication on best practice guidelines in this field
3. An online tool to guide the integration of sound in the design of the public realm

Drawing from environmental acoustics, spatial planning and contemporary sound studies, the fellowship will develop a framework to extend regional, national and international objectives for integrated city planning and contribute to public realm initiatives in Europe and beyond.



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Project Host

Theatrum Mundi (London, UK)

Primary Supervisor: Dr. John Bingham-Hall

Co-Supervisors: Marta Michalowska and
Dr. Fani Kostourou

Adviser: Prof. Richard Sennett OBE FBA

Theatrum Mundi is a centre for research and experimentation in the public culture of cities founded in 2012 by Prof. Richard Sennett. Theatrum Mundi expands the crafts of city-making through collaboration with the arts, developing imaginative responses to shared questions about the staging of urban public life.

By convening cross-disciplinary conversations, conducting and sharing research across silos, and connecting architecture and urbanism with the crafts of the stage, Theatrum Mundi supports urban practitioners, artists, researchers and activists to expand their approaches.



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Project Partners

Academic

The University of Oxford (Faculty of Music), UK. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Gascia Ouzounian.

The University of Copenhagen (Sound Studies Lab), DK. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Holger Schulz.

Non-Academic

Ove Arup and Partners, UK. Supervisors: Adam Thomas, Tateo Nakajima and Dr. Philip Wright.

UrbanID GmbH, CH. Supervisor: Dr. Trond Maag.

Struer Kommune, DK. Supervisor: Dr. Jacob Kreutzfeldt.



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Proposal Development Experience

- Required focusing specifically on the objectives of the grant, not drawing on generic grant-writing rhetoric.
- Involved months of close back and forth with host organisation - who did not have a dedicated MSCA grant writing team, but who offered exemplary support.
- Benefitted from external conversations with previous MSCA IF grantees



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Systems level

This fellowship activates the potential of the Society and Enterprise panel by aligning artistic and practice-led research within a non-academic partner, inviting dialogue with leading academic partners (University of Oxford and University of Copenhagen), an SME (UrbanID GmbH), a local municipality (Struer Kommune) and a global engineering and consulting firm (Arup). The project will have a significant impact on a systems level as it urges an open, international exchange between these partners stemming from the symbiotic relationship between the host and the ER. The ER's extensive research in the field of urban sound design foregrounds the need to prioritise systems level tactics in order to gain traction within urban design and city planning practices. This will resonate with the supervisors within the partner organisations, amplifying the ER's previous connections with them. Through this fellowship, the ER, TM and the project partners will activate a consideration of sound in vital urban contexts to support UN SDGs 3, 9 and 11 (as outlined in section 1.1.3) and to work outwards towards a range of practices that directly impact the design of the public realm.

Work Package 3 (WP3) Title: Developing Best Practice Guidelines	Start Month – End Month: M9 – M16 Secondments: Arup (S5), Struer Kommune (S2), UrbanID (S3)
Tasks: T3.1 Derive structure for Best Practice Guidelines from the output of Sound in Practice survey, database and case studies developed in WP2 T3.2 Conduct evidence review researching best practice documents produced in other domains of practice focused on design and the public realm T3.3 Critique Best Practice Guidelines structure through secondment with Struer Kommune (S2) T3.4 Refine Best Practice Guidelines structure through secondments with UrbanID GmbH (S3) and Arup (S5) T3.5 Compose text for Best Practice Guidelines and develop visual design assets with support from TM graphic design team T3.6 Synthesise final Best Practice Guidelines document and finalise for open access publication via TM online research portal	
Milestones: M3.1 Revision of initial approach to Best Practice Guidelines with feedback from TM (M10) M3.2 Secondment to Struer Kommune (S2) under the supervision of Dr. J. Kreutzfeldt (DK) (M11) M3.3 Secondments to Arup (S5) and UrbanID GmbH (S3) under the supervision of A. Thomas (UK) (M10) and Dr. T. Maag (CH) (M12) M3.4 Submit draft Best Practice Guidelines to TM supervisors for review and feedback (M13)	
Deliverables: D3.1 Article on methodology for translating results of Sound in Practice survey to Best Practice Guidelines (M15) D3.2 Final Best Practice Guidelines publication (M16)	

3.1.2 Appropriateness of tasks

The work plan above will ensure that the ER completes the project according to schedule. The milestones and deliverables that support WP2, WP3 and WP4 will guide the ER's progress to fulfil the objectives outlined in section 1.1.1. The core management work package (WP1) will provide mechanisms to review progress and to develop contingency plans in reaction to any administrative risks (see table 3.2.2). The communication and dissemination plan (WP5) will ensure that the outputs of Sound-Frameworks reach diverse audiences, while the knowledge-transfer plan (WP5) will reinforce the exchange between the ER and the host that is integral to the project's success.

3.1.3 Gantt chart (*D = Deliverable; M = Milestone; S = Secondment; Grey boxes denote length of work packages*)

Work Package	Title	Year 1 (Sep 2021 – Sep 2022)												Year 2 (Sep 2022 – Sep 2023)											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WP1	Project Management	D1.1	D1.2				M1.1		M1.2			D1.3 M1.1					M1.1						D1.4	D1.3 M1.1	
WP2	Surveying Sound in Practice			M2.1	D2.1	M2.2		M2.3		D2.2															
WP3	Developing Best Practice Guidelines											M3.1	M3.2	M3.3	M3.4		D3.1	D3.2							
WP4	Prototyping an Open Design Framework																	M4.1			M4.2	D4.1	D4.2		
WP5	Communication and Dissemination	M5.1	D5.1						D5.2								D5.3						D5.4	D5.5	
WP6	Training & Transfer of Knowledge		M6.1	M6.2	D6.1	D6.1	M6.2 D6.1	D6.1	D6.1	M6.2 D6.1			M6.2		D6.2	M6.2			M6.2			M6.2	D6.3		M6.2
	Research Secondments			S1 S5 (UK)								S5 (UK)	S2 (DK)	S3 (CH)							S5 (UK)	S4 (DK)			





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It's always a work in progress



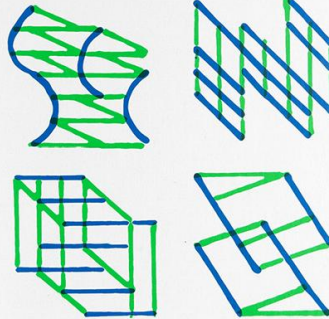
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Performing Projections



Ed Cecily Chua, Jayden Ali

Infrastructuring



Susannah Haslam

Four Conversations on Cultural Infrastructure









Initial Project Experience

(Months 1 - 6)

- Focusing on adapting to working within host organisation.
- Intensively reviewing project structure and methodology with supervisory team.
- Building project foundation and communication assets.
- Coordinating activity and schedule with project partners.
- Developing initial secondments in line with COVID safety and remote work potential.
- Planning how to develop the project to produce the most impact.
- Carrying out the core activities of the research.



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Advice for MSCA PF Applicants

- Understand that applying for an MSCA IF is a calculated risk, and ensure you have backup plans in place.
- Try to get at least two successful applications to review.
- Try to get a copy of someone's final project report to see what this entails.
- Export the CORDIS database of funded projects as a spreadsheet, which you can search for specific keywords to see what has been funded in your field.
- Spend time developing the 'voice' of your application. Consider the pros and cons of writing in first person or third person perspective.
- Share your application with several people to refined it - but do not overshare and overwhelm yourself with feedback.
- Check in with the UKRO contacts and NCPs with any questions.
- Get to know your host organisation - research what they do, and who they work with.
- Get to know your supervisor(s) both through discussing and debating your research topic as well as discussing project logistics and relevant administrative.
- Familiarise yourself with the tax structure in your host country to ensure you can plan your financial situation.
- Do not underestimate the amount of time it will take to move and to adapt to working in a new country, and within a new organisation.
- Keep in mind that the administrative aspects of managing your grant are a significant component of your work.



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Image descriptions and credits

- **Slide 3:** A panel discussion in the event Beyond Noise and Silence: Listening for the City. 2014. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 4:** A meeting during the project The Office for Common Sound at the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). 2019. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 5:** Discussing sound and place with members of the public in The Office for Common Sound in Bray. 2016. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 6:** Looking into Meeting House Square, the site of the public sound installation Continuous Drift. 2017. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 7:** The interface for controlling the sound installation Continuous Drift. 2017. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 8:** Listening to Continuous Drift in Meeting House Square. 2017. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson.
- **Slides 9 - 11:** Heneghan Peng Architects and Sven Anderson. Proposal for the UK Holocaust Memorial. 2017. Image courtesy of Heneghan Peng Architects and Sven Anderson.
- **Slide 12:** The Artist Placement Group. The Context is Half the Work. Poster. 1972.
- **Slides 24 - 25:** Groupwork. 15 Clerkenwell Close. Image courtesy of Groupwork.
- **Slide 26:** Theatrum Mundi. Sonic Urbanism Publications. Image courtesy of Theatrum Mundi.
- **Slide 27:** Theatrum Mundi. Editions. Image courtesy of Theatrum Mundi.
- **Slide 28:** Theatrum Mundi. Opening event for Sonic Urbanism 3. Image courtesy of Theatrum Mundi.
- **Slide 29:** Sven Anderson. Presentation during From the Museum to the City: Listening to Urban Architecture. 2022. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson and Theatrum Mundi.
- **Slide 30:** Visiting Bernhard Leitner's sound installation Cylindre Sonore in Paris. 2022. Image Courtesy of Sven Anderson and Theatrum Mundi.
- **Slide 31:** Guided night walk during Theatrum Mundi residency Tram des Nations in Geneva. 2022. Image courtesy of Sven Anderson and Theatrum Mundi.



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Contact

Sven Anderson
sven@theatrum-mundi.org

www.svenanderson.net
www.soundframeworks.org
www.theatrum-mundi.org

Sound-Frameworks

Collaborative frameworks for integrating sound within urban design and planning processes



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