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## Research

I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Human Geography. I hold a PhD in Architecture, have an educational background in urban planning and teach primarily in the Bachelor program in Urban and Regional Planning. My research explores how urban planning projects and processes can become more socially equitable while also aiming to mitigate climate change. I take particular interest in the relationship between how planning engages with the lived realities of existing inhabitants, when sustainable futures are envisioned and pursued through interventions in the built environment.

As a postdoctoral fellow, my research has examined demolition, renovation and maintenance practices within modernist post-war built environments, exploring what factors appear crucial to enable preservation and how marginal interests and uses can be supported in these processes. This work has been supported by Lundbergsstiftelserna 2025-2026.

I defended my dissertation in Architecture in September 2024, entitled *Queer as a City: Unsettling coherence in 'sustainable urban development'*. In the thesis, so-called sustainable forms of urban development are studied through a queer theoretical lens, aiming to understand how architecture and planning practices reiterates sustainability norms. Through fieldwork in Hyllie, one of Malmö's urban development project which is most intensely profiled as climate friendly, sustainability is studied across scales – from vision and strategy to everyday life. The empirical work stretches across themes such as everyday consumption and mobility, scrutinizing how sustainable forms of urban living is understood, represented and enabled. Furthermore, emphasis is also put on the relationship between the 'new' urban development area and adjacent modernist post-war housing estates Holma, Kroksbäck and Lindberg.

The thesis shows how contemporary urban development projects like Hyllie reproduces narrow sustainability ideals which do not correspond to the plurality of everyday life, and which reproduce unequal hierarchies between different city districts and their inhabitants. Planning practice must navigate a delicate balance between redistributing supportive socio-spatial resources, in order to enable a thorough societal transition in the face of climate change, and at the same time challenge rigid normativities. The thesis argues that normcritical planning approaches are not only compatible with supporting a sustainability transition, but rather constitutes an important tool in doing so while also battling geographical and spatial injustices.

## Employment

### Researcher

Department of Human Geography  
Lund University  
Lund, Sweden  
2024 Oct 1 → present

### Research assistant

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp  
Alnarp, Sweden  
2019 Aug 19 → 2020 Jan 17

## Projects

### Lund University Agenda 2030 Graduate School

Gunnflo, M. (Project coordinator), van Meeningen, Y. (Project coordinator), Håkansson, S. (Project communication officer), Starkey, A. (Research student), Tagesson, A. (Research student), Johansson, A. (Research student), Stubbendorff, A. (Research student), Matamoros, A. (Research student), Wrisberg, A. (Research student), Nicoli Aldini, C. (Research student), Heil, C. (Research student), Almpantis, D. (Research student), Pashley, D. (Research student), Lantz, E. (Research student), Eriksson, E. (Research student), Radeljak, F. (Research student), Tsiakiris, G. (Research student), Hygum, I. L. (Research student), Abdulahi, I. J. (Research student), Altamirano, I. (Research student), Salustiano Trojaborg, I. (Research student), Carey, J. (Research student), Samper, J. A. (Research student), Bello

Bermejo, J. M. (Research student), Francis, J. (Research student), Montañez, K. (Research student), Van Dooren, L. (Research student), Hemberg, L. (Research student), Menon, M. (Research student), Silva, M. J. (Research student), Mannberg, M. (Research student), Yndal-Olsen, N. (Research student), Widengren, V. (Research student), Jönsson, K. (Project coordinator), Jones, B. (Research student), Ternsjö, L. (Research student), Ocampo, J. (Research student), López, J. (Research student), Önnudóttir, S. H. K. (Research student), Zalar, A. (Research student), Andersson Nystedt, T. (Research student), Nicoson, C. J. (Research student), Takman, M. (Research student), Flores, P. (Research student), Loxa, A. (Research student), Lee, S. H. (Research student), Hannerz, J. (Research student), Johannesson, S. (Project communication officer) & Lindberg, H. G. (Administrator)  
2018/09/26 → ...

## Qualifications

Spatial planning, Master's degree, Blekinge Institute of Technology  
Award Date: 2019 Jun 5

Spatial planning, Bachelor's degree, Blekinge Institute of Technology  
Award Date: 2016 Jun 3

## Prizes and Distinctions

**Karlskrona kommuns Planstipendium 2019**

Zalar, A. (Recipient), 2019 Dec 5

## Research outputs

**Sustainable urbanism in glitch: Queering singular visions of sustainable urban development**

Zalar, A., 2025 Sept, *Through the kaleidoscope of sustainability: 25 essays*. Gunneflo, M. (ed.). Lund: Lund University Agenda 2030 Graduate School , p. 27-35

**Who cares for urban repair? Stretching the life of buildings, the case of the Edman Pavillion in Lund's (Sweden) People's Park.**

Pries, J. & Zalar, A., 2025 Jul 11, (Unpublished).

**Folkparken i Lund: En bortglömd arbetarhistoria**

Pries, J. & Zalar, A., 2025 May 9, In: *Arbetarhistoria*. 2025:1, 193-194, p. 48-59 11 p.

**A queer failure of 'sustainable urban development'**

Zalar, A., 2024 Apr 18, *Urban Matters*.

**Queer as a City: Unsettling coherence in 'sustainable urban development'**

Zalar, A., 2024, Lund: Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Lund University. 304 p.

**Tips for creating inclusive classrooms at LTH**

Eftring, H., Glessmer, M., Andersson, E., Argelius, C., Maini Gerhardsson, K., Gersbro-Bülow, E., Jackson, I., Lindberg, M., Morreau, L., Motte, D., Petersson, A., Prykhod'ko, O., Pugh, R., Rezeli, M., Rowa, C., Wendt, C., Zalar, A. & Åbjörnsson, L., 2023, *LTH:s 12:e Pedagogiska inspirationskonferens*. Andersson, R. (ed.). Lunds Universitet, Lunds Tekniska Högskola, Genombrottet, p. 45-47 3 p. (Proceedings från LTH:s Pedagogiska inspirationskonferens).

**De unga gör helt rätt när de stämmer staten**

Moberg, C., Corvellec, H., Lindroth, A., Isacson, M., Nilsson, L., Nicholas, K., Björck, S., Lee, J., Gerle, E., Caretta, M. A., Galafassi, D., Hornborg, A., Ullström, S., Olsson, L., Jerneck, A., Koch, M., Roldin, P., Sunesson, S., Kritzberg, E. & Hammarlund, D. & 186 others, Wamsler, C., Krause, T., Tyler, T., Malmqvist, E., Osberg, G., Reindl, K., Lefstad, L., Björnerås, C., De Rosa, S. P., Koglin, T., Bjeremo, T., Isaxon, C., Isgren, E., Richter, J. L., Johansson, E., Jarenmark, M., Friberg, J., Wärlind, D., Jack, T., Holmberg, K., Bergman Rosamond, A., Vogl, V., Olofsson, J., Magalhaes Teixeira, B., Palm, E., Algers, J., Gjerløv Fiig, N. A., Ramasar, V., Lopez de Lapuente Portilla, A., Khan, J., Palm, J., Haraldsson, J., Barmark, M., Stroh, E., Filipsson, H. L., Sernhed, K., Wengelin, M., Bauer, F., Persson, T., Brandstedt, E., McCormick, K., Carton, W., Stattin, S., Gren, N., Nikoleris, A., Wickenberg, P., Garson, K., Zackari, K., Droste, N., Gunnemyr, M., Hansson, L.-A., Lantz, E., Sternudd, C., Ekström, H., Jonsson, A., Dahlner, A., Sörgärde, N., Alcer, D., Rennstam, J., Gabrielsson, S., Ottosson, M., Eklundh, L., Andersson, M., Schwarz, J., Tilsted, J. P., Kiss, B., Halldenius, L., Knaggård, Å., Persson, A., Kolte, O., Lindh, L., Chertkovskaya, E., Hultman, M., Thånell, K., Manners, I., Kristensson, A., Nieradzik,

L., Lundberg, A., Cronberg, N., Rydhe, E., Klemmensen, R., Herlitz, A., Perrey, H., Pugh, R., Björkdahl, A., Lundberg, T., Mårzell, E., Samper, J. A., Sandström, I., Ståhl, L.-H., Prentice, H. C., Carlson, S., Andréasson, P.-G., Liljas, A., Zalar, A., Fridlund, P., Sporre, M., Löndahl, J., Björling, F., Kalm, S., Barinaga, E., Mulinari, S., Mulinari, D., Lindqvist, A., Vestberg, S., Claréus, B., Boije af Gennäs Erre, E., Viborg, G., Nilsson, K., Tagesson, A., Brogaard, S., Davidson, P., Harrie, L., Elvén Eriksson, H., Hickmann, T., Fauré, E., Wullenkord, M., Giertz, A., Germundsson, T., Nilsson, F. L., Montesino, N., Sjöström, C., Pettersson, G., Alkan Olsson, J., Cardeña, E., Mottaghi, M., Sundkvist, E., Tellhed, U., Mundaca, L., Lindström, L., Sörensen, J., Mobini, S., Hederström, V., Becker, P., Klysing, A., Mattisson, K., Svensson, J., Svenbro, M., Hanson, H., Oudin, A., Flanagan, E., Takman, M., Ritthammer, S., Månefjord, J., Sonander, A., Nafstad, I., Sjöström, P., Dietler, D., Hassel, H., Käll, J., Akselsson, R., Bohgard, M., Ingvarson, J., Steen, K., Cedergren, A., Nordbeck, P., Davidsson, S., Angelöw, A., Ahrné, S., Lantto, R., Psouni, E., Nicoson, C., Jeppsson, B., Côte, M., Alvesson, M., Leo Sandberg, E., Möllergren, G., Karlsson, D., Bäckman, J., Angelopoulos Baroutsis, N., Alenius Wallin, L., Lundell, E., Stedt, J., Forsberg, K., Gnewski, M., Larsson, M., Grillitsch, M., Takedomi Karlsson, M., Månefjord, H., Giese, L., Betsholtz, A., Wrisberg, A., Söderlind, M., Vilhelmsson, A., Stedt, K. & et al., 2022 Dec 7, Aftonbladet.

#### **'Unmapping' green space: densification as sustainability fix**

Zalar, A., 2022 Oct 31

#### **Child-Friendly Environments—What, How and by Whom?**

Jansson, M., Herbert, E., Zalar, A. & Johansson, M., 2022 Apr 18, In: Sustainability. 14, 8, 26 p., 14(8).

#### **Notes on the densification of Rosengård**

Zalar, A. & Pries, J., 2022

#### **Unmapping green space: Discursive dispossession of the right to green space by a compact city planning epistemology**

Zalar, A. & Pries, J., 2022, In: City. 26, 1, p. 51-73

#### **Governing for Child-Friendliness? Perspectives on Children as Users Among Swedish and Danish Urban Open Space Managers**

Jansson, M., Zalar, A., Pritzel Sundevall, E. & Randrup, T. B., 2020 Oct 23, In: Frontiers in Sustainable Cities. 2, p. 1-12 12 p., 565418.