

Alva Zalar
Architecture and Culture
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Research

I am a researcher at the Department of Human Geography, Lund University. I have a broad interest for social sustainability and urban planning, particularly how feminist (and queer) perspectives can contribute to challenge traditional attitudes and practices of 'business as usual' - not the last in the light of the intertwined challenges of climate change and deepened social inequality.

In September 2024, I defended my thesis *Queer as a City: Unsettling coherence in 'sustainable urban development'*. As a PhD student I was affiliated with the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, LTH, and the interdisciplinary graduate school Agenda 2030, Lund University. In my thesis, I studied so-called 'sustainable urban development' through queer theory, aiming to formulate a theoretical framework on how sustainability norms stabilize and change through architecture and planning practice. I used Hyllie, one of the most high-profile sustainable urban development projects in the city of Malmö, to study how sustainability and development are sought to be combined through the production of new city districts. I took interest in this across scales, from vision and strategy to everyday life in the built environments of Hyllie. In the thesis, several theoretical concepts are presented, aiming to understand how norms are stabilized and changed, as well as taking on a relational approach to spatial inequality. The theoretical concepts draw on the empirical examples from my studies of Hyllie.

At the Department of Human Geography, I will now begin to work on the cultural heritage of 'concrete architecture', particularly focusing on how modernist and brutalist buildings threatened by demolition has been given new uses and functions. The research aims to complement an already growing research field concerned with the environmental benefits of working with existing built environments, by adding knowledge about social and cultural perspectives on the repurposing of 'contested concrete architecture'.

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

Gunneflo, M. (Project coordinator), van Meeningen, Y. (Project coordinator), Håkansson, S. (Project communication officer), Tagesson, A. (Research student), Johansson, A. (Research student), Stubbendorff, A. (Research student), Jones, B. (Research student), Nicoli Aldini, C. (Research student), Lantz, E. (Research student), Tsiakiris, G. (Research student), Hygum, I. L. (Research student), Abdulahi, I. J. (Research student), Salustiano Trojaborg, I. (Research student), Hannerz, J. (Research student), Samper, J. A. (Research student), Bello Bermejo, J. M. (Research student), Ocampo, J. (Research student), Francis, J. (Research student), Van Dooren, L. (Research student), Hemberg, L. (Research student), Ternsjö, L. (Research student), Menon, M. (Research student), Mannberg, M. (Research student), Yndal-Olsen, N. (Research student), Jönsson, K. (Project coordinator), 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), Johannesson, S. (Project communication officer) & Lindberg, H. G. (Administrator)

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

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

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

A queer failure of 'sustainable urban development'

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

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., Gabriellsson, 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., Nieradzic, L., Lundberg, A., Cronberg, N., Rydhe, E., Klemmensen, R., Herlitz, A., Perrey, H., Pugh, R., Björkdahl, A., Lundberg, T., Mårsell, 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.