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Architecture and Culture
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Research

I am a PhD candidate at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, and a part of Lund University's interdisciplinary graduate school Agenda 2030.

In my PhD project, I take interest in the role of architecture as a tool for development, particularly explored through how 'sustainable urban development' aims to merge social and environmental perspectives on sustainability with economic development. I see architecture broadly as enacted both through politics, professional practice and everyday architectural enactments – and I take particular interest in the urban scale. In a first phase, the study site Hyllie (one of Malmö's most prominent projects in 'sustainable urban development') is investigated to understand which lives, relationships and visions about the future that are offered spatial support. After that, I explore alternative (queer) ways of understanding urban development to potentially offer support for more (or other) lives, relations and futures.

Besides my PhD project, I have a broad interest in planning and urban studies from intersectional feminist perspectives. During 2023 I am the convener of the Department of Architecture and Built Environment's working group for equality and diversity - JUST Architecture.

Previously, I have worked with landscape and public green spaces, both from planning and management perspectives, and with a particular focus on children.

Employment

Doctoral student

Department of Architecture and Built Environment
Lund University
Lund, Sweden
2020 Jan 20 → 2024 Oct 1

Doctoral student

Architecture and Culture
Lund University
Sweden
2023 Sept 4 → 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., van Meeningen, Y., Håkansson, S., Tagesson, A., Zalar, A., Johansson, A., Stubbendorff, A., Jones, B., Nicoli Aldini, C., Lantz, E., Tsiakiris, G., Hygum, I. L., Abdulahi, I. J., Salustiano Trojaborg, I., Hannerz, J., López, J., Samper, J. A., Bello Bermejo, J. M., Ocampo, J., Francis, J., Van Dooren, L., Hemberg, L., Ternsjö, L., Mannberg, M., Yndal-Olsen, N., Önnudóttir, S. H. K., Jönsson, K., Andersson Nystedt, T., Nicoson, C. J., Takman, M., Loxa, A., Flores, P., Lee, S. H., Lindberg, H. G. & Johannesson, S.
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, Alva (Recipient), 2019 Dec 5

Research outputs

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).

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.