5 x MARs Sessions 2017-18
MPhil/PhD Programme

MARs
The Mountain of Art Research (MARs) is based in the Department of Art at Goldsmiths College. A bit like a research centre, except it’s a mountain, MARs supports and promotes the development of innovative art research across a range of art practices including - but not limited to - studio, performance, film and video, curatorial, critical, art-writing, situated, participatory and interdisciplinary practice. Committed to rigorous formal experimentation, maverick conceptual exploration and socially-engaged articulation, MARs emphasises the material ‘stuff’ of art research as much as its speculative possibilities and political imperative.

As both platform and ethos, the aim of MARs is to challenge received ideas and habits; to promote new ways of thinking and being both in and out of this world.

MARs Sessions
A series of five MARs sessions will run throughout 2017-18.

Format
Each of these small-scale, curated events will span a single afternoon and engage around 10-12 people in conversation, all of whom share a research interest in common. The sessions will be initiated, organised and run by members of academic staff in the Department of Art, keying into specific research interests.

Aims/Objectives
The aim of the MARs sessions is to bring together researchers within Art, across disciplines, between institutions and beyond higher education for intentional, concentrated discussion and sharing of research. The objective is to highlight the research interests of staff members in the Department of Art, deepen and develop this research, and extend related research networks. Linked to and supported by the Research Programme in the Department of Art, a benefit of the MARs sessions will be to make connections between PhD research and academic staff research.

‘Prep’ Sessions
Depending on the curatorial agenda, each MARs session may have up to three ‘prep’ sessions involving readings, screenings, gallery visits, etc. Keying into the research theme/topic of the main MARs session, these ‘prep’ sessions will be organised by a PhD Researcher in Art in consultation with the main MARs organizer and run on consecutive weeks leading up to the main MARs session.

** We are currently looking for PhD Researchers in the Department of Art interested in working with academic staff members to organise and run the ‘prep’ sessions leading up to each of the main MARs Sessions. **
The schedule of sessions for 2017-18 is as follows:

**MARs Session 1 – GESTURE**
Organiser: Melissa Gordon  
*melissa.gordon@gold.ac.uk*
> Friday, 3 November @ 14.00-17.00  
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:  
Tuesday, 10 October @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 17 October @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 24 October @ 15.00-17.00

Please note that this schedule may be subject to change.

Please note that the MARs sessions will be recorded or otherwise documented and uploaded onto the MARs virtual hub (i.e. website, currently in development). Also, if there is high demand, we may stream the session live; however, we will cap in-person participation to 10-12 people in order to facilitate discussion.

Please note that, as things progress, the PhD Programme may link other initiatives to each of these sessions, drawing from and supporting the research and connections being made.

If you are a PhD Researcher interested in organising and running the ‘prep’ sessions, please get in touch with the relevant main organiser listed here.

**MARs Session 2 – MATERIALITY**
Organiser: Laura White  
*L.White@gold.ac.uk*
> Friday, 8 December @ 14.00-17.00  
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:  
Tuesday, 14 November @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 21 November @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 28 November @ 15.00-17.00

**MARs Session 3 – THE POLITICAL BODY**
Organiser: Michael Newman  
*m.newman@gold.ac.uk*
> Friday, 9 February @ 14.00-17.00  
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:  
Tuesday, 16 January @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 23 January @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 30 January @ 15.00-17.00

**MARs Session 4 – FANDOM AS METHODOLOGY**
Organiser: Catherine Grant  
*c.grant@gold.ac.uk*
> Friday, 23 March @ 14.00-17.00  
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:  
Tuesday, 27 February @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 6 March @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 13 March @15.00-17.00

**MARs Session 5 – RADIOLOGICAL DEEP TIME**
Organiser: Ele Carpenter  
*e.carpenter@gold.ac.uk*
> Friday, 18 May @ 14.00-17.00  
w/ possible ‘prep’ sessions on:  
Tuesday, 24 April @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 1 May @ 15.00-17.00  
Tuesday, 8 May @ 15.00-17.00

Please note that the PhD Programme may link other initiatives to each of these sessions, drawing from and supporting the research and connections being made.

If you are a PhD Researcher interested in organising and running the ‘prep’ sessions, please get in touch with the relevant main organiser listed here.