
**Forming Ruins: an interdisciplinary
postgraduate workshop**

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

9.00am-5.30pm

Trent Building, A46

Co-organised by the Schools of English and Geography at the
University of Nottingham

Keynote Speaker:

Amy Concannon

(Assistant Curator, *Ruin Lust*, Tate Britain)

The event is free but places are limited. If you wish to attend please email by 18th June 2014:

forming.ruins@nottingham.ac.uk



Landscape &
Environment

Ruins are multivalent; the term itself can be used to indicate both a process and an object. Ruins are also a palimpsest onto which many, often differing, interpretations and understandings can be projected. As such, a wide discourse has developed around ruins, which crosses a range of disciplines as they have been explored as artefacts, haunted spaces, critiques of capitalism, and reclaimed sites, to highlight just a few examples.

As Caitlin DeSilvey and Tim Edensor point out: 'Ruins merrily transgress and collapse a whole set of binaries: transience/persistence, nature/culture, attraction/repulsion, power/vulnerability, potential/purposelessness, abandonment/appropriation, presence/absence, aestheticization/abjection. Their oscillating identities ensure that no stabilized meaning can endure unchallenged, as long as the process of ruination continues.'¹

This workshop explores the different forms ruins can take, and the way these formations are realised and written as ruins are explored as both material 'things' and intangible process. It is concerned with when, where, by and for whom, ruins are formed and how this formation relates to social, political and cultural forces. It aims to use the ambiguity of ruins to enrich the enquiry into their meaning, asking how ruins can be read productively and what might be the significance and implications of the recent academic interest surrounding them.

This is an interdisciplinary workshop that seeks to offer postgraduate students an opportunity to present related work at any stage of their research within a friendly, supportive and stimulating environment. Papers will be followed by a keynote speech from Amy Concannon, assistant curator of the *Ruin Lust* Exhibition at the Tate Britain (4th March - 18th May 2014).

This is the eighth annual postgraduate workshop to be run by the Landscape, Space, Place Research Group. The event has been made possible through generous support from the AHRC Landscape & Environment Programme and the Department of English at the University of Nottingham.

¹ Caitlin DeSilvey & Tim Edensor, "Reckoning with ruins," *Progress in Human Geography* 37, no.4 (2012), 479.