

Panel: Whirlwinds

Convenors: Professor Jane Rendell (UCL), Dr Penelope Haralambidou (UCL) and Dr Ana Araujo (UCL/ University of the Arts, London).

It is already getting around – at what rate? in what contexts? in spite of what resistances? – that women diffuse themselves according to modalities scarcely compatible with the framework of the ruling symbolics. Which doesn't happen without causing some turbulence, we might even say whirlwinds, that ought to be reconfinned within solid walls of principle, to keep them from spreading to infinity. Otherwise they might even go so far as to disturb that third agency designated as the real – a transgression and confusion of boundaries that it is important to restore to their proper order.

Luce Irigaray, 'The "Mechanics" of Fluids', *This Sex Which Is Not One* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, [1977], 1985), 106.

It is over 30 years since the publication of *This Sex Which Is Not One* by the influential French thinker and writer Luce Irigaray. Her political writing on sexual subjectivities and spatialities has had a remarkable influence on feminist theory and practice in architecture and the spatial arts.

The chaotic nature of the contemporary context positions the term 'whirlwinds' in an already turbulent scene. We are surrounded by disasters – environmental, economic and political – some actual, others immanent – the so-called 'war on terror', climate change, peak oil and the 'credit crisis'. What kind of response is feminism capable of making today?

This is a call to those whose work has responded, however tangentially, to the themes and issues of sexual ethics and difference raised by Irigaray and her understanding of the experiential, material and conceptual construction of space.

We are looking for works (300 words plus up to 3 images), which articulate the production of a particularly feminine or feminist space-time as a way of responding to current conditions. The proposal needs to be defined in terms of intention, location, duration, interaction and materiality: it could be an intervention, a paper, a reading, a performance, an exhibit, a workshop, a walk.

There are two parameters:

* a time: the proposal must outline how the work will take place within a specific time-frame: 10am to 5pm on 3 December 2009.

* a space: the proposal must outline how the work will take place within the institutional space of the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL which includes an educational site (a lecture theatre with a flat floor, no fixed seating and one-way basic projection, potentially two screen), and a foyer exhibition space which also operates as a passage from the front door of the Bartlett School of Architecture past lifts and doors to various lecture theatres, studios, with some window space and glass façade to the street.

There are two conditions:

* Those proposing works are responsible for obtaining the funding for making, exhibiting and transporting themselves and their work to the venue.

* The exact presentation of the work will be decided in negotiation with the conference team, who will make the final decision in the last instance.

Submission requirements:

By **23rd April 2010** please send a 300 word proposal and up to 3 images to a.araujo@ucl.ac.uk for blind review, in 2 documents: a proposal + image document (word/PDF), plus a name/affiliation/30 word bio document (word/PDF). Please also note: Notification of acceptance sent out Friday 28th May. Final submission of papers/ presentation content, Friday 17th September.

FATALE, a group of researchers and educators at the School of Architecture, KTH, pursuing research and education within, and through, feminist architecture theory, will organise a a salon as part of Whirlwinds.