

Albena Yaneva

A Professor in Architectural Theory, Director Manchester Architecture Research Center, the University of Manchester.

Dr. Yaneva was born in Bulgaria, and educated at the University of Sofia and *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*. She earned her PhD in Sociology at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des mines de Paris* in 2001. She is the recipient of academic grants of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts in Chicago (2003), the British Academy (2008) and the EU (2008-2010).

Yaneva has published extensively in the field of anthropology of art and architecture, spanning the disciplinary boundaries of architectural theory, sociology, science studies and political philosophy. Her work has been translated in German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. In 2010 she was awarded the RIBA President's Award for Outstanding University-located Research.

Yaneva is a member of the Peer Review College of the AHRC and the ESRC, and reviews proposals for the National Science Foundations of USA, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands. She performs review service for several international peer-reviewed journals; serves as PhD external examiner and tenure reviewer, book proposal reviewer for Routledge and Ashgate; sits in the Editorial Board of the international journal *City, Culture & Society* (Elsevier).

Yaneva's book *The Making of a Building* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2009) provides a unique anthropological account of architecture in the making, whereas *Made by the OMA: An Ethnography of Design* (Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 2009) draws on an original approach of ethnography of design and was defined by the critics as "revolutionary in analysing the day-to-day practice of designers". Her most recent book is *Mapping Controversies in Architecture* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012). It is available as a teaching platform for studying controversies surrounding urban design - [here](#). Yaneva is currently working on a new book on Politics of Urban Design that will examine how politics is enacted through the work of designers, their hybrid repertoire of actions and imaginative computational techniques.

She has presented more than 70 international invited lectures and keynotes, including in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA.

Research interests:

Architectural theory

Specifically, I am interested in accounting design thinking and design process, and what a pragmatist (a realistic) approach to design can offer as opposed to the prevailing critical theories of architecture. I have recently completed a book on this topic, the outcome of four years of research.

Ethnography of design

Drawing extensively on ethnography of design, I pursue an investigation of the trajectories nature of design as opposed to design as project realization.

Anthropology of art

This theme takes its cue from my doctoral dissertation work, which crossed for the first time the methods of anthropology of science and technology with sociology of art to examine the production and innovation practices in installation art.

Politics of Design

I am currently focusing on ethnography of the architectural presentation, its techniques and situated politics.

Controversy studies

I have become interested in the new mapping technologies that architectural computation can offer to analyze and visualize the dynamics of controversies.

Publications

Publications / Authored Books

Yaneva, A. (forthcoming)

To Give Image to a City: Testing Iconicity and Ontological Politics

Yaneva, A. (2012)

[Mapping Controversies in Architecture](#)

Farnham: Ashgate.

Reviews:

[REVIEW IN URBAN TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL](#)

[REVIEW IN NORDIC JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURE](#)

Yaneva, A. (2009)

[Made by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture. An Ethnography of Design](#)

Rotterdam: 010 Publishers.

Yaneva, A. (2009)

[The Making of a Building: A Pragmatist Approach to Architecture](#)

Oxford: Peter Lang AG.

Edited Books:

Yaneva, A. and Zaera-Polo, A. (eds.) (2014)

What is Cosmopolitical Design? New Perspectives on Re-ordering Nature

Routledge, Taylor & Francis Books Ltd.

Yaneva, A. and Stefanov, (eds.)

Sociological Dimensions of Art.



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