

Laura Gonzalez

Lecturer (Research), Research & Postgraduate Studies

Laura Gonzalez joined the GSA in July 2005. Prior to that she worked in art schools and universities in the UK and Europe and has been working with research degree students for nine years. Her main role at the GSA is to coordinate and develop research training.

Laura sees the benefits of this first-hand. "GSA is the perfect size, has the right disciplines and is situated in the right city for exciting research to happen. We are big enough to have diverse projects and approaches to research, but small enough to get to know each other, work collaboratively and in an interdisciplinary way. This is how innovative research takes place.

"There's a community here. If I'm organising a series of lectures, other staff will send their students and propose speakers. It's great to see how the design students, for example, have benefited from the fine art lectures, and how the architects and fine artists enjoy working together.

"Staff and students at GSA carry out genuinely interesting research, some of it quite bizarre, or specialist, but always exciting, systematic and ethical. One of the skills of the workers of tomorrow is the flexibility to adapt, to use research skills in areas they might not have considered. There's an ethos of open-mindedness and curiosity at the GSA, that's part of the institution. There's a collaborative attitude and a kind of collegiality of sharing.

"The production of knowledge through creative studio practice is shaping postgraduate experience. We aim to equip students with research skills and competencies, including understanding and application of methodologies and project management skills, and dissemination of outcomes; and familiarity with funding structures and intellectual-property right laws."

Her own research focuses on the phenomenon and practice of seduction and how this occurs in the gallery space. I study the psychodynamics between the viewer and the work of art. Although this may seem highly theoretical, I am a practice-led researcher. My practice is multiform (video, drawing, sculpture) and I am now focused on photography. I'm also interested in writing as a practice and most of my work incorporates creative writing as well as visuals. I like detective stories, shoes (especially Christian Louboutin's) and lemon squeezers, following people and the last work of Marcel Duchamp. I have the good fortune of having been able to produce work or writing about all of these."

Laura organises student presentation sessions and invites all GSA staff and postgraduate students. "These are my favourite days at work as it is so stimulating to see the depth of staff and student research and how interesting the connections between projects are.

"All my teaching is research-led. From the generic (research skills training) to the specific (psychoanalysis in art and culture), I share my latest research with students – including its problems, and its blind alleys – and encourage an environment for them to do so too.

"In terms of the city itself, Glasgow is incredibly active. There are so many festivals: art and theatre, books and cinema, interdisciplinary collaborations. You feel you're in the centre of things, there's a real grounding in the city. We're very well connected, so there's also an opportunity for a lot of international activity to happen.

"In terms of research, the context of the city and its size allows us to collaborate with partners such as the RSAMD and Glasgow University, which, for an interdisciplinary researcher such as myself, is a terrific asset.

"For an institution of its size, the GSA has achieved a lot, offers a wide portfolio of degrees, has very good research outputs from staff and a good-sized postgraduate student community. I would encourage anyone thinking of postgraduate work to come here and enjoy the incredible opportunities offered by the GSA and the city of Glasgow."

