

# SCOSA 2026 Spring Conference

*“Speculation and Diversification in Architecture -  
Education and Practice”*

*University of York*

*23-24<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

*As the nature of the practice of architecture is changing, so is the range of opportunities to diversify in terms of education. This is an opportunity to consider the various roles of the architect in practice now and in the future and how education is responding in terms of teaching and research.*

**Thursday 23rd April**

**Afternoon workshop, 13.00-17.00 pm**

## ***Envisioning Novel Modes of PhD by Practice in British Architecture***

**Venue:** *York School of Architecture, Second Floor, Piazza Building, Campus East, University of York*

### **Workshop Synopsis**

*The Workshop aims to bring together experts from academia and industry to discuss and debate the novelty and innovation in doctoral education, with the focus on the PhD by Practice route in architecture, exploring the varying models of practice research within the sector and how academic institutions adapt their doctoral qualifications to accommodate the changing needs of the industry. The workshop will introduce experts, supervisors and researchers who are currently undertaking, or who have recently completed, a practice-based doctoral journey. By foregrounding work from leading voices in the field alongside emerging practitioner-researchers, the event aims to foster dialogue across experience levels and institutional contexts, supporting the continued development of PhD by Practice as a rigorous and socially engaged mode of architectural research.*

*The PhD by Practice is inherently diverse in both method and outcome, shaped by the specificities of the researcher's practice, context and research questions. This workshop is designed to help both institutions, practice and industry to share their views about how those programmes can be co-designed to meet expected needs and innovative outcomes. The workshop will foreground experimentation, reflection and critical exchange as central to practice-based doctoral research and as mechanisms through which architectural knowledge can contribute to the public good.*

*Through this workshop, we aim to build meaningful partnerships, shared agendas and innovative doctoral research programmes that bring both industry and academia closer, reinforcing the University's commitment to research that engages directly with societal challenges.*

### **12.30-13.00 Arrival lunch and reception**

13.00-13.10 **Welcome & Introduction:** Lorraine Farrelly & Gamal Abdelmonem (YSA)

13.10-14.30 **Session 1: Exploring the emerging field of PhD by Practice**

Chair: Dean Ireland (YSA)

Speakers from practice and academia TBC

14.30-15.50 **Session 2: Experiencing PhD by Practice - Voices from the field**

Speakers: practice and academia TBC

16.00-17.00 **Roundtable Discussion: The Future of Practice Research between academia and industry.**

Chair: Gamal Abdelmonem (YSA)

Speakers: practice and academia TBC

**17.00 pm** Closing and thanks

**Thursday 23rd April**

**SCOSA Evening lecture and conference dinner**

*Venue: York School of Architecture, Main Lecture theatre , Piazza Building, Campus East, University of York*

**18.00      Arrival and drinks**

18.30      Welcome and speaker introduction (Lorraine Farrelly)

***‘Interdisciplinary Architectural Education in Historic York: Architecture and its Diverse Legacies’***

***Professor Gamal Abdelmonem***

*and speakers from Architecture; History of Art; Archaeology.*

19.30      Q&A

19.45      **Buffet dinner SCOSA members only**  
*School of Architecture Second Floor Piazza Building*

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

### SCOSA Conference

Venue: *York School of Architecture, Second Floor ,Piazza Building, Campus East, University of York*

#### 10.00 Arrivals and Coffee

10.45 Welcome (Lorraine Farrelly, Heba Elsharkawry and Justin Lunn)

11.00 Chris Williamson, RIBA President

11.30 Introduction Discussion- followed by table group discussions on Speculation and Diversification

12.00 Shared results from discussions

12.15 ARB speaker TBC

12.30 Presentation by Jenny Russell, RIBA

12.45 **Lunch** including building tours & course structures poll update

14.10 Presentations of SCOSA Innovation Awards and Commendations 2026

14.20 Presentations by Innovation Award winner: Takeshi Hayatsu

14.35 QAA Subject benchmark statement update (Kate Cheyne)

#### 14.40 Society updates

AAE update (Victoria Farrow)

APSA update (Wendy Colvin)

StuCan festival update (Carl Meddings)

#### 15.00 SCOSA Meeting

15.15 Chairs' report including SCOSA funding update

15.30 Update on Council Membership and elections

15.35 Working Group updates (Sustainability, AI, EDI, Research, F&LS, Education, Doctoral)

16.05 Venue for 2026 SCOSA AGM

16.10 AOB

16.30 Close (drinks)

**Next meeting:** Summer meeting Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June: on Teams 2-4pm

## Useful information

There is restricted access to the venues outside of arrival times – please contact [ysa-enquiries@york.ac.uk](mailto:ysa-enquiries@york.ac.uk) if you need advice, or directions, or access to the venue

interactive campus map showing the location of the [Piazza building](#)

[Public Transport to Campus](#)

### Suggested hotels:

[York Pavilion Hotel](#) - close to University

[The Milner](#) - next to train station

[Malmaison](#) - modern with rooftop view of Minster and York

[Middletons](#) - smaller boutique hotel

[Holiday Inn](#) - central

[The Hilton, Tower Street](#) - opposite Cliffords tower, central

[DoubleTree by Hilton](#) - just outside of the City walls

The U1 and U2 buses link the station and the city centre to the east campus York every 10- 15 minutes

There are various different Travelodge and Premier Inn locations too, along with lots of independent guest houses.