



School of Computing, Engineering, and the Built Environment Edinburgh Napier University

PHD STUDENT PROJECT

Application instructions:

Detailed instructions are available at:

<https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/doctoral-college/how-to-apply>

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the Director of Studies (see details below) to discuss the project and their suitability for it.

Project details

Supervisory Team:

- DIRECTOR OF STUDY: Dr Inji Kenawy (Email: I.Kenawy@napier.ac.uk)
- 2ND SUPERVISOR:

Subject Group: Built Environment

Research Areas: Architecture, Building & Planning

Project Title: Assessment Framework for Inclusive Sustainable Public Places.

Project description:

Traditional social life. While the social aspect is the most recognisable benefit known for urban places, many other benefits could be identified. Many researchers have associated different mental and physical benefits from accessing public places and being exposed to green and blue spaces (Kindermann et al. 2021). These health and well-being benefits results from the passive and active activities generated in public places, as well as the ability of these spaces to isolate their users from noise and pollution which plays a restorative effect on their daily lives stresses. The design of urban places could also significantly affect different environmental factors and improve the local climate. A single element of public places such as trees could have environmental, aesthetic, and psychological positive impacts on their users. Public places also influence the economic value of their surrounding lands, create job opportunities, and encourage tourism (Kenawy, 2013). These places are therefore benefiting all aspects of sustainable growth. While the benefits of urban places and natural-based solutions are quite established, ensuring equality in accessing and using these places is crucial. The pandemic has contributed to cities' realisation of the significance of expanding

access to public places. However, the existence of these places cannot guarantee being used by the wide population. Different studies have attempted to identify the different variables affecting the use and success of public places, the most common four factors are sociability, uses and activities, access and linkages, and comfort (PPS, 2000). In this project, we are focusing on identifying any other factor that might affect the use and success of public places for the diversity of users. Then, to evaluate their weighting scores for the diversity of users including different age groups, gender, physical abilities, cultural background etc. The methods used would include qualitative, quantitative and spatial analysis.

This PhD Project aims to develop an assessment framework and comprehensive set of guidelines for the development of sustainable and inclusive urban public places. The outputs of the project contribute to guiding the inclusive design of outdoor public places in cities. Case studies will be selected as part of the research journey. The main objectives of the research are to include:

1. Reviewing the literature involving the different variables influencing the success of public places.
2. Identifying the methods used in similar analysis.
3. Conducting field surveys to identify the weight of the different scores for various users.
4. Developing a framework that could be used in assessing the success of public places with a focus on inclusivity.

If you're interested in sustainable urban design, and spatial and behavioural analysis, the supervisory team is looking forward to reading your application.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Design, Urban Development framework, Successful Public places, Spatial Analysis.

References:

- [1] Kindermann, G.; Domegan, C.; Britton, E.; Carlin, C.; Mashinchi, M.I.; Ojo, A., 2021, Understanding the Dynamics of Green and Blue Spaces for Health and Wellbeing Outcomes in Ireland: A Systemic Stakeholder Perspective. *Sustainability*, 13(17), 9553; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13179553>
- [2] Kenawy, I, 2013, Cultural Diversity and Thermal Comfort in Outdoor Public Places, PhD thesis, Deakin University.
- [3] PPS, 2000, How to turn a place around: a handbook for creating successful public spaces, Project for Public Spaces Inc, New York.

Candidate characteristics

Education:

A first-class honours degree, or a distinction at master level, or equivalent achievements in Architecture, Built Environment, Urban Development

Subject knowledge:

- Urban Design,
- Built Environment Studies,
- Sustainability,
- Research methods,
- Critical Analysis, and
- Academic Writing.

Essential attributes:

- Urban Design,
- Built Environment Studies, Sustainability,
- Research methods,
- Critical Analysis, and
- Academic Writing.