

The Spatial Dynamics of Creative Work

University of Southampton (Geography and Environmental Science)

Supervision

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Creative industries such as music, film and new media have long clustered activities and infrastructure in a handful of established global centres. As a result, aspiring creative talent has typically flowed up the urban hierarchy, from small towns and regional incubators to national centres and global capitals. This is especially true in the fashion industry where four superstar cities – London, Paris, Milan and New York – serve as talent magnets that have traditionally dictated trends and dominated other markets.

While large urban centres may still be regarded by many creatives as the ‘place to be’, recent developments may be undermining their attractiveness and centrality. As many cities are becoming more crowded, costly, competitive and cutthroat, new forms of independent production, digital technologies and mobilities are furnishing individuals with greater freedom to arrange where, when and how they live and work. This freedom has only been enhanced by the recent rise and acceptance of home-based, remote and nomadic work arrangements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research is needed to investigate the evolving nature of locational choice and the practices of work-related mobilities amongst creative workers. Such research should also consider the connections between locational choices, citizenship regimes, and the nature of place (geographic, relational, legal, imaginative and emotional dimensions).

We are looking for PhD students to co-design a project around the theme of work-related mobilities. Qualitative methods will be used and students are encouraged to develop an approach which reflects their own interests and connections. For example, the project could focus on one sector (e.g. music, art, fashion) and/or one place, neighbourhood or location.

Funding Details

Three years of funding will come from the South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership scheme (SCDTP). In addition to covering the costs of programme

fees, the SCDTP studentship also provides a basic annual maintenance grant of £18,622 (2024/25 UKRI rate). This is not classed as income so is therefore not liable for tax. Students will also have access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) to fund attendance at other training courses, conferences or to purchase essential equipment for your research.

Application Details

For entry in the 2024/25 Academic Year, the deadline for the receipt of applications will be 19 January 2024 (17.00 GMT).

For all studentships, students must have qualifications of the standard of a good honours degree at first- or upper second-class level, from a UK academic higher education institution. Degree qualifications gained from outside the UK, or a combination of qualifications and/or experience that is equivalent to a relevant UK degree, may be accepted.

The South Coast DTP is able to accept applications from UK and International applicants to all of our accredited disciplines/pathways, however due to UKRI funding conditions, awards to non-UK residents are capped at 30% of our overall allocation.

To be classed as a home/UK student, candidates must meet the following criteria:

Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements below), or

Have settled status, or

Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements below), or

Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they would be classed as an International student.

To apply for funding you will need to complete 2 applications forms. You will need to complete an online application form for your programme of study via your chosen institution's website. You will also need to complete an SCDTP Funding Application form. Further details can be found on the '[Apply](#)' page.

For more details please see the SCDTP website (<https://southcoastdtp.ac.uk/>). Informal enquiries may be made to the project supervisors.

