

AARON CAYER

www.aaroncayer.com

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. in Architecture History
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
Committee: Dana Cuff (Chair), Sylvia Lavin, Michael Osman, Sherry Ortner
- 2012 M. Arch I, Master of Architecture
Norwich University, Northfield, VT
- 2011 B.S. in Architectural Studies; Sociology
Norwich University, Northfield, VT
Honors: Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERTISE

History of 20th century architecture practice; labor history and capitalism; 20th century US military history; theories of urban political-economy.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018- Assistant Professor of Architecture History
University of New Mexico, School of Architecture and Planning
- 2015-2018 Lecturer of Architecture History and Theory
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- 2012-2015 Teaching Associate, Architecture History and Theory
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2012-2017 Senior Research Associate
cityLAB Architecture and Urban Design Think-Tank, UCLA

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In progress Cayer, Aaron. *Conglomerators: How Architecture Firms Make, Manage, and Militarize the World*.
- 2016 Cayer, Aaron, et al. *Asymmetric Labors: The Economy of Architecture in Theory and Practice* (New York: The Architecture Lobby).

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2022 Cayer, Aaron, et. al “Beyond Capitalism? Organizing Architecture Education,” *Journal of Architecture Education: “Pedagogies for a Broken World”* [forthcoming].
- 2022 Cayer, Aaron. “Architecture University, Incorporated,” *Ardeth: “Competency,”* no. 10 [forthcoming].
- 2022 Cayer, Aaron. “The Aesthetics of Indeterminacy,” *Architectural Histories*, special issue, ed. Léa-Catherine Szacka and Maros Krivy [forthcoming].

- 2021 Cayer, Aaron and Peggy Deamer. "Architecture is what we say it is": Gensler and AECOM as Models of Neoliberal Practice," in *Largest Architectural Firms: Design Authorship and Organizational Management* (Florence: EDFIR).
- 2020 Cayer, Aaron. "Subsidiary Architecture: Multi-Firm Practices and the Blurring of Distinction Between Large and Small Firms," *Proceedings for 108th ACSA National Meeting*, "Practice."
- 2019 Cayer, Aaron. "Shaping an Urban Practice: AECOM and the Rise of Architecture Conglomerates" *Journal of Architecture Education: "Work,"* vol. 73.2, 178-192.
- 2019 Cayer, Aaron, Peggy Deamer, Shawhin Rhoudbari, and Manuel Shvartzberg. "Socializing Practice: From Small Firms to Cooperative Models of Organization," in Mel Dodd (ed.) *Spatial Practices: Modes of Action and Engagement in the City*, (New York: Routledge).
Re-printed in: P. Deamer (ed.) *Architecture and Labor* (New York: Routledge, 2020)
- 2019 Cayer, Aaron and Catherine Tsukasa Bender. "Beyond Public: Architects, Activists, and the Design of Akichi at Tokyo's Miyashita Park," *Architecture Research Quarterly* vol. 23.2.
- 2018 Cayer, Aaron. "From Archive to Office: The Role of History in Theories of Architecture Practice," *Ardeth: BOTTEGA: Ecology of Design Practice*, ed. A. Yaneva, no. 2 (March).
- 2018 Cayer, Aaron. "Metropolitan Living: The Los Angeles Parklabrea Apartments," *Journal of Urban History* (April).
Re-printed in: *Journal of Urban History* vol. 45 no 2 (March 2019), pp. 354-371.
- 2017 Cayer, Aaron. "Park La Brea Apartments," in eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, *Society of Architectural Historians Archipedia* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press).
- 2017 Cayer, Aaron. "Stabilizing Practice: A Culture of Business at Daniel, Mann, Johnson, Mendenhall," *Proceedings for 105th ACSA National Meeting: Brooklyn Says, "Move to Detroit."*
- 2016 Cayer, Aaron and Dana Cuff. "UNFIT: Los Angeles and the Empty Glass Box," *Thresholds: Workspace* 44 (MIT Press).

Essays, Reports, and Interviews

- 2022 Cayer, et. al "Not as Easy as ABC: Reflections on Coauthoring and Capitalism," *Log: "Coauthoring"* no. 54 [in review].
- 2021 Cayer, Aaron, "Mill Supply: Making Paper and Maintaining the Technological Sublime," A Report for the American Roundtable (NY: NY Architecture League).
- 2021 Cayer, Aaron, "Striking Bodies: Aligning Public Spaces," A Report for the American Roundtable (NY: NY Architecture League).
- 2020 Cayer, Aaron, ed. *Trace: "Practicing,"* no. 3 (Albuquerque: UNM School of Architecture + Planning).
- 2020 Cayer, Aaron. "Zoom Solidarity," *Places Journal*, special issue: Fieldnotes on Pandemic Teaching (April)
- 2019 Cayer, Aaron and Jen Hofer, "On Listening," transcribed interview for LA Forum for Architecture and Urban Design, *Fall Newsletter*.

- 2018 Cayer, Aaron, et al. *Not Our Wall* (New York: The Architecture Lobby, 2018).
- 2018 Cayer, Aaron and Peggy Deamer. “The Architecture Lobby,” transcribed interview by Marcin Szczodry, *Rzecz Magazyn: “Profession,”* no. 15 (2018).
- 2017 Deamer, Peggy et al. with Aaron Cayer, “Lobbying for Value—A Dialogue” in *ARQ 97: Value* (December).
- 2015 Cayer, Aaron, Dana Cuff et al. *Re-Wiring an Urban Geography of Work* (Los Angeles, CA: CityLAB-UCLA and Gensler).
- 2014 Cayer, Aaron and Catherine Tsukasa Bender, “Akichi Undercommons” in J. Crisman, ed. *Shin-Shinjuku: New Tokyo, Again* (Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative), pp. 68-81.
- 2014 Cuff, Dana, Carla Salehian, and Aaron Cayer. *Information Technology Workplace Futures: A Pilot Study for UCLA IS Associates* (Los Angeles: cityLAB-UCLA).
- 2014 Cuff, Dana, et. al with Aaron Cayer (ed.). *Backyard Homes and Local Concerns* (Los Angeles: cityLAB-UCLA and Luskin School of Public Policy).
- 2013 Cuff, Dana, Tim Higgins, Aaron Cayer, et. al. *The Future of Office Work: How We Got Here*. (Los Angeles: CityLAB-UCLA and Gensler Los Angeles).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Kristine Fallon Prize (inaugural), International Archive of Women in Architecture, Virginia Tech.
- 2022-2023 Faculty Research Fellow, “Expanding Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences,” University of New Mexico, Office of the Vice President for Research, Division of Equity and Inclusion.
- 2022-2023 Faculty Fellow, “Fostering Research Expansion in the Social Sciences and Humanities,” University of New Mexico, Office for the Vice President of Research.
- 2021-2022 Faculty Research Fellow, “Expanding Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences,” University of New Mexico, University of New Mexico, Office of the Vice President for Research, Division of Equity and Inclusion.
- 2020-2021 Barbara Thom Fellow in Residence, The Huntington Library and Art Collections, San Marino, CA
- 2019-20 Faculty Teaching Fellow, University of New Mexico, Center for Teaching Excellence.
- 2019 W.M. Keck Foundation Fellow in Residence, The Huntington Library and Art Collections, San Marino, CA
- 2018 Professor of the Year Award, Department of Architecture, Cal Poly Pomona, AIAS
- 2016-17 O’Kern Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles

- 2016 Marty and Bruce Coffey Research Fellowship in Residence, The Huntington Library and Art Collection, San Marino, CA
- 2016 Cecilia Steinfeldt Fellowship for Research in the Arts and Material Culture, Texas State Historical Association
- 2016 Carter Manny Award for Writing, Graham Foundation, (University Nomination), Department of Architecture and Urban Design, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2015 UHI Research Fellowship, Urban Humanities Institute, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014-15 Graduate Research Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014 Clifton Webb Fine Arts Award, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014 City Award for Research, Urban Humanities Institute, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014 Graduate Research Summer Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2012-13 cityLAB Doctoral Fellowship, cityLAB-UCLA
- 2012 Henry Adams Medal, American Institute of Architects (AIA-National)
- 2011 King Medal, Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC)
- 2011 Award for Research Excellence in Sociology, Norwich University
- 2009 Design Excellence Award, American Institute of Architects (AIA-Vermont)
- 2008, 09 A. Francis Politi International Fellowship, Norwich University, VT

GRANTS

- 2022 Faculty Summer Research Grant, University of New Mexico, \$3,500 (awarded)
Principal Investigator, “Cult by Design.”
- 2022 UNM School of Architecture + Planning, Faculty Support Grant, \$3,300 (awarded)
Principal Investigator, “Cult by Design.”
- 2021 Faculty Research Allocations Grant, University of New Mexico, \$4,000 (awarded)
Principal Investigator, “Cult by Design: A History of Scientology’s Architecture.”
- 2021 Faculty Success Program Grant, University of New Mexico, \$2,000 (awarded)
- 2020 Architecture League of New York, American Roundtable Grant, \$10,000 (awarded)
Principal Investigator, “Maine’s River Valley.”
- 2020 UNM School of Architecture + Planning, Faculty Support Grant, \$1,200 (awarded)
Principal Investigator, “Maine’s River Valley.”
- 2019-20 Faculty Research Allocations Grant, University of New Mexico, \$8,000 (awarded)

Principal Investigator, “Design and Profit: Architecture Practice in the Age of Accumulation.”

- 2018-19 Opler Membership Grant for Emerging Professionals, Society of Architectural Historians
In-kind membership for 2018-2019
- 2018 NASA’s Jet Population Laboratory Research Grant, \$30,000 (awarded)
Senior Research Associate, “History of the ‘Creative Office’”
cityLAB, Urban Research and Design Center, UCLA
- 2018 College of Environmental Design, Cal Poly Pomona, Faculty Development Grant, \$1,000
Conference travel support
- 2017 Alfred Chandler Grant, Business History Conference, \$400 (awarded)
Conference travel support
- 2016 UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design, Travel Grant, \$1,000 (awarded)
Conference travel support
- 2012-16 Gensler Los Angeles Research Grant, \$90,000 (awarded)
Senior Research Associate, “History of the ‘Los Angeles Office Work’”
cityLAB, Urban Research and Design Center, UCLA
- 2012-13 The John Randolph Haynes Foundation, Major Research Grant, \$180,000
Senior Research Associate, “Backyard Homes in Los Angeles”
cityLAB, Urban Research and Design Center, UCLA

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, WORKHOPS

- 2022 “Un-Incorporating Architecture,” 3-day workshop for *Practice Session 10*,
University of Michigan [forthcoming].
- 2022 “Architecture Beyond Capitalism,” 3-day workshop for *Building Information* exhibition,
Architekturmuseum, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany [forthcoming]. With
Kadambari Baxi, Palmyra Geraki, and Peggy Deamer.
- 2022 “Anti-Trust to Anti-Union,” Guest lecture for course “Professional Practice,”
Dept. of Architecture University of Michigan.
- 2022 “The Architecture (of an) Office,” Guest lecture for course “Work, Technology,
Access,” Dept. of Architecture, Toronto University.
- 2021 “Labor,” 2-week workshop for *Architecture Beyond Capitalism* summer school, with
Kadambari Baxi.
- 2021 “Corporate and Classified: The Architecture Archive in the Age of Secrecy,” Paper
presented at conference: *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference*: “What is the New
Architectural Archive,” Montreal, Canada.
- 2020 “The Large Firm and the Political Economy.” Paper co-presented at conference with Peggy
Deamer: *Largest Architectural Firms in the Global Scenario. Authorship Histories, Design Cultures and
Managerial Organization*, Florence, Italy.

- 2020 “Classified: Architecture Archives in the Age of Secrecy,” paper presented at symposium: *Architecture’s Archives*, Society of Architecture Historians Great Britain, Architectural Association, London.
- 2020 “Justice.” A roundtable presentation at conference: *Urbanism Beyond Corona*. California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA.
- 2020 “Architecture Archives in the Age of Secrecy,” Lecture for Melbourne School of Design, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2020 “Subsidiary Architecture: Multi-Firm Practices and the Blurring of Distinction Between Large and Small Firms,” paper presented at conference: *108th ACSA National Meeting*, San Diego, CA.
- 2020 “From Aerospace to Hollywood: Military Architecture in New Mexico and Beyond.” Public lecture, Esther Bone Memorial Library, Rio Rancho, NM.
- 2020 “Classified: Architecture Archives in the Age of Secrecy,” paper presented at conference: *After-Life: The Digital Future of Visual History Archives*, Australian Center for Architecture History, Urban and Cultural Heritage, Melbourne School of Design, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2019 “Aesthetics of Indeterminacy: The Architecture of Conglomerates,” Paper presented at conference: *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference: “The Geopolitical Aesthetics of Postmodernism,”* Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2018 “Designing a Practice: Capitalism and the Conglomerate,” Lecture and panelist for symposium: *PRACTICE: Outside In | Inside Out*, Harvard University Graduate School of Design [Invited]
- 2018 “Designing Practice, Designing States: Lessons from the History of AECOM,” Lecture for symposium: “Architectural Design as Modern Institution,” 60th Anniversary Tongji Design and Research Institute, Tongji University, Shanghai, China. [Invited]
- 2018 “Design and Profit: Architectural Practice in the Age of Accumulation,” Public lecture, Norwich University, Northfield, VT. [Invited]
- 2018 “Alternatives to What? The Business Side of Architecture Practice,” Lecture, Free School of Architecture, Los Angeles, CA [Invited]
- 2018 “Conglomeration,” Public lecture at Cal Poly Pomona, Department of Architecture, Pomona, CA. [Invited]
- 2018 “From Aerospace to Hollywood: Corporate Architecture Practice and the Value of Experiential Knowledge at Daniel, Mann, Johnson, and Mendenhall.” Paper presented at conference: *Networks of Power and Knowledge*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2017 “Conglomeration.” Public lecture at Woodbury University, School of Architecture, Burbank, CA. [Invited]
- 2017 “Architecture Business: Corporate Practice and the Economic Value of Design, 1960-1984.” Paper presented at conference: *Business History Conference: Civilizations*. Denver, Colorado.

- 2017 “Stabilizing Practice: A Culture of Business at Daniel, Mann, Johnson, Mendenhall,” Paper presented at conference: *ACSA Annual Meeting: Brooklyn Says, "Move to Detroit."* Detroit, Michigan.
- 2016 “Practice as Political Ecology: Daniel, Mann, Johnson, Mendenhall (1971-1984).” Paper presented at conference: *Assembling Values: Architecture and the Political Economy.* Columbia University, New York, New York.
- 2016 “Evading Publics: Architects, Activists, and the Design of *Akichi* at Tokyo's Miyashita Park.” Paper presented at conference: *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference: “Public Spaces and the Role of the Architect.”* Pasadena, California.
- 2016 “Asymmetric Labors: The Economy of Architecture in Theory and Practice” Book presentation at symposium: Architects Meet in Fuoribiennale. Palazzo Widmann, Venice Architecture Biennale, Italy. [Invited]
- 2016 “Research, Theory, and Design.” Panel Discussion for New Zealand Institute of Architects. New Zealand Architecture Pavilion, Venice, Italy. [Invited]
- 2015 “Akichi Undercommons: Moving Beyond the ‘Public’ of Public Space.” Paper presented at conference: *Negotiating the Public Sphere: Rethinking History from Below.* University of California, Irvine.
- 2014 “Programming the Office and the History of the Workplace.” Guest lecture, University of California, Los Angeles. [Invited]
- 2014 “Akichi Undercommons.” Paper presented at conference: *Anxieties of Interdisciplinary,* University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2013 “The History of Office Work: How We Got Here.” Lecture at Gensler Los Angeles.
- 2013 “Downtown Los Angeles and the Changing Nature of Work.” Paper presented with Christina Gray. IIDA Roundtable, NBBJ Los Angeles. [Invited]
- 2011 “Transparency as Ideology: Comparing Berlin and the Gambia.” Paper presented at conference: *Urban Symbolic Landscapes: Power, Language, Memory,* University of Helsinki, Finland.
- 2011 “Discourses on Transparency in Berlin and the Gambia.” Public lecture at Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont. [Invited]

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES, SCHOOLS, AND EXHIBITIONS

- 2021- Architecture Beyond Capitalism (ABC) School
Founding organizer on behalf of the Architecture Lobby
- 2018 “Labor Issues in the Academy.” Panel Co-Chair. *Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference.* St. Paul, MN.
- 2017 “The Body’s Politic: Architecture and the Modern Subject.” Conference co-organized. UCLA Critical Studies in Architecture, Los Angeles, CA.

- 2017 “cityLAB, Times 10.” Research exhibition coordinated at: Architecture + Design Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016 “The Nature of Architectural Practice.” Panel organized for the Architecture Lobby, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 “Work on Work: Projective Histories of LA as Workplace.” Research exhibition curated at: Architecture + Design Museum, Los Angeles.
- 2013-4 “Building-Less, Desk-Less, City-Less: Hybrid Nomads in the Workplace.” Three-part panel series organized for cityLAB and Gensler. Los Angeles, CA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018-present University of New Mexico
Assistant Professor
 World Architecture II: History of the Built Environment, Baroque-Present (Spring 2019, 2020, 2022)
 Labor and Architecture (Graduate and Undergrad seminar: Fall 2019)
 Professional Practice (Graduate: Fall 2021, Fall 2022).
 Design Research Methodology (Graduate lecture: Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021)
 Fake News and Postmodern Architecture (Graduate/undergrad seminar: Spring 2022)
 Architecture and/at War (studio/seminar hybrid, Spring 2020)
 Cities and Literature (Graduate seminar: Fall 2018)
- 2015-2018 California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Lecturer (Instructor of Record)
 History of Contemporary Architectural Theory (Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016)
 History of Architecture: Renaissance to Modern (Winter 2018, Winter 2017)
 History of Architecture: Ancient and Medieval (Fall 2017, Fall 2016)
- 2012- 2015 University of California, Los Angeles
Instructor
 Making Urban Work: History of Work in Los Angeles (Graduate design seminar, Winter 2015)
- Teaching Associate
 The Program in Theory and in Practice (Graduate: Fall 2014, Fall 2013)
 History of Architecture from Baroque to Contemporary (Spring 2014)
 History of Architecture from Pre-History to Mannerism (Winter 2014)
- Teaching Assistant
 The Program in Theory and in Practice (Graduate: Winter 2013)
 History of Architecture from Baroque to Contemporary (Spring 2013)
 History of Architecture from Pre-History to Mannerism (Fall 2012)

SERVICE AND ACTIVISM

Academic service

- Reviewer of manuscripts:
- 2022 External Examiner of doctoral dissertation, Nataly Arevalo Garcia, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
- 2022 Blind Peer Review of one article for *Architecture Theory Review*, “Financialized Space.”

- 2021 Blind Peer Review of one article for *Journal of Architectural Education* 76:1, “Health”
- 2021 Blind Peer Review of abstracts and four papers for ACSA: 110th Annual Meeting, “Empower.”
- 2021 Blind Peer Review of one article for *Nordic Association of Architectural Research*.
- 2020 Blind Peer Review of one article for *ARDETH* no. 7, issue: “Burn-Out.”
- 2020 Blind Peer Review of one article for *ARDETH* no. 6, issue: “Contingency.”
- 2019 Blind Peer Review of abstracts and four papers for ACSA: 108th Annual Meeting, “OPEN.”
- 2018 Blind Peer Review of abstracts for ACSA: 107th Annual Meeting, “BLACK BOX: Articulating Architecture's Core in the Post-Digital Era.”
- 2017 Blind Peer Review of article for *Technology, Architecture and Design* (TAD)
- 2017 Blind Peer Review of two articles for *Critical Planning Journal*.
- 2017 Blind Peer Review of abstracts for ACSA: 106th Annual Meeting, “The Ethical Imperative.”
- 2016 Blind Peer Review of two articles for *Critical Planning Journal*.
- 2015 Blind Peer Review of article for *Architecture, Media, Politics and Society* (AMP_S)
- University/Department service:
- 2020- Equity and Community Culture Committee, School of Architecture + Planning, University of New Mexico
- 2020 Hostile Terrain Exhibition Planning Committee, University of New Mexico
- 2019- Lecture Series Committee, School of Architecture + Planning, University of New Mexico
- 2019 Search Committee Member for Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture History, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- 2018-19 Search Committee Member for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- 2018- Faculty Advisor, Architecture Lobby Student Advocacy/Activist Group, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- 2018- Faculty Advisor, Learning Culture Policy Revisions Committee, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- 2018- Academic Work Load Committee, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- 2018-2019 Exhibitions Committee, Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico
- Invited design and theory juries:
- 2019-20 *Design Juror:*

University of California, Berkeley
UCLA
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

- 2018-19 *History/theory juror:*
Columbia University, NY
- Design Juror:*
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- 2017-18 *Design Juror:*
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA
Woodbury University, Burbank, CA
- 2016-17 *Theory Critic:*
Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), Los Angeles, CA
- Design Juror:*
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
Woodbury University, Burbank, CA
- 2015-16 *Design Juror:*
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
Woodbury University, Burbank, CA
Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), Los Angeles, CA

Professional service and activism

- 2020-2021 Board of Directors (ex-officio), The Architecture Lobby
- 2020-2021 National Content Coordinator, The Architecture Lobby
- 2017- 2018 Reviewer of City of LA Urban Design Project Proposals
Professional Volunteer Program, Los Angeles City Planning and AIA-Los Angeles
- 2015-2018 Chapter Steward, Los Angeles
The Architecture Lobby
- 2011-2012 American Institute of Architects (AIA-Vermont)
Member, Executive Board of Directors

DESIGN PRACTICE

- 2012-13 Project Designer
Craig Nealy Architects, New York, NY
- 2012 Intern Architect
Gardner-Kilcoyne Architects, Winooski, VT
- 2011 Intern Architect
BauWerke, Berlin, Germany

