

ALUMNI-MEETING 02

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Institute for European Urbanism, BUW

Daniela Brasil (graduated in 2011 with the topic: *Experimenting with the urban experience: Rio, Lisbon and Weimar. A (re)search for creative collaborations and active exercises of citizenship*)

The main exceptional feature of Daniela's work is her project led approach. Her PhD was based on artistic projects with the main consequence of doing a PhD based on own artistic experiences. It took her a while to convince the supervising board that the best way to study her topic, which was the creative processes in the city, was to be at the center of the events. Several years later a "project based PhD" was established at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design.

Daniela also showed how a PhD may reflect the diverse places you stay at during your work. Following her emotional attachment to places and people, Daniela involved diverse projects and ideas into her work which influenced the work reciprocally.

Jerzy Elżanowski (joint PhD at BUW and British Columbia University in Canada, estimated graduation date: 2014)

An intercontinental PhD based on bicultural background could be a common denominator for both guests. However, Jerzy's field of research, which is heritage conservation and cultural studies, required a systematic work with archives and text from the very beginning.

Jerzy engaged with teaching at the beginning and at the end of his work. the first class was more emotionally engaged, the second was more knowledge based. Jerzy emphasized that teaching is a sort of verification in the PhD process, while a doctoral candidate "must love teaching".

At the time of finishing his dissertation, Jerzy keeps his other leg back in Canada, where he opened up a job opportunity. We write "opened up", as Jerzy maintained it is necessary to make opportunities for the social networks to be built, as the chief way for granting a job. He planned his social networks very carefully, went to conferences, where he expected to meet certain valuable people, and planned his publication-strategy. This is the "sad but true" nature of the job market, confirmed in the backstage of most employment sectors.