About the Landscape Research Group & Research Fund

The Landscape Research Group (LRG; [www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org)) is an international, independent and not-for-profit organisation. We work to advance interdisciplinary landscape research through dissemination, communication and exchange across global communities of interest. We do this by funding research and publications, collaborating on research projects, organising and sponsoring events, seminars, conferences and conference sessions, giving educational awards and providing expert advice. We also publish the peer-reviewed, citation indexed, journal, [*Landscape Research*](https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/clar20/current).

We believe that research has a vital role to play in realising a fairer, ethical and more sustainable future, in terms of the relationships that people have with the places they live, and the environments they share with each other and with other living things. We wish to ensure that research can play this role in the fullest possible way.

We are committed to creating, maintaining and enhancing network ties and linkages among people interested in landscape research across boundaries:

* Between nation states or cultures
* Between academia and the various forms of landscape-related practice
* Between different landscape-related disciplines, different approaches to landscapes and different perspectives on landscapes.

We are concerned with all types of landscape. LRG represents (through our trustees, members and partnerships) a broad range of disciplines and sectors. Our [membership](https://landscaperesearch.org/membership/) is open to anyone who has an interest in landscape and the ways we shape, and are shaped by, the places in which we live.

The 50th Anniversary Research Fund was created in 2017, and it is our plan to continue with an annual Research Fund to support a small number of high-quality projects which align strongly with LRG’s current strategic priorities, as outlined in our [Research Strategy](https://landscaperesearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LRG-Research-Strategy-2015.pdf) and specified below.

2020 Research Fund Theme:

Critical and Creative Approaches to Landscape Justice and Rapid Environmental Change

This year’s call links the fourth topic of the LRG research strategy, critical and creative landscape thinking, with the second one – rapid environmental change, under the general context of landscape justice.

In the Landscape Research Group’s [Research Strategy](https://landscaperesearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/LRG-Research-Strategy-2015.pdf) landscape justice is concerned with issues of access and exclusion, ownership and dispossession, connection and disconnection within and across communities, societies, generations and species. It considers place but also transcends location to think more abstractly about how human and non-human stakeholders engage with notions of equity and justice. It concerns the complexities of decision-making power and disenfranchisement, and fairness or lack thereof in the distribution of the potential socio-cultural, economic or ecological benefits deriving from landscape. Landscape research in this area considers who has voice, power and responsibility, and how by extension justice, democracy and citizenship are exercised.

Due to the popularity and ongoing relevance of the landscape justice theme, which was the focus for the 50th Anniversary Research Fund, we are continuing to fund projects under this theme for 2020. We would particularly welcome projects focusing on **the interplay of landscape justice and rapid environmental change.** This was a key theme arising from the [Landscape Symposium](https://landscaperesearch.org/landscape-symposium-2019-podcasts/) held in December 2019, where reflections on how the language we use in speaking, framing and studying landscape impacts on the nature of landscape research, the subject matter, the participants and the outcomes.

The Research Fund will support applications for:

* Critical and creative research into the circumstances in which injustice is generated and sustained in landscape contexts in relation in particular to landscape governance and rapid environmental change;
* Critical and creative research into injustices that are historically-embedded in the landscape, that are emerging now or that might emerge in the future, particular in relation to landscape governance and rapid environmental change;
* Critical and creative research into the impacts of the language used in communicating ideas and issues around landscape with different audiences. “Language” is here understood in the broad sense to include visual/pictorial/image and tonal based forms of language, as well as verbal and written language.
* Critical and creative research that addresses the interplay as revealed through language used between organisations, audiences and outcomes in developing policies and practices that address landscape injustice and rapid environmental change
* Projects and activities that make use of critical and creative research in the development and implementation of policies, practices and/or actions that address landscape injustice and rapid environmental change;
* Critical and creative projects and activities that create opportunities and mechanisms for the generation, dissemination and/or use of knowledge, understanding or insight into landscape justice and rapid environmental change.

### Eligible projects

The Research Fund is open to projects dealing with any aspect of landscape, as consistent with the way that term is used and defined in our Research Strategy.

The LRG adopts a broad definition of ‘research project’ in this context. Projects should aim to produce, disseminate and/or use knowledge, understanding or insight, or to create opportunities and mechanisms which enable people to work towards these ends. We will consider proposals for activities including but not limited to: fundamental research; applied research; research & development; knowledge exchange; dissemination; and capacity-building.

Priority will be given to projects which include a strong element of collaboration and exchange which transcends individual disciplines; different sectors; and/or the boundaries between professional researchers, practitioners and the public. As a charity, the Landscape Research Group is particularly interested in funding projects with a clear public benefit.

### Applicant eligibility

There are no restrictions as to discipline, sector or nationality. All applications will be assessed against the criteria specified below.

The LRG wishes to support early career researchers and practitioners in the field of landscape and we encourage applicants at any stage in their career to apply for funding for projects appropriate to their experience.

Applicants must be LRG members to apply for the Research Fund; [click here](https://landscaperesearch.org/membership/) for more information and how to join.

### Funding Available

The LRG Board has allocated a total of £10,000 to the 2020 Research Fund. Applications are invited for an LRG funding contribution of between £1,000 and £5,000.

Preference will be given to applications that propose to maximise the impact of LRG’s funds by securing additional funds and/or in-kind contributions. In sections 4 and 5 of the Application Form, applicants should provide details of the costs to be covered by LRG funding and the costs to be covered from other sources.

### Arrangements for Payment

For smaller grants, payment will be made in two stages: 1) part payment following confirmation of the award, and; 2) payment of the balance following satisfactory completion of the agreed deliverables (e.g. an end-of-project report to LRG; submission of agreed projects outputs). For larger grants, payment will be in three stages, with an additional stage payment being made part-way through the grant period. LRG will specify details of the funding stage payments in its letters of award to successful applicants and reserves the right to withhold any part of the payment if the specified conditions of grant are not complied with.

### Timing

Deadline for submission of applications: 8th March 2020

Applicants notified of funding decision by: 30th March 2020

Earliest possible project start date: 8th April 2020

Projects to be completed by\*: 31st March 2021

\* The project completion date refers to the main project activities. It is accepted that some activities, particularly relating to project outputs, may continue on after this date (e.g. where a paper has been submitted to a journal for publication but has yet to go through peer review and be published), although it is expected that continuation of activities beyond 31st December 2020 will be avoided wherever possible. Applicants should specify a project timetable in Section 2 of the Application Form and, where an activity is anticipated to continue beyond 31st March 2021, this should be explained and justified.

### How to Apply

Completed applications should be submitted to the LRG Research & Policy Co-ordinator, Dr Hannes Palang at the email address: research@landscaperesearch.org.

### Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications

LRG will assess any applications for the 2020 Research Fund against the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the 2020 Research Funding Call

Does the proposed project align clearly and strongly with 2020 Funding Call and the LRG Research Strategy? What contribution will the project make in relation to the LRG’s over-arching priority of advancing research that contributes towards just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape? What contribution will the project make in relation to the 2020 Research Fund objective of supporting research which addresses the challenge of injustice in landscape contexts? Does the project, if appropriate, seek to integrate with other LRG sponsored work, such as the publication of the journal Landscape Research, the e-newsletter, seminars and conference sessions and other events?

2. Significance of the project

Relative to the scale of the project and the funding requested, how significant will the project be in terms of:

* advancing landscape research and/or making use of the results of research?
* the delivery of public benefit?

3. Credibility and deliverability of the project

Is the project coherent? Are the proposed activities reasonable, proportionate and appropriate in relation to the stated aims and objectives of the project? Will the proposed activities realistically deliver the stated outputs and outcomes?

4. Credibility of the applicant/project team

Are the applicant and, where applicable, the project team suitably qualified and/or experienced to undertake the project and deliver its stated outputs and outcomes?

5. Financial justification

Is the funding sought appropriate and realistic in relation to the project’s aims and objectives? Is the budget for the proposed project coherent and reasonable? Does the LRG funding contribution represent value for money?

6. LRG membership

If the applicant is a member of the Landscape Research Group ([click here](https://landscaperesearch.org/membership/) for more information and how to join).

Application Form

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| 1. Applicant Information |
| Name of applicant:  |
| Date:  |
| Institution/organisation, where applicable: |
| Address:  |
| Email address:  |
| Are you an LRG Member?(please tick the appropriate box) | Yes |  |
| No (please note we only accept applications from LRG members; join online at [landscapereseach.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/)) |  |

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| 2. Project Description |
| Title of Project:  |
| Aims & objectives [maximum 200 words]:State the aims of the project (i.e. the desired outcomes which the project is intended to deliver or support) and the specific objectives through which the aims will be achieved. |
| Methods/activities [maximum 500 words]:Describe the methods/activities through which the project objectives will be met.  |
| Outputs [maximum 300 words]:List any outputs which the project will generate and briefly describe any dissemination/promotion plans. |
| Project timetable: Please include start and end dates. Where appropriate to the scale of the project, please detail major phases, significant milestones and any reporting arrangements. |
| Project applicant/team [maximum 500 words]:Summarise the relevant qualifications and/or experience of the applicant and, where relevant, the project team and any partners/collaborators who will contribute to delivery of the project. Where appropriate, indicate the roles that the different contributors will play in delivering the project. Early career applicants are encouraged to apply for projects appropriate to their career stage. |

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| 3. Significance of the Project and Alignment with LRG’s Priorities  |
| Explain the significance of the project in terms of advancing landscape research and/or making use of the results of research and in terms of the delivery of public benefit. Explain how the project aligns with the 2020 Funding Call [maximum 500 words], and how the results might, if appropriate, be disseminated through the various LRG sponsored research venues, such as the journal Landscape Research, the newsletter, the e-bulletin, seminars, conference sessions and events. |

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| 4. CostsGive detailed estimates of: 1) the costs that will be incurred by, or on behalf of, the applicant while pursuing the planned project and for which funds are being sought from the LRG (section 4a below), and; 2) other costs which will be incurred in delivering the project but for which funds are not being sought from the LRG (section 4b below). |
| 4a Funds requested from the Landscape Research Group |
| Description of cost | Amount |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| Total requested from the Landscape Research Group | £ |
| 4b Additional project costs (funds not requested from the Landscape Research Group) |
| Description of cost | Amount |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| Total additional project costs | £ |
| Total project costs |
| Total project cost (total requested from LRG + total additional project costs) | £ |
| % of total funds requested from LRG |  % |

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| 5. Budget Narrative [maximum 500 words] |
| Provide a justification for the resources requested from LRG. Confirm whether or not the project is dependent on LRG grant support. Provide details of other funding sources which have been secured or are being sought (funder and amount of funding). Provide details of any in-kind contributions which have been secured or are being sought.  |

Landscape Research Group Evaluation and Decision

Applicants should leave this section blank

Summary of evaluation

(evaluator to briefly summarise conclusions in relation to the four funding criteria):

1. Alignment with the 2020 Funding Call

2. Significance of the project

3. Credibility and deliverability of the project

4. Credibility of the applicant/project team

5. Financial justification

Funding decision and conditions of grant:

Signature Date