

Research visit Johannesburg, South Africa, November 2023

Maiju Loukola and Jaakko Ruuska's research visit to the University of Witwatersrand (WITS) School of Arts in Johannesburg, South Africa took place between 7–18 November 2023. The research visit was hosted by Christo Doherty (Head of WITS School of Arts), Brigitta Stone-Johnson (WITS School of Architecture), Zen Marie (WITS School of Arts), and Jurgen Meekel (WITS School of Film and tv), Jill Richards (independent composer, sound artist and pianist), Anita Szentesi (WITS School of Architecture and Planning), BJ Engelbrecht (WITS School of Arts), and Tanja Sakota (WITS School of Film and tv).

The aim of the visit was to further develop and strengthen the fruitful collaboration that had started in the context of [KuvA Research Days 2022](https://web.uniarts.fi/kuvaresearchdays/sites.uniarts.fi/fi/web/kuvaresearchdays/bios-12.-13.12.html) under the theme 'City Space and Artistic Research' in Helsinki. (Full list of contributors, see more:

<https://web.uniarts.fi/kuvaresearchdays/sites.uniarts.fi/fi/web/kuvaresearchdays/bios-12.-13.12.html>)

During the visit, Loukola invited WITS colleagues to join the EARN/Expanded Artistic Research Network's "Space + Practice" working group (<https://artresearch.network/working-groups/wg7-space-practice/>). EARN's Space + Practice WG currently has four members from Johannesburg. Ruuska and Loukola organized two day-long collaborative workshops at the WITS campuses. In turn, Engelbercht, Meekel and Richards held workshops on the relationship between sound and urban space for two days. During the visit, Loukola and Ruuska visited the School of Arts, the School of Architecture & planning, and the Dpt. of Film & TV.

As a continuation of the research visit, several WITS colleagues participated in the *City is Sound, City is Quicksand* art and research event, organized in May 2024 in Hietsun Paviljonki in Helsinki.