The Edgware Road Project

Possible Studies Pamphlets

Studies on a Road

www.edgwareroad.org

April, 2016

Volume 01 / Issue 02

USICIAY

Edited, published and designed using edgwareroad.org

Comissioned by the Edgware Road Project

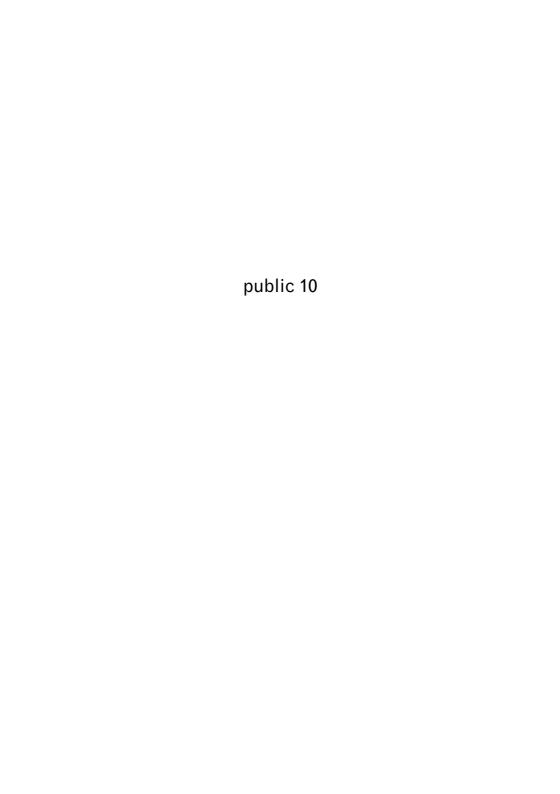
This pamphlet was produced using the online archive and publishing tool edgwareroad.org, created by Bombay based media collective CAMP while in residence on the Edgware Road.

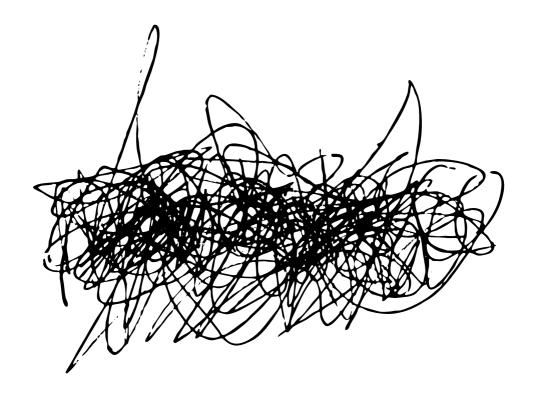
It is part of the series, *Studies on a Road*, in which groups who took part in the Edgware Road Project from 2008–2016, have shared their studies of the area and reflections on the stakes of the project.

The Edgware Road Project was developed in 2008 to support local and international artists and community groups to develop 'possible studies' responding to issues faced by those living, working and visiting the area. Over these 8 years a widening gap of inequality has opened in the area at the hands of local processes of development and the national climate of forced austerity. In response to these conditions, groups that included artists and non-artists were supported in their development of analyses and actions that would address the various dimensions of the development process. Four main thematics have opened up in response to these inequalities outlined in this series. They include Policing, Education, Housing and Care.

Researchers

Åbäke, Khalid Abdalla and Cressida Trew, Larry Achiampong, Etel Adnan, Tammy Arjona Wheeler, Bidoun, Polly Brannan, CAMP, Gill Clarke, Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad, Sam Curtis, students from Westminster Academy, Alia Farid, Susan Hefuna, Lamia Joreige, Townhouse Gallery (Cairo), Hiwa K, Chicago Boys: while they were singing we were dreaming, Implicated Theatre, Hato, no.w.here, Karen Mirza, Brad Butler and James Holcombe, Frances Rifkin, Anton Kats, Marwan Rechmaoui, Wael Shawky, Rania Stephan, Ultra-red with St. Marylebone CE School, Chris Jones, Mathaf (Doha), Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre: Project 5, Goldsmiths MA in Aural and Visual Cultures, Migrants Resource Centre, People's Research Seminars, Public Space Seminars/E.V.S.A, ODV and Public10, moi, Seymour Arts, the x:talk project, Justice For Domestic Workers, UnitetheUnion Hotel Workers Branch, Phyllis Etukudo, and the residents and care workers of the Carlton Dene and Westmead Elderly Resource Centres

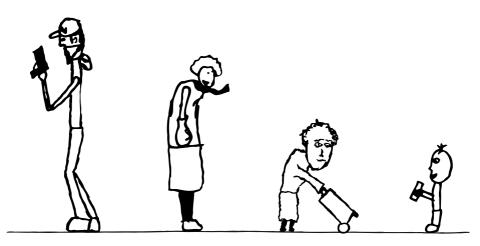




Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad with Westminster Academy *Public Space Seminars*

The Public Space Seminar was a weekly meeting developed by designer Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad with students from Westminster Academy, and held between 2010 and 2011. The Public Space Seminar was proposed as an experiment in how vocational education could be re-tooled as a form of training in critical thought and collective action. Students on work experience mapped the issues and spaces that were important to their lives, experimenting with group process and developing creative interventions into the urban landscape.

The first collective formed around issues of gentrification in the Church Street Neighbourhood. Under the collective name Public 10, the group designed ways of making future planning more accessible to those who lived in the Edgware Road area. Through a series of performed researchactions, Public 10 tested their ideas in practice, asking local residents how they felt about proposed changes to the neighbourhood while, for example, carrying their groceries for them. Their final event saw the creation of a market stall on Church Street Market, at which they served tea and conversed with visitors about their findings.



A second group, ODV (One Diverse Vision) addressed the vilification of youth in the Edgware Road area. Beginning the research with questions about how to design public space for 'gangs', ODV proposed to question this term, asking: what is the difference between a group and a gang? The group became interested in how young people, migrants and others are stereotyped, particularly at a moment when many of them felt that the rhetoric of the mainstream press about cuts to public funding represents an attempt to inch them out of the city and the country. The group made use of the Identi-Kit software with which police draw portraits of crime suspects for their identification. Staging a series of interventions in public space, ODV offered to make street portraits of people using Identi-Kit, as a way of initiating a conversation. A short time before the London uprisings of August 2011, the seminar shed light on the impact of policies such as 'stop and search' on local youth.

The third group, the Echoing Voice of the Speakers' Alliance looked at the history of Hyde Park's Speakers' Corner and the issue of 'speaking out', in relation to their own actions. They took questions from all three seminars back to the students' school.

Participants in the Public Space Seminars include: Nora Agabra, Razan Ahmad, Linda Ali, Jaheda Begum, Elena Berisha, Sirhan Dharamsi, Duaa Al Ahmed, Jamal El Ali, Egzon Gashi, Orges Hashani, Ali Hassan Mohammed, Tanjil Hussain, Ahmed Issa, Noor Abdul Jalil, Hana Krusha, Suleyman Latunji, Sara Mansour Et-Tani, Dakota Mohammed, Priscilla Nott, Ivan Quartey, Zeenat Rahmani, Mohammed Rashid, Zaynab Roumie, Howraa Yahya and Linda Zuqolli.



Church Street vs Regeneration

by PUBLIC10

Hello, We are PUBLIC10. We are an independent research group of students and residents of Church Street. The group was formed to research public spaces and the social, physical and political systems governing them. We want to know what we are going to see next in our neighbourhood. As people who live in the neighbourhood we feel that right now it is like a family where we can get help from people in all of the languages that we speak: Arabic, English, Kurdish, French, Polish, Bengali, Farsi, Urdu.

We want to find out what people think, their opinions, and facts that have been presented to them. There is usually a big divide between perception and the truth, and the presented truth and the real truth.

We have spoken to people in Church Street Neighbourhood Management and are aware that consultations have taken place. But we wonder who gets asked? And why other don't. We wonder how disagreements between the interests of landlords and the interests of people who live in housing are dealt with? We wonder if people want to move; what they think about demolition and forced renovation? and what kind of changes they want and don't want?



Guided tour by Church St community support officer John "walker-talker" McDonald ended with a bird's eye-view of the neighbourhood from the top of Kennet House.



performative research: Creating new public and barrier taxonomies in and around Edgware Rd.

The Garden Area

As from October 31st this area will be closed until

the future of the area has been decided upon.

I hope this gives all growers the time to harvest

their crops and if possible re-locate their plants.

After this date all plants and soil will be cleared from

Please direct any enquiries to the Church Street Estate Office. Telephone number 0207 245 2731.

Windrush Gardens

On one of the early investigation trips in and around Church St. we discovered Windrush Gardens, a community garden located behind Kennet House.

Windrush Garden was one of the only mini-allotments in the neighbourhood and 6 months ago it was at its peak in activity. The garden was full of vegetables and used to hold competitions to see who grew the biggest. But three weeks ago when we viewed the neighbourhood from the rooftop of Kennet House, we realised that the garden was a lot smaller. We rushed down to investigate it!



Windrush Gardens from Kennet House. March 2010 (left), October 2010 (right)

We saw many signs saying things like "The garden will soon be removed", and "If you are a grower, please remove your produce by the 31st of October." We were saddened by this news and wanted some answers. In the meantime we put up our own signs telling the growers about who we are and asking them if we can have their produce for our project."



Bulletin board intervention – Adding our notice at Windrush Gardens.







Farewell Windrush

Tomatoes, chillies, cucumber and mint Doesn't this all give you a hint? Now it's time to say goodbye We gave saving them a try We gave them a home And now we left them alone No Mushrooms' now for our favourite gnomes Before you make Church street frown Ask the people if they want it to go down



Photos: Windrush Gardens just before the doors shut for ever. Poem: An Ode to Widrush Gardens by PUBLIC 10



TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2010-09-21

IFYOU ARE A GROWER, WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE GARDEN, PLEASE CAN YOU CONTACT VINCE LYONS AT THE CHURCH STREET ESTATE OFFICE.

EITHER ON 0207 245 2735 OR EMAIL vlyons@cwh.org.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Friday 22 October 2010

Hello

We are public 10 researchers working with the Serpentine Gallery. We are working towards the project of the future of Church Street. We are aware that your allotment garden is being removed.

Therefore, we would like to use the existing produce for a community art project to raise public awareness about the positive and negative issues of re-generation. Please donate your produce towards our local projects.

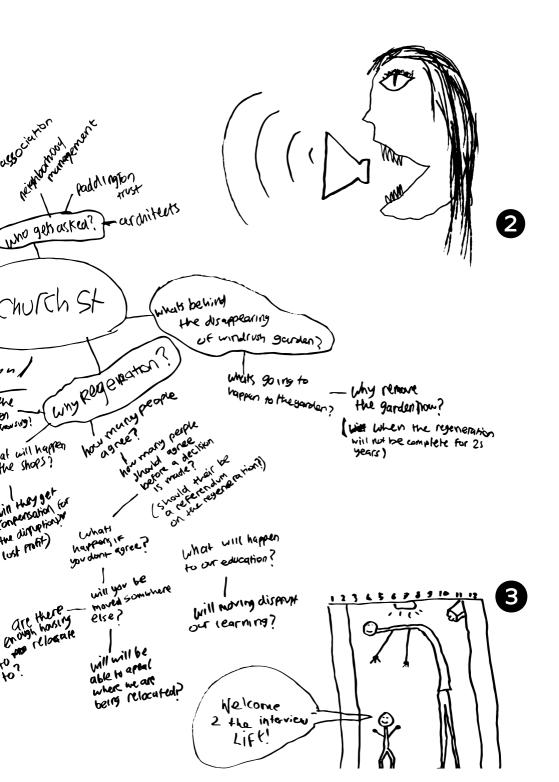
Kindly contact us on 020 7402 6075 or email: public ten@gmail.com

Thank you

The 31st of October has now come and gone. As one of the first evictions on Church Street, the garden's doors are now closed. We wonder why are the doors closed? Is it due to local politics, or is it because the neighbouring houses are due to be demolished? We see the uprooting of the garden is a symbol for the changes that will face the community.

Are there gardeners who would speak to us? If there is no space for the vegetables could we decide on a place for them together? Or maybe we can 'preserve' the community garden and its spirit by pickling the remaining vegetables, and in turn creating a lasting object that can be eaten each time there is discussion. We think that research should involve many conversations and that through it we will work together for change.

Con i held corry those p artists le sant Shippers How do a Feel bour Houde resident the regeneration? querers people mich ! (Quilelo) Students What homeowners think of the regenration what residents this of the pregan rational petuce and Wh to are they pashing the ban on the much and the nur in me ruinej







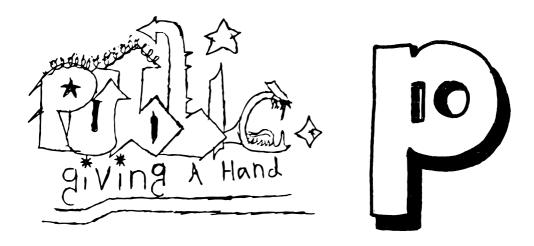
Public 10 conducting experimental interview methods on Church St.

To answer these questions we ask ourselves, who do we ask and how we do ask?

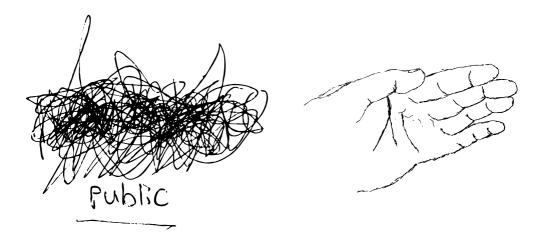
Our methods involve meeting people, instead of researching passively. We want to meet and talk to people in natural environments and in real situations.

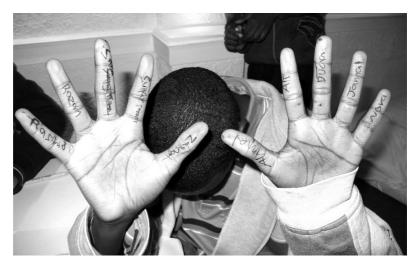
We are using three new methods to engage the public (see map illustrations):

- 1. We ask people carrying heavy shopping bags, as they are likely to be local residents. We can offer to carry their bags and ask to interview them along the way.
- 2. We can speak our questions and answers into megaphones across distances in public space so that everyone can hear.
- 3. We have met workers and residents in the buildings. They are busy so we can interview them in the lift. The close proximity and limited time can give us some sharp responses.



Simultaneous to our research in public space we began to work on our visual identity. Here you can see the preliminary concepts. In Mohammad Rashid's designs, the word Public is adorned with barbed wire and spikes, and finished off with the snarling letter C and contrasted with the slogan "Giving a Hand". Another logo design is a dense scribble denoting the complexity of the public sphere. A collaborative monogram design by Jamal Et-Ali and Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad embeds the number 10 into the letter P, where another design by Mohammad Rashid simply illustrates an open palmed hand, implying both care, and construction.

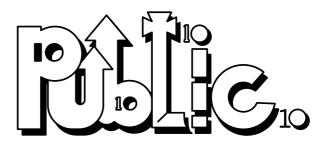




Conceptual logo design by Ahmed combining open palms with the PUBLIC 10 members' names, each written on one digit.



Mohammad developing final logo



Final digitised logo design

















Contributing to an "opinion wall" at the SHOWROOM gallery, Penfold St.

Across

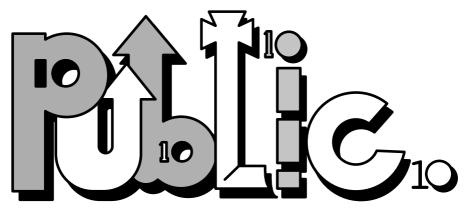
- 3. Selected buildings in and around Church Street will be _____.
- 5. Church Street Festival happens in which month of the year?
- 6. Local gang LGM stands for _____. (3 words)
- 10. One of the major aims of regeneration in Church Street is to bring more _____.
- 11. During the trade embargo of the 90s in Iraq, the Aubergine was also called "the friend of the ____."
- 13. Lisson Green's territorial rival. ____ Estate (Hint, also the name of a famous composer)
- 14. "Church Street ____Team" is a team of local people who consult with urban planners.
- 15. Public toilet in Church Street is in what style of late 15th and early 16th century architecture.
- 16. People of Church Street are ____
- 17. Name of the shop resisting a major supermarket development near Church Street.

- 19. Future of Church Street Market and neighbourhood.
- 20. Regeneration will not only reshape the built environment but also the _____.

Down

- 1. Common type of food sold in Church Street.
- 2. Multi-Storey Residential Block on Church Street. ____ House.
- 4. A reason for renovation and redevelopment of housing in and around Church Street.
- 7. A common complaint made by Church Street residents.
- 8. Name of recently closed community garden.
- 9. Greeting in Arabic.
- 12. Riding a bicycle on the back wheel is called a _____.
- 18. The number representing the sound "kh" when typing/messaging in kurdish.

"On 10 December we will be in Church Street Market to exhibit our findings, and our experimental research methods. We also want to take this opportunity to talk to you about the future of the Neighbourhood. Come and join us for tea!"



Friday 10th December, 2010. 11am - 2pm

Hello, We are **PUBLIC10**. We are an independent research group of students and residents of Church Street. We have focused our attention to the Church Street area, its planned regeneration, its possible demolition and its pending change.

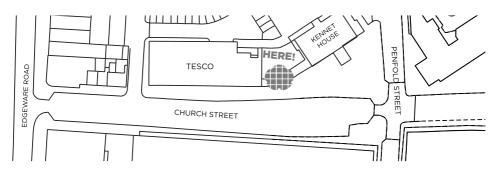


We want to find out **what people think**, their opinion, and their ideas. So far we have met many people in natural environments and in real situations. But there are still many question that we want to ask **the locals**.



On **10th December** we want to **talk to you** about the future of the Neighbourhood. Come and join us in our space (see map) for an **art** exhibition, a nice **conversation** and free **tea**.

Public10 was born out of a collaboration between students of Westminster Academy and the Centre for Possible Studies, an offsite project of Serpentine Gallery.





Public 10 market intervention. Information stall and free tea, Church St. Market











Public 10 market intervention. Information stall and free tea, Church St. Market



The *Studies on a Road* pamphlet series was produced using edgwareroad.org

It is part of the Possible Studies series that are free to download and distribute for non-commercial use.

The Possible Studies imprint was developed through the Edgware Road Project. Initiated by Serpentine Galleries in 2008 the Edgware Road Project links local groups and international artists with people living and working in this area. The itinerant project base for the project is the Centre for Possible Studies, home to screenings, events, a publishing imprint and an ongoing project archive.

From 2016 the Possible Studies imprint will be housed at Church Street Library on a specially commissioned shelf dedicated to the local area. Designed by Bahbak Hashemi-Nezhad.

Possible Studies Editors: Amal Khalaf, Janna Graham and Ben Messih

Copy editing by: Camille Barbagallo

Designed by: Åbäke, CAMP, Sophie Demay, Annelous Konijnenberg and Hato

Printed on risograph by: Hato Press

edgwareroad.org is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution, Non-Commercial-Sharealike 3.0 Unported License. This means that this material can be reused freely with due credit given for non-commercial uses. Studies on a Road is a series of pamphlets developed by artists, researchers and community groups in residence with the Edgware Road Project from 2008–2016. In response to growing conditions of inequality and austerity groups including both artists and non-artists were supported in their development of analyses and actions to address the various dimensions of the neighbourhood around thematics including Policing, Education, Housing and Care.

SERPE NTINE GALLERIES