

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

**Socialist Ecologies: Speculative Methods for Retrieving Lost Futures
Workshop at BOARC and Manchester School of Art, May 18th-21st**

Overview of Workshop

Our interdisciplinary research project brings together a group of theorists, art historians, curators and artists for an intensive three-day workshop to attempt to collaboratively replot unrealised socialist dreams, radical histories, and their collective social and political ambitions in the present, as a critical counter to the dominant ideologies of our age of racial capitalism and climate catastrophe. We see the present moment of global crisis and neocolonialist imperialism, genocide, technofeudalism and ascendent fascisms—in terms of the final days of what Rosa Luxemburg rightly termed ‘scorched earth’ capitalism. The project takes seriously the futural nature of the socialist theories, fictions, practices, environmental and ecological movements, and historical moments of resistance, decolonisation and activism that occurred during the Cold War. We will seek to collectively map these, by utilising and testing current methodologies that have emerged within ‘speculative research’, ‘speculative materialism’, ‘capitalist realism’, and practice-based research, but also in relation to the past and present radical, emancipatory and activist thinking of Marxist, historical materialist and militant figures—in fiction, poetry, anthropology, political theory, sociology and cultural studies—clustered around eco-socialisms, eco-feminisms, Black Studies and Afro-Futurism.