

**What RADAR did next:
developing a peer review process
for research plans**

Nicola Siminson

Institutional Repository & Records Manager

The Glasgow School of Art

Repository Fringe

Thursday 3rd August 2017

RADAR repository:

<http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>

The screenshot shows the RADAR repository website. At the top, the GSA logo is centered, with a search bar on the right labeled "search RADAR". Below the logo is a navigation menu with tabs for "Study", "Life", "Research", "Visit GSA", "About GSA", and "Support GSA". The "Research" tab is currently selected.

On the left side, there is a vertical menu with various options: "RADAR", "Browse", "Author", "Year", "School & Author", "School & Year", "Theses", "GSA Staff Profiles", "Search", "Latest", "Policies", "Help & Contact Information", "FAQ", "Statistics", "GSA User Menu", and "Login".

The main content area features a "WELCOME TO RADAR" message with a right-pointing arrow. Below this, a paragraph explains that RADAR is the Glasgow School of Art's research repository, providing a digital archive of research and enterprise output. It notes that RADAR (Research Art Design Architecture Repository) makes information publically available about a wide range of research outputs, from books and journal articles to exhibitions and artefacts. Full text is available where possible, and some additional content is available on request.

Below the text, there is a link: "RADAR also has a blog that can be followed: here".

A large image of a modern interior space, identified as "House in North Glasgow", is displayed. Below the image, the caption reads: "House in North Glasgow Platt, Christopher (2014) *House in North Glasgow*. [Artefact]".

On the right side, there is a "Latest items" section. It lists two items:

- Ulug, Ercim (2012) *An empirical investigation into the design methodology of iconic buildings*. PhD thesis, The Glasgow School of Art. Item not available from this repository.
- Taylor, Glen (2009) *Depicting difference: domestic dialogues in Ethiopia*. PhD thesis, The Glasgow School of Art. Item not available from this repository.

Below the list is a "More.." link.

At the bottom of the page, there is a row of small thumbnail images representing various research outputs. At the very bottom, a footer states: "RADAR supports OAI 2.0 with a base URL of <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/cgi/oai2>".

Annual Research Plans at the GSA

- need for ARPs arose in part from the outcome of the REF 2014 assessment
- peer-reviewed (but *not* openly available) ARPs aim to enable research time to be allocated more effectively, with a view to maximising the number of high quality submissions to the next REF
- RADAR as a home for the ARP template:
 - repository played a key role in supporting the GSA's REF 2014 submission
 - researchers already using RADAR, so no need to learn a new system
- Sep. 2015: EPrints Services build the ARP - goes "live" Jan. 2016
- May 2016: 145 ARPs submitted / peer-reviewed, and decisions communicated
- Feb. 2017: template adjusted (following feedback) and relaunched

The ARP template

EDIT

Detail → Research → Submit

CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN NEXT →

★

★ Year: Year of the Research Plan
2016/17 ▼

★ Name: Nicola Jane Sir

★ Position: IRRM

★ School: Research & Graduate School (encompassing Directorate)

Digital Design Studio
Exhibitions
Forum for Critical Inquiry
Learning Resources
Mackintosh School of Architecture
Mackintosh School of Architecture: Glasgow Urban Lab (GUL)
Mackintosh School of Architecture: Mackintosh Environmental Architecture Research Unit (MEARU)
School of Design

★ FTE: 1

★ Current allocation of research time: Normative ▼

★ Research time requested in forthcoming ARP period: Normative ▼

Research centre or unit (if applicable):

If you would like to register any mitigating circumstances of relevance to your ability to undertake any aspect of research this year, please do so using the relevant proforma, available on the GSA VLE.

CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN NEXT →

The ARP template (continued)

EDIT

Detail → **Research** → Submit

← PREVIOUS CANCEL SAVE AND RETURN NEXT →

✱ **Research profile, focus and expertise:** Please provide up to 500 words describing your research track record, suitable for publication on the GSA Website. Include

- i) areas of interest and relevant GSA strategic theme(s);
(Themes: Architecture, Urbanism and the Public Sphere (APS); Design Innovation (DI); Digital Visualisation (DV); Education in Art, Design and Architecture (EADA); Contemporary Art and Curating (CAC); Health and Wellbeing (HW); Material Culture (MC); Sustainability (SUS).)
- ii) plans for next 12 months.

Nicola Siminson is the Institutional Repository and Records Manager at the Glasgow School of Art. She is responsible for the management of RADAR, the GSA research repository.

174/3500

✱ **Summary of research activity since last ARP:** Please provide up to 500 words describing the research activity you have undertaken within the previous ARP period.

to be completed

15/3500

The ARP template (continued)

Research Environment: Invited talks / keynotes / hosting conferences / editing journals / RCUK (or other) peer review activities / external PhD examination / consultancy etc / collaborations or networks

- Title**

Details
- Title**

Details
- Title**

Details

MORE INPUT ROWS

Impact

Impact to date: Please give details of impact relating to your research, including activities leading to economic, social or cultural impact or benefit to individuals, groups or institutions outside academia.

- Underlying Research**

Impact Activity Undertaken

The ARP template (continued)

EDIT

Detail → Research → **Submit**

← PREVIOUS **CANCEL** **SAVE AND RETURN**

Submit your ARP

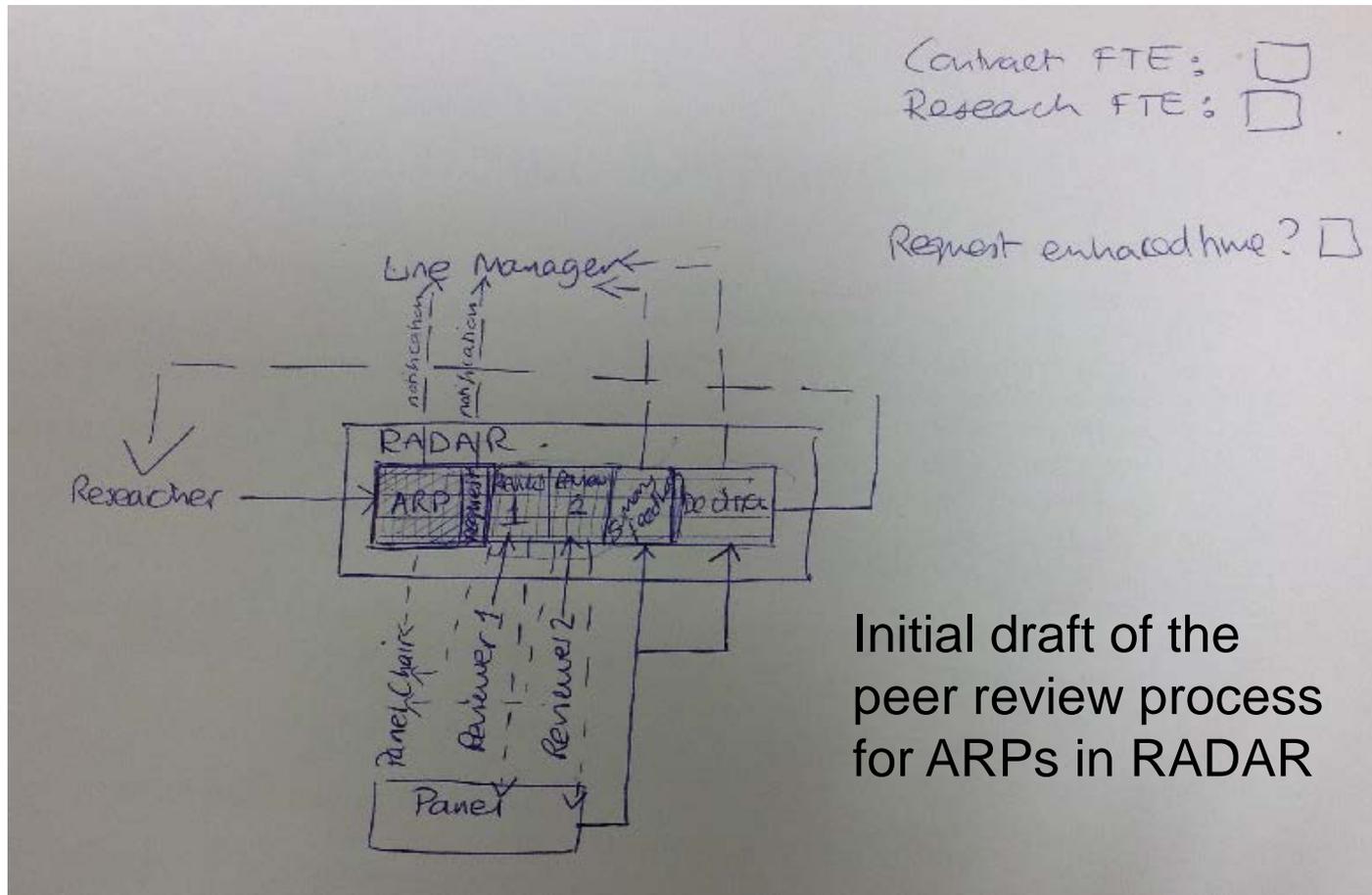
Please submit your completed ARP by clicking on the box below, then select the green “SAVE AND RETURN” button.

Please note that submitting your ARP will create an archived version of your ARP, which will no longer be available for you to edit.

WARNING: If you still wish to edit your ARP, please ensure the box below is NOT ticked.

← PREVIOUS **CANCEL** **SAVE AND RETURN**

What happened next?



Integrating the peer review process into RADAR

- discussions initiated with EPrints autumn 2016
- development commenced spring 2017
 - more extensive than that of the initial ARP template: 4 incremental work packages, with thorough testing and feedback in the interim
- peer reviewer comments collected electronically, for later transfer into RADAR (once functionality available)
- panel chair's summaries *were* entered into the system, and released to ARP authors through RADAR successfully

The ARP peer review process

- Researcher writes and submits their ARP in RADAR (by 30th March)
- RADAR Admin. provides Head of Research (HoR) with report of all ARPs submitted
- HoR provides RADAR Admin. with list of peer reviewers, their panel membership and their allocated ARPs
- RADAR Admin. adds relevant permissions to peer reviewers and panel chairs in RADAR, then creates the review panels and allocates the ARPs to the appropriate peer reviewers within RADAR
- Peer reviewers receive email reminders via RADAR to alert them that they have reviews to complete; they write and submit their reviews within RADAR
- Review panels meet face-to-face, with the panel chair capturing the discussions (based on the reviews) and the overall recommendation (normative, enhanced or no research time)
- Panel chair enters their summary and the recommendation within RADAR, which are then released to the researchers; HoR also emails researchers individually

ARP review and panel management

Displaying your outputs 1 to 10 of 78. Show 10, 25 or 100 results per page.
[1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [Next](#)

Panel Name	Review 1 Completed	Review 2 Completed	Summary Completed	Summary Released	
UNSPECIFIED	UNSPECIFIED	UNSPECIFIED	UNSPECIFIED	UNSPECIFIED	  
Panel 1	Yes	Yes	No	No	  
Panel 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	  
Panel 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  
Panel 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	  

Review: tbc

3/3500

Review 1 Completed:

[← PREVIOUS](#) [CANCEL](#) [SAVE AND RETURN](#) [NEXT →](#)

EDIT

Review Panel → Review 1 → Review 2 → **Summary** → Summary released

[← PREVIOUS](#) [CANCEL](#) [SAVE AND RETURN](#) [NEXT →](#)

Summary:

0/3500

Recommendation: **UNSPECIFIED**
 Normative
 Enhanced
 None

Summary Completed:

[← PREVIOUS](#) [CANCEL](#) [SAVE AND RETURN](#) [NEXT →](#)

(note that ARP author names have been removed from this screenshot)

Lessons learned

- testing can only take you so far...
- tweaks needed for next round of ARPs
 - increase prominence of summary and decision for the researcher
 - more differentiated fields for peer reviewers
 - ability for reviewers to link to and from an output from within an ARP?
 - RADAR Admin. search tools for panels and reviews
 - enhanced reporting
- partial roll-out this year – but successful release of feedback summaries and research time decisions to researchers, and proof of concept demonstrated

Conclusions

- the ARP peer review process has been integrated into RADAR, and will be fully tested next year
- the continued development of (and investment in) RADAR is bearing fruit
 - as more researchers use the repository and add outputs, and visibility and downloads are increasing – enabling the GSA’s research to become more impactful
- this work has “led to increased user engagement, and [...] demonstrated a new use for the repository beyond its scholarly communication function”
- thanks are due to EPrints colleagues for all their work over the last few years
 - and in memory of Tim Miles-Board, who was involved with building RADAR at the start

Further information

- Article: <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/5296/>
 - Pike, Dawn and Siminson, Nicola Jane (2017) **Making the most of what we have got: Enhancing the RADAR repository to support research planning.** New Review of Academic Librarianship. ISSN 1361-4533
- Repository Fringe 2016: <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/4686/>
 - Siminson, Nicola Jane (2016) **Making the most of what we have got: RADAR and annual research planning.** In: Repository Fringe 2016, 1-2 Aug 2016, John McIntyre Conference Centre, Edinburgh, UK.
- RADAR repository: <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>
- Contact details: n.siminson@gsa.ac.uk