

Louis Volont

Curriculum vitae

17/03/1989 | louis-henri.volont@hcu-hamburg.de | louis.volont@uantwerpen.be | +32 474 829 831

RESEARCH

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

HafenCity University Hamburg | 'Urban future-making' program | August 2022–present

- Postdoc project *Sacred Acts in Secular Times: On the Social Performativity of Eco-Imagination*, supervised by Prof. Dr. Monika Grubbauer
- Using neo-Durkheimian cultural sociology to understand how eco-futures are imagined and materialized in times of climate change
- Research stay (2023) at *Cultural Matters Group*, Sociology Dept., Uppsala University

FULBRIGHT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

MIT | Program in Art, Culture & Technology | September 2021–June 2022

- Research project *Choreographing the City*, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Richard Sennett
- Using the sociology of dance to develop sustainable forms of spatial production in times of climate change

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

University of Antwerp | Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts | October 2016–January 2021

- Doctoral project *Shapeshifting: The Cultural Production of Common Space*, supervised by Prof. Dr. Pascal Gielen and Prof. Dr. Walter Weyns
- Using Marxist theories on spatial production to understand architects' role in sustainability transitions

TEACHING

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

University of Antwerp | BA level | 2024–present

- An introduction to classical social theory
- Discussion of Comte, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Mead
- 150 students, evaluation via written exam

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF TIME (teaching assignment, 'Lehrauftrag')

University of Hamburg | BA level | 2024–2025

- An exploration of time as a social phenomenon
- Discussion of Adam, Elias, Rosa, Beckert, Sewell
- 20 students, evaluation via final essay

THE CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY OF COMMONING (teaching assignment, 'Lehrauftrag')

University of Hamburg | MA level | 2024–2025

- An exploration of collective forms of life in capitalist conditions
- Discussion of Marx, Mouffe, Rancière, Hardt & Negri, Virno
- 20 students, evaluation via final essay

TERRITORIES I

HafenCity University Hamburg | BA level | 2022–2023

- An introduction to qualitative methods for spatial research
- Walking-as-method, interviewing, ethnography, discourse analysis
- 15 students, evaluation via final essay

TERRITORIES II

HafenCity University Hamburg | BA level | 2022–2023

- An introduction to the epistemological foundations of qualitative spatial research
- Critical theory, assemblage thinking, Actor-Network-Theory
- 15 students, evaluation via final essay

ARTS SOCIOLOGY

University of Groningen | MA level | 2020–2021

- An introduction to artistic production and consumption
- Discussion of Bourdieu, Heinich, Becker, Zolberg
- 20 students, evaluation via final essay

ART AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

University of Groningen | BA level | 2020–2021

- An introduction to cultural theory and cultural critique
- Discussion of Habermas, Fraser, Sassatelli, Virno
- 40 students, evaluation via group presentations and final essay

BA & MA STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY

KU Leuven, Belgium | Faculty of Social Sciences | 2011–2012

- Graduated with distinction
- Student assistant at the *Centre for Sociological Research*

BACHELOR OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

KU Leuven, Belgium | Faculty of Social Sciences | 2007–2011

- Graduated with distinction
- Erasmus semester at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

PUBLICATIONS

DOUBLE-BLIND PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Volont, L. (2024). The future as a cultural commons: Grammars of commonality in crisis-ridden Wilhelmsburg. *Social Inclusion* 12, 1-16.
- Otte, H. & Volont, L. (2023). Force fields of Montaña Verde: Spatializing the commons in the city-as-oeuvre. *Space & Culture* 26(4), 543-559.
- Smets, P. & Volont, L. (2022). The politics and aesthetics of the urban commons: Navigating the gaze of the city, the state, the market. *Social Inclusion* 10(1), 84-90.
- Smets, P. & Volont, L. (2022). Institutionalizing non-institutionalization: Towards sustainable commoning. *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities* 4, 1-10.
- Volont, L. & Dobson, T. (2021). The political intricacies of common space: A Rancièrian approach to the Public Land Grab. *Antipode* 53(6), 1853-1872.
- Volont, L. (2021). Urban commoning: An assessment of its aesthetic dimension. *Social Inclusion* 10(1), 141-151.
- Volont, L. (2020). Is common space politically potent? A reflection on Raumlabor's aesthetic gesture. *Forum+ for Art & Research* 28(1), 12-19.
- Volont, L. (2019). DIY urbanism and the lens of the commons: Observations from Spain. *City & Community* 18(1), 257-279.
- Gielen, P., Volont, L. & van Andel, W. (2018). Creativity under pressure. *Art & Identity Politics* 19(2), 15-43.
- Volont, L. (2012). An uncommon sociology of the commonplace: Elucidation, review and agenda for research. *Secessio* 25(3), 33-45.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Volont, L. (2025). The elementary forms of future-making: Sacrality and contingency at Hamburg's building exhibition. In M. Grubbauer, L. Pohl, & J. Thiel (Eds.), *Contingencies in urban future-making*. Transcript.
- Volont, L. (2024). Tussentijd (Trans. *Liminal temporality*). In M. Bunneghem, E. Storms, J. Van Gestel, G. Verschraegen & L. Volont (Eds.), *Krijtsporen van Walter Weyns: Brieven aan een cultuurcriticus* (Trans. *Traces of Walter Weyns: Letters to a culture critic*). Pelckmans.
- Volont, L., Manganelli, A. & Grubbauer, M. (2024). Theorizing conflicts in urban future-making: Arenas, negotiation, and affect. In M. Grubbauer, A. Manganelli & L. Volont

(Eds.), *Conflicts in urban future-making: Governance, institutions, and transformative change*. Transcript.

Lijster, T., Volont, L. & Gielen, P. (2022). Cultural commoning in the city. In L. Volont, T. Lijster & P. Gielen (Eds.), *The rise of the common city: On the culture of commoning*. ASP Editions.

Volont, L. (2018). Who steals the goose from off the common? In P. Gielen & N. Dockx (Eds.), *Commonism: A new aesthetics of the real*. Valiz.

MONOGRAPHS

Volont, L. (2021) (Doctoral dissertation). *Shapeshifting: The Cultural Production of Common Space*. Antwerp University Press.

EDITED VOLUMES

Grubbauer, M., Manganelli, A. & Volont, L. (2024) (Eds.). *Conflicts in urban future-making: Governance, institutions, and transformative change*. Transcript.

Volont, L., Lijster, T. & Gielen, P. (2022) (Eds.). *The rise of the common city: On the culture of commoning*. ASP Editions.

Dujardin, A., Rajabaly, H., Volont, L., De Brabandere, A., De Boe, J. & De Ghellink, Q. (2014). *Starten in een creatieve loopbaan* (Trans. *The start of creative labor*). Lannoo.

OPINION PIECES

Volont, L. (2020). The commons as alternative? Opinion piece for *Flanders Arts Institute*. <https://www.kunsten.be/nu-in-de-kunsten/louis-volont-over-ruimte-en-commons/>

Volont, L. (2020). Commoning club culture. Opinion piece on the occasion of the closing of the cultural centre *Lintfabriek*, Antwerp.

Volont, L. (2020). Collective housing: A political praxis? Opinion piece for the online journal *Philosophical Perspectives*. <https://philpapers.org/rec/VOLCWE>

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED KEYNOTE LECTURES

The Elementary Forms of Future-Making | November 2023 | HafenCity University Hamburg
| Higher seminar 'Urban Future-Making'

Maker of Space, Master of Time: A Temporal Analysis of Future-Making | July 2023 |
HafenCity University Hamburg | Research symposium 'Topologies of Agency'

Future-Making: A Hamburgian Tale of Time and Performance | December 2023 | Uppsala University | 'Higher sociology seminar'

Spaces for Art in Flanders and Brussels | March 2022 | Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts | Research symposium 'Spaces for Art and Culture'

Creativity as a Value | June 2018 | University of Utrecht | Utrecht summer school on 'Crossovers between Art and Culture'

Creative Action under Pressure | May 2018 | Community centre Molenbeek | Lecture series 'That Might be Right: Alternatives for the Future'

AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Architecture, Iconic Consciousness, and the Social Drama of Antwerp's Farmers' Tower (accepted) | January 2026 | University of Rome | Sociology of Culture (RN07) midterm conference

Performing the Sacred: A Durkheimian Account of Eco-Catastrophist Action | August 2024 | University of Porto | 16th conference of the European Sociological Association

Spatializing the Commons in the City-as-Oeuvre | September 2019 | India Centre, New Delhi | RC21 (ISA) general conference

DIY Urbanism and the Lens of the Commons | September 2017 | Leeds University | RC21 (ISA) general conference

AS INVITED PARTICIPANT IN PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The Notion of Community and its Discontents | April 2022 | Spotify | Interview for the 'Urban Political Podcast'

Commons, Culture and Art in the Public Sphere | September 2018 | Library of Berchem, Antwerp | Public panel 'The City as a Laboratory for Creativity'

Sustainable Creativity | September 2018 | Arts Centre Canal, Brussels | Public panel 'Fair Arts & Cultural Policy'

MASTER THESES

Habitus, Distinction, and Pop Icons: A Cultural Sociological Comparison of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones | September 2025 | University of Antwerp | As first supervisor

Negotiating Sustainability: A 'Sociology of Values' Account of the Museum Plantin-Moretus | September 2025 | University of Antwerp | As co-supervisor

Understanding Interspecies Studies: A Scientometric Analysis of Perspectives | June 2025 | University of Antwerp | As co-supervisor

How Can Constituent Museums Contribute to Social Justice and Equity in Contemporary Society? | June 2023 | University of Groningen | As first supervisor

Use Strategies for Creative and Artistic Actors in Urban Space | June 2023 | University of Groningen | As first supervisor

Commoning in Academic Literature and its Practice in Cultural centre 'De Biotoop' | June 2023 | University of Groningen | As first supervisor

Urban Creativity and Policy: A Dual Relationship | June 2018 | University of Antwerp | As co-supervisor

GRANTS

'Support Young Researchers' Grant | March 2021 | EUR 1,250

- Project entitled *Developing Skills for Cultural Research: Theory & Practice*
- Awarded by the Antwerp Doctoral School

Fulbright Postdoctoral Grant | September 2021–June 2022 | USD 27,000

- Project entitled *Choreographing the city*
- Awarded by Fulbright Association Belgium-Luxemburg

KIEM-Creative Industries Grant | June 2014–June 2015 | EUR 5,000

- Project entitled *Sustainable Creativity in the Post-Fordist Condition*
- Awarded by the Dutch Research Council

Experience as co-writer for (highly ranked yet unfinanced) grant proposals

- Creative Europe: *Healthy Arts, Resilient Arts*
- Horizon Europe: *Sustainable Development of Creative Labor*

SERVICES TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY & TO SOCIETY

Board Member of ESA Research Network 07 – Sociology of Culture

- Writing contributions to the newsletter
- Co-organizing mid-term conferences
- Extending the network at the European level

Instigator of scientific projects in collaboration with the Belgian sociocultural sector

- *Spaces for Art, Spaces for Artists* | a collaboration between the University of Antwerp and the Flanders Arts Institute
- *Sustainable Creativity in Post-Fordist Conditions* | a collaboration between the University of Antwerp and the Belgian Mutual Society of Artists

COURSES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thinking and Acting Inclusively | University of Antwerp | March 2025

Developing a Research Data Management Plan | HafenCity University | February 2025

Storytelling in Science Communication | HafenCity University | November 2024

Using & Teaching Social Theory | Uppsala University | November 2023

Speed-Reading | Antwerp Doctoral School | March 2018

Writing Academic English | Antwerp Doctoral School | November 2017

Time Management | Antwerp Doctoral School | October 2017

From Research Theme to Research Design | Antwerp Doctoral School | September 2017

MEMBERSHIP

Fulbright Association Belgium-Luxembourg | Member

Belgian-American Educational Foundation (BAEF) | Honorary Member

Research Network *Sociology of Culture*, European Sociological Association | Board Member

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Monika Grubbauer | Supervisor postdoc project | HafenCity University Hamburg

- monika.grubbauer@hcu-hamburg.de
- +49 40 42817 5246

Prof. Dr. Katharina Manderscheid | Co-supervisor postdoc project | University of Hamburg

- katharina.manderscheid@uni-hamburg.de
- +49 40 42817 5246

Prof. Dr. Pascal Gielen | Supervisor PhD | University of Antwerp

- pascal.gielen@uantwerpen.be
- +32 3 265 5644