

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Selma Ćatović Hughes

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|| Kralja Tvrtka 17, 71000 Sarajevo
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2. EDUCATION

2024 – 2028

- Doctoral researcher candidate in Cultural History, Faculty of Humanities, program in History, Culture and Arts, Juno.

University of Turku, Finland

Research topic: Somatography of Memory Sediments: Tracing the city of elusive fragments and using visual methodology to transform traumatic memories into narrative memory.

Ugis-supervisor: University lecturer Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Cultural History

Supervisor: University lecturer Kaisa Ilmonen, Literary Studies and Creative Writing

2003 – 2005

- Master of Architecture, College of Architecture and Planning
(Summa Cum Laude, Medal of Excellence, Outstanding Graduate, GPA: 3.98)

University of Colorado - Denver, USA

1250 14th St, Denver, CO 80202, United States

1997 – 2000

- Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning (GPA: 3.40)

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA

1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 87131, United States

1991 – 1995

- High School diploma
Second Gymnasium, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sutjeska 1, Sarajevo, 71000, Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. OTHER EDUCATION

2025

- Online course: Understanding Research Methods with Dr. J. Simon Rofe, Dr. Yenn Lee, Dr. Dan Plesch
University of London, SOAS University of London (via Coursera), UK

2022

- Online course: Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War: Global Perspectives with Ann S. Masten, Professor of Child Development
University of Minnesota (via Coursera), USA

2020

- Online course: Understanding Memory: Explaining the Psychology of Memory through Movies with John Seamon, Professor of Psychology Emeritus
Wesleyan University (via Coursera), USA
- Online course: The Science of Well-Being with Laurie Santos, Professor of Psychology
Yale University (via Coursera), USA

4. LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** Native / Fluent. Professional level for reading, writing, and speaking.
- **Cyrillic alphabet** Native language. Ability to read other languages based on the Cyrillic alphabet (i.e., Russian, Bulgarian).
- **English** Fluent. Professional level for reading, writing, and speaking.
- **Spanish** Intermediate beginner for basic communication.
- **French** Beginner, basic communication.
- **Arabic** Beginner. Intermediate beginner for reading.

5. CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

2024 – 2028

- Full-time self-sponsored PhD researcher in Cultural History, Faculty of Humanities, program in History, Culture and Arts, Juno.
University of Turku, Finland
Research topic: Somatography of Memory Sediments: Tracing the city of elusive fragments and invisible boundaries.

6. PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

2017 – 2023

Adjunct Faculty, College of Architecture, Art and Design.
Contract: one course per semester. Typical contact hours per week per course: 8 hours. Semester: 16 weeks.
American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

2006 – 2007

- Adjunct Faculty, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
Contract: one course per semester. Typical contact hours per week per course: 8 hours. Semester: 16 weeks.
University of Arkansas, USA

2004 – 2005

Graduate Student Adjunct Faculty, College of Environmental Design
Contract: one course per semester. Typical contact hours per week per course: 8 hours. Semester: 16 weeks.
University of Colorado Boulder, USA

2000 – 2009

- Design Consultant, Full-time, principals Cynthia Hamilton and Chris Snowber
Hamilton Snowber Architects, USA
 - Lead designer on residential projects: participation at all phases of design, from schematic to construction development; interior design; client communication; construction site visitation; city and municipality building permit process.

2001 – 2010

- Principal, co-founder of an architectural design office with Michael Hughes
Catovic | Hughes Design, USA
 - Architect and designer on residential projects: participation at all phases of design, from schematic to construction development; client communication; billing and invoicing; collaboration with local craftsmen.

7. CAREER BREAKS

2010 – 2017

- Full-time motherhood interspersed with independent design projects
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

8. RESEARCH FUNDING AND GRANTS

February 2026

- Grants for international travel. 700 euro.
JUNO, Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku. Finland.

October 2025

- Grants for international travel. 700 euro.
University of Turku Foundation. Finland.

June 2025

- Grants for research projects. 370 euro.
JUNO, Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku. Finland.

February 2025

- Grants for international travel. 400 euro.
JUNO, Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku. Finland.

November 2024

- Grants for scientific and artistic work. 5000 euro.
TOP-Säätiö. Finland.

June – December 2022

- Grants for Journalists, Artists, Historian and Activists. 2000 euro.
Balkan Transitional Justice Program, The Balkan Investigative Reporting House.

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network has selected 13 journalists, historians, artists and activists to receive grants to create small projects based on the archives of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague and domestic courts in former Yugoslav countries. The grant scheme is a part of the Enhancing Accountability and Memorialization Processes in the Balkans project, financed by the Matra Regional Rule of Law Program, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

September 2021 - March 2022

- Artist Grant. 15,000 aed / 3,700 euro
Al Qasimi Foundation, UAE, in collaboration with the United States Embassy. Aimed at bridging the cultural gap, the US Mission to the UAE Artist Grant allows artists from both countries to display their works beyond the borders. The outcome: Collection of metal sculptures, as well as 2 workshops and panel discussion.

March 2022

- Artist Grant. 5,000 aed / 1,200 euro
SIKKA Art Festival, Dubai Culture and Art Authority, UAE

March 2020

- Artist Grant. 2,500 aed / 600 euro
Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival, UAE

March 2019

- Artist Grant. 5,000 aed / 1,200 euro
SIKKA Art Festival, Dubai Culture and Art Authority, UAE

March 2017

- Artist Grant. 3,600 aed / 880 euro
SIKKA Art Festival, Dubai Culture and Art Authority, UAE
- Private Art Commission. 13,600 aed / 3,340 euro

9. RESEARCH OUTPUT

- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "Threads as Voices of Memory: Visual methodology for narrating trauma between body, site of memory, and tactile nature of (in)tangible narratives." *Not a Conflict: Colonial Infrastructure of Erasure in and about Palestine*, edited by Nama'a Qudah and Sabina Tanović. Springer Nature. *(forthcoming 2026)*.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "Memory Dissolved." Visual essay in "Subjective Atlas of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Ed. James Riding, Annelys de Vet, PCRC. Subjective Editions, 2025. pp.42-43.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma, and Sabina Tanović. "Chapter 4: Liminal Spaces of Memory and Remembrance: Realignment of Agonistic Interpretations at Sites of Complex Histories in Sarajevo." *Pathways to Agonism: Theoretical and Practical Approaches to the Memories of Disputed Territories*. Ed. Christina Horvath and Tomasz Rawski. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2025. pp. 120-144.
https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004736887_006.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "Disappearing absence: Retirement home mirrors decay of society in the process of a post-war reconstruction." Chapter Aesthetics in "Uncanny Horizons: Explorations of the "Unheimlich" in Literature, Film and Aesthetics." Ed. Charlie Jorge. Interdisciplinary Discourses, 2024. pp.134-149.
<https://www.lcir.co.uk/simp/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Uncanny-Horizons.pdf>.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "reTracing the Veil: Implied boundary and invisible wall." Visual essay chapter *Liminal Spaces* in "Interiors on Edge." Ed. Erica Morawski, Deborah Schneiderman, Karin Tehve, Keena Suh, and Karyn Zieve. Informa UK Ltd / Taylor & Francis / Routledge, 2024. pp.34-42.
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003457749-4/re-tracing-veil-selma-ćatović-hughes>.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma, Ena Kukić, & Sabina Tanović. "Uncementing Narratives: Memorial Architecture as a Way to Support Intergenerational Remembrance and Contest Dominant Memory Politics in Sarajevo." Critical reflection for chapter *Difficult Memories and Histories* in "Museums, Narratives, and Critical Histories: Narrating the Past for Present and Future." Ed. Kerstin Barndt and Stephan Jaeger. Museums and Narratives 1. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024. pp.303-316.
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110787443-018/html?lang=en>.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "Embedded and Retrieved: Full circle of life, birth and death within 42-square meters." Essay in special issue of *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly, Time and Temporality in Life Writing*. 46(4). University of Hawaii Press, 2023. pp.717-734.
- Ćatović Hughes, Selma. "Digital Storytelling: Memory...Sarajevo, my personal story." SIGraDI 2006.

10. RESEARCH SUPERVISION AND LEADERSHIP POSITION

2024

- KUMA Intl. Summer School and Field Trip. *Threads of Memory: Visual narratives as (re)construction of tangible and elusive collective remembrance*. Invited speaker. Sarajevo, BiH.

2022

- KUMA Intl. Summer School: "Between Past and Future." *Retracing Memory*. Invited speaker. Sarajevo, BiH.

2020

- KUMA Intl. Lectures: "Artists in Conversation...Art from Diaspora, Memory and Identity." *Memory: visual storytelling*. Invited speaker. Online, 2020.

2019

- KUMA Intl. Summer School: "Contemporary Art in Post-Conflict Society." *Weaving Memory: retrieved, encoded, reconstructed*. Invited speaker. Sarajevo, BiH.

11. TEACHING MERITS

2017 – 2023

- Adjunct Faculty, American University of Sharjah, UAE.
 - Design Foundations Studio: Introduction of the principle and methods of design; exploration of the graphic and material methods of representation needed to experiment with concepts of shape, form, and space; development of a visual and verbal design vocabulary; introduction of craft and making skills with a variety of materials and tools.
 - Descriptive Drawing II: Introduction of the principles of analytical drawing; development of a critical approach to representing form, space, and scale using a range of techniques, tools, and materials; exploration of various projective and perspective systems.
 - Skills: Preparation of course material, designing and writing course assignments, weekly lectures, evaluation of student work and writing student work progress evaluation 3-4 times per semester. Office hours extended to advise and guide students outside class time. Assembling course files, a mandatory document at the end of each semester to critically and factually reflect on success/failure of the course by sharing student works, evaluations and feedback.

2006 – 2007

- Adjunct Faculty, Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas, USA
 - First Year Architecture Studio: Introduction of the analysis and abstraction of observational drawings; exploration of the graphic and material methods of representation needed to experiment with concepts of shape, form, and space; introduction of craft and making skills with a variety of materials and tools.

2004 – 2005

- Graduate Student Adjunct Faculty, College of Environmental Design, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
 - First Year Architecture Studio: Introduction of the analysis and abstraction of observational drawings; exploration of the graphic and material methods of representation needed to experiment with concepts of shape, form, and space; introduction of craft and making skills with a variety of materials and tools.

12. AWARDS AND HONOURS

2024

- Paul Bartlett Re Lifetime Achievement Award. *Historical Healing Through Art*. University of New Mexico Foundation, Albuquerque, NM, USA
The recipient of the award may be an individual in any field who has pursued peace and harmony with creativity and dedication, and possible projects may be environmental, involve individual or social healing, sustainable energy, art and design, etc.

2023

- Public Prize. *Traces: a series of tactile memory*, ceramics.
21th Biennial de Ceramica d'Esplugues Angelina Alos, Barcelona, Spain.

2021

- Golden Residency Visa.
Nominated and granted by Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, UAE.
Golden Visa applicants in the category of 'Creative People in the field of Culture and Art' must be nominated (from a prestigious international or regional authority in the field) based on their

outstanding creativity recognized by critics, media and industry professional, as well as their active participation locally and internationally at exhibitions, festivals and forums.

2020

- Jury Award. *Unraveled*, textile multi-media installation. RAK Fine Arts Festival, UAE.

2005

- Medal of Excellence in Architecture, American Institute of Architects, Denver, USA
- Outstanding Graduate Class 2005, University of Colorado Denver, USA
- Arthur A. Fisher Travel Scholarship, American Institute of Architects, Denver, USA
- Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society, University of Colorado Denver, USA

1999

- Golden Key National Honor Society, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA

13. OTHER KEY ACADEMIC MERITS

2025

- Human Rights Day festival, Invited Speaker. *Threads as Voices of Memory: Utilizing creative frameworks of individual threads of memory and transforming them into a collective narrative.* Queen's University, Belfast / Ulster University, Derry / Conflict Textiles, Derry, Northern Ireland, 2025.
- TU Delft: "Architecture and Colonialism: The case of settler colonialism in Palestine." Invited speaker. *Threads of Memory: Tactile memory of transformative relationship between the body and place of cultural, social and sensory fragments.* Delft, The Netherlands, 2025.

2024

- Syracuse University Harry der Boghosian Fellowship Symposium: "Space-making Through Stories and Rituals." Invited speaker. Online / Syracuse, USA, 2024.
- American University of Sharjah, College of Architecture, Art and Design Lecture Series. Invited speaker. *Memory Trace: (re)interpretation of time, place and memory.* Sharjah, UAE.
- Syracuse University & KUMA International symposium and workshops: "Urban Seed Library as Memory Vessels." Invited speaker. Lecture and immersive site visit of "Forgotten Battlefield." Sarajevo, BiH.
- Membership. KUMA Intl. Center for Visual Arts for Post-Conflict Societies, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019
Kuma International is an organization established in Sarajevo in 2018 and dedicated to visual arts from post-conflict societies. Their unique mission is that of teaching the next generations how the arts can deal with difficult pasts and pursue transformation while fostering a dialogue between visual art, architecture, justice and reconciliation promoting a culture of remembrance, and collaboration among people coming from with different backgrounds.
- Membership. Memory Studies Association, 2019
The MSA is a professional association for Memory Studies scholars, as well as those who are active in museums, memorial institutions, archives, the arts and other fields engaged in remembrance. The objective is to become the most important forum for the memory field – both through an annual, international and interdisciplinary conference and through a strong online presence.

14. SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

2026

- AR@K26 Symposium: Reclaiming art! Creative expression as a building block in our social foundations, *Lecture and artistic installation.* Kristiania University of Applied Sciences, Oslo, Norway. (forthcoming April).

2025

- Cultural Study Days Symposium, Panel: "Cultural manifestation of pain and suffering." *Threads as Voices of Memory: Visual methodology for narrating trauma between body, site of memory, and tactile nature of (in)tangible narratives.* University of Turku, Finland.
- ABOAGORA Symposium of Arts, Humanities and Sciences: "Venus, the Bringer of Peace." *Concealed in Plain Sight: Transcribing transitional justice data between remembrance and erasure.* Art and research panel. Turku, Finland.
- SELMA Center for Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory Symposium: "Visual Arts, Narrative and Social Class." *Threads of Memory: Visual narrative as (re)construction of tangible and elusive collective memory.* University of Turku, Finland.
- SELMA Center for Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory, Symposium for doctoral researchers. *Exhumed Memories: Permeability of oral testimony in reconstructing intangible narratives.* University of Turku, Finland.

2024

- 9th International Symposium of the Finnish Oral History Network (FOHN 2024): "Memory in Movement: Pace, Connection & Introspection." [EXTRA] *Ordinary People: Transcribing oral testimonies through remembrance, erasure and healing ruptures*. University of Jyväskylä, Finland.
- The Barcelona Conference on Arts, Media & Culture (BAMC2024). International Academic Forum (IAFOR). *Exhumed Memories: Permeability of oral testimony in reconstructing intangible narratives*. Barcelona, Spain.
- London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: "Narratives of Temporality: Continuities, Discontinuities, Ruptures." *Intangible Repository: Tactile Memory of Cultural, Social and Sensory Fragments*. London / Online, UK.

2023

- Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH): "Agonism: Conflicting Interpretations of the Past, Participation Practices, and Transforming Cultural Venues." *Somatography of Memory Sediments*. Luxembourg.
*Public History as the New Citizen Science of the Past (PHACS), hosted by C²DH and funded by FNR (Luxembourg National Research Fund), develops public history and participatory models for interpreting the past.
- Disputed Territories & Memory: "Pathways to agonism." *Liminal Spaces of Memory and Remembrance (full paper)*. Kaunas, Lithuania / Krasnogruda, Poland.
*Disputed Territories and Memory (DisTerrMem) is a five-year project funded by Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation program, for understanding the successful management of competing memories of disputed territories.
- Memory Studies Association, 7th Annual Conference "Communities and Change." *Forgotten Battlefield: [re]interpretation of time, place and memory*. Newcastle, UK.

2022

- International Auto/ Biography Association (IABA) World Conference. *Visual Storytelling: [re]constructing memories*. Turku, Finland.
- London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: "The Place of Memory and the Memory of Place." *Embedded and Retrieved: Full circle of life, birth and death within 42 square meters (full paper)*. Oxford / Online, UK.
- Interior Provocations Symposium 2022: "onEDGE." Pratt Institute. *reTracing the Veil: Implied boundary and invisible wall (poster presentation)*. New York / Online.
- London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research: "The Aesthetics of Decay - Creative Modes of Destruction." *Post-War Reconstruction: Retirement home mirrors decay of society in a post-conflict country (full paper)*. London / Online.
- Memory Studies Association. 5th Annual conference "Convergences." *The Reality of Theory: Intergenerational Remembrance and Traumascape in Sarajevo (panel discussion)*. Warsaw, Poland / Online.

2019

- Memory Studies Association. 3rd Annual Conference. *[re]CONSTRUCTION: Analog Memory | Digital Storytelling*. Madrid, Spain.
- 13th International Design Principles + Practices Conference. *MEMORY: Visual Storytelling, long-term/short-term/sensory memory*. St. Petersburg, Russia.

15. OTHER MERITS: EXHIBITIONS

2024

- Fragments of Absence, mixed media acrylic installation, SIKKA Art Festival, Dubai, UAE.

2023

- Traces: a series of tactile memory, ceramics, "21th Biennial de Ceramica d'Esplugues Angelina Alos," Barcelona, Spain.
- Forgotten Battlefield. Memory trace: (re)Interpretation of time, space and memory, mixed media installation, solo exhibition, Sarajevo, BiH.
- Fragments of Absence, mixed media installation, Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival "Nature," RAK, UAE.

2022

- [re]Trace: Translating Vernacular Texture into Contemporary Artifacts, ceramics, SIKKA 10 Art Festival, Dubai, UAE.
- Fused: Fragments of Place, Identity and Textures, steel sculpture, mixed media, Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival, Artist Grant exhibition, RAK, UAE.
- Memory Landscape, mixed media, Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival "Journey," RAK, UAE.

2021

- [re]Trace: New Light within Vernacular Shadows, ceramics, Fine Arts Festival "Hope," RAK, UAE.

2020

- Unraveled, textile mixed media installation, Fine Arts Festival "Connecting Communities," RAK, UAE.
- Memory...Sarajevo: my personal story, illustrations, Etihad Modern Art Gallery "Exploring Bosnia," Abu Dhabi, UAE.

2019

- I.M.PERFECTION, bamboo, site-specific text installation, SIKKA 9 Art Festival, Dubai, UAE.

2018

- Unraveled: Life Under the Siege, textile mixed media installation, History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina "Reconciliation 2," Sarajevo, BiH.
- Deep Blue, ceramics, Alserkal Avenue Warehouse 44 "Material Pursuits," Dubai, UAE.
- Concealed / Revealed, photographs, Sharjah Art Foundation "Vantage Point 6," Sharjah, UAE.
- Abstraction of Everyday, illustrations, AUS faculty exhibition, Sharjah, UAE.

2017

- Butterfly Metamorphosis, steel sculpture, SIKKA 7 Art Festival, Dubai, UAE.

WORKSHOPS / GALLERY COLLECTIONS

2023

- Urban Sociology: Maps, Diagrams, Photomontage, Collage. 2-day Lecture and workshop. American University of Sharjah, UAE.

2022

- Recalculating: What do Art and Math have in common? Workshop. American University of RAK, UAE.
- Tracing Vernacular Textures. Workshop. Al Jazirah Al Hamra Heritage Village, RAK Art Festival, UAE.

2021

- [un]Seen: New Light Within Traditional Pattern. Workshop. Al Burda Festival "Liminal: The spaces between," Dubai EXPO, UAE.

2019

- I.M.PERFECTION. Permanent site-specific installation, Al Fahidi Historic Area, Dubai, UAE.

2017

- Butterfly Metamorphosis, steel sculpture. Private collection, Dubai, UAE.

2017

- Origami Lanterns. 9Hijri workshop, Alserkal Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE.

CONTACT INFORMATION OF REFEREES

- **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki**

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Docent, Department of History, Culture and Arts, Finland
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- **Kaisa Ilmonen**

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Docent, Department of History, Culture and Arts, Finland
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- **Sabina Tanović**

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Chair History of Architecture and Urban Planning, The Netherlands
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- **Claudia Zini**

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- **Nejra Mulaomerović**

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- **Eirik Heintz**

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