

Städtebau TU Wien



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RE'INVENTING THE CITY

European Forum Alpbach 2021

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RE'INVENTING THE CITY

Seminar Description

In recent years the ubiquitous social phenomenon of the 'city' has drawn extraordinary attention by a wide range of disciplinary fields - well beyond those of urban planners, engineers or architects. Major ecological, technological and social pressures have inspired a number of innovative actors to instigate transformative practices and develop creative ways of responding to impending challenges – from digitalization to climate change, from food security to public spaces, from mobility to urban culture. In this seminar we shall take a transdisciplinary look at old and new 'imaginaries' of the city and embark on a daring exercise in reimagining and ,re-inventing' the city of the 21st century!

Organizational Team

Angelika Psenner, Ian Banerjee, Emilia M. Bruck and Christian Teckert



Schwarzplan Athen für Plane und Broschüre © OpenStreetMap-Mitwirkende

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 *Thursday | 19.08.2021 | 9.30-12.30*

Introduction to Urban Imaginaries

Ian Banerjee | *Transition Theory: A descriptive theory of urban transformation*
Angelika Psenner | *What is Urban Planning?*
Thematic Input by Max Utech | *Off City*

DAY 2 *Friday | 20.08.2021 | 9.30-12.30*

Imagining the Fictional City

Angelika Psenner | *Reading Cities*
Susanne Tobisch | *Walkability and the City*

DAY 3 *Saturday | 21.08.2021 | 9.30-12.30*

Thematic Input by

Karoline Mayer | *Productive City*
Vanessa Braun, Daniel Löschenbrand, Sarah Gold | *Food and the City*

DAY 4 *Sunday | 22.08.2021 | 14.00 - 17.00*

Thematic Input by

Emilia Bruck | *Mobility, public space, self driving cars*
Christian Teckert | *The Algorithmic City*

DAY 5 *Monday | 23.08.2021 | 9.30 - 12.30*

Thematic Input by

Antonia Bogadi | *Nature Based Solutions and the City*
Christian Peer | *The role of urban laboratories as basic research infrastructure for urban transformation*

DAY 6 *Tuesday | 24.08.2021 | 8.30 - 10.30*

FINAL EXERCISE 'Reinventing the City'

DAY 1

Thursday | 19.08.2021 | 9.30 -12.30

Introduction to Urban Imaginaries

General Introduction

- > Team describes the program of the week
- > Introduction to 'What is a City?'
- > Urban discourses: Presentation of the themes & topics

Perspectives and backgrounds of participants

Team Input

- > Ian Banerjee | *Transition Theory: A descriptive theory of urban transformation*
- > Angelika Psenner | *What is Urban Planning?*

Thematic Input 1

- > Max Utech | *Off City*

Exercise of the Day

- > Formulate questions about the topic of 'Future of Cities and Urban Living'
- > Sketch out YOUR 'Urban Imaginary'
- > Presentation and Discussion

Topics, Issues and Questions Discussed

- 'Urban discourse and the imaginaries of the city'
- > Metaphors of the city: Just City, Entrepreneurial City, Smart City, Creative City, Arrival City etc.
- > What is meant by 'urban transformation'? Looking at 'change', 'transformation' and 'transition' through the lens of "transition theory"
- > How does urban planning work?

DAY 2

Friday | 20.08.2021 | 9.30 -12.30

Exercise: Creating a 'Fictional City'

Thematic Input 2

- > Angelika Psenner | *Reading Cities*

Exercise of the Day | Imagining the Fictional City

- > Creating the hard facts
name /place /size /geography /natural resources
- > Creating 'Utopia' with imaginative elements on a 'Figure-Ground Map'
- > Integrating the individual imaginaries/ sketches/ scenarios into a collective map/landscape

Thematic Input 3

- > Susanne Tobisch | *Walkability and the City*

DAY 3

Saturday | 21.08.2021 | 9.30 -12.30

Thematic Input 4

- > Karoline Mayer | *Productive City*

Thematic Input 5

- > Vanessa Braun, Daniel Löschenbrand, Sarah Gold | *Food and the City*

Exercise of the day

- > Create your mind map of the inputs
- > Discuss in small groups
- > Reflect together

DAY 4

Sunday | 22.08.2021 | 14.00 -17.00

Thematic Input 6

> Christian Teckert | *The Algorithmic City*

Thematic Input 7

> Emilia M. Bruck | Mobility, public space, self driving cars

Exercise of the day

- > Create your mind map of the inputs
- > Discuss in small groups
- > Reflect together

DAY 5

Monday | 23.08.2021 | 09.30 -12.30

Thematic Input 8

> Christian Peer | *The Role of Urban Laboratories as Basic Research Infrastructure for Urban Transformation*

Thematic Input 9

> Antonia Bogadi | Nature Based Solutions and the City

Exercise of the day

- > Create your mind map of the inputs
- > Discuss in small groups
- > Reflect together

DAY 6

Tuesday | 24.08.2021 | 8.30 -10.30

Final Exercise: 'Reinventing the City'

Exercise of the day | Negotiating the future of the city with the 'Fish-Bowl' Method

'Fish-Bowl'

- > a) a core group of participants will assume key roles of representatives of the city and have a debate on the policies of the key sectors of socio-economic development of the city of the future. The discussion is guided by the inputs and discussions of the last five days.
- > b) a peripheral group of participants will have the opportunity of joining in the debate by interjections by asking questions or challenging representatives
- > The outcome of the discussion will be visualized with an appropriate diagram (e.g. a large mind-map...)
- > The outcome will be compared with the exercise of DAY 1 - The 'Fictional City'

FINAL WRAP UP

What have we learnt in the six days of his workshop?

THEMES

Transition Theory and the Multi-Level Perspective

For the investigation of large scale socio-technical systems such as cities, 'Transition Theory' and 'Multi-Level-Perspective' prevent analytical lenses that offer an overall description of the relevant forces and dynamics of complex and systemic change processes. Furthermore, they are helpful as a practical tool to create future imaginaries in the form of rationally and emotionally convincing narratives on technological and behavioral developments.

Input by Ian Banerjee

Reading the City

There are different professional approaches to urban planning —the art and science of designing cities— which, depending on the situation, task and objective all have their justification. The discipline deals with the spatial, structural and formative development of cities and territories under the aspects of historical, cultural, social, political and economic dimensions. Obviously and due to the highly complex subject matter, in scientific treatises, just as real, urban planning-design interventions a comprehensive position that treats all topics equally can not be taken. Rather, it is a matter of focussing on certain relevant aspects in accordance with our respective training and intentions without, however, losing sight of the fact that these as a matter of fact only represent segments and facets of the holistic theme. First and foremost, it is important to read the highly complex system of the city, to recognise its potentials, values and problems and to not overlook relevant correlations. It is therefore primarily a matter of conveying, a way of reading urban space. Meaning, an adequate way of reading urban space and of dealing with the fundamental question of the forces that (co-)shape the city and the influences that create a certain urban space.

Input by Angelika Psenner

THEMES

Walkability and the City

The interface between the human body and the fabric of the city remains the most quintessential experience of the 'Urban'. From the playful 'Derive' of the psychogeographic movement in the 1960s in Paris to the political demands of the ecological movements of the 2020s - walkability has continuously played a key role in urbanism.

Input by Susanne Tobisch

Off City

OFF City is the contrasting complement to the SMART City, the economized and digitized city oriented towards efficiency. OFF places condense the narrative of the city, elude 'Surveillance Capitalism' and offer potential spaces as breeding grounds for the most diverse and inclusive urban habitat possible and the irrational. The OFF is seen as a specific quality for existing and future urban structures.

Input by Max Utech

Work and the Productive City

The 'productive city' wants to bring back production to the city - while keeping an eye on sustainable consumption. From the 'Rise of the Creative Class' by Richard Florida and the 'Creative City' by Charles Landry to the 'Fab City' movement in Barcelona, creating jobs by enhancing urban creativity has become a key concern in the post-growth era of the West. Where are we now?

Input by Karoline Mayer

THEMES

Food-Atlas Vienna

Food will be a key challenge of the 21st century. Along with the 'Productive City', innovative governments want to bring back food production into the city, while the network of citizen-led urban gardening projects is growing. But beyond perennial niches, what is the potential and need for reintroducing food production into cities? What is going on in this highly heterogeneous field?

Input by Vanessa Braun, Daniel Löschenbrand and Sarah Gold

The Algorithmic City - East Asian Examples

Nothing is changing the 'Urban' in such dramatic ways as the digital transformation. The 'Algorithmic City' takes a cyber-physical look at the rapidly growing entanglements between codes and physical objects - a condition that has never before occurred in human history.

Input by Christian Teckert

New Mobility Technologies and Urban Effects - What Is Changing?

In recent years, using an e-scooter, renting a bike or calling an Uber on the go has become an integral part of urban mobility. But the influx of these services has caught many cities unprepared, particularly as they introduce a fundamental realignment of urban mobility systems.

With further tech innovations such as automated vehicles on the rise, it is critical to understand how the changing mobility landscape is affecting public spaces and the built environment. How should New Mobilities be integrated into transport systems and the urban fabric? What are potential trade-offs? What can be done to increase the livability of cities?

Input by Emilia M. Bruck

THEMES

Urban Laboratories - Research Infrastructures for Urban Transformation

Urban innovation takes place in the experimental niches of the city. Often neglected by planning departments of cities, 'Urban Laboratories' are increasingly becoming the places of social and technological innovation. How do these urban laboratories look like? Why do we need them?

Input by Christian Peer

Urban Green Island and the City as Complex Adaptive System

Every city in the world will have to think about climate adaptation. Green Islands are a possible answer to the shifting climate zones and rising temperatures of relentless landscapes of concrete. However, more than mere design answers, the city will need institutional responses and new imaginaries of co-creation in order to create the much needed "complex adaptive systems" of the 21st century.

Input by Antonia Bogadi

ORGANIZATIONAL TEAM

Angelika Psenner is Professor of Urban Structure Studies at TU Wien. Her highly awarded research and teaching cover urban planning, development and design; theories on the city, Stadtparterre; productive city; resilience; use-neutral building structures, mobility, perception of urban space and architecture, 3D-modelling on an urban scale.

Ian Banerjee has been a lecturer and researcher at the Centre for Sociology at TU Wien since 2008. His teaching and research activities revolve around contemporary challenges of urbanism in the global context with focus on digital social innovation.

Emilia M. Bruck is a scientific researcher, lecturer and PhD candidate at the future.lab Research Center and the Research Unit for Local Planning at TU Wien. She is engaged in interdisciplinary research on urban futures with automated mobility, the urban effects of digital technologies and related planning approaches. Currently, she coordinates a research partnership with the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) on the spatial implications of digitization processes.

Christian Teckert is professor for Spatial Strategies at the Muthesius University of Arts in Kiel/Germany, lecturer in Urbanism at the Academy of fine Arts in Vienna and researcher leading projects like CURATING THE URBAN. On Spatializing Urban Conditions at halfway in Vienna. He was curator of exhibitions with the office for cognitive urbanism and designed the GfZK-2 in Leipzig with as-if architects. Author of numerous essays in the realms of art, visual culture, urbanism and spatial theory.

Susanne C. Stampf responsible for design and layout.

SPEAKERS

Susanne Tobisch is a Vienna based architect, PhD candidate and researcher at TU Wien. Her main research interests are urban development, public space and walkability.

Max Utech is a German architect based and licensed in Vienna with projects in urban design, architecture, research and art. He teaches and researches at the departments of Housing and Urban Design at TU Wien and is currently resident at Cité internationale des arts in Paris.

Karoline Mayer is an architect, curator, photographer and filmmaker. She curated – amongst others – the exhibitions 'Form follows Rule' and 'Land for us all' at the Architekturzentrum Wien. Since 2017 she is working on the topic of labour and production in the growing city.

Christian Peer is a cultural anthropologist, civil engineer, environmental and spatial planner and works as a researcher and scientific project manager at the future.lab Research Center of the Vienna University of Technology.

Antonija Bogadi is an expert on social network analysis (SNA), resilience and complex adaptive systems. She has developed innovative methods, maps and tools to build institutional capacity to evolve with change. She helps clients to adapt to climate change and enhance resilience in regions, cities, and communities.

Vanessa Braun, Sarah Gold & Daniel Löschenbrand are Master and PhD students at the Technical University of Vienna. With the work on their project *Food Atlas Wien* they combine their broad knowledge in the fields of urban planning and environment, with focus on the urban food system, resilient food production, sustainable architecture and urban parterre. They gained international experience in the field of architecture in locations such as Paris, Weimar and Gothenburg.

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