





ENABLING SPACES. SHIFTS, DRIFTS AND PARADOXES IN PUBLIC SPACE

Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 July 2019

Siteworks, 33 Saxon Street Brunswick

Enabling Spaces. Shifts, Drifts and Paradoxes in Public Space: Living Politics in the City 2. An international symposium where academia and practice meet to explore the connections and contradictions, tensions and paradoxes in contemporary public space. We will discuss new forms of identity and agency with private occupation of public space, how acts of appropriation by one party necessarily mean displacement of others, the informal rules that define or create contemporary public space and the layers of individual or collective relationships at play.

PROGRAM

MONDAY JULY 15

8:45	ARRIVAL (Tea and coffee)
9:15-9:45	WELCOME Professor Jane Burry, Dean, School of Design Kim Vincs, Co-director, Centre of Transformative Media Technologies
9:45-10:30	FRAMING THE SYMPOSIUM Carmen Popescu and Flavia Marcello
10:30-10:50	Morning Tea
10:50-12:30	SESSION 1: READING PUBLIC SPACE: RIGHTS AND USES
10:50-11:00	Introduction – session chair
11:00-11:20	Richard Mohr, Reclaiming the common from 'public' and 'private': An illustrated reflection on urban space, rights and practices
11:20-11:40	Angelique Edmonds, Exploring the obligations of proximal dwelling
11:40-12:00	Yvonne Meng, The Architecture of Footpaths
12:00-12:20	Discussion
12:30-1:3	Lunch at Siteworks
1:30-2:30	Travel from Siteworks to Enterprize Park (by public transport TBA)
2:30-4:30	The Aboriginal Yarra River Walk \sim 'Walkin Country, Walkin Birrarung' by Dean Stewart, Wemba Wemba-wergaia man
4:30-7:30	Free time
7:30 PM	Symposium dinner at Tiba's Lebanese Restaurant, 504-508 Sydney Rd, Brunswick (NB: venue is alcohol-free)



TUESDAY JULY 16

9:00	ARRIVAL (Tea and coffee)
9:30-11:00	SESSION 2: POLICIES AND POLITICS OF CRAFTING PUBLIC SPACE: ARCHITECTS AND URBANISTS AT WORK
9:30:9:40	Introduction – Session Chair
9:40-10:00	Isun A. Kazerani & Kirsten Day, Designing for New Typologies of Communal Spaces Through Activating Movement in Multi-residential Buildings
10:00-10:20	Adeola Enigbokan & Gavan Blau, Private Commons: Design Strategies for Public Space in the Netherlands
10:20-10:40	Iman Al-Attar The discrepancy of Baghdad's public spaces between the 19th and the 20th centuries
10:40-11:00	Discussion
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20-12:40	SESSION 3: POLICIES AND POLITICS OF CRAFTING PUBLIC SPACE: SOCIÉTÉ DU SPECTACLE
11:20-11:30	Introduction – Session Chair
11:30-11:50	Caterina Frisone, Individuals in Crowded Places
11:50-12:10	Pavel Kunysz & Eric Le Coguiec, The long-term consequences of temporary urbanism. Effects on place identity negotiation and instrumentalization of public participation
12:10-12:30	Zeynep Küçük & Hülya Imge Yilmaz, Monumentalizing the Present: The Case of Atatürk Cultural Center in Istanbul
12:30-12:50	Discussion
12:50-2:00	Lunch break
2:00-3:45	Round Table – Technologies of Public Space (Ian Woodcock, Director of Urban Design, School of Design/Centre for Design Innovation, Swinburne University; Angela Ndalianis, Co-director of Centre of Transformative Media Technologies; invited scholars)
3:45-4:00	Coffee break
4:00-5:00	WRAP-UP & DISCUSSION
7.00-3.00	Flavia Marcello and Carmen Popescu (and all participants)

ENABLING SPACES. SHIFTS, DRIFTS AND PARADOXES IN PUBLIC SPACE

Space can be performed, made, manifested, enacted, marked, inhabited, occupied. It is taken and re-taken, territorialised and de-territorialised and re-territorialised, it is endlessly becoming. All these processes enable space to be more than geographical location, thus gaining symbolic dimensions and thus able to communicate. The private and public spheres entangle a different enactment of space: the private sphere is more perceived as a natural realm for self-nesting, while the public one is understood in terms of (neutral) sharing. But public space is far from being neutral nor is its sharing equitable. Metaphors like 'stage' and 'arena', often used in relation to public space, are symptomatic of this.

In addition to these explicit or implicit tensions, and sometimes in direct relation to them, the public sphere involves permeability between publicity and privacy: the assumed privacy of domestic spaces, the semi-privacy of ritual spaces, the semi-publicness of commercial spaces and the publicness of streets, squares and parks. But all these different degrees rest on distinctions and conventions that are becoming increasingly blurred. Public spaces may be privately owned, front of house becomes back of house, television makes a public spectacle of idealised domestic space and social media reveals unintended aspects of private identities or facilitates façades for alternative public ones. Moreover, those deprived of space - people experiencing homelessness, migrants, refugees live their intimacy in public, constantly scrutinized, controlled and denied privacy.

How can the enablement of space be read or reinterpreted in this context? Which politics become possible and how are they foreclosed or facilitated by new and hybrid forms of public space? If democracy supposedly rests on distinctions between private and public, what is its role today as these categories become increasingly blurred? What has it meant to be political in public space and in what ways does contemporary public space enable forms of political action?

This symposium builds on the conversations started at the symposium 'Leaving Traces: Living Politics in the City' held in Rennes in November 2018.

Conceived, convened and organised by Flavia Marcello and Carmen Popescu.

Scientific Committee: Marion Hohlfeldt, University of Rennes 2; Flavia Marcello, Swinburne University; Carmen Popescu, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Bretagne; Frédéric Sotinel, GRIEF Laboratory research centre & Ian Woodcock, Swinburne University. In collaboration with the University of Rennes 2.

