22@ Barcelona Sympolab
A SkypeLab & RMIT Europe Event

What:
22 invited academics, artists, designers, architects, PhD candidates, students and urban thinkers from Australia, Germany, Spain, Italy, Norway and Japan are participating in the 22@Barcelona Sympolab: 100 Questions symposium and Mapping the Unmappable laboratory.

Sympolab participants are invited to:
- pre read publications and participant details at www.skypelab.org
- bring 1-3 questions related to the impact of digital screen mediation on your field of inquiry and practice
- bring an A3 poster of a concept/project/practice to share with the group
- bring along pre-prepared items, mobiles, cameras to assist the mapping process
- present & discuss future connections & opportunities

Where:
RMIT Europe Media-TIC, Level 5, Room 3, 117 Carrer de Roc Boronat, 22@ Innovation District, Barcelona.
This experimental district transforms two hundred hectares of industrial land from within Poblenou into an ‘innovation’ district that concentrates knowledge-based activities including design, media, information and communication technologies.

When:
Wednesday 21 November, 1pm-6pm & Thursday 22 November, 10am-3pm.

Sympolab Concept:
The concept for the 22@ Barcelona Sympolab grew out of the SkypeLab research 2012-2018 that asked:
What is the impact of digital screen mediation on perceptions of contemporary identity and spatial knowledge?
What new questions arise? What role does artistic mapping practice play?

Through a symposium based around questions and a laboratory addressing mapping the unmappable, the aim is to extend the SkypeLab parameters to new areas of inquiry into urban identity, perception and knowledge through a transdisciplinary and transcultural dialogue. The sympolab takes its starting point from two publications: ‘Skypeography’ by Maggie McCormick (Journal of Public Space - City Space Architecture, Italy & UN Habitat) & ‘Eagle-eye on Identity in the Digital World. Evolution and Challenges’ by Stéphane Chaudron and Henning Eichinger (Joint Research Centre JRC report for the European Commission).

The anticipated outcome is a Kompendium to be launched at the SkypeLab exhibition at the Baden-Württemberg Embassy, Berlin 2019.

Background: www.skypelab.org
SkypeLab is an Australian/German research initiative led by Maggie McCormick (Adjunct Professor, RMIT University and Professor, Reutlingen University) & Henning Eichinger (Professor, Reutlingen University). The research aims to develop insights into urban identity and space and new ways of integrating digital tools into art and design though connecting art and science methodologies including the role of the hand in digital space. Within long timeframes and geographical distances, the research purposefully brings together differing time zones, seasons and cultures mediated through digital screens, where all are collapsed into a common space. It has been undertaken as a series of laboratories within increasingly expanding networks across disciplines and mediums, universities and cities, to date connecting Australia, Germany, China, Brazil, Colombia and now Spain. Multiple outcomes include projections, performances, public space and gallery exhibitions, publications and conference presentations. SkypeLab is supported by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation, Germany and is presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institut Australien, RMIT University research group CAST (Contemporary Art and Social Transformation) and the Reutlingen University RRI (Reutlingen Research Institute).