

POETICIZING THE URBAN APPARATUS

AUGUST 13-15 2013
New York NY

CONFERENCE
PROGRAM



SCENES *of*
INNOVATION

CONTENT

“The city is . . . poeticized by the subject: the subject has refabricated it for his or her own use by undoing the constraints of the urban apparatus and, as a consumer of space, imposes his or her own law on the external order of the city”

- Michel De Certeau

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INTRODUCTION

The Culture of Cities Centre presents Poeticizing the Urban Apparatus: Scenes of Innovation, an international conference at the Starrett-Lehigh building in New York August 13-15, 2013. This conference is sponsored by the Center for Social Innovation, bringing together artists, activists, academics and cultural innovators.

In the context of the conference, we understand social innovation to refer to a variety of activities that seek to change existing practices in order to transform and strengthen civic society. Despite great interest in the question of how the city itself provides an organizing form for the transformation of cultural practices, their reception remains underanalyzed. By studying how scenes enable urban interaction and are generative of social change, this conference engages new perspectives on cultural practices central to social innovation. In this context, innovation is dialectical in relation to time, social in its creation of a relationship among participants, and decisive in its appeal to new modes of engagement and action.



ALAN BLUM
Executive Director
Culture of Cities Centre

Dear Colleagues:

I want to take this opportunity to thank and welcome with pleasure all of you to our conference, Poeticizing the Urban Apparatus: Scenes of Innovation, in New York City August 13-15th, 2013. I am particularly excited by the interdisciplinary and international response to this interest in challenging urban routines and in renewing the quality of city life. The papers offer a diverse collection of strategies for adding value to the discourse on urban social change.

In this spirit, at the Culture of Cities Center, we have engaged social innovation not as sacred, but as an incentive for opening discussion on various methods for revitalizing the city. We examine cases of innovative practice not only in the corporate world but also in various avant-garde movements in the arts, in technologically driven modifications of relations and in the constant reinvention of ideas and materials. We question how innovation is created as a social and cultural process and examine the consequences for cities.

I anticipate the conference to be a prospective forum for sustaining this dialogue and an important opening for the first Annual Meeting of the International Association of the Study of the Culture of Cities. It is important too, that the conference takes place in a great city, with the distinctive cultural weight of Chelsea, one of its historic communities. We are especially grateful to The Centre for Social Innovation, our primary sponsor, for the opportunity to engage in their newly created meeting and work space at the Starrett-Lehigh building.

ORGANIZERS



ELKE GRENZER
Director
Culture of Cities Centre



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to New York for “Poeticizing the Urban Apparatus: Scenes of Innovation” on August 13-15, 2013. This conference addresses the relationship between the urban apparatus and scenes of cultural innovation. At first glance the title of this meeting might suggest that scenes of innovation are forms of enchantment that operate against the bureaucratic rationality of the city, appearing as an antidote to the technical, administrative and formal functions of the “urban apparatus”. Other formulations position scenes of urban innovation—art and culture in particular—as instrumental values for the city to exploit. The panels, papers and events of this conference develop a line of thinking that transcends these extremes of enchantment or commodification. They begin to carve out an urgently needed space in the recent turn toward art and culture for reimagining cities.

Whether in case studies on gentrification, place-building, art festivals and events, or through explorations of the tenuous line between nature and the urban, the presentations here define the debate surrounding both mass and marginal phenomena that underlie scenes of innovation. Rather than accept innovation at face value, the proposed papers investigate the human condition and its expression in the sensorium of new media and affect through literature, theatre, artistic works and spatial transformations. Marvin Taylor’s presentation on the downtown New York art scene, for example, brings us to a point prior to digital media, not by way of nostalgia, but as an occasion to open and reexamine the relationship between aesthetics and politics that persists in any scene of innovation.

The topics, ranging from art scenes, to new alimentary movements such as entomophagy, to new uses of space and streetscapes and the design of salons and events, reveal scenes of innovation to be narratives of conflict and aesthetic configurations of desire that inescapably mark experiences of the city and its turbulent public life. Our program is intended as an itinerary through these representations and is designed to subvert the anonymous large-scale conference format by creating opportunities for collegial discussion, exchange and continued collaboration. Please enjoy the eclectic program and connect with us at the concluding roundtable brunch to animate and enact a robust scene of innovation.

The Culture of Cities Centre is located in downtown Toronto at the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI Annex) and in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo. The Centre’s primary function is to engage an international public through book series, journals, research projects and conferences. Our publications, special events, workshops, and conferences are devoted to new ways of representing, shaping and defining urban culture. This conference is aligned with our Centre’s mandate to generate interpretive research and teaching that can serve as a catalyst for activities and events that influence participation in the city. The Centre is in its thirteenth year of operation, beginning from the inception of the SSHRC-funded Culture of Cities Project in 1999, to the founding of the Culture of Cities Centre in 2000, to the collective’s branching out in 2005 to study discourses of health in the Grey Zone of Health and Illness project, to our present work on scenes of urban innovation.

SCHEDULE

IASCC INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE CULTURE OF CITIES

The International Association for the Study of the Culture of Cities is an interdisciplinary forum for colleagues with intellectual interests in developing innovative approaches to interpretive arts, methods, strategies and programs of inquiry to represent qualitative vectors of urban life. The Association organizes a structure of collegial encounters through an annual conference, workshops, and special events, exhibitions, film series, and on-line presentations. As part of its commitment to fostering and developing new research, the Association sponsors two book series devoted to publishing experimental and innovative research in qualitative studies of everyday life and is committed to encouraging publishing opportunities for scholars, artists, and practitioners of the city.

DAY

1

Tuesday
August 13th

1:00-2:00PM

Registration

2:00-2:50PM

Welcome

Elke Grenzer, Director, Culture of Cities Centre

Eli Malinsky, Executive Director, New York City, Center for Social Innovation

Plenary Address

Alan Blum, Executive Director, Culture of Cities Centre

3:00-5:00PM

Panels 1 & 2

Panel 1: Gentrification

Erin Siodmak (Hunter College, USA) & **Josh Scannell** (CUNY Graduate Center, USA)

Up the Punx? ABC No Rio's Oppositional Politics and the Gentrification of NYC's Lower East Side

Judith DeSena (St. John's University, USA)

Expressions of Gentrification

Luisa Veloso (Lisbon University Institute, Portugal)

You Should Look Better: Proposals for Renovating Urban Public Space

Jerry Krase (Brooklyn College NY, USA)

Selling the New Brooklyn (Again)

Panel 2: Art and Culture

Anh-Thu Ngo (Harvard University, USA)

Public Art in Vietnam

Francesco Bondanini (University of Granada, Spain)

Art, Activism, and Participation on the Borders of Europe

Mariana Botero (Rhode Island School of Design, USA)

Re-Writing the City

Han Zhang (York University, Canada)

Untranslatability and Innovation in Cross-Cultural Research

5:00-8:00PM

Wine & Cheese Cocktail

"I'll Be Your Mirror": The Downtown New York Collection at NYU

Presentation by **Marvin Taylor**

Director at Fales Library & Special Collections, NYU

(For more information, see page 11.)

DAY

2

Wednesday
August 14th

9:00-10:45AM

Panels 3 & 4

Panel 3: Specific City Scenes

Kieran Bonner (St. Jerome's University, Canada)
Cafés and Coffee Shops: The Politics of Taste and the Taste of Politics

David Coyles (University of Belfast, Northern Ireland)
Re-place: The Titanic Rebranding of Architecture and Space in Post-Conflict Belfast

Carolyn Duffey (San Francisco Art Institute, USA)
Port-Au-Prince: Space, Place, and the Revolutionary Poetics of "Grand Rue"

Emily Roehl (The University of Texas at Austin, USA)
Public Art and the City: Walker Art Center's "Open Field"

Panel 4: Representing Urban Experience

Tabea Michaelis (HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany)
Randonnée of Possibilities: An Artistic Research Approach on the Programmatic Space of Possibilities in Wilhelmsburg

Bernd Kniess (HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany)
Hotel as a Method? A DIY Low-Budget, High-Quality Community-Run, Luxury-Hotel and "University as Marketplace" in the Neighbourhood

Bernd Kniess & Ben Pohl (HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany)
Working Worlds – Exploring Wilhelmsburg: A Performative Videographic Approach

Ben Pohl & Hans Vollmer (HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany)
Being Embedded: A Research Within Spatial and Economic Practices of Local Embedded Gastronomic Entrepreneurs

10:45-11:00AM

Break

11:00-12:45PM

Panels 5 & 6

Panel 5: Translating Entomophagy

Marianne Shockley (University of Georgia, USA)
Ethical Foods and the Potential for Edible Insects

Dave Gracer (Independent Scholar, USA)
Entomophagy Deconstructed: What We're Talking About When We Discuss the Problems with Insect Consumption

Louis Sorkin (American Museum of Natural History, USA)
Entomophagy: Another Buffet Line

Panel 6: Design/Event

David Koren (Executive Producer, Figment, USA)
Figment

John Laueremann (Clark University, USA)
Urban Events as Temporary Urbanism: Planning and Designing For Events in the City

Mike Blockstein (Public Matters, USA) & **Jeremy Liu** (Creative Ecology Partners, USA)
Towards an Ethics and Aesthetics of Place

Helen Yung (Culture of Cities Centre, Canada)
Marginalia: Making Visible the Epistemic Journey of Artistic Research

12:45-1:45PM

Lunch

Sample the food trucks downstairs or take a walk on the High Line - entrance in front of building

DAY

2

Wednesday
August 14th

1:45-3:30PM

Panels 7 & 8

Panel 7: Aesthetic Works

Jean-François Côté (UQAM, Canada)
Pathos-Ethos-Logos: Working at the Margins of the Metropolis

Amparo Lasén (University Complutense of Madrid, Spain)
Loud Cell Phones and Videoed Choreographies as Modes of Engaging the City through Listening

Saeed Hydaralli (York University, Canada)
Innovation and Urban Mobility: Are We There Yet?

Joyce E. Sanchez (Instituto Tecnológico de Artes, Ecuador)
Ethnology of an Urban Pedagogy of Interdisciplinary Art. Promoting a Social Didactic in the City

Panel 8: Publics/Practitioners

Jeremy Liu (Creative Ecology Partners, USA)
De-Industrializing the American Dream, One Social Network at a Time

Hiroko Kikuchi & Jeremy Liu (Creative Ecology Partners, USA)
Creative Determinants of Health

Stephen Gambescia (Drexel University, USA)
Running the Urban Landscape: Reconstructions of Risk

Marjan Verstappen (OCAD University, Canada)
Mindfulness Technologies in ACT Therapy: Mobile Experience Lab at OCAD University

3:30-3:45AM

Break

3:45-5:15PM

Panels 9 & 10

Panel 9: Collectives/Conflicts

Scott Tate (Virginia Tech University, USA)
Creative Confinements and Contestations: The Role of Art and Culture in Enabling or Transcending Urban Boundaries or Divisions

Michael Cumming (Ambitious City, Canada)
Innovation in Urban Design Using Distributed Social Processes

Stefka Lubenova (York University, Canada)
Through or Head-On: Toronto's Union Station Redevelopments

Panel 10: Narrative Spaces

Nate Mickelson (CUNY, USA)
"Not with my hands/but with my imagination": City Poetry and Spatial Practice in Lewis MacAdam's The River

Antje Budde (University of Toronto, Canada)
The Beauty of the Real(ity): How Street Scenes Make (Multi-Media) Performance

Martha Jane Nadell (Brooklyn College, USA)
Imagining Brooklyn: Narratives of Space in Contemporary Fiction

7:30-10:00PM

FUTURE
FOOD
SALON

For more information, see page 12.

DAY

3

Thursday
August 15th

9:45-11:30AM

Panels 11 & 12

Panel 11: Scenes/Theory

David Toews (York University, Canada)
The Power of the Contemporary Scene

Nadia Anderson (Iowa State University, USA)
Pop-Up! Time Check: Inverting the Apparatus of Post-Disaster Development

Uta Gelbke (Graz University of Technology, Austria)
Zero Points of Resistance

Steve Bailey (York University, Canada)
Innovation Between Heresy and Transcription

Panel 12: Specific Cities

Friederike Schroeder (University of Hamburg, Germany)
Informality as Strategy: Experimenting with Urban Space in Guangzhou, China

Katharina Wischmann (University of Hamburg, Germany) &
Michelle Catanzaro (University of Western Sydney, Australia)
In/Visible Urban Contestations: Visual Explorations in Hamburg and Sydney

Ajay Gandhi (Max Planck Institute, Germany)
Looking Without Seeing: Deliberate Forms of Obscurity in Delhi

Eric Erbacher (University of Münster, Germany)
This Marx the Karl: Popular Music as a Catalyst for Social Innovation in Chemnitz, Germany

11:30-11:45AM

Break

11:45-1:30PM

Panels 13 & 14

Panel 13: The Commons

Payal Arora (Erasmus University, Netherlands)
Bridging Architectures of Innovation: Mapping the Urban and Digital Commons for a More Integrated Perspective

Francisco Cruces Villalobos (Grupo Cultura Urbana, UNED, Spain)
Madrid Cosmopolis: Emerging Urban Practices and the Rise of a New Common Sense

Bruce Janz (University of Central Florida, USA)
Digital Place and Urban Space

Panel 14: (Un)Natural Objects

Kelsey Speakman (York University, Canada)
Long Live the Queen: Bee Stories of Love, Loss and Survival

Vladimir Mikadze (McGill University, Canada)
Contemporary Cities and Place-Deviation: The Space-Contestation Practices of Urban Gardeners

Aidan Dahlin Nolan (New York University, USA)
Community Canoe: Re-membering our Relationship with Urban Wetlands

1:30-3:30PM

Brunch

Scenes of Innovation Roundtable Discussion

3:45-5:00PM

IASCC Meeting



AUGUST 13 2013
5:00-8:00PM

Opening Reception

"I'll Be Your Mirror": The Downtown New York Collection at NYU

Presentation by **Marvin Taylor**
Director, Fales Library & Special Collections, NYU

Since 1994, Marvin J. Taylor has been documenting New York City's downtown arts scenes that developed in SoHo and the East Village. Postmodern dance, punk rock, and performance art are just a few of the innovations and transgressions that abounded downtown, giving rise to new modes of institutional critique that have left not only academia and the art world transformed, but also popular culture and our daily lives. Taylor will present an overview of the collection, highlighting the trends and themes that concerned artists in the early post-conceptual days of the 1970s through the decimation of the scene in the early 1990s by the AIDS crisis.

FUTURE FOOD SALON.

AUGUST 14 2013
7:30-10:00PM

Future Food Salon Manhattan:
Crickets on the Tip of Your Tongue

At the Future Food Salon, we invite you to experience food as a scene of innovation. Food is the focus of contemporary movements that strive in inventive ways to sensitize us to how it is cultivated and made, and how it circulates in the city. Our series is designed as a creative disruption to prompt us to reflect on what food is as an ideal and to change the processes of consumption and production. The Salons are about seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting, and pressing this sensory exploration to impel a collective sixth sense: an intuition or premonition of a better world realized together in the cities where we live.

Aruna Handa, Founder of Alimentary Initiatives, and Elke Grenzer, Director of the Culture of Cities Centre host these Salons to bring together artists and musicians, thinkers and architects, mixologists and theorists, food enthusiasts and producers to ponder and taste the future. The current series invites award-winning chefs and cooks like Cookie Martinez to create canapés designed to seduce you to taste crickets.

Our featured speaker, Jakub Dzamba, inventor and PhD architecture student at McGill University, presents his ideas about integrating insect rearing into the very fabric of buildings in our cities. He demonstrates his cricket farming prototypes, including his latest invention, the counter-top cricket farm. We'll also hear from Pat Crowley of Chapul Bars and Harman Johar of World Ento, representing two companies innovating edible insect products in the food space. You are invited to meet artists Han Zhang and Helen Yung and contribute to their collaborative art piece Like Manna From Heaven. There will be a curated collection of books, journals and archival material on entomophagy, and you will have an opportunity to graph your impression of the tastes you sample using a new tablet technology courtesy of Gastrograph.

We will serve cricket canapés and delicacies to taste as well as cocktails, craft beer and mead wine.

Video

in pulse

Kim Morgan (NSCAD University, Canada)

Video

in pulse is a research-driven project as an inquiry into questions around the relationship of affective spaces and the body in urban sites using locative mobile technologies. The first stage of our research was development of prototypes for data capture and transmission coordinated to GPS for the video data. Our first site is Paris in the following locations:

- Arcades / The Passages
- Bastille Market
- Galerie Lafayette
- La Défense
- La Gare du Nord
- Le Forum Des Halles – Commercial Centre

We approached these locations and situations as arteries of the city to explore, respond to and to collect data using the dérivian structure of the Situationists Internationale to incorporate chance encounters and play. Our interest was in places, events, or interactions that affect the experience of space, taking into account the different ways individuals – ourselves and other people - react to and experience people, places and things. Our devices were android smart phones to capture video footage and data controllers with sensors for heart beat / pulse.

As artist-researchers and collaborators, we are based in different regions of Canada, where we are developing distinct technological devices. In Saskatoon, Ellen Moffat constructed controller-driven low-level operation systems with physical sensors; in Halifax, Kim Morgan developed apps for an android smart phone. The next stage of the project entails integrating the controller and android as a hybrid unit as well as capturing data of footsteps and breath. We will also focus on other urban centers.

SPONSORS

Art



天上掉馅饼/Like Manna From Heaven
Han Zhang & Helen Yung
Installation

天上掉馅饼 / Like Manna From Heaven is an art installation created by Han Zhang and Helen Yung for the event, Crickets On The Tip of Your Tongue, a Future Food Salon hosted by Alimentary Initiatives and Culture of Cities Centre.

Inspired by the Chinese expression 天上掉馅饼 (literally, pie from the sky, meaning “free and delicious food falling from heaven”), the installation invites viewers to contemplate gifts from above, and describe their taste and texture. Nature blesses us with so many “free and delicious” food alternatives. What does manna from the future taste like to you?

A collection of ancient Chinese poems in praise of food was selected and hand-written in Chinese calligraphy on over 100 feet of rice paper. The paper was then cut by hand to create organic forms reminiscent of baskets, fishing nets, beehives, chrysalises... To envision the future of food, sometimes we need to look to our past relationship with nature. How do we maintain our gratitude for nature and eliminate exploitation?



The Centre for Social Innovation is a co-working space, community and launchpad for people who are changing the world, with three locations in Toronto and a location in New York City. We provide our members with the tools they need to accelerate their success and amplify their impact. We're building a movement of nonprofits, for-profits, entrepreneurs, artists, and activists working across sectors from farming to finance and everything in between. Together, we're catalyzing new ideas for a better world.

The Centre for Social Innovation opened its New York City location in May 2013. Our goal is to support and catalyze the local social innovation movement.



Alimentary Initiatives operates in the food culture space in both corporate settings and the public arena. Currently we offer three initiatives aimed to turn problems in the food system into opportunities. The Taste Labs address cooking, and are a fresh approach to team-building and employee rewards, inviting guests to contemplate the very building blocks of flavour. The Office Markets address distribution creating new channels for local food producers to get their products to the our tables, and making finding local food convenient for the consumer. The Future Food Salons invite guests to contemplate and taste what we might be eating in the future. Salons are scenes of innovation, collaboration and creation. Wrestling the topic of the future of food away from government and industry captains in favour of artists, chefs, inventors, philosophers and growers, we unleash the imagination to realize the future of food in the present.



The Fales Library, comprising nearly 250,000 volumes, close to 10,000 linear feet of archive and manuscript materials, and about 75,000 audiovisual elements, houses the Fales Collection of rare books and manuscripts in English and American literature, the Downtown Collection, the Food and Cookery Collection, the Riot Grrrl Collection, and the general Special Collections of the NYU Libraries.

We maintain a closed stacks reading room for scholarly access to our book collections, archival and manuscript collections, and media holdings. We also host public events and exhibitions, provide bibliographic instruction to class groups, and loan material from our collections for exhibitions and screenings worldwide.

Our mission is to acquire, preserve, and provide access to a wide range of primary research materials in their original formats, including books, manuscripts, media, archives, and other items in support of the educational and research activities of our various constituencies.



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Culture of Cities

Series editors: Kieran Bonner and Will Straw

Cities have long been a key focus of innovative work in the humanities and social sciences. In recent years, the city has assumed new importance for scholars working on cultural issues across a wide range of disciplines. Sociologists, anthropologists, media specialists, and scholars of literature, art, and cinema have come to emphasize the distinctly urban character of many of their objects of study. Those who study processes of globalization are drawn to analyzing cities as the places in which these processes are most deeply felt or where they are most strongly resisted. The Culture of Cities series has its roots in an international research project of the same name, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada during the period 2000-05. The series includes books based in the work of that project as well as other volumes that reflect the project's spirit of interdisciplinary inquiry.



Circulation and the City: Essays on Urban Culture
Edited by Alexandra Boutros and Will Straw



The Imaginative Structure of the City
Alan Blum



Urban Enigmas: Montreal, Toronto, and the Problem of Comparing Cities
Edited by Johanne Sloan



Cartographies of Place: Navigating the Urban
Edited by Michael Darroch and Janine Marchessault (upcoming)



Culture, Disease, and Well-Being: The Grey Zone of Health and Illness

Series editor: Alan Blum

The series, Culture, Disease, and Well-Being: The Grey Zone of Health and Illness, represents the work of a multidisciplinary project in Medical Humanities funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and based in downtown Toronto at the Culture of Cities Centre which is supported by the Faculty of Arts, University of Waterloo. The Grey Zone project develops a framework for studying health and illness by isolating a range of case studies in which the tension between medicine's promise and its particular interpretations and incorporations become visible and dramatic under conditions of modern life. The idea of the Grey Zone identifies the ways in which indeterminacy, uncertainty, and ambiguity inhabit our interpretations and actions even when they are most resolute and appear most unassailable.



The Method of Metaphor
Stanley Roffel



Spectacular Death: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Mortality and (Un)representability
Edited by Tristanne Connolly



The Grey Zone of Health and Illness
Alan Blum



Of Indeterminate Birth
Edited by Elke Grenzer and Jan Plecash (upcoming)



URBANITIES

Now Accepting Manuscripts for New Book Series: Urbanities

Series editors: Alan Blum, Director, Culture of Cities Centre (Toronto), York University, University of Waterloo: blum@yorku.ca

This new book series continues interdisciplinary research and theorizing inaugurated by the Culture of Cities Centre in Toronto and its projects on the arts, material culture, and everyday life in cities.

We are now accepting manuscripts that focus upon investigations of the urbane as a regime of thinking, feeling, and action. Urban centrality has always functioned as a lure for those seeking to be near the seat of action and sensuality in any civilization, giving the city the aura of the contemporary, creating the spell of the experience of the mode and the moment, inducing any and all to address what it is to be attuned in any present.

The coexistence of participation and detachment as a sensual encounter in the midst of change that distinguishes urbanity as a means of self fashioning in any present, invites the systematic reinvention of ideas and conduct in the marketplace of influences, including styles and scenes in consumption, fashion, arts and information, knowledge and technology, and regimes of care for self and other.

The social practices of urbanity are observable in the arts and sciences, aesthetically, ethically, and politically, in the organization of public and private settings of everyday life, in the various projects, enterprises and initiatives that mark the institutional landscape of the contemporary in ways appealing to the authority and code of urbanity and to being up-to-date, and in the social scripts, public writings, and collective formulae that purport to describe the present as eventful.



IASCC INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF THE CULTURE OF CITIES