

U&U - SEMINAR
8th February 2018
2:30 - 7:00 pm

ON

REPRODUCTION

LUKASZ STANEK

DEATH AND LIFE OF URBAN KNOWLEDGE ECOLOGIES

HILLARY ANGELO

URBANIZED NATURE: GREENING AS CITY MAKING

CHIARA TORNAGHI

FROM THE FOOD-DISABLING CITY TO AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

The seminar will be held at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Campus Boekentoren, Jozef Plateau straat 22, 9000 Ghent. It will take place on Thursday 8th February from 2:30pm to 7:00pm. The event is organized in the framework of the 9th PhD Seminar on Urbanism and Urbanization. The registration fee for the afternoon program (for all those who are not participating in the U&U PhD Seminar) is 35€. The seminar is free for PhD students who are enrolled in one of the Doctoral Schools of Ghent University. Registration is mandatory. You can find more info about the topic of the PhD seminar and about the registration method on: www.ugent.be/ea/uu.

Program

Intro by

Michiel Dehaene

(Ghent University)

On Reproduction

Łukasz Stanek

(University of Manchester)

Death and Life of Urban Knowledge Ecologies

Urban knowledge production in hegemonic western centres is characterised today by a double bind: the call for a diversification of this knowledge beyond normative Western concepts is paralleled by a systematic erasure of such diversity as it actually existed in the second half of 20th century. The focus on a number of schools of architecture in postcolonial and post-dependence countries in the 1960s and 1970s, including Kumasi (Ghana), Zaria (Nigeria), Constantine (Algeria), or Baghdad (Iraq) shows a real experience of diversification of knowledge about urbanisation processes beyond its unilateral flow from Western (colonial) metropolises. Benefiting from the multiplicity of the global networks of solidarity during the cold war, which were not restricted to the dichotomy between socialist and capitalist countries but included a variety of "third-worldist" projects, these sites became centres where competing concepts, methodologies, and epistemic frameworks were debated, tested, and developed. These diversified ecologies of urban knowledge were

buried in the rubbles of the Berlin Wall and devaluated as "ideological" according to western cold-war discourse. By drawing on archival materials from West Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe, this talk revisits these ecologies in order to rethink urbanisation since the cold war beyond cold-war categories.

Hillary Angelo

(University of California)

Urbanized nature: Greening as citymaking

This lecture provides a framework for understanding urban "greening," the normative practice of using nature to fix problems with urbanism. I argue that greening is marked by a paradox: while greening projects spatialize protagonists' specific judgments about ideal forms of urban society and reinscribe inequalities in public space, they are generally carried out and received as investments in the public good. Based on a historical comparison of greening projects at moments of major urban restructuring in Germany's Ruhr Valley, I identify three ideological and material characteristics of nature that produce this characteristic pattern of misrecognition. (1) Nature's ideology of lying outside the social reinforces the widespread belief in universal benefit; (2) greening projects bolster this ideology by occupying the sphere of social reproduction, rather than production; and (3) the widespread belief in nature's universal benefit is not simply an abstraction, but is made concrete and real by phenomenological experiences of green nature as "good." I highlight the distinct social logics that accompany this imaginary and its correlate practices, and their large-scale impacts on the transformation of urban space.

Chiara Tornaghi

(Coventry University)

From the food-disabling city to an agroecological urbanism: rethinking social reproduction from a food perspective.

This lecture aims to unpack how a food perspective on social reproduction has been instrumental in shaping an

intellectual trajectory that goes from a critical stance towards the food-disabling city, to a programmatic agenda for an agroecological urbanism. The lecture is structured in two parts. In the first part I build on my experience as researcher, scholar –activist and/or microfarmer within over ninety urban food growing projects in Europe between 2009 and 2017. Analysing the limited role of these projects in urban food-production, I will argue that they by and large remain attached to what I have previously defined as the 'food-disabling city' (2017). I will claim that urban theory has been almost entirely food-blind and complicit of a mode of urbanisation which has eroded the capacity of human beings to retain control over a fundamental aspect of social reproduction: food production. In the second part, building on feminist Marxist literature and embracing the challenge to think food as an urban question I expand the way social reproduction has featured in urban theory. I will discuss an action and research agenda that looks at the promises of urban political agroecology and the food sovereignty movement to build what we call a 'resourceful, reproductive, agroecological urbanism' (C.M. Deh-Tor 2017).

Organizing Committee

Michiel Dehaene (UGent), Greet De Block (UA), Michael Ryckewaert (VUB), Viviana D'Auria (KUL), David Peleman (UGent), Martin Dumont (UGent), Julie Marin (KUL), Griet Juwet (VUB), Ide Hiergens (UA-KUL), Chiara Cavalieri (EPFL)

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