

**Conference  
Book** October  
5–6th, 2023

# Symposium **Spatial Figures** in

With Alexandra Arènes, Andrew Baldwin,  
Jennifer Gabrys, Gastón Gordillo, Susanne Hauser,  
Christopher Kelty, Marcela Suárez Estrada, Tomás Usón

# the **Anthro- pocene**

Collaborative  
Research Center  
1265 „Re-Figuration  
of Spaces“

Organizers:  
Ignacio Farias  
and Silke Steets

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/ CRC 1265  
Re-Figuration  
of Spaces

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## OVERVIEW

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The symposium and annual conference of the Collaborative Research Center 1265, 'Spatial Figures in the Anthropocene', explores how the concept and reality of the Anthropocene disfigure and refigure four key spatial figures of Western modernity: the place, the territory, the network, and the route.

Engagements with climate change and the planetary in the social sciences and humanities have challenged conventional analytical distinctions between global and local as well as human and nonhuman spaces. Tim Morton's (2013) influential conceptualization of global warming as a hyperobject emphasizes how it transcends human scales of time-space experience and action, thus becoming a viscous, non-local process. At the same time, authors like Bruno Latour (2017) point out the inadequacy of the modern figure of globalization and of understanding the Earth as a globe. In times of climate crisis, he argues, the Earth emerges as Gaia: not a super-organism or system, but rather a rhizome of organism-environment relationships. As these two interventions exemplify, the multiple environmental and planetary crises associated with the Anthropocene fundamentally challenge the scalar logic and figures of modern understandings of space.

Facilitating an interdisciplinary conversation about these transformations seems crucial because of the pervasiveness of spatial categories and imaginaries. The symposium thus brings together leading scholars from anthropology, sociology, architectural theory, science and technology studies, urban studies, and human geography to collectively meet these challenges while reaching a heterogeneous public audience of researchers and practitioners.

### Conference Venue

ICI Berlin  
Christinenstraße 18/19  
10119 Berlin

U2 Senefelder Platz  
Tram M1/12 Zionskirchplatz  
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### CRC 1265

#### "Re-Figuration of Spaces"

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## PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2023  
AFTER THE LOCAL**9:30**  
**Registration**

**10:00**  
**Welcome and Morning Lecture**  
 Ignacio Fariás (CRC 1265/Berlin) and  
 Silke Steets (CRC 1265/Erlangen-Nürnberg)  
*Spatial Figures in the Anthropocene*

**11:00 — Panel I**  
**The Refiguration of Territories**  
 moderated by Ignacio Castillo Ulloa

Gastón Gordillo (Vancouver)  
*Place, Territory, Terrain: A Spatial Triad for the Climate Crisis*

Alexandra Arènes (Paris)  
*TERRA FORMA Connectedness: From Territory to the Terrestrial*

**13:00**  
**Lunch break**

**14:00 — Panel II**  
**The Refiguration of Places**  
 moderated by Nina Baur

Tomás Usón (Berlin)  
*Beyond Place: Encountering Difference in Disastrous Times*

Susanne Hauser (Berlin):  
*Rethinking Place in Architecture, 1980ff.*

**16:00**  
**Coffee break**

**16:30**  
**Coffee Conversations**

Theory: *Anthropocene and Decolonial Theory*  
 (with Marcela Suárez Estrada) moderated by  
 Sung Un Gang

Methods: *Speculation as Method* (with Alexandra  
 Arènes) moderated by Jörg Stollmann

Current Affairs: *Mobilities in and of the Anthropocene* (with Andrew Baldwin) moderated by Francesca Ceola

**18:30  
Break**

**19:00 Evening Event  
Refiguring Botanical Gardens**  
moderated by Martina Löw

Séverine Marguin (CRC 1265/Berlin) and Jamie-Scott Baxter (CRC 1265/Berlin)  
*Mimetic Spaces: Botanical Gardens in a Shifting Conservation Regime*

Digital Art Installation: *Diffractioning Natures (Spatial Refigurations in the Metaverse)* by Séverine Marguin and Jamie-Scott Baxter in cooperation with the artist-architect Lus Constantin (Berlin)

**20:00  
Reception**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2023  
AFTER THE GLOBAL**

**9:30 — Panel III  
The Refiguration of Networks**  
moderated by Anna Juliane Heinrich

Jennifer Gabrys (Cambridge), hybrid  
*Animating Digital Infrastructures: From Networks to Phygitalities*

Marcela Suárez Estrada (Berlin/Berkeley)  
*Internet as a Territory: Power and Colonialism in the Digital Era*

**11:30  
Coffee Conversations**

Theory: *Racialized Geographies of Climate Justice* (with Gastón Gordillo) moderated by Zozan Baran

Methods: *Engaging Indigenous Knowledges* (with Tomás Usón) moderated by Margherita Tess

Current Affairs: *Managing Nuclear Waste* (with Susanne Hauser) moderated by Vivien Sommer

**12:30  
Lunch break**

**14:00 — Panel IV  
The Refiguration of Routes**  
moderated by Sezgin Sönmez

Christopher Kelty (Los Angeles)  
*Helicopter, Overpass, Non-target: Figuring Pathways in Los Angeles*

Andrew Baldwin (Durham)  
*Mobility and the Anthropocene: Rethinking the Route via the Planetary*

**16:00  
Coffee break**

**16:30 — Panel Discussion  
After the Local – After the Global?**

with Martina Löw (CRC 1265/Berlin), Philipp Misselwitz (CRC 1265/Bauhaus Earth/Berlin), Christopher Kelty (Speaker/Los Angeles) moderated by Jochen Kibel

**18:00  
Break**

**19:00 Evening Event  
An Atlas of Spatial Figures**  
moderated by Hubert Knoblauch

Book Presentation and Lecture Performance with Ignacio Fariás (CRC 1265/Berlin), Nikolaus Gansterer (Vienna) and Silke Steets (CRC 1265/Berlin)

## ABSTRACTS

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Ignacio Fariás (CRC 1265/Berlin) and  
Silke Steets (CRC 1265/Erlangen-Nürnberg)

### **Spatial Figures in the Anthropocene**

The CRC 1265 “Re-Figuration of Spaces” examines changes in the global socio-spatial order since the late 1960s and aims at formulating a spatial theory of social change. As an instrument for theorizing, the CRC has identified four ideal-typical “spatial figures” that guide the empirical analysis of its subprojects: territory, place, route, and network. In our talk, we will first introduce these four spatial figures as logics of spatialization at the core of modern and late-modern world-making projects. In a second step, we introduce how Anthropocene thinking challenges and irritates this understanding of space. The Anthropocene not only breaks with anthropocentrism, discards the nature-culture binary in favor of a nature-culture continuum, and abandons a global perspective in favor of a planetary and ecological one, but it has also led to the introduction of new spatial figures, such as “patches” (Tsing), “hyperobjects” (Morton), “terrain” (Elden), “point of life” (Arènes et al.) and others. We address how these spatial figures can be used to uncover and productively “disfigure” the modernist imprints on territories, places, routes, and networks.

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**Panel I**
**The Refiguration of Territories**

Gastón Gordillo (Vancouver)

**Place, Territory, Terrain: A Spatial Triad for the Climate Crisis**

In this presentation, I explore some of the spatial dimensions of the climate crisis by bringing materialist understandings of the planet's terrain into conversation with humanist analyses of places and territories as human-made configurations. Inspired by authors who have criticized dualistic modes of thinking by articulating a triadic understanding of space (primarily Lefebvre but also Soja, Bourdieu, and Wacquant), I propose to look at the climate crisis through the triad of "place, territory, terrain." In particular, I argue that the materiality of global warming demands that we see each node of "space on Earth" experienced by human actors as simultaneously a place (as socially experienced and organized), as part of territories (regulated politically by particular technologies of power), and as part of the volumetric, textured, and more-than-human materiality and flows of Earth. I examine the inseparability of these three dimensions in my own experience of climatic disruptions in Canada (where I live) and Argentina (where I'm from and where I conduct ethnographic research).

Alexandra Arènes (Paris)

**TERRA FORMA Connectedness: From Territory to the Terrestrial**

The paper will present an ongoing research project in collaboration with geoscientists of the critical zone. Following *Terra Forma, a book of speculative maps*, which draws maps of territories using new reference models, a scientific project with the same name has been launched. Led by scientists of the critical zone, it aims to deploy new sensors to measure bio, geo, hydro, chemical and physical parameters in three major field observatories. The project aims to produce speculative maps of these territories as seen through the sensors, for use by the scientific community, but also for a non-academic audience (stakeholders, citizens). These maps are generated using 1. the sensors as new optical lenses to reveal

invisible entities and phenomena, and 2. alternative models from the *Terra Forma* book: a reversal of the view of the earth to make the layers of the critical zone visible. This experiment will provide an opportunity to discuss three key aspects of the approach: 1. the making of boundary-objects with these cartographies deploying new methods; 2. the link between earth sensors and the development of a cosmopolitical vision of space; 3. the shift from territory to the terrestrial through connectivity by flows and cycles.

**Moderator:** Ignacio Castillo Ulloa (CRC 1265/Berlin)

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**Panel II**
**The Refiguration of Places**

Tomás Usón (Berlin)

**Beyond Place: Encountering Difference in Disastrous Times**

In the current times of political turmoil and climate crisis, the figure of the place has expedited a moment of profound questioning and destabilization. Strongly related to a sense of belonging to a common world that can be protected, secured, and maintained, place is now threatened by the inauguration of the Anthropocene as an unstable era without a future and without solid grounds. In this presentation, I seek to reflect on novel ways of creating planetary habitability beyond the security and stability that the commonality of the place provides by reflecting on the Quechua notion of *tinkuy* – or "to gather in the difference". As a thing or moment of complementary antagonism, the *tinku* is a particularly helpful figure to explore situations where divergent – and sometimes conflictive – versions of the world coexist in space and time. By examining the case of the Callejón de Huaylas in the Peruvian Andes, a region marked by the legacy of colonialism and massive disasters that have unleashed *the end of times*, I aim to show what happens to our sense of the world when our spatial co-habitation is configured by difference. It is an invitation to move beyond the commonality of place and think of space as cosmopolitical conviviality shaped by multiplicity – and the encounters that such multiplicity arouses.



Susanne Hauser (Berlin):

**Rethinking Place in Architecture, 1980ff.**

In the 1980s, “places” became the subject of extensive debate in human geography and anthropology. This interest in places was motivated by the observation of increased mobility of people as well as of capital, goods, and information, in short, by changes in the complex economic, financial and social entanglements of the local and the global. This became relevant to architecture too, as these changes affected urban development and set new tasks for the profession. Rethinking place became an important aspect in architectural designs. In my paper, I will focus on some characteristic approaches to the design of places as meaningful forms for concentration and assembling that have developed since the 1980s.

**Moderator:** Nina Baur (CRC 1265/Berlin)

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**Panel III**

**The Refiguration of Networks**

Jennifer Gabrys (Cambridge)

**Animating Digital Infrastructures: From Networks to Phygitalities**

5G promises to bring “physical” and “digital” worlds closer by enabling more rapid and extensive communications through Internet of Things networks and devices. Together, 5G and AI are meant to realize greater speed, synchronicity, and analytics across data and connected technologies that typically take the form of sensors or sensorized devices. How is the convergence of 5G and AI contributing to new spatial figures of the Anthropocene through smart city and smart forest developments and futures? This talk will look specifically at how urban infrastructures are being newly and doubly animated by the promises of 5G working with AI. It will further examine how the smart, sustainable city takes on another incarnation in the context of planetary environmental change, where urban natures and forests become sensorized and enrolled in the newly materializing modalities of intelligence promised by 5G. As characterized by tech developers, the future is

“phygital” for smart cities and smart forests, where electromagnetic frequencies accelerate, optimize, and operationalize urban infrastructures and practices toward greater automation and synchronicity. By working through the promises of 5G connectivity, this talk will finally consider how these phygital renderings select and optimize for some worlds while excluding other forms of life that are less amenable to advancing the latest “revolution” in digital technology.

Marcela Suárez Estrada (Berlin/Berkeley)

**Internet as a Territory: Power and Colonialism in the Digital Era**

Data extractivism, algorithmic governance, and corporate control of internet operations are part of the current regime of digital colonialism that is increasingly impacting territories in the Global South. Inspired by Latour’s concept of terrestrial politics (2018, 2020), this presentation will answer the following question: What are the dynamics of the disputed spaces that support the internet, and what are their effects on territories and ways of life in the Global South? Using the metaphor of the internet as a territory, I argue that digital technologies are producing social spaces that are far from immaterial, neutral, and abstract. I will discuss the idea of the terrestrial internet and its links to power and colonialism in the digital era. Data centers and mining extractivism result in arduous social conflicts with strong impacts on political and social inequalities. However, collectives are also mobilizing new figurations to fight these power relationships. From decolonial and feminist endeavours, metaphors such as the internet as territory or body-territory are being mobilized to inhabit the internet as a social space. This presentation will contribute to current discussions on the relationship between digital technologies and the Anthropocene and the new social figurations that are emerging to resist digital colonialism in the Global South.

**Moderator:** Anna Juliane Heinrich (CRC 1265/Berlin)



## Panel IV

### The Refiguration of Routes

Christopher Kelty (Los Angeles):

#### **Helicopter, Overpass, Non-target: Figures of Niche and Pathway in Los Angeles**

1969: A helicopter airlift deports unwanted animals from the city and delivers them to the forest. 2023: An overpass creates a freeway for animals to move safely back into, or maybe out of the city. Los Angeles, like most cities, is a complicated multi-species conundrum of mobility and co-existence. To address it, this presentation offers two figures drawn from the biological sciences: niche and pathway. How can these two concepts dislodge our thinking about the spatial and temporal forms of urban co-inhabiting with non-humans? Can they upset logics of territory, border, property and settlement? Taking ongoing work from the Labyrinth project, a multi-discipline collaborative research project based in Los Angeles, we present scenes of hungry lions at your door, life as a multidimensional hypervolume, and a parable of domestication in a black box.

Andrew Baldwin (Durham)

#### **Mobility and the Anthropocene: Rethinking Routes via a Return to the Real**

This paper rethinks the 'figure of the route' in the context of the Anthropocene by placing it in dialog with the concept of the Planetary. 'The route' is conventionally understood as the path one follows to get from one location to another. In this way, the route comes to play a defining role as the means, or infrastructure, that enables a broad range of mobilities. The route shapes the everyday mobilities of commuting, for example. But it also plays a key role in transnational patterns of mobility, for example, in the form of migratory routes and trade routes. However, with the advent of the Anthropocene, and the commensurate 'geologic turn' in the humanities and interpretive social sciences, the paper sets out to challenge this prosaic understanding of the route. It argues that the route, and its corresponding routinization, should be rethought as a geosocial formation, an attribute of human social, economic, and political life that cannot be conceptualized independently

from planet Earth and the processes of which Earth is composed. To develop this idea, the paper draws empirically from the migratory routes that have played so central a role in shaping the petroleum-based economy of the United Arab Emirates.

**Moderator:** Sezgin Sönmez (CRC 1265/Berlin)

## EVENING EVENTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

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### Refiguring Botanical Gardens

#### Mimetic Spaces: Botanical Gardens in a Shifting Conservation Regime

Jamie-Scott Baxter (CRC 1265/Berlin) and

Séverine Marguin (CRC 1265/Berlin)

The talk invites the audience into the world of botanical gardens, which, like many modern institutions at the beginning of the 21st century, are under pressure to change in response to refiguring processes that include climate change, the imperative of decolonisation, and rapid advances in digital technology. In botanical gardens, this shift can be characterized as a repositioning from Humboldtian *collectors* of nature to *protectors* of biodiversity. Through the sociospatial investigation of Berlin's Botanical Garden and the Royal Botanical Garden in Edinburgh, the paper brings to light tensions between spatial logics geared towards permanence and pressures to change. The spatiality emerging from these tensions has *mimetic* characteristics that offer a new understanding of *staged spaces of nature* in the Anthropocene.

#### Digital Art Installation: Diffracting Natures (Spatial Refigurations in the Metaverse)

Séverine Marguin and Jamie-Scott Baxter in co-operation with the artist-architect Lus Constantin (Berlin)

Grounded in the research project "Botanical Gardens in a Shifting Conservation Regime", the art installation *Diffracting Natures* stages spatial stories of nature collected in the gardens of Berlin and Edinburgh and re-assembles them in the contemporary digital environment of the "Metaverse". By de/re-constructing spatial drawings made during the research – a process understood here as a type of *diffraction* – alternative interpretative associations are composed between stories, allowing for new speculations on spatial figures in the Anthropocene. In this way, one of the aims of the experiment is to reflect on the potential of this digital technology beyond the mere diffusion of scientific knowledge, but as an immersive multi-modal mapping tool for visual-spatial research and analysis.

**Moderator:** Martina Löw (CRC 1265/Berlin)

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### **Panel Discussion: After the Local – After the Global?**

Martina Löw (CRC 1265/Berlin), Philipp Misselwitz (CRC 1265/Bauhaus Earth/Berlin) and Christopher Kelty (Speaker/Los Angeles)

The concluding panel will bring the results of the symposium back to a conceptual discussion on how to imagine and theorize space in the Anthropocene, as well as on the practical and political consequences of the refiguration of space in the Anthropocene. Some key questions will include: How can we conceptualize spatial figures in the Anthropocene? What does this mean for the modernist spatial figures of territory, network, route, and place? How can we put into practice a new way of thinking about space? What might architecture and planning look like in the Anthropocene? How might social and ecological processes be linked in a way that has a positive impact on the planet and its human and more-than-human inhabitants?

**Moderator:** Jochen Kibel (CRC 1265/TU Berlin)

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### **Book Presentation: An Atlas of Spatial Figures**

Ignacio Fariás (CRC 1265/Berlin), Nikolaus Gansterer (Vienna) and Silke Steets (CRC 1265/Erlangen-Nürnberg)

*An Atlas of Spatial Figures* is the title of a forthcoming book edited by urban anthropologist Ignacio Fariás (HU Berlin), sociologist Silke Steets (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg), and visual artist Nikolaus Gansterer (Vienna) for the CRC 1265. It addresses methodological questions of how current interdisciplinary research can be designed to 'figure out spaces' and analyze the contemporary refiguration of spaces. 'Figuring out spaces' is an intellectual and artistic practice of exploring, describing, and visualizing spatial figures that shape how we live, work, and dream. It entails moving between (more concrete) topographic and (more abstract) topological figures of space. It combines conceptual work and methodological reflection with storytelling, visualization, and choreographic translations. The book presentation includes a collection of around 45 spatial stories, each drawing

on a topographic figure of space as well as sixteen table configurations encompassing drawings, materials, objects and gestures. In this way, four important processes of the reconfiguration of spaces are illuminated as they are experienced, imagined, and discussed by people, revolving around problems of extimacy, uninhabitability, ferality, and fragmentation.

**Moderator:** Hubert Knoblauch (CRC 1265/Berlin)

**SPEAKERS**

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### Alexandra Arènes

Alexandra Arènes holds a doctorate in Architecture from the University of Manchester. She co-founded Studio SOC (Société d'Objets Cartographiques) in 2016 to produce maps, workshops and exhibitions. The studio designed an installation at the ZKM Museum in Karlsruhe for the exhibition *Critical Zones. Observatories for Earthly Politics*, curated by Bruno Latour. She co-authored *Terra Forma, a book of speculative maps* published by MIT Press in 2022. Her research and practice address the understating and representation of landscapes in the context of climate change, among other work through her thesis "Design at the time of the Anthropocene: Reporting from the Critical Zone".

### Andrew Baldwin

Andrew Baldwin is a professor of human geography at Durham University. His research examines how ideas about migration and mobility shape contemporary political discourses on climate change and the Anthropocene. His books include *The Other of Climate Change: Racial Futurism, Migration, Humanism* (2022) and *Life Adrift: Climate Change, Migration, Critique* (2017).

### Jamie-Scott Baxter

Jamie-Scott Baxter (Dr.-Ing) is an architect-planner and sociospatial researcher. He coordinates the "Planetary Tactics for Cohabitation" living lab within the BUA project "Re-Scaling Global Health. Human Health and Multispecies Cohabitation on an Urban Planet" at the Technische Universität Berlin. In this constellation, he jointly coordinates the sub-project "Biophilic Urbanisms: Planning with Pathogens". Jamie works at the intersection of design and science, engaging multispecies and hybrid mapping, topologies and multisited ethnographies. Interests include urban natures, critical conservation, new materialisms, circula-

tions of knowledge, periphery-center relations, and critical spatial theory. Jamie is the joint executive editor at *Architecture and Culture*.

### Lus Constantin

Lus Constantin is an independent multidisciplinary artist who combines his knowledge of architecture, art and digital archives to create immersive media experiences. He has previously worked with architectural practices in London and Berlin, where his collaborative work has been published in national media. Since 2010, he has been managing the reappraisal and digitization of the artist estate of the German sculptor Dieter Finke. Currently, his interests include scripting architecture to transform the digital landscape, questioning how we interact with mixed reality environments. His artistic research investigates challenges of bringing large data sets onto the blockchain and making them accessible in Metaverse experiences. In March 2023, his virtual architecture work was showcased in Monaverse.

### Ignacio Farías

Ignacio Farías is Professor of Urban Anthropology of the department of European Ethnology, co-director of the Stadtlabor for Multimodal Anthropology and PI of the ERC project WAVEMATTERS. His research interests concern current ecological and infrastructural transformations of cities and the associated epistemo-political challenges to the democratization of city-making. His most recent work explores the politics of environmental disruptions, from tsunamis over heat to noise. He is also interested in urban ethnography as a mode of city making performed with designers, initiatives, concerned groups, policy makers and by moving from textual to material productions.

### Jennifer Gabrys

Professor Jennifer Gabrys holds the Chair in Media, Culture and Environment in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. She leads the Planetary Praxis research group and is Principal Investigator on the ERC-funded project, Smart Forests: Transforming Environments into Social-Political Technologies. Her latest book, *Citizens of Worlds: Open-Air Toolkits for Environmental Struggle*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in November 2022 and is available on Manifold as an open-access publishing experiment. She co-edits the "Planetarities" short-monograph series published through Goldsmiths Press.

[planetarypraxis.org](http://planetarypraxis.org)  
[jennifergabrys.net](http://jennifergabrys.net)

### Nikolaus Gansterer

Nikolaus Gansterer is an artist and researcher interested in the links between drawing, thinking, and action. Since 2007 he is teaching at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna where he is board member of the Applied Performance Laboratory. He is author of the book *Drawing a Hypothesis* (2013) on the ontology of diagrammatic configurations. From 2014-2018, he was involved in developing new systems of notation between drawing, writing, and choreography within the interdisciplinary research project *Choreo-graphic Figures*. From 2019-2024 he is the leading researcher of the artistic project *Contingent Agencies* for experimental diagramming of atmospheres and environments.

[gansterer.org](http://gansterer.org)

### Gastón Gordillo

Gastón Gordillo is Professor of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. A Guggenheim Fellow, his most recent book is *Rubble: The Afterlife of Destruction* (2014, Duke

University Press; Honorable Mention, Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing). He is also the author of *Landscapes of Devils: Tensions of Place and Memory in the Argentinean Chaco* (2004, Duke University Press; winner of the Sharon Stephens Book Prize of the American Ethnological Society) and *En el Gran Chaco: Antropologías e historias* (2006, Prometeo), among other books.

### Susanne Hauser

Susanne Hauser (Dr. phil. habil.) is professor of Art History and Cultural Studies at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK) since 2005. She has published widely in the fields of urban and landscape studies, the history and theory of architecture, and media and semiotic studies.

[udk-berlin.de/en/person/susanne-hauser-1](http://udk-berlin.de/en/person/susanne-hauser-1)

### Christopher Kelty

Christopher Kelty is professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. His ethnographic and historical work explores the intersection of science, technology and social/political theory. He is the author of *Two Bits* (Duke University Press, 2008) and *The Participant* (University of Chicago Press, 2019) as well as articles on freedom, responsibility, and participation in science and engineering. His current work is The Labyrinth Project (*labyrinth.garden*), a multi-discipline collaborative research inquiry into conflict and controversy in urban ecologies in Los Angeles, California based in fieldwork with pest-control professionals, wildlife managers, biologists, and veterinarians.

### Martina Löw

Martina Löw is Professor of Sociology at the TU Berlin. Her areas of specialization and research are sociological theory, urban sociology, space theory and cultural sociology. She has held visiting professorships and fellowships at universities in Go-

thenburg (Sweden), Salvador da Bahia (Brazil), St. Gallen (Switzerland), Paris (France) and New York (USA). From 2011 to 2013, she was president of the German Sociological Association. Currently she heads the Collaborative Research Center "Re-Figuration of Spaces" (CRC 1265).

### Séverine Marguin

Dr. Séverine Marguin, cultural sociologist, is head of the Methods Lab at the Collaborative Research Center "Re-Figuration of Spaces" (CRC 1265) at Technische Universität Berlin, where she also leads the subproject C06 "Afronovelas: Spatial Stories and Production Regime in West-African Soaps". She is conducting her habilitation project on the relationships between sociology and design. Her research focus lies on cultural and knowledge production, sociology of space, experimental and design-based methods. She is joint executive editor at *Architecture and Culture*.

### Phillipp Misselwitz

Phillipp Misselwitz (Prof. Dr.) is an architect and urban researcher. Since 2013, he holds the Chair of International Urbanism and Design (Habitat Unit) at the Technische Universität Berlin. His research focuses on the impact of planetary, social and ecological crises on architecture, urban development and urban-rural relations. Since 2017, he is Visiting Professor at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Since September 2021, he is Executive Director of Bauhaus der Erde, which develops new systemic approaches for a climate-positive, circular and equitable built environment.

### Silke Steets

Silke Steets is Professor of Sociology at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Her research interests include urban sociology, sociology of space and architecture,

sociology of religion, qualitative research methods, and sociological theory. She was a research fellow at Boston University in 2012 and held a DFG-Heisenberg fellowship from 2017 to 2019, which took her to the University of Leipzig and the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to numerous publications, she is the author of the monograph *Der sinnhafte Aufbau der gebauten Welt* (2015), in which she develops a theory of architecture based on the sociology of knowledge.

[silke-steets.de](http://silke-steets.de)

### Marcela Suárez

Marcela Suárez is a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Latin American Studies at University of California, Berkeley. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Freie Universität Berlin. Her areas of specialization are the terrestrial internet, digital violence, governance of the internet, feminisms, and digital culture.

### Tomás Usón

Tomás Usón is a PhD researcher at the Institute of European Ethnology and IRI THESys at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. His research deals with memory and anticipation practices amid climatic disasters and the configuration of past and future temporalities in the Peruvian Andes. He has previously worked as a research associate focusing on participative methods for flood-risk assessment and future land use scenarios. His main research interests include risk and disaster studies, science and technology studies (STS), political ecology, urban anthropology, and the anthropology of time.

**Conference Venue**

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ENGAGEMENTS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PLANETARY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES HAVE CHALLENGED CONVENTIONAL ANALYTICAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN GLOBAL AND LOCAL AS WELL AS HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN SPACES. TIM MORTON'S (2013) INFLUENTIAL CONCEPTUALIZATION OF GLOBAL WARMING AS A HYPEROBJECT EMPHASIZES HOW IT TRANSCENDS HUMAN SCALES OF TIME-SPACE EXPERIENCE AND ACTION, THUS BECOMING A VISCOUS, NON-LOCAL PROCESS. AT THE SAME TIME, AUTHORS LIKE BRUNO LATOUR (2017) POINT OUT THE INADEQUACY OF THE MODERN FIGURE OF GLOBALIZATION AND OF UNDERSTANDING THE EARTH AS A GLOBE. IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CRISIS, HE ARGUES, THE EARTH EMERGES AS GAIA: NOT A SUPER-ORGANISM OR SYSTEM, BUT RATHER A RHIZOME OF ORGANISM-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIPS. AS THESE TWO INTERVENTIONS EXEMPLIFY, THE MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANETARY CRISES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANTHROPOCENE FUNDAMENTALLY CHALLENGE THE SCALAR LOGIC AND FIGURES OF MODERN UNDERSTANDINGS OF SPACE.