

MEDIA, URBAN SPACE AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Workshop

CRC 1265 “Re-Figuration of Spaces”, Technical University Berlin
and
CREATE AHRC, GOLDSMITHS, University of London

Room 230, 2nd Floor, BH-N Building,
Technische Universität Berlin, Ernst-Reuter Platz 1, 10587 Berlin

11th July 2023, from 11.00 to 18.00

All Welcome

This one-day event at TU Berlin follows three previous collaborations co-organised by Prof. Angela McRobbie (Loughborough University, London Campus) and Prof. Martina Löw (CRC/SFB Director TU Berlin). The first was hosted at TU Berlin in January 2020 and was titled “Digital Economies and Spatial Refigurations”, the next was held online in June 2021, titled “Covid Refiguring Spaces and Social Economies”, and the third will be hosted in person at London Campus, Olympic Park, Loughborough University in June 2023 under the title “New Thinking in Urban Creative Industry Research”. On the 11th of July 2023 in Berlin, the focus will be on “Media, Urban Space and Cultural Production” and the idea is to discuss recent and more globally expansive research currents within this frame. This will include creative and inventive methodologies informed by difference, diversity and the urban experience. How do people live in cities in a post-pandemic environment of increasing social inequalities and ‘hard times’? What impact does the crisis of space have on the urban creative economy workforce? How are difficulties addressed, alleviated or embellished by popular media formats, i.e. What kind of urbanities do they show or keep silent about? And does social media provide spaces of connection, hope and intimacy for dispersed urban populations, or does it contribute to further fragmentation and urban isolation?

Talks will be 30 minutes with 15 minutes for discussion. We will aim to publish papers.



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Program:

- 11.00 - 11.15** **Joint Introduction**
- 11.15 - 12.00** **Séverine Marguin / Daddy Dibinga Kalamba (TU Berlin)**
On Senegalese Afronovelas and spatial stories of a multiple Dakar
- 12.00 - 12.45** **Krys Osei (Goldsmiths London and Central St Martins)**
Nikko Blue Hydrangea and Lumière Gladiolus: Collaging Portraits of An African City in Accra, London and Washington, D.C.
- 12.45 - 13.30** **light lunch**
- 13.30 - 14.15** **Martina Löw (TU Berlin)**
The Crisis of Spaces? Reflections on Refiguration
- 14.15 - 15.00** **Nirmal Puwar (Goldsmiths London)**
One Mile Walk
- 15.00 - 15.15** **tea/coffee break**
- 15.15 - 16.00** **Agata Lisiak (Bard Berlin)**
Spatial Delight: Re-reading Doreen Massey and Conversing About the Politics of Space
- 16.00 - 16.45** **Mahsa Alami Fariman (Coventry University)**
Woman, Life, Freedom; Digital Boundaries of a Revolution
- 16.45 - 17.30** **Melody Howse (Leipzig University)**
The Sounds of Black Lives Matter
- 17.30 - 18.00** **Summing Up: Angela McRobbie (Loughborough London)**
Working Lives in Urban Creative Economies

About the speakers:

Dr. Mahsa Alami Fariman is a researcher, educator and urbanist based at Coventry University where she works as Assistant Lecturer in Planning and Urban Environments. Mahsa's research intersects urban sociology, gender and feminist studies, architecture and urban planning. She is currently co-editing a book entitled: *City, Public Space and Body: The Embodied Experience of Urban Life* which will be published by Routledge by 2025. Her most recent publication is entitled *Closedness and openness in Tehran; a feminist critique of Sennett*, published in the journal of *Gender, Place & Culture*.



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Melody Howse is an Interdisciplinary Researcher, writer, filmmaker and visual artist from Belize & UK. She is currently working on her doctoral thesis in Anthropology focusing on 'racial encounters and the body' at the University of Leipzig. Prior to pursuing a PhD, Melody worked as a director and producer for commercial broadcasting, she now combines these skills in the work she is doing and uses them to support community organisations in Berlin.

Daddy Dibinga Kalamba is research assistant at the CRC 1265 "Re-Figuration of Spaces", in the subproject C06 about Afronovelas at the Technische Universität Berlin, Germany. He is interested in the cinema of French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa. His doctoral thesis focuses on the spatial refiguration of Senegalese and Ivorian television series.

Agata Lisiak is Associate Professor of Migration Studies at Bard College Berlin and leads Transnational Feminism, Solidarity, and Social Justice, a collaborative project funded by the Open Society University Network. Lisiak has written about migrant motherhood, urban girlhood, walking in the city, and, most recently, Rosa Luxemburg as an urban thinker. She is also the writer, producer, and host of Spatial Delight, a podcast about space, society, and power.

Martina Löw is Professor of Sociology at the Technische Universität Berlin, Germany. Her areas of specialization and research are sociological theory, urban sociology, space theory and cultural sociology. Currently she is head of the Collaborative Research Centre "Re-Figuration of Spaces" (DFG).

Angela McRobbie is a Fellow of the British Academy, Emeritus Goldsmiths and Professor Loughborough University London Campus. Her most recent book (co-authored with Dan Strutt and Carolina Bandinelli) is Fashion as Creative Economy: Micro-enterprises in London, Berlin and Milan 2022.

Dr. Séverine Marguin is Senior Lecturer in Cultural Sociology. She is Head of the Methods-Lab and of the Graduate School within the CRC 1265 "Re-Figuration of Spaces" at Technische Universität Berlin. She leads the research project "Afronovelas: Spatial Stories and Production Regime in West-African Soaps" at the TU. Her interdisciplinary research focus lies on culture and knowledge production, sociology of space, experimental and design-based methods.

Krys Osei is a Lecturer in Cultural Studies for Fashion, Jewellery and Textiles at Central Saint Martins and Fashion Media Production at London College of Fashion. As a PhD researcher at Goldsmiths, her lyrical floral collage project maps the remixed geographies of beauty, fashion, and the adornment of freedom - in Ghana and the diaspora - through the production and consumption of the online series An African City.

Dr. Nirmal Puwar, Reader in Sociology at Goldsmiths and Co-Director of the Centre for Feminist Research. Author of 'Space Invaders: race, gender and bodies out of place' (2004); expanded through multiple collaborations. Driven to work with and beyond the walls of the academy, particularly with creative methods. Currently, a British Academy Innovative Fellow, based at Coventry Cathedral.

