

Public space and the challenges of urban transformation in Europe: Politics and culture



10th and 11th November 2010
Palais Kabelwerk, 12. District

Programme: <http://skuor.tuwien.ac.at>
Registration: info@skuor.tuwien.ac.at

Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture
and Public Space
Department of Spatial Development,
Infrastructure and Environmental Planning
Faculty of Architecture and Planning
Vienna University of Technology

Welcoming Words & Conference Theme

Aglaée Degros &

Ali Madanipour

City of Vienna

Visiting Professors

We are pleased to see the wide range of interest in this conference, which is part of Vienna's timely initiative in generating a programme of education and research into an important subject. Public spaces of a city are windows into its society and culture, mirroring how people live and relate to one another, and how they respond to the challenges of social and economic change in an increasingly urban world. We hope that this conference, by offering an open platform to academics and practitioners from around Europe to share their ideas and experiences, can help develop and spread innovative ideas and practices.

Klaus Semsroth

Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Vienna University of Technology

European public space has eye-witnessed transformations in political regimes, cultural eras and social emancipation, just to name a few. To understand, plan and design processes and structures and to enhance public life in urban places, a group of luminaries coming from different disciplines is needed who are familiar with current theoretical debates – an essential base to reflect about and enhance innovation and change – and to translate complex theory into approaches suitable for architectural and planning practice. The newly established Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SKuOR) offers such a valuable working context. I feel honoured to welcome this fascinating field of participants to the European November Conference 2010 in Vienna.

Brigitte Jilka

Director General of Urban Planning, Development & Construction, City of Vienna

Public spaces are crucial for the well-being and well feeling of urban inhabitants and visitors. Though in the opinion of some experts the variety of designs in Viennese public spaces seems to be limited, people estimate their usability. To provide spaces designated for public use and moreover to keep them for ever free, is certainly not an easy task, considering the pressure that more 'productive' uses impose on the same areas.

Public Space and the challenges of urban transformation in Europe: Politics and culture

European cities are changing rapidly in partial response to the processes of de-industrialization, European integration and economic globalization. Public spaces of these cities, as essential ingredients of the urban image and experience, are increasingly playing an important part in this transition. A key question concerns the role that public spaces are expected to play in political, economic and cultural transformation of cities, and the impact of these transformations on the nature of public space as a shared resource. How are public authorities addressing the challenges of provision and maintenance of public space both as a catalyst for change and as a common good?

Public spaces are broadly defined as crossroads, where different paths and trajectories meet, sometimes overlapping and at other times colliding; they are the meeting place of politics and culture, social and individual territories, instrumental and expressive concerns. The conference investigates how city authorities understand and deal with their public spaces, how this interacts with market forces, social norms and cultural expectations, whether and how this relates to the needs and experiences of their citizens, exploring new strategies and innovative practices for strengthening public spaces and urban culture. The questions that will be explored revolve around three sub-themes: strategies, plans and policies; multiple roles of public space; and everyday life in the city.

Strategies, plans and policies

How do public authorities address a growing pressure on public spaces? What are the issues, strategies, and tactics of dealing with public spaces, and what do they aim to achieve? Who are the state and non-state actors involved in setting the conditions for public spaces? How are they organized and what are the relationships between different actors? How are policies initiated, formulated, implemented, reflected and finally, how do people perceive and react to such policies? How do design and planning professionals contribute with their projects to the changing conditions of public spaces? How can innovative practices contribute to redefine approaching public spaces?

Multiple roles of public space

Public space is where public life unfolds: art works are displayed, commercial messages transmitted, political power is displayed and social norms affirmed or challenged. How do these different processes take place? How do public spaces accommodate these multiple roles? How are conflicts of interest addressed? Which new phenomena of social transformation do emerge in public spaces? How do contemporary design and planning interventions renegotiate the boundaries of public space? What is the (changing) position of arts within public space as an actor between politics and people?

Everyday life and sharing the city

Public space is the realm of sociability. How do public spaces address people's everyday needs and expectations? How are the boundaries between public and private spheres set, and how does this affect people's daily life? How are cultural differences and social inequalities addressed in public spaces? How is local everyday life knowledge taken into account by professional disciplines planning, developing and designing public spaces? Which latent social needs get visible in public spaces? How can a fair sharing of public spaces be arranged? How do designers deal with the involvement of people in the process of producing public space? How do city representatives handle the 'voices of people'?

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 10th November 2010

9.00am to 9.30am	Welcoming Words Klaus Semsroth, Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Vienna UT Brigitte Jilka, Director General of Urban Planning, Development and Construction, City of Vienna	
9.30am to 10:00am	Conference Opening Ali Madanipour and Aglaée Degros	
10am to 10.30am	Strategies, plans and policies The production and management of hybrid spaces. Uwe Altrock, Dr.-Ing, Professor of Urban Regeneration, University of Kassel, Germany	
10.45am to 12.15pm	Hall 1 Rethinking Concepts and analyses of multidimensional public spaces Ali Madanipour Frack, Georg The nature of urban space Akkar Ercan, Müge Evolving roles of public space in post-industrial cities Galla, Katharina Cultural democracy: A paradigm shift to revitalize the public sphere Haas, Tigran; Olsson, Krister Transmutation and reinvention of public spaces	Hall 2 Planning Strategies for public spaces Aglaée Degros Niksic, Matej; Golicnik Marusic, Barbara Network of public space: The case of new strategic plan for the municipality of Ljubljana Bretschneider, Betül Urban renewal for open space improvement? Tolic, Ines Reading the Right to the City in Skopje Kail, Eva; Kreppenhofer, Andrea Strategies for public space in Vienna – guidelines and gender-sensitive approaches
1.30 pm to 2.30 pm	Showing Print/audio/video vernissage: 16 presenters Johanna Aigner & Sabine Knierbein	
2.45 pm to 4.15 pm	Reconsidering Public interest and the common good Cornelia Brüll & Monika Mokre Tonnelat, Stéphane 'Open space' or 'common good'? Two different ways of evaluating residents' participation in the design and management of public space Bricocoli, Massimo; Paola Savoldi Questioning the fundamentals of urban planning: Open spaces and urban change in Milan Pachenkov, Oleg; Voronkova, Lilia Public space in contemporary cities: Facing the challenge of mobility and aestheticization Harteveld, Maurice Multiple PubliCity	Intervening Short term cultural tactic versus long term cultural strategy Christine Hohenbüchler & Inge Manka Serra, Marta Art for Change: Creativity, empowerment and latent spaces Tornau, Ula Political and cultural discussions on public space in Vilnius: Kultflux initiative 2007-2010 Schwarzmayr, Tamara; Prauhart, Nadia Right to the city: Verein Samstag Vienna
4.30 pm to 6 pm	Regulating Policy analysis, policy impact and policy recommendations Sabine Knierbein Pegels, Juliane; Berding, Ulrich STARSinternational: Publicly accessible urban spaces in between public and private interests Antoszewska, Magdalena Public authorities, publics and public spaces: Poland Litscher, Monika; Emmenegger, Barbara Management of uses in the public space Hackenberg, Katja The return of the port as a public space	Shaping Urban design between global image and local context Wolfgang Gerlich & Daiva Jakutyte-Walangitang Woditsch, Richard PLURAL: Public and private spaces of the Polykatoikia in Athens Haid, Christian; Staudinger, Lukas Open space politics in new development areas in Vienna Galani, Virna; Gospodini, Aspa Streets and children: Spatial configuration and physical form Hatuka, Tali Choosing places for protest
8pm	Formal evening reception Municipality of Vienna, Wappensaal	

Thursday, 11th November 2010

	Hall 1	Interactive Foyer	Hall 2
9.45am to 11.15am	Claiming Struggle, conflict and voices of the unheard Sarah Habersack & Chiara Tornaghi Neumayer, Karl The origin of graffiti and street marking: Signs in transition from fordism to postfordism Polyak, Levente Exchange on the street: Rethinking open-air markets in Budapest Kleedorfer, Jutta The strategic project "simply – multiple", facilitating public space in Vienna Mitteregger, Matthias Drawing a circle: Search on mobile devices	Interacting Hospitality, solidarity and medial challenges in public spaces Roland Gruber & Stefanie Wuschitz Voltini, Marco; Setareh, Fadaee The game of public space Billig, Noah The everyday life and sharing of public space in Istanbul's informal settlements Baum, Martina Rediscovering street life Maicher, Markus The mediated square	Challenging Multiculturalism, religion and migration as emerging demands Andrea Rieger-Jandl & Ceren Sezer Koutrolikou, Panagiota Spatialities of ethno-religious relations in 'multicultural' London: Discourses of contact, interaction and social mix Palumbo, Maria Anita Urban transformation, social transition: Barbes where 'otherness' takes (public) place. Esposito de Vita, Gabriella Multi-culturalism and social conflict Ghyka, Celia Luxembourg of the two capitals: A programme for public art
11.30am to 1pm	Changing Codes, norms and rules in public spaces Jens Dangshat & Gesa Witthöft Brotherhood, Angelina; Reinprecht, Christoph; Datler, Georg; Keckelis, Carmen - Capturing changing social dynamics: suggestions for an analytical framework Klamt, Martin Places of power: Power of places Wettstein, Felicitas Public spaces in the urban periphery of Paris	Sharing Remains - Workshop I Theresa Schütz , Gehsteig Guerilla and IFOER, Vienna UT, Emanuela Semlitsch , IFOER Vienna UT and Wolfgang Stempfer Urban Renewal Management 12th district, Vienna Conviviality - Workshop III Chiara Tornaghi (Leeds, UK), Ceren Sezer (Delft, Netherlands) and Sabine Knierbein (Vienna, Austria). Thematic Group on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures, AESOP	Living Public spaces and residential areas Katrín Hagen & Elisabeth Leitner Mlczech, Peter; Mann, Andrea Between moderation and mediation Gür, Miray; Dostoglu, Neslihan The role of open spaces in providing satisfaction in TOKI residential areas in Turkey Marchigiani, Elena Public cities: Guidelines for urban regeneration Nilsen, Maria Implementation of sustainability in Swedish public housing companies
2pm to 2.30pm	Multiple roles of public spaces Happy ending. Keynote speech Chris Keulemans, Journalist, Artistic director, Cultural Centre de Tolhuistuin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands		
2.45pm to 4.15pm	Producing Public spaces under the conditions of manifold structural transitions Johannes Suitner & Florian Wachter Koch, Regan; Latham, Alan Re-imagining urban public space: Transformation on Harrow Road, West London Hristova, Svetlana Public space of central and East-European cities: Between consumerism and spectacle Voisin, Chloe The transformation of the central public spaces in Dresden: Which spaces for which society? Panatopoulou, Panajota TransUrban strategies: The production of space in Luxembourg	Inviting Public Space and Social Cohesion - Workshop II Andrea Breifuss Urban renewal management 11th district, Andrea Mann and Peter Mlczech , Urban renewal management 2nd district, Vienna	Participating Public spaces between discourse, design and decisions Ian Banerjee & Wencke Hertzsch Happach, Marlene; Happach, Marek Involvement of people in the process of producing public space Brandao, Pedro; Remesar, Antoni Interdisciplinarity: Urban design practice, research and teaching matrix Roskamm, Nikolai 4.000.000 m ² public space or the fear of emptiness: Reflections about the Berlin 'Tempelhofer Feld' debate
4.30pm to 5.00pm	Vienna: Culture, Politics and Public Space Keynote speech Dr. Monika de Frantz, Marshall Plan Chair University of New Orleans, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Centre for Austrian Culture and Commerce, USA/University of Vienna, Austria		
5.15pm to 6.15pm	Panel debate Moderation: Aglaée Degros & Ali Madanipour Kurt Puchinger (Executive Director for Urban Planning, City of Vienna), Andrea Seidling (Curator "Platz da! European Public Space Exhibition", Architekturzentrum Wien), Chris Keulemans and Monika de Frantz		
6.15pm to 6.30pm	Closing Aglaée Degros, Sabine Knierbein and Ali Madanipour		

Keynote Speeches

Uwe Altrock
Keynote Speech
**Strategies, plans
and policies**
10am to 10.30am
Wednesday
10th November

The production and management of hybrid spaces

The talk will discuss the role of public space in different spatial settings and socio-economic contexts. Building on an analysis of current **governance arrangements** in the production of urban space, it will focus on selective approaches to manage hybrid spaces that are characterized by differing **degrees of publicness**. When the role of public institutions and planning in particular is challenged in a partly neo-liberal environment, new concepts, policies and types of intervention into the public space are developed. However, contrary to a popular line of thought, the author does **not see a general trend** towards privatization of public space. The production and management of public space, the talk will argue, can be seen as a continuous series of negotiations, conceptual innovations and governance rearrangements that influence public spaces very selectively. This results in a **system of hybrid spaces** that blend pre-modern, modern and post-modern design elements and that fulfil a **broad range of old and new social functions**. This in mind, the discourse on who controls public space is increasingly replaced by a discourse on who is able to **invent new roles** for the public space and to make use of them in his

own interest. The role of traditional public regulation is limited while publicly initiated and mediated policies for the production and management of hybrid spaces are of crucial importance. Any reasoning on the **future of public spaces** will have to redefine this strategic role of public policy-making and the necessary resources.

Sophie Watson
Keynote Speech
**Everyday life and
sharing the city**
9am to 9.30am
Thursday
11th November

Rubbing along: Everyday encounters in public space.

In this paper I argue for encounters between different people in the city in which people **engage with each other**, even to disagree, rather than slide past each other without contact, and against a prevailing tendency for some sections of the public to segregate themselves from others in private domestic, commercial and leisure spaces where **they have no need** to engage with different others at all. The paper considers a range of sites in the city which are often ignored - for example religious sites, street markets, public baths, to think through why encounters across differences in the city sometimes lead to antagonisms, while at other times lead to engagement and mutual understanding. **Given** the growing diversity of city populations across the globe, as a result of **vast transnational movements of populations**, the role of public space as a space of mixing people up and enhancing interactions between different others, it is increasingly important that we understand what are the **possibilities** and what are the **limits** of public space as a key site in the multicultural city.

Uwe Altrock (born 1965) has a degree in Mathematics and Urban and Regional Planning and holds a Dr.-Ing. from Berlin UT Architecture Environment Society. Since 2006 he is Professor of Urban Regeneration at the Planning Faculty, University of Kassel. His core themes of work are: Theory of planning, history of planning and city planning.

Sophie Watson is Professor of Sociology at Open University, UK. She holds a PhD in Geography. Previous positions held include University of East London, University of Sidney, University of New South Wales and London School of Economics, amongst others. She published several books and articles about public space, e.g. City publics. The (dis)enchantment of urban encounters.

Keynote Speeches

Chris Keulemans
Keynote Speech
Multiple roles of
public space
2am to 2.30am
Thursday
11th November

Happy Ending

Amsterdam is a great city. There is arts, architecture, money, public space and creativity in abundance. Yet, this is a city without public squares of **any real elegance or grandeur**. Why is that? Could it be that an abundance of creative and financial means somehow paralyzes the development of public spaces to proudly share? No: cities like Barcelona, London, Stockholm and of course Vienna prove the opposite. Then what could be the reason? I believe that the cocktail of three particular obsessions, shared by municipality and citizens alike, is lethal to the creation of a true common public square: **democracy, orderliness and safety**. Fine qualities each, and irony wants that each of them is indispensable to the best public squares, but brought together they create a fear of exactly what brings a square to life. Our three main squares – Leidseplein, Dam and Rembrandtsplein – are a case in point.

Outside of the city centre, though, you will find squares that work. I will illustrate this by Mosplein, in the often forgotten Northern part of Amsterdam. A **mishmash** of urban design, hardly remarkable, in a state of neglect, but alive. The surrounding population – poor white

trash, elderly Turks, young Moroccans, starting artists and American stewardesses – has little grip on its formal development, but uses its **limited possibilities to the max**. Does it show elegance and grandeur? Absolutely not. And yet, there is a beauty to it that shines through ever stronger with every day that passes. Is it safe? Barely. Is it orderly? I am afraid not. Is it democratic? Absolutely. Does it accommodate multiple roles? **Any role you like**. In this speech, I will not sing the praise of arts, nor of temporary creativity or the necessity of corporate responsibility. I will even try **not to be too optimistic** about human nature. Still, if some of the most unremarkable places in a city turn out to be its most vibrant, I am sure there has to be some kind of happy ending to this story.

Chris Keulemans (Tunis, 1960) is an Amsterdam-based writer, journalist en cultural organizer. During the nineties, he was the director of De Balie, a centre for arts and politics in Amsterdam. After that, he traveled across Europe and beyond, always fascinated by public spaces in cities struck by crisis: Sarajevo, Tirana, Beirut, Jakarta, New Orleans, Detroit et al. He published several books of fiction and essays, and numerous articles on cinema, football, war, refugees, visual arts and urban transformation. Right now, he is setting up a large new arts centre in Amsterdam, on the wrong side of the river.

Monika de Frantz
Keynote Speech
4.30am to 5.00am
Thursday
11th November

Vienna: Culture, Politics and Public Space

Not only the restructuring of global markets, but also the political responses to transnationalization transform cities and states, and thus capital cities as centers of states. Responding to as well as actively constructing a climate of economic competition, urban policy makers use **symbolic flagship strategies** to support economic development, revive their political constituencies, and promote feelings of **pride and unity**. But the plural nature of urban cultures may not only promote collective mobilization. Particularly as capital cities are associated with the centers of nation and state, the deep symbolic meanings of cultural heritage can also enhance **contestation and conflict**. In the context of the European transformations since the 1990s, the public controversies about Vienna's cultural district Museumsquartier illustrated how the political leaders of this old European capital struggled for a collective response to **institutional adjustment pressures**. Taking further the political economic differentiation between the 'selling' and 'making' of places for global markets,

this posed the question of who makes culture and how in the local context. Enquiring into the discursive politics of culture-led urban regeneration showed how culture in its diverse forms and meanings can serve or constrain urban leaders to **redefine legitimacy** and govern institutional change. Challenging the static opposition of states and markets in **urban political economy**, this case of discursive contestation stressed urban culture as diverse and differentiated local context of reflective state-transformation. In order to 'bring the state back in' and 'repoliticize' urban globalization, the case of capital city cultures may contribute to conceptualize a comparative research agenda of transnational urban politics.

Dr. Monika De Frantz works on politics and space, incl. urban cultures and globalization. She is Visiting Professor and Marshall Plan Chair at the University of New Orleans. Previous positions were at London School of Economics, University of Vienna, Bauhaus-University Weimar, and European University Institute Florence, where she also defended her Ph.D. Forthcoming books: 'Capital City Cultures' on Vienna and Berlin (Peter Lang); Contemporary theories of European urban politics (Palgrave Macmillan).

Showing & Workshops

Showing

Print/audio/video
vernissage

Beißwenger, Sabine & Weck, Sabine; Cook, Ian Michael; Csaba, Timea; Gal, Bernhard; Grimm, Karl & Grimm-Pretner, Dagmar; Holub, Barbara; Kaakinen, Inka & Galanakis, Michail; Kelz, Christina; Meschiari, Claudia; Montalvo, Luis Basabe & Labrador, Luis Palacios & Laorga, Enrique Arenas; Tsiontsi, Stella; van Liempt, Ilse & van Aalst, Irina; Žaucer, Tadej

Remains

Workshop I
Thursday 11th Nov.
11:30am to 1pm
Palais Kabelwerk,
Foyer entrance
max. 25 participants

The definitions for the term 'public space' are as various and different as the disciplines concerned with urban topics themselves, that try to define it. But what kind of specific and tangible space is described by this term and the ideas behind it? Or is it – more than anything else – a definition for a not concrete, not permanent, but socially and culturally constituted space without any clearly definable borders? A possible approach to sharpen the concept of public space is to experience space by balancing it along its borders.

These boundaries between public and private, between here and now, the one and the other individuum can best be defined in movement and on-site. With our event we

will make visible the interfaces and crossovers between public and private concerning property, availability, permanence and temporality within a concretely defined space, a street in Vienna Meidling.

Building on theories of social movement research, every participant in this event is invited to mark his/her individually perceived borders between private and public space so to make temporarily visible the heterogeneity and subjectivity of public space and its usability.

Theresa Schütz Gehsteig Guerilla and IFOER, Vienna UT,
Emanuela Semlitsch IFOER Vienna UT and **Wolfgang Stempfer**
Urban Renewal Management 12th district, Vienna

Public space and social cohesion in diverse communities

Workshop II
Thursday 11th Nov.
2:45 to 4:15pm
Palais Kabelwerk,
Foyer 2nd floor
max. 25 participants

The workshop focuses on the role of public space concerning social cohesion in diverse communities. After a short input upon the results of workshops we currently hold with practitioners, academics and representatives of the administration in the course of an EU financed project (social polis) we want to discuss the influence and role of public space upon social cohesion and vice versa with interested participants of the conference. Can public space play a role to strengthen social cohesion? What are specific criteria for cohesive public spaces? Is it enough to provide attractive public space in a

neighborhood or does it need more? How much public space is necessary? Do we need streetworkers or other partners to support communication? What are the challenges for urban planning to deal with a diverse community and different interests?

Andrea Breitfuss, Urban renewal management 11th district, Vienna
Andrea Mann and **Peter Mlczech**, Urban renewal management 2nd district, Vienna

Conviviality

Workshop III
Thursday 11th Nov.
11:30am to 1pm
Palais Kabelwerk,
Foyer 2nd floor
max. 25 participants



The workshop will start with an introduction to the aims of the newly established AESOP thematic group on Public Space and Urban Cultures. The session will then proceed with small group discussions, in the form of 'world cafe' and facilitated by the organisers, around the theme The Politics and Practice of Convivial Public Spaces. Participants will have the opportunity to get familiar with the history, perspectives and objectives of the research group and shape future research design

and methodology, by engaging in short discussions around the following questions: 'What is a convivial space for you? What are your personal experiences with conviviality in public spaces? How can the link between practice and politics constitute the base for a promising analytical framework?'

Chiara Tornaghi (Leeds), **Ceren Sezer** (Delft), **Sabine Knierbein** (Vienna), Thematic Group on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures, Association of European Schools of Planning

Travel Information

Palais Kabelwerk (Conference Venue)

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Oswaldgasse 35A, 1120 Wien
phone: +43 1 8020565
web: <http://www.palaiskabelwerk.at>

Wappensaal

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Transportation details online

CAT - Fast airport train connection to Landstraße Wien Mitte <http://www.cityairporttrain.com/>

S7 Schnellbahn - Slow but cheap airport connection to Landstraße Wien Mitte
<http://www.schnellbahn-wien.at/english/maps.htm>

Wiener Linien - Public transport in Vienna
<http://www.wienerlinien.at/wl/ep/home.do?tabId=0>

Citybike system Vienna, one hour free <http://www.citybikewien.at/>

Municipality of Vienna
<http://www.wien.gv.at/english/>

ÖBB - Austrian federal railway
<http://www.oebb.at/en/index.jsp>

