

WWTF International Summer School 2014 Designing Places of Emancipation?

Learning field B

Between emancipatory practices and everyday life

Keynote: Jeff Hou

University of Washington, Seattle, USA und City of Vienna Visiting Professor 2013,
Vienna UT, Austria

Abstract:

Everyday Practices and the (Re)making of Cities

Jeffrey Hou City design and planning has primarily been the domain of experts and professionals. Over the course of the 20th century, knowledge of planning and design is primarily concerned with regulation and bringing order to the perceived mess of industrialized cities in the previous era, often at the expenses of the richness of everyday practices of the urban dwellers. The institutional and professional practice often limits, if not shunning, the participation and knowledge of ordinary citizens. But along with outcomes of institutional planning actions, cities are also lived spaces. As such, they are collectively produced and reproduced through both institutional planning and everyday practices of urban dwellers. How can we re-envision a planning practice that recognizes the everyday actions and practices of citizens? What precisely are the everyday practices that have shaped the cityscapes and experiences? How do they contribute to the making and remaking of cities and neighborhoods? Building recent discourses of insurgency and tactical urbanism, this talk explores the above questions through examples in cities around the world, including North America, Europe and Asia. It presents a case for a critical, yet collaborative planning and design practice that engages both institutional planning context and agency of citizens and communities.