

## Cities News

Issue 1  
Lent Term 2008

### Faculty

Prof. Robert Tavernor  
Dr Fran Tonkiss  
Dr Ayona Datta  
Dr Savvas Verdis

### Associate Faculty

Prof David Frisby  
Prof. Edward Soja  
Philipp Rode

### Visiting Professors in 2007-08

Prof. Gerald Frug  
Adam Caruso  
Mark Kleinman  
Kees Christiaanse

### Visiting Design Fellows

William Mann  
Stephen Witherford

### Administrator

Anna Livia Johnston

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## Faculty News

**Prof. Robert Tavernor** met Ollie Smoot, who's name appears in the title of his recent book, *Smoot's Ear; the measure of humanity*, at the US launch of the book at MIT in October 2007. He joined the calibration repainting ceremony on Harvard Bridge that evening: <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N43/smoot.html>

**Prof. Tavernor's** book chapter, 'Composing London Visually', has just been published by Routledge in *Visualizing the City*, edited by Alan Marcus and Dietrich Neumann (January 2008). The book is divided into four sections — Reflecting on the City, Remembering and Reinventing the City, Reframing and Reshaping the City, and Revisualizing the City.

**Prof. Tavernor** is an Architecture and Built Environment assessor for the national *Research Assessment Exercise* 2008 (RAE 2008), a process which extends from January to October 2008 and which determines the level of research funding received by university departments each year.

**Dr Ayona Datta** has two forthcoming publications in 2008:

- Spatialising Performance: Masculinities and Femininities in a Fragmented Field, *Gender, Place, and Culture*, vol. 15(2), pp. 191-207
- Architecture of Low-income Widow Housing: 'Spatial Transformations' in Madipur, West Delhi, *Cultural Geographies*, vol. 15(3), pp. 231-253.

**Dr Datta** has secured a book contract for her book project titled *Illegal Geographies of the City: Gender, Politics, and Space in a Squatter Settlement*, to be published in 2010.

**Dr Datta** is organising a special session on 'Spatial forms and Spatial processes in Globalising cities' in the Association of American Geographers' (AAG) meeting in Boston, April 2008. This is sponsored by the Urban Geography Speciality Group (UGSG) and includes international scholars and panelists like Prof. Edward Soja.

**Dr Savvas Verdis** successfully completed his PhD thesis in January 2007. His first monograph, *The Metropolitan Rhetoric of Classical Athens* is currently under review at Cambridge University Press.

## Academic Visitor

In 2008 the Cities Programme welcomed Dr Rachel Coutinho Marques da Silva, Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Urbanism, School of Architecture and Urbanism, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr Coutinho will be spending a year doing research based at the Cities Programme. Her inaugural lecture at the Cities Research Seminar was titled *Disorder and Corruption on Urban Space: some issues for discussion*.

## PhD Student News

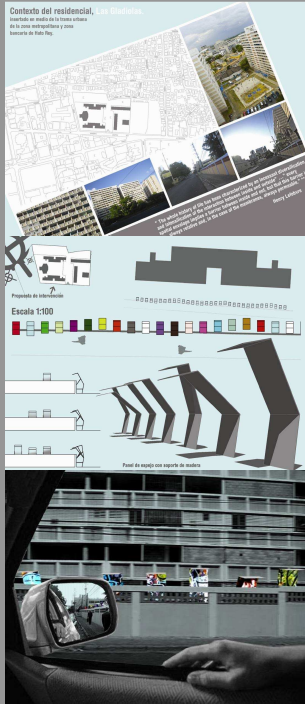
**Juergen Kufner** presented a paper in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Symposium; Architectural Humanities Research Association, in the School of Architecture and Visual Arts; University of East London; 21 September 2007. His paper was titled *Experiencing Past Present and Future of Places Virtually*.

**Juergen** is presenting a paper in the Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology Annual Conference: Energy & Innovation, Boston, MA, in February 14-17, 2008. His paper is titled *Townscape assessment in London: From visual to experiential analysis*.

**Juergen** received the Arts & Humanities Research Council, AHRC Doctoral Award for 2007-2009. His PhD is titled: *The Moving Target: Strategies of policy-making, designing and analyzing tall buildings*.

**Hiromasa Shirai**, who is researching the legacy of the Olympic movement on cities, has been awarded an International Olympic Committee (IOC) grant to conduct archival research at the IOC HQ in Lausanne, and in Sydney.

**Melissa Fernández** and Barcelona-based architect Andrea Bauza have collaborated on a project for the forthcoming VI Iberoamerican Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism (*VI Bienal Iberoamericana de Arquitectura y Urbanismo*) [BIAU] in Lisbon in 2008. This is a 'gestural' project entitled 'Reflections of the (in)Visible'—directly related to Melissa's doctoral research of a public housing project in San Juan, Puerto Rico and the gendered community activism and policies affecting it. Amidst the ever-growing menace of being displaced in order to implode their towers, the selected work suggests a design based on the social and physical



Images: Melissa Fernández

circumstances of the residents and draws from their periodic and autonomously organized community events in order to propose an activity of self-representation on their living space's delimiting walls.

The entire community, led by its women leaders, would have the opportunity of painting images of their daily life on the inside surface of the project's borders. These, in turn, would be projected to the exterior by a series of mirrors thereby interrupting the habitual direction of the production of images of the housing project and its residents. By being an active and communal form of self-representation, it seeks to demonstrate the synergism between processes of appropriation of space, community organization, and acts of resistance.

### MPhil/PhD upgrades/graduates

**Darinka Aleksic, Richard Dunlap, Robin Kim, Suzi Hall, and Olivia Muñoz-Rojas Oscarsson** have all upgraded from MPhil to PhD in the last year.

**James Armitage** was awarded a PhD in 2007 for his thesis on *Urbanism and Community in the work of Léon Krier*.

### New PhD arrivals

Cities Programme welcomed **Richard Bramwell, Juliet Davis, Guenter Gassner, Adam Kaasa** and **Philipp Rode** onto the PhD programme in 2007-08.

**Noah Raford** has joined us as a PhD exchange student as part of the MIT-Cities doctoral partnership. Noah is working on 'Post-Climate Change Urbanism'.

### Cities PhD Research Group

This is a discussion and research group founded by PhD students of the Cities Programme in October 2007. The aim of Cities Research is to identify research areas shared by PhD students in the Cities Programme in order to pursue common research projects.

What conjoins PhD students in the Cities Programme is the common focus on spatial and social issues, for the most part situated in the London region. Despite our commonalities, we employ a highly diverse range of methodologies ranging from visual and architectural analysis,

policy analysis, ethnography, qualitative interviewing, and studies of archival data. Methodological diversity might allow us to investigate a wide range of phenomena that interdependently constitute the reality of cities.

In Michaelmas term 2007 each participant presented core parts of their current research to the group. Due to our shared knowledge base, discussions were highly effective in terms of advancing each of their individual projects. In Lent term 2008 we aim to focus discussion on identifying a common project based on shared knowledge produced during presentations from 2007.

Current participants are: Juliet Davis, Corinna Dean, Richard Stockton Dunlap, Guenter Gassner, Suzanne Hall, Jamie Keddie, Robin J H Kim, Juergen Kufner, Torsten Schroeder, Hiromasa Shirai

### Early Career Housing Researchers' Network (ECHRN)

This is for researchers starting out in academia (including PhD students), public and private sectors who are engaged in the study of housing and its intersection with social theory, policy, urban design, inequality and change. It aims to promote the communication and dissemination of ideas, through a supportive medium, to early career housing researchers.

The network operates as an independent email forum, linking members into key events and news in housing research. Members can also use the mailing list to ask each other for advice and support in conducting their research, and to promote events, publications, and new research that they are involved in. Informal social events will provide new researchers with an opportunity to meet face to face. The first such social event – the formal launch of the Network – will be at the Housing Studies Association Annual Conference (2 – 4 April 2008).

For more information, or to join the network, please contact:

**Jamie Keddie** (Cities PhD student):  
[j.e.keddie@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.keddie@lse.ac.uk)

### Cities Alumni News

**John Morgan** (MSc 2006-07) has been appointed Director of the architecture practice KMW, and is teaching part-time in the LAPA Studio run by Prof. Harry Guger, at EPFL in Switzerland.