

Cities News

Issue 4
Summer Term 2009

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Fran Tonkiss
Savvas Verdis

Associate Faculty

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Philipp Rode

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Juliet Davis
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Visiting Professors 2008-09

Adam Caruso
Gerald Frug
Mark Kleinman

Visiting Design Fellows 2008-09

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Faculty News

Alain Chiaradia initiated, directed and completed the i-VALUL project, a two year research project on the intangible value of urban layout. The project was the largest (£1.2m) of the 'UrbanBuzz' building sustainable communities research programme funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund. He also contributed to SEDUC and Vibat of the same programme. See *The Complete UrbanBuzz*, published by UCL, 2009.

Ayona Datta received a European Science Foundation conference grant of €40,000 to chair a conference titled 'Home, Migration and the City' in Linköping, Sweden from 6th-10th August 2010. Call for Papers will be circulated in early 2010.

Ayona (with Katherine Brickell) has signed a book contract titled *Translocal Geographies: Spaces, places, connections*. The book argues for a spatial understanding of translocality that situates the migrant experience within/across particular locales without confining it to the territorial boundedness of the nation-state. It will be published in 2010 by Ashgate.

Ayona was invited to Ben Gurion University, Israel in April to deliver a keynote lecture in the one day seminar on 'Development(ality), Communities, and Periphery'.

Philipp Rode and **Savvas Verdis** will now be teaching City Making: The Politics of Urban Form (S0465) as a graduate module available to the wider LSE student body. The course, which has evolved in its current format through the generous feedback of over fifty Cities MSc students over the last three years, will remain a core part of the City Design Research Studio.

In June, **Fran Tonkiss** and **Richard Sennett** were members of the jury to select the architects to design the new LSE student union centre that will replace the two buildings currently on the St Philips site. 133 practices from around the world applied to take part in the competition, and the jury made their selection from a shortlist of six innovative designs. The winners are Dublin based practice O'Donnell & Tuomey Architects. The new Student Centre is planned for a 2012 opening, and the Cities Programme will be moving out of St Philips in 2010.

Academic Visitors

Catharina Gabrielsson presented a paper on 'The Potential of the Empty House', in a session on space and narrative at a conference titled 'Culture~Nature', ACSIS Linköping, 15th-17th June.

Catharina also gave a paper on 'Origins as a Sign of Pathology in Architectural Thought' at the Nordic Summer University (Philosophy), Athens, 27th-29th March.

Laura Gherardi joined us in March for six months as a post-doctoral Visiting Fellow, working with **Leslie Sklair** on iconic architecture and researching space-time transformations in capitalism, rhythms and use of time and space related to social classes, and globalization. Laura is an associate researcher at the Faculty of Sociology of Università Cattolica, Milan and a member of the laboratory GSPM (Groupe de Sociologie Politique et Morale), Paris.

PhD Student News

Two Cities students have successfully passed their PhDs over the last term: **Olivia Muñoz-Rojas**, for *War-time destruction and post-war reconstruction of cities: Barcelona, Bilbao and Madrid during and after the Spanish Civil War (1936-1959)* and **Susan Parham** for *Exploring London's food quarters: urban design and social process in three food-centred spaces*

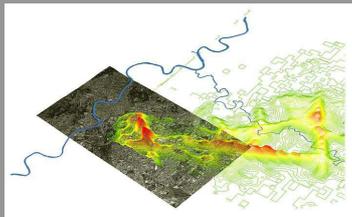
citiesLAB is pleased to announce the publication of the first volume in a Working Paper Series by PhD researchers in the Cities Programme. *Researching the Social and Spatial Life of the City* is sponsored by the Department of Sociology at the LSE, and focuses on approaches to the study of the city that link social life and spatial form. This volume is introduced by **Fran Tonkiss**, and contributors include **Juliet Davis**, **Corinna Dean**, **Gunter Gassner**, **Suzanne Hall** and **Jamie Keddle**.

The **Writing Cities Workshop 2009** was held at LSE from 1st-3rd June. Research students from the LSE Cities Programme, MIT School of Architecture and Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Law School met over the two day period, to review their respective papers in response to the theme: 'How do views shape words, how do words shape cities?'

Images from Writing Cities Workshop papers:



Olivia Muñoz-Rojas, 'Metonyms for a dictatorship: cities under Franco'



Orkan Telhan, 'Sensor Narratives'



Gunter Gassner, 'Skylines and the "whole" city: Protected and unprotected views from the South Bank towards the City of London'



Olivia Muñoz-Rojas, 'Metonyms for a dictatorship: cities under Franco'



Cecilia Dinardi, 'Writing an Urban Story from the Walls of a Building. The case of the Post and Telecommunications Palace in Buenos Aires'

Cities News Editors:
Ayona Datta
Anna Livia Johnston

Following on from the success of the workshop, submissions are currently being revised for publication in a forthcoming annual 'Working Paper Series' - a project to be developed by participating students.

The organising committee (**Juliet Davis, Cecilia Dinardi, Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia, Suzanne Hall and Olivia Muñoz-Rojas**) would like to thank **Les Back** for his inspiring keynote address, and **Richard Sennett, Gerald Frug** and **Fran Tonkiss** for their contributions.

Cecilia Dinardi has been appointed Research Officer by the Department of Cultural Policy and Management at City University London. She will be responsible for the creation of a research database on the cultural and creative industries with relevance to London. The web-based database will contain summaries of research undertaken on London's cultural and creative sectors over the last decade. It will constitute a crucial tool for policy makers, researchers and service providers working in the field.

Richard Stockton Dunlap recently served as the architectural historian and guide for 'Le Corbusier's Paris', organized by the Architectural Association in London, and held on-site in Paris on 16th May.

Adam Kaasa presented a paper entitled "It's looks that count in this city": Apparent Modernity and the Multifamilare Miguel Alemán' at the 'Objects of Knowledge/Objects of Exchange: Contours of (Inter)disciplinarity', Mellon Graduate Student Conference at Harvard University in April.

Adam is also presenting a paper at the 'Visuality/Materiality: Reviewing Theory, Method and Practice' conference at RIBA in July 2009. His paper is called, 'Nothingness and Post-Revolutionary Mexico City'.

Olivia Muñoz-Rojas's paper 'On Falangist Relics and Egyptian Temples: the remarkable history of the ruins of the Cuartel de la Montaña' was among ten selected research and art projects presented at the Open Forum of the 16th Image Studies Symposium: Imag(in)ing_(Hi)storytelling at the Centro de Arte 2 de Mayo CA2M in Móstoles (Madrid) 20th-23rd May.

Hiromasa Shirai has submitted his research report on the 'Spatial

transformation of the Olympic Park in Sydney and London' to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), as his final report for the IOC research grant programme 2008. The report will be published shortly by the IOC.

The 7th Annual **NYLON** conference took place at CRASSH in Cambridge University in March. The conference was convened by **Richard Sennett**, and many LSE Cities PhD students participated in the 3 day event including: **Olivia Muñoz-Rojas, Suzi Hall, Melissa Fernández Arrigoitia, Torsten Schroeder, Juliet Davis and Cecilia Dinardi.**

MSc News

Studio Publication: On 30th June Cities launched the 2008-09 MSc City Design and Social Science Research Studio publication *Inner Edge*, focusing on London's 'City fringe' of Bishopsgate and the redevelopment plans for Bishopsgate Goods Yard, hit by recession. The publication will be available to download from the Cities website and a limited number of copies may be available for sale (details on website soon).

Liz Dunn, who is studying for the MSc part-time, started a job at the end of March as Consulting Director for the Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (US). She will help the National Trust through the start-up phase of this think-tank, which is based in Seattle and which will work with US cities on their policies for building re-use, recognizing the role of re-using and retrofitting all older and existing buildings in mitigating climate change and contributing to urban sustainability.

Alumni News

Cities alumnus **Justin Steil** (Class of 2004) has co-edited a book, *Searching for the Just City*, which has just been published by Routledge (May 2009).

On 8th June **Mark Atkinson** (Class of 2006) took up a post as the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's first ever Markets Development Officer. It will be his responsibility to bring new vitality to Portobello and Golborne markets and to ensure the long term financial viability of the markets and market streets.