

Cities News

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Suzanne Hall
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Robert Tavernor
Fran Tonkiss
Savvas Verdis

Senior Visiting Fellow 2010-11

Joseph Heathcott

Visiting Fellow 2011

Karoliina Hartiala

Lent and Summer Term Masterclasses

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Guest Practices

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MSc News

This year's annual MSc field trip was to Moscow, at the end of March. **Dr Suzanne Hall, Dr Fran Tonkiss** and 30 students braved sub-zero temperatures to investigate the challenges facing the city's planners and urban designers, and looked in detail at several sites along the Sadovoe or 'Garden' ring road. Their programme was put together by architect and urban researcher **Yuriy Milevskiy**. The field trip was generously supported by the **Ove Arup Foundation**. See our website MSc field trip pages for more.

Studio Publication: Our 2010-11 City Design Research Studio theme was 'High Street 2012'. From Aldgate in the west to Stratford in the east, students explored the qualities of the street, shaped by its diverse populations, uneven economic conditions and changing physical forms. Our studio publication launch is at LSE on 30 June. *City Street* will also be available to read as a PDF from the website.

MSc students and teaching fellows **Dr Suzanne Hall** and **Juliet Davis** displayed their work on 'High Street 2012' for this year's Studio at the annual UCL Cities Methodologies exhibition at the Slade from 4 to 7 May, and held a discussion on 'City Street: public realm as line and labyrinth', based on this project.

We were very pleased to welcome two Cities Programme alumni as guest teachers on the MSc this year. **Jeff Risom** (class of 2009) of Gehl Architects in Copenhagen visited the City Design Research Studio in January, presenting the work of his practice on public spaces internationally, and doing Studio tutorials on the High Street 2012 projects. **Mike Duff** (class of 2003), of Buro Happold Consulting in London, led two sessions on the Urban Environment course in Lent Term - on Food and the City, and Urban Metabolism. The programme continues to be enriched by the formal and informal contributions of our alumni network, offering advice and information as well as academic input to current students

Rashid Ali has been awarded the 2011 Giles Worsley Fellowship at the British School in Rome. During the three month residency from October 2011 - January 2012, Rashid will research Italy's influence on the architecture and the built form of Mogadishu between 1930 and 1980 and the social and cultural practices it came to engender.

PhD Student News

The annual **Writing Cities** conference was held at LSE from 19-21 May on the theme 'Distance and cities: where do we stand?' The conference is organised by graduate researchers at the Cities Programme, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, MIT Media LAB, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Law School. This year's organising committee members were **Gunter Gassner, Adam Kaasa** and **Katherine Robinson**.

Cecilia Dinardi was awarded a grant from the LSE Santander Travel Research Fund to develop knowledge exchange activities in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During March-April, she liaised with local academics and delivered presentations on her doctoral research at the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales (IDAES) and at the social anthropology seminar on cities and urban cultures at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (FFyL), Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA). She also gave a guest lecture at the Universidad de San Martín (UNSAM) and delivered the key note speech at the Coloquio del Instituto de Ciencias Antropológicas (ICA - FFyL, UBA).

Torsten Schroeder was invited to the International Design Workshop 'River City Gothenburg' from 7-11 June as strategic designer to develop an environmental and sustainable vision for Gothenburg's future development. He was selected in a team collaborating with East Architecture, Susannah Hagan, Christopher Hall and Kieran Long.

Between 1 - 3 July Torsten has been invited to participate in the International Architecture Festival EME3 in Barcelona and to give a lecture presenting excerpts from his current PhD research, which explores framings of environmental challenges and their translation into architectural design.

Congratulations to **Ricardo de Vasconcelos**, who has successfully passed the MPhil degree for his thesis on 'Design of urban space: the case of Parque das Nações 1993-2005.'

In March **Ed Wall** gave a lecture to the architecture school at Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, to discuss concepts of formality and informality in relation to public space and the city. The lecture was part of an international lecture series organised by Professor Daniel Zarza.



Moscow spring: image from MSc fieldtrip by Claire Mookerjee



DB: not a Cities alumnus but sharing a magazine with Elias Redstone (who is)



All white now: installation in Savvas Verdis's old office, St Philips Building, by Dominic Wilcox

Editor: Anna Livia Johnston

Alumni News

Alisa Brem (class of 2009) is a graduate student at George Washington University Law School. She recently had a paper 'The Lorax Tax: State and Local Green Building Tax Incentives are Good Tax Policy' accepted for publication in *State Tax Notes* magazine. For more on Alisa (and other alumni) see our website alumni pages.

Ömer Çavuşoğlu (class of 2008) is assistant editor of *Living in the Endless City* (Phaidon Press, 2011), the follow-up to *The Endless City*, both of which are edited by LSE Cities director **Ricky Burdett** and Deyan Sudjic. Ömer has now left LSE Cities, where he worked as a researcher since completing his MSc, to travel.

Elias Redstone (class of 2003) has been busy curating and editing a catalogue for group exhibition 'Paris: concrete islands', Analix Forever (Paris), 9-17 April; worked on commission 'X marks the spot' for the Dazed Live festival in Shoreditch (9 April); launched ARCHI ZINES in January 2011 to showcase new architecture fanzines, journals and magazines from around the world; wrote for *Fantastic Man* magazine (pictured). For more go to: <http://www.eliasredstone.com/>

Lindsey Scannapieco (class of 2010) is working on a pop-up cinema project for Scout Ltd. 'Films on Fridges', is inspired by the 'Fridge Mountain', an enormous mound of discarded refrigerators removed from the 2012 Olympic site. The idea is to resurrect this industrial icon in the form of a playful, educational, and interactive summer pop-up cinema, constructed from re-purposed materials and discarded fridges, adjacent to the Olympic stadium in the community of Hackney Wick & Fish Island. The cinema will screen sports films, a tribute to the area's Olympic destiny, and also seeks to provide an artistic platform for the active creative community present in the area.

Faculty and Visiting Fellows

Dr Ayona Datta has published a new book with Dr Katherine Brickell, Royal Holloway, University of London (eds.): *Translocal Geographies: Spaces, places, connections*, Ashgate, 2011.

In April 2011, **Dr Suzanne Hall** gave a public lecture at the School of Architecture, University of Cape Town, on 'What kind of a city does a street make?'

Suzi has signed a book contract with Routledge for her forthcoming monograph, *City, Street and Citizen: The measure of the ordinary*. Her book is part of a new Routledge series, 'Advances in Ethnography'. Her Open House International article, 'Being at Home: Space for belonging in a London caff', has been reprinted in Dick Hobbs (ed.) *Ethnography in Context: The urban condition*, vol. 1 (2011), London, SAGE.

Dr Fran Tonkiss presented on 'The politics of pedal power' in the Sustainable Urban Transport strand of the Ecobuild conference in London in February. In June she contributed to a workshop on 'The post-political city' at the Open University, was an invited speaker at an international conference on 'The Distinctiveness of Cities' at the Technical University in Darmstadt, and chaired a session at the 'Cities in Conflict' conference at the ICA in London.

Fran recently published two commentary pieces: 'Spatial causes, social effects: A response to Soja', in *City*, 15/1, and a review symposium on Anna Minton's *Ground Control: fear and happiness in the twenty-first century city* in the journal *Sociology* 45/2.

Visiting Fellow **Karoliina Hartiala** continued her research on urban infill first through mapping the policy framework around densification in the UK and then went on to select case studies. Along with the case studies on already built projects in the UK three sites were chosen together with the cities of Helsinki and Jyväskylä for studying the potential of infill development in Finland.

Cities Events

LSE Cities colleagues **Miranda Iossifidis**, **Adam Kaasa** and **Katherine Wallis** and Christien Garcia curated an exhibition and series of events entitled 'Students, Patients, Paupers: the many lives of the St Philips Building' from 5 to 13 May, in honour of the old home of the Cities Programme, also a former workhouse, venereal disease hospital and refugee facility before being acquired by LSE, and now – finally – being demolished. For the full story, see: <http://stphilips.tumblr.com/>

LSE Cities launched *Living in the Endless City* on 6 June – see their website for more on this and their programme of public lectures and events...