

# Cities News

Cities Programme newsletter issue 12  
Summer Term 2013

## MSc student news



Anna Bray Sharpin and Melissa Meyer keep the chill out in Bucharest (March). Image courtesy of Nicola Walt.

## Field Trip to Bucharest

This year our MSc City Design and Social Science students visited Bucharest from 23-28 March 2013, accompanied by faculty members **Dr Suzanne Hall** and **Dr David Madden** and guided by **Gruia Badescu**, a graduate of the MSc City Design (2009) currently studying for a PhD at Cambridge. They met with architects, city planners, social scientists and representatives from NGOs and neighbourhood groups concerned with Bucharest's redevelopment plans, and looked at several of the sites where these are going ahead. For more see our Bucharest webpage.

In May 2013 **Alejandro Sajgalik**, **Justinien Tribillon** and **Tsuguta Yamashita** went back to Bucharest with the support of the Cities Programme to participate in a conference on "Urban Metamorphoses: Landscapes of Power and Memory" organised by the Department of Political Sciences (FSPUB) from the University of Bucharest as part of the international project "La rue comme lieu d'expression du politique". **Gruia Badescu** participated as scientific advisor for the conference and a discussant of student papers.



Tsuguta Yamashita, Alejandro Sajgalik and Gruia Badescu chill out in Bucharest (May). Image courtesy of Justinien Tribillon.

## Studio Publication: *Local City*

In 2012-13, the City Design Research Studio focused on the inner London borough of Hackney as a site for thinking about the challenges of the local city. Against the backdrop of current political designs for 'localism', we aimed to explore in more imaginative ways various local capacities for city-making. Beginning at Hackney Central and the dense commercial, residential, social and mobile environments that surround it, the Studio groups analysed the connections and contexts, the actors and interests, the problems and potential which constitute this complex locality. This year's Studio publication has had a chic Parisian makeover thanks to designers **Alejandro Sajgalik** and **Justinien Tribillon**. *Local City* will be launched on 2 July at the annual end of year party for MSc City Design students and all involved with the Cities Programme. It will also be available to read in PDF format from the website.

## Special seminar by Eduardo Engel

MSc City Design students in conjunction with the LSESU Chile Society invited top Chilean economist **Dr Eduardo Engel**, who teaches at Yale and the Universidad de Chile, to give a seminar on 25 May on one of the subjects of his expertise: 'The challenges of public-private

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partnership in Chile', followed by a barbeque at Goodenough College.

## Urban Controversies

This panel event on the evening of Wednesday 6 March, full title 'Urban Controversies: how controversies shape our cities,' was organised by students with speakers **Dr Gareth Jones** (Reader, LSE Urban Geography), **Juan Sebastian Lama** (architect, PUC Chile and MSc City Design student), **Gloria Morrison** (Campaigning Coordinator, JENGBA) and **Dr Austin Zeiderman** (LSE Cities Research Fellow), talking about natural and man-made disasters and their aftermath in Columbia, Chile and London. It was chaired by **Dr Suzi Hall** and MSc City Design student **Amy Parker**. Listen to/watch the Urban Controversies [podcast and video](#).

We are delighted to announce a new project created by our MSc City Design students: [urbanControversies.com](http://urbanControversies.com) is a website that presents a critical look at urban conflicts around the world. This project aims to explore the dynamics behind the construction of the urban fabric and how conflict is an important force in shaping the city. We invite urban researchers and practitioners to contribute by writing a short piece (500 words) analyzing a case study of conflict or disagreement in any particular city. This can be based on his/her current research or inspired by current events and urban developments. In each post, we strive to address questions like: What can we learn from past experiences? How can we design for catastrophes or can we anticipate them? What occurs when the capacities of urban institutions collapse, either from social or physical pressures? And finally what happens when globalisation hits the ground? Case-based urban disruptions emerge as direct answers to challenges facing researchers and practitioners. Send yours to [contact@urbancontroversies.com](mailto:contact@urbancontroversies.com).

## Urban Stories, Learning from Mistakes

**Carina Arvizu Machado** and fellow students invited **Alfredo Brillembourg** to give a public lecture at LSE on 14 June 2013. Alfredo Brillembourg is a founding partner of Urban-Think Tank and a guest professor at the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, Columbia University, where he and Hubert Klumpner co-founded the Sustainable Living Urban Model Laboratory (S.L.U.M. Lab). Urban-Think Tank (U-TT) has made a point of looking around the world, particularly at the Global South, for strategies for how we might build a more equitable city. The talk featured work from the two latest SLUM Lab publications, and observations on projects in Caracas and other cities.



La Ciudad Verde. Image courtesy of David Montero Jalil.

**David Montero Jalil** has been working with others on the coordination of La Ciudad Verde, a Colombian civic organization that creates national synergies of citizens and organizations for promoting urban sustainability. La Ciudad Verde's project *#BicisPorLaVida* (*#BikesForLife*) was awarded the Cycling Visionaries Prize by the Velo-City Conference held this year in Vienna, Austria. This year the project is working to extend to Latin America and the Caribbean with the support of The Climate Reality Project, and La Ciudad Verde has been invited to participate in the 2013 Ecocity World Summit in Nantes, France, for their projects on "Creative Sustainability". David was also invited to become a member of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, for his social works in Colombia. Twitter: @LaCiudadVerde/@DMonteroJalil

## PhD student news

**Adam Kaasa** gave a lecture on 27 February 'Why are we lighting the future?' as part of the 'Light Show' exhibition at the Hayward Gallery: [Lighting the Future](#). In March, he was a finalist in the AHRC and BBC Radio 3 Next Generation Thinkers programme, spending a day with BBC producers and editors to workshop research into radio documentaries.

In April, Adam attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, presenting his paper 'The

Architecture of Legitimacy: Transatlantic Circulation and the Making of Modern Mexico City'. In June, he facilitated the post-show discussion of the choreographer Amaara Raheem's 'The Shield' at the Ovalhouse Theatre, London.

On 25 June, Adam is launching a new four-part salon series on [Negotiating Spaces](#) as part of the Theatrum Mundi project at LSE Cities. The first salon is 'Negotiating Time: Can the temporary leave a trace?' hosted by The Shed at the National Theatre.

**Katherine Robinson** gave a paper on "Culture, in a place like this?": 'edgy places' at the Stadtkolloquium, University College London on 20 June. In her paper she introduced ideas around the notion of peripherality and outlined how - in understandings of the city neighbourhoods where she did fieldwork in two public libraries - ideas of peripherality operate on both a spatial level and on a discursive level. On 1 July, Katherine is giving a paper, 'Listening to the Public Library' in the Senses and the City panel of the Emotional Geographies conference at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

## Alumni news

**Alisa Brem** (2009) joined Grosvenor Americas' Washington DC office as an Assistant Development Manager. Her projects include place making urban infill projects in the DC metro area based on Grosvenor's living cities principles. She completed her Fulbright on Italy's real estate markets: understanding the relationship between historical preservation and new construction, barriers to entry for foreign investments, and sustainability policies in Italian cities. Alisa is keen to hear from fellow alumni in the Washington DC area, so if you are one or know of one please get in touch!

**Julia D Day** (2012) is now working with Gehl Architects on a public realm study and vision plan for East Midtown in New York and contributing to the development of new research initiatives for their Institute.



'Minha Casa Minha Vida' graffiti in Morro Pravidencia (image Melissa Fernández).

**Dr Melissa Fernández** (PhD 2010) will be carrying out research in Rio de Janeiro on 'Housing displacement and livelihoods: linking evictions and labour' with a grant from STICERD (following a related 2012 travel grant from Santander). She has also received an LSE Seed Grant in collaboration with Dr Sunil Kumar, Department of Social Policy, to expand this into a larger proposal on transnational evictions and livelihoods. Melissa will be presenting ongoing ethnographic research on an emerging co-housing community at the 'Mobilising London's Housing Histories' June conference at the Institute of Historical Research. Wiley will publish her co-edited book with Kath Scanlon and Christine Whitehead on 'Social Housing in Europe' in early 2014.

**Miriam Fitzpatrick** (2003) presented a paper at the annual conference of Irish Association for American Studies 2013 'Freedom Proclaimed' on 'A Chair to Move; the Value of Freedom of Choice to a City's Social Life'. She is also shortlisted for the AESOP-ACSP (Association of European School of Planning & Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning) International Congress to be held in Dublin in July 2013. Her paper continues her research into urbanist William Holly Whyte with 'Seven Vignettes on William H.

Whyte's legacy in the place-making tradition, 1957-1975.'

**Maren Harnack** (2001) has been appointed full Professor for Urban Design at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.

**Sarah Ichioka** (2003) has contributed an essay about architecture and natural limits to growth within the forthcoming 25th anniversary catalogue of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award:

[25th anniversary EUMiesPrize](#)

The Architecture Foundation, of which Sarah has been director since 2008, is mounting its summer exhibition on resource-based design, as exemplified by the work of Rotterdam-based architects Superuse Studio. See: [InsideFlows: The Superuse Approach to Design](#)

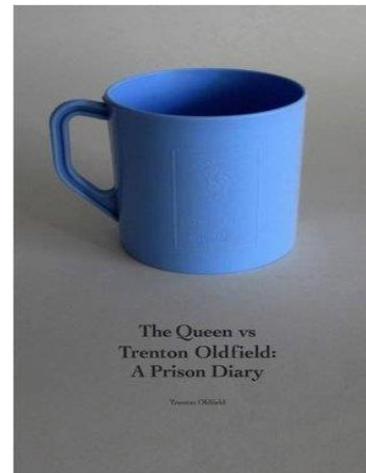
**Francis Moss** (2012) is partner at the urban design consultancy Marko and Placemakers which focuses on weaving together existing and new urban narratives by integrating urban design and research. The consultancy was highly commended in the RIBA Vauxhall urban design competition and is also undertaking mapping and ethnographic research on employment on industrial estates in London. Francis is also undertaking research into housing design and sustainability at the Homes and Communities Agency.



Vauxhall competition submission (detail). Image courtesy of Francis Moss.

**Trenton Oldfield** launched his book *The Queen vs Trenton Oldfield: A Prison Diary* on 27 March 2013 in the City of London. The book combines a diary, a section of resources for prisoners, a photographic anthology of everyday prison items, the

transcript of his time on the stand giving evidence and a number of independently authored essays on the Public Nuisance law.



Standard issue: cover of *The Queen vs Trenton Oldfield: A Prison Diary*

**Dr Susan Parham** (PhD 2009, now Head of Urbanism at the University of Hertfordshire) came to LSE on 11 June to discuss her new book *Market Place: Food quarters, design and urban renewal in London* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013) with Tim Butler, Professor of Geography at King's College London, at an event chaired by Dr Fran Tonkiss. For more information on the book see [publisher's webpage](#).

**Charlie Peel** (2011) is working with Sir Terry Farrell on the Review of Architecture and the Built Environment. In March, the Minister for Architecture, Ed Vaizey MP, launched the Review along with a panel of 11 luminaries from across the sector. The scope of the Review and more information on the panel can be found on the website, including a public call for evidence open until the 19<sup>th</sup> July. **LSE Cities** are providing support for a workshop on the Review's second Term of Reference: The Economic Benefits of Architecture and Design, and Maximising the UK's Growth Potential: [www.farrellreview.co.uk](http://www.farrellreview.co.uk)

**Elias Redstone** (2003) is curating an exhibition at the Design Museum, London. 'Lesser Known Architecture: A celebration of underappreciated London

## Faculty news

buildings' runs from 4 June - 22 July 2013, and is a free exhibition celebrating extraordinary London architecture. Nominated by leading architecture critics, these ten buildings, structures and subways contribute to the mix and diversity of the city but are too often overlooked and forgotten. Lesser Known Architecture presents an alternative architectural map of the city. Each site has been photographed by Theo Simpson and will be displayed as a series of single-colour offset prints in the Design Museum Café and Tank. The installation is designed by Ben Mclaughlin.



Underappreciated? Welbeck St car park. Image by Theo Simpson.

Congratulations to **Jeff Risom** (2009), who has become a partner at Gehl: [Second Generation Architects](#). Jeff is a regular visitor to the Cities Programme as a guest practitioner, and returned to give an expert seminar for the City Design Research Studio on 18 February. This was followed by a screening of the documentary *The Human Scale*, a film by Andreas M. Dalsgaard presenting the work of Gehl Architects through the lens of various cities which they have worked with and influenced. The film was screened on 22 June at the Bloomsbury Theatre as part of the Open Docs Festival, and nominated for the Best City Film Award.

**Joshua Simoneau** (2012) has been invited to join the committee of the Rotch Travelling Scholarship (<http://rotch.org>). It is the oldest scholarship of its kind in the US, and one he was awarded in 2008.

The position is for five years, with different responsibilities in each year; in years two and four he will write the competition brief and help assemble the juries, and in the last year will act as advisor to the winner. Joshua currently works as an architect at Cannon Design, Boston.

Congratulations too to **Sachin Soni** (2011) and his bride Sneha, who were married on 13 May 2013. Sachin is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad where he teaches architectural design studios and the history and theory of architecture. Sneha is an interior designer based in Ahmedabad.



Sachin and Sneha get married, image courtesy of Sachin Soni.

**Adriana Valdez Young** (2012) co-founded the architecture and lifestyle zine *Betta*, which was recently included in the Archizines world tour, curated by **Elias Redstone** (see above). *Betta* has so far travelled for exhibit at RMIT, Melbourne, and Torcuato Di Tella University, with assistance from PLOT Magazine in Buenos Aires.



AN OLD MAN IN MUMBAI DID NOT GO TO THE MALL BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID TO WALK ON FRICTIONLESS FLOORS

Back cover of *Betta* magazine issue 1: on war and shopping. Image courtesy of Adriana Valdez Young.

**Dr Suzanne Hall** leads the 'Ordinary Streets' research project at LSE Cities, which focuses on the economies and spaces of urban migration and hyper-diversity. She is also actively involved in 'the future of the British high street' debates, and she recently presented the research on Peckham Rye Lane to Southwark Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Suzi submitted the Future of London's Town Centres report to the Planning Committee of the London Assembly.

Suzi presented a paper on 'Rescaling the Transnational City: In search of a trans-methodology' at a public lecture at Humboldt University in Berlin, the British Sociology Association annual conference, and at a seminar at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society. Her paper, 'The Politics of Belonging' was recently published in the journal, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*.

On 5 June Suzi gave a lecture at LSE hosted by LSE Cities and the London Festival of Architecture on 'Multilingual Streets: London's litmus strips of change'. Suzi discussed how accelerated change is expressed in the cultural and economic life of London's streets, focusing on Peckham Rye Lane and the Walworth Road.

**Dr Fran Tonkiss** has a new article on 'Austerity urbanism and the makeshift city' published in *CITY* 17/3: 312-24. In June, Fran gave a seminar, 'Does it matter how the "politics of place" works?' at the Centre for Sustainable Communities, University of Hertfordshire.

Last but definitely not least: **Dr Savvas Verdis** has finally become a dad. Constantine Verdis was born on 24 January at 3.4kg and has since doubled his weight.