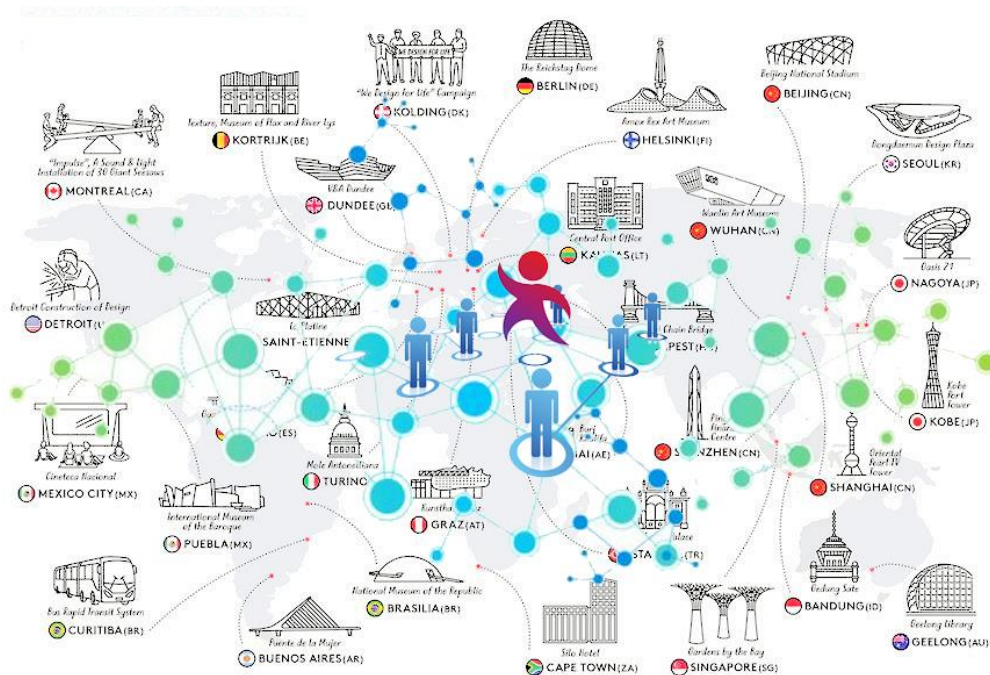


Sommersemester 2021
Historische Urbanistik
Mi 14-16
Digitaler Seminarraum

Dr. Claudia Seldin

Seminar: Informal Networks: Culture in Temporary Spaces

Modul 6: Stadt im Netz



**Seminar:
“Informal Networks:
Culture in Temporary Spaces”**

Description:

This seminar proposes the adaptation and theoretical development of the Modul 3 course “Cultural Planning in Europe and the Americas” with a focus on in-class debates, rather than one-sided lectures. This semester, we will explore the following topics: culture as a tool in formal urban planning; the creation of global networks of cities; the concept of “tactical” urbanism; examples of temporary spaces with a resistance character; and the concept of urban informality.

The seminar will include examples of case studies from Europe, North and South America, as well as debates with invited guests from Berlin (Germany) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

We will begin by analyzing the formal use of culture as a tool for economic development and urban renewal in Europe and North America from the 1970s on, while debating the meanings of two image-based global networks: the spectacular “capitals of culture” and the authentic “creative cities” (revision of Module 3).

We will then move on to the trend of informal appropriations of space through culture by looking into the concept of “tactical” urbanism, analyzing the theory and interests behind it, as well as its relationship to broader neoliberal practices. We will discuss examples of cultural collectives and temporary spaces and their narratives in regards to the city.

Moreover, we will investigate the concepts of urban informality and of improvised and collaborative planning, often connected with the so-called “Global South”, with the goal of demystifying their link with poverty and discussing their potential for a more fluid way of thinking the city.

Process:

The seminar is divided into 4 complementary thematic blocks: 1) Global Networks of Urban Branding: Culture in Formal Planning; 2) “Tactical” and Temporary Urbanism: Concepts and Trends 3) Building Networks through Collective Action: Resistances; 4) Urban Informality: Improvisation and Collaboration. These topic will be supplemented by videos, images, and lectures, which will introduce questions to be debated in small breakout room discussion groups and with the entire class.

The number of participants in the breakout discussions will depend on the number of students enrolled in the seminar. The groups will feature different participants each time to enable the exchange of ideas and personal perceptions among all students.

All sessions will be carried out in English via the platform Zoom. **Please enter the virtual classroom before 14:10** to test your audio and video equipment and to install any necessary software updates.

If necessary, you can arrange individual digital consultation hours with me by email.

All materials for the seminar will be posted on the ISIS course page, including the class slides. These materials cannot be shared with people, who are not registered for the course.

Seminar Goals:

- Understanding the influence of culture and temporary spaces on urban planning schemes and public policies in the global context
- Developing a critic view of planning tendencies and their consequences to the everyday lives of citizens through an interdisciplinary approach (architecture, urban planning, urban history, sociology)
- Engaging in a collaborative learning process through active discussions and the independent research of sources
- Interaction and oral presentation of students' views in English among peers

Requirements:

- Online attendance of the classes/sessions
- Reading of the basic bibliographic references relating to the topics for the class debates
- Active participation, interaction and engagement throughout the semester
- Oral examination at the end of the semester as part of the Module 6 requirements

Schedule

This is **schedule is subject to changes** throughout the semester, according to the number of registered students, proposed topics and guest's availability.

01 21.04.21 Introduction: Course Overview

14:15-15:45 Joint online session at zoom.tu-berlin.
Please log in before 14:10.

In order to participate, you must register for the course beforehand

Reading: Renn, A. 2019. "City Branding and the Urban Identity Crisis". *CityLab*, February 12. (*short opinion piece article*)

I) Global Networks of Urban Branding: Culture in Formal Planning**02 28.04.21 Culture as a Tool for Urban Renewal: Spectacular Capitals of Culture**

Reading: Evans, G. (2003). "Hard-Branding the Cultural City - From Prado to Prada". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27(2): 417-440. (*scientific journal article*)

03 05.05.21 Authenticity as a New Urban Paradigm: Global Creative Cities

Reading: Seldin, C. (2015). "Cultural Practices as Urban Insurgencies: The Case of the Kunsthaus Tacheles Squat in Berlin." *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, 17 (3): 68-85. (*scientific journal article*)

Reading (optional): Jeong, H. and Patterson, M. (2020). "Starchitects in Bohemia: An Exploration of Cultural Cities from the 'Top-Down' and 'Bottom-Up'". *Urban Affairs Review*, June (online). (*scientific journal article*)

04 12.05.21 Debate: City Branding, Urban Rankings & Best Practice Networks

Reading (students with surnames from A-L): Doig, W. (2011). "Why City Rankings Always Get It Wrong". *Salon*, December 05. (*short news article*)

Reading (students with surnames from M-Z): Marshall, A. (2015). "The Top 6 Reasons to Be Wary of City Rankings, Ranked". *Bloomberg CityLab*, May 20. (*short news article*)

Reading: Vainer, C. (2014) "Disseminating 'Best Practice'? The Coloniality of Urban Knowledge and City Models". In *The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South*, edited by S. Parnell & S. Oldfield, 48-56. London: Routledge. (*book chapter*)

II) Tactical Urbanism: Concepts and Trends

05 19.05.21 The Large Umbrella: Tactical/DIY/Guerrilla Urbanism, Zwischennutzung

Reading (optional): The Street Plans Collaborative (Ed.) (2012). *Tactical Urbanism: Short-Term Action for Long Term Change, Vol. 1*. NextGen. (*online booklet*)

Reading (optional): Moore, A. and Smart, A. (2015). *Making Room: Cultural Production in Occupied Spaces*. Barcelona: Los Malditos Impresores. (*book*)

06 26.05.21 The Challenges of Do-It-Yourself Urbanism

Invited Speaker(s): Insel Weissensee Collective with the topic "Tiny Houses in Mirbachplatz" and Yilan Zeng with footage from the event "Temporary Faith Meteor" **(TO BE CONFIRMED)**

Student Q&A

02.06.21 Study week / Studienwoche

III) Building Networks of Resistance

07 09.06.21 Temporary Spaces: 'Best Practices', Neoliberalism and Gentrification

Reading: Mould, O. (2014). "Tactical Urbanism: The New Vernacular of the Creative City". *Geography Compass*, 8(8): 529–539. (*scientific journal article*)

Reading: Olson, C. (2018). "This Is Why Art Is the New Must-Have Amenity for Leading Real-Estate Developers". *Architectural Digest*, January 3. (*short magazine article*)

08 16.06.21 Cultural Collectives against Artwashing in Berlin

Invited Speaker(s): Kunstblock & Beyond with the topic “Artwashing in Berlin” (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Reading: Miranda, M. and Lane-McKinley, K. (2017). “Artwashing, or, Between Social Practice and Social Reproduction”. *A Blade of Grass - Fertile Ground*, February 17. Available at: <https://abladeofgrass.org/fertile-ground/artwashing-social-practice-social-reproduction/> (magazine essay)

Student Q&A

IV) Informality and Collective Action

09 23.06.21 Collaborative and Insurgent Planning in Rio de Janeiro

Invited Speaker(s): Dr. Juliana Canedo (Habitat Unit – TU Berlin) with the topic “Collaborative Planning in Brazil” (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Reading: Booher, D. E. and Innes, J. E. (2002). Network Power in Collaborative Planning. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 21(3): 221-236. (scientific journal article)

Reading (optional): Mirafteb, F. (2009). “Insurgent Planning: Situating Radical Planning in the Global South.” *Planning Theory*, 8(1): 32-50. (scientific journal article)

Student Q&A

10 30.06.21 Urban Informality and Insurgent Planning

Reading: Roy, A. (2005). “Urban Informality.” *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(2): 147-158. (scientific journal article)

Reading (optional): Banks, N., Lombard, M. and Mitlin, D. (2019): Urban Informality as a Site of Critical Analysis. *The Journal of Development Studies* (online). (scientific journal article)

11 07.07.21 Debate: Examples of Temporary Cultural Spaces

12 14.07.21 Debate: Examples of Resistant Collectives

Basic References:

Banks, N., Lombard, M. and Mitlin, D. (2019). “Urban Informality as a Site of Critical Analysis”. *The Journal of Development Studies*, online. doi: 10.1080/00220388.2019.1577384

Booher, D. E. and Innes, J. E. (2002). Network Power in Collaborative Planning. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 21(3): 221-236. doi: 10.1177/0739456X0202100301

Evans, G. (2003). "Hard-Branding the Cultural City - From Prado to Prada". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27(2): 417-440. doi: 10.1111/1468-2427.00455

Jeong, H. and Patterson, M. (2020). "Starchitects in Bohemia: An Exploration of Cultural Cities from the 'Top-Down' and 'Bottom-Up'". *Urban Affairs Review*, online. doi: 10.1177/1078087420934047

Lydon, M., and Garcia, A. (2015). *Tactical Urbanism: Short-Term Action for Long Term Change*. Washington: Island Press.

Miraftab, F. (2009). "Insurgent Planning: Situating Radical Planning in the Global South." *Planning Theory*, 8 (1): 32-50. doi: 10.1177/1473095208099297

Moore, A. and Smart, A. (2015). *Making Room: Cultural Production in Occupied Spaces*. Barcelona: Los Malditos Impresores.

Mould, O. (2014). "Tactical Urbanism: The New Vernacular of the Creative City". *Geography Compass*, 8(8): 529–539. doi: 10.1111/gec3.12146

Roy, A. (2005). "Urban Informality." *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 71(2): 147-158. doi: 10.1080/01944360508976689

Seldin, C. (2015). "Cultural Practices as Urban Insurgencies: The Case of the Squat Kunsthaus Tacheles in Berlin." *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, 17 (3): 68-85. doi: 10.22296/2317-1529.2015v17n3p68.

Spataro, D. (2016). "Against a de-politicized DIY urbanism: Food Not Bombs and the struggle over public space." *Journal of Urbanism: International Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability*, 9 (2): 185-201. doi: 10.1080/17549175.2015.1056208.

Vainer, C. (2014) "Disseminating 'Best Practice'? The Coloniality of Urban Knowledge and City Models". In *The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South*, edited by S. Parnell & S. Oldfield, 48-56. London: Routledge.

News Articles and Websites:

Doig, W. (2011). "Why City Rankings Always Get It Wrong". *Salon*, December 05. Available at: https://www.salon.com/2011/12/05/why_city_rankings_always_get_it_wrong/

Marshall, A. (2015). "The Top 6 Reasons to Be Wary of City Rankings, Ranked". *Bloomberg CityLab*, May 20. Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-05-20/6-reasons-city-rankings-go-wrong-ranked>

Miranda, M. and Lane-McKinley, K. (2017). "Artwashing, or, Between Social Practice and Social Reproduction". *A Blade of Grass - Fertile Ground*, February 17. Available at: <https://abladeofgrass.org/fertile-ground/artwashing-social-practice-social-reproduction/>

The Street Plans Collaborative (Publications, including all volumes of the "Tactical Urbanism" series): <https://issuu.com/streetplanscollaborative/docs>

Olson, C. (2018). "This Is Why Art Is the New Must-Have Amenity for Leading Real-Estate Developers". *Architectural Digest*, January 3. Available at: <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/art-is-the-new-real-estate-amenity>

Renn, A. 2019. "City Branding and the Urban Identity Crisis". *CityLab*, February 12. Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-12/city-branding-and-the-urban-identity-crisis>