

CITIES IN CONFLICT

Monday 20th June 2011

**Organised by the Centre for Urban and Community Research and Unit for Global Justice
held at the Institute of Contemporary Arts**

With the rapid intensification of urbanisation, cities have increasingly become targets, terrains, and territories of conflict. Cities are now seen as spaces of conflict, ranging from urban violence to warfare. Yet the city is also seen as a space of consociation, a place for rebuilding and for making new urban ties, lives, and associations.

How do we map and document cities in and after conflict? What is the relation between the material city and conflict? Have new urban forms produced new forms of violence? How do we understand violence in everyday urban life? Is it possible to construct new forms of urban life after conflict?

This conference explores these questions by bringing together sociologists, urban theorists, photographers, documentary makers, architects, architectural theorists, urban planners, and lawyers to explore four panel themes: *Architectures of Conflict*, *Cities at War*, *Urban Violences*, and *Reconstructing Urbanity*, together with an exhibition and roundtable discussion of images of cities in conflict.

9.00: Registration

9.30-11.15: Panel 1: Architectures of Conflict

Chair: Caroline Knowles, Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths

Pleasure or Order in the City

Mark Cousins, Architectural Association

Redestruction: The Architecture of the "Post-Conflict Environment"

Andrew Herscher, Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan

Material proportionality: the discursive economy of urban violence.

Eyal Weizman, Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths

11.15-11.30: Break

11.30-12.30: Panel 2: Cities at War

Chair: Kirsten Campbell, Unit for Global Justice, Goldsmiths

Cities Under Siege: the New Military Urbanism.

Stephen Graham, School of Architecture, Newcastle University

The urbanisation of in(security): the trope of the network and the extension of battlespace.

Martin Coward, Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University

12.30-1.45: Lunch

1.45-2.45: Panel 3: Urban Violences

Chair: Alison Rooke, Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths

Violent Cities, violence in cities; Evidence from recent research.

Caroline Moser, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

“Rethinking Gangs.”

Claire Alexander, Reader in Sociology, LSE

2.45-3.00: Break

3.00-4.30: Panel 4: Reconstructing Urbanity

Chair: Fran Tonkiss, Director Cities Programme, LSE

‘Two cities with no soul’: The challenge of reconstructing urbanity in war-divided cities.

Shipra Narang Suri, Urban Planner and UN Consultant

Micro conflict and emergent publics in the 21st century metropolis.

Michael Keith, Centre on Immigration, Policy, and Society, University of Oxford

Athens Revolting.

Costas Douzinas, School of Law, Birkbeck College

4.30-4.45: Break

4.45-5.45: Image: City: Conflict

Chair: Paul Halliday, Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths

Ania Dabrowska, Photographer; Jenny Matthews, Photographer; Paul Lowe, Photographer

Photographic Exhibition: Danilo Murru, Santiago Escobar, Manuel Vasquez, Beatriz Véliz Argueta

Claire Alexander is Reader in Sociology at the London School of Economics. Her research interests are in the area of race, ethnicity, masculinity and youth identities, particularly in relation to ethnography. Her main publications include *The Art of Being Black* (OUP 1996) and *The Asian Gang* (Berg 2000). She is co-editor of *Beyond Difference* (**Ethnic and Racial Studies** July 2002), *Making Race Matter: Bodies, Space and Identity* (Palgrave 2005) and *Teenage Parenting: What's the Problem?* (Tufnell 2010); and editor of *Writing Race: Ethnography and Difference* (**Ethnic and Racial Studies**, May 2006) and *Stuart Hall and 'Race'* (**Cultural Studies** 2009). She is co-director, with Dr Joya Chatterji, of an AHRC funded research project (2006-2009) on 'The Bengal Diaspora: Bengali Settlers in South Asia and Britain'. Claire is also a Trustee of The Runnymede Trust, Britain's foremost race equality thinktank.

Mark Cousins is Director of Histories and Theory at the Architectural Association. He has been Visiting Professor of Architecture at Columbia University and at the Architecture School of the University of Navarre. He is now Guest Professor at South-Eastern University, Nanjing. He is a founding member and Senior Fellow of the London Consortium. He has been a member of the Arts Council and consultant to the practice of Zaha Hadid. He has written on the relation of the human sciences and psychoanalysis. His publications include a book on Michel Foucault (with Athar Hussain) and the introduction to a new translation of Freud's selected papers on the unconscious in a series edited by Adam Phillips. A series of articles on 'The Ugly' in *AA Files* has been translated into many languages. He has published on the work of Tony Fretton and many artists, most recently catalogue essays for Cerith Wynn-Evans, Anthony Gormley, Jane and Louise Wilson and Donovan Wylie. He has contributed to several journals, including *Harvard Design Magazine*, *m/f*, *October*, *Economy and Society*, and *Art History*. He is known for his Friday Afternoon Lectures at the Architectural Association which have drawn artists, architects, and (more recently) Consortium students for nearly twenty-five years.

Martin Coward is a Senior Lecturer in International Politics at Newcastle University. His work focuses on cities, infrastructure and the urbanisation of (in)security. His publications include: *Between us in the city: materiality, subjectivity and community in the era of global urbanization*; *Society and Space* (forthcoming); *Network-centric Violence, Critical Infrastructure and the Urbanisation of Security*; *Security Dialogue*, 40:4-5; and *Urbicide: The Politics of Urban Destruction*, Routledge, 2008.

Costas Douzinas is Professor of Law, Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities and Pro-Vice Master at Birkbeck College, University of London. Educated in Athens, London and Strasbourg, Costas has taught at the Universities of Middlesex, Lancaster, Prague, Athens, Griffith and Nanjing. Costas is a founding member of the Critical Legal Conference; founding member of the Birkbeck Law School and of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities; managing editor of *Law and Critique: The International Journal of Critical Legal Thought*; managing director of the publishing house Birkbeck Law Press.

Costas has written extensively in legal and political philosophy, human rights, aesthetics and critical theory. His books include *Postmodern Jurisprudence*; *Justice Miscarried*; *Law and Psychoanalysis*; *The End of Human Rights*; *Law and the Image*; *Critical Jurisprudence*; *Nomos and Aesthetics*; *Human Rights and Empire*; *Adieu Derrida*; *The Idea of Communism* (edited with Slavoj Žižek). His *New Critical Legal Studies*; *The Philosophy of Human Rights and Left and Rights* will appear in 2011. His books have been translated into twelve languages

Stephen Graham is Professor of Cities and Society at the Global Urban Research Unit in Newcastle University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. Professor Graham has degrees in Geography (B.Sc.), Planning (Masters) and the Sociology of Technology (PhD). His research addresses two sets of related intersections: those between urban places, mobilities, technology, politics and urban planning on the one hand, and those between cities, militarization, surveillance, security and war on the other. Prof. Graham has authored and co-authored a wide range of academic articles as well as a variety of influential books. These include 'Telecommunications and the City', 'Splintering Urbanism' (both with Simon Marvin), 'The Cybercities Reader', 'Cities, War and Terrorism' and 'Disrupted Cities: When Infrastructures Fail'. His latest book, 'Cities Under Siege: The New Military Urbanism' (Verso), was published in April 2010.

Andrew Herscher is Associate Professor at the University of Michigan where he teaches in the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Department of Art History. He is the author of "Violence Taking Place: The Architecture of the Kosovo Conflict" (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010).

Michael Keith has a personal chair, University of Oxford and is the Director of COMPAS. His research interests focus on the interface between culture, urbanism and migration. His current work develops past projects on the dynamics of urbanism, the study of cultural difference and the impact of migration on structures and processes of governance. One strand of this considers the politics of migration, integration, cohesion and everyday life in the United Kingdom. A second strand considers the dynamics of migration, city transformation and emergent markets in contemporary China.

Michael was formerly Professor of Sociology, Head of Department and Director of the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He has also been a politician in the East End of London for twenty years and was at various times leader of the Council in Tower Hamlets, chair of the Thames Gateway London Partnership (2000-2006) and Commissioner on the National Commission on Integration and Cohesion (2006-07).

Caroline Moser is Professor of Urban Development, and Director of the Global Urban Research Centre (GURC) at the University of Manchester. Since 1995 she has undertaken research on urban violence in Jamaica, Colombia and Guatemala and is currently co-directing a 4 country project on 'Tipping points of urban violence'. Her violence-related publications include 'Ordinary families, extraordinary lives: Asset accumulation and poverty reduction in Guayaquil 1978-2004' (2009); 'Urban violence and insecurity: An introductory roadmap' (2004); 'Encounters with Violence in Latin America; Urban poor perceptions from Colombia and Guatemala,' (with Cathy McIlwaine) (2004); 'Victims, Perpetrators or Actors: Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence (edited with Fiona Clark) (2001)

Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a Ph.D. in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, U.K. She has worked with the United Nations for nearly fifteen years, with the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in different capacities until 2006, and since then as freelance consultant working for UNESCO, UNDP as well as UN-HABITAT. She has wide-ranging experience in the areas of urban governance, urban planning and management, and post conflict recovery and development and has worked in Asia, Africa, South Eastern Europe as well as the Middle-East.

Shipra is also an Associate of the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU), University of York, where she convenes and teaches a module on project planning and management. She has been a guest lecturer for M.A. programmes in the Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York; the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning at the K.U. Leuven in Belgium; and the Ambedkar University as well as the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India. She is an Editor (Special Features) of the international journal 'CITY'; a member of a global think tank on 'Liveable Cities' which has recently been set up by Philips; as well as a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). Shipra has collaborated with numerous national and international agencies for development and execution of a variety of research and training projects and programmes, and has several publications to her credit.

Eyal Weizman is an architect; director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London, and of the ERC funded research project Forensic Architecture. Since 2007 he is a founding member of the architectural collective DAAR in Beit Sahour/Palestine [www.decolonizing .ps](http://www.decolonizing.ps). Weizman has taught, lectured, curated and organised conferences in many institutions worldwide. His books include *The Least of all Possible Evils* (Nottetempo 2009, Verso 2011), *Hollow Land* (Verso, 2007), *A Civilian Occupation* (Verso, 2003), the series *Territories 1, 2, and 3*, *Yellow Rhythms* and many articles in journals, magazines and edited books. Weizman is a regular contributor and an editorial board member for several journals and magazines including *Humanity*, *Cabinet* and *Inflexions*. He has worked with a variety of NGOs world wide and was member of B'Tselem board of directors, w.btselem.org. Weizman is the recipient of the James Stirling Memorial Lecture Prize for 2006-2007, a co-recipient of the 2010 Prince Claus Prize for Architecture (for DAAR) and has been nominated to deliver the Paul Hirst and the Edward Said Memorial Lectures amongst others. He studied architecture at the Architectural Association in London and completed his PhD at the London Consortium/Birkbeck College.