

## **Governing Urban Natures: Infrastructure, Citizenship and Municipal Ecologies**

Aarhus University, December 4-5, 2019

### **About the conference**

This collaborative conference at the Aarhus University, Faculty of Arts will bring together a diverse group of scholars from across multiple disciplines to interrogate the past, present, and future of urban natures, focusing especially on the material politics of urban citizenship, infrastructural relations and service provision, and the formation and transformation of cities in the broadest terms. Taking place over two days in the picturesque Danish city of Aarhus, the conference welcomes attendance from anyone with an interest in the politics, governance, and everyday experience of urban environments around the globe.

Please register here: <https://events.au.dk/urbannature2019/registration.html>

### **Confirmed keynote speakers**

Dorothee Brantz, Director of the Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technische Universität Berlin  
Anne Rademacher, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Anthropology, New York University

### **Draft Program**

#### **Day 1: Wednesday, December 4**

10:00-10:45	Registration
10.45-11.00	Welcome
11:00-12:30	Keynote 1: Dorothee Brantz (Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technische Universität Berlin) / <i>Title TBC</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Panel 1: Landscapes of Welfare and Austerity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anders Blok (University of Copenhagen): "The place of green engagement: comparing civic scene-styles of urban natures across Danish cities."</li><li>• Amalia Engström (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences): "Urban natures and urban densities."</li><li>• Anette Gravgard Christensen (University of Copenhagen): "Public co-production of urban greenspace: a space for civic action?"</li><li>• Mattias Qviström (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences): "The nature of welfare planning."</li></ul>
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break

15:30-17:15	<p>Panel 2: Administering Urban Environments: Scales, Units, and Heuristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Usher (University of Manchester): “Nature’s infrastructural turn: instrumentalizing and financializing trees in Greater Manchester.”</li> <li>• Nina Toudal Jessen (University of Copenhagen): “Seeing the municipal through the lens of waste management.”</li> <li>• Marion Ernwein (University of Oxford): “Austerity and the “becoming third sector” of municipal services: reshaping the local state, urban ecologies, and environmental volunteers.”</li> <li>• Katrina Wiberg (Aarhus School of Architecture): “Catchment neighbourhoods in the urban landscapes of the Anthropocene: connecting municipal planning levels through a landscape-strategic approach.”</li> </ul>
17:15-18:00	Drinks
18:30	Conference Dinner

**Day 2: Thursday, December 5**

9.00-10.30	<p>Panel 3: Infrastructures, Flows and Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Swanson (Aarhus University) &amp; Pierre Du Plessis (Aarhus University): “Water in Aarhus and Cape Town.”</li> <li>• Mikkel Thelle (Aarhus University) &amp; Mikkel Høghøj (Aarhus University): “Entangled fluid cities.”</li> <li>• Seth Gustafson (University College London): “Cities and the eel: urban political ecology, metabolic flows, and the European eel across the <i>longue durée</i>.”</li> <li>• Jenia Mukherjee (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur): “Beyond the ‘municipal’: exploring municipal-local interactions in wastewater provision surrounding Kolkata and her wetlands.”</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:15	Keynote 2: Anne Rademacher (Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Anthropology, New York University) / <i>Title TBC</i>
12:15-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	<p>Panel 4: Contested Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anders Lund Hansen (Lund University/Aarhus University) &amp; Mads Barbesgaard (Lund University): “Governing planetary urbanization.”</li> <li>• Facundo Rivarola (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies): “Who gives voice to the Paraguayan River? Urban socio-ecological conflicts in Asunción.”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erik Jönsson (Uppsala University): "The hard work of turning an urban periphery into city centre: troubling fringe zone natures in Norra Sorgenfri, Malmö."</li> <li>• Megan Maurer (Columbia University): "Making trees infrastructure: stewardship, neoliberal governance, and contested ecologies in New York City."</li> </ul>
14:30-15:00	Coffee break
15:00-16:30	<p>Panel 5. The Politics of Data, Evidence, and Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollyanna Rhee (University of Illinois): "Engineering an ideal urbanity: technology, democracy, and urban planning in the United States."</li> <li>• Andreas Brandt (Aarhus University) &amp; Maja Bruun (Aarhus University): "Infrastructure disconnect: resilient citizenship and self-governance."</li> <li>• Melissa Zackon (University of Cape Town): "A critical examination of governance, competing sciences and their role in creating evidence through Cape Towns' marine effluent outfalls."</li> <li>• Agata Marzecova (Tallinn University) &amp; Hanna Husberg (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): "And then came this number PM2.5: new imaginaries and algorithmic politics of urban air."</li> </ul>
16:30-16:45	Wrapping Up

**Co-organized by:**

Ecological Globalizations Research Group  
Urban Orders Research Center  
Center for Environmental Humanities  
Danish Center for Urban History

**Contacts:**

Mikkel Thelle, Associate Professor, History, [iksmikkel@cas.au.dk](mailto:iksmikkel@cas.au.dk)  
Heather Anne Swanson, Associate Professor, Anthropology [ikshswanson@cas.au.dk](mailto:ikshswanson@cas.au.dk)

**Registration:**

Registration for conference: Free of charge, but registration is necessary  
Registration for dinner: 250 DKK  
Registration deadline: 29 november 2019 at 11.59 pm CEST  
Please register here: <https://events.au.dk/urbannature2019/registration.html>