

# URBAN (IN)SECURITIES

[#safety](#) [#security](#) [#political engagement](#) [# public space](#)

A series of debates on the relationship and physical connection between security and urbanity

2016 - 2017

with ANCB Research Partner **Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung  
Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)**, Berlin

Supported by the **ZEIT-Stiftung**, Hamburg

## INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

**In 2015, we started our collaborative research with an interdisciplinary debate series entitled “Taksim, Tahrir, Occupy & Co.” Participants from various backgrounds discussed the interdependency of urban space, society, and international politics with a particular focus on the political meaning and visualization of urban spaces in times of civil resistance and protest. In the follow-up series “Urban (in)securities: The interplay between city planning, securitization, and international politics”, we aim to broaden our perspective twofold: First, we discuss the relationship and physical connection between security and urbanity. Second, we include a wider range of security issues and incidents relevant to the city. In addition to highlighting the variety of security threats and forms of violence that endanger our cities today (and in the future) we aim to discuss how politics responds to these threats and organizes/plans urban defences. We also aim at linking city planning and urban design to security: How can architecture strengthen the feeling of security or insecurity, for instance by installing barriers, bollards, water features, street furniture, style of paving, etc.? How visible or invisible are these security features?**

## EVENTS SO FAR

### **Session 2. Defending the City**

Public Debate: **16 March 2017**

When we think about (in)securities of the future, we also imagine how to “defend” our cities, our way of life, our environment and our political system. It includes the security of our anthroposphere and the ability of the resilience of our cities. Creating (new) urban places, the inclusion of “others” (humans or things) as well the integration of new technologies raise widespread concern what consequences this holds in regards to our identity and future way of life.

How can the city remain a “public” space? How do city planners envision the city of the future? Since intelligent systems and software in the digital age are increasingly used to automate building management, implement access controls and regulate devices, how do city planners, political scientists, designers, etc. discuss urban (in)security?

### **Science. Fiction. International Politics**

#### **Bucerius Summer School 20 August 2016**

The BSS workshop examined questions regarding the relationship between urbanity and security and addressed central topics such as surveillance/control by the state, privacy in the smart city/world, segregation, integration of outsiders (particularly refugees), migration and the role of urban design in e.g. the protection of public space/buildings through the fictional narratives and places of science fiction films. The event was divided in two parts: a panel discussion with a keynote speaker, two respondents and a moderator followed by a workshop session where the participants were divided into three groups. Each group examined a specific societal focus exemplified by a science fiction film. An exemplary scene of the respective movie was shown in the workshops and provided the basis for the following group work. The aim was for the participants to examine a specific question on the respective focal theme and to arrive at a common thesis and a visual translation.

#### **Session 1. The City as Target 19 May 2016**

In this event we firstly aimed to discuss how the city of today emerges as target for different insecurities and threats. The randomness of targets and places such as public spaces, train stations etc. create a diffuse fear in everyone and has substantially changed our understanding of security. Secondly, we focused on the different responses to these threats and fear including political, technological, building, and urban planning related perspectives. Questions included: How is urban security actually established today? Spatial aspects regarding design, lighting and openness play a role in the development of a safe urban environment. Will new security criteria produce new urban design principles and ultimately a new urban architecture?

## BACKGROUND

Cities represent global networks nodes of political, economic and social interactions, and our lives are going to be more focused on the urban context than ever before. Protests, natural disasters, and criminal or terrorist attacks happening in our cities not only affect us personally, but raise global attention. This is particularly the case for the 9/11 terrorist attacks, but also more recently, the attacks in Paris, Brussels and the spread of epidemics. Each of these incidents evokes fears in public about the visible and invisible insecurities and vulnerabilities targeting our cities, and has an impact on the physical appearance of our urban environment. Urban spaces are identified as interface for vulnerability and contagion with a growing demand for the state to defend and police public places.

## DOCUMENTATION

- Video recording documenting the public debates
- Visual outputs of the Bucerius Summer School

Part of the ANCB Theme

### **ACTORS AND AGENCY: Co-producing the Built Future**

**Although their triggers may be global, the defining economic, socio-political and environmental challenges of today are manifest locally rather than at the scale of the nation state. This localisation makes the challenges conceptually tangible and their responses imaginable, as both policies and concrete projects for spaces. Hence, urban discourse promotes political city autonomy on the one hand, and participation beyond a mere meeting of top-down and bottom-up on the other, as the most effective and appropriate response framework for these challenges and for urban development in general.**

Such an 'opening-up' of decision-making will not only require the encouragement of engagement – from newcomers and transient inhabitants as much as from those long-committed to a place but also expert facilitation and synthesis of this engagement into co-produced visions for the future of that place.

*This theme explores the accompanying spatial design and planning toolkit, with which to co-envision, co-decide and co-produce the future of the city, and overcome the established 'expert-lay' divide in decision-making about places and cities. Not alone the divide between government authorities and citizens, but importantly, also the divide between design and planning professionals and city inhabitants. Which tools can replace the static, abstract, and mistrusted masterplan, which participation instruments can carry the process of commissioning public buildings and spaces or awarding industry contracts, which set of urban indicators assists decision-making and awarding of contracts? Can architects and planners be educated as facilitators and co-conceivers of such new tools and processes? How can room for experimentation (and failure) be afforded – in terms of time, space and budget?*

## PARTICIPANTS

16 March 2017 **Urban (in)securities #2 Defending the City** **Chen Qiu Fan**, Science Fiction Author, China; **Christoph Geisler**, Deputy Director, SWP, Berlin; **Nadine Godehardt**, Deputy Head of Research Division Asia, SWP, Berlin; **Ludger Schwarte**, Professor of Philosophy, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf; **Sascha Suhrke**, Programme Director Politics and Society, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg; **Benjamin Tallis**, Coordinator at Center for European Security, Institute of International Relations, Prague; **Katja Veil**, Researcher, Urban Planning Consultant, Cologne; **Ben Wagner**, Research Division: Global Issues Associate, SWP, Berlin; **Oliver Zeller**, Writer, Director, Virtual Effects Designer, New York; **Annett Zinsmeister**, Artist and Professor of Experimental Design, Berlin

### 20 August 216 **Bucerius Summer School. Urban (in)securities: Science. Fiction. International Politics**

**Uri Aviv**, General Director, Utopia Film Festival, Tel Aviv; **Lukas Feireiss**, Studio Lukas Feireiss, Berlin; **Dr. Nadine Godehardt**, Deputy Head of Research Division Asia, SWP, Berlin; **Matthias Hübner**, possible.is, Berlin; **Karsten Komp** and **Michael Arndt**, Macina Digital Film, Hannover; **Gabi Schlag**, Research Associate in Political Science, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg; **Floyd E. Schulze**, WTHM / Büro für Gestaltung, Berlin; **Liam Young**, Architect, Founder, Tomorrow's Thoughts Today, London

19 May 2016 **Urban (in)securities #1 The City As Target** **Jon Coaffee**, Professor of Urban Geography, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, University of Warwick; **Dr. Sybille Reinke de Buitrago**, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg and Institute for Theology and Peace, Hamburg; **Mohammadbagher Forough**, Lecturer International Relations and World Politics, University of Groningen, Netherlands; **Christoph Geisler**, Deputy Director, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP); **Dr. Nadine Godehardt**, Deputy Head of Research Division Asia, SWP, Berlin; **Stephen Graham**, Professor of Cities & Society, School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape, University of Newcastle; **Jürgen Häpp**, Associate, Arup, Frankfurt; **Hubert Nienhoff**, Partner, gmp von Gerkan, Marg und Partner, Hamburg,

ANCB Project Manager: **Miriam Mlecek**

## About ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is a unique cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities. Building upon three decades of expertise in the communication of architecture culture - through exhibiting and publishing the work of internationally acclaimed and pioneering architects and urban planners - Aedes Architecture Forum established, in 2009, an additional urban research and workshop programme - ANCB.

It is from these foundations that ANCB positions itself as the hub at the centre of an extensive international and interdisciplinary research network, based on a structure of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer. ANCB is uniquely placed to bring together key figures from different fields to debate the most pertinent urban questions of international concern and to search for new potential to improve global urban living conditions. Through interdisciplinary idea exchanges and workshops with international university partners, ANCB brings together social, cultural and technical research with governance processes, industry products and the proposals of the urban design and planning professions, generating the cross-sector collaborations necessary to offer innovative insights, positions and visions.

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