

Borders and Territories: Identity in Place

Expanding Borders and Claiming Territory

#connectivity #identity #inclusion & diversity #the just city
#cultural context #perception #interdisciplinarity #digital tools
#physical context

An interdisciplinary project proposal

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

The ANCB programme “Borders and Territories: Identity in Place” aims to examine new spatial, geographical and cultural possibilities related to nations and people on our globe. In this discourse, we consider identity as a spatial problem caught between territorial claims and today’s global dynamics. Concepts of dividing and connecting are vital to address the question what is or makes territories that are defined (1) physically/politically, (2) by culture and ways of thinking and (3) by common interests such as economy. What type of physical, infrastructural and political basis has to be established to meet the various ideas of home and “Heimat” of societies that are increasingly culturally diverse and socially divided? How can we use their potential? This includes the investigation of borders of different qualities – from physical divisions, “rurban” situations and political frontiers of countries and states to invisible boundaries between disciplines and social or cultural borders. In the course of this process, new strategies of perceiving, evaluating, and designing space may be generated and subsequently their creative, social and political relevance can be investigated and tested. Knowledge and spatial experience is critical to the appreciation and understanding of the interdependencies of spaces. We will also ask how the less quantifiable aspects of perception and heritage of place, including narrative, memory and the transit space of the border itself, might be interpreted and reflected.

Therefore, the focus relating to the architecture of borders and subsequent typologies along those border lines will provide a thread to be woven in with questions what architecture and (urban) planning can contribute to define, connect and open spaces or spatial possibilities. The shift towards a definition of “corridors” and “translocalities” becomes obvious in the development of a new silk road and global “closure” as promoted by many populist governments around the world. This also touches on the issue how indigenous rights of land and territories can exist within an occupant/ colonial state. Another aspect deals with the interrelation of architecture and repression.

On a formal level, cultural and artistic interventions will also be included along the architectural, political and design aspects mentioned above. The programme enables investigations based on different methodologies, practices and objectives from art and science into creative, behavioural and cultural science positions and processes. By crossing the “border” to various disciplines the programme aims to stimulate a discourse on the evaluation of space and its political and social dimensions. Considering the rise of the internet, IOT, social media and connectivity, digital spaces, as places without (physical) borders, will also be taken into account.

Other key aspects include:

- Borders, boundaries, autonomy, identity and what these mean today
- Expanding borders into different countries
- Refugee situations with minorities fleeing into neighbouring, even poorer countries, causing states of emergency.

NEXT EVENTS

In preparation. To be announced shortly.

PAST EVENTS

2018

Podium Discussion: **Borders and Territories II: Spatial Representations of Connections and Disconnections** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

Bucerius Summer School Workshop: **Science. Fiction. Politics. Visible and Invisible Borders** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

Kick-off Public Debate: **Borders and Territories: Identity in Place**

BACKGROUND

Across the earth, places have evolved to be remarkably distinct from each other, even when their geography and climate are similar. Culture is the manmade factor that expresses this difference, most tangibly in the built environment. Carried by the spatial practices of a society – be these daily activities or significant events – culture requires supporting spaces for these practices, which reciprocally reshape the form and evolve the functionality of the supporting spaces, thus expressing shared identity. Despite the importance of culture to how all places look and are experienced, it tends not to be a critical tool in urban design and planning, and is rather used merely as a lens with which to discern past heritage, if at all. This is lost potential, especially in the present-day era of rapid urbanisation and movement: when there is often little time to grow an identity through shared meaning, as entire cities can emerge in just a few years; where urban dwellers increasingly move, live and work between multiple cities, calling the idea of a local society into question; where large portions of societies migrate to distant and culturally different places, escaping environmental, political or economic disasters that also destroy cherished urban fabrics, and where local public spaces increasingly serve as satellite arenas for international politics. This theme looks to culture to explore how built form and spatial typologies might assist the expression of identity. Can architecture and urban planning any longer express the multi-layer identity of present day cities? Can the methods and tools of urban practice catch up with an ever-evolving understanding of culture, to broaden and revise the spectrum of housing, workspace, public and open space typologies in line with how societies need and use space today? Or, are other concepts required to illuminate the connections between people and where and how they live? How should the reconstruction of lost built fabric and the identification of heritage be approached?

DOCUMENTATION

- Videos recording documenting the public debates
- Printing publication including essays introducing the thematic clusters and the edited lectures.

Part of the ANCB Theme

IDENTITY IN PLACE: Reconnecting Built Form with Societal Diversity

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PARTICIPANTS

27 September 2018 **Borders and Territories II: Spatial Representations of Connections and Disconnections**

Raphael Bossong, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin; **Nadine Godehardt**, Deputy Head of Research Division Asia, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin; **Peter Lintl**, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin; **Malkit Shoshan**, Director, FAST. Foundation for Achieving Seamless Territory, Amsterdam/New York; **Sascha Suhrke**, Programme Director Politics and Society, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Hamburg; **Benjamin Tallis**, Researcher, Institute of International Relations, Prague / Visiting Research Fellow, ANCB, Berlin; **Lucas Verweij**, Artist, Berlin

18 August 2018 **Bucerius Summer School: Science. Fiction. Politics. Visible and Invisible Borders** **Michael Arndt**, MACINA digital film, Hannover, Germany; **Uri Aviv**, Director Utopia Film Festival, Tel Aviv, Israel; **Lukas Feireiss**, Studio Lukas Feireiss, Berlin, Germany; **Nadine Godehardt**, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin; **Matthias Hübner**, possible.is, Berlin, Germany; **Karsten Komp**, MACINA digital film, Hannover, Germany; **Martin Rein-Cano**, Landscape Architect, Director TOPOTEK, Berlin, Germany; **Christian Ridders**, Business as Visual, Berlin, Germany; **Sascha Suhrke**, Bucerius Summer School

22 March 2018 **Borders and Territories: Identity in Place** **Theo Deutinger**, Architect, Author of Handbook of Tyranny, Salzburg/Amsterdam; **Lukas Feireiss**, Director „Radical Cut-Up“ Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam; **Ai Weiwei**, Artist, Berlin; **Annett Zinsmeister**, Artist, Berlin

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.

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory
Christinenstr. 18-19
10119 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30 282 7015
berlin@ancb.de
www.ancb.de