

BORDERS AND TERRITORIES: IDENTITY IN PLACE

Expanding Borders and Claiming Territory

**#connectivity #identity&diversity #righttothecity #perception
#interdisciplinarity #digitaltools**

An Enquiry Programme examining new spatial, geopolitical and cultural
concepts of dividing and connecting

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

Borders and Territories: Identity in Place discusses new spatial, geopolitical and cultural concepts of dividing and connecting. The programme examines the spatial consequences of geopolitical, socio-cultural, economic and ecological aspects of home, displacement, migration and identity in a transdisciplinary dialogue. 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 what 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 have 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 - or those in our minds. 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 provides 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 to creative, behavioural and cultural studies 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, social media and connectivity, digital spaces, as places without (physical) borders, will also be taken into account.

EVENTS SO FAR

In Transit with ZEIT-Stiftung, Hamburg; Austrian Cultural Forum, Berlin; Norwegian Embassy, Berlin; Danish Embassy, Berlin

Dialogue Series: November 2020–February 2021

Purgatory by Ai Weiwei

Exhibition at Aedes Architecture Forum: 31 October 2020–7 January 2021

City of Refugees – Four Utopian Cities on Four Continents by University of Houston

Exhibition at Aedes Architecture Forum: 31 October 2020–7 January 2021

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg / Martin Zimmermann: Die Teilung der Welt

Exhibition, Book Presentation and Lecture: 12 September 2020

Transit Spaces: (Dis)Connections and the Fluid Places In-Between with ZEIT-Stiftung, Hamburg

Lab Talk Series: 7 November 2019

Reimagining the Region with Tatiana Bilbao, Mexico City and CEMEX Deutschland AG
Symposium: 16 March 2019

Borders and Territories II: Spatial Representations of Connections and Disconnections with ZEIT-Stiftung, Hamburg
Lab Talk: 27 September 2018

Science. Fiction. Politics. Visible and Invisible Borders with Bucerius Summer School/ZEIT-Stiftung, Hamburg
Workshop: 18 August 2018

Borders and Territories: Identity in Place
Lab Talk: 22 March 2018

DOCUMENTATION

- Video recordings documenting the events

Part of the ANCB Theme

IDENTITY IN PLACE: Reconnecting Built Form with Societal Diversity

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. Culture requires supporting spaces expressing shared identity and heritage – be these daily activities or significant events – to foster societal cohesion.

Despite the importance of culture in determining how all places look and are experienced, it tends not to be a critical tool in urban design and planning. 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 heritage, as entire cities can emerge in just a few years, urban dwellers increasingly live and work between multiple cities and large portions of societies migrate to distant and culturally different places, escaping environmental, political or economic disasters that also destroy cherished urban fabrics.

How can architecture and urban planning express the diverse identity of present-day cities? Can urban practice broaden and revise the spectrum of housing, workspace, public and open space typologies in line with how societies need and use space today? 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?

PARTICIPANTS

Etel Adnan, Writer, Poet and Visual Artist, Paris; **Ai Weiwei**, Artist, Berlin; **Uri Aviv**, Director Utopia Film Festival, Tel Aviv; **Tatiana Bilbao**, Architect, Mexico City; **Gail P. Borden**, University of Houston; **Christian Bueger**, Professor of International Relations, University of Copenhagen; **Nancy Couling**, Associate Professor of Architecture, Planning and Projects at Bergen School of Architecture and Researcher, Technical University Delft; **Theo Deutinger**, Architect, Author of Handbook of Tyranny, Salzburg/Amsterdam; **Lukas Feireiss**, Director “Radical Cut-Up” Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam/Berlin, Studio Lukas Feireiss, Berlin; **Susana Garduño-Arana**, Director, Mexican Cultural Institute in Germany, Berlin; **Nadine Godehardt**, Deputy Head of Research Division Asia, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin; **Philip Gumuchdjian**, Director Gumuchdjian Architects, London; **Carlos Hagerman**, Film Maker, Mexico City; **Anna Sofie Hartmann**, Film Maker, Berlin/Copenhagen; **Wolfgang Kaleck**, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin; **Gazmend Kapllani**, Writer and Journalist, Chicago; **Christian Katzer**, General Director of Médecins sans Frontières Germany, Berlin; **Tanja Maljartschuk**, Writer, Vienna; **Tine Luk Meganck**, Assistant Professor at the Vrij Universiteit Brussel; **Joar Nango**, Artist and Architect, Tromsø; **Dagmar Pelger**, Architect and Researcher, Technical University Berlin; **Kimberley Peters**, Reader in Human Geography, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool; **Karoline Postel-Vinay**, Director of Research, Sciences Po, Paris; **Martin Rein-Cano**, Landscape Architect, Director TOPOTEK, Berlin; **Klaudia Ruschkowski**, Dramaturg and Writer, Berlin/Volterra; **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**, Policy Officer for Civilian Crisis Management, The European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management (CoE), Berlin; **Lucas Verweij**, Artist, Berlin; **Raul Walch**, Artist, Berlin; **Eyal Weizman**, Forensic Architecture, London; **Axel Wieder**, Director, Bergen Kunsthall; **Susanne Schüssler**, Publisher, Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, Berlin; **Ursula Schulz-Dornburg**, Author, Düsseldorf; **Daide Zampini**, Global R&D and IP Management Head, CEMEX, Brugg; **Martin Zimmermann**, Professor of History, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, **Annett Zinsmeister**, Artist, Berlin; **Peter J. Zweig**, University of Houston