CONCEPT

The Heidelberg University interdisciplinary research group “Mobile Spaces” is organizing an international workshop on comparative urbanism with an emphasis on the challenges faced when studying dis/connectivities of everyday practices in cities in India, Europe, and North America.

The main idea of the workshop is to reinforce the interdisciplinary exchange in urban studies using the potential of different disciplines and the comparison of cities across distinct regions of the world. Bringing together experts from geography, and anthropology, linguistics and sociology to urban planning, the workshop opens up space for discussion about differences and similarities in urban processes.

In the workshop we shall investigate everyday practices, focusing on the transcultural fabrics of cities, where neoliberalization and globalization play as much a role as local and vernacular emplacements. We are interested in avenues for self-expression, processes of place-making of groups and individuals, as well as in phenomena of exclusion and inequality. The workshop sets out to discuss how we can approach public space/s and understandings of ‘open’ or ‘cosmopolitan’ cities by further developing ‘comparative’ concepts and methods.

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Please register until May 26th.

Cover picture: Gurgaon, Delhi. C. Brosius
PROGRAMME

Sunday, June 1

7 pm Welcome Dinner for speakers and guests Goldener Hecht Steingasse 2

Monday, June 2

8.45 to 9 Welcome and Introduction

SESSION I: EXPLORING PUBLIC SPACE/S
Chair: Ulrike Gerhard
9 to 11 Arunava Dasgupta (Delhi): Emerging Characteristics of Spatial Change. A Cross-sectional Overview of Delhi
Michael Braum (IBA Heidelberg): Knowledge Based Urbanism and Public Space in Germany
Juliane von Hagen (Kassel): Urban Spaces in New York City. Characteristics and Qualities
Panel Discussion

11 to 11.30 Coffee Break

SESSION II: COMPARATIVE URBANISM
Chair: Christiane Brosius
11.30 to 1 Sujata Patel (Hyderabad): Is there a South Perspective to Urban Studies?
Discussant: Eberhard Rothfuß (Bayreuth)
1 to 2.30 Lunch Break

SESSION III: NEGOTIATING THE ‘OPEN CITY’
Chair: Beatrix Busse

2.30 to 4.30 Ingo Warnke (Bremen): Urban Space as Epigrammatical Arena. Forms, Functions and Contexts of Writing in Public Spaces
Melissa Butcher (Milton Keynes): Contesting Respectability. Mobility and Gendered Space in Global Delhi
Robert Lemon (Berkeley/Austin): Taco Truck Transfigurations. Food is Spatial
Panel Discussion

4.30 to 5 Coffee Break
5 to 6 Reflections Moderation: Editha Marquardt/ Marie Sander

7.30 pm Dinner: Salerno im Roten Ochsen Mühlentalstr. 11

Tuesday, June 3

7 – 9 pm FILM SHOW
Transfusion (2013)
Followed by: Discussion with filmmaker and geographer Robert Lemon (Berkeley/Austin, USA).
Insights into urban food cultures: The documentary traces taco trucks across the city of Columbus, Ohio, uncovering the complex and contentious circumstances encompassing Mexican cuisine in the US.

MOBILE SPACES RESEARCH GROUP IN HEIDELBERG

Christiane Brosius
is professor of Visual and Media Anthropology at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Transcultural Studies. She has researched on processes of social spatialisation in New Delhi and is currently working on the emergence of new art practices and events in New Delhi and Kathmandu, and notions of autonomy and risk for single women in urban India.

Beatrix Busse
is professor of English Linguistics at the English Department. Her research interests include historical linguistics, stylistics, corpus linguistics and language and medicine. The investigation of patterns of (discursive) place-making in Brooklyn, New York, is one of her current research projects.

Ulrike Gerhard
is professor for Human Geography of North America at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Geography Department. She has researched on urban consumer landscapes in Canada and Germany and analyzed the political geography of US American cities. Her recent research deals with urban inequality in the Americas, the discursive structuring of cities as well as urban sustainability in North American and European cities.

Editha Marquardt
is project researcher and lecturer at the Geography Department. She is interested in research questions concerning the (visual) perception of as well as identification with regions and cities. In her current projects she investigates urban changes in the knowledge society.

Marie Sander
is project researcher, lecturer in Transcultural Studies and coordinator of the Forum Urban Spaces that connects urban researchers across disciplines and regional foci. She has studied transnationally mobile youths in Shanghai, ethnographically exploring expatriate teenage everyday practices and negotiations of belonging.