

# Programme Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Ville et Environnement

Colloque Mardi 7 octobre 2008

**Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris Val-de-Seine – Amphi 180  
3-15, quai Panhard et Levassor, 75013 Paris**

Créé en novembre 2006, le PIR Ville et Environnement (CNRS - Ministère de l'Ecologie) a lancé son premier appel à propositions de recherche en décembre 2007. En mars 2008, 16 projets ont été retenus par les instances du programme (Conseil Scientifique et Comité d'Orientation). Ce colloque public du 7 octobre 2008 vise, à partir d'interventions de collègues étrangers, à susciter un débat collectif autour de thèmes de recherche pas ou peu couverts par l'appel à projets 2008, afin de préparer le prochain appel à projets du programme.

## Intervenants au colloque

**Elizabeth Shove (Lancaster University, Royaume-Uni) – Transitions in practice: Consumption and urban sustainability**

### Bio Sketch

Elizabeth Shove is a Professor of Sociology at Lancaster University. She has been at Lancaster since 1995, first as deputy director of the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and then as director of the Centre for Science Studies before joining the Sociology Department in 2000. Her research interests have to do with the relation between consumption, everyday practice and ordinary technology. Her book on 'Comfort, Cleanliness and Convenience: the Social Organization of Normality' (2003, published by Berg) considers the social and technical dynamics of a range of environmentally critical practices to do with laundry, bathing and showering, saving time, air conditioning and managing the indoor climate. More recent work, including 'The Design of Everyday Life' (2007, Berg, with Matt Watson, Martin Hand and Jack Ingram) considers digital photography, home improvement projects, the history of plastic housewares and the concept of adding value through design, using these cases to make new links between concepts of design, material culture and consumption. Elizabeth is about to start a three year ESRC funded 'Climate Change Leadership Fellowship' entitled 'Transitions in Practice: climate change and everyday life'.

### Summary of the presentation

This presentation takes seriously the conclusion that patterns of consumption are usefully understood as outcomes of everyday practice. This applies to routinely 'invisible' forms of consumption like those involved in maintaining and managing urban infrastructures as well as to more obvious examples like the consumption of food. In this contribution I combine theoretical perspectives derived from recent work in the social theory of practice with a series of examples relating to the qualities and characteristics of the urban indoor environment. One ambition is to reconsider the relation between indoor and outdoor climates and to reflect on the kinds of routines and habits involved in sustaining and also transforming both these domains. Another is to show how 'demand' – especially for electricity – is configured and how interpretations of

'need' are mobilised, invented and enacted. I am especially interested in how these processes embody different kinds of knowledge and competence (scientific as well as tacit); different kinds of image and symbolic meaning (including notions of propriety, comfort, personal integrity); and material - including shoes and shirts, hats and coats as well the infrastructures and fabric of the built environment. This sets the scene for a more speculative discussion about how practices and the elements of which they are made circulate between users, consumers and professionals and between one country or culture and another. Indirectly, I touch upon themes of atmosphere – especially in relation to the indoor climate; metabolisms both human and infrastructural; and the construction and use of hybrid knowledges.

## **Timothy Moss (Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Berlin, Allemagne) - The environmental politics of urban infrastructures: Berlin between dictatorship and democracy**

### **Bio Sketch**

Timothy Moss read European Studies at the University of Sussex (B.A. Hons.), followed by modern European history at St. Antony's College, Oxford (M. Phil.). He gained his doctorate at Oxford University in 1991 with a thesis on local politics in the Weimar Republic. He has been working at the Leibniz-Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) since 1993, where he has led numerous research projects funded by both the institute and external sources, including the EU, the German Research Foundation and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. He has been head of the department "Regional Institutional change to protect public goods" at IRS since 2003. His research focuses on the emergence and development of environmental institutions at local and regional level. At present he is working on the transformation of urban technical infrastructure systems (water, waste water, energy) and the institutionalisation of river catchment area management from social and spatial perspectives. Relevant publications include:

- Timothy Moss: 'Cold spots' of Urban Infrastructure: 'Shrinking' Processes in Eastern Germany and the Modern Infrastructural Ideal. In: International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Vol. 32 (2008), No.2, pp.436-451
- Simon Guy, Simon Marvin and Timothy Moss: Urban Infrastructure in Transition. Networks, Buildings, Plans. Earthscan, London, 2001.
- Timothy Moss, Matthias Naumann and Markus Wissen (Eds.): Infrastrukturnetze und Raumentwicklung - Zwischen Universalisierung und Differenzierung. oekom verlag, München, 2008.

### **Summary of the presentation**

This exploratory paper covering research in progress investigates how water and energy saving have been addressed, presented and pursued by Berlin's utilities from 1920 to the present, exploring the political contextualisation of resource-saving discourses in the city. This will cover, for instance, how the Nazis addressed resource-saving in terms of national autarky, the GDR regime in terms of socialist rationalisation, West Berlin in terms of coping with its insular position in the GDR and the emergent debate on green technologies. From the empirical analysis I will draw observations on the relationship between political ideologies, the city, its environment and – above all – its infrastructure systems as modes and products of these interactions.

## **Simon Guy (University of Manchester, Royaume-Uni) - Fluid architectures: Ecologies of hybrid urbanism**

### **Bio Sketch**

Simon Guy (United Kingdom) is Professor of Architecture at the University of Manchester and Director of the Manchester Architecture Research Centre (MARC - <http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/marc/>). His research aims to critically understanding the co-evolution of design and development strategies and socio-economic processes shaping cities. This approach has involved: the development and application of a sociotechnical approach to researching architecture, urban development, technological innovation and urban change; analysis and integration of previously disconnected research fields - architecture and urban planning, the property sector and utilities industry, and the stimulation of a collaborative, interdisciplinary methodological approach. Some key publications:

- Coutard, O and Guy, S (2007) STS and the City: Politics and Practices of Hope, *Science, Technology and Human Values*, Vol. 32, pp. 713-734, November.
- Guy, S and Moore, S (2007) Sustainable Architecture and the Pluralist Imagination, *Journal of Architectural Education*, Issue 60, No. 4, pp. 15-23, May.
- Guy, S (2006) Technological Convergence, Cultural Diversity: Socio-Technical Perspectives on Energy and Building, *Environment and Planning C*, Vol. 24, pp. 645-659.

### **Summary of the presentation**

This presentation will explore the social and technical fluidity of sustainable architecture/urbanism in order to generate a shift in the imaginative horizons of the environmental debate. In doing so, the presentation will aim to counter a prevailing technological pessimism about the sustainable architecture/urbanism (often echoed in ‘eco-centric’ discourses) without uncritically celebrating the liberatory potential of technology (often echoed in ‘eco-technic’ discourses), by re-emphasizing the ambivalence inherent to all technological innovation. The argument, echoing that of Bruno Latour, is that we should focus on matters of “concern” rather than fetishise matters of “fact” and in doing so we should seek “controversy” rather than search for consensus. Instead of working to close down debate and squeeze out alternative design approaches, we should highlight the contradictory (dialectical, ambivalent, open, partially undetermined...) nature of sustainable architectures/urbanism. In this way we might counter a prevalent view of technological systems, such as architecture, not as manageable tools, but rather as being beyond our control and overwhelming us, resulting in resignation and pessimism that is ultimately disabling both intellectually and politically. By actively searching for and exploring contingency and contestation over urban technologies we might begin to identify a politics of architecture and urbanism that breaks free from technological pessimism and offers some hope for change.

## **Roger Keil (York University, Toronto, Canada) – Global cities: The urban political ecology of connectivity and vulnerability**

### **Bio Sketch**

Roger Keil is the Director of the City Institute at York University and Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, Toronto. Among his publications are *Nature and the City: Making Environmental Policy in Toronto and Los Angeles* (with Gene Desfor) (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, Nature and Society Series, 2004); (ed. with N.Brenner) *The Global Cities Reader* (London and New York: Routledge, 2006) and ed. with S.H.Ali, *Networked Disease: Emerging Infections and the Global City*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Keil’s current research is on the

infrastructure of the in-between city in Toronto and regional governance in four major city-regions. Keil is the co-editor of the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (IJURR) and a co-founder of the International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA).

### Summary of the presentation

Today one speaks of cities often in the context of globalization. As globalization took shape, networks of urban regions became visible as a tangible way in which the world economy was connected. The downsides of this connectivity were initially of little concern. Although there has always been a sharp divide between the normative versions of global city rhetoric on one hand and the analytical uses of concepts like global city or world city on the other, little has been said specifically about the pitfalls that lie in the network itself. Much has been written about social class divisions in global cities, ethnic diversity, ecological and health issues of social polarization and the like, but we have no sustained understanding of the dangers and opportunities that lie in being networked per se. This paper will take the SARS outbreak of 2003 and the issue of infrastructures as the basis of a conceptual discussion of the relationship of systemic networked connectivity to new forms of vulnerability in the global city system. Using Toronto as an example, it will be argued that urban political ecologies can be better understood if one factors in risks such as infectious disease outbreaks and systemic infrastructure breakdown.

**Richard Dawson** (Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, Newcastle University, Royaume-Uni) – **Climate change and cities: Integrated assessment of impacts, adaptation and mitigation**

### Bio Sketch

Richard Dawson is a senior research fellow with the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the School of Civil Engineering & Geosciences at Newcastle University (UK). He was awarded a PhD from Bristol University on management of complex infrastructure systems and has since been working on developing models, techniques and decision-support tools that are required to respond to the challenges of intensifying global change. Earlier research focused on climate impacts analysis, most notably the national flood risk analysis. He is now focusing on the challenges and opportunities in cities posed by global change - in particular drivers for change, vulnerability to climate change impacts and the mechanisms available to adapt to change. In summer 2003, he was a visiting researcher at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at Kyoto University, Japan. In 2004 he was awarded the Robert Alfred Carr prize by the UK Institution of Civil Engineers.

- Dawson, R. J. (2007), Re-engineering cities: A framework for adaptation to global change. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.* 365(1861): 3085-3098.

- Hall, J. W., Dawson, R. J., Manning, L., Walkden, M., Dickson, S. and Sayers, P., Adaptive management of infrastructure systems for resilience to natural hazards, *Civil Engineering*, Special Issue on Risk: Facing the Reality, 159(Nov 2006, Special Issue 2): 21-27.

- Hall, J.W., Sayers, P.B. and Dawson, R. J. National-scale assessment of current and future flood risk in England and Wales, *Natural Hazards*, 36(1-2): 147-164, 2005

### Summary of the presentation

Over half the global population live in cities and are responsible for as much as 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Without sensible planning, climate change can induce energy-intensive adaptations such as air conditioning or desalination driving emissions further. The Tyndall Centre Cities Programme has sought to address the fundamental issue of how can cities grow without increasing their emissions and vulnerability to climate change impacts through the development of an integrated assessment tool. The tool quantifies both the impacts of climate change on cities

(e.g. flood risk, water resources and heatwaves) and their emissions. Projections of socio-economic change are simulated in econometric models to estimate regional changes which drive spatially explicit coupled land use and climate impacts models to estimate the changes in vulnerability in cities. Consecutively, the landuse change and regional econometrics projections inform transport and energy emissions accounting tools. The effectiveness of spatial planning, adaptation and mitigation options against these predicted changes in vulnerability and emissions can then be explored with involvement from stakeholders. A case study of this work in London will be presented.