

Venue and Event Hours
175 NE 40 Street
Miami FL 33137

October 9–10, 2014
Thu–Fri, 4–9pm

Free Entry

fallsemester.org

Fall Semester

FALL SEMESTER is an independent initiative for public discussion on contemporary society and culture, aiming to test what can be achieved in the sped-up production of discourse, what can happen when new material is introduced into local discourse—a bomb-drop of new data. Will such a thing have quantifiable effects? Will it be jolting enough to speed up our own desire for a deeper dimension of self-understanding and reflection? Will it, on the contrary, only be another event in which theoretical performance is put to the service of spectacle, showing up the divisions that we face daily? FALL SEMESTER's wager is laid down in the space cracked open by these questions.



Fall Semester

October 9–10
2014

Program Schedule

Fall Semester

What's to Come

Fall Semester

The future is a place of impossibility; it can only happen then. If the Real is everything that is true but which we can't (yet) observe, then the Unreal is what isn't there, but which may someday be. The Urban Unreal proposes the city as a space of virtual possibility and of different kinds of subjectivities and subjective production. This is the unreality of the still-to-come, of new arrangements waiting to be actualized, of affordances yet to be uncovered.

The Urban Unreal

If the city—Miami as a case in point—is increasingly determined by its pliability and porosity, and its ability to surf the waves of globally networked data and bodies, then what is to be done to make it a more socially just place? How does one slip past the restrictions and parameters of a city that increasingly organizes itself in such a way that the vast majority of its population is not its primary concern?

The Plasticity of the City

In a way, we are already living in a post-apocalyptic world. Anthropogenic climate change is inevitable, happening, and here. Miami itself is coming to terms with its eventual death by drowning — or will it become a futuristic, tropical Venice? Besides the discrete phenomena of ecological change and sustainability have flooded our discursive spaces. How do we utilize the (real and manufactured) permanent state of disaster as a tool, one that will help to create flexible and adaptable platforms for knowledge and problem solving?

Architectural Weather

If the concept of the Real is everything that we can't observe through reasoning and empirical observation, than the contemporary city is really Real. Urban space, constituted more and more by those forces that flow beneath and above it, is increasingly disembodied, even as buildings go up, material facts are caught up in the global economic and cultural crosswinds, the invisible but ever-present influences of technologies both financial and political. Enveloped in these forces, from where can one assume a perspective on it?

The Urban Real

ProgramSchedule

October 9

4:00pm

Jean-François Lejeune

North - South Collisions

At two critical moments of 20th century architectural history, the South has challenged the Northern visions of architectural progress: Mediterranean Modernism in the 1930s and, in the 1940-50s, Brazil Builds, the discovery of Africa by Team X, and Tropical Modernism by Maxwell & Fry. Between fantasy, denial and engineer-driven catastrophobia, the threats of ecological instability and collapse position Miami at the ideal epicenter of the global North-South Collisions that threaten its capacity to respond with inventions of new optimism. Following Franco Cassano's concept of Southern Thought, the lecture will interrogate the ways through which the ecologically and socially relevant solutions of the South should contest the technocratic predominance of the North.

5:00pm

Gray Read

Second Landscape

In a warming world, Miami is already suffering death by pavement even before the waters engulf us. Relentless asphalt of both roof and street feed the urban heat island of the city, turning the urban tropics into an inhospitable desert. We ask, what if Miami reclaimed its roofs as a second landscape and invited the rich, tropical ecosystem of South Florida to the heart of the city? We suggest specific architectural strategies for mitigating urban heat island effect and envision the roofscape of downtown Miami as a living landscape inhabited by both people and wildlife.

6:00pm

Nick Srnicek

The Matter of Struggle in Urban Space

Examines the changing material terrain of urban struggle today. The rapid militarization of the police, the changing spatial patterns of segregation, the embeddedness of ubiquitous computing into the surveillance architecture, and the heightened centrality of urban spaces to global flows of capital are all changing the political space of the city today. What do these changes offer for struggle? How are various tactics of struggle - strikes, blockades, marches, occupations, and so on - made more or less amenable to political struggle today? What traditional modes of struggle are becoming obsolete in the face of contemporary changes, and what new potentials are opening up? This presentation will examine these questions and suggest an outline for contemporary urban struggle.

7:00pm

Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss

Soft Monumentality

How can architects today contribute to everyday monumentality of activism and protests? Also how can any place be designed as dissent-full in the age of soft power. Soft power is an academic invention coined by Joseph Nye of Harvard University in 1990. Much earlier, the architecture of pure ideology such as Stalinist architecture of 1930s adopted Neo-Classical style as its own display. Soft socialism, fostered by Yugoslav Josip Broz Tito in accord with Nikita Khrushchev thawed the path to softer ideology promoting capitalist practices when needed. This is now the situation in the free trade zones of China. How can architects today contribute in planning with dissent in current state of soft and global monumentality?

8:00pm

Open Forum

October 10

4:00pm

Nick Gelpi

Material Consequences

Cities are more than just the abstract property boundaries of land ownership; in fact taken collectively cities represent large scale concentrations of specific materials. These materials, don't fit neatly into the zoning maps of city ordinances, in fact the consequences of certain materials reach far beyond the property lines of site, and produce significant disruptions and interruptions at an urban scale. Foregrounding larger scale consequences of the materials and configurations utilized in the construction of our built urban environments, this talk will highlight several large-scale and wide reaching effects that the city exerts on its surrounding environment with specific projects which highlight potentials for interacting with material consequences as new opportunities for design.

5:00pm

Jan Verwoert

City Bodies: Undead or Alive?

Memory, not built in stone, but incorporated in the bodies of all who live the city, generates an enormous reservoir of power. Those demonized as witches, possessed or hysteric knew (and know) how to tap the power-grid of the urban unreal and, for this reason, were burned or hospitalized. Zombies travel the grid, guided by the flows of urban energy and their hunger for consuming life. What biopolitical histories and lines of flight can we extrapolate from these ciphers of embodied urban power?

6:00pm

Benjamin Bratton

The Stack We Have and The Stack To Come: Designing Sovereignty and the Geopolitics of Computation

What does Planetary-Scale Computation actually do? We need to take a step back and see a big picture that is different from what was predicted. A new kind of political geography is emerging before our eyes. We should view smart grids, cloud computing, mobile software and smart cities, universal addressing systems, ubiquitous computing and robotics not as unrelated genres of computation but as forming a larger and coherent whole. Together they constitute an accidental megastructure called The Stack. This is not only a planetary-scale computing system, it is also a new architecture for how we divide up the world into sovereign spaces. In this talk, we'll map The Stack-we-have and sketch The Stack-to-come.

7:00pm

Michael Hardt

Where have all the leaders gone?

From 2011 to 2013 erupted a cycle of "leaderless" movements, which have proven able to pose democratic ideals, sometimes force reforms, and even overthrow regimes, but they tend to last briefly and often seem unable to create a lasting social transformation. Where are the new Martin Luther Kings and Che Guevaras? Is the Left no longer capable of producing leaders? Or have the challenges to authority, undemocratic structures, and centralized decision-making, along with the critique of representation and the mandate against speaking in the name of others made Left politics incompatible with leadership? And, if so, is this incompatibility a weakness or a strength of the Left today

8:00pm

Open Forum

OnlineContributors

On fallsemester.org

Jason Dittmer

Comics and the Urban Unreal

..."If superheroes and their cities dominate that list, that is because the superhero genre has dominated American comics (at least commercially). The vertical city of modernity provided a backdrop for heroic action – think of how boring Spider-man would be in a strip mall – and also raised the stakes of heroic conflict. Super-heroes require super-villains, which in turn require a certain density of population (Bukatman, 2003). The difference between Lex Luthor and a neighborhood criminal is in the scale of their ambition: one knocks off a convenience store or a bank branch, the other threatens to nuke a football stadium at halftime. The verticality of New York itself introduces a permanent precariousness to the equation; precariousness brought home on 11 September 2001 when a plot as grandiose as any of Lex Luthor's was brought to terrifying completion".

Keller Easterling

Matrix Space

"Different from the object forms of masterpiece buildings or master plans, these active forms are forms in another gear or register. We might consider multipliers, switches, a network topology or an interplay of any of these spatial variables. In addition to making object form, designing that interplay and learning to anticipate some of its consequences can be the design intention. Active forms are markers of disposition, and disposition is the character of an organization that results from the circulation of these active forms within it".

Contributor's Bios

Benjamin Bratton, Ph.D., is a theorist whose work spans Philosophy, Art and Design. He is Associate Professor of Visual Arts and faculty coordinator of the MFA program; and Director of the Center for Design and Geopolitics at the University of California, San Diego. Starting in Summer 2014, he is also Professor at The European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. His research is situated at the intersections of contemporary social and political theory, computational media & infrastructure, architectural & urban design problems, and the politics of synthetic ecologies and biologies. Current work focuses on the political geography of cloud computing, highly-granular universal addressing systems, and alternate models of ecological governance. His next book, *The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty*, is forthcoming.

Jason Dittmer, PhD in Geography, is a lecturer in Human Geography at UCL. He obtained a BA in Political Science and International Studies from Jacksonville University in 1998 and an MA in International Affairs from Florida State University in 1999. He is the author of *Captain America and the Nationalist Superhero: Metaphors, Narratives, and Geopolitics* (Temple University Press, 2013), *Popular Culture, Geopolitics,*

and Identity (Rowman and Littlefield, 2010) and is co-editor of *Mapping the End Times: American Evangelical Geopolitics and Apocalyptic Visions* (Ashgate, 2010).

Keller Easterling, is an architect, urbanist, and writer. Her latest book, *Substraction* (Sternberg Press, 2014), Easterling analyzes the urgency of building subtraction. Often treated as failure or loss, subtraction when accepted as part of an exchange can be growth. All over the world, sprawl and overdevelopment have attracted distended or failed markets and exhausted special landscapes. *Enduring Innocence: Global Architecture and Its Political Masquerades* (MIT, 2005), researches familiar spatial products that have landed in difficult or hyperbolic political situations around the world. Her earlier book, *Organization Space: Landscapes, Highways and Houses in America*, applies network theory to a discussion of American infrastructure and development formats.

Nick Gelpi, is an architect and is principal of his own design office based in New York. Gelpi's practice has included the production of a diversity of projects, from experimental structures and pavilions, to commercial retail design, to high-concept furniture and prototypes. Gelpi's research is concerned

Nathalie Rozencwajg

The Imagined and the Imaginary

"In a sense the rigidity of the regulations is balanced by the flexibility of the structural system, allowing for a constant cutting through and redistribution of space. The self-supporting façade acts like a curtain, preserving the face of the city, while creative subdivisions happen behind. Floors are redistributed to fit a smaller family nucleus, to accommodate office spaces or creative studios. The rooftop rooms, originally intended to lodge the servants of the families living below, are now the realms of Paris' student population. The Haussmannian façade functions as a system capable of housing a variety of functional entities and a range of spatial distributions without changing the appearance of the city. The façade is the imagined, the reality behind it imaginary".

with materials and representation, often incorporating procedures of fabrication and the conventions of testing through *Mockups*. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Florida International University.

Michael Hardt, Ph.D., teaches at Duke University and he serves as the editor of *The South Atlantic Quarterly*. Together with Antonio Negri he is author of the *Empire* trilogy (*Empire, Multitude, and Commonwealth*) and, most recently, *Declaration*.

Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss,

is an architect educated at Harvard University and Belgrade University. He recently collaborated with Herzog & de Meuron architects and is the founder of Normal Architecture Office as well as co-founder of *School of Missing Studies*, a network for cultural and urban research.

Léopold Lambert is an architect who has successively been a Parisian, a Hong Konger, Mumbaikar, and New Yorker. In addition to his enthusiasm for design, he is the writer/editor of *The Funambulist* and the author of *Weaponized Architecture: The Impossibility of Innocence* (dpr-barcelona 2012) that examines the inherent characteristics of architecture that systematically makes it a political weapon. He is also the coordinator/ editor of *Archiipelago*, the podcast

platform of *The Funambulist* that releases conversations with thinkers and creators of the world on a weekly basis.

Jean-François Lejeune, is an architect who graduated from the University of Liège, Belgium. He worked in Brussels for the urban think-thank ARAU and publisher Archives d'architecture moderne. In 1985 he moved to Portland to teach at the Oregon School of Design. From 1987 on, he has taught design, urban design, and history-theory at the University of Miami in which he is the current Professor and Director of Graduate Programs. Among others, Lejeune has received grants from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Arts, the Wolfsonian-FIU, the Florida Humanities Council, and the Fondazione C.E.S.A.R. in Rome.

Matteo Pasquinelli, Ph.D., is a philosopher based in England. He wrote the book *Animal Spirits: A Bestiary of the Commons* (2008) and lectures frequently on philosophy, media theory, and life sciences. His texts have been translated in many languages and he has contributed to journals and newspapers such as *Springerin, Multitudes, Fibreculture, Theory Culture & Society, Leonardo, Lugar Comum, Rethinking Marxism, Open!, Libération, Il manifesto, Der Freitag*.

Léopold Lambert

THE CONTINUOUS SIEGE ///

Spectacular and Normal Territorial Violence in Gaza

"If we consider architecture as the discipline that organizes bodies in space, we understand that the continuous siege fundamentally implements itself through architecture, both in its spectacular and normal violence".

Matteo Pasquinelli

The Eye of the Algorithm: Cognitive Anthropocene and the Making of the World Brain

"Since the times of Smith, Ricardo and Marx, capital is clearly a form of computation. The apparatuses of capital describe by themselves a complex mathematical system. After WWII the numeric dimension of capital has been coupled with the numeric dimension of cybernetics and computing machines, then gradually subsuming also upcoming forms of augmented intelligence. Capital, as a form of accounting, as a form of exterior mnemonic technique, is in itself a form of trans-human intelligence. Capital, on the basis of all its numeric procedures, from layman's accounting to sophisticated algo trading, is an *institution of computatio*".

Together with Wietske Maas he wrote the *Manifesto of Urban Cannibalism*. At NGBK Berlin he is co-curating the forthcoming exhibition *The Ultimate Capital is the Sun*.

François Roche, is an architect. His architectural works and protocols navigate and articulate real and/or fictional narration and physical production, and include scenario-based work and the development of apparatuses to transform situations. Although Roche originally trained and worked as a mathematician, he later graduated from the school of architecture of Versaille

in 1987. He founded R&Sie(n) architecture studio in 1989 along with fellow French architects Stephanie Lavaux and Jean Navarro. Roche is currently focusing on developing technological experiments, from which they can create architectural 'scenarios'. These experiments are designed as forms of cartographic distortion or territorial mutations, transforming nature into a dynamic element of the design.

Nathalie Rozencwajg, is an architect, and co-founder and director of rare. The practice exercises an ethos of mixing their commissions with research and education to produce tailored work using new materials, innovative typologies and

advanced modes of design and production. Nathalie graduated from the Architectural Association in London in 2001 and has worked with Erick van Egeraat and Architecture Studio on projects in Europe, Asia and the Middle East, including among others the Onassis Opera House in Athens. In addition to her practice she has been Unit Master at the Architectural Association since 2004 and co-ordinates their visiting school in Singapore. Nathalie's wide-ranging international experience and particular knowledge of sustainable and integrated design contribute to rare's innovative design strategies.

Leandro Silva Medrano, Ph.D., is an architect, urbanist, and professor at the Department of History of Architecture and Aesthetics of Design FAU-USP. His major works address the relationship between housing and urban development of contemporary cities. Theory of architecture and urbanism, urbanization, megacities, urban economics, urban sociology and urban planning are some of the fields involved in his recent research.

Nick Srnicek, Ph.D., is a Fellow in Geopolitics and Globalisation at UCL. He is the author with Alex Williams of *Inventing the Future* (Verso, 2015), and the editor with Levi Bryant and Graham Harman

François Roche / Ghost writer Camille Lacadée

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Marion von Osten

A Hot Topic

Tropical Architecture and Its Aftermath

Are reflections on the 'new' role of the western architect in the global south, building and teaching methods, climate specific materials, and construction techniques in the era of decolonization.

Fall Semester was founded by artists Odalis Valdivieso and Lidija Slavkovic together with Marcos Valella, Andrew Horton, Angela Valella, Antonia Wright, and Felice Grodin.

Additional support from P. Scott Cuninghame, Gean Moreno, and Rob Goyanes.

of *The Speculative Turn* (Re. press, 2010).

Jan Verwoert, is a critic and writer on contemporary art and cultural theory, based in Berlin. He is a contributing editor of frieze magazine, his writing has appeared in different journals, anthologies and monographs. He teaches at the Piet Zwart Institute Rotterdam, the Oslo National Academy of the Arts and the de Appel curatorial programme. He is the author of *Bas Jan Ader: In Search of the Miraculous* (MIT Press/Afterall Books 2006), the essay collection *Tell Me What You Want What You Really Really Want* (Sternberg Press/Piet Zwart Institute 2010), together with Michael Stevenson, *Animal Spirits — Fables in the Parlance of Our Time* (Christoph Keller Editions, JRP, Zurich 2013) and a second collection of his essays *Cookie!* published by Sternberg Press/Piet Zwart Institute 2014.

Marion von Osten, is an artist, writer, researcher and exhibition maker. She is a founding member of the Center for post-colonial knowledge and culture (CPKC) and kleines postfordistisches Drama (kpD) in Berlin as well as of the media collective Labor k3000 Zürich. Beyond her artistic practice, she initiates long term research and collaborative project exhibitions, like: *Aesthetics*

of Decolonization, ith Zurich, 2014–2016 (with Serhat Karakayali); *Tricontinental*, Tensta Konstall, Stockholm, 2014–2015; *Model House— Mapping Transcultural Modernisms*, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, 2010–2013; *Action! painting/publishing*, Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Paris, 2011–2012; *In the Desert of Modernity— Colonial Planning and After, Casablanca*, 2009, Berlin, 2008 (with Tom Avermaete & Serhat Karakayali); *Projekt Migration*, Cologne, 2002–2006 (with Aytac Erylmaz, Martin Rapp, Regina Röhmhild, Kathrin Rhomborg) and *TRANSIT MIGRATION*, Zürich, Frankfurt 2003–2005; among others.

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