ARCHITECTURE AS A POLITICAL PRACTICE

A YEARLY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON THE APPLICATION OF ARCHITECTURAL THINKING TO THE REFORM OF THE WORLD ORDER

2016 SESSION: LABOR

CHICAGO, USA / OCTOBER 2016
SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Thursday 27th of October 2016

18:30 Reception at Chicago Athletic Club. 12 S Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Second floor reception hall.

Friday 28th of October 2016

8:30 am Lobby of Congress Plaza Hotel

9:00 am Breakfast at the Currency Exchange Café
(not paid for) : 305 E Garfield Blvd, Chicago

9:30 am - 12:00 pm Walking tour - Visit South Side of Chicago, University of Chicago Campus, Robie House (17$)

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm Visit Downtown Chicago

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Launch of the event: X. Wrona (ENSASE) and A. Balster at ARCHEWORKS: 625 N. Kingsbury St.; Chicago.

8:00 pm Drink at Archeworks

10:00 pm Afrofuturistic Fela Celebration & Masquerade Party (5$)
Underground Wonder Bar, 710 N Clark St., Chicago
Saturday 29th of October 2016

8:30 am Arrival / breakfast at Archeworks.

PANEL A: 9:00 am - 11:00 am
REGARDING THE REFORM OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

9:00 am - 9:15 am Navdeep MATHUR: Labor and everyday life.
9:15 am - 9:25 am Pauline TIFFON and Arthur KAIDI: “Every twelve seconds” (Timothy Pachirat)
9:25 am - 9:40 am Manuel BELLO MARCANO: Slaughterhousing the world.
9:40 am - 9:50 am Romain VENET and Juliette THIANT: “Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism” (Max Weber)
9:50 am - 10:05 am Paul GUILLIBERT: International division of labor and production of a global space.
10:05 am - 10:20 am Pierre CAYE: La question du travail à l'épreuve du développement durable (The question of labor facing sustainable development)

10:20 am - 11:00 am DEBATE moderated by David Dewane and Xavier Wrona.

11:00 am - 11:20 am PAUSE

PANEL B: 11:20 am - 1:30 pm
REGARDING LABOR FROM THE LABORER

11:20 am - 11:10 am Ulysse HAMMACHE and Lucas Yi: “Empire” (Michael Hardt and Toni Negri)
11:10 am - 11:25 am Vineet DIWADKAR: Labor as infrastructure trust in contemporary Mumbai.
11:25 am - 11:35 am Marjorie CASEZ and Lisa CHANÉAC: “Wage labour and Capital” (Karl Marx)
11:35 am - 11:50 am Lavon PETTIS: The Arts & Our Social Fabric
11:50 am - 12:00 m Massimo BETTEGA and Emma VERNET: “The Craftsman” (Richard Sennett)
12:00 m - 12:15 m J. Kent FITZSIMONS: The Ambiguous Politics of Sweat Equity.
12:15 am - 1:30 pm DEBATE moderated by David Dewane and Xavier Wrona.

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Lunch

PANEL C: 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm
REGARDING A WORLD WITHOUT LABOR

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm Chris CUTRONE: The self-overcoming of labor: beyond capitalism
3:15 pm - 3:25 pm Sara El ALAOUI and Aurel DONY: “The Human condition” (Hannah Arendt)
3:25 pm - 3:40 pm Xavier WRONA: George Bataille: society as unemployed negativity.
3:40 pm - 3:50 pm Tom LEBLAIS and Albin MAURY: "Unemployed Negativity" (George Bataille)
3:50 pm - 4:05 pm Olivier CHADON: Pigritia vs Tripalium. What social and spatial order without the work? a reading of the right to laziness
4:05 pm - 4:15 pm Laurent TABOUR and Balkis ALNAHAS: “Bullshit Jobs” (David Graeber)
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm Ytasha WOMACK: PASSION AS LABOR

4:30 pm - 4:50 pm PAUSE

4:50 pm - 6:30 pm DEBATE moderated by David Dewane and Xavier Wrona.

6:30 pm End

9:30 pm -10:00 pm Jazz bar downtown. (address to be confirmed)
ANDREW BALSTER
ARCHITECT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARCHEWORKS, CHICAGO, USA
PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR

Andrew is a Chicago-based leader operating in the fields of architecture, urbanism, public policy, sociology, and academia. Working closely with influential leaders in the public and private sector, ranging from architects and planners to government officials and social activists, he creates research platforms with universities to explore many forms of cultural production. In practice, Andrew has worked on projects that are broad in typology and scale - ranging from small civic centers to super-tall towers to entire urban districts. Andrew was a Senior Designer at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in Chicago on several award-winning projects located all over the globe. He received an MScAAD and an MArch w/distinction from the University of Edinburgh in the UK. Andrew joined Archeworks as Executive Director in February 2015.

XAVIER WRONA
ARCHITECT
ENSA SAINT-ETIENNE, FRANCE
PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR

Xavier Wrona is the founder of the architecture office “Est-ce ainsi”, a structure working to refocus the architectural practice on its political consequences and its possible participation in the reform of “vivre ensemble.” (living together). Est-ce ainsi articulates a critical reading of the figure of the architect throughout history to the production of inordinately minimum architectures with a particular attention to the means of production of the built environment. Architect DPLG, Xavier Wrona is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Paris La Villette and of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. He taught from 2002-2010 for the Franco-American studio for the Georgia Tech Paris Program at the ENSAPLV in Paris, at the ENSAPBX in Bordeaux and is now associate professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Saint-Etienne, France. Est-ce ainsi was awarded the Young Architects and Landscape Architects prize by the french Ministry of Culture in 2010. He produced the architectural theory exhibition “Georges Bataille, Architecture, Chicago an World Order : an essay in General Economy” as well as the architectural TV show “After the revolution” in the Southside of Chicago in 2015. He currently is a PhD student at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris.
MANUEL BELLO MARCANO
SOCIOLOGIST
ENSA SAINT-ETIENNE, FRANCE
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR

Manuel Bello-Marcano is a French-Venezuelian architect, sociologist and theorist. He’s a Lecturer at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Saint-Étienne (France) where he teaches architectural theory, Philosophy, social sciences and research seminars. His research and writings are about the relationship between architecture, urban imaginary and animality. He has worked with the municipality of Caracas (Chacao) and was an associate of the architecture office PROA (A.K.A PLAN 1 estudio - Venezuela). He holds a Master degree in Philosophy (DPEA – Paris La Villette) with a dissertation entitled “Anthropozoologie de l’enfermement: l’imaginaire spatial à l’épreuve de l’animalité”. He holds a Master degree in Sociology of contemporary societies and a PHD in human and social sciences from the University Descartes-Sorbonne with a thesis entitled: “Les illuminations Profanes. Une étude sur les formes de la perception urbaine contemporaine”. He’s a member of the Centre d’Etudes sur l’Actuel et le Quotidien (CEAQ) and an associate member of the laboratory GERPHAU (architecture and philosophy). He currently is the director of « Transformations » (ENSASE) a research group that works on post-industrials and rural territories. He has published in several reviews as Les Cahiers Européens de l’Imaginaire (CNRS editions), Sociétés (De Boeck éditions) and le Philotope.

DAVID DEWANE
ARCHITECT
IMPACT DESIGN HUB, CHICAGO, USA
EDITOR

David is an architect, entrepreneur, journalist, and educator. He is the executive director of Librii and editor in chief of Impact Design Hub. David has a background in ecologically and socially equitable design, having trained under Pliny Fisk III at the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems in Austin, Texas. He has held leadership positions on three university teams in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon competition. This foundation in applied research has allowed him to contribute at a high level, both professionally and academically, to projects on the cutting edge of environmental sustainability and public interest design. David’s approach to architecture is part entrepreneur and part journalist. He maintains an ongoing commitment to design theory and regularly publishes essays and interviews. Recent topics include Anticipatory Design, World Population and Human Values, Spaces of Hyper-Creativity, and Leadership and Creativity. He has been honored as an Emerging Leader by the Design Futures Council (2012) and has been certified as an EVOKE Agent by the World Bank Institute (2010).
PIERRE CAYE
PHILOSOPHER
ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE, PARIS, FRANCE

Pierre Caye, is director of research at the CNRS. He conducts a research on Vitruvius’s De architectura and on architectural theory at the humanist and classical age. His research measure the importance of the architectural discipline not only in the constitution of the theory of art from the fifteenth to the early nineteenth century, but, more generally, in the development of a new paradigm for technic, one remote from both the world of artisans and the world of engineers. This paradigm, which certainly announces the technique of the Moderns, through many traits (culture of the project, use of mathematics, etc.), maintains a relationship with nature which radically differs with the demiurge approach of the Moderns. This research revisits the technic’s perspective, and allows for a different questioning of the relationship between man and power as well as of its metaphysical horizon. He has published Le savoir de Palladio : architecture, métaphysique et politique dans la Venise du Cinquecento (Klincksieck, 1995) ; Empire et décor : le vitruvianisme et la question de la technique à l’âge humaniste et classique (J. Vrin, 1999) Morale et chaos. Principes d’un agir sans fondement (Le Cerf, 2008) and Critique de la destruction créatrice. Humanisme et production (Les Belles Lettres, 2015).

OLIVIER CHADOIN
SOCIOLOGIST
ENSAP BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Olivier Chadoin is a sociologist and research professor at the ENSAP Bordeaux. His work focuses on the city and architecture and their production systems. It includes the world of architectural and urban production and its agents as a specific production field and architecture as a material and symbolic event took in games and challenges of the social world whose symbolic domination is a dimension. He is a member of editorial boards « Espaces et Sociétés », « Revue Française des méthodes visuelles », Editions de La Villette and RAMAU.

CHRIS CUTRONE  
ART HISTORIAN - ARTIST  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, USA  

Chris Cutrone is a college educator, writer, and media artist, committed to critical thinking and artistic practice and the politics of social emancipation. Born in 1970 and raised in Valley Stream on Long Island near New York City, Cutrone is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Departments of Art History, Theory and Criticism and Visual and Critical Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is a lecturer in the Social Sciences Collegiate Division at the University of Chicago, where he completed the PhD in the Committee on the History of Culture and MA in Art History. He received the MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the BA from Hampshire College. His doctoral dissertation is on Adorno’s Marxism.  

Cutrone is the original lead organizer of the Platypus Affiliated Society (its reading group in Chicago was established in 2006). From 1989–92, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Gulf War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, to the Los Angeles Riots and the election of Bill Clinton, Cutrone was a youth member of the Spartacist League, U.S. section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist), upholding the revolutionary socialist tradition of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Luxemburg, Trotsky and the October Revolution of 1917.

VINEET DIWADKAR  
ARCHITECT,  
AECOM, WASHINGTON DC, USA  

Vineet Diwadkar is a designer and landscape planner working in urban analytics, ecosystem services and governance with Aecom and am a principal researcher with Terreform, where he investigates smart cities and contemporary landscapes in the global south. Recent work includes 50 Ways to Game a City: Loophole Planning in Contemporary Mumbai, a collaborative book of maps, drawings and writing considering the role of the slum in generating Mumbai’s contemporary urban form, and the Planning for Conservation: Looking at Agra project, which aims to reintegrate the Taj Mahal and Agra’s 44 other river gardens and monuments into the city’s economic development strategy. He also led research and production teams for Harvard’s three-year Kumbh Mela: Mapping the Ephemeral Megacity through which a 50-member team researched the planning and operation of the 70 million-resident temporary city. Vineet holds Master in Urban Planning and Master in Landscape Architecture degrees from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from Georgia Tech. His work has been covered by The New York Times, published in the Informal Market Worlds Reader and Revista Materia Arquitectura, and exhibited in Australia, Chile, China, India, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States.
J. Kent Fitzsimons is associate professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux, where he teaches architectural design, architecture theory, and research seminars. He is director of the PAVE research laboratory (Profession Architecture Ville Environnement), which studies architectural and urban phenomena from the perspective of the social sciences. Kent Fitzsimons’s research considers social and political aspects of architectural knowledge as manifested in the built environment. He has published in particular on how notions of lived experience employed in architectural design relate to social phenomena, with a focus on body-based issues such as life phases, gender, and impairment. At the urban scale, he is interested in spatial practices and their representation in public policy; a recent study focused on urban mobility in light of the energy transition. Kent Fitzsimons holds a professional architecture degree from McGill University (Montreal, 1996) and earned Master and Doctor of Architecture degrees at Rice University (Houston, 2000, 2006).

Paul Guillibert is PhD student in philosophy in Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense University. He is actually teaching social and political philosophy. Attached to Sophiapol (Laboratory of political philosophy, sociology and anthropology), his works inquire the relations between global recomposition of capital, exploitation of labour and ecological degradations at a global scale. The production of space and nature through the evolving forms of political, cultural and economic oppressions is analysed with different paradigm such as marxist critic of political economy, global history and political ecology. The variegated forms of exploitations of labour take a big part in the production of differented spatial and socio-ecological relations. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal « Vacarme » and « À-présent » (Éditions Eterotopia France). He has published papers on postcolonial theory « L’orient postcolonial » in Contretemps, « Decoloniser la Nature » in Période ; on political ecology « La nature n’existe pas » in Période, with Stéphane Haber, « Marxisme, études environnementales, approches globales : de nouveaux horizons critiques » in Actuel Marx n°61, autumn 2016 ; on security policies with Memphis Krickeberg « L’hégémonie de la sécurité » in Vacarme, n°77, autumn 2016.
Lavon Nicole Pettis is a Creative Business Development Specialist who blends her background of Psychology and Sociology into the world of creative professionals such as fine artists, writers, actors, and cultural arts musicians with all of the business acumen of a comprehensive fine arts company. Lavon firmly believes that fine artists deserve the same support that agents and managers provide to other artistic endeavors. She recognizes that most professional artists struggle to reach a balance between creative integrity and self-promotion. It is her goal to make inroads into presenting an artist to a gallery, critic and/or collector while also encouraging a community to take note of the artist’s work. She is an effective promoter of music, storytelling, cultural arts and is not limited in her extensive expertise of providing support to other genres such as education, and community outreach. She has applied a strategic acumen to promote an artist’s career by developing an extensive network of contemporary art collectors and professionals. Performing artists are afforded a finely-tuned aesthetic and she is at home whether it is behind the stage, or encouraging a lover of art to factor in for financial support of a play or an art exhibition.

YTASHA WOMACK
JOURNALIST, WRITER, FILM MAKER
CHICAGO, USA

Ytasha L. Womack is an award-winning filmmaker/author/journalist and choreographer. She is author/creator of the popfuturist/afrofuturist novel 2212: Book of Rayla, first of the groundbreaking Rayla 2212 series. Her other books include the critically acclaimed book Post Black: How a New Generation is Redefining African American Identity (Lawrence Hill Books). Post Black was hailed as a Booklists’ Top Black History Reader of 2010 and is a popular cultural studies text universities across the US. She also co-edited the anthology Beats, Rhymes and Life: What We Love and Hate About Hip Hop (Harlem Moon/Random House). A Chicago native, her film projects include The Engagement (director) and Love Shorts (producer/writer). Ytasha is currently editor of the cultural news site www.postblackexperience.com and a guest editor for NV Magazine. A social media and pop culture expert, she frequently consults and guest lectures for corporations and universities across the world. She received her B.A in Mass Media Arts from Clark Atlanta University and studied Arts, Entertainment and Media Management at Columbia College in Chicago.
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