



C-MUS

Brown Bag seminars

C-MUS Brown Bag seminars offer opportunities to spend your lunch hour in company with various researchers who will feed your brain with new ideas in Urban and Mobilities research (<http://www.c-mus.aau.dk/>).

Program Autumn 2015

September 10: Slow Roll– biking as an urban and social connector

Speaker: Associate Professor, Shelley Smith (ssmi@create.aau.dk), Department of Architecture and Media Technology.

Abstract: Every Monday night, a diverse group of people assemble for a 10 km. bike tour through the streets of Detroit. Every Monday over 3,000 people move through desolation and ruin gaining insights into parts of the city that would otherwise be deemed too dangerous. Every Monday night a huge swathe of movement populates the emptiness and stitches the city together. In a poor and dispersed city, biking brings thousands together and positively showcases the city – activating the sensorial and the social. This talk is about the Slow Roll initiative in Detroit and how it provides new views and new connections.

Place and time: September 10, Rendsburggade room 4.315, 12:00-13:00

October 7: Eye-tracking and urban design

Speakers: Assistant Professor, Simon Wind (swin@create.aau.dk) and PhD Candidate Jacob Bjerre Mikkelsen (jbmi@create.aau.dk), both Department of Architecture and Media Technology.

Abstract: Currently tracking technologies (GPS, thermal cameras, drones, etc.) are becoming cheaper, easier to use and therefore more available to researchers. This opens new methodological opportunities for empirical studies. For instance, eye-tracking is used in consumer studies as a tool for understanding how consumers engage in shopping at an unprecedented level of detail. Similarly, we see potential in applying eye-tracking technology to gain a better understanding of how people experience, perceive and use urban and architectural spaces. The usage of eye-tracking can be seen as part of trend in research moving towards investigating the interface between the body and the physical environment at a biological and neurological level. In this brown bag we report on our recent methodological explorations (and failures) of using eye-tracking technology in relation to studies in urban design.

Place and time: October 7, Rendsburggade 14, room 4.351, 12:00-13:00

November 26: Vibrant relational materialism

Speaker: Ph.D. Martin Trandberg Jensen (trandberg@cgs.aau.dk), Department of Culture and Global Studies, Tourism Research Unit, AAU, Copenhagen.

Abstract: Cup-boards, passports, airplanes, (smart)phones, t-shirts and postcards. Indeed a gushing wave of things has informed the canon of tourism and mobilities research recently. The main purpose of this presentation is to extend this relational-materialist thinking by coining the term 'vibrant relational materialism'. We suggest that current material studies can be enriched by following in the footsteps of critical animists such as Bennett (2010), Vannini (2014) and Ingold (2007) in order to broaden the traditional understanding of objects and to more considerably enliven and sensitise the temporal, the transformative and the affective implications and relations between materialities and humans.

Place and time: November 26, location tba, 12:00-13:00



December 10: Can the design of spaces modulate our ability to form new memories?

Speakers: Assistant professor Lars Brorson Fich (lbfi@create.aau.dk) and Associate professor Martin Kraus (martin@create.aau.dk), both Department of Architecture, Design and Media Technology.

Abstract: In this brown bag seminar we wish to present and discuss our research concerning whether the design of spaces and spatial elements such as landmarks modulates our ability to form new memories. Our research takes the extensive research within neuroscience into human memory- and navigational systems as a part of departure, especially the brain structure called the hippocampus. The hippocampus combines the formation of new memories and the creation of the cognitive map that underlines spatial navigation. This cognitive map is created on the basis of landmarks and the geometry of the environment. These two functions, navigation and the formation of memories, are combined so that the underlying code of memories is the place, defined by these specific spatial features. We then speculate that the more or less apparently present these features are, and thereby the more or less easy it is for the hippocampus to define the place, the more or less easy it might be for it to form new memories. If so, e.g. urban space with its monuments, billboards and more or less distinct geometry might be read as a modulation of memory.

Place and time: December 10, location tba, 12:00-13:00

Please note that the speaker is responsible for booking the venue and in those cases where venue information is missing from the current program ('location tba') this info will be issued at the C-MUS e-mail list by the speakers themselves in due course and well before the event!

The seminars are open to everyone with interest in Mobilities and Urban studies. Pre-registration is not needed. Please bring you own lunch.

Looking forward to see you at the C-MUS Brown Bag Seminars!

Kind Regards

Professor Ole B. Jensen

C-MUS Brown Bag Seminar Coordinator