

M44	URBAN ACTION GROUPS IN THE 20TH CENTURY
Organisers:	Maryvonne Prevot (University of Lille 1) Nicolas Douay (Université Paris 7) Suvi Talja (University of Helsinki, Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies) Bart Tritsmans (University of Antwerp, Centre for Urban History) Inge Bertels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Period:	Modern/Contemporary
Date:	Saturday, 1 September 2012
Time:	09:00-12:30
Room:	116

Description

From ordinary citizens petitioning for the preservation of urban parks at the turn of the twentieth century, over squatters fighting for their rights to accommodation in the 1950s, to the “2.0” activists benefiting from the new information technologies, this session intends to focus on the identities, practices and influence of urban activists in the twentieth century city. As the role of action groups in the (re)development of urban public space has been considerable, this session is particularly interested in the historical evolution of public action and its relationship with the creation and transformation of urban public spaces from the late 19th century until the beginning of the 21st century. A long-term perspective facilitates a better understanding of the fluctuating nature of the topic.

The general questions of this session are: How different urban action groups evolve and how they influenced the development of urban public space throughout the 20th century? How these groups define themselves, for example, with regard to confessional or political values, and how contemporary groups negotiate and dispute the institutional inheritances and modes of expertise coming from the former urban movements?

The expected papers could therefore:

- Focus on theoretical perspectives on urban activism.
- Investigate the role of action groups in the development of urban public spaces; the conflicting interests of different voluntary associations and their encounters with public authorities or private developers; and long-term changes in the influence of action groups in the development of urban public space.
- Evaluate the impact of this urban activism on the ideological representations as well as on the day-to-day production of the city, e.g. the formulation and the implementation of public policies in the fields of housing, environment, public spaces.
- Bring to light the transformed ways in which these associative and collective groups organize themselves and the changing modes of involvement, as well as the kind of knowledge produced and mobilized within these structures.
- Question the institutionalization processes of these social movements, particularly in the perspective of the collaborative turn in urban planning in the latter part of the 20th century.

We warmly welcome papers - from different disciplinary perspectives - dealing with this topic in a broad sense. Although international comparison is encouraged, we also gladly accept papers dealing with methodological problems and case-studies.

Scientific Programme

- 1542 THE CONCRETE OB DURACY OF HOOG CATHARIJNE. THE TENSIONS BETWEEN LOCAL POLITICIANS, A PRIVATE DEVELOPER AND CITIZENS 1963-1973**
Tim Verlaan (University of Amsterdam, History, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 1138 'PARK FICTION' - THE SUCCESS OF A PERSISTENT AND CREATIVE URBAN ACTION GROUP IN HAMBURG**
Viola Rühse (University of Hamburg, Germany)
- 1214 URBAN ACTIVISM AND HERITAGE CARE. CASE-STUDY OF THE ANTWERP ZURENBORG DISTRICT**
Jelena Dobbels (VUB, Art History and Archeology, Brussels, Belgium)
- 1423 GLASGOW'S COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS: MORE ACCIDENT THAN DESIGN**
Douglas S. Robertson (University of Stirling, School of Applied Social Science, Strirling, U.K.)
- 323 "WE EARNESTLY PRAY THAT IT MAY BE PRESERVED." A BRITISH PETITION TO SAVE THE KAPELLBRUECKE IN LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND, 1899**
Laura Fasol (University of Lucerne, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, Lucerne, Switzerland)
- 503 FROM DOMESTICITY TO URBANITY: BUILDING A DEMAND FOR PUBLIC SERVICES. THE ROLE OF THE ITALIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (UDI), 1950^S-60^S**
Cristina Renzoni (Università degli Studi Roma Tre, DipSU - Department of Urban Studies, Rome, Italy)
- 1187 CLAIMING LES HALLES: URBAN IDENTITY, TRANSFORMATION, AND RESISTANCE**
Robert Weddle (Drury University, Hammons School of Architecture, Springfield, USA)
- 959 THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN BRUSSELS: HOW 20 YEARS OF URBAN ACTIVISM CAN FAIL**
Claudine Houbart (Université de Liège, Architecture, Liège, Belgium)
- 1244 THE ELM FIGHT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: STOCKHOLM AS AN ALTERNATIVE CITY – FROM TREE-HUGGERS TO THE INTERNET**
Mats Berglund (The Institute of Urban History, Stockholm, Sweden)