

**3-6
JUNE
2019**

WHAT URBAN FUTURES? FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

ICS-ULisboa Annual Conference

2019 edition

Instituto de Ciências Sociais
Universidade de Lisboa



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Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa

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Scientific Committee

Olivia Bina (coordinator), Alda Azevedo, Marco Allegra, Luis Balula, Roberto Falanga, Mariana Liz, João Mourato, Pedro Figueiredo Neto, Mafalda Nunes, Lavinia Pereira, and Simone Tulumello.

Organised by

Urban Transitions Hub (www.urbantransitionsHub.org)

- part of the research group *Environment, Territory and Society*, in cooperation with H2020 project **ROCK** (<https://rockproject.eu/>)

main poster photo: Olivia Bina

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WHAT URBAN FUTURES? FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

A few decades ago, the rise of globalisation seemed to suggest that the socio-spatial entity that we call the ‘city’ was to be progressively replaced by de-territorialised networks. Yet, today we are told that we are living in an ‘urban age’. The debate around the exact meaning of this return to the ‘urban’ is an important thread in the field of urban studies. While international institutions led by UN-Habitat favour a conception of the urban as a place attracting an increasing share of people from rural areas, critical social sciences have instead focused on the urban as a processual and relational category: that is, on urbanisation, and on its current planetary scale. Notwithstanding the different perspectives, most agree that the processes of urbanisation deserve increased attention in terms of their risks and potentialities.

The relentless process of urbanisation is shaping and reshaping our planet, and contributing to multiple crises (environmental, economic, social and political, to name a few) that are themselves deeply interlocked with global processes of financial accumulation, spatial transformation and social reproduction. In mainstream discussions, the urban is conceived as the place where innovation, accumulation and consumption increasingly happen; where injustice, violence, alienation and detachment are more visible, but also where political organisation and solidarity flourish. Consistent with this perspective, multiple voices have called for a devolution of power to cities – including well known intellectuals such as Richard Florida and Bruce Katz, as well as, for instance, the municipalist network Fearless Cities led by the left-wing mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau. New seeds of hope are necessary if we are to muddle through these volatile times, and contribute elements of a new vision for an urban

planetary future. In line with critical social sciences perspectives, the 2019 edition of ICS-ULisboa Annual Conference calls for a reflection on the urban and its radically open futures, by focusing on the processual and relational dimensions of four topics: politics, rights, nature and technology. The Conference will bring together renowned thinkers and young scholars to discuss the current challenges and hope for our urbanised present and futures. Along four afternoons, discussion will take place in three types of sessions.

1. Two keynote speeches, to question two of the main challenges for contemporary and future urban development:

- Evgeny Morozov will question the promises and limits of big tech in the urban context.
- Vanesa Castán Broto will explore messiness in the urban politics of climate change.

2. Two debates, launched by opposing statements, to make space for open discussion on major open questions, seeking to make space for hope in a time of needed critique:

- Technological urban futures? Are unfolding waves of technological advancements the ‘solution’ to present and future urban problems? Or, rather, is technological solutionism – and the dominance of corporate interest in technological advancement – the problem in the first place?
- 50+1 years after the publication of *Le Droit à la Ville*, and in the aftermath of the year of its anniversary, is it time we start questioning the Right to the City (RTTC)? Is the RTTC enough to deal with the present challenges? If not, how can we go beyond the RTTC to build a hopeful urban future?

3. Two movie screenings, opened by brief introductions and followed by debate, to reflect on the role of art and narrative gazes in making space for hopeful urban futures:

- Nature/Technology: International selection.
- Politics/Rights: The transformation of Lisbon.

PROGRAMME

Monday, 3 June 2019

venue: Caleidoscópio, Campo Grande

– film session 1

Nature/Technology

- 18.00 institutional greetings
Karin Wall (director of ICS-ULisboa)
- 18.15 introduction of the session
w/ **Graça Castanheira** (filmmaker)
- chair: Pedro Figueiredo Neto (ICS-ULisboa)
- 18.30 screenings:
Subterranean Singapore 2065
(Finbarr Fallon, 2016, 7')
Harvest
(Kevin Byrnes, 2017, 11')
Pude ver un Puma
(Eduardo Williams, 2011, 18')
Curupira
(Pedro Figueiredo Neto, 2016, 12')
Recife Frio
(Kleber Mendonça Filho, 2009, 24')
- 19.30 debate
- 20.00 drinks

Tuesday, 4 June 2019

venue: Caleidoscópio, Campo Grande

– film session 2

Politics/Rights

The transformation of Lisbon

- 18.15 introduction of the session
w/ **João Seixas** (FCSH-UNL)
- chair: Mariana Liz (ICS-ULisboa)
- 18.30 screenings:
Amor, Avenidas Novas
(Duarte Coimbra, 2018, 20')
Rampa
(Margarida Lucas, 2015, 16')
Rafa
(João Salaviza, 2012, 25')
Nuvem Negra
(Basil da Cunha, 2014, 18')
- 19.30 debate
- 20.00 drinks

Wednesday, 5 June 2019

venue: ICS-ULisboa, aud. Sedas Nunes

– main conference session 1

Nature/Technology

- 15.30 institutional greetings
Karin Wall (director of ICS-ULisboa)
Olivia Bina (coord. Urban Transitions Hub)
Roberto Falanga (project ROCK)
- 16.00 debate: technology and the urban
Alberto Vanolo (Università di Torino)
Jared Hawkey (CADA, Lisbon)
closing commentary:
Andrea Pavoni (Dinâmia'CET-IUL)
- chair: Simone Tulumello (ICS-ULisboa)
- 17.30 coffee break
- 18.00 keynote speech:
*From Smart to Sovereign Cities:
Big Tech and Its Discontents.*
Evgeny Morozov
(The New Republic)
- chair: Marco Allegra (ICS-ULisboa)
- 19.30 screening of place-based
videogames produced during the Game
Jam,
organized by Bibliogamers 2019
and sponsored by ROCK
- drinks

Thursday, 6 June 2019

venue: ICS-ULisboa, aud. Sedas Nunes

– main conference session 2

Politics/Rights

- 16.00 debate: politics and rights
Melissa Garcia Lamarca (UAB)
Jorge Malheiros (IGOT-ULisboa)
closing commentary:
Pedro Magalhães (ICS-ULisboa)
- chair: João Mourato (ICS-ULisboa)
- 17.30 coffee break
- 18.00 keynote speech:
*Messy Practices in the Urban Politics
of Climate Change*
Vanesa Castán Broto
(The Urban Institute, Sheffield University)
- chair: Lavínia Pereira (ICS-ULisboa)
- 19.30 concluding remarks w/
Manuel Heitor (Minister of Science,
Technology and Higher Education)
- drinks

KEYNOTE & INVITED SPEAKERS

Evgeny Morozov is the author of *The Net Delusion* and *To Save Everything, Click Here*. Morozov's monthly column appears in several international newspapers. He has been a fellow at Georgetown University, Stanford University, New America Foundation, and the American Academy in Berlin. He has a PhD in history of science from Harvard University. His next book, *Freedom as a Service*, will be published in 2020.

Vanesa Castán Broto joined the Urban Institute of the University of Sheffield in September 2017, following her appointment as a Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Her research has been funded by the British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, ESRC, EPSRC and the Institution of Civil Engineers. In 2016 she received the Philip Leverhulme Prize for contributions to Geography. In 2013 she received a United Nations Award for Lighthouse Activities that contribute to fight climate change with a focus on the urban poor. Vanesa's research focuses on the governance of global environmental change in the urbanization age. She focuses on three interrelated themes: 1) the governance of climate change in urban areas; 2) urbanization and the dynamics of energy transitions; and 3) barriers to the implementation of climate change action.

Alberto Vanolo, PhD in Spatial planning and local development at the Polytechnic of Turin, is professor of Political and economic geography at the University of Turin, Italy. His main research fields include urban studies and cultural geography. His latest book, entitled *City branding, urban imaginaries and ghosts: the politics of representation in globalising cities*, published by Routledge, focuses on city branding and the cultural and political dimensions of urban representations.

Jared Hawkey, with Sofia Oliveira, is a co-founder of CADA, a Lisbon-based art group which makes software for exhibitions and the public realm. Established in 2007, CADA's work is intentionally playful, designed to activate experiences that are both personal and question our relationship with technology in everyday life. It also organises events and workshops to extend participation in digital cultural practice. The group has exhibited across Europe and in Brazil. Jared has a BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London. <https://www.cada1.net>

Andrea Pavoni is post-doctoral fellow at DINAMIA'CET, Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, at the University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal. He completed his PhD at the University of Westminster, London, in 2013. He is a fellow at the Westminster Law and Theory Lab, co-editor of the *Law and the Senses Series* (University of Westminster Press), and associate editor at the journal *Lo Squaderno*, *Explorations in Space and Society*. He is author of *Controlling Urban Events. Law, Ethics and the Material* (2017, Routledge).

Melissa García Lamarca is a postdoc researcher at the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Melissa holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Building and Urban Design in Development from University College London, a Graduate Diploma in Community Economic Development from Concordia University and a BA in Geography and Economics from McGill University. She has fifteen years' experience working as a consultant in a sustainability workers cooperative, a researcher, teacher and project coordinator in Canada and internationally. Melissa's research is driven by a thirst to better understand both structural dynamics and bottom up processes towards making more socially just and emancipatory cities. She is interested in untangling the structures and channels through which political economic processes generate urban inequalities and everyday lived housing injustices, as well as how collective urban struggles can disrupt the inegalitarian status quo and open up new alternatives.

Jorge Malheiros is researcher of the Centre of Geographical Studies and associate professor in the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Lisbon. His research interests have focused in the domains of migrants integration and demography and also in international migration and urban social features, namely the issues of spatial segregation, housing access, urban dynamics and transnational practices. Ex-president of the Portuguese Geographers Association (2002-2004) and ex-vice-president of the Portuguese Association of Demography (2013-2017), is presently member of the directives boards of the Centre of Geographical Studies (IGOT-ULisboa) and also of the NGDO Portuguese Council for Refugees (CPR).

Pedro Magalhães is senior research fellow at ICS-ULisboa and Director of PASSDA-Production and Archive of Social Science Data. Between 1999 and 2009, he worked at CESOP, the Center for Public Opinion Polls and Studies of the Portuguese Catholic University, which he directed between 2005 and 2009. Until 2017, he coordinated SPARC, ICS's research group on social and political attitudes, and was director of research at the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation. His research interests include electoral behaviour, social and political attitudes, public opinion, survey research, and judicial and constitutional politics.

João Seixas is professor and researcher in Geography, Territorial Planning and Urban Studies in the FCSH, Universidade Nova de Lisboa. PhD in Urban Geography (Autonomous University of Barcelona). Msc in Urban and Regional Studies (London School of Economics and Political Science). Commissioner for the Strategic Charter of the city of Lisbon and coordinator of the Political-Administrative Reform of the city of Lisbon. Commissioner for the public exhibition "Futures of Lisbon" in 2018. Invited professor in Barcelona (UAB) and Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Consultant for the DG Regio and Urban, European Commission.

Graça Castanheira is a Portuguese filmmaker. She has directed a number of award-winning documentary films and TV series, including *O Tempo e o Modo* (2010), eleven interviews on the state of the world and its futures, featuring Lucrecia Martel, Lula da Silva, and Karen Armstrong, among others. In 1989 she completed a degree in Cinema at ESTC, where she currently teaches. She is a founding member of Apordoc, the association that promotes the international film festival DocLisboa.