04.12.2024
09:00 - 13:30
ETH Zürich, HIT F12

LUS DOCTORAL CRITS

Guest Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Charlotte Malterre-Barthes

Reviewers: Prof. Dr. Tom Avermaete, Prof. Maria Conen, Dr. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein, Dr. Nicole de Lalouviere, Prof. Teresa Galí-Izard, Prof. Hubert Klumpner, Prof. Freek Persyn, Dr. Nazlı Tümerdem, Prof. Martina Voser

LUS Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies
Institut für Landschaft und Urbane Studien

Programme

09:00 - 09:15 Introduction
09:15 - 10:00 Raquel Jerobon
10:00 - 10:45 Dennis Häusler
10:45 - 11:00 Break
11:00 - 11:45 Shiila Infriccioli
11:45 - 12:30 Chen Shen
12:30 - 13:15 Michele Porcelluzzi
13:15 - 13:30 Concluding Discussion

Pastoral Urbanisms in Extended Urbanization: A Case of Maasai Territories of Mara-Serengeti in Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania

Raquel Jerobon

The Maasai territory extends from Southern Kenya into Northern Tanzania largely covering the Maasai Mara and Serengeti conservation landscapes. Urban expansion and occupation are imposed on this indigenous territory, ranging from tourism, resorts, agriculture and settlement. The accompanying social, spatial and territorial transformation are shaping and reshaping the territory differently. The goal of this research is to investigate the socio-territorial transformation processes that are taking place in Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania as means of understanding the production of space processes and the impacts of these processes to the transhumant livelihoods, mobilities and movements that are critical for the socio-ecological balance of the territory. The research adopts extended urbanization as an operational framework to situate and unfold the processes of territorial transformation beyond the rural-urban dichotomy. This production is associated with capital accumulation processes that are currently focused on frontier territories as emergent sites of extraction of resources and profit thereby producing extensive urbanism. The study situates itself within the contradictions of ruralisation and urbanisation and the unfinished nature of urban transformation. The research will apply an interpretative approach based on a historical and geographical reading of space, territory and mobilities. It will involve an exploratory methodology applied to the chosen case studies, participatory data collection based upon a co-production of knowledge with stakeholders and ethnographic methods. The research seeks to contribute to understanding urbanisation processes in the margins of and beyond rural-urban divides as a means of seeking potential alternatives to resilient and collective futures.

Figure 1 : Conservation landscapes, tourism & urbanization of territory. Kimgoni Tanzania Safaris. 2022. National Park Tour Packages Tanzania-Check Out the Nature At Its Best.

Raquel Jerobon *is an urban planner and designer and is currently a doctoral fellow at the LUS Institute at ETH. Her research investigates how and to what extent extended urbanization processes in indigenous Maasai territories are being impacted by these changes specifically concerning spatial production processes and transhumant livelihoods of the local community. She holds a Master of Human Settlements degree from KU Leuven, Belgium and an undergraduate degree in Urban Design and Development from Technical University of Kenya.*

Landschaft im Fluss
Hybride Entwurfsmethoden für Wasserlandschaften im Wandel

Dennis Häusler

The landscape is in constant flux - in perpetual motion. The movements caused by the water cycle will shift in their flow patterns due to climatic changes and establish new rhythms. Periods of drought and precipitation will shift over the course of the year and extreme events will become more frequent in the future. In the context of these changes, both today's physically constructed landscapes and established landscape concepts are reaching their limits. How can the Swiss landscape be rethought against this background and by what methods can appropriate landscapes be designed in this changing context? The project aims to develop a new approach to water management in Switzerland from a landscape architecture perspective in order to create beneficial spatial qualities. Methods for analysing, designing and communicating landscapes are refined and the relationship between human needs and non-human actors is negotiated with a holistic view. The focus lies on the processual understanding of water landscapes and topography as well as the development of design methods that combine intuitive-haptic and numerically precise digital working methods.

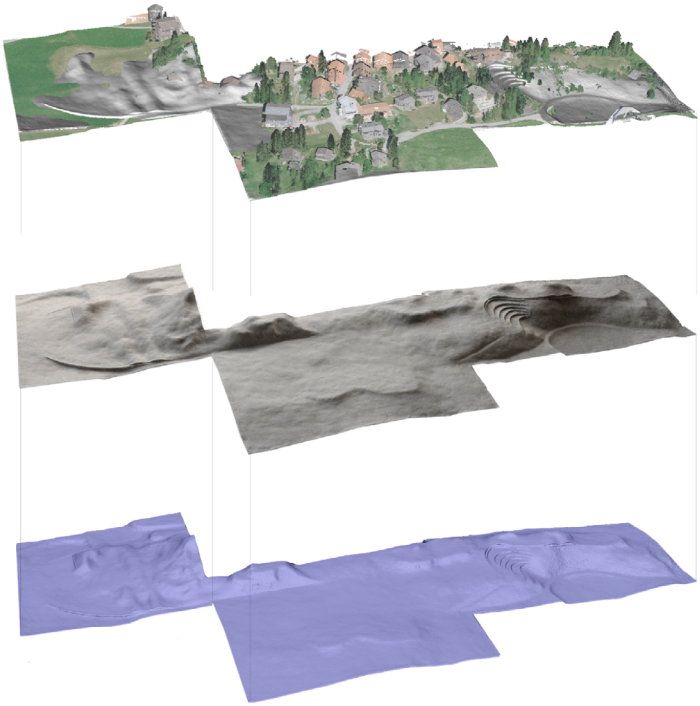

Figure 2 : Hybrid Modelling in Landscape Architecture Student Work Design Studio Fall 2023: P.Kobelt, H.Huber

***Dennis Häusler** is an architect and doctoral candidate at the Chair of Landscape Architecture at the Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies and lecturer in the MScLA program at ETH Zurich. He holds a master's in Architecture from ETH Zurich and was granted a JASSO scholarship to study at Tōdai University of Tokyo. After in-depth research and teaching on digital modeling in landscape architecture and multi-medial landscape perception at the Chair of Christophe Girot, he started his doctorate in 2024 under the supervision of Prof. Martina Voser.*

Fostering Forest Resilience: Collaborative Tools and Visual Strategies to Address Forest Health Monitoring in Switzerland.

Shiila Infriccioli

My research is conducted within the framework of the UPSCALE project, which seeks to develop innovative tools for monitoring and improving the health of Switzerland's forests. The project centers on creating a web-based platform that provides real-time information on forest conditions, focusing particularly on data related to drought and tree mortality—critical issues in forest ecology.

Through fieldwork, interviews, and archival research, I investigate ecological and socio-political dynamics in forested Swiss Alpine areas. My role emphasizes engaging with diverse social actors, including forest practitioners, policymakers, ecologists, and the inhabitants of forested environments, to ensure that the platform is collaboratively designed and addresses their practical needs. Additionally, workshops will serve as collaborative spaces for practitioners and scientists to co-create knowledge and prototype visualization tools. This participatory approach is underpinned by a commitment to foster inclusivity and accessibility in knowledge creation and application.

Central to my work is the intersection of spatial and scientific practices, particularly in the use of visual strategies (film, photography, 3D animations) to promote a cyclical flow of knowledge. My research further explores how scientific knowledge can be reinterpreted and made more accessible to communities connected to forest ecosystems. By integrating design strategies and theories, I aim to bridge the gap between technical data and the lived experiences of communities and non-human actors, promoting care-based, relational approaches to forest management challenging extractive paradigms, and promoting community-driven practices.

By transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries, my research aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, to support communities and practitioners in effectively addressing future ecological concerns.

Figure 3 : Former forestry office, Palace of the Magnificent Community of Fiemme Cavalese (Italy), Magnificent Community of Fiemme archive, 1986

***Shiila Infriccioli is** a designer and researcher, currently a PhD student at the Department of Environmental System Science at ETH Zurich. She dedicated her practice to study forest ecosystems disruptions parallel to understand how visual methodologies can promote co-existence and sustainability. Her recent film, "Ips Typographus" delves into the bark beetle epidemic in the Italian Alps and was featured at the ADI Design Museum in Milan, HKDI Gallery in Hong Kong and at the Italia Pavillon Expo 2010 in Shangai. She has also authored essays exploring forest socio-ecological issues, such as "Forest Metamorphoses: Revealing the Traces of the Ips Typographus Epidemic" (MIARD, 2023) and Deconstructing the Dolomites (Anyone Corporation, 2023).*

De-constructing Urban Villages: Empowerment and Self-determinization of People's Organizations 1978-2025.

Chen Shen

Urban villages, which are an inevitable topic in discussions on Chinese urbanization, are often regarded as latent risks to urban expansion due to inadequate infrastructure and inconsistent law enforcement. Yet, they have simultaneously addressed several critical urban issues, particularly amid China's rapid urbanization. For instance, urban villages offer affordable accommodation to incoming migrants within densely populated residential complexes, which are typically well-connected and reduce living costs significantly.

This PhD research follows the eroding perception of Shenzhen's urban villages as informal, chaotic, and inferior settlements and underscores their roles in fostering community empowerment and self-determinization. Rather than viewing urban villages as the negative consequence of Shenzhen's urban development, this study reevaluates them as active contributors to the urban development. The research explores how power dynamics among government entities, village communities, and migrants contribute to the diverse production of space within these areas. This intensified multi-party interaction has generated a unique, often invisible, logic of development, creating various architectural prototypes and development opportunities within urban villages.

Methodologically, this research employs urban imaginary analysis and architectural ethnographic drawing, supported by extensive fieldwork, interviews, and spatial mapping. These approaches aim to uncover the adaptive strategies of urban villages amidst urban transformation. Additionally, the study critically examines the contrasting roles of government-led gentrification initiatives and community-driven redevelopment efforts, offering comparative insights into their impacts on urban villages over the course of 50 years.

The anticipated outcomes aim to enhance the theoretical understanding of urban villages through comprehensive archive documenting, that contribute to urban planning and renovation in China. By presenting Shenzhen's urban villages as models of adaptive urbanization and community-driven development, this research aspires to inform broader urban development practices, offering alternatives in community development, housing typology and lifestyle for high-density settlements worldwide.

Figure 4 : View of Shixia Village, Shenzhen, China _ Photo by Chen Shen 2024

***Chen Shen** is an architect and urban researcher focused on high-dense urban communities. He started his doctorate study in Chair of Architecture and Urban Design at ETH Zurich since March of 2024. His current research investigates urban villages in Shenzhen. He holds graduate degree of Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Cornell University and worked as architect and urban researcher in Michael Sorkin's studio and his non-profit urban research studio Terreform in New York, focusing on the research of south Chicago urban residential communities.*

Public Space for More-than-human Communities: Collaborative Processes, Design Attitudes, and Hybrid Practices

Michele Porcelluzzi

The doctoral work investigates biodiversity in urban public spaces through the lens of process design and spatial design, with a focus on the role of humans, animals, and plants as active participants in urban ecosystems. Public spaces are framed not as static and human-centered but as dynamic, multispecies environments where complex relationships and interdependencies shape how species coexist and interact within cities. Biodiversity is therefore considered in the work especially and primarily as a set of relationships and forms of interactions, that transcend its mere environmental value.

Five public spaces across Europe — Floating University in Berlin, De Ceuvel in Amsterdam, ASIAT Park in Vilvoorde, Krater in Ljubljana, and Stadionbrache Hardturm in Zurich — serve as case studies to analyze how these more-than-human communities interact within urban contexts. Through fieldwork and active engagement with human and non-human inhabitants, developed with collective mapping and field recordings, this research examines how design, maintenance, and community practices actively influence (and are influenced by) biodiversity in these public spaces. Observations of species interactions, spatial configurations, and site-specific management provide insight into how design can play a role the needs of human and non-human communities.

By identifying strategies and approaches, this doctoral research aims to a broader understanding of public space design in support of biodiversity. It demonstrates how inclusive design practices and maintenance routines can create ecologically integrated spaces that foster multispecies relationships. The findings ultimately offer a framework for designing public spaces that enhance human and non-human communities and enrich urban ecosystems, supporting coexistence across diverse urban contexts.

Figure 5 : Floating University, Berlin. Photo by Michele Porcelluzzi, 13.06.2024

***Michele Porcelluzzi (he/him)** is an architect and PhD researcher at Politecnico di Milano and ETH Zürich. His research activity focuses on public space, urban commons and the interaction between human and non-human communities. His practice deals with the organisation of participatory design workshops and coordination of community-led spatial regeneration projects. He is a co-founding member of the curatorial collective Assume There's a Landscape. His texts have been published in books and journals, including OASE (2022) and Die Architekt (2023). His research work was exhibited at Rotterdam Biennale IABR 2022 'It's about time'. He is currently a visiting researcher at NEWROPE Chair of Architecture and Urban Transformation, ETH Zürich.*

Notes

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NSL Netzwerk Stadt und Landschaft
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