

TRADERS



TRADERS Summer School #1: On participatory art and design and the public space

1 - 3 October 2014



LUCA
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OF
ARTS

DESIGN ACADEMY EINDHOVEN



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MAD-faculty & Design Academy Eindhoven would like to invite you to participate in the first Summer School of the TRADERS project (European Union's Seventh Framework Programme, www.tr-aders.eu), which will take place from the 1st to the 3rd of October of 2014 in the cities of Hasselt and Genk (BE). It will be organized by the research groups of MAD-faculty / LUCA and of Design Academy Eindhoven / Readership City and Countryside in collaboration with the TRADERS partners (i.e. Chalmers/Department of Architecture; RCA/School of Architecture; University of Gothenburg/HDK and KU Leuven/Planning and Development and the Architecture and Culture Theory research units).

Social, economic and environmental changes ask for a rethinking and repositioning of designers and artists in society. **In this line of thought, the TRADERS project questions how designers and artists can engage people to participate in the debate about and the construction of public space. The project also aims to develop tools for training future art and design practitioners and researchers in doing so.** Six design and art researchers investigate specific participatory approaches in public space (play, intervention, mapping, data-mining and modelling in dialogue), which eventually will result in a framework for training.

This Summer School attempts to take a first step in investigating this question, by exploring the power relations involved in working in participatory ways in public space. A series of workshops will embark in creating approaches and tools for (training) artists and designers in dealing with **power relations** in participatory set-ups. We will explore approaches and tools on two sides of a spectrum. On the one hand, in a disruptive approach, the role of the designer or artist could be to engage people in a practice of questioning power relations. For instance, Carl DiSalvo ('Adversarial Design', 2012), referring to Chantal Mouffe, sees a role for designers to construct of an agonistic public sphere of contestation where people can be confronted with alternative positions. On the other hand, a ludic (or playful) approach distances itself from the explicit references to the power relations at stake by using playful, game-like set-ups. Exemplary for this approach, the Dada-movement or the 'Situationist International' were a reaction to a political or socio-economical situation, but responded to it using coincidence, play or collage.

Both approaches can equally address power relations in the public space. Therefore we invite designers, artists and design and art researchers (as well as researchers and professionals from related domains) to the Summer School to discuss the values of and the tensions between both sides of this continuum, each having their own approaches for engaging and training. To do so, the participants in this Summer School will use hands-on art and design explorations and engage in a discursive debate. Some of the questions that will be addressed are: what is the role of artifacts in mediating power relations in participatory practices? To what extent can designers and artists actually be informed about the power relations of the contexts they work in? And what different approaches to mediating power relations in participatory practices exist?

Admissions and practicalities

Who - The Summer School is intended for Master- and PhD-students, researchers and professionals in art and design, Social Sciences and Humanities, Architecture and Engineering, Urban Studies and Planning, Communication and Media, Computer Sciences, Environmental Studies, Economics and Management and other relevant domains.

When/where - Hasselt/Genk (Belgium), from evening of 30th of September until the 3rd of October 2014.

How - For application, send expression of interest before the 13th of July to liesbeth.huybrechts@kuleuven.be with CV (including list of relevant work and/or publications) + a letter (max. 2 pages) describing the motivation to participate in the Summer School and how the Summer School fits your (past, current or future) research interests (files should not exceed 5MB). We confirm reception of all applications, so please resend your email if you don't hear from us in 1-2 days.

Fee - For participation in the Summer School, we ask a fee of 250 euros.

Program

Tuesday 30th of September

Evening: welcome and drinks

Welcome by organising team Pablo Calderón Salazar, Naomi Bueno de Mesquita, Selina Schepers, Dr. David Hamers and Dr. Liesbeth Huybrechts.

***Naomi Bueno de Mesquita** (1979) is a spatial designer with a BA (cum laude) in Architecture Design obtained at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam and a Master in Design and public space obtained at ELISAVA, Barcelona. After completing her Master she worked as teacher at the Art School Estudio Nomada in Barcelona. Her subject was interventions in public space. Her way of working is characterised as interdisciplinary with the theme of borders as a red line in all of her projects. Starting from a more artistic approach, her works within the years grew into a design approach, always with an exploring nature. She lived in different countries for large periods of her life (Jerusalem, Amsterdam, Rome and Barcelona).*

***Pablo Calderón Salazar** (1985) is an Industrial Designer (bachelor level) from the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University of Bogotá, Colombia (2008) and Social Designer (Master in Design) from Design Academy Eindhoven (June 2013). He has recently started (March 2014) a PhD in the Arts with the Catholic University of Leuven, in the wider context of the project TRADERS (Training Art and Design Researchers for Participation in Public Space). The essence of his practice lies in collaboration with local partners in the different contexts where his projects take place: be it a blacksmith in Riga (Latvia, 2011), an Artisan Chocolatier in Liège (Belgium, 2012), a community leader in Utrecht (Netherlands, 2012) or immigrant workers in the Noordoostpolder (Netherlands, 2012), he empathically interprets the interests of different constituents, using dialogue as his main tool.*

***Selina Schepers** (1986) graduated in 2009 as a Master of Philosophy (mPhil) in Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. She wrote her master thesis on creative images and the portrayal of male and female scientists as creative beings since the late seventeenth century. During her master internship at the Netherlands Media Art Institute, Montevideo/Time Based Arts in Amsterdam (NL), she researched the*

developments in the ways the institute has offered technical support to (media)artists from 1978 up to the present. Currently, she is working at the Media, Arts & Design Faculty in Genk and has participated in projects such as Open Garments (a European research project on user empowerment in the textile (and clothing) industry) and Euregioaal Fablab.

David Hamers (1971) is a Senior Researcher Urban Area with PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving) in The Hague, the Netherlands. In addition he is a Reader City and Countryside with the Man and Public Space department at Design Academy Eindhoven. Hamers was trained as a cultural scientist and economist. In 2003 he obtained his doctorate with the Philosophy department of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) at Maastricht University, with his research into representations of American suburbs. Since then he has been working as a spatial researcher, specialising in urbanisation. His publications are focused mainly on the development, design and use of space in and around the city. In addition to his policy-based and scientific research and the Readership, Hamers is a guest lecturer at various universities and academies, is a supervisor for projects in design research, is a member of panels and advisory committees, and works on individual projects with designers and artists.

Liesbeth Huybrechts (1979) completed a PhD about the relation between digital media, art, design and participation. She is head of research of the research unit Inter-actions, researcher and lecturer in higher art education in the Media, Arts and Design Faculty in Genk, LUCA School of Arts/KULeuven. In this context, she is associated with the research group Social Spaces, exploring the social meanings, uses and applications of design and art. She also is involved in research and mentoring students in the context of Cultural Studies KULeuven and Design Academy of Eindhoven.

Wednesday 1st of October

Morning:

Introduction by Liesbeth Huybrechts, coordinator of the TRADERS projects. Introduction of three public space challenges that participants can address in the summer school

Keynote on 'DESIGN ACT' by Ramia Mazé: Socially and politically engaged design today – critical roles and emerging tactics is a book that presents and discusses contemporary design practices that engage with political and societal issues.

Ramia Mazé (www.ramiamaze.com) is adjunct professor at Konstfack and expert in participatory and critical approaches to design and design research. In 2014, she is also an international coordinator for D!, the Swedish Faculty for Design Research and Research Education, and a teacher in MSc Sustainable Urban Planning and Design at KTH Royal Institute of Technology. In her recent projects 'Designing Social Innovation' and 'DESIGN ACT', she investigates design roles in sustainable and social development around the world. At the Interactive Institute since 2001, she has led practice-based design research in the areas of sustainable development, design activism, smart materials, and interactive spaces, featured in her PhD in interaction design entitled 'Occupying Time'. Previously, she worked in corporate research and design consultancies in the US and UK.

Introduction to a documentation approach that will be used during the three days by Jessica Schoffelen.

Jessica Schoffelen (1981) lectures on research methods in media(design) in the Media, Art and Design Faculty Genk. She was the coordinator of the bridging program Communication and Media Design and of the postgraduate program Social and Participatory Use of New Media. In March 2011 she started a phd research concerning design for participation. She is part of the Social Spaces research group and Fablab

Genk. In 2002 she graduated in Criminological Sciences at the K.U.Leuven. She worked in the department of criminology, criminal law and punishment as a teaching assistant for the subject research methods and as a researcher for various projects (K.U.Leuven and Fod Justitie). In her current research she explicitly focuses on opening up design and art projects through documentation.

Afternoon:

'DESIGN ACT' workshop, addressing challenges proposed by the participants in smaller groups by Ramia Mazé.

Summary by external advisor of the TRADERS project, Dr. Ruth Mateus-Berr

Dr. Ruth Mateus-Berr graduated in 1991 from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and received in 2002 a doctorate for her research on the design of the Carnival at the times of the National Socialism. Since 1992 she has worked as an art and design ass professor at the University of Applied Arts Vienna at the Department for Design, Architecture and Environment for Art & Design Education. Her artwork deals with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary questions and is situated at the interface of science, art & design. Her work has been presented at exhibitions in Austria and abroad (China, USA, Italy,...). She has conducted sensual design workshops and presented lectures at different national and international universities.

Thursday 2nd of October

Morning:

Lecture by Martijn De Waal, on playful approaches to participation in public space.

*Martijn de Waal is a researcher based at the department of media studies in the University of Amsterdam. He is also a co-founder of TheMobileCity.nl - an international research platform on the role of digital and mobile media in urban design and urban culture. In 2009 he was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Future Civic Media at MIT. He is the author of *The City as Interface. How Digital Media are changing the City* (Nai010 Publishers, 2014). His current research includes *Hackable cities: the role of digital media in the process of 'city making'*, the role of digital media in the constellation of the urban public sphere and the opportunities of digital media for location based storytelling. www.martijndewaal.nl www.themobilecity.nl www.hackablemetropolis.net www.thecityasinterface.com*

Afternoon:

Workshop by Martijn De Waal, addressing challenges that the participants propose in smaller groups.

Friday 3rd of October

Morning:

Workshop by Jessica Schoffelen, on making video documentaries of the summer school explorations of the public space challenges.

Afternoon:

Reflection and debate on the learnings from artifacts, tools and processes, based on the participants' presentations of the videos. This will take place in the form of a *forum* in the public space.

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TRADERS is coordinated by Dr. Liesbeth Huybrechts (liesbeth.huybrechts@khlім.be),
in collaboration with Selina Schepers (selina.schepers@khlім.be) and Ilse Stouten
(ilse.stouten@khlім.be), faculty of the Arts, LUCA/Katholieke Hogeschool Limburg, Belgium.