

SPACES Conference: Speakers and Respondents

Michele Bee, researcher and co-founder of the cultural centre “Manifatture Knos”, Lecce.

Michele studied economy and received a PhD in philosophy. He teaches history of political thought at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). "Manifatture Knos" (IT), an old public school specializing in training engineers, was restored 2006 by citizens, artists and professionals. The centre's activities include research, training and the support of productions about artistic freedom and organizational autonomy. He collaborates with the municipality of Lecce and several associations and artists in a project based on the direct involvement of citizens in the restoration and change of a quarter of the town. He is interested in the idea of “Third landscape and third place”, a practical research project on "undecided" public spaces developed/transformed directly by citizens, without the support of facilitators. www.manifattureknos.org

Nataša Bodrožić, curator and cultural worker, Zagreb. Nataša is the co-founder of slobodne veze/loose associations, a contemporary art platform founded in 2009 in Croatia. Her special interests include “non- institutionalized” cultural practices in post-Socialist Europe, self-organization and collective creation. As a member of the SPACES curatorial team, she edited the SPACES cultural policy paper “Imagining the Public” focusing on the newly emerging cultural actors in Chisinau, Kyiv, Tbilisi and Yerevan. Together with Nini Palavandishvili, she also edited the publication *SPACES: Cultural Public Sphere: Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine*. www.slobodneveze.wordpress.com

Kateryna Botanova, art critic, curator, contemporary cultural researcher and cultural producer, Kyiv. Kateryna has been the director of CSM-Foundation Center for Contemporary Art (Kyiv, Ukraine) since 2009. She is also the founder and chief editor of the online journal on contemporary culture KORYDOR. Her research focuses on the social engagement of art and the role of art in transformative processes of society. Since March 2014, she has been leading a group of experts working with the Ministry of Culture in Ukraine on a programme developing a long-term strategy for reforms in cultural policy in the country. www.korydor.in.ua www.csmart.org.ua

Heidi Dumreicher, researcher and founding director of Oikodrom, Vienna. Heidi is a co-coordinator of the SPACES project, a linguist and a pioneer in integrated sustainability research as well as an initiator and coordinator of numerous interdisciplinary European research grants (“Sustainable City Implantation”, SUCCESS, HAMMAM, MIGRAPASS). She has disseminated sustainability research information through various arts projects, such as the film *In the Beginning was the Eye* (Bady Minck), nominated for Cannes 2003. Her main research interests include the future of societies in transformation while taking into account the interaction between spatial and socio-cultural aspects. www.oikodrom.org

Galila El Kadi, architect planner and researcher, Paris/Cairo. Galila is the director of research at the IRD - Institut de recherche pour le développement. She is responsible for a research project on regenerating public space in downtown Cairo. Her research fields include heritage conservation and management, urban planning and policies, spontaneous urbanization and public space transformation and regeneration in Mediterranean cities. www.ird.fr

Simonetta Ferfaglia, artist and designer, Vienna. Simonetta is a co-founder of gangart, an artistic practice with expertise in art and architecture, curation, design, exhibition-making and artistic research with commissions by Austrian and international museums and institutions. She teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. www.gangart.org

Can Gülcü, art director, curator and lecturer, Vienna. Part of the directorial team of WIENWOCHE, Can teaches at the Karl-Franzens University in Graz. He has also taught at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and was part of the curatorial team of the Shedhalle in Zurich. His creative work is considered as a bridge between the fine arts and cultural work on a participatory political level. The focal points of his work are questions relating to the societal, political and social balance of power. He wrote *Beograd Gazela – Travel Guide for a Slum* together with Lorenz Aggermann and Eduard Freudmann. www.wienwoche.org

Ina Ivanceanu, film maker and cultural worker, Vienna. Ina works at the interface of science, culture and art, focusing on the transformative potential of art and culture. She has developed and headed culture and science projects in sub-Saharan Africa, China and the Arab world and has directed cinema documentaries on challenges faced by post-Soviet societies in China and Romania (*Bunica, Every Seventh Person*). She accompanied the SPACES project with videos for the SPACES WEB TV and is currently directing a feature-length documentary on the project. <http://spacestv.utopiana.am/>, www.amourfoufilm.com

Alevtina Kakhidze, artist, Kyiv. Alevtina works with performance, installation, drawings, texts and design objects. She co-founded and runs a private residency for international artists in the village Muzychi near Kyiv. She participated in numerous international and Ukrainian art projects, including “Drawing Class for Collectors” for the 7th Berlin Biennale; “You are at Home” of Vladimir Alevtina Suzi Penelopa at Ya Gallery, Kyiv; “I’m late for a plane that’s impossible to be late for”, Якщо/Если/IF (Perm, Museum for Contemporary Art PERMM); and “1989–2009: Turbulent World – Telling Time” (Berlin, Art Academy, Kiev, National Art Museum of Ukraine, Moscow, National Centre of Contemporary Art, etc.). www.alevtinakakhidze.com

Sabine Knierbein, researcher, Vienna. Sabine is an assistant professor of urban culture and public space (tenure track) at the Technical University of Vienna. Her work focuses on transdisciplinary epistemologies of public space and is grounded in critical urban studies related to European and Latin American cities. She understands teaching about public spaces as a plea for (conceptual) openness and teaching about urban culture as a call for (critical recognition of) difference. She is currently developing a relational pedagogy for architecture and planning schools. www.skuor.tuwien.ac.at

Margarethe Makovec & Anton Lederer, directors of <rotor>, Graz. Margarethe and Anton founded < rotor > Center for Contemporary Art in Graz in 1999. Their programme concentrates on socially and politically relevant art production, and they have developed a focus on co-operation with the art scenes in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The public and social realm plays an important

role in reaching an audience that does not cross the threshold into the art space and in negotiating subjects of social transformation. www.rotor.mur.at

Richard S. Levine, architect, urban designer, author and emeritus professor, Lexington. Richard promotes sustainability-driven architecture and urban design. In the sustainable city, the participation of citizens in democratic decision-making – particularly in the development and use of public space animated by art and performance activities – is a key dynamic that links Richard Levine’s activities to the SPACES programme. <http://www.cscdesignstudio.com/>

Nini Palavandishvili, curator, Tbilisi. Nini is a member of the GeoAIR art initiative team, which is active in curating international collaborative projects. She also runs an international art residency and a growing contemporary art archive in Tbilisi, Georgia. Nini is interested in artistic practices that give innovative forms to political and social matters as well as finding a language to be able to speak about them. She researches social and political contexts and their interpretation in the frame of cultural production and contemporary art. With GeoAIR, Nini Palavandishvili develops socially-engaged art practices aiming at increasing influence on existing reality. Her activities are directed toward actively involving a wider public into art processes. www.geoair.ge

Markian Prokopovych, researcher, Vienna. Markian is an assistant professor at the Institute for East European History, University of Vienna. He holds a habilitation from the University of Vienna (2012), a PhD from Central European University (2004) and degrees in nationalism studies, art history, urban planning and heritage preservation. He is the author of *In the Public Eye: The Budapest Opera House, the Audience and the Press, 1884-1918* (2014) and *Habsburg Lemberg: Architecture, Public Space and Politics in the Galician Capital, 1772-1914* (2009). iog.univie.ac.at

Ángela Ramírez, artist, Santiago de Chile. Ángela holds a degree in visual arts from the Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile, and studied in Germany at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Since 1997 she has been living and working in Santiago de Chile, where she started to develop specific works related to specific places within the city. These works are ephemeral and are related to political, social, legal and emotional places and have formal links with architecture. <http://www.gf.org/fellows/16673-angela-ramirez>

Oliver Ressler, artist and film maker, Vienna. Oliver studied at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He produces installations, projects in public space and films on topics dealing with the economy, democracy, global warming, forms of resistance and social alternatives. Over the years, he has collaborated with the artists Zanny Begg (Sydney), Ines Doujak (Vienna), Martin Krenn (Vienna), Carlos Motta (New York), Gregory Sholette (New York), David Thorne (Los Angeles) and the political scientist Dario Azzellini (Caracas/Berlin). www.ressler.at

Olga Shparaga, researcher, Minsk. Olga is a research associate at the Centre for European Studies in Minsk (CES), a lecturer and the head of the Modern Society, Ethics and Politics study programme at the European College of Liberal Arts in Belarus. Moreover, she is the editor of the online journal *Neues Europa*. Her field of study is political philosophy, with a focus on the theories of community and phenomenology. She is also a scientific editor and co-editor of six monographs and publications on contemporary art. www.eclab.by/en

Vitalie Sprinceana, activist, sociologist and philosopher, Chisinau. Vitalie's interests include the sociology of the public sphere, art and activism, and the sociology of religion. He is a co-editor of Platzforma.md, a web platform for critical thinking in Moldova. www.platzforma.md

Taguhi Torosyan, cultural practitioner and curator, Yerevan. Taguhi is a member of the AJZ curatorial collective and is currently a curator at Nest artist residency programme at the Institute for Contemporary Art, Armenia. Her activities focus on contemporary art practices that deal with the issues of public sphere, social memory, urban and communication studies as well as the audiovisual industry. Her artistic work was featured at the Schwankhalle, Bremen, and the ACCEA, Yerevan, among others. www.utopiana.am

Vladimir Us, artist and curator, Chisinau. Vladimir is a founding member of Oberliht: Young Artists Association. He studied art, curating, cultural management and cultural policy in Chisinau, Grenoble and Belgrade. Among other things, he produced and coordinates the Flat Space, a permanent installation and space for art and culture in the form of a socialist flat placed on a square in the city centre of Chisinau. In his recent works and projects, he examines the transformation processes of public space in post-Soviet cities along with the need for new ideas for an alternative network of public spaces in Chisinau. www.oberliht.com

Tihomir Viderman, researcher, Vienna. Tihomir is a university assistant at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space of Vienna University of Technology. He has an engineering degree in architecture and a master's degree in European urban studies, and he is involved in researching and teaching public space as relational space as well as emerging cultural practices. His main research interests pertain to spatial practices and strategies of the mental production of meaning as a means of making places and shaping urban cultures. www.skuor.tuwien.ac.at