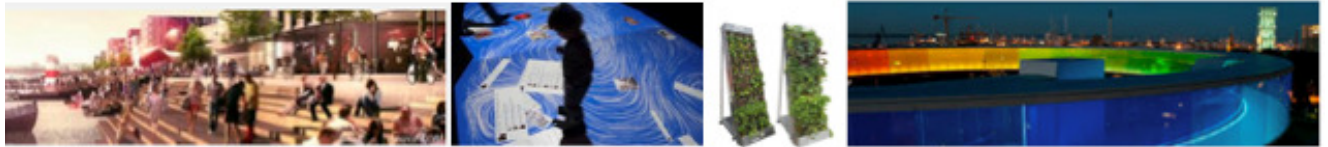


Roundtable Symposium, DAC, Aarhus University

# Cultural Transformations, Technology and Urban Development



**Thursday 27 March 2013, at 9am - 5pm**

Venue: Katrinebjerg, ADA 333

Organizers: Research programs *Cultural Transformations & Humans & IT*, DAC, AU

Special invitation to: Urban Studies initiative, AU Smart City, RethinkIMPACTS2017, PIT, Media Architecture Biennale, Digital Arts Initiative and Cesau

Urban technology is an interdisciplinary field of research including e.g. new forms of publics, participatory culture, creative, artistic and activism culture, surveillance, mobile locative media and tracking, new materialism, waste and sustainability, media architecture, urban design & planning and smart cities. At Aarhus University there are several research networks, units, projects and initiatives that relates to the field, and the field includes research challenges and funding possibilities. In the Spring 2014, Aarhus University is host for guest professor **Katherine Gibson**, and in that context, we will invite colleagues to take part in a roundtable symposium to share and develop research ideas across the research programs. We are also glad to announce that **Jennifer Gabrys**, Goldsmith/UK, will take part in the event.

## Program

9.00: Welcome

9.15: Guest talk: **Katherine Gibson**, Prof. Center for Urban Studies, Sydney, Australia: *Participation, economy and community development*

10.15 Break

10.30-12.15: **Artistic and cultural strategies, technology and urban transformations 1**

Chair: Anne Marit Waade

(5-7 participants, short talks 5-10 minutes per person + discussion)

12.15-13.00 Lunch

13.00 Guest talk: **Jennifer Gabrys**, Goldsmith, UK, Urban waste and Media Architecture: *Artistic and cultural strategies, technology and urban transformations*

14.00 Break

14.15 **Artistic and cultural strategies, technology and urban transformations 2**

Chair: Søren Pold

(5-7 participants, short talks 5-10 minutes per person + discussion)

16.00 Discussion, wine&snacks

17.00

Finito

**Guest talks:**

**Jennifer Gabrys**, Goldsmith, UK,  
<http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/staff/gabrys/>



**Katherine Gibson**, Prof, Centre for Urban, Studies, UWS, Sydney, Australia  
[http://www.uws.edu.au/ics/people/researchers/katherine\\_gibson](http://www.uws.edu.au/ics/people/researchers/katherine_gibson)



*Take Back the Economy* (2013)  
<http://environmentalhumanities.org/2013/09/18/take-back-the-economy-an-interview-with-katherine-gibson/>

## **Artistic and cultural strategies, technology and urban transformations 1**

Chair: Anne Marit Waade  
Short talks 10 minutes per person & discussion.

**Louise Ejgod Hansen & Ida Krøgholt:** *Festive weeks as artistic interventions in urban lives.* The project *Kunsten ude på kanten* (Art on the Fringe) has since 2012 developed different artistic strategies for intervention in urban life in smaller Danish cities. The presentation explores the strategies and the values connected to them by looking at specific interventions in Holstebro, Viborg and Odsherred. These strategies point towards more general potentials of temporary, theatrical interventions in urban lives.

**Louise Fabian:** (Title tba)

**Lone Kofoed Hansen:** (title tba)

**Jan Løhmann Stephensen:** *Frances Whitehead & The Bloomingdale Trail: Using Trees, Lake Effects, Art and Science to Spark a Public Into being?*

**Henrik Bødker:** *Journalism, Circulation and the City*

One way to map newspaper circulation has been as concentric circles on a city map. Such maps were connected to the physical delivery or retail of papers. For most publications, however, readership outnumbered subscribers, which meant that publications were lying around, picked up and passed on. Such movements were, however, relatively unknown. In a digital landscape this is very different. Here circulation is traceable — at least to some extent. While digital circulation is no longer bound by geography, still makes sense — it will be argued — to conceptualise it as urban practices.

**Anne Marit Waade:** *Aarhus2017, tourism, festivals and mobile technology – businesses and marketing as usual – or new, radical perspectives?*

## Artistic and cultural strategies, technology and urban transformations 2

Chair: Søren Pold

Short talks 10 minutes per person + discussion

**Magda Tyzlik-Carver:** *Common Practice: what art-worlds are created?*

In this short presentation I locate my curatorial practice within the many dimensional situation created by intersections of technology, public institutions, artistic practices, audience participation, language, and the self. The task is to think of material arrangements created as the result of practices that bring together all these elements, and the desire behind it to rethink the relations created together with others – human and non-human participants. *Common practice* is a curatorial research project that brings together practice of curating and commons/commoning to perform non-representational manipulations of text, language, people, and other things. The investigation looks at what is materialized as result of *common practice* beyond the systems, organisms, communities and resources. In other words: what art worlds are created?

**Geoff Cox** (title tba)

**Helen Pritchard (School of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London):**

*Shimmering affinities and queer loves*

In this paper I discuss the affinities and aesthetics of “urban computation” made present by the dynamic force of toxicity in the city of Hong Kong. I focus on the speculative figure of the GFP illuminations, an imagined light show display in which genetically engineered fish make readable ecologies of waste and toxins through the production of glowing green fluorescent proteins. Drawing on the work of Karen Barad and Mel Y. Chen I discuss the aesthetics and promise of illumination, that is brought into being by sensing corporealities. Highlighting the entangled intra-actions and queer loves from which the light show and its shimmering kinships emerge. A shimmering that is itself an interruption, a disturbance that illuminates the unsteadiness of ontological separation and an ethics based on this.

**Søren Pold & Christian Ulrik Andersen:** *Technology and Cultural Transformation -*

### *Algorithmic Revolution or Reaction?*

Some preliminary steps towards a discussion of the relations between new technological concepts such as Big Data and current cultural responses such as the post digital and the new aesthetics.

#### **Anne Sophie Witzke:** *Art and Air - material, technological and political perspectives in contemporary digital art*

Beskrivelse: During the last decade digital artists have increasingly taken up air and atmosphere as a medium and subject. Using the atmosphere as an infrastructure for gathering and transmitting information on air pollution and global warming, artists concern themselves with making atmospheric conditions experientially accessible, and with critiquing the institutions and knowledge infrastructures through which air and atmosphere are being regulated, quantified and commodified.

#### **Jane Prophet (City University, Hong Kong):** *Reawakening TechnoSphere creatures discover that they are not alone after a 20 year sleep*

Social TechnoSphere re-implements the work of 1990s TechnoSphere by developing an integrated ALife system comprising Mobile Apps, a real-time 3D standalone environment and a 3D print option, each of each enable users to develop social relationships with TechnoSphere creatures for the first time.

This discussion paper compares two versions of the same ALife artwork, separated by twenty years, 1990s TechnoSphere and Social TechnoSphere from 2014. We exploit recent technological developments such as mobile computing, App design and 3D printing to support the co-creation of creatures and their social relationships with users. Social TechnoSphere contributes to the debate around using materials to represent data and to the wider discussion pertaining to the 'material turn'. In the 1990s, TechnoSphere's artificial creatures were not strongly related to the people who created them, and acted independently and autonomously once they had been designed. At that time, human users often reported their frustration about not being able to socially interact with, or build meaningful evolving relationships with, the creatures they created. Twenty years later, Social TechnoSphere facilitates a social world where the relationship between human designer and his/her ALife creature becomes a co-existent and an interdependent one. A key development is using GPS to connect the ALife environment of the creatures with the real-world urban environment of the human users.

Jane Prophet is an artist and Associate Dean for Research at the School of Creative Media, City University, Hong Kong

#### *Contact persons:*

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