Urban Discourse
19.11. | 10.12. | 14.01.2020
Pt.Talks – Engaging in an international and interdisciplinary discourse about urban development and planning theory

Pt.Talks is a series of events organized by the Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development (Pt) at RWTH Aachen University. The aim is to make a contribution to international and interdisciplinary discourse in planning theory and urban development by fostering scientific, yet public dialogue about current and emerging critical topics. Within the guiding theme of global challenges for sustainable urban development, we see this format as an opportunity to explore new areas of research from different perspectives.

Pt.Talks addresses young academics, Master Students, PhD candidates and recent postgraduates at RWTH and beyond. For each session, one guest will be invited to talk about a specific research topic, followed by an informal open discussion among participants. Beyond this exchange, the results will be documented and made available online to inform a wider public. This allows further dissemination of findings and the exposure for urgent topics and their ambassadors. Through this, we can offer a format that will help scholars to network across thematic and geographical boundaries, exchange feedback, and be inspired by new inputs and debates about urban development.

Join Pt.Talks at RWTH Aachen University, Wülkerstraße 5b, SG314

19.11.2019, 17:30, SG 314
An Epistemological Exploration of Temporary Use in Scholarship: One Example of Discursive Institutionalization and Meaning Production in Urban Studies
Robin A. Chang, TU Dortmund

Despite the strong orientation towards long-term and strategic planning through urban planning and policies, interest for temporally undefined and tactical interventions grows. Temporary Use (TU) is the focus of Robin A. Chang’s work that seeks to pursue a critical understanding of how such initiatives are developing in scholarship and in reality. This presentation will share initial insights in the institutionalization of and meaning production through TU in urban studies using classic literature review and bibliometric methods.

10.12.2019, 17:30, SG 314
Mobility Mushroom: Accessibility and the Mycological Metaphor
Dr.-Ing. Bjoern Hekmati, TU Darmstadt

The growing demand for mobility in line with the more and more differentiated range of modes of transportation pose a new challenge to existing infrastructures. The existing multimodal nodes originally were designed neither for present frequencies nor diversity of services. Bjoern Hekmati describes infrastructure as a part of a mycelium, permeating western industrial nations. The mycel forms a symbiotic relationship with the (post)industrial society, with the inhabitants of the living environment within its range. He views accessibility as the capacity of the membrane between system boundaries and describes hubs that can only be designed using integrative strategies and methods borrowed from design thinking.

14.01.2020, 17:30, SG 314
Using big data to understand which public places people want to be in and why
Dr. Maddalena Iovene, STUDIO | STADT | REGION München

What turns space that is public into a public space? Why are some streets and squares valued, yet others shunned? Why do people tend to prefer some places rather than others? How does this affect their behaviour? This study summarises existing research into why people like some squares and streets and avoid others. It sets out new primary research with a review of 18,966 streets and squares in six British cities. Using this evidence, Maddalena Iovene proposes Ten Steps for developers, architects, planning authorities and landowners to follow to design beautiful and popular public spaces.