

# Programme for EXTREME

## Rethinking the Limits to Community, Architecture, and Urbanism

21-25 January 2018, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

*Note:* All presentations on 23-24 January will take place in ‘Andre sal A’ at the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen. Please ensure that you are present on time for departure for all meals and excursions; the group will not wait for any latecomers.

### **Sunday, 21 January 2018**

18:00: Dinner at Restaurant Nansen. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

### **Monday, 22 January 2018**

09:00-12:00: Ice cave tour by snowcat. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

10:00-15:00: Ice cave tour on snowshoes. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

17:45: Dinner at Kroa. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen for short walk. Actual dinner starts at 18:00.

### **Tuesday, 23 January 2018**

09:00-10:00

Session 1: **Introduction & Keynote**

09:00: Welcome by **Anne Grydehøj** (University College London, UK)

09:15: Keynote speech by **Bridget Storrie** (University College London, UK) **Ore and Peace?: Mining and the Extreme.**

10:00-10:30: Coffee break

10:30-12:00

Session 2: **Conflict and the Extreme**

*Chair:* **Jennifer Corrin** (University of Queensland, Australia)

**Tenley Martin** (Leeds Beckett University, UK) **Occupied Melodies: Identity and Cross-Cultural Engagement through Music in Palestine.**

**Felicite Fairer-Wessels** (University of Pretoria, South Africa) **Rethinking the Limits of Extreme Isolation: Robben Island as Symbol of the Triumph of the Human Spirit over Adversity.**

**Murat Germen** (Sabanci University, Turkey) **Conflict as a Ground for Destruction of Heritage and Subsequent Gentrification.**

**Yaar Dagan Peretz** (Keele University, UK) **Moral Limits of Settler Colonialism: Undermining the Concept of ‘Community’.**

12:00-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-15:00

Session 3: **Extreme Spaces**

*Chair: Mary Anne Beecher* (The Ohio State University, USA)

**Melissa Kenny** (University of Warwick, UK) **Planning for Adaptation: A Changing Climate and a Changing Way of Life in Greenland.**

**Laurent Gutierrez** (School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong) **Floating Lives, a Seaweed Archipelago.**

**Pauline Greenhill** (University of Winnipeg, Canada) **Heterospatiality and Extremes: Tarsem's *The Fall* as Decolonial, Transcultural Fairy Tale Film.**

**Karin Jaschke** (University of Brighton, UK) **Negotiating Space and Place on the Hawaiian Islands.**

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-16:45

Session 4: **Urbanisation and the Extreme**

*Chair: Yaar Dagan Peretz* (Keele University, UK)

**Laura Guarino** (University of Genova, Italy) **The Slums of Casablanca: A Regular Irregularity?**

**Srivalli Pradeepthi Ikkurthy** (D.A. Studios, India) **Exceptions and Deviations in Death: A Hinduistic Approach.**

**Garima Agarwal** (School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, India) & **Karitikeya Sonker** (School of Planning and architecture, Bhopal, India) **The Collapse of Womanhood in Environmental Migration and Its Role in Climate Change.**

18:15: Dinner at Coal Miners' Bar & Grill. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen for 45-minute walk. Actual dinner starts at 19:00.

### **Wednesday, 24 January 2018**

09:20-10:30

Session 5: **Thinking Extreme Architecture**

*Chair: Pauline Greenhill* (University of Winnipeg, Canada)

**Marc Boumeester** (University of the Arts Artez, Netherlands) **Extreme as a Normative Agency: How to Embrace 'Differences that Make a Difference'.**

**Andrej Radman** (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands) **Radical Empiricism and Relative Extrema.**

**Benjamin Smith** (Tulane University, USA) **Devices of Perception: Architecture from Radical Contrasts.**

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-12:30

Session 6: **Remoteness and the Extreme**

*Chair: Karin Jaschke* (University of Brighton, UK)

**Kylo-Patrick Hart** (Texas Christian University, USA) **Extreme Conditions and the Fostering of Community in Lapland Odyssey.**

**Jennifer Corrin** (University of Queensland, Australia) **Law and (Dis)order in the Borderlands of the Torres Strait.**

**Forrest Cole** (Zayed University, United Arab Emirates) **Making Something from Nothing: Urban Planning in the United Arab Emirates.**

**David A. Garcia** (KADK Royal Danish Art Academy, Denmark) **Sustainable Specificity: An Architectural Methodology Based on Context and Invention.**

12:30-14:00: Lunch break

14:00-16:00

Session 7: **Sanctuaries from and Reactions to the Extreme**

*Chair:* **Laurent Gutierrez** (School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong)

**Gabriella Modan** (The Ohio State University, USA) & **Jeff Maskovsky** (City University of New York, USA) **DC Doubles Down: Anti-nationalist Rescaling in a Postglobal Era.**

**Mary Anne Beecher** (The Ohio State University, USA) **Burrowing in Winnipeg.**

**Deborah Scott** (The Ohio State University, USA) **Extremely Creative.**

**Jane Britt Greenwood** (Poznan University of Technology, Poland) **Extreme Politics and the Death of Globalized Architecture.**

16:00-16:10: Close of conference by **Anne Grydehøj** (University College London, UK).

17:30: Dinner at Vinterhagen in Mary-Anns Polarrigg. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen for 15-minute walk. Actual dinner starts at 18:00.

### **Thursday, 25 January 2018**

09:00-12:00: Visit to Coal Mine Number 3. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

09:00-13:00: Dogsledding in Bolterdalen. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

18:00: Dinner at Huset Bistro. Meet in lobby of Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen for 45-minute walk. Actual dinner starts at 19:00.

## Abstracts

**Garima Agarwal** (School of Planning and architecture, Bhopal, India) & **Karitikeya Sonker** (School of Planning and architecture, Bhopal, India) **The Collapse of Womanhood in Environmental Migration and Its Role in Climate Change.** Climate change leading to massive urbanisation is predicted to displace more and more people from their habitats over the course of this century. Environmental migration is in many cases a gendered process and not gender-neutral. The problems faced by cities begin to take shape far outside their boundaries. It is time for studies of climate change to begin assuming a diametrically contrary philosophical position (Campbell, 1922) rather than simply basing themselves upon environmental factors. This paper studies the lives of women in rural as well urban areas based upon their distances from water sources (in rural areas), employment and other basic opportunities that affect their livelihoods almost ten-fold to degenerate their lives from bad to worse. The research also examines life in urban areas for this group, considering how climate-induced vulnerability takes form when basic services are inefficiently expressed in a spatial logic of society.

*Biography:* Garima Agarwal is a second-year student at School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. Garima is currently studying Vernacular Studies and the cultural roles of men and women within Spatial Logic of spaces. Among her academic interests, she has a strong focus in the field of Gender Studies, Woman's role in society and Urbanism. [gari98@gmail.com](mailto:gari98@gmail.com) Karitikeya Sonker is a graduate of School and Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. Currently, he is an Architect researching in the field of Anthropology. He has keen interest in Religion and evolutionary-culture studies. He has also won many competitions and has a number of published works under his name. He aims to understand meanings, peoples, cultures across the social logic and settlements.

**Mary Anne Beecher** (The Ohio State University, USA) **Burrowing in Winnipeg.** Prior to the mid-20th century, the basements of North American houses did not provide optimum conditions for living due to moisture and darkness. Because basements often served as the heating plant in the typical middle-class house, they were also often noisy and smelly. With the advent of upgraded building techniques that included insulated masonry walls, improved external drainage, and natural gas and electricity as heating fuels, the basements of North American homes suddenly promised expanded living space in the modern era, especially in climates that were not conducive to outdoor living during large portions of the year. There is no doubt that Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada is an extremely cold city—one of the coldest in the world with a sizable population. This paper explores the propensity of its residents to use their underground living space for recreation- especially for playing games, enjoying media, and drinking. It aims to exemplify the theory that extreme weather conditions alter human expectations for dwelling by generating a desire for internally-oriented space and a habitat that disguises the presence of undesirable living conditions such as extended months of extreme temperatures and deep snow. While “Winnipeggers” frequently partake of their frozen environment, their houses tell a tale of the desire for warmth and shelter. By analyzing an extensive collection of historic and contemporary images of basements in Winnipeg, I will demonstrate the dual roles of fantasy and comfort to counter the harsh (extreme) realities of life on the Canadian prairie.

*Biography:* Mary Anne Beecher, Ph.D., currently serves as Professor and Chairperson of Ohio State's Department of Design. Dr. Beecher has extensive experience as a scholar, a design educator and an administrator in both the United States and Canada. Her educational background includes a B.A. (1986) and M.A. (1988) in Interior Design from Iowa State University and an M.A. (1998) and a Ph.D. (2003) in American Studies from the University of

Iowa. She has taught at Iowa State University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Manitoba, where she was also the Department Head of the Interior Design Department from 2008-2013. Dr. Beecher's research interests have examined a diverse array of American vernacular interior spaces, including early twentieth-century farmhouses, mid-century roadside motels, and the kitchens, basements, attics, garages, sheds, and perhaps most importantly, the closets that make up the repertoire of storage spaces in evolving twentieth-century modern North American living environments. [beecher.17@osu.edu](mailto:beecher.17@osu.edu)

**Marc Boumeester** (University of the Arts Artez, Netherlands) **Extreme as a Normative Agency: How to Embrace 'Differences that Make a Difference'**. Rather than describing 'the human niche' in the world in anthropocentric and deterministic terms such as possibilities, probabilities, densities and extremes, it serves many objectives to question this paradigm and centre affect as the beginning for the evaluation of human exceptionalism and its hylemorphic instruments (such as urban architecture). Philosopher Baruch Spinoza considered 'affecting' and 'affected' as being one force: proto-action can be seen as the aptitude to create a capacity for affective interaction, to align an affording constellation that allows for singularity (the threshold experience). This paper will explore how we can renegotiate the human condition in a post-human landscape that not only exists of physical boundaries and actualized givens, but also includes the predominantly non-actualized 'scapes' like social constructs, media-systems and the arts. In order for something to act, it does not have to signify anything in order to be significant, therefore the extreme is a normative condition that holds only value if regarded as an agency that produces (contingently obligatory) 'differences that make a difference'. For this it is imperative to adapt to an intransitive state of the aforementioned paradigm and start describing 'the human niche' in terms of actualities, capacities, tendencies, intensities and singularities.

*Biography:* Dr Marc Boumeester is the director of AKI Academy of Art and Design, University of the Arts ArtEZ. Previously Boumeester was a lecturer and researcher at the Delft University of Technology, faculty of Architecture and head of the department of Interactive Media Design at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Leiden, his research focuses on the interplay between non-anthropocentric desire, architectural conditions and unstable media. He publishes in the fields of media philosophy and (architectural) design theory. [info@marcboumeester.com](mailto:info@marcboumeester.com)

**Forrest Cole** (Zayed University, United Arab Emirates) **Making Something from Nothing: Urban Planning in the United Arab Emirates**. This presentation will explore lifestyles and urban development in the deserts of a small region of the Arabian Peninsula: the United Arab Emirates. In the rolling dunes of the historical Trucial States, Bedouins existed nomadically and moved through high temperatures, nine months out of the year, from the interior to the sea. Now called the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this area of the world, most of the year, is the hottest place on earth. The lack of fresh water, flora, fauna and the high temperatures combine to make an arduous environment, and it is the intention of this paper to show how the UAE government has responded to these elements in a unique and fundamental way. The expanding states of the UAE have required an influx of workers to support modernization, but this quick expansion has created some issues with urban planning. However, there have been some innovative responses to the high-temperature environment, besides hyper air-conditioned spaces, such as an indoor ski slope (Ski Dubai) and indoor amusement parks (Ferrari World and IMG World). The dichotomy of fast development and unique indoor spectacles are both results of adapting to an extreme environment.

*Biography:* Forrest Cole teaches at Zayed University in the middle of the desert of Abu Dhabi. In addition, he is pursuing his PhD from the Global Centre for Advanced Studies. His interests are literature, poetry, urban studies, history and food studies. [forrestcole@gmail.com](mailto:forrestcole@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Corrin** (University of Queensland, Australia) **Law and (Dis)order in the Borderlands of the Torres Strait.** The Torres Strait is a 150 kilometre passage between far north Australia and the southern border of Papua New Guinea. It comprises 100s of islands, 22 of which are inhabited, with village populations from about 100 to 2000. Thursday Island, the administrative centre for the Torres Strait Islands, is about 2200 kilometres from Brisbane, the State capital. The area is governed by a Treaty between Australia and PNG which establishes a Protected Zone and a system of free movement for traditional inhabitants of certain islands in the Strait and of some PNG coastal villages adjacent to it (collectively referred to as the Borderlands). Traditional inhabitants may travel across the border between Australia and PNG to carry out traditional activities within the Protected Zone and nearby areas. The remoteness of this unique environment, with its dispersed population, poses challenges for local communities, which are often left to their own devices, without access to state services. This paper looks at the consequences of this remoteness for law and legal processes. It considers how small village communities have adapted to respond to the challenges of remoteness and whether there are lessons for the national legal system.

*Biography:* Professor Jennifer Corrin PhD is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and Director of Comparative Law in the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law at TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland. Jennifer's research focusses on law reform and development in plural legal regimes. She is collaborating in an international project on legal pluralism and conducting research relating to the border between Australia and PNG. Her publications include *Courts and Civil Procedure in the South Pacific* and *Introduction to South Pacific Law*. Before joining UQ, Jennifer spent nine years in her own legal firm in Solomon Islands. [j.corrin@law.uq.edu.au](mailto:j.corrin@law.uq.edu.au)

**Yaar Dagan Peretz** (Keele University, UK) **Moral Limits of Settler Colonialism: Undermining the Concept of 'Community'.** Most of the Jewish settler colonies in the West Bank are less than an hour's drive from Israel's major population centers. Surprisingly, for Israelis living around the major urban centers, the settlements are perceived to be as remote and inaccessible as the North Pole. And yet, many Israelis choose to move to the West Bank and defy international law, while enjoying financial incentives by the Israeli government. Some go there in order to resettle their ancient homeland and, in equal measures, to unsettle others – Palestinians who have been living in the area for hundreds of years and who are, ironically, considered by the settlers as foreign occupiers. This paper will examine the question of ideology versus livability as considerations for dwelling in the context of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. Are they radically different from the concept of 'human community'? Considerations such as location, climate, environment, transportation, architecture, sustainability and job opportunities do not seem to play a major role for the settlers. Is satisfaction derived from religious fervor, conflict, and spitefulness part of the equation? Dwelling in the Promised Land is the settlers' ideal, not, as one may expect, the search for ideal dwelling.

*Biography:* Yaar Dagan Peretz is a human rights attorney in Israel/Palestine and a PhD candidate at Exeter University, UK, researching dehumanizing effects of technology in armed conflicts. Yaar works as a lecturer for Law and Economics at the Academic Center of Law and Science. Yaar volunteers at HIAS NGO, representing refugees and asylum seekers. He also volunteers with Arous Elbahar for Women and provides legal aid for marginalized communities in Jaffa. Yaar was an editor of the law journal of the Emile Zola Chair for

Interdisciplinary Human Rights and presented an advisory opinion for the Concord Research Center for International Law. [yaarp@yahoo.com](mailto:yaarp@yahoo.com)

**Felicite Fairer-Wessels** (University of Pretoria, South Africa) **Rethinking the Limits of Extreme Isolation: Robben Island as Symbol of the Triumph of the Human Spirit over Adversity.** Robben Island, best known for the isolation of political prisoners during the Apartheid regime; was declared a cultural world heritage site in 1999 and bears testimony to tangible beliefs of universal significance and aims to memorialize its unique universal symbolism of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity and injustice. The study aims to present the site as a flagship example of an island destination with a troubled history of extreme isolation to visitors to enable them to experience the trauma that prisoners had to endure; with President Nelson Mandela as its most famous inmate; the site attracts large numbers of tourists worldwide and research into repackaging visitor experiences is considered. Desk research, observation and interviews with visitors and managers while at the site were undertaken. Findings indicate the need to engage relevant stakeholders; document memories of political prisoners; encourage lifelong learning; promote human rights and self-reflection through a world class visitor experience; and to manage its richly layered resources that promotes economic sustainability and development for local communities. In conclusion, its vision, to “develop and promote Robben Island as a world-class heritage site which symbolizes the triumph of the human spirit over adversity” will hopefully encourage visitors to experience Robben Island as a ‘must visit’ island destination.

*Biography:* Felicite Fairer-Wessels is an Associate Professor in the Division of Tourism Management at the University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Information Science and researches information dissemination between people and places. She teaches and researches in the field of sustainable tourism development and sustainable event management; with her postgraduate students mainly in this field. She also does capacity building training courses for the National Department of Tourism. Traveling and visiting world heritage sites are her passion. [ffairer-wessels@up.ac.za](mailto:ffairer-wessels@up.ac.za)

**David A. Garcia** (KADK Royal Danish Art Academy, Denmark) **Sustainable Specificity: An Architectural Methodology Based on Context and Invention.** Given the contemporary challenges of many arctic regions, from political and territorial tensions to climate impact and the constant search for resources, it is alarming to see how architectural design is becoming more homogenous, based on universal “copy/paste” solutions, and distanced from site-specific responses. For the past years, as Assistant Professor and director of the two-year Master course ‘Extreme Environments’ at KADK I have dealt with such aspects as a pedagogic project. The course has ventured students to remote and challenged arctic regions of our planet to investigate and engage with local communities, researchers, scientists and manufacturers, and participate as architects which are simultaneously motivators, designers and inventors, aiming for new site-specific and sustainable solutions for the built environment. From projects in Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard, this presentation will discuss a series of cases that visit these territories through student work, while exemplifying a pedagogical and design project aiming to challenge our methods of practice. During month long stays in these regions, students build and test prototypes, 1:1 constructions are manufactured and assessed and architectural projects are designed and discussed. The presentation includes a catalogue of proposals and investigations spanning in scale and media.

*Biography:* David Garcia is Assistant Professor and Head of Institute at the Royal Danish Art Academy School of Architecture (KADK) since 2013 and director of the Master program “Architecture and Extreme Environments”. He is principal and owner of the architectural practice MAP Architects, which focuses on site-specific design, merging arts and sciences, in

extreme environments, challenging standard approaches to the discipline. He is the editor and publisher of the international publication MAP, now in its eighth issue. Amongst many funding awards, he was awarded in 2007 a prestigious 3 year bursary grant from the Danish Art Council. [dgar@kadm.dk](mailto:dgar@kadm.dk)

**Murat Germen** (Sabanci University, Turkey) **Conflict as a Ground for Destruction of Heritage and Subsequent Gentrification.** Turkey's ruling government has undertaken a major 'urban transformation' construction program over the past decade. As the transformation has moved forward, it has become clear that this building activity is intended for profit and not for improving urban environments. The construction has also served as a social engineering project, causing people to lose their native homes during the demolition process (dispossession) to make ground for new, costlier housing to be bought by the rich. This has occurred in the context of a continual conflict between the Turkish Military and the Kurdish PKK over the past 40 years. Combat previously took place in the mountains, but the latest stage of confrontation has occurred in the city, placing civilians in extreme danger. The destructive battle fought with heavy weapons led to major destruction in an urban residential area with significant heritage value. This area is currently sealed off and clearance of post-war debris has begun. The demolition of the neighbourhood, carried out using heavy construction equipment, was indirectly accomplished through war. The result is: Perishing concepts of heritage and memory as well as imposed concepts of migration, movement, borders and finally profit, following the clashes and deaths of many civilians.

*Biography:* Murat Germen is an artist using photography as an expression / research tool. Born 1965, he currently lives / works in Istanbul and London. Has an MArch degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he went as a Fulbright scholar and received AIA Henry Adams Gold Medal for academic excellence. Works as a professor of art, photography and new media at Sabanci University in Istanbul. Having many papers, photo series published on architecture / photography / art / new media in various publications; he has lectured at tens of conferences internationally. His oeuvre focuses on impacts of urbanization and gentrification, civic rights and participatory citizenship, documentary sustainability of local cultures, human devastation of nature. Has two monographies, one published by Skira (Italy) and the other by MASA (Turkey). Has opened/joined over eighty inter/national solo+group exhibitions. [muratgermen@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:muratgermen@sabanciuniv.edu)

**Pauline Greenhill** (University of Winnipeg, Canada) **Heterospatiality and Extremes: Tarsem's *The Fall* as Decolonial, Transcultural Fairy Tale Film.** Fairy-tale films probe social and cultural limits, but few use more (extreme) shooting locations than Tarsem's *The Fall* (2006), filmed in some 20 countries over 4 1/2 years. Compressing centre and periphery, Tarsem renders seamless filmic links between sparsely populated places like the Namib Desert, Namibia and Butterfly Reef, Fiji with urban Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America to condense a (no)place imagined in his central characters' stories. The director plays with fiction and non-fiction, illusion and authenticity, and wonder and reality, doubling actors in diegetic roles, including multiple stories-within-stories, and offering fictitious versions of real characters. Fairy tales, paradoxically culturally specific and transcultural, often include magic transcending space, like boots that cover seven leagues in one step. Such objects bring remote to proximate, making the apparently extreme less so. Films also transcend space, compressing physically diverse locations, via compositing and/or editing, to create seamless places of the imagination, often within the real world. Films and fairy tales alike, then, offer heterospatiality (using multiple, diverse spaces, including transcultural). His fairy-tale and filmic magic supports Tarsem's deconstruction of the colonial relations which actually and diegetically underlie his work.

*Biography:* Pauline Greenhill is Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She co-edited *Fairy-Tale Films Beyond Disney: International Perspectives* (with Jack Zipes and Kendra Magnus-Johnston, 2016); *Channeling Wonder: Fairy Tales on Television* (with Jill Terry Rudy, 2014); *Transgressive Tales: Queering the Grimms* (with Kay Turner, 2012); and *Fairy Tale Films: Visions of Ambiguity* (edited with Sidney Eve Matrix, 2010). She has fairy-tale research published in *Feral Feminisms*; *Law, Culture and the Humanities*; *Marvels & Tales*; *Narrative Culture*; *Studies in European Cinema*; and *Theoretical Criminology* among others. [p.greenhill@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:p.greenhill@uwinnipeg.ca); [paulinegreenhill@gmail.com](mailto:paulinegreenhill@gmail.com)

**Jane Britt Greenwood** (Poznan University of Technology, Poland) **Extreme Politics and the Death of Globalized Architecture.** The indigenous architecture of North and South America died in the 15th century when Christopher Columbus and other European explorers arrived to expand trade routes, advance financial security, and establish political sovereignty. The resulting spatial separation between American and European cultures, in conjunction with the temporal nature of technology transfer associated with design and construction, led to the evolution of a new vernacular: globalized architecture. Fast-forward six centuries to the recent inauguration of President Donald J. Trump where trade, economics, and safety are once again the impetus for cultural change and national growth. Given the current rhetoric regarding nationalism, populism, and isolationism it seems inevitable that the homogenous, politically correct, and inclusive nature of globalized architecture will no longer exist. If the built environment is a reflection of the social, political, and economic values of the culture that made it, then it also tells the story of a nation's highs/lows, strengths/weaknesses, innovations/stereotypes. Therefore, this presentation aims to address the following: what role will the current trend of extreme politics play in the death of globalized architecture; and, what will the next style say about the culture that made it?

*Biography:* Jane Britt Greenwood, AIA, is a licensed architect and professor in the Faculty of Architecture at Poznan University of Technology and a retired professor at the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. She teaches design studios ranging from basic design to thesis projects and lectures on architectural theory, cross-cultural communication, and housing. She researches the vernacular architecture of Armenia and is documenting the historic houses of the Kumayri Historic District in Gyumri. She is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus, and the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. [jbgreenwood@fulbrightmail.org](mailto:jbgreenwood@fulbrightmail.org)

**Laura Guarino** (University of Genova, Italy) **The Slums of Casablanca: A Regular Irregularity?** The spread of slums in Casablanca, the hyperpopulated economic capital of Morocco, responds to a global trend of modern cities and has represented an alternative solution to the lack of inclusive housing policies. The zoning and segregation policies implemented by the French colonial government created the configuration of the city: the dominant class, the local élites and the working class had to occupy different areas. Casablanca faced, in a short period, the impossibility to regulate the huge flow of migrant workers coming from the rural areas. The introduction of new forms of production and materials, as well as new values and social standards are factors at the basis of the spread of these enormous informal districts that had survived until nowadays. Almost the 10% of the population lives in these outskirts, occupying pieces of land to build his home autonomously, living in unsafe conditions linked to the lack of basic services. Far from shaping 'passive poors', the everyday life of this population is marked by the community struggle for recognition in the battlefield of an 'insurgent citizenship' who create conflicts in fighting against the policies of dispossession represented by the restructuring plans implemented.

*Biography:* Laura Guarino is a Phd student in Social Sciences at the University of Genova (Italy). Her research project investigates the field of urban and territory sociology, concerning urban colonial policies and social housing in Morocco. With a degree in Political Sciences, since her first research works in Bolivia and then in Morocco, she is engaged in subjects concerning the post-colonial studies area. Her latest publication in an Italian journal named “Urban Tracks”, investigates “The slums of Casablanca as signal of internal borders”. She is interested also in migration, participation and social movements studies. [laura.guarino@edu.unige.it](mailto:laura.guarino@edu.unige.it)

**Laurent Gutierrez** (School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong) **Floating Lives, a Seaweed Archipelago.** A primary goal of our research is to reveal the relationships which exist between the lives of Pacific coastline “floating” communities and the abundance of seaweed found in those areas. Learning from the history of the algae in Asia, we aim to forge a new perspective about how Humans have sustained themselves through dynamic exchanges, both between nature and culture, sea and soil, and also between survival and production. Located at the periphery of the land, most of the floating villages and clusters are found on rivers, lakes or nearby coastlines, small bays that are barely protected from storms and other difficult climatic situations. In Hong Kong, communities which live on the water are still very active, in little bays around Sai Kung or Lantau area. They appear as single entities, disconnected from the others, even when located in the vicinity of small urban settlements. Their floating infrastructures are made with simple materials, a mix of bamboo, fabrics and plastic containers. They appear as fragile group of platforms ready to be swept away by the next typhoon, especially when compared to the enormous weight of the cities nearby. Yet, it is their diversity, flexibility and fluidity that have allowed these structures to last for hundreds of years – surviving climatic pressures, political movements, border lines, wars, and economic crises.

*Biography:* Laurent Gutierrez is the co-founder of MAP Office, a multidisciplinary platform based in Hong Kong since 1996, working on physical and imaginary territories using varied means of expression including drawing, photography, video, installations, performance, and literary and theoretical texts. He is a Professor at the School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and is the director of the Master programs. In 2015, he received a Ph.D. from RMIT, Melbourne. [mapoff@gmail.com](mailto:mapoff@gmail.com)

**Kylo-Patrick Hart** (Texas Christian University, USA) **Extreme Conditions and the Fostering of Community in Lapland Odyssey.** From the birth of cinema to the present, the theme and visual elements of life in extreme conditions have proven appealing to viewers. Historically, Arctic environments have offered an exotic locale that serves as a tabula rasa for the fantasies and projections of individuals around the globe as to what it takes to successfully survive and thrive in such extreme environs. Using these long-standing cinematic realities as its launching point, this presentation explores the 2010 Finnish film Lapland Odyssey (directed by Dome Karukoski) and the messages it communicates about the need for community to meet the challenges of contemporary life in this relatively barren area of Finland. When all is said and done, this film demonstrates how it takes a wide range of supportive neighbors, friends, (former) lovers, extended family members, and others to successfully accomplish what appears to be a relatively simple task. The reality that it begins with a concise history of the region, focusing on five generations of male suicides, simultaneously suggests the continual challenging conditions of the region and the need for meaningful human interconnectedness for those who desire more positive outcomes.

*Biography:* Kylo-Patrick R. Hart (Ph.D., University of Michigan) is chair of the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas, USA),

where he teaches courses in film and television history, theory, and criticism; film screenwriting; and video production. He is the author or editor of several books about media, including *The AIDS Movie: Representing a Pandemic in Film and Television*; *Film and Sexual Politics*; *Film and Television Stardom*; *Images for a Generation Doomed: The Films and Career of Gregg Araki*; and *Living in the Limelight: Dynamics of the Celebrity Experience*. [k.hart@tcu.edu](mailto:k.hart@tcu.edu)

**Karin Jaschke** (University of Brighton, UK) **Negotiating Space and Place on the Hawaiian Islands.** This research considers a number of infrastructural projects on Oahu and Hawai'i through the notion of 'gateways' into, between, and within the Hawaiian islands. The Hawaiian Islands are characterised by extreme geographic remoteness, exceptional environmental diversity, an ethnically diverse and in parts transient population, the superposition of mainstream North American lifestyles with traditional Hawaiian values, and a general sense of exceptionalism across different population groups. I argue that Hawaiians negotiate these particular conditions through specific spatial practices and arrangements that facilitate and frame movement and mobility - both psychological and geographic - between the islands but also between land and sea, windward and leeward sides, high and low elevations, natural and urban environments, and places associated with particular ethnic groups. Drawing on spatial geography and architectural theory, I explore these spatial practices through a careful reading of a number of infrastructural sites, including Oahu airport, the Tetsuo Harano tunnels, and the Onizuka Visitor Centre and summit access road to the Maunakea observatory complex.

*Biography:* Karin Jaschke is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton and subject leader in postgraduate Architectural Humanities. She holds degrees from Technical University Berlin, UCL and Princeton University and has taught architectural history, theory and design studio at Bauhaus University, UCL and the University of Westminster, amongst others. Previous research interests have included modern architecture's links to ethnography, ludic environments, and ecological and materialist histories of architecture. She is co-editor of *Stripping Las Vegas: A Contextual Review of Casino Resort Architecture*, issues of the *Journal of Architecture and Design Philosophy Papers*, and author of numerous essays and book chapters. [k.jaschke@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:k.jaschke@brighton.ac.uk)

**Melissa Kenny** (University of Warwick, UK) **Planning for Adaptation: A Changing Climate and a Changing Way of Life in Greenland.** Development and urbanisation are likely to become central features of the Arctic region. As the natural resource extraction industry is set to grow, alongside the impacts of climate change, the landscape and the livelihoods of those who live there may be subject to extreme changes in the near future. Urban areas will become the focal points for development in the region, developing alongside potential industrial growth. With particular focus on Greenland, the country now faces the challenge of not only adapting to a changing, warming climate, but also a changing future in terms of industrial and social development. By anticipating urban development in Greenland, urban planning becomes crucial. This study will look into the changes that the people of Greenland and the country as a whole must make in order to shift from a traditional and long-standing way of life, to a new modernised, industrial future. Focussing on approaches to urban planning in extreme environments, we begin to ask how not only predicting, but also planning for both physical and social changes in the Arctic can secure an effective, sustainable and resilient adaptation to future development in an extreme setting.

*Biography:* I am a PhD researcher at the University of Warwick in the UK, working within the Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities. My research interests lie in sustainable urban growth and development. My main focus is on the prediction, planning and management of

urbanisation in extreme and remote environments, in particular the Arctic region.  
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**Tenley Martin** (Leeds Beckett University, UK) **Occupied Melodies: Identity and Cross-Cultural Engagement through Music in Palestine.** The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) is widely considered to be one of the largest humanitarian crises since the Holocaust. Palestinians of all religions lie under circumstances where the most crucial aspects of their identity are challenged on a daily basis. This includes everything from their religion (mostly Muslim and Christian) to their right to access water and keep control of their property. Many, as a result of illegal Jewish settlements, have been forced into shoddily-constructed UN refugee camps, without any hope of ever getting out of them. Under these extreme circumstances of perpetual conflict and daily struggles for existence, it seems improbable to situate community music-making into life in the OPT. Yet music persists, most remarkably in the form of youth musical groups, oftentimes facilitated by foreign individuals and organisations. Workshops, ensembles, and peripatetic lessons are an important feature in refugee camps, independent organisations, and activist organisations. Utilising fieldwork data gathered while performing and teaching in the West Bank with UK-based street band Malban in 2014, this paper examines the role of transcultural music education, and more broadly music itself, in Palestinian communities and refugee camps. Based on Malban's interactions with several communities across the West Bank, I surmise that community music acts not only as a source of identity for its participants but also as an opportunity for positive cross-cultural engagement with a world that is largely inaccessible for most Palestinians. Ultimately, this paper illuminates the importance of music-making in providing an expanded worldview and identity affirmation in otherwise extremely hostile living conditions.

*Biography:* Tenley Martin is a senior lecturer in popular music performance and culture at Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests include flamencology, music and migration, musical cosmopolitanism, globalisation of non-Western popular musics, and individual influence on music scene development. She is particularly interested in the use and importance of music in refugee and new migrant communities in Western Europe.  
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**Gabriella Modan** (The Ohio State University, USA) & **Jeff Maskovsky** (City University of New York, USA) **DC Doubles Down: Anti-nationalist Rescaling in a Postglobal Era.** A week before Donald Trump's inauguration, Washington DC's mayor announced the new Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program: "In November, I reaffirmed Washington, DC's status as a sanctuary city, and now we are doubling down." As the nation moves in one direction, however, the capital city moves in the other. With health insurance for undocumented immigrants, \$15 minimum wage, paid family leave, the city is making itself into a beacon of anti-nationalist urbanity, positioning itself socially and politically against the white nationalist forces behind Trumpism. The 'extreme' here, then, is one in which the gap between the city and the nation has grown to a point of unprecedented antagonism. This exemplifies a larger trend in which cities are becoming increasingly disjunctive from the nations which they're nominally attached to and imagined to be embedded in. This disjuncture is not the inevitable consequence of the cosmopolitan forces of globalization triumphing over the provincial backwater of the nation. Born from internal national politics that have become so polarized that scalar logics of the past no longer obtain, DC as anti-nation exemplifies a moment in which nations are reconsolidating themselves along anti-globalist lines by purging themselves of their liberal cosmopolitan urban centers.

*Biography:* Gabriella Modan (PhD, linguistics) is an associate professor in the Department of English at the Ohio State University. Her research focuses on the role of language in the politics

of place, particularly in Washington, DC. [gmodan@gmail.com](mailto:gmodan@gmail.com) Jeff Maskovsky (Phd, anthropology), is an associate professor at the Graduate Center and Queens College, City University of New York. His research focuses on urban poverty, grassroots activism and political economic change in the United States. [jmaskovsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jmaskovsky@gc.cuny.edu)

**Srivalli Pradeepthi Ikkurthy** (D.A. Studios, India) **Exceptions and Deviations in Death: A Hinduistic Approach.** India has a massively increasing population density with a crude death rate of 7 per 1000. These demanding statistics have an impact on the funerary spaces for both burial and cremation. Funerary districts make for gloomy and dismal parts of the town and have fostered slum development, with real impacts on the urban fabric. In recent years, rapid urbanization has meant that these funerary spaces are disturbing the urbanity by shifting to the nodes of the city; while earlier they had specific locations allocated for funerary activities (in accordance with the Hindu scriptures). The efforts to address these spaces innovatively through sensible designing and systematic approaches have directly affected the social fabric and had a contextual impact. Actual rituals are contextually changed to accommodate ‘cultural’, ‘temporal’ and ‘communal’ systems. Hence, cases of two physically, philosophically and epistemologically different cities (Varanasi and Hyderabad) are taken up to give the broader picture of transformations and distinctions made in several intentional and unintentional funerary spaces.

*Biography:* Srivalli Pradeepthi Ikkurthy acquired her Masters in Histories and Theories of Architecture from Architectural Association School of Architecture London, UK in 2010. She is presently practising critical writing at the firm she founded- D A STUDIOS, Hyderabad, while taking up lecture series on architecture history & theory in several reputed architectural schools in India. Her research interests lie in understanding Death in Hinduism and its impact on the modern Indian funeral architecture. Other ongoing research works include Epistemological enquiry into the role of water in ancient Hindu sacred spaces. She was awarded for the Hindu crematorium Mahaprasthanam won a national design award in the public domain. [pradeepthi.is@gmail.com](mailto:pradeepthi.is@gmail.com)

**Andrej Radman** (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands) **Radical Empiricism and Relative Extrema.** For radical empiricism, thought cannot be richer than reality and non-conscious cognition is not an oxymoron because much more is felt than is known. Rethinking the limits depends on an encounter between thought and that which forces it into action. While accepting multiple scales of reality, radical empiricism opposes the alleged primacy of the ‘physical’ world. What we cope with is the *umwelt*. The emphasis is on the encounter, where experience is seen as an emergence which returns the body to a process field of exteriority. Sensibility introduces an aleatory moment into thought’s development. It effectively turns contingency into the *conditio sine qua non* for thinking. Thought cannot activate itself by thinking. It has to be provoked. It must suffer violence. Architecture as ‘the first art’ may inflict such violence because it bears the potential for breaking up the faculties’ common function by placing them before their own limits: thought before the unthinkable, memory before the immemorial, sensibility before the imperceptible, etc. The paper will argue that the limit of something is the limit of its action and not the outline of its figure. Under the ethico-aesthetic paradigm, singularities (relative extrema) come before identities and participation (material inference) precedes cognition.

*Biography:* Andrej Radman has been teaching design and theory courses at Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture and The Built Environment since 2004. A graduate of the Zagreb School of Architecture in Croatia, he is a licensed architect and recipient of the Croatian Architects Association Annual Award for Housing Architecture in 2002. Radman received his Master’s and Doctoral Degrees from TU Delft and joined the Architecture Theory Chair as

Assistant Professor in 2008. He is a member of the National Committee on Deleuze Scholarship, and production editor and member of the editorial board of the peer-reviewed architecture theory journal *Footprint*. [a.radman@tudelft.nl](mailto:a.radman@tudelft.nl)

**Deborah Scott** (The Ohio State University, USA) **Extremely Creative.** This conference poses questions regarding extreme environments, their ability to foster innovation and whether technical design solutions help cope with extreme conditions. My question is whether this same dichotomy impacts creative production in the realm of the visual arts. Why are moderate, accessible and hospitable places magnets and meccas for the Arts? Or are extreme places—those that are hard to get to and are difficult to stay— the optimum condition to cultivate a culture of creativity? There are many factors that impact the answers to these questions. Some insights provided in this paper will take the form of a personal narrative depicting two specific North American places—Eugene, Oregon and Winnipeg, Manitoba—as places of contrasting extremes. Oregon enjoys a moderate and lush environment and climate while Manitoba offers temperatures that range from  $-40^{\circ}$  to  $+40^{\circ}$  C on an annual basis. I am an artist who has lived in both cities. My experience of their creative climates is contrasting and noteworthy. The cultivation of creative culture can certainly be tied to the financial support of governments as well as to the settlement histories that define the character of a place. But the impact of the climate can be considered a determining factor in the perception of creativity. This paper may pose more questions than answers, but it offers to bring a cultural focus to the discussion of environment.

*Biography:* Deborah Scott has an MFA from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She has taught design and fine arts at Iowa State University in Ames, IA, University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, and the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She currently teaches in the Department of Art, serves as co-coordinator for Foundations in art and teaches studio for the Department of Design at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Research interests include navigating the relationship between art and design, the role of digital technologies in creative practice (determinate and indeterminate processes) and their impact on pedagogical approaches in both art and design and material studies. [scott.1765@osu.edu](mailto:scott.1765@osu.edu)

**Benjamin Smith** (Tulane University, USA) **Devices of Perception: Architecture from Radical Contrasts.** The creative practice of architecture relies on experience to generate solutions. This paper investigates radical contrasts and shifts in sensitivity as a means to explore opportunities for architectural invention. To explore the opportunities afforded through contrast develops from a comparison of extreme environmental differences in two locations to analyze the intensity of experience, questioning how that experience translates into architecture. The two locations chosen for comparison include the Lofoten Islands in Norway and the Amazon Rainforest near Coca, Ecuador. Perceptual and aesthetic analysis guides the paper in three ways. First, Alva Nöe's work on cognition and sensorimotor understanding provides a basis to reflect on capacities of human physiology to relate appearances with sensations. Second, Ludwig Wittgenstein's assertions regarding perspicuous representations and the value of intermediate cases offer a strategy to synthesize diversity to derive results. Third, Robert Irwin's essay, "Notes Toward a Model: The Process of Compounded Abstraction," serves as a provocation to critique the stages of perception. The landscape of perceptual moments create architecture, but rather than reliving experience, architecture must learn from it, to produce something new.

*Biography:* Benjamin J. Smith, Ph.D., is a scholar, designer, and educator whose work locates advanced practices for architecture. Viewing architectural production as a negotiation of design techniques and aesthetic sensibilities, he believes architecture should engage the discipline with

a rigorous theoretical conversation. Smith is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. [bsmith34@tulane.edu](mailto:bsmith34@tulane.edu)

**Bridget Storrie** (University College London, UK) **Ore and Peace?: Mining and the Extreme.** Areas affected by mining activity are dynamic, complex and often contested terrains where local perceptions of well-being may intersect with natural resource bodies in ways that reinforce ethnic, religious or national divisions. Indeed, across the Balkans some of the towns most associated with past violence have a mining heritage, including Srebrenica, and mining companies are encouraged to be more ‘conflict-sensitive’ in order to avoid exacerbating violence. While this is important, I propose a more ‘context-sensitive’ approach is also needed to understand the actually existing realities of people’s lives and the unexpected resilience that may be found there. I am researching a place-based approach to peacebuilding, embedded in the ‘vibrant matter’ of a natural resource body and premised on the theory that even (or perhaps, particularly) in the most extreme environments unexpected social capital may exist for reimagining the future. This approach may prove useful in other extreme contexts where change associated with natural resource extraction is anticipated and the future uncertain. *Biography:* I am a conflict mediation consultant specialising in the mining industry and have consulted for major mining projects in Mongolia and the Balkans. I am also a PhD candidate with the institute of Global Prosperity at University College London. I started my career as a foreign news journalist for ITN, based in Moscow from 1992 to 1995 and worked on the front line of conflict in Bosnia and Chechnya. I have a Masters in Russian and International Relations (St Andrews), a Masters (distinction) in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (Winchester), and am a trained mediator. [bridgetstorrie@me.com](mailto:bridgetstorrie@me.com)