Architecture and Transformative Politics = Coup d'Funk

Organised by Architecture & Social Movements Network + Focus on the Funk

Abstract

What is the role of artists, activists, writers & academics as well as militant research practices in projects of political transformation during times of reaction, fascism and coups? What collaborations can be established between architecture, law, politics, philosophy and social movements?

Recent referendums, elections and cuasi-judicial or political processes in the UK, the US, Colombia and Brazil have made evident the disconnection between urban centres and post-industrial hinterlands. While many reasons lie behind these lines of division, it is undeniable that at stake are a series of decisions concerning people, territory and its architecture. Equally evident, is the inability of most political parties, academia and media as well as other visual practices, to grasp the socio-political contexts and perspectives from which these popular votes and varieties of populism keep emerging. However, events like these are not entirely surprising. Many have cautioned against the dangerous consequences of neoliberal forms of governance being mobilized by fascist and xenophobic projects, as well as against the consequences of historically revisionist and politically questionable equivalences between rightist and leftist varieties of populism.

It is in this context that an attention to popular and social movements as well as their political organisation is key. In our view, social movements and emerging political organizations are evidence of important mutations taking place in the social and material environments of our cities and territories. They are the product of concrete lives and conditions whose specificities are often unrecognized by existing structures of political representation and academic research.

The two-day event will pose the following questions: what design, research and collaboration methods have to be developed so that the spatial problems of social movements can be adequately described and addressed? How can organizations that emerge out of social movements continue to learn from them? How can academic institutions and design practices develop alliances with popular organizations and movements? What forms of struggle and militancy are required for the development of counter-hegemonic projects?

Day 1: (Birkbeck) 14:30 - 17:00
Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, Malet street Building, room B34

14:30 - Intro: **Godofredo Pereira (RCA)**
14:50 - Panel: **Juan Carlos Monedero (Complutense University) + George Ciccariello-Maher (Drexel University) + Nina Power (Roehampton)**
15:50 – Moderator: **Óscar Guardiola-Rivera (Birkbeck)**
17:00 - End

Day 2: - 10:00 - 18:30
Royal College of Art, Kensington Campus, Room D612, 6th floor

10:45 Reception: RCA
11:00 Panel 1 chaired by **Platon Issaias (RCA)**
11:05 Panel 1: **Tiago Mota Saraiva (ateliermob)**
11:45 Re: **Georgia White (RCA)**
12:00 Discussion
13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00 Panel 2 chaired by **Nora Akawi (Studio-X Amman)**
14:05 Panel 2: **Dimitra Siatitsa (Inura Athens)**
14:45 Re: **Elisavet Hasa (RCA)**
15:15 Discussion
16:00 Coffee Break
16:30 Panel 3 chaired by **Adrian Lahoud (RCA)**
16:35 Panel 3: **Antoni Font (Barcelona en Comú)**
17:15 Re: **Susana Caló (ESAP Porto)**

18:00 Final Collective Discussion w/ response by **Radha D'Souza (Westminster)**

19:00 Drinks

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Booking details
Free entry; separate registration required for each day: full details

Contact person
Godofredo Pereira: godofredo.pereira@rca.ac.uk

Partner organizations
School of Architecture, Royal College of Art; Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities; Birkbeck School of Law; Serpentine Galleries.