



CONFERENCE “EPISTEMOLOGY OF SPACE AND ITS QUALITIES”

28-29 January 2011 at ASRO, Leuven

The division of labour in the sciences has led to the compartmentalisation of knowledge about space and its qualities in different disciplinary fields with their associated concepts, methods and theoretical approaches. Accordingly, each discipline mobilises conceptions, perceptions and experiences of space and its qualities that often lead to misunderstandings and incomprehension. Moreover, we believe that it is crucial – and following Rapoport (1970) – to give meaning to the spatial quality concept by connecting it to the use of space, and the impact of human practices on and in space. As a possible way forward we propose a user-oriented multi-dimensional reading of space and its qualities.

The conference on the “Epistemology of Space and its Qualities” is part of an effort to build inter- and transdisciplinary platforms for the study of space, its uses and transformations. The central conference question focuses on “How different authors/agencies come to know, seek to shape, identify, and name various qualities and potentials of space?” To answer this question we will: (1) build on recent scientific developments, with focus on both theoretical and methodological aspects in strategic spatial planning, urban design, architecture and social innovation analysis; and (2) enter in dialogue with space users and user oriented perspectives.

ORGANISERS

SPINDUS research project in cooperation with Leuven Space & Society centre
Planning and Development and OSA research units, KULeuven
GURU, Newcastle University
a.d. ITER srl

VENUE

KULeuven Campus Arenberg
Thermotechnisch Instituut
Kasteelpark Arenberg 41
3001 Heverlee (Leuven)

Students & SPINDUS stakeholders free entrance
other 30 euro (includes lunch)

To register attendance please send a mail to: ruth.segers@asro.kuleuven.be
www.spindus.org

DAY 1

FRIDAY 28 January 2011

10h15-10h45

Coffee & Welcome

10h45-11h00

Introduction of SPINDUS research project:
Cat on a hot tin roof: from Findus to Spindus
Jan Schreurs & Frank Moulaert, KULeuven

11h00 –11h20

Reading space and spatial quality: towards a meta-analytical framework
Frank Moulaert, KULeuven

11h20 -12h30

keynote 1: Seeking spatial quality: a transactional perspective on space
Gary Bridge, Bristol University

12h30-13h30

Lunch

13h30-15h30

**session 1: Theoretical positioning of the central SPINDUS perspectives:
Towards an interdisciplinary reading on space and its qualities**
chair: *Patsy Healey, emeritus Newcastle University*

Relational perspectives on strategic planning
Jean Hillier, Konrad Miciukiewicz & Mona Abdelwahab, Newcastle University

Urban design: integrating perspectives on space
Jan Schreurs, Bruno De Meulder & Loris Servillo, KULeuven

Social innovation in and through space
Frank Moulaert, Stijn Oosterlynck & Barbara Van Dyck, KULeuven

Discussion: Towards a shared epistemology

15h30-16h00

Coffee break

16h00-18h00

**session 2: Methodological advancements in the analysis of space and its qualities in
planning, urban design & architecture**
chair: *Stijn Oosterlynck, Universiteit Antwerpen / KULeuven*

Researching space, crossing the disciplinary boundaries
Ali Madanipour, Newcastle University

Thinking space. Three ways of understanding the role of architectural and urban spaces.
Hilde Heynen, KULeuven

The third wave of open space transitions: redefining utility and quality
Hubert Gulinck, KULeuven & Anna Verhoeve, ILVO

Discussion: Learning from methodological divergences in spatial analysis

19h30

Conference dinner

DAY 2

SATURDAY 29 January 2011

9h15-9h30

Coffee & Welcome

9h30-9h40

Introduction: Addressing spatial qualities from the perspective of users and from user oriented perspectives
Jan Schreurs, KULeuven

9h30-10h40

keynote 2: Strategies to improve Spatial Quality - building great places
Dirk Sijmons, H+N+S Landschapsarchitecten

10h40-11h00

Coffee break

11h00-13h00

session 3: Addressing spatial quality: a user oriented perspective
chair: *Erik Swyngedouw, Manchester University*

Advocates and proxies for the inclusion of different/marginalized voices in the assessment and improvement of spatial quality
Yasminah Beebeejaun, Manchester University

Re-thinking wastelands: nature, landscape and the late-modern metropolis
Matthew Gandy, UCL

Designerly ways of not knowing
Ann Heylighen & Jasmien Herssens, KULeuven

Discussion: User oriented perspectives to spatial quality

13h00-14h00

Lunch

14h00-16h30

session 4: Addressing spatial quality: a transdisciplinary approach
chair: *Michael Edwards, emeritus UCL + Chiara Tornaghi & Hudita Mustafa (SPINDUS stakeholders)*

Transdisciplinary knowledge production in architecture and urbanism: translating a relational perspective into practice
Isabelle Doucet, Manchester University

Seeking spatial quality through research-by-design
Koen Stuyven, VECTRIS (SPINDUS stakeholder)

Transdisciplinarity in practice: user involvement in the search for spatial quality
Daniel Mallo, action research - urban designer (SPINDUS stakeholder)

Discussant panel: Transdisciplinarity in improving and supporting space qualities

16h30

Closure