COLLABORATIVE DESIGN IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE CITY

LESSONS FROM REJECTED SPATIALITIES

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Seminar WiSe 2021

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Habitat Unit

LESSONS FROM REJECTED SPATIALITIES

Cities are spaces for encounters and exchange, but also of conflict and confrontation between multiple and diverse actors, forms of living and dwelling. They are collectively produced and in constant transformation – a fact, which has been accelerated by the impacts of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic crises, just to name a few examples. However, these recent phenomena do not affect cities equally, nor do they affect the citizens of one city in the same manner. In fact, they have made more visible the existing disparities between cities and inhabitants around the world. In this context of unevenness, certain solutions emerge in the more vulnerable global periphery as a reflection of social struggles and as forms of resistance in the fight for the right to the city.

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METHODOLOGIE AND APPROACH

This Seminar will focus on collaborative design approaches and collective experiences in the peripheries of both Brazil and Germany. In it, it will be presented to the students case studies centered on housing, shelter and culture, all of which have, besides the city-building professionals, civil society as one of their key actors. The course will focus on exploring the theoretical and methodological background to collaborative design in spaces made by and/or for vulnerable and excluded communities – defined here as "rejected spatialities". With this, we aim at developing a critical understanding of the integrative and co-productive role architects, planners and designers should have in these spaces. In order to achieve this critical understanding, the seminar proposes to rethink the tools, methods and general training of these professionals. The participants will be encouraged to investigate hybrid tools, which incorporate both digital and on on-site activities, and navigate between multiscalar processes that go from the specificities of local contexts to an international global network.

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NETWORKS AND CONNECTIONS

The Seminar will be developed in connection with the Alumni Workshop "Collaborative Production of Transformation Knowledge in Self-Organized Occupations", which will happen in a hybrid format (partially online and partially on site in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). It is also connected to the research projects "Beyond the Shelter: Limits and Potentialities between Emergence and Endurance in Refugee Shelters in Berlin" (Habitat Unit – TU Berlin/DFG) and "Temporary and Tactical Urbanism as 21st Century Urban Planning Trends" (CMS – TU Berlin/AvH/CAPES).

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PRODUCT GUIDELINES

The product will be developed in group of up to 4 people and will be divided in 4 Phases:

Phase 1: references
The groups should present a critical reflection on collaborative design approaches, presenting examples of tools and different methods focusing on potential and limitations of the tools for implementation in the case study context.

Phase 2: Activity day
The groups will choose one target group and one method of collaborative mapping and/or design to be experimented in the activity day. This activity will be on a Saturday.

Phase 3: Analysis of results
The groups will reflect on the activity and prepare a plan of general guidelines based on the findings with the work developed with the target group.

Phase 4: Final presentation
The groups will present to the class and guests their process and developed activity, focusing o the analysis of potential and limitations of the selected tool.

The final output of the Seminar consists of six A3 posters and a written report. A layout template for the A3 posters and reports is provided on the seminar cloud as a working document for the case studies. We aim to produce a booklet for download/print and an exhibition.
The visualizations are presented on a sequence of six A3 posters with short text commentary.
The written report (ca. 2500 words) provides a more extensive discussion in light of relevant literature from the syllabus of your own choice, and additional visual material plus a full list of references for text, maps and drawings.

Grades will be based on the group's final output (50%), interim presentations (25%) and individual regular and active participation in weekly reading discussion (25%).
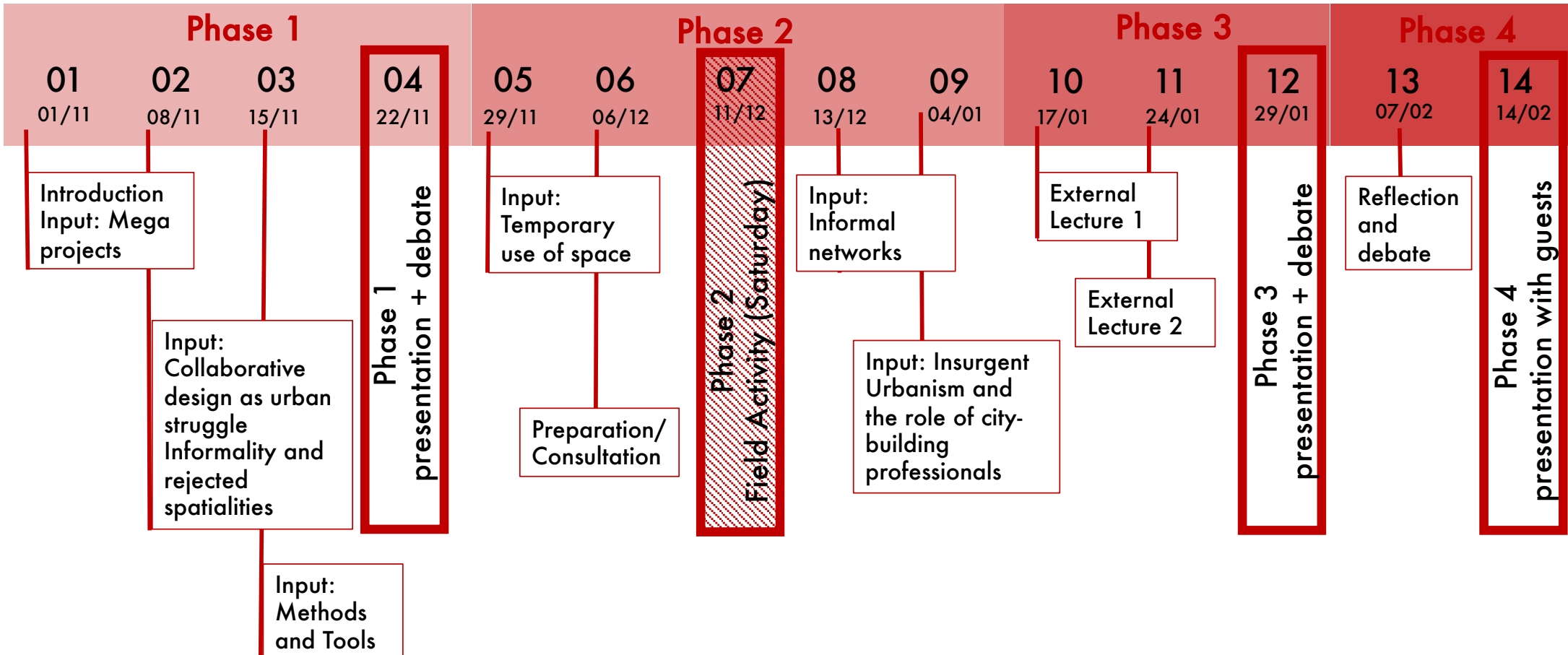
The field activity can be altered depending on the covid-19 pandemic situation.

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PRELIMINAR PROGRAM

This is schedule is subject to changes throughout the semester

Phase 1				Phase 2					Phase 3			Phase 4	
01 01/11	**02** 08/11	**03** 15/11	**04** 22/11	**05** 29/11	**06** 06/12	**07** 11/12	**08** 13/12	**09** 04/01	**10** 17/01	**11** 24/01	**12** 29/01	**13** 07/02	**14** 14/02

Introduction
Input: Mega projects

Input: Collaborative design as urban struggle Informality and rejected spatialities

Input: Methods and Tools

Phase 1 presentation + debate

Input: Temporary use of space

Preparation/ Consultation

Phase 2 Field Activity (Saturday)

Input: Informal networks

Input: Insurgent Urbanism and the role of city-building professionals

External Lecture 1

External Lecture 2

Phase 3 presentation + debate

Reflection and debate

Phase 4 presentation with guests

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READINGS

01 – Mega Projects

Evans, G. (2003). "Hard-Branding the Cultural City - From Prado to Prada". International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 27(2): 417-440.

Vainer, C. (2014) "Disseminating 'Best Practice'? The Coloniality of Urban Knowledge and City Models". In The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South, edited by S. Parnell & S. Oldfield, 48-56. London: Routledge.

02 – Informality and Rejected Spatialities

Marcuse, P. (2009). "From Critical Urban Theory to the Right to the City". City, 13(2-3): 185-197.

Roy, A. (2005). "Urban Informality." Journal of the American Planning Association, 71(2): 147-158.

05 – Temporary uses of space

Colomb, C. (2012). "Pushing the Urban Frontier: Temporary Uses of Space, City Marketing, and the Creative City Discourse in 2000s Berlin." Journal of Urban Affairs, 34 (2): 131-152.

Seldin, C.; Barros, C. C. A.; Costa, P. V. R.; & Gavinho, T. I. 2020. "Peripheral Creativity: Temporary Cultural Uses as Alternatives to Inefficient Policies?" International Journal of Cultural Policy 26 (6): 771-790.

08 – Informal Networks

Booher, D. E. and Innes, J. E. (2002). Network Power in Collaborative Planning. Journal of Planning Education and Research, 21(3): 221-236.

Castells, M. (2000). "Toward a Sociology of the Network Society". Contemporary Sociology, 29(5): 693-699.

09 – Insurgent Urbanism

Miraftab, F. (2016). "Insurgency, Planning and the Prospect of a Humane Urbanism". In The World Congress of Planning Schools, July 3-7 2016, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Escobar, A. (2018). Designs for the Pluriverse: Radical, Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds, chapter 6: 165-190. London: Duke University Press.

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