THE TELOS INSTITUTE

THE 2012 TELOS CONFERENCE

SPACE: VIRTUALITY, TERRITORIALITY, RELATIONALITY

NEW YORK CITY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th and SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th, 2012

THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE PAPERS THAT DEAL WITH THE VARIETY OF WAYS IN WHICH SPACE DEFINES OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND CONCEPTUAL REALITY, INCLUDING THE VIRTUALIZATION OF SPACE BY THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKING, ISSUES OF LAND APPROPRIATION AND SOVEREIGN SPACE, QUESTIONS ABOUT REAL ESTATE MARKETS AND FINANCE, AND THE IMAGINATION OF RELATIONALITY AS THE METAPHYSICAL ESSENCE OF SPACE.

SPEAKERS

RUSSELL BERMAN · FRED SIEGEL · MARCIA PALLY

ADRIAN PABST · DAVID PAN · JOSEPH BENDERSKY · TIM LUKE

GÁBOR RITTERSPORN · JAY GUPTA · ARYEH BOTWINICK

LIMITED SEATING! DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT!

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT THE TELOS INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

SPACE: VIRTUALITY, TERRITORIALITY, RELATIONALITY

Every day we see examples of how the Internet has released us from the bounds of our spatial rootedness and opened up new virtual landscapes for people all over the world. Everything near and far has become equally accessible, and spatial distance is no longer the limitation that it once was. But as much as the Internet and new forms of social networking have transformed our relationship to physical space, both political events and economic crises have also reaffirmed the importance of territory, sovereignty, and land in determining the conditions in which people live their daily lives. The preeminence of the struggle for territory is as unmistakable in the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, the street fighting of the Arab Spring, and the agonizing border negotiations of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as it is in the geographical parameters of the European debt crisis and the role of real estate in the U.S. financial crisis. These conflicts between opposing nations, rulers and ruled, creditors and debtors, have been about holding one's ground in a very literal way, and the differing outcomes in various countries have demonstrated how a virtual reality still awaits a transformation into the physicality of the neighborhood and the street. By the same token, land claims are based on a virtual system of relations imbedded in a particular conception of order. Such a virtual system might be itself a kind of colonizing force, turning the landscapes of the mind into territory to by occupied and defined by a particular system. So the concept of space is both eminently concrete as the struggle over land and exceedingly abstract as the conflict between conceptual systems. In addressing the theme of space, the 2012 Telos Conference in New York will feature papers that deal with the variety of ways in which space defines our social, economic, political, and conceptual reality.

DIRECTIONS

LOCATION

The Telos Conference will be held at the Puck Building, located at 295 Lafayette Street, on the southeast corner of Houston and Lafayette Streets in the Soho neighborhood of Manhattan. The conference will be held on the 4th floor.

BY SUBWAY

6 train to Bleecker Street station. Coming from uptown, The Puck Building is visible from all exits. From downtown, walk one block south and cross Houston Street.

N or R trains to Prince Street station. Walk two blocks east to Lafayette Street and one long block north to Houston Street.

B, D, F, or V trains to Broadway-Lafayette Street station. The Puck Building is visible from all exits.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9:00–9:15 AM **Introduction**
Russell Berman, Stanford University (US)

Session 1: Reconfiguring Global Relations **Moderator:**
Room A David Pan

9:30–10:45 AM **Informatic Spatiality, Electronic Agency, Cybernetic Structure, and Network Power: Occupy World Wide Web Systems?**
Tim Luke, Virginia Tech (US)

The Paradox of Relationality: Beyond the Dialectic of Spatialization
Adrian Pabst, University of Kent (UK)

The Clash of Civilizations Revisited: Huntington and Schmitt in a World of Non-Traditional Spatial Conflicts
Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University (US)

Session 2: The *Nomos* of Europe **Moderator:**
Room A Adrian Pabst

11:00–12:15 PM **Nietzsche, Schmitt, and the *Nomos* of the Earth**
Gary Shapiro, University of Richmond (US)

The Contemporary EU's Notion of Territoriality and Territorial Borders
Alessandro Vitale, University of Milan (Italy)

Sovereignty, Democracy, and the Political Geography of Europe
David Pan, University of California, Irvine (US)

Session 3: Transnationalist Spaces **Moderator:**
Room B Jay Gupta

11:00–12:15 PM **A Transnational Process: Global Migration En Route to Global Citizenship**
Miriam Farhi-Rodrig (Israel) and Yoav Sivan, New York University (US)

An Old Predilection Based on an Aryan Myth and its Resurrection in Virtual Space: Iran's Historical Affinity for Germany
Mohammed Rafi, University of California, Irvine (US)

Manifesting the Function of an Immanent Desire: Toward a Virtual Topography of the Manifesto
Matt Applegate, SUNY Binghamton (US)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Lunch Presentation
Room A

Moderator:
Tim Luke

12:15–1:15 PM **Zuccotti Park and the Elections of 2010 and 2012**
Fred Siegel, Cooper Union (US)

Session 4: Nomadic Communities
Room A

Moderator:
Marcia Pally

1:30–2:45 PM **Thinking the Urmadic City**
Tony Fry, Griffith University (Australia)

"Let me tell you where I'm coming from": Space and Identity in South Africa
Vasti Roodt, University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

Democracy, Territoriality, and the Sites of Critical Theory
Matt Whitt, Warren Wilson College (US)

Session 5: Our Concepts of Space
Room B

Moderator:
Joseph Bendersky

1:30–2:45 PM **The Geometric Gaze: The Enduring Conceptual Origins of Territory**
Ali Hossaini (US)

Right in the Middle: Two Concepts of Centrality
Zoltán Balázs, Corvinus University (Hungary)

Spatial Assemblages and the Commodity
Sascha Engel, University of Frankfurt (Germany)

Session 6: Space and Subjectivity
Room A

Moderator:
Tim Luke

3:00–4:15 PM **Encountering the War Machine in Scandar Copti and Yaron Shani's *Ajami* (2009), Claire Denis' *White Material* (2009), Shirin Neshat and Shoja Azari's *Women without Men* (2009), and Christopher Morris's *Four Lions* (2010)**
Dennis Rothermel, California State University, Chico (US)

Toward a Spatial Subject
Thomas Telios, University of Frankfurt (Germany)

Tokens from Old Days: China in Koei's Games: The Illusion of a Nation
Nizar Zouidi, University of Manouba (Tunisia)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 7: Virtual Reality and the Public Sphere
Room B

Moderator:
David Pan

3:00–4:15 PM

The Politics of Normative and Virtual Space
Jay Gupta, Mills College (US)

Virtual Journals: When Political Criticism Becomes Lost in Space?
Elisabeth Chavez, Virginia Commonwealth University (US)

Transgressive Relationality: Public Spheres and the Spaces of Rebellion
Richard Gilman-Opalsky, University of Illinois, Springfield (US)

Session 8: New Relational Networks
Room A

Moderator:
Russell Berman

4:30–5:45 PM

Grounding Polycracy: Mapping the New Order of *Generalplan Ost*
Ulrike Kistner, University of South Africa (South Africa)

Corporatist Reciprocators in the Production of Globalized Space of Relational Networks
Richard Weiner, Rhode Island College (US)

Entrepreneurial Evangelicals in Haiti, Philadelphia, and Uganda: Carving Out Spaces for the Common Good or Reconfiguring Capitalist Relations?
Marcia Pally, New York University (US)

Dinner
7:00–10:00 PM

Sao Mai (Vietnamese Cuisine)
203 First Avenue (between 12th and 13th Streets) in the East Village
(212) 358-8880
Cocktails at 7 pm · Dinner at 8 pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30–9:55 AM **Coffee**

Session 9: Architectures of the World and of the Mind
Room A

Moderator:
Adrian Pabst

10:00–11:15 AM **Congruence Between the Interior Space of God and the Interior Space of Man: Maimonides on God and the Human Judge**
Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University (US)

Underground Sky: The Endless, the Eternal, and the Ephemeral in the Moscow Subway
Gábor Rittersporn, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)

Text, Space, and Images: A Written Representation of Islamic Architecture in a Sixteenth-Century Arabic Manuscript of Qotb El Din
Hamza Zeghlache, University of Setif (Algeria)