

Letter from the Chair:

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You'll be glad to know that your UGSG board members have been hard at work over the summer. Four of us have taken new positions – Kate Boyer has moved to Southampton, James DeFilippis to Rutgers, Jim Fraser to Vanderbilt, and Russ Smith to Elon University – but they have been willing (eager?) to forgo the cardboard boxes long enough to join the rest of the board in revamping the specialty group's award structure. This newsletter contains announcements of the awards (see page 4), which are different from previous years but are, we believe, very generous and attractive.

We are offering a graduate student paper award, a dissertation award, the Glenda Laws undergraduate paper award, and our student travel awards. We have also modified our Graduate Student Fellowship competition. In the past, these fellowships were restricted to doctoral students. We have now added a Master's fellowship. We hope that you will consider applying for one of these awards or encouraging your students to do so.

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EXPLORE THE NEW UGSG WEBSITE!

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>

**(In)famous Questions
by Stephanie A. Campbell**

IN CONVERSATION

When approached to write this essay, I brainstormed ideas that were both 'urban' and 'provocative'. Almost immediately, I considered writing about 'Is there an urban?' But I reconsidered upon reflection of why my mind flew to this particular subject so quickly. As an urban geographer, there are two questions I expect to be asked: (1) What is the geography in this; and (2) Is there an urban? As a graduate student, I have repeatedly witnessed and been subjected to these (in)famous questions in a number of contexts: during comprehensive exams, proposal defenses and theses defenses. Even outside of 'graduate student life' they arise: during job talks, visiting speaker lectures, and article submission reviews. I would like to use my opportunity in this urban geography forum to open a discussion about these questions.

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Letter from the Chair ... continued from page 1

Having downloaded this newsletter, you are already aware that the UGSG has a new website (<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>). Elvin Wyly has generously agreed to take on the administration of the website (as if he doesn't have enough to do) and has created a lovely site which will be developed further in the future. The new site builds on our previous one, which has been maintained for a number of years by Judith Kenny at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. I want to thank Judith for her willingness to maintain that site long after her official duties on the UGSG board ended. She has done so with great patience and good humor and her work is greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the AAG meeting in Boston, we have again collaborated with the journal *Urban Geography* to organize our annual Urban Geography Plenary lecture. Michael Brown of the University of Washington has agreed to give what will certainly be an excellent lecture. The specialty group is also offering its sponsorship to urban-themed sessions at the Boston conference. Requests for sponsorship should be sent to Stephanie Campbell at sac1@sfu.ca.

I hope your summer was relaxing and that you are enjoying the start of a new term. As the weeks go on, please feel free to contact me (emccann@sfu.ca), or any of the other board members, with ideas on how the specialty group can help you and your students get the most out of your involvement with the AAG.

Eugene McCann
Burnaby, British Columbia
October, 2007

UGSG Membership Information

- **UGSG Membership:** \$7 with AAG membership; student membership is free.
- **Address and e-mail changes** of UGSG members should be sent to: address@aaq.org, where a master membership list is maintained.
- To subscribe to URBGEOG, the UGSG's **discussion forum and listserv**, follow these instructions: [1] Send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.arizona.edu with no subject line, and include the following message, with appropriate name changes: **subscribe urbgeog firstname lastname**
[2] Make sure to disable automatic e-mail signature functions [3] You will be sent an automated message that provides information on how to post to the list and how to unsubscribe, etc.
- Calls for submission and notifications of availability of the Newsletter are e-mailed to both the listserv and Specialty Group membership list. Distribution of the Newsletter is via the UGSG website. This Newsletter is currently published 3 times per year.

UGSG Website: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>

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In Conversation, Campbell... continued from page 1

Why do we love them and why do we hate them? And are they useful? The following are my preliminary thoughts to start this dialogue.

First, let me start with the question of 'What is the geography of this?' I admit that in my capacity as a teacher, I have asked the question to undergraduate students. Every time that I have done so, I have gone back to my office and asked myself, 'was that useful?' I believe that, yes, in an undergraduate geography course it is indeed a useful question. For example, in teaching introduction to human geography I first define terms such as peripheral, semi-peripheral and core states and then ask 'what is the geography of this?' However, once we are past basic definitions and introductions to geography, I think the question loses its usefulness and furthermore can be harmful to the discipline.

As geographers, we spend years reading, discussing and debating the complexities of various aspects of geography and then apply those ideas to our papers, proposals, and theses. Then having applied these concepts throughout the dissertation thesis, for example, the candidate is asked 'what is the geography of this?' The options for the candidate are then to (1) freeze because the entire dissertation is 'obviously' geography or (2) revert to a basic definition of geography to answer the question quickly or (3) consider the table of contents and point by point offer names of other geographers that have dealt with this topic and say why it all deals with 'space'. I think this is more a function of our insecurity in our own discipline (and further reinforces that insecurity), rather than a critical entry point into meaningful discussion for the candidate, committee, and/or audience. I suggest that if we stop asking this question, geographers might be more secure in our discipline and its validity and, perhaps, non-geographers might follow suit.

'Is there an urban?' is the second (in)famous question I open for discussion. I find this a critically engaging and enjoyable question as an urban geographer. I believe that there is an urban, and the usefulness of this question comes in the challenge of explaining what the urban means. Whether the geographer answers the question, for instance, by stating that the urban is: a container for social relations; an open, fluid, spatial scale; or that there is no urban only 'territorial politics', as Kevin Cox states, the exercise allows the urban geographer to work through broad geographical concepts with a more concrete focus. Working through these concepts constructs a base for which the rest of their research can rest. Furthermore, in listening to the answer, the audience gains insight into the person's approach to, not just urban geography, but also to the wider discipline.

Let the discussion begin.

Stephanie Campbell is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University, and currently serves on the Urban Geography Specialty Group Board.

AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group Student Awards, 2008

Graduate Student Paper Competition: *Deadline, January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG Graduate Student Paper Competition Committee solicits submissions of single-authored papers presented by a student at any professional meeting in the 12 months preceding (and including) the Boston AAG conference. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. The winner of the award will receive \$100 and an invitation to submit the paper to Urban Geography. Send one copy to each of the judges: Kate Boyer (lkb1f06@soton.ac.uk); Caitlin Cahill (caitcahill@gmail.com); and Steve Herbert (skherb@u.washington.edu).

Dissertation Competition: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG Dissertation Competition Committee solicits submissions of single-authored papers based on the applicant's dissertation (not full dissertations). The dissertation must have been completed during the 2007 calendar year. The paper need not be presented at the 2008 AAG meeting in order to be eligible. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. Papers submitted to the UGSG Graduate Student Paper Competition will not be considered for the Dissertation Award. Papers submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. The winner of the award will receive \$250 and an invitation to submit the paper to Urban Geography. Send one copy to each of the judges: Jim Fraser (pavement@vanderbilt.edu); Laura Liu (lauraliu@optonline.net); and Eugene McCann (emccann@sfu.ca).

Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

Please encourage your students to submit papers to the Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper competition. This award goes to the best paper on an urban geographic topic written by an undergraduate student, regardless of membership in the AAG or participation in the AAG meetings. The winner of the award will receive \$50. Papers submitted for awards to other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. Send one copy to each of the judges: James DeFilippis (jdefilip@rci.rutgers.edu); and Russ Smith (rsmith24@elon.edu).

Student Travel Support: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG has a small amount of money available to support students presenting on urban topics at the Boston AAG meeting. A limited number of travel awards, each worth \$100, will be awarded. They are intended to support presentations on topics related to the urban focus of the specialty group. To apply, send a short letter stating your degree program, your institutional affiliation, and your goals and purposes in attending the conference. Also include copies of your abstract and conference registration. Send materials to Elvin Wyly, UGSG Treasurer, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 1984 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2 Canada. Email submissions may be sent to ewyly@geog.ubc.ca. Awards will be announced as soon as possible after the deadline. The specialty group cannot guarantee that every applicant will receive an award.

Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowships: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

Each year, the Urban Geography Specialty Group will award one Master's fellowship (approximately \$300) and one or more doctoral fellowships (each approximately \$500), to support urban-oriented Master's and doctoral research. Fellowships are intended to provide targeted support for original Master's research and for those at a relatively early stage of doctoral dissertation research -- while also ensuring that award recipients have well-developed research proposals that have a high likelihood of completion. Fellowship support may be used for any reasonable expenses associated with a research proposal. Eligibility is limited to current student members of the Urban Geography Specialty Group who will have completed all Master's or Ph.D. requirements except the thesis or dissertation by the end of the semester or term in which any award is approved. Dissertation supervisors must certify eligibility by signing the application form or emailing emccann@sfu.ca. Submit applications by email to Eugene McCann, emccann@sfu.ca, or fax 778.782.5841, by January 31, 2008. Applications received after this date cannot be considered. Award decisions are made by the Board of the Urban Geography Specialty Group on the basis of the quality and feasibility of the research proposal. Applicants will be informed of the award decisions shortly before the AAG Annual Meeting. 2008 Fellowship Application Form: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg/fellowship08.doc>

NEWS

A multi-million dollar five-year grant was awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (National Institutes of Health) to San Diego State University, Harvard University, and the George Washington University, to fund a project entitled "Health, Poverty, and Place: Modeling Inequalities in Accra [Ghana] Using Remote Sensing and GIS." The project builds on the work of John Weeks (PI) and several of his colleagues from SDSU. In addition to SDSU, Allan Hill from the Harvard School of Public Health and David Rain and Ryan Engstrom from the Department of Geography at GW will explore methods for interpretation of urban health inequalities in cities in urban areas of poor countries, building on emerging geospatial inquiry.

NEWS FROM THE NINTH ASIAN URBANIZATION CONFERENCE

With academics and practitioners from over twenty countries attending, the **Ninth Asian Urbanization Conference** was convened in Chuncheon, South Korea on August 18 through 23, 2007. The conference, hosted jointly by the Kangwon National University (KNU) and Gangwon Regional Development Institute (GRDI), was held on the KNU campus and featured participants from Canada, China (People's Republic of), Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Vietnam, and the United States.

Conference sponsors included the Asian Urban Research Association (AURA), the Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, The University of Akron and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, as well as the host institutions. The keynote address, "Asia's Urban Future," was delivered by Ashok K. Dutt and Frank J. Costa, both emeritus faculty from the University of Akron. George Pomeroy, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and AURA Secretary, presented service awards sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences at Shippensburg University to the founding members of AURA. A service award was also presented to Shii Okuno, University of Marketing and Distribution Sciences (in Kobe, Japan) for his efforts in organizing the previous Asian Urbanization Conference. The conference was ably organized by Nakhun Song (Principal Organizer; GDRI) and Gabyoul Kim, Chair of the Department of Real Estate at KNU. The conference included field trips to Seoul (visiting new towns, the Cheonggye River restoration project, and the Insadong District) and the DMZ Unification Observatory.

In total, over 80 papers were presented. Representative and illustrative paper titles include "Hierarchical Network Strategies: An Agenda for Reciprocal Rural-Urban Linkages" (Khalil Kalantari, Tehran University), "Exploring the Spatial Structure of Innovative Activities in Korea" (Junho Jung, Kangwon National University), and "Commissioned Mural Art in Post-Colonial Hong Kong from 1997 to 2006" (Kong Ho, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford).

Planning is well underway for the **Tenth Asian Urbanization Conference** (<http://www.hku.hk/asia2009/>) to be held in August 2009 at the University of Hong Kong. Local Organizers are Anthony Gar-On Yeh (hdxugoy@hkucc.hku.hk) and Roger C.K. Chan (hrxucck@hkucc.hku.hk) of The Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management.

The umbrella organization for organizing and sponsoring the Asian Urbanization Conferences is the **Asian Urban Research Association (AURA)**. For more information, please contact George Pomeroy, AURA Secretary, at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (gmpome@ship.edu / <http://webspaceship.edu/aura>).

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

California, San Diego 92182-4493. San Diego State University seeks applicants for a tenure-track **Assistant Professor** position, contingent on funding, to begin in August 2008. Ph.D. strongly recommended at time of appointment. Expertise required in the area of **Latin America with an Emphasis in Urban Geography**. This position is intended to complement existing strengths in the department in social, economic, and urban geography as well as interact with cognate programs on campus. Demonstrated excellence in teaching and scholarship, and commitment to funded research required. Departmental information can be found at <http://geography.sdsu.edu>. Send letter of application describing research agenda and teaching interests, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three referees. Applicants should show a commitment to working in a multi-cultural environment with students from diverse backgrounds. SDSU is a Title IX, equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, disability or veteran status, including veterans of the Vietnam era. Applications must be received by 15 October 2007 to guarantee full consideration. Applications will continue to be received until position is filled. Applications should be sent to Dr. Stuart Aitken, Chair, Hiring Committee, Department of Geography, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-4493. e-mail: saitken@mail.sdsu.edu.

AAG CALLS FOR PAPERS

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, 2008, Boston, MA, April 15-19.

If you are organizing a session for the 2008 AAG conference in Boston and would like UGSG sponsorship for your session, please send requests to Stephanie Campbell at sac1@sfu.ca .

Below is a list of AAG-CFPs submitted to the Newsletter:

Contemporary Exurban Growth and Change

Exurban population growth and change is a landscape transformation that is having substantial impacts upon the economy, policy, and the environment. Many scholars have conducted important research on this relatively new settlement process that defines and quantifies exurban locations and populations. In addition, a number of scholars utilized a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches to conceptualize exurban population growth from the standpoint of the migrant. Given the implicit spatial nature of this process, geographers are in a unique position to further develop our understanding of the issues surrounding exurban migration, settlement and non-metropolitan development. In this session (or sessions) it is anticipated that papers will share insights from a variety of perspectives related to the patterns and processes of exurban population growth and change in contemporary times. Please send your abstract by October 15th to bejohns@indiana.edu and bshultz1@utk.edu.

International Urban Population Studies: Estimation and Beyond

Organizer: David Rain, The George Washington University

Welcome are submissions that present current research using new tools and methods including remote sensing and ground surveys to estimate total population and ascertain population characteristics in international urban contexts. In addition, the organizer would welcome abstracts for work that seeks to understand social dimensions in the urban realm, including ethnicity, neighborhood segregation, differential access to resources, and tenancy, using multiple methodologies that could include R/S but is not limited to it. Research that reconciles traditional urban geography concerns with the new tools and methods is especially welcome. Contact: David R. Rain, PhD, david.rain@gwu.edu.

Representation, Participation, and Governance in the 'Digital Age'

Organizers: Matthew Wilson and Kevin Ramsey, Dept. of Geography, University of Washington

Advances in computing technologies are enabling both the decentralized proliferation and disciplined coordination of representational practices. Google mashups, wikimaps, sharing of georeferenced media, as well as the introduction of new social networking (cyber)spaces, online gaming systems, architectural design practices, and personal surveillance systems are a few examples of ways in which new citizens of the 'digital age' are re-representing their personal, social, and material environments, and in doing so constituting new spaces for geographic investigation. This paper session explores how these developments are shaping our participation and implication in processes of governance and governmentality, as well as how, in turn, these new forms of governance are shaping practices of representation and participation.

More specifically this call is seeking papers which articulate these co-constitutive processes of representation, participation, and governance, realizing that certain papers may emphasize one of these themes over others. For instance, we are interested in the variety of geographic research around new media, cyberspace, videogames, surveillance and military systems, as well as geographic information

and remote sensing systems, and the ways in which these objects of study contribute to broader theorization of political, cultural, urban, feminist geographies of the so called 'digital age'. We encourage contributors from perspectives in feminist, political, cultural, and urban geography, as well as those in critical GIS or science and technology studies more generally, to:

- offer theoretical re-framings or re-viewings of how representation, participation, and governance has changed with the so called 'digital age';
- present empirical findings demonstrating these co-constitutive systems of representation, participation, and governance;
- challenge the apparent 'newness' of these shifts, to re-historicize the emergence of systems of representation, participation, and governance; and/or
- articulate methodological considerations for conducting research with or about these digital technologies.

Please contact co-organizers Matthew Wilson (mwarrenw@u.washington.edu) and Kevin Ramsey (kramsey@u.washington.edu) if you are interested in participating in this paper session. In your email, please propose a paper title including a short description.

Proposed title: The global-local nexus: International perspectives on urban change

Organiser: Dr Niamh Moore, University College Dublin, Ireland

Over the course of the last twenty-five years, urban environments have been transformed as a consequence of global economic restructuring and neoliberal local policies, with much of the international literature focused on major world cities at the expense of smaller urban environments. This bias in the literature is widespread and yet most of the world's population live in medium-sized urban centres. In these areas, Van Grunsven and Westen (2003, p. 293) argue, there is generally an 'insufficient understanding of the differential outcomes of global-local interaction patterns' and an assumption that the local is merely a passive recipient of globalisation. This paper session aims to interrogate this assertion and examine how the nature of the 'local' is being actively reinvented within the context of global transformations. Specifically it seeks to examine the 'ongoing articulation between global and local processes' (Friedman, 1994, p. 12) taking place in urban areas *outside* the so-called 'world cities' or even national capital cities. The primary aim of the session is to investigate:

- How globalisation can be understood as a negotiated phenomenon;
- How changing patterns of mobility and connectivity shape the nature of local spaces and places in the contemporary world;
- How the experience of rapid change in selected case study cities can inform debates on the resurgence of the 'local' as a meaningful realm of study.

Authors who are interested in participating in this session should express their interest as soon as possible to Dr Niamh Moore, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin, Ireland (Email: Niamh.Moore@ucd.ie). Final abstracts and your AAG PIN must be submitted to the above email address by **October 10th 2007**.

New Measures of Transportation System Performance

Session Organizer: Barry Wellar, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa

One of the most challenging aspects of transportation research is developing pertinent, accurate, reliable, verifiable, reproducible, and generally understandable measures to describe, analyze, and evaluate initiatives proposed and designed to improve transportation system, sub-system, and

component performance.

Cases in point include strategies associated with transportation demand management, transportation supply management, traffic system management, sustainable transportation best practices, balanced transportation networks, inter-modal integration, walkability, and congestion pricing. All of these ideas or approaches have considerable conceptual appeal as means to improve transportation system, sub-system, or component performance.

However, and despite the fact that these and numerous other ideas and approaches for achieving improved transportation system performance have been known for decades, only limited progress has been made in achieving robust measures of their effectiveness, efficiency, equity, economy, or impacts for policy, program, plan, and operational purposes.

This session provides a venue for presentations on designing, proposing, prescribing, or demonstrating new or different and more robust ways of measuring how, and how well transportation systems, sub-systems or components are performing. New measures that incorporate a geographic dimension are of particular interest.

To promote the broad exchange of information on research problem statements, research issues, research designs, and research findings, presentations are invited for any mode (walk, cycle, transit, private motor vehicle, telecommuting, rail, water, air, and pipeline), may involve people or freight, can be curiosity-based or client-based, and can be exploratory or confirmatory in nature.

Please send an abstract of no more than 250 words and your personal identification number (received from the AAG after applying online at www.aag.org) to: wellarb@uottawa.ca.

Examining reparative environments: spaces of retreat and recovery in the contemporary West
Organisers: David Conradson and Geoff DeVerteuil (University of Southampton, UK)

Reparative environments are an increasingly conspicuous feature of life in the contemporary West. The diverse settings that promise some form of rest and recuperation now include wilderness holidays, spa complexes, retreat centres, private hospitals, drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities, and even celebrity detox programmes. What links these environments is their claimed capacity for assuaging the harms variously associated within modern life. At times these harms are framed in biomedical terms, employing diagnostic categories related to addiction, substance abuse and chronic fatigue. In other cases a more generalised vocabulary of work-life (im)balance, psychosocial distress and existential disenfranchisement is evident. A common theme, however, is the recuperative potential of time spent elsewhere.

In this session we wish to draw together work on a range of reparative environments, looking at their nature, contestation and contemporary significance. We are interested in how certain places come to be designated, understood or experienced as reparative; in the relation between reparative environments and broader processes of social change (such as welfare reform, individualisation and changing practices of spirituality); and in the character and experiences of specific reparative environments. We would welcome papers that address these issues, guided but not limited by the following questions:

- How are reparative environments fashioned and promoted? What tensions and compromises exist at the intersection of commercial and non-commercial impulses in such settings? How do biomedical

diagnoses and other formulations of wellbeing come together within them? How do the answers to these questions vary by national context, and between rural and urban places?

- What relation do reparative environments have to welfare state restructuring and the rise of the DIY welfare state, where people ostensibly ‘take care of themselves’?
- How are reparative environments experienced by different individuals and social groups? What do we know about the variable capacity of mainstream and marginalised populations to access or indeed create their own ‘reparative environments’?
- In what ways are reparative environments connected to changing forms of religious belief, including non-institutional expressions of spirituality, and to therapeutic body practices?
- How can we make sense of the apparently contradictory impulses within some reparative environments, such as control and care? In what ways have their internal dynamics or claims to facilitate wellbeing been contested and challenged?

Please send expressions of interest, along with a proposed title and short outline to David Conradson (d.conradson@soton.ac.uk) and Geoff DeVerteuil (G.P.DeVerteuil@soton.ac.uk) before 15th October. Authors of accepted papers will need to register for the conference and forward their AAG PIN to us by 25th October 2007.

Reconsidering New Urbanism

Session organizers: Jennifer Speights-Binet, The University of Houston, Clear Lake, and Katherine Hankins, Georgia State University (Session sponsored by Urban Geography Specialty Group)

As a planning paradigm and social movement, new urbanism has been changing the face of urban and suburban landscapes for over two decades. While many geographers have conducted research on NU developments, much of this work has been absorbed into broader theoretical conversations about the contemporary city, such as neoliberal urban governance, urban livability, gentrification, community studies, and sustainable development. This session(s) aims to revisit new urbanism as a planning paradigm and gauge geographers’ engagement with NU as a research agenda.

Topics may include:

- New Urbanism versus new urbanism, and the mainstreaming of the planning paradigm
- Tension between NU practitioners and academia
- The environmental ethos of New Urbanism and sustainable (re)development
- The role of faith-based organizations (FBO’s) and “morality” subtexts in promoting NU and mixed use
- Theoretical and spatial constitutions of community
- Discourses associated with urban livability, place promotion, and city image
- International articulations of New Urbanism
- Ethnographies of New Urban living
- Empirical studies of NU design programs

Please send abstracts and any questions to Jennifer Speights-Binet, (speightsbinet@uhcl.edu) or Katherine Hankins (khankins@gsu.edu)

OTHER CFPs

**Call for panels:
5th international conference of the interdisciplinary research network "private urban
governance/gated communities"
March 30 to April 4 2009
University of Chile, Santiago de Chile**

Cities around the globe witness the development of new institutional settings which organise urban spaces - especially on a sub-communal scale. These new settings involve public and private organisations, different forms of community organisations as well as organisations which cut across the public/private dichotomy. Thus, in existing neighbourhoods become established institutions like horizontal homeowner associations or business improvement districts. Newly urbanised areas are organised as private and often gated residential communities, as shopping centres or as business centres with one management entity. The 5th conference of the research network on "private urban governance" will offer a highly international forum for the interdisciplinary discussion on the causes and consequences for the rise of these new forms of urban governance. The research network has been established in 1999 and is an open network of currently more than 100 researchers (urban geography, planning, architecture, regional economy, law, political science, sociology, anthropology etc.) from around the world.

The preparation of the conference follows a two-tiered scheme. We invite everybody interested to organise a panel (with three to six participants) on any topic related to private urban governance to send us the title for the proposed panel and an abstract outlining the idea of the panel before the 15th of December 2007. Please do indicate if you already have in mind some papers to be presented in this panel (title, presenter, general ideal of the paper). Panels might for example focus on specific forms of private urban governance (e.g. business improvement districts, gated communities, tax exempt improvement areas), on specific theories and approaches which might help to understand and/or evaluate the development of private urban governance (e. g. new institutional economies, theories of social segregation, politic-economic approaches, discourse theory) or on the development of private urban governance in specific countries or regions. Based on these proposals the scientific committee will establish a structure of panels and publish the call for papers in spring 2008.

Scientific Committee

Sarah Blandy, University of Leeds (lawyer)
Eric Charmes, University of Paris VIII (urban planner)
Viviana Fernandez Prajoux, University of Chile (urban planner)
Klaus Frantz, University of Innsbruck (geographer)
Georg Glasze, University of Mainz (geographer)
Jenny Dixon, University of Auckland (urban planner)
Renaud le Goix, University of Paris I (geographer)
Karina Landman, CSIR Pretoria (planner and architect)
Setha Low, City University New York (anthropologist and psychologist)
Evan McKenzie, University of Illinois in Chicago (political scientist and lawyer)
Elisabeth Peyroux, CIRUS-CIEU CNRS Toulouse (geographer)
Chris Webster, Cardiff University (urban planner and economist)

Further information: www.gated-communities.de

CALL FOR PAPERS, PANELS, AND PARTICIPANTS

Performing Tangier: Borders, Beats, & Beyond

Tangier, Morocco
Chellah Hotel
May 16 - 19, 2008

The fourth annual Tangier international conference will focus on the city as a site of trans-cultural encounters in art, literature, music, and politics. We especially invite investigations into the dynamics of the city's cultural, spatial, and performative interactions – past, present, and future – particularly those engaging issues of change, confrontation, negotiation and alterity.

Proposed papers, panels, and performances may focus on particular figures, paintings, films, fiction or non-fiction texts, salient theoretical concerns, or historical, cultural and geographic issues.

Of the conference series, Khalid Amine, Director, has observed, "It is a forum that aims at bridging the gap of difference and connecting cultures, as well as reaching across the divide to the other (the not I). The setting of Tangier makes a perfect home for new cross-cultural encounters that celebrate and honor our essential humanity. (It) offers a glimmer of hope during a dark time marked by the hegemony of the post 9/11 discourse of horror."

Languages: Arabic, Tamazight, French, Spanish, and English.

Abstracts should be submitted via e-mail by 31 December 2007 to:

Dr. Khalid Amine
Research Group of Performance Studies, Abdelmalek
Essaâdi University, Tétouan and The International
Center for Performance Studies, Tangier, Morocco.
khamine@hotmail.com

For more information and/or to express interest:

Dr. George F. Roberson
Geography Human Dimensions Research Group, Univ. of
Massachusetts – Amherst and 2007-2008 Senior Fulbright
Research Scholar to Tangier, Morocco.
pelerinmondial@yahoo.com ●
<http://interactive-worlds.blogspot.com/>

Grants are currently being pursued to assist in underwriting participant expenses.

Final papers are due by 30 March 2008 and will be published in the conference proceedings.

Organized by:

- Research Group of Performance Studies, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Tetouan-Martil, Morocco
- University of London Institute in Paris
- Middle East Studies Center, Middle Tennessee State University, USA
- Department of European Languages, University of Wales, Aberysthwith, UK