

# INSTANT URBANISM

## Site Writing and Critical Spatial Practice



Assemble, Folly for a Flyover, 2012

3rd Research Symposium:  
Tuesday May 6th, 2014  
9.00 - 21.30

Aalborg University  
Department of Architecture and  
Media Technology

Utzon Center  
Slotspladsen 4  
9000 Aalborg

Participation in Symposium:  
Dkr. 250,- incl. lunch  
Dkr. 600,- incl. lunch + dinner

Registration:  
Send mail to: [coel@create.aau.dk](mailto:coel@create.aau.dk)

Welcome to 3rd research symposium organized by The Instant Urbanism Network. This Instant Urbanism symposium takes place at Utzon Center, Aalborg University. The subject is Site Writing and Critical Spatial Practice.

This Symposium takes outset in the fact, that temporary art and architecture play a significant role in urban planning and development today. Artists and architects are enrolled in economic rationales, which essentially can be about creating good investment possibilities in an insecure time for urban development projects. This development is often contradictory to the historic roots of Instant Urbanism.

More than 40 years of critical artistic and curatorial practice have paved the way into urban space and explored a critical dialogue and reflection in the intersection between art and performative architecture. Art and architectural projects have presented artistic interventions on sites in order to promote social interaction, create autonomous meetings and add greater diversity in terms of spaces and experiments in the urban landscape.

This double bound agenda on temporary urban art and architecture projects raises questions on how we as artists, architects and scientists can navigate in this field?

The symposium discuss how instant urbanism practice can reflect critically on site-specific rationales and discourses through an artistic, curatorial, architectural design practice.

The keynote speakers from England and Denmark will present their papers related to the following themes:

- Temporary projects as critical spatial practice
- Site-Writing
- Curatorial Methodology in urban settings
- Arts Curating as a public strategy through performativity, arts and temporary architecture.

After the one-day symposium there will be a two-day PhD. workshop focused on Site-Writing.



Program  
Tuesday May 6th 2014  
Aalborg University  
Utzon Center  
Obel Auditorium

Organizers:  
Hans Kiib, professor  
Gitte Marling, Professor  
Signe Brink Pedersen, PhD Fellow

Aalborg University  
Department of Architecture and  
Media Technology

Supportet by:  
Center for strategisk byforskning  
[www.byforskning.dk](http://www.byforskning.dk)

Aalborg University  
[www.aau.dk](http://www.aau.dk)

## Symposium Site Writing and Critical Spatial Practice

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Welcome and Introduction, Hans Kiib, professor and Signe Brink Pedersen, PhD fellow, AAU
- 9.45 Site Writing, Jane Rendell, professor, UCL London (confirmed)
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.00 Public Architecture, MUF architecture/art, London (tb. confirmed)
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Curating Art in Public Realm, Sanne Kofod Olsen, Director, Museum for Samtidskunst, Roskilde (confirmed)
- 13.45 Instant vs. Koolhaas in CPH, Signe Brink Pedersen, Curator, Roskilde Festival (confirmed)
- 14.30 Coffee
- 14.45 Discussion with speakers, Jane Rendell, MUF Architecture/Art, Sanne Kofod Olsen, Signe Brink Pedersen
- 15.50 Summary, Hans Kiib, professor
- 16.00 Break
- 18.30 Life Boats go Krakow with Love, Marit Bente Norheim, artist (tb. confirmed)
- 19.00 Dinner

This is the 3rd symposium organized by The Instant Urbanism Network, supported by:

Department of Landscape Architecture and Planning, Copenhagen University

Aarhus School of Architecture

Department of Architecture and Media Technology, Aalborg University



# INSTANT URBANISM

## PhD. Course



Pawel Althamers, Queen Mother of Reality, 2013

Updated program April 9th 2014

PhD Course  
Tuesday May 6th -  
Thursday 8th.  
9.00 - 16.00

Aalborg University  
The Doctoral School of Science  
and Engineering,  
Doctoral Program of Planning and  
Development

Utzon Center  
Slotspladsen 4  
9000 Aalborg

Participation in PhD course: Dkr 0,-  
PhD registration online:  
<https://phd.moodle.aau.dk/>

Lunch May 6th: Dkr. 250,-  
Dinner May 6th: Dkr. 350,-  
Registration for lunch and dinner:  
Send mail to: [coel@create.aau.dk](mailto:coel@create.aau.dk)



Welcome to PhD Course Instant Urbanism at Utzon Center, Aalborg University.

Welcome to PhD Course Instant Urbanism at Utzon Center, Aalborg University. This PhD course is planned as a combination of the symposium Site Writing and Critical Spatial Practice - with keynote speakers from England and Denmark – and a PhD Workshop with a focus on Site writing in theory and practice. The PhD Workshop has its point of departure in the results from the symposium.

On one hand, temporal art and architecture play a significant role in city planning and urban development, where artists and architects are enrolled in an economic rationale, which, essentially, is about creating good investment possibilities in an insecure time for urban development projects. On the other hand, this is somehow contradictory to the historic roots of Instant Urbanism. More than 40 years of critical artistic and curatorial practice have found their way into urban space and used it to start critical dialogue and reflection in the intersection between relational art and performative architecture. Relational art and architectural projects have provided projects where artistic interventions or works have been introduced into a site in order to promote social interaction, create autonomous meeting places, and add greater diversity in terms of spaces and experiences into the urban landscape.

This double bound agenda on temporary urban art and architecture raise the question on how we as artists, architects and scientists can work in this new field? This course argue that Instant Urbanism research needs both to be 'critical' in relation to identifying 'problems' as well as to be 'innovative' in developing a 'curatorial and architectural design praxis'.

The symposium discusses how instant urbanism practice can reflect critically on site-specific rationales and discourses through an artistic, curatorial, architectural design practice.

The keynote speakers from England and Denmark will present their papers related to the following themes:

- Temporary projects as critical spatial practice
- Site-Writing





Updated program April 9th 2014

Tuesday May 6th 2014  
Aalborg University  
Utzon Center  
Obel Auditorium

Updated program April 9th 2014

Wednesday May 7th 2014  
Aalborg University  
Utzon Center  
Obel Auditorium

- Curatorial Methodology in urban settings
- Art Curating as a public strategy through performativity, arts and temporary architecture.

After the one-day symposium there will be a two-day PhD workshop focused on Site Writing framing the concept "Critical Spatial Practice" in a broader artistic and academic context.

The PhD workshop will focus on Site Writing as a discursive practice related to mappings and artistic interventions. Site Writing is methodological, which enacts a new kind of art criticism, one which draws out its spatial qualities, aiming to put the sites of the critic's engagement with urban installations first. These include the sites – material, emotional, political and conceptual – of the artwork's construction, exhibition and documentation, as well as those remembered, dreamed and imagined by the artist, the critic, professional architects and planners as well as other viewers.

## Symposium (1st part of PhD course)

Tue 6th May

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Welcome and Introduction, Hans Kiib, professor and Signe Brink Pedersen, PhD fellow, AAU
- 9.45 Site Writing, Jane Rendell, professor, UCL London (confirmed)
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.00 Public Architecture, MUF architecture/art, London (tb. confirmed)
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Curating Art in Public Realm, Sanne Kofod Olsen, Director, Museum for Samtidskunst, Roskilde (confirmed)
- 13.45 Instant vs. Koolhaas in CPH, Signe Brink Pedersen, Curator, Roskilde Festival (confirmed)
- 14.30 Coffee
- 14.45 Discussion with speakers, Jane Rendell, MUF Architecture/Art, Sanne Kofod Olsen, Signe Brink Pedersen
- 15.50 Summary, Hans Kiib, professor
- 16.00 Break
- 18.30 Life Boats go Krakow with Love, Marit Bente Norheim, artist
- 19.00 Dinner

## Site Writing Workshop (2nd part of PhD course)

Wed 7th May

Preparation

Please bring with you to the workshop one item from/related to your project / site (e.g. a photograph, a sound, a film clip, a drawing, an object, a text, etc.).

Please also bring with you one source of paper/writing material. This could be a pack of notecards, a ream of A4 paper, an A3 drawing pad, poster board

A list of 'Suggested Background Reading and Materials' can be found on PhD Moodle. This includes theoretical writing, poetry, film, etc. You may have a look through any of these items that interest you; however, please ensure that you engage with the material marked by \*.

09.30 Coffee

- 09.45 Jane Rendell/Signe Brink Pedersen will introduce
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.00 Discussion of papers



Updated program April 9th 2014

Thursday May 8th 2014  
Aalborg University  
Utzon Center  
Obel Auditorium

Participants, prerequisite  
and place

- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Participants introduce themselves, their overall projects (MA/PhD research etc), and their items.
- 14.00 Participants position themselves in relation to one of their item and describes it using pen and paper for 1 minute. Everyone in turn reads aloud this material [and then rewrites it again in 1 minute]
- 14.30 Coffee
- 14.45 Participants change position in relation to their item and repeat the writing exercise
- 15.15 Participants change preposition in relation to their item and repeat the writing exercise
- 15.45 Participants describe the same item, but using another medium - drawing, audio and/or video, photography.
- 16.15 Participants pick another item and rewrite, using one of the strategies from above.

Homework: Participants experiment and arrange their existing material, to produce a final 'work' with a title.

Thur 8th May

- 09.30 Participants present their work.
- 10.30 Participants get into pairs and either: give each other an instruction based on a process derived from their own work, or swap works and remake them.
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.15 Participants present their pair work.
- 11.45 A summing up of the workshop to date, and introduction to the final activity.
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Still working in pairs, participants take the material they have produced and use this to generate a final collaborative piece (i.e. drawing, installation, written work, performance) constructed and positioned in relation to the space itself.
- 15.30-17.00 Presentations of final works.

Participants :  
The course appeals to a cross-disciplinary audience from Art, Curatorial Praxis, Architecture, Urban Design over Planning to Sociology, Geography and Anthropology.

Prerequisite:  
The participants in the PhD. Course (7+8 May) need to bring their own site (a physical site, artwork, detail) for in depth investigations/site writing.

Organizer: Professor Hans Kiiib and PhD Fellow Signe Brink Pedersen, Aalborg University, The Doctoral School of Science and Engineering, Doctoral Program of Planning and Development.

Lecturers: Professor Jane Rendell, Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, London and Curator,  
PhD fellow Signe Brink Pedersen, Roskilde Festival and Aalborg University.

ECTS: 3 (5 ECTS for article or essay) The participants have the option of taking a 5 ECTS version where a written essay must be handed in after the course.

Time: May 6th - 8th 2014

Place: Aalborg University, The Utzon Center, Slotspladsen 4,

Zip code: 9000

City: Aalborg

PhD registration:  
<https://phd.moodle.aau.dk/>

Registration for lunch and dinner May 6th:  
Send mail to: [coel@create.aau.dk](mailto:coel@create.aau.dk)