

Conference participants biographies (February 2021)

Andrew Borg Wirth

Andrew Borg Wirth is a Masters graduate of the Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta. Through the work done with collaborators, Andrew has exposed himself to interdisciplinary work, including creative direction and curation, as well as spatial, set and architectural design. In his time as a student, Andrew's interests were in the intersection between cultural and architectural discourse, pursuing a theoretical route as part of his design method. Projects and his dissertation were invested in the political and social implications of architecture, alongside physical, spatial and aesthetic narratives of the contemporary scene. In 2019, Andrew was awarded the Galizia award for Best Dissertation, by the Maltese Chamber of Architects. He has been a contributor to a number of projects in Malta and overseas, and continues to work on a freelance basis in collaboration with several other local creatives. He is one of the founders of 'bloc collective', a small fabrication collaborative which focuses on furniture, product and garment design.

Valério de Medeiros

Valério de Medeiros is an architect (UFRN, 2001, Natal/Brazil). He holds a PhD in Architecture and Urbanism (UnB, 2006, Brasília/Brazil) with a collaborative period as a Research Affiliate Student (UCL, 2006, London/UK). He has developed post-doctoral research at IST/UTL (Lisbon/Portugal) in 2012. Valério is an Affiliate Researcher/Lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at UnB and civil servant (Legislative Analyst/Architect) at the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies. He supervises masters and PhD students and presently conducts research on the configuration of Parliaments (complex buildings) and Lusophone cities (urban morphology).

François Dufaux

François Dufaux completed a Bachelor's degree in Architecture (Université Laval), followed by a Master's degree in Urban Planning (McGill University) and a doctorate in architecture at UCL. His professional experiences address both practice and theory, starting from the general design goals in the architectural project, and the specific challenges of each project in relation to financial, legal, technical, compositional and program issues. His focus is on documenting architectural project references, leading to architectural design solutions. This became the subject of his doctoral thesis on the tradition of Montreal housing which combines morphological analysis, typological studies and spatial configuration with "Space Syntax". He sees historical perspectives as a critical basis for assessing the present and future of the built environment.

Robin Eagles

Robin Eagles is Editor of the House of Lords (1660-1832) section at the History of Parliament. He was one of the principal contributors to the first part of the project, covering 1660-1715, which was published in 2016, and is now leading the project for the second phase, covering 1715-90. He has published widely on court and politics in the 17th and 18th centuries. His most recent publications are an article examining the role of crowds in the palace of Westminster (Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies, 43:3, 2020) and a book (co-edited with Coleman A. Dennehy) reappraising Charles II's premier minister, Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington (Routledge, 2020). An article on renovations to the palace of Westminster in the 17th and 18th centuries is forthcoming in the volume arising from the St Stephen's Chapel Project, edited by John Cooper.

Gordana Fontana-Giusti

Gordana Fontana-Giusti is an architect, urban designer, architectural theorist and Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at University of Kent, where she runs the MA in Architecture and Urban Design and is the Director of CREATE – Centre for Research in European Architecture. She worked at the Architectural Association, London and Central Saint Martins College, and was a visiting lecturer in the UK, Europe, Middle East and China. The author of *Foucault for Architects*, co-editor and author of *Scale: Imagination, Perception and Practice* and of the *Complete Works of Zaha Hadid* (with Patrik Schumacher), Fontana-Giusti has taught and published widely. In addressing genealogies of architectural knowledge, Fontana-Giusti's theory focuses on the representation of architectural space, perception of architecture in relation to visual arts, the role of perspective, mapping and digitalisation. She has been involved in the design of conceptual art and urban design installations. She received funding from EU, AHRC, and others. Prof. Fontana-Giusti is a Fellow at the Royal Society of Arts.

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Naomi Gibson

Naomi Gibson is an architect and PhD candidate at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, where she also obtained her bachelor's degree and masters. Her doctoral research – supervised by Professor Sophia Psarra and Professor Jane Rendell – is an exploration of speech as a tool for representation and design in the early stages of an architectural project. More broadly as a researcher she is interested in the social complexities of designing public places and spaces, as well as the role of the architect within this process. Prior to undertaking a PhD, Naomi worked in practice where she was involved with a variety of masterplans and building projects for schools. She currently teaches within the architecture schools at the University of Greenwich and Central Saint Martins (2019-present) and has been a visiting critic for several UK schools of architecture. Previously, she taught architectural design at Oxford Brookes University.

Sam Griffiths

Sam Griffiths is Associate Professor in Spatial Cultures in the Space Syntax Laboratory at The Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL). His research focuses on theories and methods for studying the historical relationship between people and built environments, the spatial culture of industrial cities and space syntax as an interdisciplinary research perspective in the humanities and social sciences. He has published a number of articles and book chapters on these topics. He is co-editor, with Alexander von Lünen, of *Spatial Cultures: Towards a New Morphology of Cities* (Routledge, 2016) and has recently completed a monograph *Writing the Materialities of the Urban Past* (Routledge).

Ahmadreza Hakiminejad

Ahmadreza Hakiminejad is an architect, urbanist, researcher and educator based at Coventry University. He has studied architecture, urban design and spatial planning in Iran and the UK and has previously worked as an architect in the Middle East. Prior to joining Coventry University, he has taught in places such as University of West London and University of Westminster. His research interests centre around politics of space, urban sociology, and urban and architectural history and theory.

Amalia Kotsaki

Amalia Kotsaki is Associate Professor in the School of Architecture, Technical University of Crete. She holds a PhD from the School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens (2005). In 2000 she was honoured by the Athens Academy with the Prize of Letters and Fine Arts as a distinguished young architect. She is a practicing architect since 1991 and has been a successful participant in 12 architectural competitions. She has organized and taken part in numerous international conferences, and published articles which focus on Neohellenic architecture (contemporary Greek architecture), city and culture. In 2013 she was curator of the exhibition 'Crete 1913-2013: Architecture and urban planning'. She was curator of a series of events entitled '50 years from Le Corbusier's death' at CAM-Chania (2016) and 'BauTUChania – wieso Bauhaus heute?' a series of events for the 100 years of Bauhaus' foundation (2019). She is in the scientific committee of the congress "City, Democracy, Architecture" (2018) under the aegis of the Foundation of Hellenic Parliament and also responsible for the congress of Hellenic section of DOCOMOMO 'Modern regard to Hellenic nature'. Amalia is Founder of the research Lab 'Neohellenic Architecture, City and Culture'.

Tormod Otter Johansen

Tormod Otter Johansen (LLD) is a researcher at the Department of Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He works in public law (constitutional law and administrative law) and legal theory. At present he is pursuing two main projects with different research groups: one concerns domestic, European and international legal regulation of crisis management and defence; the second one is an interdisciplinary project on the notion of the "End of law" in Christian and secular thinking.

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Sophia Psarra

Sophia Psarra is Professor of Architecture and Spatial Design at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. Previously she was Associate Professor at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan (2005-2011). Her research focuses on spatial and urban morphology in relation to the histories of building and cities that have influenced their development alongside the social patterns of human activity. She is the author of *The Venice Variations* (UCL Press, 2018) exploring cities and buildings as multi-authored processes of formation alongside authored projects of individual design intention. Her book *Architecture and Narrative* (Routledge, 2009) explores the relationship between design conceptualization, narrative and human cognition. Her edited book *The Production Sites of Architecture* (Routledge, 2019) addresses the production of knowledge in architecture. Sophia is the Director of History and Theory PhD programme at The Bartlett School of Architecture and has taught undergraduate/graduate studios and seminars at The Bartlett, University of Michigan (2005-2011), Cardiff University (1997-2004) and the University of Greenwich (1992-1997). Her research has been funded by the NSF (USA), Leverhulme Trust, UCL Grand Challenges, the University of Michigan and the Onassis Foundation. Her architectural work has been exhibited internationally in the context of two first prizes in EUROSPAN architectural competition and in the Venice Biennale (1991).

Kathryn Rix

Kathryn Rix joined the History of Parliament in 2009 after several years at Cambridge. She is the assistant editor of the House of Commons, 1832-1945 project. She is currently working on the period 1832-1868, for which she is researching biographies of MPs and constituencies in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Suffolk. She has a long-standing interest in the development of party organisation, changes in electoral culture, the interactions between the local and national dimensions of electoral politics, and legislative attempts to tackle electoral corruption. More recently, she has begun working on parliamentary speech-making and the reporting of parliamentary proceedings. She was a member of the project board for the Vote 100 project which organised a major exhibition in Westminster Hall to mark the 100th anniversary of partial female enfranchisement in 2018.

Kerstin Sailer

Kerstin Sailer is Reader (Associate Professor) in Social and Spatial Networks at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. She investigates the impact of spatial design on people and social behaviours inside a range of buildings such as offices, laboratories, hospitals and schools. An architect by training, her research interests combine complex buildings, workplace environments and space usage with social networks, organisational theory and organisational behaviour. At The Bartlett she leads the module 'Buildings, Organisations, Networks' in the MSc 'Space Syntax: Architecture and Cities'. Her research has been funded by both industry and research councils including the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Innovate UK and Google. Kerstin co-founded the think tank 'brainybirdz' to advance scientific thinking in workplace design. She also runs the blog <http://spaceandorganisation.org> and comments as @kerstinsailer on Twitter.

Samuel Singler

Samuel Singler is a DPhil candidate and ESRC Grand Union Scholar at the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford. Situated within the fields of Border Criminology and International Political Sociology, his DPhil research analyses the political effects of the International Organization for Migration's MIDAS border security system in the Global South. Theoretically the research engages with the (de)territorialisation of sovereign power, the postcolonial legacies of global migration control, and the role of novel technologies and technical expertise in shaping and legitimizing the global criminalization of migration. More broadly, his research interests lie in the politics of borders, migration, and citizenship. Alongside his DPhil research, he works as research assistant to Professor Mary Bosworth, conducting ethnographic fieldwork in immigration detention centres, migrant escorting sites across the UK, and deportation flights.

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Sofia Singler

Sofia Singler is a Junior Research Fellow in Architecture at Homerton College, Cambridge. She trained as an architect at the University of Cambridge and the Yale School of Architecture, and practiced architecture in the United States before returning to Cambridge for a PhD in Architectural History. At Yale, she held the Edward P. Bass Scholarship in Architecture, and for her PhD, she was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Her doctoral research interrogated the relationship between religion and modern architecture with reference to the ecclesiastical portfolio of Finnish modernist Alvar Aalto. She currently sits as an elected member on the Alvar Aalto World Heritage Nomination Committee, which is working to advance the appointment of Aalto's buildings to the UNESCO World Heritage List, and teaches architectural history and theory to undergraduates at Cambridge.

Robin Skinner

Robin Skinner is an architectural historian specializing in 19th and early-20th-century architecture of New Zealand and the British world, with a special interest in issues of post-coloniality in architecture. His research extends through the 19th and 20th centuries. He has lectured at the Wellington School of Architecture in architecture of the Pacific, design, research methods and architectural history.

Harald Trapp

Harald Trapp studied sociology (BA/MA Munich) and architecture (BA Vienna, London, MA Stuttgart). He practises internationally as an architect and exhibition-designer and was Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University Vienna, receiving his PhD there in 2013. In 2014 he co-curated and designed the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale under the title 'Plenum: Places of Power'. From 2015-2018 he was Head of the MArch-Programme at the University of East London and currently teaches at Vienna University of Technology. Since 2017 he has run the research project "Capital Architecture" in cooperation with Prof Robert Thum (University Trier). In 2019 he co-founded AKT, a collective with young architects in Vienna. Since then he also teaches as a guest professor at the UAC Skopje, North Macedonia.

Murray Tremellen

Murray Tremellen is a PhD candidate with the Department of History of Art at the University of York. The subject of his thesis is the first Speaker's House at Westminster, 1794-1834. His research examines the appropriation, use, remodelling and eventual destruction of the House from both political and artistic perspectives. His architectural interests span the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries; previous research projects have included the reconstruction of Euston station 1959-77, and the architecture of the Southern Railway 1923-48.

Kirsty Wright

Kirsty Wright is a PhD student in History at the University of York. Her thesis examines the re-use of the former St Stephen's College buildings in the Palace of Westminster as dwellings for the Auditor and Tellers of the Exchequer of Receipt from 1554 to 1698. She takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on architectural and art history to inform study of financial administration. Broader research interests include the influence of repurposed ecclesiastical buildings on English architecture, space and political culture.

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Michael Zerafa

An architecture graduate from the University of Malta, Michael Zerafa currently practices at Nidum, where he continues to develop his interest in architectural and urban research, as well as public-based projects. He is also a member of 'bloc', a creative collective whose work varies across different design fields. His usually minimal approach is driven by a thoroughly developed brief founded in context and values. His academic interests surround the subjects of public space, politics and architectural theory, particularly in consideration of contemporary happenings in his home country. Michael has coordinated a public-led art project for Nidum in collaboration with Vienna-based practice 'transparadiso', entitled 'Chalet in Action' which was exhibited in Moscow.

Tommaso Zerbi

Tommaso Zerbi is an historian of architecture, medievalism, and modern Italy. Having graduated with honours at the Politecnico di Milano, he submitted his PhD in architectural history at the University of Edinburgh, where he led the Prokalò Research Seminar series and was Convenor of the Edinburgh College of Art and tutor in architectural history. He lectures internationally. His work, which draws on a mixed training in the Italian and Anglophone spheres, explores the interplay between architecture, medievalism, and political dynamics in modern Italy. His PhD thesis ('The Tricolour, Shield, and Cross of Savoy: "Sabaudian Medievalism," the Risorgimento, and Neo-Medieval Architecture in Italy, c.1814-1864') was awarded the Barrie Wilson Award and a scholarship from Il Circolo Associazione Culturale London. It revealed the Risorgimento phenomenology of the reworking of the Middle Ages as a tool for legitimization of the House of Savoy and how these wider uses of the past found architectural form and were employed as political instruments.

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