Philosophies - Architecture in Effect, ResArc PhD Course

Contributing to the ResArc PhD course series:
Tendencies-Approaches-**Philosophies**-Communications

Course Outline

This course aims to address how the researcher in architecture can make use of the plethora of philosophies available to them, both from within and from without the discipline. We will place a special emphasis on the two-way conceptual traffic between architecture and philosophy, in the recognition of the reciprocal relationship of influence these two disciplines have historically maintained with respect to each other. What are the strategies and tactics that can be fruitfully employed to engage in diverse philosophies *from the point of view of* the discipline of architecture? How does the architectural researcher maintain a creative and critical relay between theory and practice? How can concepts and arguments (drawn from philosophy and elsewhere) be mobilized by the architectural researcher?

This course engages in the reciprocal relationships that can be forged between the disciplines of philosophy and architecture, and is structured around the thematic matrix of **relationality-spatiality-materiality**, further defined across three modules: 1. critical and participatory philosophies; 2. feminist and minoritarian philosophies; 3. posthumanist and new materialist philosophies. In the first module the course introduces the role that critical theories, as well as increasingly established participatory approaches have to play in architecture; in the second module the course presents feminist epistemologies, ontologies and practices and asserts their enduring and crucial relevance in architecture; and finally, the third module ventures in the direction of posthuman futures and new materialisms in order to imagine new ecologies of practice for the coming architect and architectures in formation. Each of the three proposed modules stresses the socio-political context of architectural thinking and production, and the role that complex networks of power relations play in specific locales of architectural action. The course is designed to maintain relevance with regard to the four key areas supported by Architecture in Effect, these include: Critical Historiography; Material Conditions; Critical Projections; Architects in Formation.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By attending this course participants can expect to develop skills in:
1. Ability to collaboratively *define* key concepts and arguments introduced in the course literature and beyond
2. Ability to *practice* close reading and critical and creative writing exercises and upload these onto a seminar Blog
3. Ability to *theorise* self-directed design research projects using key concepts and arguments
4. Ability to *create* new or hybrid concepts and thereby *develop* arguments pertinent to current research projects
5. Ability to actively *participate* in seminar discussions at a high level

Key Dates

January 24, 2013 at GTH Gothenburg
Philosophies Course Introduction
Content and pre-course assignment is presented at the conclusion of the Approaches course in Gothenburg, Chalmers, 11.00-11.30 (optional) as well as by mail to everybody enrolled for the course.

March 13-15 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module One - Critical and Participatory Philosophies: RELATIONALITY

April 17-19 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Two - Feminist and Minoritarian Philosophies: SPATIALITY

May 15-17 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Three - Posthumanist and New Materialist Philosophies: MATERIALITY

Summer break

September 11-13 at KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Conclusion
- Participants presentations
- Guest lectures
- Communications Introductory lecture

General Information

Course responsibility and contact persons:
Hélène Frichot, KTH, helene.frichot@arch.kth.se
Katja Grillner, KTH, grillner@kth.se

Participation
For each of the six planned seminar sessions (two seminars per module) a collection of 'conceptual clusters' will be framed between two or more theoretical texts drawn from architecture and philosophy. While an expanded literature will be available to participants, these 'conceptual clusters' will be framed as the key readings for each seminar. The logic of this approach is driven by the assumption that most academic 'essays' tend to be constructed from a collection of two to three key texts, which are highlighted so as to frame an argument. Participants will be expected to focus on one conceptual cluster per seminar (that is, 6 conceptual clusters across the full course).

Before each seminar meeting participants will be expected to upload blog posts to the Philosophies seminar blog in response to the 'conceptual cluster' they have chosen to focus upon. These blog posts will eventually be compiled as a 'conceptual colouring-in book,' which each participant will be required to complete. As a seminar we will also collectively contribute to the construction of a 'glossary of concepts', which we will add to incrementally throughout the duration of the seminar. *See the assessment exercises below for further details.*

Schedule

January 24, 2013, School of Architecture, GTH Gothenburg
Philosophies Course Introduction

11.00   Lecture: Hélène Frichot and Katja Grillner *Who is Afraid of Critical Theory?*
Where participants will be introduced to the structure of the Philosophies course and invited to participate in a collaborative mapping exercise of critical architectural theory, dedicated to a survey of 20th and 21st Century architectural theory anthologies (with a focus on contents pages): from K. Michael Hays, ed. *Architectural Theory since 1968*; Kate Nesbitt, *Constructing a New Agenda For Architectural Theory*; Neil Leach, ed. *Rethinking Architecture*; Jane Rendell, Jonathan Hill, Murray Fraser, Mark Dorrian, eds. *Critical Architecture*; Krista Sykes, ed. *Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993-2009*; Hilde Heynen et al. eds. *The SAGE Book of Architectural Theory*; etc…The mapping exercise itself will be conducted on the first day of the course, Wednesday March 13, with the assumption that participants will bring along some preparatory material based on their own research-related literature reviews.

March 13-15, 2013, School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module One - Critical and Participatory Philosophies: RELATIONALITY
Pre Course Assignment
Based on copies of the contents pages of the pre-assigned anthologies, and including other anthologies deemed relevant to your ongoing research agendas as well as your own current research bibliographies, we ask you to arrive at this first meeting with a constructed 'contents page' of a reinvented anthology and/or a wish list of essays you would like to collaboratively read. You can also simply base your invented contents page on your current research project 'literature review.' In groups we will collaboratively recompose a collection of new 'contents pages' as a series of posters for discussion. NOTE: This exercise DOES NOT assume that you have read the full contents of all the listed anthologies, merely that you have perused the contents pages!!!

March 13: Introduction and Conceptual Mapping Workshop
10.00   Introduction to the course, and general (re)introduction and (re)positioning of collected research projects of participants.
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Collaborative mapping exercise of 20th and 21st Century architectural theory anthologies
16.00   Concluding the day
18.30   Dinner

Reading:
The exercise will have a focus on content pages from K. Michael Hays, ed. Architectural Theory since 1968; Kate Nesbitt, Constructing a New Agenda For Architectural Theory; Neil Leach, ed. Rethinking Architecture; Jane Rendell, Jonathan Hill, Murray Fraser, Mark Dorrian, eds. Critical Architecture; Krista Sykes, ed. Constructing a New Agenda; Hilde Heynen et al. eds. The SAGE Book of Architectural Theory; etc…

March 14: Seminar 1: Crisis and Creativity in Critical Thinking-Doing
Keynote speakers
Sven Olof Wallenstein: *Immanent Critique*
Teresa Stoppani: *On the Frankfurt School and Walter Benjamin*

10.00   Keynote 1
12.00   Lunch

13.00   Seminar 1: Crisis and Creativity in Critical Thinking-Doing
16.30   Concluding the day
18.30   Dinner

Reading:

Conceptual Cluster 1: The Theory Tool Box
- Jane Rendell, 'Introduction: A Place Between', in *Art and Architecture: A Place Between*
- Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault, 'Intellectuals and Power,' in *Language, memory, Counter-Practice*, Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1977
- Eyal Weizman, 'Lethal Theory', in *Log 7*, Winter/Spring 2006.

Conceptual Cluster 2: Conceptual Crisis
- Bruno Latour, 'Why has critique run out of steam?' in Critical Inquiry, 30, Winter 2004
- Robert Somol and Sarah Whiting, 'Notes Around the Doppler Effect and Other Moods of Modernism' in Perspecta 33, 2002
- Sven-Olov Wallenstein, 'Noopolitics, Life and Architecture' in Deborah Hauptman and Warren Neidlich, eds, Cognitive Architecture. From Biopolitics to Noopolitics. Architecture & Mind in the Age of Communication and Information, Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 2010

Conceptual Cluster OPEN: You have a choice to frame your own cluster

March 15: Seminar 2 – Participation and Relationality
10.00   Guest workshop: Meike Shalk, *Urban Caring and Curating*
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Guest workshop: Karin Bradley, *Eco-Feminism*
15.30   Reflection and Introduction to Module Two
16.30   Departure

Reading:

Conceptual Cluster 3: Relations and Agency
- Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture, edited by Nishat Awan, Tatjana Schneider, Jeremy Till, London: Routledge, 2011. (Excerpt).
- Doina Petrescu, 'Relationscapes: Mapping Agencies of relational practice in Architecture', in City, Culture, Society, 3, 2012, pp. 135-140
- David Harvey, 'Right to the City', in New Left Review 53, September/October 2008, pp. 23-40.

Conceptual Cluster 4: Disagreement and Agonism
- Jacques Rancière, 'The Rationality of Disagreement' in Disagreement: Politics and Philosophy, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999 +
- Chantal Mouffe, 'Artistic Activism and Agonistic Spaces', in Art and Research, vol. 1, no. 2, Summer 2007.
- Claire Bishop, 'Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics' in October, vol. 110, Autumn 2004.

Conceptual Cluster 5: Ecologies of Practice
- Isabelle Stengers, 'Introductory Notes on an Ecology of Practices', in *Cultural Studies Review*, Vol. 11, No. 1, March 2005.
- Félix Guattari, *The Three Ecologies*, London: Athlone Press, 2000, (excerpt).

- Nicolas Bourriaud, 'The Aesthetic Paradigm (Felix Guattari and Art)', in *Relational Aesthetics*, Les Presses des Réel, 2002.

Conceptual Cluster OPEN: You have a choice to frame your own cluster

April 17-19, 2013, School of Architecture, KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Two - Feminist and Minoritarian Philosophies: SPATIALITY
Keynote speakers
Katja Grillner, *Feminist Epistemologies*
Lars-Henrik Ståhl, *Derrida and Eisenman, ChoraL Works*
Mats Rosengren, *Doxology and Paleolithic cave art*
Robyn Ferrell, *Sacred Exchanges: Images in Global Context*

April 17: Seminar 3: Chora and Container Technologies
10.00   Lecture: Lars Henrik Ståhl: *Derrida and Eisenman, ChoraL Works*
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Seminar 4: *Chora and Container Technologies*
16.30   Concluding the day
18.30   Dinner

Reading:
Conceptual Cluster 6: Chora
- Elizabeth Grosz, 'Women, Chora, Dwelling' in Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner, Iain Borden, *Gender Space Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction*, London: Routledge, 2000
- Zoe Sofia, 'Container technologies' in *Hypatia* vol. 15, no. 2, 2000
- Judith Butler, 'Bodies that Matter', in *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex*, London: Routledge, 1993
- Plato, *Timaeus* (excerpt)
- Alberto Péréz Gómez, editor, *Chora*, 1-6, please select an essay from this series (optional)

Conceptual Cluster 7: Container Technologies
- Peter Sloterdijk, 'Cell Block, Ego-Spheres, Self-Container' in *Log 10*, 2007 +
- Lieven de Cauter, 'The Capsule and the Network: Notes for a General Theory' in *Capsular Civilisation: On the City in the Age of Fear*, Rotterdam: NAi Publishers, 2004
- Alice Jardine, 'Of Bodies and Technologies' in Hal Foster ed. *Discussions in Contemporary Culture*, New York: DIA Art Foundation, 1987.

Conceptual Cluster OPEN: You have a choice to frame your own cluster

April 18: Seminar 4: Sexual Subversions and Ficto-criticism and Altering Subjectivities
10.00   Lecture: Katja Grillner

12.00   Lunch
13.00   Seminar 5: *Sexual Subversions and Ficto-criticism and Altering Subjectivities*
16.30   Concluding the day

Reading:
Conceptual Cluster 8: Feminist Writing Practices
- Hélène Cixous, 'The Laugh of Medusa' in *Signs*, vol. 1, no. 4, Summer 1976 +
- Diana Agrest, 'Architecture from without: Body, Logic, and Sex' in Debra Coleman, Elizabeth Danze, Carol Henderson, eds, *Architecture and Feminism*, New York: Princeton University Press, 1988 +
- Jennifer Bloomer, 'A Priming' in *Architecture and the Text: The (S)crypts of Joyce and Piranesi*, Yale University, 1993.

Conceptual Cluster 9: Ficto-Criticism
- Anna Gibbs, *Fictocriticism, Affect, Mimesis: Engendering Differences*, University of Western Sydney, TEXT Vol 9. No. 1, April 2005.
  http://www.textjournal.com.au/april05/gibbs.htm
- Stephen Mueke, 'The Fall: Ficto-Critical Writing, in *Parallax*, 8:4, 2002
- Gilles Deleuze, 'Literature and Life', in *Essays Critical and Clinical*, New York: Verso, 1998.

Conceptual Cluster 10: Altering Subjectivities
- Donna Haraway, 'Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspectives', in *Feminist Studies*, pp. 575–599, 1988.
- Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology*
- Rosi Braidotti, 'Discontinuous Becomings: Deleuze on the Becoming-Woman of Philosophy' in *Nomadic Subjects*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Conceptual Cluster OPEN: You have a choice to frame your own cluster

April 19
10.00   Guest lecture
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Workshop Module: Ongoing Construction of Conceptual Toolbox
15.30   Reflection and Introduction to Module 3
16.30   Departure

May 15-17, School of Architecture, KTH Stockholm
Philosophies Course Module Three - Posthumanist and New Materialist Philosophies: MATERIALITY
Keynote speakers
Catharina Gabrielsson
Deborah Hauptman, TU Delft
Katie Lloyd Thomas

MAY 15: SEMINAR 5: Posthumanist Philosophies and Biopolitics and Noopolitics
10.00   Lecture
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Seminar 6: *Posthumanist Philosophies and Biopolitics and Noopolitics*
16.30   Concluding the day

Reading:

Conceptual Cluster 11: Posthumanist Philosophies

- N. Katherine Hayles, 'Unfinished Work: From Cyborg to Cognisphere' in *Theory Culture Society* 23; 159, 2006.
- Donna Haraway, 'A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century' in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*, New York: Routledge, 1991
- Deborah Hauptman, 'Introduction: Architecture and Mind in the Age of Communication and Information', in *Cognitive Architecture: From Biopolitics to Noopolitics. Architecture and Mind in the Age of Communication.*

Conceptual Cluster 12: Biopolitics

- Felicity Scott, Outlaw Territory (excerpt) +
- Michel Foucault, 'The Birth of Biopolitics', in *Ethics: Essential Works of Foucault*, London: Penguin, 2000 +
- Giorgio Agamben, 'The Camp as the Nomos of the Modern', in *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Stanford, Cal.: Stanford University Press, 1998 +
- Hannah Arendt, 'We Refugees' in *The Menorah Journal*, vol. 3, 1943.

Conceptual Cluster 13: Noopolitics

- Deborah Hauptman, 'Introduction: Architecture and Mind in the Age of Communication and Information', in *Deborah Hauptman, eds. Cognitive Architecture: From Biopolitics to Noopolitics*, Rotterdam 010 Publishers, 2010.
- Maurizio Lazzarato, 'The Concepts of Life and the Living in the Societies of Control' in *Martin Fuglsang and Bent Meier Sorensen*, eds. Deleuze and the Social, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006+
- Gilles Deleuze, 'Societies of Control' in *Negotiations: 1972-1990*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Conceptual Cluster OPEN: You have a choice to frame your own cluster

MAY 16: SEMINAR 6 - New materialisms and Affect

10.00   Seminar 7: *New Materialisms and Affect*
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Workshop: Ongoing Collaborative Concept Catalogue
16.00   Concluding the day

Reading:

Conceptual Composition 14: New Materialisms:

- Jane Bennett, 'The Agency of Assemblages', in *Vibrant Matter, Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2010
- Diana Coole and Samantha Frost, 'Introducing the New Materialism', in Diana Coole and Samantha Frost, eds, *New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2010
- Manuel DeLanda, 'Introduction'; and 'I: Lavas and Magmas'*, A Thousand Years of Nonlinear History*, New York: Swerve, 2000.

Conceptual Composition 15: Affect:
- Eve Sedgwick, 'Shame in the Cybernetic Fold: Reading Silvan Tomkins (Written with Adam Frank)' *in Touching Feeling: Affect, Pedagogy, Performativity*, Duke University Press, 2002
- Nigel Thrift, 'Spatialities of Feeling', in *Non-Representational Theory: Space, Politics, Affect*, London: Routledge, 2008
- Eric Shouse, 'Feeling, Emotion, Affect', in Melissa Gregg, ed. 'Affect.' M/C Journal 8.6 (2005). 25 Nov. 2011. http://journal.media-culture.org.au/0512/03-shouse.php

MAY 17
10.00   Lecture: Catharina Gabrielsson
12.00   Lunch
13.00   Workshop Module: Ongoing Construction of Conceptual Toolbox
15.00   Introduction to Conclusion Review
16.30   Departure

- Participants presentations
- Guest lectures
- Communications Introductory lecture

ASSESSMENT (Teaching-Learning Activities):

1. Participants will be required to construct an image and text response as a **BLOG post** in response to 6 Conceptual Clusters, 1 per 'seminar' (you will note above that there are 6 seminars across the Philosophies course, each with its own theme). You are encouraged to create images that are diagrammatic or instructional. You are encouraged to approach this from the point of view of your specific research projects. These 'posts' will be uploaded to the Philosophies Blog *prior* to the relevant seminar. They will be used to stimulate seminar discussions and undertake close readings of the selected essays. Although you are encouraged to read across the conceptual clusters, you may also choose to focus on one specific essay in your chosen conceptual cluster. Approximately 500 words per post.

2. Participants will be invited to incrementally contribute to the compilation of a **Conceptual Toolbox** in response to the essays discussed in Philosophies. The Conceptual Toolbox will generate a 'glossary' of key concepts that can be shared by all participants, as well as future participants in the course. Some of this conceptual labour will be undertaken in small groups during the seminars in workshop sessions.

3. Participants will be asked to create a **Conceptual Colouring-In book**. You are encouraged to frame your image and text responses from Assessment 1 according to a theme that is relevant to your research. Add to your colouring-in book a title, a contents page, an introduction, and responses to a minimum of 6 Conceptual Clusters. This will be uploaded onto the self-publishing site ISSUU and linked to the Philosophies Blog. As a point of reference see: http://archandphil.wordpress.com/category/03_projects/

Dr Hélène Frichot, November 2012