

PRESS RELEASE

Deepa Naik and Trenton Oldfield
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THE MEDICAL CITY SALON / MONDAY 14 JULY 2008

PUBLIC WORKS: 2-8 SCRUTTON STREET, LONDON EC2A 4RT
WITH BEER AND BEIGELS. DONATIONS WELCOME.



The number one cause of death amongst children in the developing world is not famine or war, but respiratory illness due to urban pollution. In a rapidly increasing urbanised world there is an urgency to address the complexities between cities and public health. Should the medical fraternity be the future builders of cities?

What can urbanists learn from medicine? Could the medical knowledge, lexicon and methodologies be adopted and applied to cities? How can the knowledge from building hospitals be extended to cities? What knowledge does a paramedic who navigates a city's streets and treats its citizens have that might be vital? What can be learned about public health from a land contamination officer? How can public health be put at the forefront in city planning?

This Is Not A Gateway have brought together three compelling urbanists to consider the historic relationship between urban planning and public health, to explore how medical knowledge can be adapted by city planners and to discuss how public health can become an integral part of urban planning:

- ELIZABETH FONSECA, Environmental Quality Manager, Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
- PHIL GUSACK, Director of gusack.com
- CHRIS SHARP, Urban Software Designer, Holistic City
- MARY WHITTAKER, Project Leader, YRM Architects

Salons are informal, free and open to all. There are always beer and beignets. To register, please email: salons@thisisnotagateway.net

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Participant Biographies:

ELIZABETH FONSECA is the Environmental Quality Manager for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Prior to joining the Council in 2005, she worked for public and private environmental sectors in the US for over 7 years. She has concentrated on the design, implementation and review of investigations, risk assessments and remediation strategies regarding contaminated land and water as well as developing and implementing pollution control techniques in industrial processes.

PHIL GUSACK is Director of Gusack.com, a nano thinktank. Studied, researched, taught, planned, designed and built in Liverpool, London, San Francisco, New York, West Indies and Warsaw. Projects Include hospitals, offices, hotels and shopping centres.

CHRIS SHARP is Director and co-founder of Holistic City Software. Holistic City creates 'technology for liveable cities' - software tools which integrate design, planning, movement, environmental, liveability and financial analysis for large-scale urban masterplans. Chris is a lapsed architect/masterplanner/urban design consultant.

MARY WHITTAKER works for YRM Architects based in London. Mary is a Project Leader in the Social Business Stream working primarily in the Health and Education sector. Mary's emphasis is on the integration of complex campus development projects including the University of Cyprus; NIIT Institute of Information Technology, India; Mater Hospital, Dublin; and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals. Mary has a Masters in Architectural History, is an RIBA registered Client Design Advisor and is a member of the YRM's Executive Management team.

Coordinators Biographies:

DEEPA NAIK'S work has focused on cross-cultural contemporary art practice and community activism; she is informed by notions of locality, citizenship and urban space.

Deepa has worked as an artist and educator with public works, Art for Change and the Serpentine Gallery. Since 2005 she has worked with Irit Rogoff (Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths College). Projects include: De-Regulation - with the work of Kutlug Ataman (MuHKA, Antwerp 2006, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel 2006, Berlin 2008). Academy: Learning from the Museum (Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, 2006). SUMMIT: non-aligned initiatives in education culture (Multitude e.V. Berlin, 2007). Eyewitness: The Documentary Turn In Legal and Visual Culture (Birkbeck School of Law, 2008).

TRENTON OLDFIELD oscillates from his formal work within government, cultural and environmental agencies to his personal practice; film, public art commissions, research and writing, which go under the umbrella of www.lunchontheroof.com

He is currently the Coordinator of the Thames Strategy – Kew to Chelsea. He was the Project Manager at Cityside Regeneration and a Community Development Worker in North Kensington. Trenton has been active on the boards of the Westway Development Trust, London Citizens and Subtext.

Trenton is completing his MSc in Contemporary Urbanism at the LSE. All his work is pre-occupied with cities; and he founded This Is Not A Gateway.

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About This Is Not A Gateway:

This Is Not A Gateway [TINAG] was founded in 2007 with the aim of making an impact on the way people think about cities. This is of growing importance as 2007 marked the first year that more people across the globe have lived in cities than in rural areas and it is estimated that 70% of the global population will live in urban areas by 2050.

A not for profit organisation registered in England and Wales, TINAG works with others across Europe to understand the complexity of cities from the ground up. TINAG provides platforms for emerging practitioners and those outside of established circuits that are doing compelling work on cities but that do not have the chance to have their ideas heard, shown or debated. Fostering active participation in cities TINAG has four areas of production: Salons, Festival/Symposia (24-27 Oct 08), Publications and Library and Archive.

Believing key questions, approaches and ideas relating to cities will emerge through participant-led activities, TINAG have put out a call for people working on and in cities to come forward with proposals for salon discussions and festival activities. TINAG is coordinated by Deepa Naik and Trenton Oldfield who provide the infrastructure and support to enable participants to hold their own activities. To submit a proposal email coordinators@thisisnotagateway.net

In June 2008 TINAG was awarded the Academy for Sustainable Communities' Creating The Future Award.

About This Is Not A Gateway SALONS:

This Is Not A Gateway SALONS are a series of bimonthly informal workshops where speakers, from a range of fields and backgrounds, are invited to investigate a focused question related to cities. Discussion and cross-sector learning is integral to the Salons and presentations are limited to 10 minutes each, with greater concentration on audience participation. The key ideas and questions raised during the Salon are distilled and circulated through a post-salon essay.

The Salons are informal and there are always beer and beignets.

Like all of TINAG's work, there is an open call for Salon proposals. To submit an idea for a discussion, email salons@thisisnotagateway.net

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