



PRESS RELEASE / PRESS RELEASE

- **THE SUBURBANISATION OF THE CITY / THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY – SALONS**

“**The City is being Suburbanised**”, so said David Harvey at his recent winter lecture at the London School of Economics. His lecture ended with the challenge to the audience, that the City was being suburbanised, that the values and aims of the suburbs are now shaping and forming the city.

TINAG Salons has invited four remarkable urbanists to peer a little closer at his argument, showcasing policy documents, drawing attention to recent projects on the ground, presenting art projects directly dealing with this concern, taking a snapshot of the current social norms and their historical development alongside looking at who and how these ideas have gained currency.

TINAG Salons request panel members limit their presentation to ten minutes so there is a greater concentration on panel and audience debate.

TINAG Salons is the evolution of 2004 Sideshow Salons, which focused on the special-kind-of-madness that is the Thames Gateway / Thames Reach. This series provides the prelude to *This Is Not A Gateway – A Festival of European Young Urbanists*.

TINAG Salons have nikknacked with the kind and warm folk at publicworks, who are hosting this series of salons in their new studio. Like Sideshow, there are always beers and bagels and these have been provided with the foresight that could only come from the LSE Cities Society & LSE Planning Society.

Upcoming **TINAG Salons** can be found at http://publicworksgroup.net/pages/fridaysession_03.html and www.thisisnotagateway.net

TINAG Salons require registrations to be sent by email to mail@publicworksgroup.net

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- **ALL FEMALE PANEL / THE FIRST TIME IN URBANISM / ?**

None of us can think of any panel of speakers anywhere, anytime, with anything to do with urbanism, which comprised only women. **It is likely to be a first in urbanism.** The panel of speakers and an outline of their presentations follow. Please see further below for their individual biographies.

Denna Jones / Director / Paracity

According to Denna "Urban analysts fear our cities are in danger from the urbanisation of suburbia. But the real threat continues to be the creeping suburbanisation of the urban. Edges, margins, boundaries and twilight urban areas have been a refuge for outsiders and the disenfranchised, but they are being scrubbed out and replaced with 'quarters' and 'common interest developments'.

Denna will present her soon to be realised King's Cross project. Denna explains "Kings Cross is one of the areas where the urban is threatened by suburban ethics and aesthetics. A slow burning low-level resistance is already happening – the prominently located "Regent Quarter" has been tagged at roofline for all to see. On a slightly less obviously subversive level, the urban built environment company Paracity is installing two 1948 prefabs on the rooftop of a building in the King's Cross area. Typically suburban in design, these enamel-coated, all-steel US made houses will form the hub for Paracity's wide-reaching UK housing programme. An ironic and striking visual contrast to the sea of conformity springing up around it, the Paracity site will be a visual exclamation point representing the need for all of us to reclaim our urban freedoms.

A.Prof Deborah Stevenson / Director / Cultural Institutions and Practices Research Centre / The University of Newcastle, Australia

Deborah reminds us that Australia is most suburbanised nation on planet earth. (We can all think of numerous individuals that despite their obscure beginnings in Australian suburbia are known internationally!) Deborah will demonstrate how government policy for Australian cities has been lead by the social norms of the suburbs. One example Deborah suggests " Is the way in which the suburbs are driving the political agenda in cities through the related discourses of 'the battler' (Conservatives) and the 'aspirational' (Labor)-they're really talking about the same thing the values, dreams and lifestyles of working class people living in the suburbs". Deborah will provide a historical overview of Australian suburbia, tracing its relationship to the Australian city, highlighting historical and contemporary examples.

Kathryn Firth / KPF Senior Urban Designer / Recent Co-director of the LSE Cities Programme

Kathryn looks at the everyday experience on the ground, highlighting the changes to the urban fabric in cities. As many cities undergo a building bonanza Kathryn will drawn attention to the changes that are occurring in city morphology and design. Kathryn says "Despite a perception that the city is being changed by the social norms and aspirations of the suburbs, as alluded to by David Harvey, it does not translate to spaces and places on the ground."

Kathryn proposes that other than in the realm of retail offer (i.e. the effects of globalisation), the city is NOT being suburbanised. Kathryn will draw attention to actual interventions that have occurred recently in the urban realm; using examples from the areas of transport, urban density, public space/sociability and building typology to back up her argument. These will be discussed in terms of policy and their spatial manifestation.

Dr Alessandra Buonfino / Young Foundation Research Associate/ Co-editor of Porcupines in Winter

Editing *Porcupines in Winter – The pleasures and pains of living together in modern Britain* provides Alessandra with acute insight into current social and cultural norms present today. Alessandra will discuss the change in people's way of living in the city. "Fifty years ago many of Britain's cities appeared to have stable and broadly contented communities with strong neighbourly ties. At that time, Young and Willmott's well known study of life in London's East End spoke of doors remaining unlocked and children playing in the streets watched over by the neighbours. They told anecdotes

of mutual support and help. But in recent decades increased mobility, longer life expectancies, the design of public space and the breakdown of the extended family have changed the extent to which we interact with others at the local level." Says Alessandra. The presentation will concentrate on the movement towards a more atomised lifestyle, the search for space in dense environments, away from 'others' in car dominated environments with fences and walls are having a significant effect on how we live our lives.

• LINGO BINGO LAUNCH

Trenton Oldfield, TINAG's Director explains, "Lingo Bingo is a response to the misuse of 'the stage' and is a joyful and playful response and challenge to a symptomatic condition of 'the stage and urbanism'.

Lingo Bingo was birthed in Café Emm, Firth Street, Soho after a recent public lecture on a proposed tall building for Southwark's riverside, at a influential academic institution. Ellen Haukås, Chris Sharpe and Trenton Oldfield discussed a page a clichés Trenton had written down, used and re-used by the architect when discussing the 'pregnant lady' he hopes to be build alongside the River Thames, opposite St Paul's.

Despite the playful nature it is as serious as Bingo gets, being pursued across public lectures worldwide and there is no doubt 'bingo' will be called at many lectures! Lingo Bingo winners will be awarded a TINAG London inspired Snow Dome.

The 'first edition postcard' will be launched at TINAG May 8th Salon. Coming editions include specific versions for Art & Architecture and Urban Renewal & Regeneration public lectures and will be available to download from www.thisisnotagateway.net

• THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY / A FESTIVAL OF EUROPEAN YOUNG URBANISTS

This Is Not A Gateway: A Festival of European Young Urbanists brings together, in one place, over one frenetic week, young Europeans working on and in cities face to face to foster, nurture and enhance human relationships, professional networks, and, to provide a platform and party for Europe's young urbanists to respond, stimulate, create and influence our cities, now and for the future.

Its first year will be a festival across the East End of London, in its cafes, community buildings, galleries, restaurants, colleges, parks, bars, streets and occasional plush city office boardroom. Its hub is the Festival Club based in the soon to open Village Underground in Shoreditch. Every second year The Festival is open to proposals from other European cities to host it.

TINAG's role is to facilitate The Festival on an organisational and curatorial level – coordinating workshops, seminars, parties etc that are developed by the participants with TINAG arranging the required infrastructure. A key element is that TINAG is not 'a gatekeeper' but a facilitator.

The Festival is the umbrella for the following Foci:

- European Young Urban Property Developers (& Real Estate Professionals)
- European Young Urban Designers and Architects
- European Young Urban Public Servants (Planners, Policy, Regeneration etc)
- European Young Urban Writers (Journalists, Academics, Commentators etc)
- European Young Urban Creative Practitioners, (Musicians, Public Artists, etc)
- European Young Urban Politicians (Elected and Community Representatives)

To participate you just need to consider yourself young.

At the core of The Festival is an affection and commitment to cross-disciplinary methodologies. Each Focus will engage across the spectrum of focuses - either at individual events or on the broader

festival level.

Unconcerned with gloss, kudos nor high visibility...TINAG is importantly not in a rush. As the Festival is participant developed it is expected that it will be a few years before the festival reaches a critical mass of awareness, participants and programming. Rigor, fun, integrity and cross – European development are fundamental rather than early and bright stage lights.

The TINAG Steering Committee is aiming to have the first festival / conference at the end of September 2006 – to bunch up with the numerable design festivals and all that other jazz that seems to happen in London these days at the end of Summer.

TINAG's Steering Committee is requesting proposals for seminars, events and parties.

- **PEOPLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

TINAG'S Director is Trenton Oldfield. Deeply influenced by a childhood in the highland rainforests of Papua New Guinea, Trenton JH Oldfield works entirely on urban projects. Trenton oscillates from being part of the creative establishment and delivering inner city 'regeneration' programmes and strategies, being a board member on numerable built environment and city focused charities, to working in collaboration with some of the UK's most thoughtful ' multinational new settlers' to undertake projects such as *INTACT*, *Sideshow*, *The Whitechapel Centre*, *London's Flight*, *To Keep the Grass In and Thames Nocture*. Trenton is slowing completing his LSE Cities Programme scholarship. He is the founding director of This Is Not a Gateway.

Monica Postiglione is TINAG's researcher for this salon. Monica is recipient of the European Community Scholarship to study the LSE's *City Space and Society* Programme.

A/Professor Deborah Stevenson is a sociologist who has researched and published widely in the areas of cultural policy and urban life, focusing in particular on cultural planning and the creative city. Her books are: *Cities and Urban Cultures* (2003); *Art and Organisation: Making Australian Cultural Policy* (2000) and *Agendas in Place: Cultural Planning for Cities and Regions* (1998). Currently, she is completing *Tourist Cultures* (with Stephen Wearing) for Sage, London. Dr Stevenson is a member of the Editorial Boards of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Arts and Cultural Management* and the *International Journal of Cultural Policy* and in 2004 co-edited a special issue of IJCP on urban space and the uses of culture. She has worked as a consultant to government and industry most recently being a member of the ABN-AMRO Consortium awarded the \$1.1billion contract to redevelop the Darwin waterfront. Dr Stevenson is Associate Professor and incoming Director of the Cultural Institutions and Practices Research Centre at The University of Newcastle, Australia and prior to this was Deputy Head of the School of Social Sciences at the same University.

Dr Alessandra Buonfino joined the Young Foundation in April 2005. Previously, she was a postdoctoral research fellow on an ongoing ESRC funded project on migration, democracy and security at the department of Politics and International studies of the University of Birmingham where she also lectured on International Relations theory. She has a doctorate in international studies from the University of Cambridge. She previously trained in development studies and anthropology. Alessandra was managing editor of the journal *Cambridge Review of International affairs* (Taylor and Francis) between 2001 and 2003 and is a research Associate of the think-tank Demos. At the Young Foundation, Alessandra is working on a variety of projects ranging from 'mapping Britain's unmet needs' to neighbourliness and extremism. She has just edited, with Geoff Mulgan, 'Porcupines in Winter: the pleasures and pains of living together in modern Britain', published in January 2006.

Kathryn Firth is Senior Urban Designer at KPF and was Director of the MSc City Design & Social Science programme of the LSE. Kathryn is an architect and urban designer with extensive experience in regeneration projects in Canada, the USA and the UK. She was central to the masterplanning of the National Gallery and Somerset House in London, and has led interdisciplinary study teams in the urban potential of ex-industrial sites in many UK cities. As an urbanist, she has developed an expertise in assessing the social and economic potential of urban regeneration projects with a special expertise in the design of public open space and cultural uses in inner city

areas. She has written design competition briefs for the Architecture Foundation and articles for journals such as Topos European Landscape Magazine, Stadtplaene, Regeneration Magazine and Harvard Design Magazine.

Denna Jones is director of the built environment design company Paracity. She is also Designer-in-Residence on the BA (Hons) Arts, Design and Environment Course, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Denna writes frequently on architecture, design and urbanism for Blueprint, Art & Architecture Journal, New Design, Citizen K, Dazed & Confused and other print media." Her blog appears on CSMC's website. Denna is currently working as Artist Masterplanner for one of Blackburn-with-Darwen's Housing Market Renewal Areas. Denna is in the process of importing two classic all steel prefab 1940's American suburban houses and place them on top of two buildings in King's Cross – to discuss the Suburbanisation of the City. Denna chaired Sideshow's *DIY Urbanism*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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