KARL-FRANZENS-UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
Institut für Amerikanistik | Department of American Studies

Delegate‘s Name

Space Oddities
Urbanity, American Identity, and Cultural Exchange

41st AAAS Conference
Graz, Nov. 21 – 23, 2014

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WELCOME

November 2014

Welcome to the Conference

“Space Oddities: Urbanity, American Identity, and Cultural Exchange”

We are delighted to welcome you to Graz for what promises to be a wonderful few days of discussion, reflection, and debate in an academic environment with a long history of scholarship: Our conference venue, the University of Graz, was founded in 1585 and currently has over 30,000 students. The conference “Space Oddities” offers a forum for about 60 speakers from Europe and the Americas, which shows how much interest there is in the topics and questions of urbanity, American identity, and cultural exchange.

One of the aims of the conference is to bring together different branches of this vibrant field and explore interconnections and potential for cooperation. We hope you will find opportunities to network with people from different areas of specialization and will have the chance to make some new contacts for future projects.

Naturally, organizing an event of this size means that there are many people who need to be thanked. In particular, we wish to thank all our sponsors for their generous support of the conference. We also want to express gratitude to all the plenary speakers, and the many panel participants for having taken the time and trouble to join us here in Graz. Special thanks go to the wonderful team of staff and student helpers (Eva Bock, Thomas Hadley, Elisabeth Knittelfelder, Sarah Lahm, Marilyn Sook Yuen Lim, Manuela Neuwirth, Sabrina Palan, Sonja Schmeh, Walter Wenegger, Nora Wenzl) and all the other helping hands who have sacrificed much of their weekend to assist us!

We very much hope that you will enjoy your time here at the conference. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff should you have questions or feel we can be of help. Have a wonderful conference!

Best wishes,

The “Space Oddities” Organizing Committee
Stefan Brandt, Elisa Edwards, Leopold Lippert

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Martin Auer, Graz

Getting to the Conference Venue

From Main Railway Station (Hauptbahnhof)

From Main Railway Station, take a taxi or bus to reach the conference venue (University of Graz, Attemsgasse 25 or Universitätsplatz 3). The trip takes about 20 minutes.

The University of Graz campus is served by the following bus lines:

Bus line 58	in the direction of *Mariagrün*: get off at **Mozartgasse**
Bus line 63	in the direction of *St. Peter Schulzentrum*: get off at **Universität**

From City Center (Jakominiplatz) - main transport hub

The following bus lines link the city center to the campus:

Bus line 30	in the direction of *Geidorf*: get off at **Mozartgasse**
Bus line 39	in the direction of *Wirtschaftskammer*: get off at **Geidorfplatz** Walk along Heinrichstraße for approximately 3-5 minutes, take the second right into Mozartgasse and then the first left to reach Attemsgasse
Bus line 31	in the direction of *UniRESOWI:* get off at **Uni/Mensa**

A one-hour ticket within Graz city limits will cost €2,10 (available on the bus - please carry change!). You may want to consider purchasing a 3-day tourist ticket for €11,60 (available at the Tourist Information Office, ticket machines and counters at Main Railway Station).

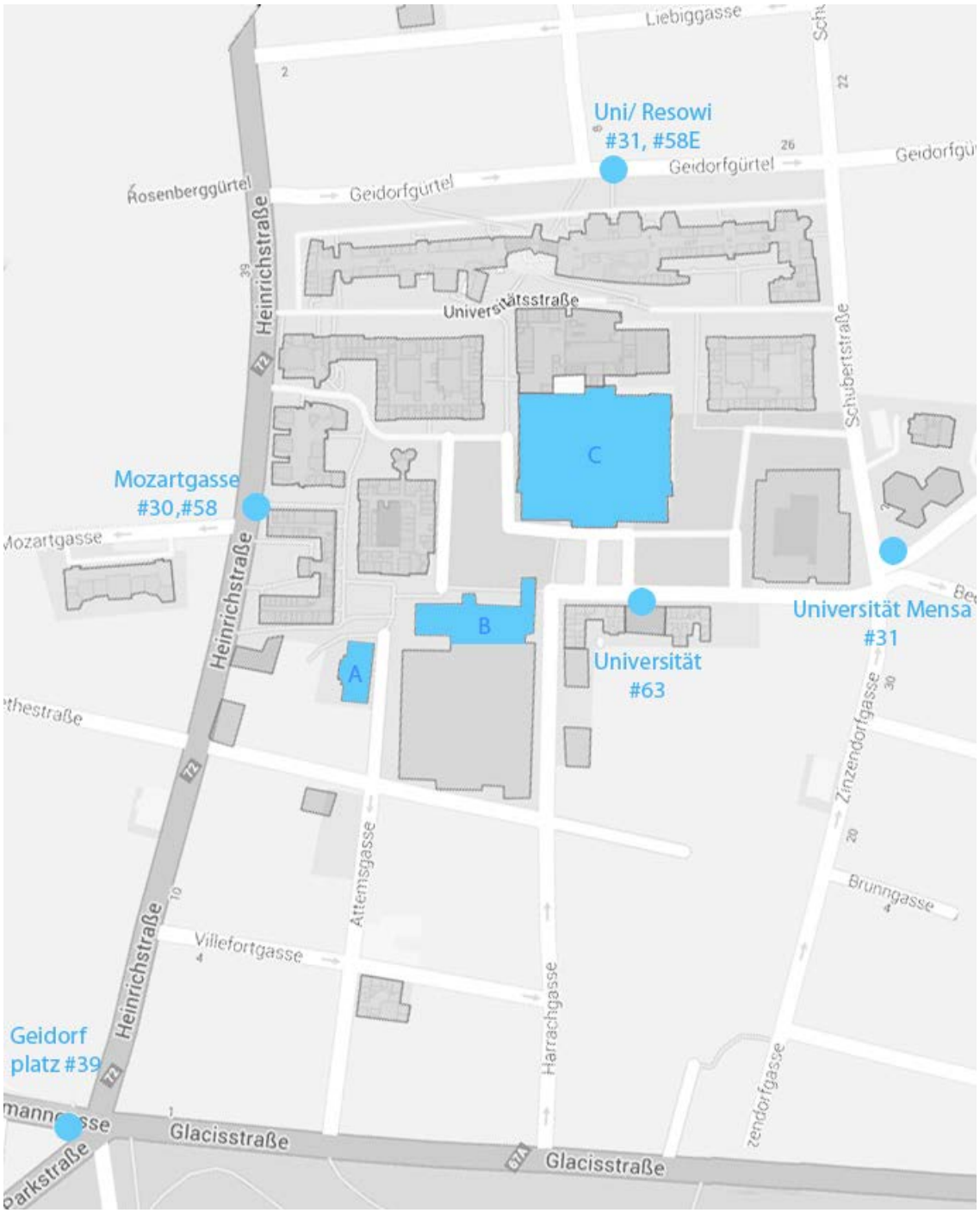
Find further information at	http://www.verbundlinie.at/lang/en/ http://www.graztourismus.at/en

Graz Tourism

If you wish to explore some of the sights of Graz, please see the Graz tourist board website for further details or call their office:

Graz Tourist Information Office (Graz Tourismus), Herrengasse 16
T +43-316-8075-0
http://www.graztourismus.at/en

Getting to the Conference Venue



To find your way around campus during the conference, please take a look at the campus map:
http://www.uni-graz.at/en/university/information/map-of-the-campus

A - Attemsgasse 25
B - HS 06.02
C - Main Building

General Conference Information

Registration Desk

The registration desk is located on the second floor of the building at Attemsgasse 25.
It will be open for registration and general enquiries at the following times:

Friday 21st November, 2pm - 4pm
Saturday 22nd November, 9am - 4pm
Sunday 23rd November, 9am - 12pm

Should you have any questions outside of these times, please look for any of the helpers or staff.

Coffee Breaks and Lunch Breaks

All coffee breaks and lunches are covered by your conference fee. Coffee breaks will take place on the third floor, Attemsgasse 25, Room Seattle. Should you wish to have a hot beverage outside of the scheduled breaks, a vending machine can be found in the basement.

Special thanks go to Martin Auer for generously sponsoring our coffee breaks.

Name Tags

Please ensure you have your name tag with you at all times, as this will entitle you to take part in our coffee breaks and lunch.

Cash Dispensers

The nearest cash dispensers are located at Raiffeisenbank in Heinrichstraße 23 and at Bank Austria on campus in front of the main building in Harrachgasse 23.

Room Size

All rooms at the conference have an official maximum capacity set down by law for safety reasons. We kindly ask for your understanding that we cannot allow any more participants once a room has reached its maximum capacity.

General Conference Information

Internet Access

There will be free wifi on campus during the entire conference.

Smoking

Please note that all buildings at University of Graz are non-smoking and are equipped with smoke detectors.

Phones

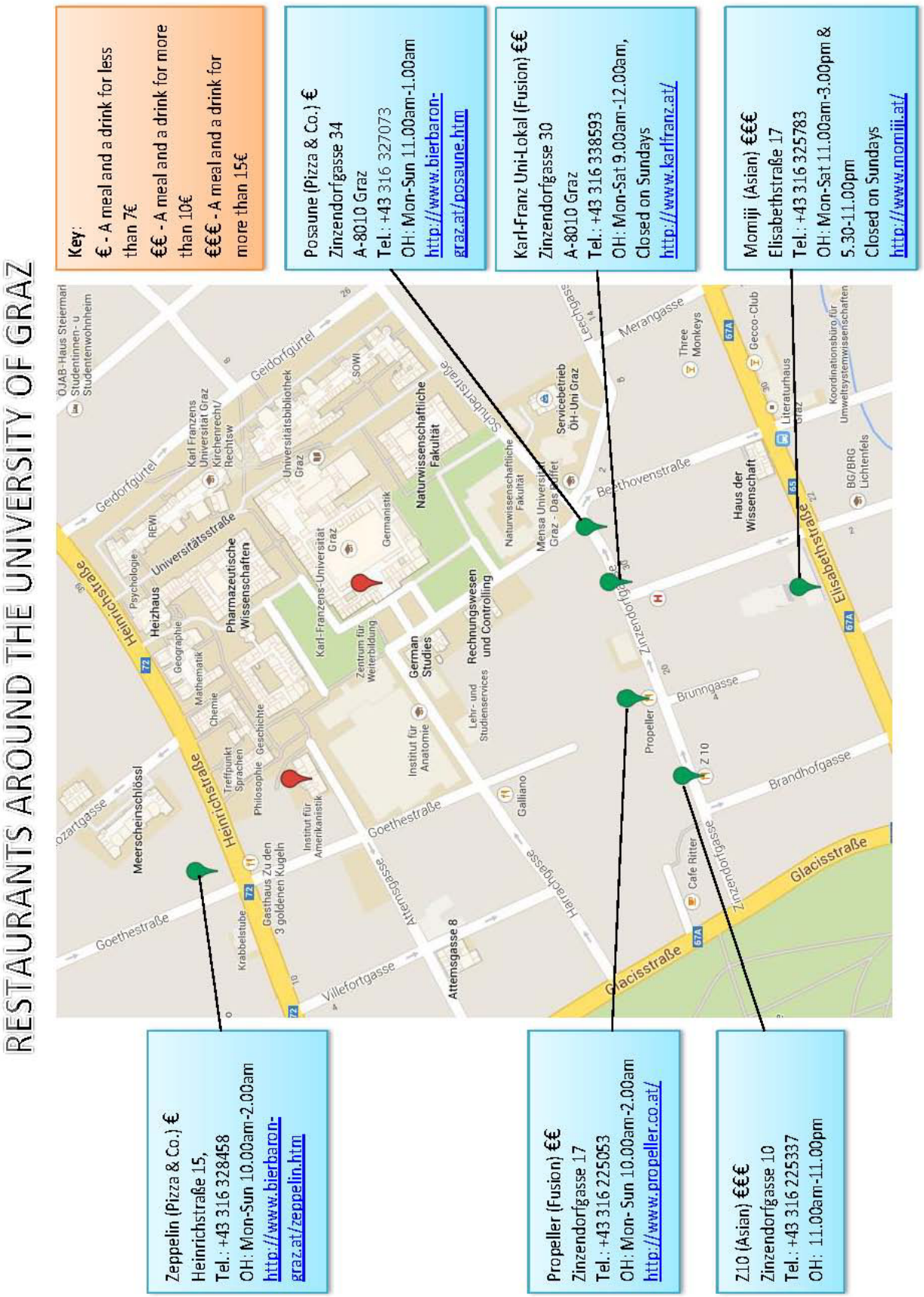
We kindly request that your mobile phones be switched off during presentations out of courtesy to fellow participants and the presenters.

Emergency Numbers

Should you require any of the emergency services during your time in Austria, these are the emergency numbers:

Service	Phone Number
Fire Brigade	122
Ambulance Service	144
Emergency Doctor	141
Police	133
European Emergency Number	112

General Conference Information

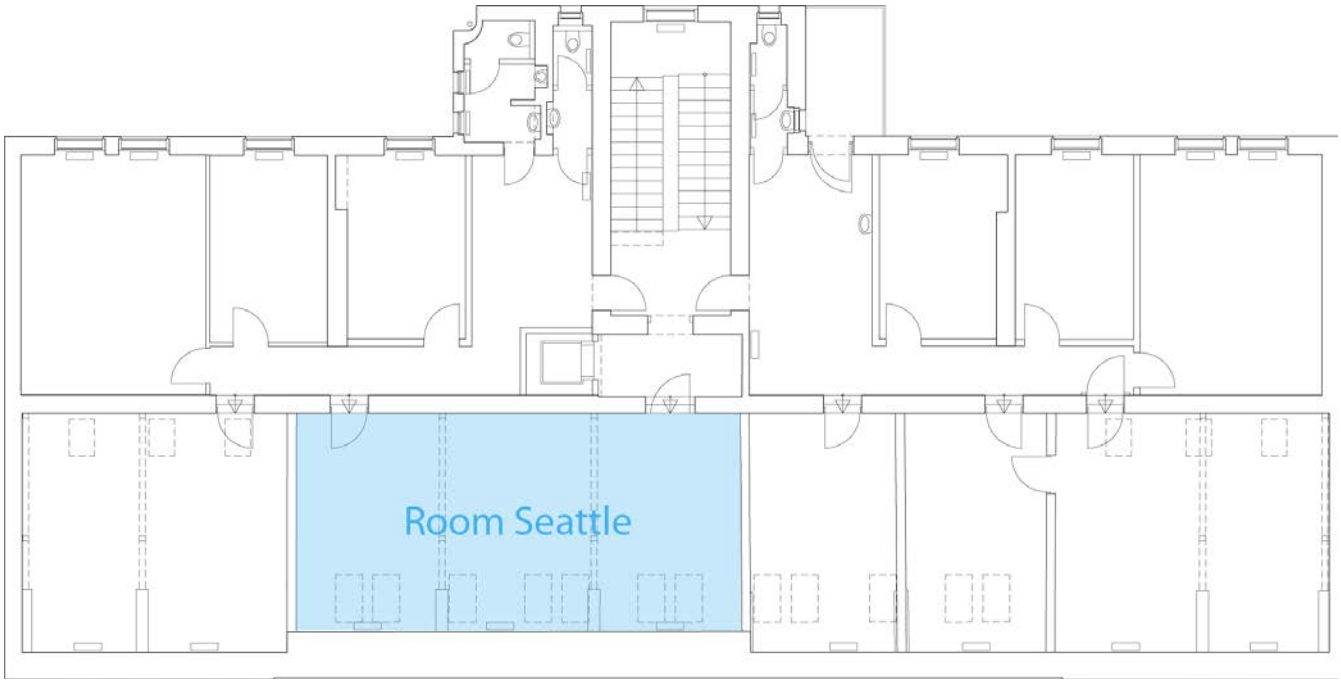


General Conference Information

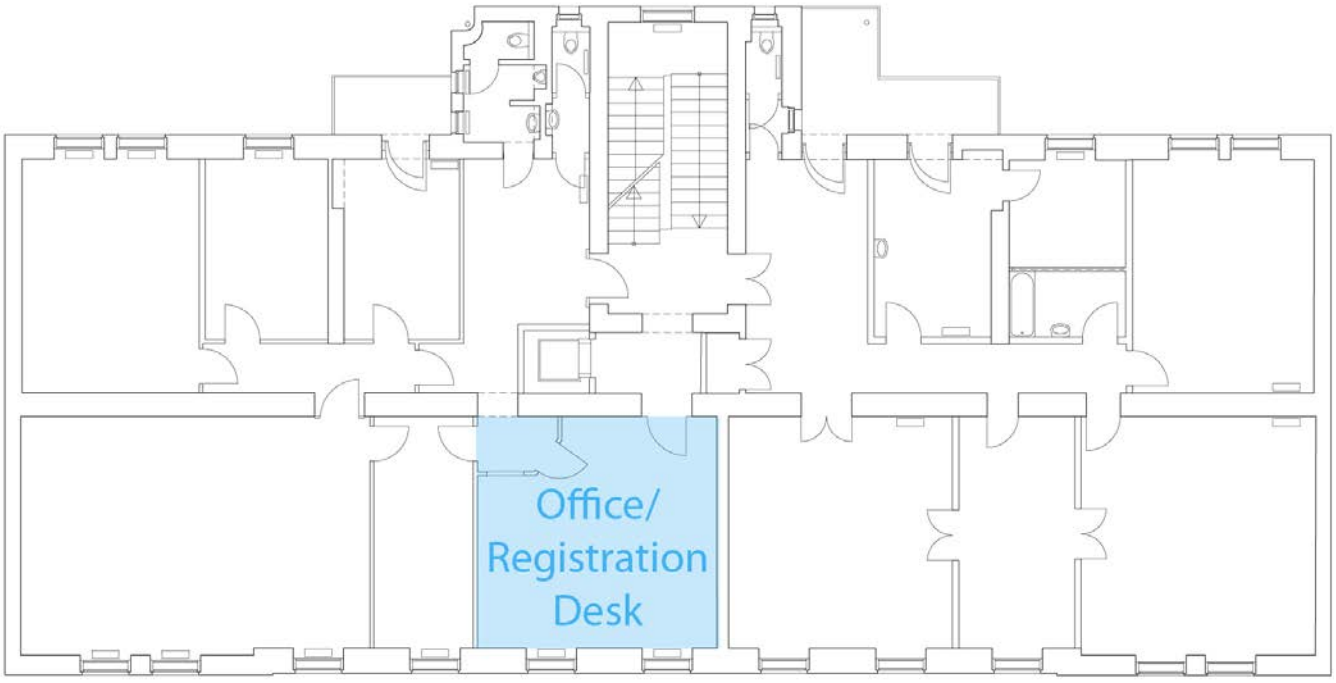
Floor Plans

Attemsgasse 25

Third Floor (=Top Floor)



Second Floor

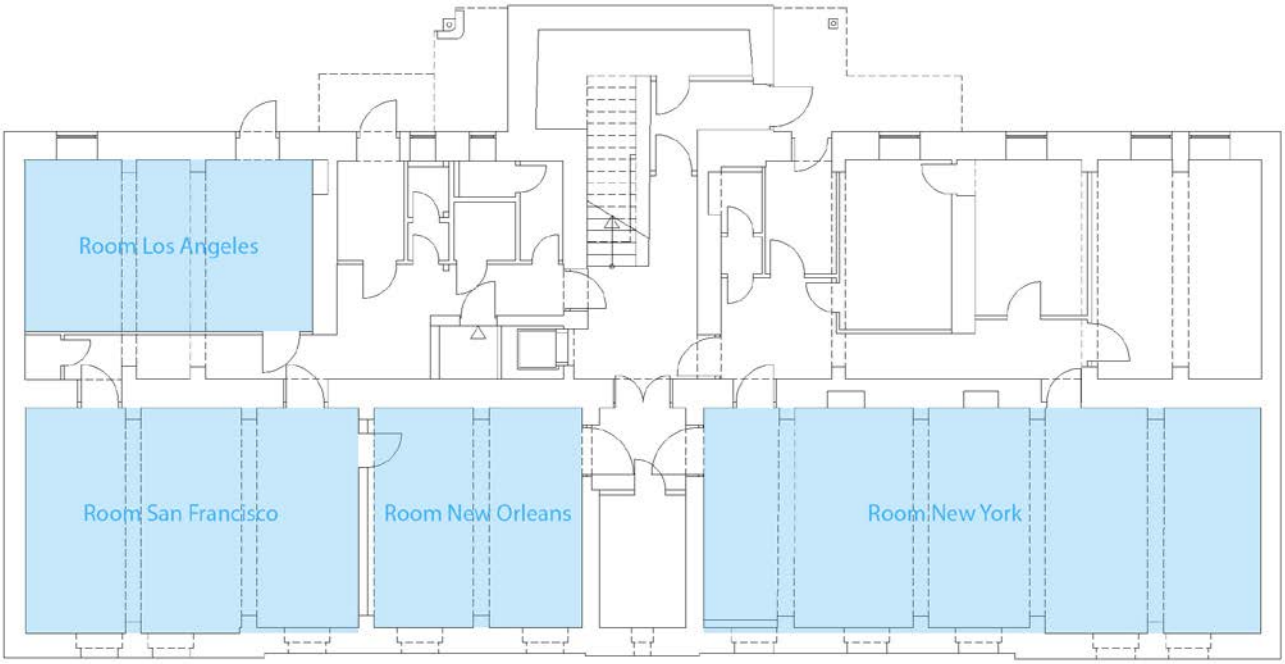


General Conference Information

Floor Plans

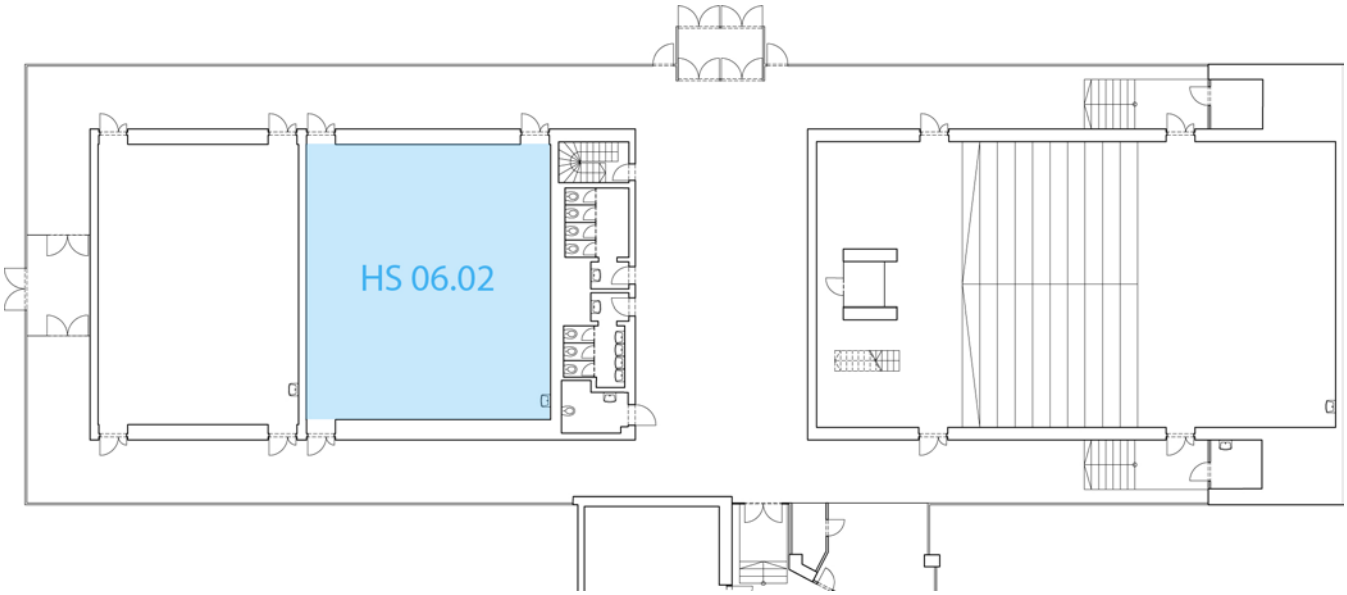
Attemsgasse 25

Basement



Universitätsplatz 6/HS 06.02

Ground Floor

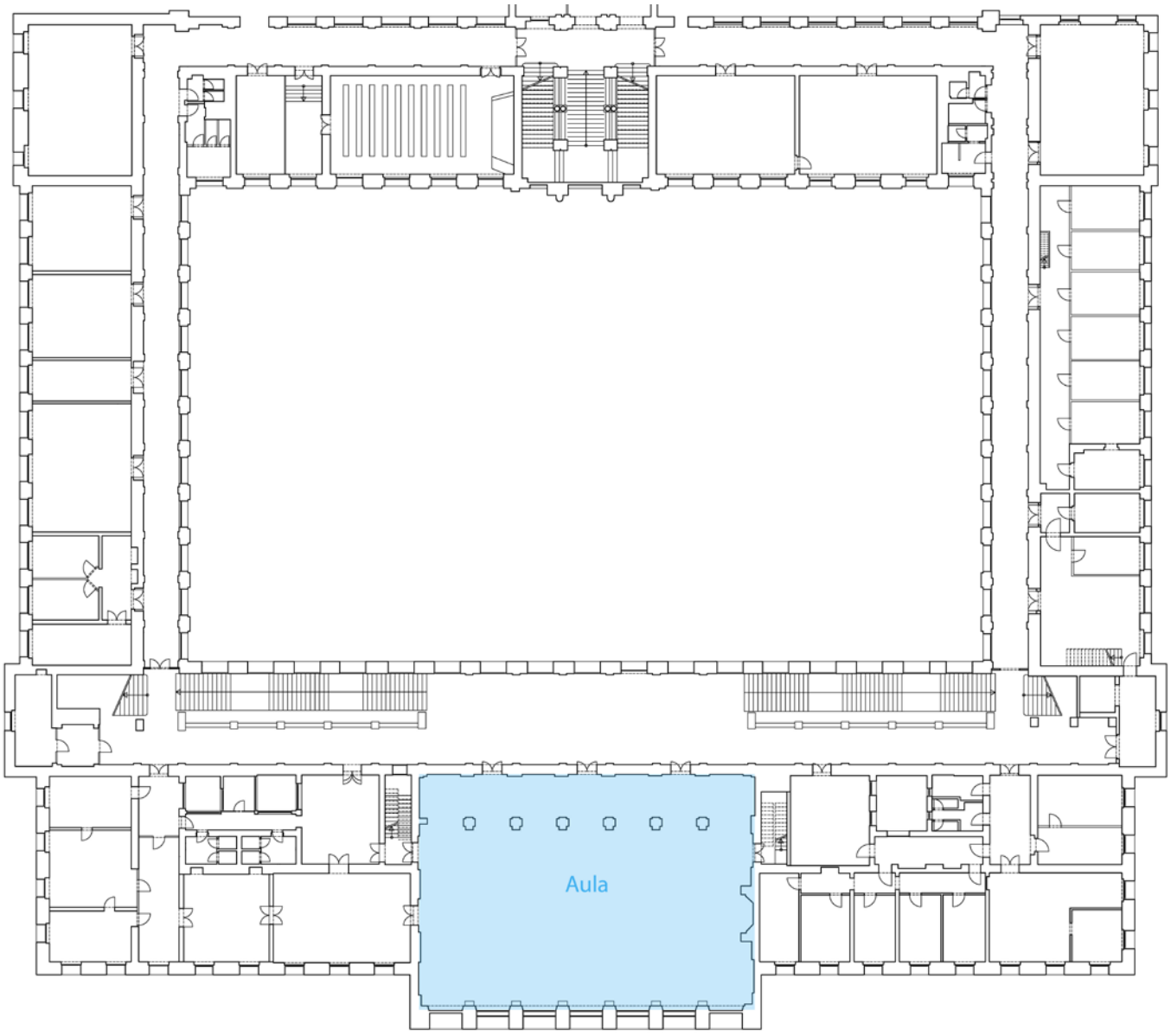


General Conference Information

Floor Plans

Universitätsplatz 3/Aula - Main Building

First Floor



Schedule

Friday, November 21, 2014

Time	Place	Event
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Attemsgasse 25/2nd floor Secretary's Office	**Registration**
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Attemsgasse 25	**Board Meeting (Old Board)**
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Main Building Universitätsplatz 3 Aula	**Opening of the Conference (Stefan Brandt, AAAS President)** **Welcoming Remarks** **Fulbright Prize 2014 (Ralph Poole, AAAS Vice President)**
5:00 - 5:15 pm	Main Building Universitätsplatz 3 Foyer	**Short Break**
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Main Building Universitätsplatz 3 Aula	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS 1** **Laura Liu** (Associate Professor of Urban Studies, Eugene Lang College, The New School, New York) "Sweatshop City: Migration, Labor, and Organizing in Urban Space" CHAIR: Leopold Lippert, University of Graz
6:15 - 6:30 pm	Main Building Universitätsplatz 3 Foyer	**Short Break with Snacks**
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Main Building Universitätsplatz 3 Aula	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2** **Peter Chanthanakone** (Assistant Professor of Animation, University of Iowa, 3D Animation) "Virtual Reality of America: Visualizing American Spaces through Technology" (Screening and Director's Talk) CHAIR: Elisa Edwards, University of Graz
8:15 pm	Rathaus Hauptplatz	**Reception + Dinner**

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Time	Place	Event
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Attemsgasse 25/2nd floor Secretary's Office	**Registration**
9:30 - 10:00 am	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Coffee Break**

Schedule

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Time	Place	Event
10:00 - 11:00 am	Universitätsplatz 6/ HS 06.02	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3** **Gerd Hurm** (Professor of American Studies, Trier Center for American Studies, University of Trier), "Urban Fiction as Urban Studies: Reflections on an Intricate Relationship" CHAIR: Stefan Brandt, University of Graz
11:00 - 11:30 am	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Coffee Break**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Attemsgasse 25/ Basement	**WORKSHOP PANELS 1 - 4**

PANEL 1: Queer(ing) Spaces (Room New York)

CHAIRS: **Eric C. Erbacher**, University of Münster
Sina A. Nitzsche, TU Dortmund University

Linda Hess, University of Münster
"'There are 2,556,596 Faggots in the New York City Area' Mapping the Ephemeral Community in Larry Kramer's *Faggots* and Andrew Holleran's *Dancer from the Dance*"

Sina A. Nitzsche, TU Dortmund University
"Ghetto Going Gay: Inter-Ethnic Romance and Coming-Out Narratives in Contemporary Jewish American and Puerto Rican Fiction"

Iris-Aya Laemmerhirt, TU Dortmund University
"'It Could Happen to You' Queer Los Angeles vs. Oppressive Rural Small Towns in *Bridegroom*"

Eric C. Erbacher, University of Münster
"'This is San Francisco, this is why I live here.' The Universal Queering of Urban Space as Political Strategy in the TV Series *Looking*"

PANEL 2: Moving Between Spaces (Room New Orleans)

CHAIR: **Art Redding**, York University

Roberta Maierhofer, University of Graz
"Moving Between Spaces: Time and Experience as Space Oddities"

Giada Peterle, University of Padova
"The Driver as a Postmodern Flâneur: Automobility as Everyday Urban Practice"

PANEL 3: Urban Activism and Revolution (Room Los Angeles)

CHAIR: **Leopold Lippert**, University of Graz

William Tate, Umbau Studio/James Madison University, Virginia
"Invading Amerika: Why Not. The WERKBUNDSIEDLUNG Re-Applied"

Iuliano Fiorenzo, University of Cagliari
"A Place of Missed Revolutions: The Angry Young Men of the 1990s Seattle"

Schedule

PANEL 4: Borderlands, In-Betweenness, and Transgression (Room San Francisco)

CHAIR: **Walter Hölbling,** University of Graz

Martina Koegeler-Abdi, University of Copenhagen
"From Murder to Femicide: Negotiating Space, Race and Gender in the American TV Adaptation of *The Bridge between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez*"

Kathryn Quinn-Sánchez, Georgian Court University in Lakewood, New Jersey
"The Spatial Oddity of the Borderlands: American Identity in Ana Castillo's *The Guardians*"

İ. Murat Öner, International Burch University in Sarajevo
"Academia Betwixt: Liminality and Transgression in David Lodge's *Changing Places*"

1:00 - 2:30 pm	Sonnenfelsplatz 1/ Mensa	**Lunch**
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Sonnenfelsplatz 1/ Mensa	**AYA Lunch Meeting**
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Universitätsplatz 6/ HS 06.02	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4** **Thomas Heise** (Assistant Professor, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada), "Globalizing Chinatown: Gentrification, Ethnic Heritage, and the Novels of Henry Chang" CHAIR: Martin Löschnigg, University of Graz
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Coffee Break**
4:00 - 5:30 pm	Attemsgasse 25/ Basement	**WORKSHOP PANELS 5 - 8**

PANEL 5: "Foreign" Cities in the American Imagination (Room New York)

CHAIR: **Elisa Edwards,** University of Graz

Joshua Parker, University of Salzburg
"Off into azure distance": American Fiction's Island Berlin"

Dougal McNeill, Victoria University Wellington
"'Low / And Manic as a hive': Tokyo as American Imaginative Geography"

Tobias Auböck, University of Innsbruck
"Discovering Timbuktu: An American Perspective on a Legendary City"

Robert Spindler, University of Innsbruck
"Orientalism and the Depiction of Cities on the Barbary Coast by American Captives"

Schedule

PANEL 6: The Dark Part of the City (Room New Orleans)

CHAIR: **Klaus Rieser**, University of Graz

Michael Fuchs, Independent Scholar
"'Do you guys remember a couple of years ago when that guy was lighting homeless people on fire in the subways?' Urban Nightmares beneath the City"

Xenia Kokoula, TU Berlin
"Territory, Disorientation, Desire: The Production of Space and Affect in Angela Carter's Fiction"

Simone Puff, University of Graz
"Under the Sun and Under the Moon: Urban Spaces and the City of Los Angeles in Matt de la Peña's *Ball Don't Lie*"

Stephen Joyce, Aarhus University
"Imagining Gotham: Hard Knowledge in a Soft City"

PANEL 7: Pluralistic Spaces, Heterotopias, and Places of Otherness (Room San Francisco)

CHAIR: **Susanne Rieser,** University of Graz

Selma Siew Li Bidlingmaier, Ruhr-University Bochum
"The Culinary Spectacles of China-Towns"

Ulla Kriebernegg, University of Graz
"Space, Identity, and Old Age: The Care Home as Heterotopia of Deviation"

Roberta Hofer, University of Innsbruck
"The World Is A Stage – Human Puppetry Across Narratological Spaces"

PANEL 8: Urban Racialized Spaces (Room Los Angeles)

CHAIR: **Nora Wenzl,** University of Graz

Nassim Balestrini, University of Graz
"Affective Cities in Hip-Hop Life Writing"

Dawn Grace Kremslehner-Haas, Fachhochschule St. Pölten
"The Hip Hop Crisis"

Leopold Lippert, University of Graz
"Suburbia, Exhaustion, and Nature Theater of Oklahoma's *Life and Times*"

5:30 - 5:45 pm	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Short Coffee Break**
5:45 - 7:15 pm	Universitätsplatz 6/ HS 06.02	**AAAS General Meeting**

Schedule

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Time	Place	Event
9.30 - 10.00 am	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Coffee Break**
10:00 - 11:30 am	Attemsgasse 25/ Basement	**WORKSHOP PANELS 9 - 11**

PANEL 9: New York, New York (Room New Orleans)

CHAIR: **Simone Puff,** University of Graz

Thomas Herold, Montclair State University
"Spatial Projections – New York Imaginations in German Literature"

Christian Lenz, TU Dortmund University
"Labyrinths of Love: The Spatial Odysseys of Young Adults in the Novels by Rachel Cohen and David Levithan"

Irakli Tskhvediani, Akaki Tsereteli State University
"John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*: Urban Space and American Cultural Identity"

PANEL 10: Spectacles, the Promotion of Urban Sites, and Remembering (Room New York)

CHAIR: **Nassim W. Balestrini**, University of Graz

Utku Mogultay, University of Duisburg-Essen
"Chicago's White City of 1893 in Thomas Pynchon's *Against the Day*"

Ingrid Gessner, University of Regensburg
"Mapping 9/11 Memorials in Cities Around the World"

Markus Weiglein, University of Salzburg
"Memory Clashes Along 1.2 Miles: The National Mall's Identities from a Moral-Psychological Perspective and the Impacts of the Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)"

PANEL 11: Nature, Urbanity, and Technologies (Room Los Angeles)

CHAIR: **Manuela Neuwirth,** University of Graz

Georg Drennig, University of Duisburg-Essen
"The City/Nature Dichotomy, and the Odd Case of Cascadian Cities!"

Louis J. Kern, Hofstra University
"Metropolis as 'Space-Conquering Technology': Futuristic Cities, Virtual Space, and Dynamic Urban Structures"

Stefanie Jahn, Chemnitz University of Technology
"'Desolate Wilderness' or 'Nature's Masterpiece': New World Spaces in Early American Texts"

Julia Möseneder, University of Innsbruck
"Searching for Urbanity in a Post-Apocalyptic World"

11.30 - 11.45 am	Attemsgasse 25/3rd floor Room Seattle	**Thank You Words of the Conference**

Schedule

11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Sonnenfelsplatz 1/ Mensa	**Lunch**
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Attemsgasse 25/ Basement	**WORKSHOP PANELS 12 - 14**

PANEL 12: The American City in Film (Room New York)

CHAIR: **Roberta Maierhofer,** University of Graz

Christian Quendler, University of Innsbruck
"New Media Cities"

J. Jesse Ramirez, Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main
"Urban Eschatologies: The Death and Afterlife of the American City in Contemporary Cinema"

Carina Lesky, Austrian Academy of Sciences
"Stepping Outside – Cinema at Street Level"

Johannes Mahlknecht, University of Innsbruck
"The Metropolis as Character? A Look at the Genre of the Hollywood 'City Film'"

PANEL 13: Visualizing North American Urban Spaces in Science Fiction Film, Television and Video Games (Room New Orleans)

CHAIR: **Stefan Rabitsch,** Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt

Stefan Rabitsch, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
"'A Citty upon a Hill' in the Future (Made in the U.S.A.): Mapping American 'Cities of the Imagination' and their Poetics of Utopian Promise and Ironic Decay in Visual Science Fiction"

Vanessa Erat, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
"'From Star to Star with the CPR': Canadian Urban and Wild Spaces in the Science Fiction Video Game MASS EFFECT"

Thomas Faller, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
"'Is it Real or is it Just Fantasy?' The American Cityscape and its Virtual Representation"

Isabella Preuer, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt
"'That's no moon. It's a space station.': American Representation of the Futuristic Ecumenopolis in STAR WARS"

PANEL 14: Troubled Ethnic City Spaces (Room Los Angeles)

CHAIR: **Astrid M. Fellner,** Saarland University

Ilka Hofmann, Saarland University
"Teju Cole's *Open City* (2011): Troubled Ethnic Identities in Multiple Spaces"

Astrid M. Fellner, Saarland University
"Infinite Cities: Alterna(rra)tives in Border Spaces"

Marion Rohrleitner, University of Texas at El Paso
"Mexica Sci-Fi: Reimagining L.A. in Contemporary Chicana/o Speculative Fiction"

Claire M. Massey, Saarland University
"'Cut 'em off at the pass!' The Librotraficantes take El Paso"

3:00 pm	Attemsgasse 25	**Meeting of the New Board**

Presentations

Keynote Speaker

Name Laura Liu (Associate Professor of Urban Studies, Eugene Lang College, The New School, New York)

Title "Sweatshop City: Migration, Labor, and Organizing in Urban Space"

Time Friday, 21st November, 5:15 - 6:15 pm, Aula

Abstract

Contemporary understandings of globalization's effect on U.S. cities would have us believe global cities like New York are primarily shaped by the ascent of finance capital and the decline of industrial manufacturing. In this account, information, technology, and financial services have driven changes in the post-industrial global city that account for its increasingly vast extremes of inequality. Instead, despite the transition to a service economy, New York City is better understood as a "Sweatshop City" in which the structures of the sweatshop economy shape urban work and social relations. The notion of the Sweatshop City emerges from research on immigrant community organizing in New York City's Chinatown, and the production of knowledge about exploitation and socio-spatial inequality based on working and living conditions in migrant industries and communities. From this view, sweatshop labor—hyper-exploited workers in highly segmented and segregated labor markets that rely heavily on subcontracting structures—is vital to the larger functioning of capital and plays a critical role in its production and reproduction in cities. The Sweatshop City is thus not merely a setting against and in which to organize, but an organizing concept and analytical formulation for understanding U.S. cities under global capitalism.

Keynote Speaker

Name Peter Chanthanakone (Assistant Professor of Animation, University of Iowa, 3D Animation)

Title "Virtual Reality of America: Visualizing American Spaces through Technology" (Screening and Director's Talk)

Time Friday, 21st November, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Aula

Abstract

America's landscape is as diverse as its people and continues to influence art and technology. Iconic landmarks such as the White House in Washington DC or the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco make some cities famous while other cities are simply products of their industry and climate. With 3D animation in the forefront of visualization, the ability to create photo real environments is bringing new applications to the masses. This modern day technology is designed to propel augmented reality into the 22nd century while photo based modeling has made visualizing space more efficient and effective than ever before. This presentation will look at ways virtual reality and animation is driving art and technology further in visualizing American spaces. By recreating these spaces, one can recreate simulation and predict the methods people interact with the space or distorting their context and mashing it up with different eras of American history, we can uncover the breadth of culture and diversity that makes America unique.

Presentations

Keynote Speaker

Name Gerd Hurm (Professor of American Studies, Trier Center for American Studies, University of Trier)
Title "Urban Fiction as Urban Studies: Reflections on an Intricate Relationship"
Time Saturday, 22nd November, 10:00 - 11:00 am, HS 06.02

Abstract

For all the vitality in ongoing debates, Dolores Hayden writes in her foreword to the 2014 volume *Rethinking the American City* (UPenn Press, eds. Miles Orvell and Klaus Benesch), "definitions of key terms such as space, place, public, private, urban, and suburban remain controversial." The present lecture will look into some of the reasons why terms like 'city' or 'urban' have been and will remain controversial. It will explore basic assumptions in the field of urban studies and will reassess prominent discourses that have proven both productive and problematic (Edward Soja, in 1996, called the concept of heterotopia "inconsistent, incoherent" - today it is still evoked as a key concept in a wide variety of studies and transdisciplinary contexts). The lecture argues that a new way of looking at urban fiction may contribute to clarifying some of the issues at hand. For this purpose, literary texts need to be reconceived, as Rita Felski has suggested in her magisterial *The Uses of Literature* (2008), as sources of knowledge and not as mere objects of knowledge. Recent urban fiction (e.g. John Wray, *Lowboy*, 2009) will therefore be examined and discussed in exemplary fashion to highlight the intricacies in the relationship between urban fiction and urban studies, real cities and urban imaginaries.

Keynote Speaker

Name Thomas Heise (Associate Professor of English, Ryerson University, Toronto)
Title "Globalizing Chinatown: Gentrification, Ethnic Heritage, and the Novels of Henry Chang")
Time Saturday, 22nd November, 2:30 - 3:30 pm, HS 06.02

Abstract

Starting from the premise that crime fiction is fundamentally a literature of place, this presentation reads the recent large-scale redevelopment of New York City's historic neighborhood of Chinatown through the "Jack Yu" series (2006 – 2010) of crime novels by Henry Chang. The mid-1990s – the time period when Chang's novels are staged – saw a controversial shift in policing towards "quality of life" violations that targeted poor and minority areas in New York. The rapid gentrification of ethnic and working-class neighborhoods across the city soon followed, changes that I argue should be understood within the global flows of capital and labor, aided and abetted by state and municipal priorities and policies, that have remade central-city neighborhoods far and wide. Chang's site-specific work uses the neighborhood as an organizing principle to encode abstract processes of capitalist urban development as dramatic stories of embattled and internally divided communities struggling to define themselves, hold onto territory, and preserve history. His work, thus, maps the gap between the ethnic community and the social and economic organization of global capitalism by localizing the former's operations in the immediate environs of the neighborhood. This presentation also will draw upon other literary and filmic examples to show how crime narratives have charted the redevelopment of neighborhoods across New York City.

Imprint

The Conference Team

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Eva Bock (design, graphics and layout)

Created, owned and published by: University of Graz,
Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz. Place of Publication: Graz
Editor‘s Address: Department of American Studies, Attemsgasse 25, 8010 Graz

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Universitätsverlag WINTER Heidelberg

LIT VERLAG

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Österreichische Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien