

Intersections: CATASTROPHE SLAM

INTERSECTIONS: CATASTROPHE SLAM features a Colloquium and 24-hour student slam focusing on imminent threats to local, regional and global infrastructure. Fueled by “booster shot” presentations and a panel discussion with faculty across The New School, a cross-section of New School students will work in teams to produce *Recipes for Disaster* – physical, virtual and/or performative scenarios that **prevent, respond to, or accelerate** infrastructure collapse. Results will be exhibited in Aronson Gallery through Friday, March 13th.

CATASTROPHE SLAM is an appetizer to a new university-wide, undergraduate ULEC course entitled “Intersections: Fuel + Ornament” (Fall 2009), which will feature a chain of intradisciplinary slams with students and faculty from across The New School.

CATASTROPHE SLAM: COLLOQUIUM

March 6, 4:30-7:30, Kellen Auditorium

Hosts

Robert Kirkbride Parsons SCE

Shannon Mattern NSGS Media Studies

Booster Shots (4:45):

Cameron Tonkinwise Parsons SDS: *On thermal comfort and the built environment*

Vyjayanthi Rao NSSR: *On violence and infrastructure*

Nevin Cohen Lang: *On food vulnerabilities*

Raoul Rickenberg Parsons SDS: *On fault lines*

Robert Kirkbride Parsons SCE: *On water and development*

Leslie Alfin Parsons SDS: *On successful failure*

Infusion panel discussion (6:30):

Rob Buchanon Lang **Nidhi Srinivas** Milano **Carin Kuoni**, Director, Vera List Center for Art and Politics **Lara Penin** Parsons **Eduardo Staszowski** Parsons + presenters of booster shots

To invent the ship is to invent the shipwreck (7:00): Aronson Gallery

Cecilia Rubino Lang Theater Program

Shelley Fox Parsons MFA Fashion

Student Planning Session (7:15)

BOOSTER SHOTS

Cameron Tonkinwise *On thermal comfort and the built environment*
Parsons SDS

"Passive Survivability" is a movement (spear-headed by Alex Wilson of Environmental Building News) that aims to create building codes that would ensure that residents could endure extended periods without power in the case of catastrophe - for example building structures whose interiors could not rise above or below tolerable temperatures no matter what the outside climate without the need for actively powered systems.

Vyjayanthi Rao *On violence and infrastructure*
NSSR

Infrastructure/Violence considers the ways in which the capacities for violence have transformed as urban development increasingly provides both the human and technological infrastructure of and for violence and suggests what capacities for public organization might emerge from this moment of extraordinary attack on urban life.

Nevin Cohen *On food vulnerabilities*
Lang

Food vulnerabilities examines the industrial food system, which is built on unsustainable and increasingly scarce inputs of petrochemicals, water, and topsoil, and considers steps to increase resilience and reduce agriculture's ecological impact?

Raoul Rickenberg *On fault lines*

Parsons SDS

While it may not be difficult to identify factors that contribute to catastrophic failure, it is often impossible to specify when such events will occur or how their effects will ripple. This is because such failure is usually the product of complex dynamics and always occurs in a systemic context -- constraints that designers are rarely trained to address. There are, however, ways in which designers are particularly well equipped to manage the complexity of catastrophe.

Robert Kirkbride *On water and development*

Parsons SCE

On water and development offers a cautionary, microcosmic tale for a watershed near you, examining a small, forested site where human and environmental forces are combining to create a precarious yet increasingly common predicament.

Leslie Alfin *On successful failure*

Parsons SDS

Successful Failure investigates our attitudes about the notion of failure, catastrophic or otherwise, and makes suggestions as to how we may be able to leverage this seemingly negative phenomenon as a catalyst for success.

To Invent the Ship is to Invent the Shipwreck

(excerpt from The Lang Theater Program's Spring Production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, to be performed at Henry Street Settlement's Playhouse April 23-26th)

Director: Cecilia Rubino, Coordinator, Theater Program at Lang College

Fashion direction: Shelley Fox, Donna Karan Professor of Fashion, Director MFA Fashion and Society

Choreographer: Eric Bradley

Outfits: Charlie Chiang, Melissa Dale, Georgeana Ortiz (Parsons Fashion)

Stage Manager: Kellie Quarton

Assistant Stage Manager: Heather Lewis, Eric Borlaug

Composer: Masataka Odaka Jazz/Lang alumnus

Sound design: Ryan Maeker

Musicians: Elizabeth Hanley (violin), Jessica Mantel (viola), Valerie Kuehne (cello), Masataka Odaka (bass), Sari Ganulin (voice)

Performers (Lang Students except as noted):

Rodrigo Zedillo Valentino Yung Caitlin Wilson Knox White McCabe Walsh Claudette Walls Brittney Walker Frankie Wagner Ben Van Buren Derek Spaldo Robert Sanabria Teddy Rodger Alex Rochinski Celine Robinson John Quatrone Charlotte Peters Erica Min Carolanne Marcantonio Michael Lincoln Rachel Knopfler Lillie Johnson Jenna Hoff Kirsten Hess Tess Harrison Traeauna Harris Zina Goodall John Gentile Aaron Frank Sonny Farnsworth Courtney Falsey Sooji Choi (Parsons) Michael Buffer Duncan Bindbeutel Robert Asch Alex Amini

FACULTY PARTICIPANTS

Leslie Alfin. Formerly Owner and Head Designer of EGG, Inc. and Vice President of Cingular Wireless Enterprise Data, **Leslie Alfin** is a Brooklyn based installation artist and a member of the adjunct faculty in the Design & Management Department at Parsons The New School for Design.

Rob Buchanon is a lifelong magazine feature writer who teaches journalism and writing courses – as well as “Lang on the Hudson” – and is the faculty advisor for The New School Free Press.

Nevin Cohen, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Urban Environmental Studies and the Co-Chair of the Tishman Environment and Design Center. His research focuses on urban food systems.

Shelley Fox is the Donna Karan Professor of Fashion, Director MFA Fashion and Society. Recent collaborations have included a Nobel Scientist for the Nobel Textiles project and exhibitions, 'Archeology of the Future: 20 Years of Trend Forecasting with Li Edelkoort, Paris and 'Gothic: Dark Glamour' at The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York.

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Robert Kirkbride, Ph.D., is director of *studio 'patafisico* and Associate Professor at Parsons The New School for Design, where he is thesis coordinator for Product Design in the School of Constructed Environments. His recent multimedia book, *Architecture and Memory*, is available online (<http://www.gutenberg-e.org/kirkbride/>) and in print.

Carin Kuoni, director of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, is a curator and critic. Recent exhibitions include: "The Puppet Show" (with Ingrid Schaffner), ICA Philadelphia, and "OURS: Democracy in the Age of Branding," Parsons; she is also editor of two books: *Energy Plan for the Western Man: Joseph Beuys in America*, *Words of Wisdom: A Curator's Vade Mecum*, and the forthcoming *Considering Forgiveness* (with Aleksandra Wagner).

Shannon Mattern, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and, through June 2009, Director of Graduate Studies in the Masters Program in Media Studies, is the author of *The New Downtown Library: Designing With Communities* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007).

Lara Penin, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in Parsons School of Design Strategies.

Vijayanthi Rao, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs. She is currently co-teaching a seminar titled *Gandhi and his Interlocutors: On Violence and Non-Violence*.

Raoul Rickenberg, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the School of Design Strategies at Parsons The New School for Design, and Director of MAPstudios, a firm that specializes in information architecture and the development of digital/material interfaces.

Cecilia Rubino is Coordinator of the Theater Program Eugene Lang College and the director of the 'I Have a Dream' Drama/Literacy Program. Her newest piece for Lincoln Center's 'Meet the Artist' series, SLAM 101, opened last week and will perform again the last week in May. She is also directing Lang Spring Production of THE TEMPEST, which will be at Henry Street Settlement's Playhouse April 23-26th.

Eduardo Staszowski is a Full Time faculty member of Parsons School of Design Strategies.

Cameron Tonkinwise is the Chair of Design Thinking and Sustainability in the School of Design Strategies and the Co-Chair of the Tishman Environment and Design Center and is currently running a studio on sustainable thermalcomfort called 'NYCoolth.'

24-HR STUDENT SLAM

3/7-3/8, 10 am-11 am, Aronson Gallery

Guest critics:

Leslie Alfin Parsons SDS

Carin Kuoni Director, Vera List Center

Lara Penin Parsons SDS

Eduardo Staszowski Parsons SDS + others

STUDENT TEAMS

Team A: **RESPONSE** to Infrastructure Collapse



Team B: **PREVENTION** of Infrastructure Collapse



Team C: **ACCELERATION** of Infrastructure Collapse



RECIPE(S) FOR DISASTER: A 24-HOUR MENU OF EVENTS

9:30	Breakfast + Prep
10am-11am	Mind Mapping
11am	Critic's Taste-Test
11am-1pm	Name Your Disaster(s) What's on the catastrophe menu? What's the main course, and what are its side dishes? Number Served? How many people are you serving? At what scale—local, regional, global—are you working? How would you adapt your recipe to work at different scales? Cooking Conditions? Are we cooking at high altitude or in high humidity? What cultural, climatic, political, economic, etc., variables impact how we can proceed with our work?
1pm	Working Lunch
1pm-4pm	Disaster Ingredients Utensils What ingredients and equipment will you need to create the conditions for your disaster? What, then, will you need to prevent, respond to, or accelerate those conditions? How would you respond to a grease fire? How might you have prevented a burnt cake? How could you accelerate the collapsing of your soufflé? Grocery Shopping
4pm	Tea Time + Critic's Taste-Test
5pm-8pm	Chop, Whip, Fricassee What methods will you employ to whip your ingredients into calamitous shape?
8pm	Dinner + Critic's Taste-Test
9pm-10pm	Shaken + Stirred Measure and mix your scales.
10pm-2am	Cooking Time The methods meet the materials. Turn those raw ingredients into something cataclysmic.
3am	Midnight Snack + Critic's Taste Test Things that go bump.
4am-6am	Cooling Off You should be testing your dish regularly, to make sure it's done just right. Don't overbake the cake.
6am-7am	Breakfast + Pot-Luck Taste-Test The slammers test one another's dishes before plating.
7am-10am	Plating + Garnishing We put on the final touches. Menus + Recipes How will you describe your work to potential diners – aka gallery visitors? Finalize your Recipes for Disaster with visuals + media + objects + 150-word project summary.

Intersections: CATASTROPHE SLAM

10am-11am

Table Service

Catastrophe Served!

Each group presents their **Recipe(s) for Disaster**