SMART CITIES?
IMPOSSIBLE OBJECTS, POLITICAL OBJECTS, AND MEASURING OBJECTS: AN EXCURSION IN SEARCH OF AN URBAN EPISTEMOLOGY

#SmartCitiesQuestionMark #ImpossibleObjects
#PoliticalObjects #MeasuringObjects #CityForces
@storefrontnyc @nieuweInstituut @newschool

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 12–6PM
THE NEW SCHOOL
ANNA-MARIA AND STEPHEN KELLEN AUDITORIUM
66 FIFTH AVENUE, RM N101
NEW YORK, NY

STOREFRONT FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE
THE NIEUWE INSTITUUT
THE NEW SCHOOL

SMART CITIES? IMPOSSIBLE OBJECTS, POLITICAL OBJECTS, AND MEASURING OBJECTS: AN EXCURSION IN SEARCH OF AN URBAN EPISTEMOLOGY

What do we talk about when we talk about smart cities? How do we measure the smartness of a city? Who measures it? For whom? What are the tools, values, and constituencies involved in measuring the built environment and the human edifices that inhabit them?

SMART CITIES? is a conference of fictional and critical thoughts that seeks to debate and measure the measuring of cities and the various urban epistemological models that define urbanization and development in the 21st century.

Organized in three panels: Impossible Objects, Political Objects, and Measuring Objects, the event presents a series of performances and presentations that bring architects, scholars, artists, sociologists, and scientists together to discuss the means and methods by which we think—and dream—about cities and urbanism, from the planetary scale to the city of New York.

Participants will present New Terms, New Indexes, and New Tools, bringing alive fictional and real pieces of technology, methodology, machine processes, information systems, and critical reflection in order to better understand and develop new and old forms of intelligence that shape our contemporary cities.

From biologically engineered urban agents to new cartographies, from technosolutionist approaches to postcolonial studies, Smart Cities? will present a series of projects, reflections, and propositional values that reflect upon notions of safety, fun, health, activism, education, infrastructure, diversity, memory, and the environment. Ultimately, the conference serves as a forum to compel us to rethink the way in which various forms of knowledge are produced and reproduced within the value systems of our cities.

#SmartCitiesQuestionMark #CityForces @Storefrontnyc @NieuweInstituut @Newschool

The conference is organized by Storefront for Art and Architecture in collaboration with The New School and the Urban Epistemologies seminar by Shannon Mattern, Kate Fisher, and Jack Wilkinson.

Smart Cities? is presented as part of City Forces, a year-long joint cultural crossover program between Storefront for Art and Architecture and Het Nieuwe Instituut, with the Netherlands Consulate General in New York. This event is presented as part of Control Syntax Rio, an exhibition on view at Storefront for Art and Architecture through May 20th, 2017. Special exhibition support for Control Syntax Rio is generously provided by Samsung and FoyerLive.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information please visit storefrontnews.org

Support
Storefront's programming is made possible through general support from Arup; DS+R; F.J. Sciame Construction Co., Inc.; Gaggenau; Knippers Helbig; KPF; MADWORKSHOP; ODA; Rockwell Group; Roger Ferris + Partners; Tishman Speyer; the Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Greenwich Collection Ltd.; the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; The Peter T. Joseph Foundation; and by Storefront's Board of Directors, members, and individual donors.

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THE NEW SCHOOL

SCHEDULE

12:00PM

INTRODUCTION
Welcome & Introduction by Eva Franch and Shannon Mattern

12:00PM – 2:00PM

PANEL 1 : IMPOSSIBLE OBJECTS (NEW TERMS/NEW CONSTITUENCIES)

Moderated by Shannon Mattern
With Jürgen Hermann Mayer, Lydia Matthews, Jorge Otero-Pailos, Vyjayanthi Rao, David Smiley, and Luke Swarthout

The city, despite its multiple formal and political structures, is a constantly changing body. What are the historical forms of knowing and sensing the city? What are its yet-to-be-identified intelligences and values? What new terminology do we need to build on those grounds? Each panelist will present a new term (a neologism, appropriation, portmanteau…) that defines and describes important means of knowing and sensing a specific city.

2:00PM – 4:00PM

PANEL 2 : POLITICAL OBJECTS (NEW VALUES/INDEXES)

Moderated by Marina Otero
With Dorit Avganim, Dawn Barber, Matthijs Bouw, Ingrid Burrington, Farzin Lotfi-Jam / Mark Wasiuta, and Jim Venturi

Rapidly changing geographies of urban settlement, growth, and struggle in early 21st-century capitalism are transforming basic understandings of the city. What intelligences enable us to navigate across the disparate political spheres that define the city? Who owns, acquires, sells, shares urban intelligence? How might we form new alliances to reorient or subvert measurement and surveillance systems so they can aid in the creation of a more equitable metropolis? Each panelist will present a new index that provides a new indicator about the value of cities.

4:00PM – 5:30PM

PANEL 3 : OBJECTS OF MEASUREMENT (NEW TOOLS/NEW TYPOLOGIES)

Moderated by Eva Franch
With Paolo Cirio, Ariane Lourie Harrison, Agnieszka Kurant, and Jeff Maki

To measure, to quantify the physical and intangible dimensions of a place, is to articulate facts in order to construct values. What can be measured can be capitalized, historicized, distributed, or sold. By creating new standards and guidelines for measurement we have the potential to affect new epistemologies and ideologies, to make new claims about "what counts." How might we design new measuring tools that change how and what we measure—how we assign value—in our cities." ? Each panelist will present a new tool that expands our understanding of the city.

5:30PM – 6:00PM

CLOSING REMARKS

With Eva Franch and Shannon Mattern

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BIOGRAPHIES

PANEL 1

JÜRGEN HERMAN MAYER Founded in 1996 in Berlin, Germany, J. MAYER H' studio focuses on works at the intersection of architecture, communication and new technology. Projects include Metropol Parasol, the redevelopment of the Plaza de la Encarnacion in Sevilla , Spain, multiple infrastructural projects in Georgia and XXX TIMESSQUARE WITH LOVE. From urban planning schemes and buildings to installation work and objects with new materials, the relationship between the human body, technology and nature form the background for a new production of space. Jürgen Mayer H. is the founder and principal of this crossdisciplinary studio J. MAYER H. und Partner, Berlin. He studied at Stuttgart University, The Cooper Union and Princeton University. His work has been published and exhibited worldwide and is part of numerous collections including MoMA New York and SF MoMA. He has taught at Princeton University, University of the Arts Berlin, Harvard University, Kunsthochschule Berlin, the Architectural Association in London, Columbia University, New York and University of Toronto, Canada.

LYDIA MATTHEWS is Professor of Visual Culture in Parsons Fine Arts program and founding Director of the Curatorial Design Research Lab. Her work explores how contemporary artists, artisans and designers foster critical democratic debates and intimate community interactions in the public sphere, often in response to a variety of urgent global and local conditions in their daily lives. Commissioned by Open Society Foundation, CEC Artslink, Fulbright, LMCC, Emre Senan Foundation and the US Embassy, she has lectured and curated numerous exhibitions, community-based urban festivals, and multidisciplinary pedagogical exchanges in the Post-Soviet region, Turkey, Greece and New York.

JORGE OTERO-PAILOS works at the intersection of art, architecture and preservation. He is Director and Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture in New York. His work has been commissioned and exhibited by major museums, foundations and biennials notably, the Artangel Trust, the 53rd Venice Art Biennial, Victoria and Albert Museum, Louis Vuitton Museum La Galerie, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. He is the founder and editor of the journal Future Anterior, co-editor of Experimental Preservation (2016), author of *Architecture's Historical Turn* (2010) and contributor to scholarly journals and books including the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics* and Rem Koolhaas' *Preservation Is Overtaking Us* (2014). Otero-Pailos studied architecture at Cornell University and holds a PhD from MIT, and was a founding faculty member of the School of Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico.

VYJAYANTHI RAO Venuturupalli is a cultural anthropologist and writer on matters urban and global. Currently she works as the Director of Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research in New York. Her work focuses on cities after globalization, specifically on intersections of urban planning, design, art, violence, and speculation.

DAVID SMILEY is a researcher trained in architecture and architectural history whose research and teaching focus on the intersections of architectural and urban theory, design and modernization. His book, *Pedestrian Modern: Architecture and Shopping*, 1925-1956 (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), is a study of the ways architects interpreted shopping centers as Modernist architectural and urban projects rather than, or alongside, their role as sites of consumption.From 1999 until 2004, Smiley was research director of Design+Urbanism, an urban design firm that completed studies and plans for neighborhoods internationally as well as for New York City and the greater metropolitan area.

LUKE SWARTHOUT is Director of Adult Education Services at the New York Public Library where he works with technology training, broadband access and adoption and literacy initiatives. Prior to joining NYPL, Mr. Swarthout worked as Senior Education Adviser to Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Tom Harkin handling issues of higher education access, college affordability, student loan debt, and school quality. He served as Higher Education Advocate for U.S. PIRG lobbying in Washington, DC on behalf of college students for a more open and affordable higher education system. Mr. Swarthout attended New York City public schools.

PANEL 2

DORIT AVGANIM is a PhD student in the Milano School's Public and Urban Policy program at The New School. After working for more than a decade in live performance and TV/Film production, she began examining the social and economic conditions of art-making in America through organizations like the Brooklyn Commune, ArtsPool, and the US Department of Arts and Culture. This led to a broadened interest in urban issues. Her current research seeks to draw correlations between accelerating technology, consumer behavior, digital equity, and gentrification of storefront corridors.

DAWN BARBER is the Co-Founder of NY Tech Meetup, and is also the Apprenticeship Director for the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. She is on the board of InSITE, and is a New York City Trustee of The Awesome Foundation. Dawn lives in New York City with her husband and daughter, and received her BA from Clark University.

MATTHIJS BOUW is a Dutch architect and urbanist and founder of One Architecture, an award-winning Amsterdam and New York-based design and planning firm. He is the Rockefeller Urban Resilience Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. In New York, the office co-led the BIG Team that won the Rebuild by Design competition for the flood protection of Manhattan, and is currently part of the multi-disciplinary teams planning and executing the projects. In the Netherlands, One are part of the 'Hackable City' team for Buiksloterham, a large scale brownfield redevelopment in Amsterdam-Noord based on the principles of the circular economy.

INGRID BURRINGTON writes, makes maps, and tells jokes about places, politics, and the weird feelings people have about both. She lives in New York. She has an interesting blend of dedication and curiosity towards things that don't really seem that interesting at first glance, but after Burrington finishes her thorough examination and shows us the results, we start to feel a bit simple-minded and became aware of just how little we know about things that surround us. Burrington focuses on documenting and identifying elements of network infrastructure by examining its geographic contexts and material realities, with a goal of demystifying these constructs. She also seeks a way to articulate the underlying politics and power dynamics of networked systems and life within a society increasingly dependable on such systems about which most of us don't know anything.

FARZIN LOTFI-JAM is Principal of farzinfarzin, a multidisciplinary studio that designs spaces, software, and media. He is faculty in the architecture program at Columbia University and holds advanced degrees from Columbia University and RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. He is a fellow of the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart and was previously the 2013-2014 Sanders Fellow at the University of Michigan. His research has been funded by the Veski organization and the Graham Foundation, and has been collected by the Centre Pompidou in Paris. He has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, AIGA/NY Annex, the Oslo Architecture Triennale, the Venice Architecture Biennale, among others.

JIM VENTURI is the founder and principal designer of ReThink Studio and ReThinkNYC. Through his experiences in information technology, planning, and architecture, Venturi focuses on solving the infrastructural, social and economic challenges of transportation planning.This holistic approach is reflected in both his work at ReThink Studio and his past work as a network architect, bridging analytical and creative assets by building early technology networks and developing software. He founded Creative Technologies, a boutique systems integration technology firm catering to architects and designers. In 1996, the company shifted focus to designing and implementing email and network migrations for Fortune 1000 companies. Venturi's work experience in architecture and urban planning comes from working with architects in his early career and teaching architecture students CAD software at Parsons School of Design. He gained further experience more recently from the production of *Bob and Denise*, a feature film in post-production about the renowned architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown.

MARK WASIUTA is Co-Director of the MS degree program Critical, Curatorial and Conceptual Practices in Architecture at Columbia GSAPP. Over the last decade, as Director of Exhibitions at GSAPP, he has developed a body of research and archival exhibitions that focus on under-examined practices of the postwar period. Recent exhibitions, produced with various collaborators, include "Every Building in Baghdad: The Rifat Chadirji Archives at the Arab Image Foundation," "Environmental Communications: Contact High," "Information Fall-Out: Buckminster Fuller's World Game," and "Les Levine: Bio-Tech Rehearsals 1967-1973." His work has appeared at the Graham Foundation, the Istanbul Design Biennial, the Venice Architecture Biennale, Het Nieuwe Instituut, the Chicago Architecture Biennial, and elsewhere. He directs Collecting Architecture Territories, a multi-year research program that analyses global art institutions that have emerged from private collections. Wasiuta is recipient of recent grants from the Asian Cultural Council, the Graham Foundation, and NYSCA.

PANEL 3

PAOLO CIRIO engages with legal, economic and semiotic systems of the information society. His works investigates social fields impacted by the Internet, such as privacy, copyright, democracy and economy. He shows his research and intervention-based works through prints, installations, videos, and public art. Cirio's installations and artworks condense his sophisticated work in order to document and illustrate the outcomes, potentials and significance of his performances and progressive concepts.

ARIANE LOURIE HARRISON is a licensed architect, educator at Yale since 2006, and cofounder of Harrison Atelier (HAT). HAT explores the posthuman interpenetration of technology, human and animal life: built work for multiple species includes pavilions: Species Niches (2014), Species Wall (2015), and currently, The Birds and the Bees, for which prototype panels were exhibited at the Frank Institute (2016) and a pavilion planned for 2017. HAT's installations, Pharmacophore (2011) and Veal (2013), were awarded at World Stage Design 2013. Ariane edited *Architectural Theories of the Environment: Posthuman Territory* (Routledge, 2013) and contributed to *Cosmopolitical Design* (2016) and *Aesthetic Activism* (2018).

AGNIESZKA KURANT is a conceptual interdisciplinary conceptual artist whose work explores how complex social, economic and cultural systems can operate in ways that confuse distinctions between fiction and reality or nature and culture. She investigates "the economy of the invisible," in which immaterial and imaginary entities, fictions, phantoms and emergent processes influence political and economic systems. Kurant probes the speculations and exploits of capitalism by analyzing phenomena such as collective intelligence, emergence, virtual capital, immaterial and digital labor, evolution of memes, civilizations and social movements and energy circuits. She is the current visiting artist at the MIT Center for Art Science and Technology in Boston (2017). Among her exhibitions worldwide, the artist represented Poland at the Venice Biennale 12th International Architecture Exhibition (in collaboration with the architect Aleksandra Wasilkowska) with a pavilion presentation entitled Emergency Exit (2010).

JEFF MAKI is an artist-programmer in New York City and a principal collaborator with Publicworks Office. Jeff writes about the legibility of urban infrastructure and advises public and private organizations on the future of digital cities. Jeff helps organizations working at urban scale deploy technology to improve customer experience and operational outcomes. Maki's work focuses on public-private partnership, responsive digital environments, the role of the arts and culture in placemaking, and new approaches to public service delivery—particularly transportation. Past clients include MTA/New York City Transit, NASA's Ames Research Center, The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The City of New York and others.

MODERATORS

EVA FRANCH I GILABERT is an architect, curator, educator and lecturer of experimental forms of art and architectural practice. In 2004, she founded her solo practice OOAA (Office of Architectural Affairs) and since 2010 is the Chief Curator and Executive Director of Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York. Franch specializes in the making of alternative architecture histories and futures.

In 2014 Franch, with the project OfficeUS, was selected by the US State Department to represent the United States Pavilion at the XIV Venice Architecture Biennale. Franch has taught at Columbia University GSAPP, the IUAV University of Venice, SUNY Buffalo, and Rice University School of Architecture.

SHANNON MATTERN is an Associate Professor in the School of Media Studies at The New School in New York. Her writing and teaching focus on archives, libraries, and other media spaces; media infrastructures; spatial epistemologies; and mediated sensation and exhibition. Mattern is the author of *The New Downtown Library*: *Designing with Communities; Deep Mapping the Media City; and Code and Clay, Dirt and Data: 5000 Years of Urban Media*, (forthcoming November 2017), all published by University of Minnesota Press. Mattern has written dozens of journal articles and book chapters, and contributes a regular long-form column about urban data and mediated infrastructures to Places, a journal focusing on architecture, urbanism, and landscape.

Mattern regularly contributes to public design and interactive projects and exhibitions. From 2006 to 2009 Mattern directed the 600-student Graduate Program in Media Studies. Mattern currently teach courses on maps, information infrastructures, urban intelligence, and mediated cities - and was the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2011.

MARINA OTERO VERZIER is a Rotterdam-based architect. She is the Head of Research at Het Nieuwe Instituut, where she leads the conceptualization of the international fellowship program, archival investigations, and research initiatives such as 'Architecture of Appropriation,' and 'Automated Landscapes,' as well as their implementation in exhibitions, events, and publications. Previously, she was Chief Curator of the 2016 Oslo Architecture Triennale together with the After Belonging Agency, and Director of Global Network Programming at Studio-X (Columbia University, GSAPP). She was Adjunct Assistant Professor at the same institution.

Otero Verzier is recipient of grants from The Graham Foundation, The Creative Industries Fund NL, Fundación Arquia and, more recently, the Design Trust Hong Kong. She is a co-editor of *Promiscuous Encounters* (2014), *Unmanned: Architecture and Security Series* (2016), *After Belonging: The Objects, Spaces, and Territories of the Ways We Stay In Transit* (2016), and has co-curated exhibitions at the 2013 Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale and the 2014 Istanbul Design Biennial.

Otero Verzier studied architecture at TU Delft and ETSA Madrid, and as a Fulbright Scholar she graduated from the M.S. in Critical, Curatorial and Conceptual Practices in Architecture at GSAPP. She completed her PhD at ETSAM in 2016.

MAKE YOUR OWN SMART CITY
NEW WORDS/NEW INDEXES/
NEW OBJECTS OF MEASUREMENT

Throughout this symposium you have been asked to question what about the city is smart and to think about latent and new forms of intelligence. We'd like to give you the opportunity to contribute to the proposed list of New Terms, New Indexes, and New Objects of Measurement presented during the conference.

At your enjoyment, complete the card on the right. When you are done, please tear out the card and turn it in outside the conference room. The students at the Urban Epistemologies Seminar will work to give some of these objects a physical form.

STICKERS

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NEW WORDS: WHAT ABOUT THE CITY IS SMART?

What intelligences are most important to you?

NEW INDEX: WHAT CAN WE MEASURE OR EVALUATE ABOUT THESE INTELLIGENCES?

How is your proposed intelligence evaluated, assessed, or measured?
What is the unit of measurement?

NEW OBJECT OF MEASUREMENT: WHAT DOES YOUR OBJECT OF MEASUREMENT LOOK LIKE?

How might we design a measurement object to aid in this evaluation?
If drawing is not your strength, feel free to use the stickers to create your object of measurement and label the relevant functions, and properties of the object.