

CITIES AS VALUE NETWORKS

**PROGRAM FOR
SECOND ACADEMIC SESSION**

**7 DECEMBER 2012
CENTRALHUSET / FIRST HOTEL G
GOTHENBURG**



CITIES AS VALUE NETWORKS - BACKGROUND

In 1950, the urban center of Gothenburg hosted 140 000 residents. Thirty years later, the population had halved. In the 1980s, the population curve started pointing upwards again - but the urban population is still lower than it was sixty years ago. The Gothenburg experience reflects the wider fluctuations of urban populations in Europe and North America. Today's urban centers have yet to recover completely from the postwar flight from the urban centers.

These centers are however increasingly seen as attractive places to live and work. This research project endeavors to investigate the mechanisms behind the upwards-pointing population curves. Researchers and practitioners know that cities attract capital and people, but little is known about *how* processes are enacted in terms of actual practices. Therefore, the project revolves around a set of central themes:

- What features of an urban environment do residents, visitors and entrepreneurs value?
- How do they form their judgments about the value of a place or a property?
- How are urban values performed in planning, real-estate management, experience industries, and in the everyday use of spaces?

The project will study specific urban locations that are currently undergoing transformational processes, investigating the changes in living arrangements and use of space. We will also explore the values and expectations that reside among potential buyers and users of these spaces: What are the motivations behind an entrepreneur that settles in a particular property? What drives a tourist to visit a particular street? What features compels a young professional to move to a certain location? What does parkour, street art or urban farming mean in terms of performed values for urban everyday life?

An important part of the project is knowledge communication; as it is an important objective of Mistra Urban Futures to be a knowledge-hub on issues of sustainable development, we want to make "Cities as Value Networks" a place for discussions concerned with value and performativity in the conversion on cities and urban life. As the project consists of twelve people, affiliated both with academia, regional and municipal public bodies as well as public companies and NGOs, we want and need to make the knowledge produced in the project broadly accessible. This session, a follow-up to the session arranged at 56th IFHP in Gothenburg last September, is one way of doing so.

More information, please contact one of either

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PROGRAM

13.00 - 13.20 Joakim Forsemalm (Gothenburg University) & Karl Palmås (Chalmers)

Welcome! Project overview and session presentation

13.20- 14.10 Albená Yaneva (Manchester University)

“MAPPING CONTROVERCIES”

14.10-14.20 Short break

14.20 - 15.10 Gunnar Blomé (Malmö Högskola)

“ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT”

15.10 - 15.40 Coffee

15.40 - 16.30 Karin Bradley (KTH Royal institute of Technology, Stockholm)

“FROM ECO-MODERNIZING TO POLITICAL ECOLOGIZING -
changing socioenvironmental relations”

16.30 - 17.20 Emma Nilsson (Lund University Technical College, LTH)

“UBIQUITOUS SPORTING - Urban Materiality, Body Cultures and Terrain”

17.30 - 19.30 AFTER-WORK MINGLE WITH WINE AND BUFFÉ



BIOS

Gunnar Blomé is a senior lecturer at Malmö University College, faculty of culture and society. The purpose of his research is to analyze the profitability of different strategies to increase the quality of housing in socially disadvantaged large housing estates. Findings give a better understanding of possible issues and the housing company's work process to improve an area. In recent years the housing market has changed and today there are several different types of owners represented. Serious landlords who are investing additional resources in operation and maintenance are not always favoured by the system. The value of the study, from a practical perspective, is a deeper financial knowledge of problems and possibilities to stabilize these housing areas and to find sustainable work methods.

Karin Bradley is Assistant Professor in Urban and Regional Studies at KTH, Royal institute of technology, Stockholm. Her research concerns sociocultural perspectives on sustainable urban development, sustainable lifestyles, environmental justice and social movements. Her PhD dissertation was entitled "Just Environments - Politicising Sustainable Urban Development" (2009) and her postdoc project dealt with utopian thought in planning for sustainable futures, resulting in the edited book "Green Utopianism - Practices and perspectives", Routledge, forthcoming 2013.

Joakim Forsemalm is PhD in Ethnology and researcher at Gothenburg Research Institute (GRI), in the institute's *Managing Big Cities* platform. He studies urban identities as networks of everyday-life practices, planning theories, political objectives and economic rationales and was project leader for one of the pilot projects ("Multi-level governance") at Mistra Urban Futures. Forsemalm also works as consultant at Radar arkitektur & planering in Gothenburg, with public dialogues and method development as focus. Forsemalm is one of three researchers in "Cities as value networks".

Emma Nilsson is a senior lecturer at the Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, and head of the bachelor programme Architecture, Visualization and Communication. She received her PhD at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Lund University, in 2010. The thesis, "Arkitekturens kroppslighet. Staden som terräng", used the practices of skating, parkour and building to develop a theoretical framework grounded in Actor-Network-Theory in order to discuss the relationships that are produced between the materiality of architecture and a bodily appropriation of it.



Karl Palmås (Chalmers University of Technology) completed his PhD in Sociology at the London School of Economics & Political Science in 2005. While primarily researching the interrelation between innovation, entrepreneurship and social change, he has also participated in various projects on urban processes. In 2005, Palmås contributed to the parallel city analyses of the Gothenburg inner harbor area ("Dialog Södra Älvstranden"); during 2008-2010, he was a part of the urban research project "Ingrepp" at the faculty of Fine Arts, Gothenburg University. Having just finalized a three-year study of the transformation of a small fishing village in Sri Lanka, he is currently contributing to the "Cities as value networks" project, funded by Mistra Urban Futures.

Albena Yaneva (Manchester university) is a Reader in Architecture, Head of Architecture Discipline, and Co-Director of the Manchester Architecture Research Centre (MARC), University of Manchester. She is a scholar with a PhD in Sociology from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des mines de Paris (2001) with expertise in design ethnography and cognitive anthropology. She has over 15 years of experience in academia, art and design practice and has published extensively in the field of architectural studies and anthropology of art. Her main contribution to urban research includes the introduction of ethnography methods in architectural discourse. Yaneva's project *An Ethnography of Architecture* was awarded the RIBA President's Award for Outstanding University-located Research in 2010. She has worked in close collaboration with Bruno Latour on a number of projects (he most recent one is Mapping Controversies: www.mappingcontroversies.info)

