

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

URBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD CULTURES

Diversity, Participation, Spaces of Negotiation

Friday, March 11 - Saturday, March 12, 2011

Location: Theater im Bahnhof, 8020 Graz

Organized by: < rotor > association for contemporary art; Institute of Urban and Architectural History of Graz University of Technology; District Management Annenviertel

For two years the art association has been running the long-term project Annenviertel! The Art of Urban Intervention, which takes place in a neighbourhood around the Annenstraße, the central street axis between the train station and the city centre, and close to downtown. Moreover, the Annenstraße is a significant shopping street and marks the border of the Graz city districts of Gries and Lend. The area is characterized by a diversity of social and cultural neighbourhoods and has attracted new attention as an attractive business location and living and working space for about ten years. It, too, settled here in 2000 and has since then inscribed itself into the city district by means of continued artistic and communicative activities. Alongside participatory projects in the frame of the EU project "The Art of Urban Intervention", the term Annenviertel was proposed as a new name for the district to encourage identity-establishing thinking about this area beyond the borders of the district.

Now it is time to gather local and international players in the frame of a conference in order to discuss opportunities and risks, expectations and perspectives of artistic action in the public and social space of a city district. The conference "City District Cultures. Diversity, Participation, Spaces of Negotiation" will deal with up-to-date artistic forms of collaboration in a city district and ask for means, possibilities and limits of the participation of people living and/or working there and using it. Which role can /shall art play in an urban environment such as the Annenviertel? Or, which role does it want to play? Based on three site-specific themes (the Annenviertel as a whole, Volksgarten and Annenstraße) we will illustrate and negotiate international comparative examples in three conference units on a thematically connective level.

PART 1: Friday, March 11, 2 pm – 6.30 pm

The Annenviertel. Art and City District Work between Top-down and Bottom-up

Every city has its own "Annenviertel", where global phenomena (such as the transformation of the working environment, migration, the top-down call for 'upgrading' a region expressed by political and business representatives, ...) become particularly apparent in the local everyday life. Which possibilities of communication and networking do we have? To which extent have the people a determining bottom-up influence on the developments within a city district, or even possibly can take them into their own hands? Can self-governance be an issue? How can we approach and activate people from the district so that they participate in artistic projects?

Moderation: Elke Krasny (Vienna)

02:00 - 02:15 pm *Welcome and introduction*

Elke Krasny, Judith Laister, Margarethe Makovec & Anton Lederer, Simone Reis

02:15 - 02:45 pm *Lecture* **Monika Klengel (Graz)**
100 Moments and one Neighbourhood

Monika Klengel will take a look into the ensemble's collective memory and read from the fictional log book of Theater im Bahnhof, a theater group which has continuously worked in the 'hood' since it was founded in 1989. She says: "I don't mean to be provocative but I'd like to say that we avail ourselves of the neighbourhood and thus become part of it. So, according to our interpretation, we also lose the competency to improve the living conditions and social preconditions of coexistence in the neighbourhood. In fact, we are part of a process whose management we don't care about but which time and again absorbs a lot of our time and energy."

02:45 - 03:15 pm *Roundtable* with **Nana Pötsch, Manfred Kinzer, Stefan Schmitzer, Simone Reis** and **Monika Klengel**. Moderation: **Elke Krasny**
What is the significance of creative and cultural work within the neighbourhood? Who participates?

The participants of this roundtable will consider forms of participation, possibilities of participation and critically reflect the meanings and limits of participation using the concrete example of the Annenviertel. The participants Manfred Kinzer, free radio editor/producer, Radio Helsinki and the Hood Radio project, Nana Pötsch, who works in social psychiatry and is a member of the organizing team of Lendwirbel, Stefan Schmitzer, writer and inventor of "Annenpost" and Simone Reis, city district management Annenviertel, will present the methods they apply in their projects and discuss the issue of bottom-up and top-down relationships.

03:15 - 03:30 pm *Break*

03:30 - 04:00 pm *Lecture* **Alexa Färber (Berlin / Hamburg)**
Who participates – Who has *which* Time? Considerations on Mobilization in the City District

In this contribution I am going to deal with the question where participatory initiatives within heterogeneous urban neighbourhoods derive their potential. Here I am particularly interested in the significance of temporality and concepts of the subject. My assumption is that the respective qualification of time (working hours/leisure/project time) plays a central role for the feasibility of initiatives. Yet current subject fiats (and offers), such as the entrepreneurial self, and their specific economies of time are not equally available for everybody and thus entail structural exclusions.

04:00 - 04:30 pm *Lecture* **Doina Petrescu and Constantin Petcou (Paris/ Sheffield)**
Making rhizome

Our talk will focus on how architects can contribute to the initiation of users' networks that gradually take in charge abandoned or underused spaces in the city and transform them into self-managed social, economic and ecological projects. This process conducts to the creation of new types of commons and the negotiation of more democratic and more resilient forms of urban governance which involve the city dwellers.

04:30 - 05:00 pm *Break*

05:00 - 05:30 pm *Lecture* **Emil Jurčan (Pulska Grupa; Pula)**
Pula: A Flight from Post-Socialism to Post-Capitalism

Self-managed systems dissolved in the nineteen nineties but transition didn't bring any operative system in urban planning in Pula, a coastal town in Croatia. Some of the neighborhood assemblies and social centers are still active and it is this informal situation which gives them full autonomy that they never had before. Some new social compositions emerged from the transition triggered off by the use of former military areas which had been left empty after the breakdown of Yugoslavia. In this "no man's land", or rather "common land", special socio-economic experiments are being active right now with no interference from the government or municipality. The Pulska grupa observes and stimulates these experiments hoping that they can produce a system beyond capitalism.

05:30 - 06:00 pm *Lecture* **Andreas Lang (public works; London)**
Beyond the Unregulated Landscape of Hackney Wick

Hackney Wick is a small community in East London with a rich industrial and social past. Until recently it was on the outskirts but this changed in 2005 with the promised arrival of the Olympics in 2012. Hackney Wick has moved into the centre as the community closest to the Olympic Park. Within this context of transformation the Wick Curiosity Shop was established in 2008 as a small scale cultural space, informal archive and platform for current and future projects. The talk will focus on the work done by the Curiosity Shop over the last 3 years and speculate about its future role in the area as a catalyst for an ongoing bottom up process of collective production and exchange in Hackney Wick.

06:00 - 06:30 pm *Roundtable* **with Michael Zinganel, Alexa Färber, Doina Petrescu, Constantin Petcou, Emil Jurčan and Andreas Lang. Moderation: Elke Krasny**
Possibilities of Action, Participation, Interests, Stories of Participation, Perspectives of Change

Against the backdrop of the different cities and city districts featuring in the considerations and art projects it is important to be aware of the fact that – no matter where – not only the city and urban planning have a history of their own but also that the specific historical state of affairs of participation and the formation of networks relies on local traditions, politics and ideology. Today we have to critically examine participation between autonomy and legitimization and rethink the methods and objectives of participation as well as the methods and objectives of creative and cultural action time and time again on the basis of the experience gained.

PART 2: Saturday, March 12, 10 am - 1 pm

The Volksgarten. Art in Free Space: Limitation, Exclusion, In-between Spaces

The Volksgarten is the largest park in the district and as such an important space for leisure activities and relaxation. Various different groups make use of this offer; accordingly, the space is segmented. Hence, who takes up which free space in the park? Which forms of action take place there – lawfully or unlawfully? How do inclusion into and exclusion from public spaces work? How (creatively) do people deal with the restrictions in the treatment of public areas? Which (cultural) techniques are available to "simply take the space"? How can art take effect in the course of these displacement processes?

Moderation: **Margarethe Makovec & Anton Lederer (Graz)**

10:00 - 10:30 am *Lecture* **Joachim Hainzl (Graz)**
The Volksgarten on the Right Bank of the Mur River

The Volksgarten park, which was created as of 1871 virtually as the side product of Gründerzeit urbanization, is marked by its specific location. Thus the first socio-historical part of my presentation deals with placing the park within the larger context of the city's division into to a predominantly bourgeois left and a more immigrant and working-class right bank of the Mur river that reverberates to this day. What is going on in the Volksgarten today? Which sociocultural statements on its usage structure can be made? These are the questions I am going to examine in the second section.

10:30 - 11:00 am Lecture **Cornelia Ehmayer (Vienna)**
Networking the “Brave” and Encouraging the “Timid” - Which interventions urban psychology would launch so that the ‘nature of the Annenviertel’ can unfold in better ways

The intervention (Lat. *intervenire* = *to come between*) denotes the stepping in of a hitherto uninvolved party into a situation. In most cases stepping into other people’s conflicts, and with the objective of solving them, is what the term refers to. Urban psychological work is to be understood as follows: Unleashing those resources and potentials that strengthen the subject and thus a specific urban neighbourhood or even an entire city through targeted interventions. So intervention is a type of guidance by giving impetus so that “desirable” action can ensue (but needn’t necessarily ensue). This is opposed to guidance through sanctioning or punishment.

11:00 - 11:30 am Break

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Lecture **Monika Litscher (Lucerne)**
Removal from Public Spaces: Subjective Experiences with Mechanisms of Inclusion and Exclusion and Discipline Measures

People affected by removal from the Swiss cities of Berne, St. Gallen and Lucerne are the main focus of this lecture. In this context, we have to read the individual practices, experiences and perspectives as subjective answers to social constellations and locally specific structures. Moreover, I will present the opinions of people who are allowed stay in the urban public space, strategies of police officers who impose removals and individual players acting at the points of intersection between mobile social work and law enforcement agencies. Finally, I will also have a look at removal as a discipline measure in the context of present-day legal standards.

12:00 - 12:30 pm Lecture **Mariette Schiltz and Bert Theis(Milan)**
Isola or the Irresistible Desire for a Park

Since the nineteen seventies ever new citizen’s groups in the Milan district of Isola won small parks and playgrounds in their struggle against the authorities. But nothing could be implemented for the long term. The city administration spoke of “verde provvisorio”, provisional green. The last two parks for the time being fell prey to neoliberal urban development plans in 2007. They had to give way to high-rise buildings and subterranean parking lots. This happened although the parks had been upgraded and defended by the residents, artists and activists for years. Meanwhile, the movement has regrouped and is claiming, under the title of “Isola Pepe Verde”, the transformation of a fallow area into a park which is to be managed by the residents themselves.

12:30 pm - 01:00 pm Roundtable with **Rainer Rosegger, Nivaldo Vargas, Joachim Hainzl, Cornelia Ehmayer, Monika Litscher, Mariette Schiltz and Bert Theis.** Moderation: **M. Makovec and A. Lederer**
Many Interests in one Place

If you take a walk through the Volksgarten, you move through a by and large peaceful setting no matter what time of the day. Yet the park is heavily frequented. On a bright summer day one may have the impression that it is too small for all the different interests that meet there. The park’s design suggests certain usages but others are not catered for. Sometimes the unplanned appropriates space but many things remain permanently excluded. Can a park actually be designed for everybody and everything?

PART 3: Saturday, March 12, 2 pm – 6.30 pm

The Annenstraße. Transnational Economies between Art and Kebab

The Annenstraße is the most import transport and business axis in the district. Once it was a glamorous shopping mile but today it is characterized by a mix of disappearing old-established businesses and new short-lived ones, whose owners quickly change and which are often operated by migrants. How does collaboration between these heterogeneous business sectors work? Can the specialization, which is already visible – i.e. the concentration of smaller more specialized trade professionals – make sense for the area? What is the position of art and the creative economy within these transforming economies?

Moderation: **Judith Laister (Graz)**

02:00 - 02:30 pm Lecture **Monika Stromberger and Ulrich Tragatschnig (Graz):**
Hot Potato Annenstraße

The Annenstraße is marked by her glorious past and many hopes for a glorious future. This presentation focuses on a multidimensional approach to this multifaceted street: a teaching project, the results of a research project concerning the past, collaborations concerning political and economic issues as well as the perception of the street. For several months, the team was part of the “dynamics of the Annenstraße”.

02:30 - 03:00 pm Roundtable with **Daniel Erlacher, Angela Pilch-Ortega Hernández, Renate Meschuh, Ali Özbas, Monika Stromberger and Ulrich Tragatschnig.** Moderation: **Judith Laister**
Possibility Space Annenstraße: Potential, Identities, Desires

Many things are associated to the Annenstraße: past splendour, urbanist visions, film history, cultural diversity, migrant micro-economies and creative potential; but also traffic noise, commercial premises with quickly changing tenants, customers staying away and social tensions. How does the interaction of the different forces on site work? What is the position of artists and cultural workers within the transforming economies of the Annenstraße? And not least: What do the roundtable participants wish for the future of the street?

03:00 - 03:30 pm Break

03:30 - 04:00 pm Lecture Sabine Hess (Munich)
On Urban Governance of Migration: Between Ghetto, Parallel Society and New Pioneers of Space

When we negotiate phenomena of migration two at first sight dichotomous approaches prevail: a catastrophist view that regards society as divided into "ghettos" and "parallel societies", and an economic and positive view that emphasizes the economic potentials and the creativity of the immigrants. Starting off from our explorative exhibition project "Crossing Munich. Orte, Bilder und Debatten der Migration" I am, on the one hand, going to trace how attempts have been made to govern migration in the urban context by means of these discourses. On the other, I am going to show how the social, cultural and economic life projects of migration evade these space-related concepts.

04:00 - 04:30 pm Lecture Jeanne van Heeswijk (Rotterdam)
Freehouse, Radicalize Local Production

Freehouse want to create space, both literally and metaphorically, for encounters between local entrepreneurs, young people, local residents, artists and designers to exchange skills, knowledge, experience and ideas. Through linking of economic and cultural capital in a form of co-production it reinforces the economic position of the parties involved and makes visible the cultural process of devising and implementing new products.

04:30 - 05:00 pm Break

05:00 - 05:30 pm Lecture Seçil Yersel (Istanbul) and Nadin Reschke (Berlin)
Tongue and some Possibilities

The TONGUE project by Oda Projesi (Istanbul) and Nadin Reschke (Berlin) took place in a shop called "TONGUE Laden" in Dresdner Straße in Berlin between Nov 11 and Nov 29, 2009. TONGUE can be called simply a project about language. In this talk Nadin and Oda will try to open up the potentials and possibilities of "language" through the project experience and try to see these reflections and instant relations on a possible meeting point.

05:30 - 06:00 pm Lecture Margit Czenki and Christoph Schäfer (Hamburg)
Unrest in the City Factory

With the end of the Industrial Age cities are gaining again increasing importance as sites of production. Not long ago, resistance appeared to find no hold on the slippery terrain of Post-Fordism anymore. But suddenly space-related social confrontations are flaring up again and networks are beginning to form. Are the outlines of a new social movement appearing? Margit Czenki and Christoph Schäfer will talk about the role of art and new practices of the Right to the City Movement in Hamburg and claim: This is the beginning of a new movement; this is the beginning of the end of the neoliberal city model.

06:00 - 06:30 pm Roundtable with Simone Hain, Sabine Hess, Jeanne van Heeswijk, Nadin Reschke, Seçil Yersel, Margit Czenki and Christoph Schäfer. Moderation: Judith Laister
Conflict Space City - "Art alone won't be enough"

On the basis of case studies of artistic interventions into the urban space of Munich, Rotterdam, Berlin and Hamburg the following questions will be addressed: What can artists and creative people in general contribute in the context of urban development? Which conflicts arise if we call loud for a "right to the city"; if (social, economic, cultural) capital is – at least symbolically – redistributed; or if slogans such as "City is migration" are conspicuously fed into the public discourse? And not least: Which position within the conflict space of the city do the creative and scientific players themselves adopt?

Biographies of the participants

Margit Czenki is a filmmaker and artist living in Hamburg. Her feature film debut, *Komplizinnen* (1987), was shown worldwide. She participated in the documenta 11 with *Park Fiction*. In 2003 she sub-curated the congress "Unlikely Encounters in Urban Space" in Hamburg. She participated in exhibitions organized by the Kunsthaus Dresden several times. In 2007 she analyzed the neoliberal urban development policy pursued by the City of Hamburg with work "Videotaxi", a mix of audiovisual tour and essayistic film which she created in collaboration with Christoph Schäfer. In the frame of "Es regnet Kaviar", the Hamburg activist network against gentrification, she produced her so called Devaluation Kit and is involved in the current fights for a right to the city. www.margitczenki.net

Cornelia Ehmayer was born in 1963. She lives in Vienna and works in the field of Urban Psychology, Ecological Psychology and Community Psychology. She is a Health Psychologist, Management Consultant, Lector (temporarily) at the University of Vienna and the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences and founder of the company "Stadtpsychologische Praxis Ehmayer". Most relevant projects of the last years: Management Position at "Die Umweltberatung"; Project Management for "Local Agenda 21 in Vienna (Alsergrund and Margareten)" and "Austrian Landscape Research (KLF) and Agenda 21"; Urban Psychological Research „Wohlfühloase Donaukanal“ – A Study about the relationship between Vienna and its inhabitants; Masterplan Donaukanal: Scientific expertise and Consulting for the „Masterplan Donaukanal“, Client: MA28 – Koordinationsstelle Donaukanal.

Daniel Erlacher was born in Graz in 1976 and has been a cultural manager and music producer since 1993. In 1996 he founded "Widerstand Records", a Graz-based record label for experimental electronic music. He conceived and programmed the online community g24.at (2002), the discourse and music event series, *Exit Space* (2003-2005), and the monthly documentary film series *agit.DOC* at Forum Stadtpark, Graz (since 2006). He is one of the founders of the Elevate Festival, which he has organized since 2005 and is particularly interested in the interfaces between technology, media and critical discourse. www.elevate.at / www.g24.at / www.agit-doc.org

Alexa Färber has been lecturer for Urban Anthropology /Ethnography in the frame of the study course "Culture of the Metropolis" at the HafenCity University Hamburg since 2010. Before she joined the HCU in October 2010, she had been Junior Professor for European Ethnology at the Humboldt University, Berlin focusing her research on urban ethnology, ethnic representation and anthropology of knowledge. Currently, she is working on a concept of the "tangibility of the city" and "low cost urbanism". She is member of the editorial board of several cultural studies journals.

Simone Hain was born in 1956. She is an architectural and planning historian, writer, curator and university professor. Since 2006 she has been Head of the Institute of Urban and Architectural History of Graz University of Technology / Faculty of Architecture. In her research she explores issues of classic modernity, the development of socialist architecture and urban planning, monument preservation and questions pertaining to cultural landscapes. Moreover, she initiated and accompanied various interventions in contexts of shrinkage. Simone Hain is member of the advisory board of "Kunst im öffentlichen Raum" (art in public space) of the City of Graz.

Joachim Hainzl, was born in 1968 and studied in Graz and Innsbruck. Already in his diploma thesis of 1992 he was dealing with the social history or topology of the garbage of Graz. Since then he has carried out various research, documentation and mediation projects in his work with adolescents and adults dealing with marginalized social groups in Graz (e.g. beggars, Jewish history, and migrants). In recent years he has been working in crossover areas (such as garbology, antiracism, art in public space, exhibitions ...) He is chairman of XENOS, an association promoting sociocultural diversity, and long-time staff member of CLIO.

Jeanne van Heeswijk is a visual artist who creates contexts for interaction in public spaces. Her projects distinguish themselves through a strong social involvement. With her work Van Heeswijk stimulates and develops cultural production and creates new public (meeting-)spaces or remodels existing ones. Recent project is Freehouse, a cultural model for radicalizing local production (Afrikaanderwijk, Rotterdam 2008-present). Van Heeswijk's work has been featured in internationally renowned biennials such as those of Busan, Taipei, Shanghai and Venice. She regularly lectures on topics such as urban renewal, participation and cultural production.

Sabine Hess was born in 1969. She is a cultural anthropologist and migration researcher. In her research, teaching and publications she focuses on processes of globalization and transnationalization, the European border and migration regime as well as migration and the city.

Emil Jurčan (*1981, Pula, Croatia) received a degree in architecture from the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana in 2007. He took part in the work of "Temp collective", which in 2005 and 2006 undertook several reclamation actions of abandoned spaces in Ljubljana. Since 2006 he has been a member of "Pulska grupa" and since 2009 a member of Civil Initiative for Muzil. These initiatives are dealing with organizing architectural workshops, conferences, publications, exhibitions and protests regarding the situation of abandoned military sites in Pula. With the Pula Group he took part in the Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and Mediterranean in Bari in 2008 and in the Tirana International Contemporary Art Biennale in 2009.

Manfred Kinzer was born in Graz in 1972. He is a radio activist, a geographer and a salesperson. He is a member of the board of Radio Helsinki. In the programs he makes for this Graz-based community radio he deals, among other issues, with social movements, bottom-up urban development, community media and forms of contemporary popular culture. In 2009/2010 he coordinated the city district magazine "Stimmen aus dem Annenviertel" (Voices from the Annenviertel).

Monika Klengel was born in Graz in 1966. She lives and works there. She is a trained actress and has worked for Theater im Bahnhof as an actress and director since the mid-nineteen nineties. She has also been managing director of the TiB for ten years. Recent directing work: DER PERFEKTE TAG (2010), TEMPEL DER VERNUNFT (2009, in collaboration with Ed Hauswirth & Helmut Köpping); as an actress she recently featured in VERSCHWINDEN (2010) and TOD EINES BANKOMATKARTENBESITZERS (in Brussels, Göteborg, Graz, Vienna and Düsseldorf). What she is mainly, interested in in theatre is the individual in the face of sociopolitical event, or so. She never left Graz and will probably stay here.

Elke Krasny, cultural theorist, urban researcher, curator and author; Senior Lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She has lectured in Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland. Her work on architecture, urban space, engaged art practices, cultural identity and gender is based on curatorial research resulting in exhibitions, walks or publications. Recent Curatorial Work: Penser Tout Haut. Faire l'Architecture, Centre de Design de l'UQAM Montréal 2010, Dalhousie University Halifax 2011 ; 2 or 3 Things we've learned. Intersections of Art, Pedagogy and Protest, together with Eva Egermann, Vienna 2010 ; Annenviertel! The Art of Urban Intervention, together with Anton Lederer and Margarethe Makovec, rotor association for contemporary art Graz 2009 – 2011

Judith Laister was born in Linz in 1972. She is a cultural anthropologist and art historian. As an assistant lecturer at the Institute of Urban and Architectural History of Graz University of Technology she does research work and teaching focusing on urban anthropology and visual anthropology. In her habilitation project, "Übersetzungskunst" (The Art of Translation), she is dealing with artistic and architectural strategies of participatory urban development from an ethnographic perspective.

Monika Litscher was born in 1974. She is an ethnologist, urban researcher and filmmaker. Working at the Excellence Center for Regional and Urban Development at the Department of Social Work of Lucerne University of Applied Arts and Sciences she deals with the present-day challenges in cities and public spaces in her application-oriented research and teaching. Her dissertation project "Urban Scenarios", a city space research in words and pictures, is situated at the interface between empirical cultural studies, urban ethnology and architecture and focuses on two specific public spaces.

Margarethe Makovec was born in Vienna in 1971 and **Anton Lederer** was born in Graz in 1970. In 1994 they started to present contemporary art to the public at their own home. Five years later they founded < rotor > association for contemporary art (www.rotor.mur.at) in Graz. Their programme concentrates on socially and politically relevant art production and they have developed a focus on cooperations with the art scenes of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The public space plays an important role in their considerations as it offers the opportunity to reach people who usually do not enter the closed art space.

Renate Meschuh was born in Graz in 1954 and is an educator. Since 2003 she has been active in the network "DER ANNENHOF, Annenstraße 29, with the film production company Art-Media – Andreas Meschuh. The documentary films focus on social issues and art: Brasiliens Götter in Graz (Brazil's Gods in Graz), Menschenfarben (The Colours of Human Beings), portraits of artists with learning difficulties etc.

Oda Projesi is an artist collective, composed of Özge Açıkkol, Seçil Yersel and Güneş Savaş and has been working together since 2000, based in İstanbul. Till 2005, Oda Projesi had worked in a neighbourhood called Şahkulu in Galata, in a 45m² flat. The group started to work on how the place can "become a space" other than the defined art places in İstanbul. Since 2000, Oda Projesi has been trying with alternative ways of using and producing space, by either creating "the collective game". The group is using mobile spaces; book; radio programme; Annex newspapers; neighbour houses...

Ali Özbas was born in Malatya, Turkey, in 1979. In 1992 he came to Graz, Austria. He completed commercial training and, beside his day job, he studied to become a certified social and vocational educator. He has been working in the social sector since 2000 focusing on open youth work. He has worked as a freelance journalist for Turkish newspapers for many years and also works for the local free radio station, Radio Helsinki. He is the editor of the German-Turkish newspaper Yeni Hayat and a founding member of JUKUS (an association to promote youth, culture and sports), which was launched in 2002. Since 2007 he has managed the youth center ECHO.

Constantin Petcou is an architect, activist and semiologist. He has published in various journals of philosophy (Multitudes, Rue Descartes), architectural magazines and books. He has led a number of research projects and initiated the European Platform for Alternative Practice and Research on the City (www.peprav.net) and the network Rhyzom (www.rhyzom.net). Since 1996, he has held teaching positions at the University Paris 8, and in different schools of architecture. He is currently completing a PhD on micro-political practices at EHESS. He is co-editor of Urban/ACT: A Manual for Alternative Practice (aaa-PEPRAV, 2007) and Trans-local-ACT: Cultural Practices Within and Across (aaa-PEPRAV, 2010).

Doina Petrescu is an architect and activist, and professor of architecture and design activism at the University of Sheffield. She has written, lectured and practiced individually and collectively on issues of gender, technology, (geo-)politics and poetics of space. She is the editor of *Altering Practices: Feminist Politics and Poetics of Space* (Routledge 2007) and co-editor of *Architecture and Participation* (Spoon Press, 2005) and *Urban/ACT(2007)*, *Agency: Working with Uncertain Architectures* (Routledge, 2009) *Trans-local-ACT* (2010).

Constantin Petcou and Doina Petrescu founded the atelier d'architecture autogérée (www.urbantactics.org) in 2001, a collective platform based in Paris which conducts actions and research on urban mutations and emerging practices in the contemporary city, involving architects, artists, students, researchers, activists and residents with different social and cultural backgrounds.

Angela Pilch Ortega Hernández teaches and does research as a research assistant at the Department of Educational Science of the University of Graz. Her main areas of research are biography-oriented learning environment and education research, intercultural comparative learning environment research, migration and qualitative-interpretative social research.

Nana Pötsch was born in Vienna in 1982. She studied Social Work / Social Management and lives and works in Graz. In recent years she has been dealing with people and their (urban) living environments in artistic and sociocultural (co-)productions too. She is interested in spaces of social encounter, action and playing as well as other free spaces. In 2010 she was a coordinator of the sociocultural street and city district festival "Lendwirbel" for the first time.

Public works is a London based art and architecture practice working within and towards public space. All public works projects address the question how the public realm is shaped by its various users and how existing dynamics can inform further proposals. Our focus is the production and extension of a particular public space through participation and collaborations. Projects span across different scales and address the relation between the informal and formal aspects of a site. Public works produces social, architectural and discursive spaces. Outputs include socio-spatial and physical structures, public events and publications.

Simone Reis was born in 1980 in Graz. After studying Sociology on the University of Graz she worked in public relations for a private association. In the year 2005 she became the office manager of a City Council in Graz. Since October 2009 she is working in the field of urban development and community work - in special in the district „Annenviertel“.

Nadin Reschke was born 1975 in East Germany. She studied Fine Arts at the University of Wales and at the Academy of Fine Arts Dresden and completed the „Goldrausch“ Postgraduate-program in 2008. She lives and works in Berlin. Her projects are based on one common principle: They refer to social questions and use participatory strategies to involve people outside of the artcontext. She collaborates and co-operates with a lot of groups in these projects to trigger communication and offer a framework or platform for social action and initiate activities that underline public place into question.

Rainer Rosegger was born in Bruck/Mur, Austria, in 1975. He has been working as an architectural and urban sociologist doing research, intervening into public space and conceiving and implementing projects. Since 2004 he has had teaching assignments at universities on a regular basis and has been a guest lecturer in Austria and abroad. Since 2006 he has been dealing, among other things, with the issue of "urban knowledge arenas" as an expert of the European Science Foundation. Since 2008 he has been an active member of the "Lendwirbel" network. Recently, Rainer Rosegger has been doing research on the effects of the demographic and sociocultural transformation on cities and on strategies of appropriating public spaces used by networked groups of actors.

Christoph Schäfer is an artist living in Hamburg. Since the early nineteen nineties he has been dealing with urban everyday life and producing spaces of collective desires. Important projects: The filmic installation "Revolution Non Stop" (2000) in downtown Hamburg; participation in "Park Fiction"; the installation „Melrose Place_d in Bangalore“; „Hoang's Bistro“ (2005) in Leipzig; „Abbellimento Strategico“ (2009) for the Isola Art Center, Milano; „Auslaufendes Rot (2010); participation in „Es regnet Kaviar“. In 2010 his first book was published by Spector Verlag, *Die Stadt ist unsere Fabrik*. He teaches at the Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen and at the Salzburg Summer Academy. www.saloon-la-realidad.com

Mariette Schiltz is a video artist and activist. She was born in Luxembourg in 1955 and has lived in Milan, Italy, since 1992. She has been in the Isola district since 1997. Since 2001 she has coordinated and documented art and neighbourhood projects for the Isola Art Center. Moreover, she has created several videos about the Isola Art project.

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Monika Stromberger, born in Graz in 1969, is historian at the Karl-Franzens-University, and lecturer at the Technical University of Graz. Main field of interests are: Urban Studies, Modernity, Memory Politics, Slovenia, Graz, Ljubljana, and the history of ABGB. Relevant publications: „Stadt und Trauma/City and Trauma. Annäherungen – Konzepte – Analysen“ (2004), ed. with Bettina Fraisl; „Die Welt im 20. Jahrhundert. Seit 1945 (Globalgeschichte Die Welt 1000-2000)“ (2010), ed. with Helmut Konrad; „Die Annenstraße als Spiegelbild der Grazer Stadtgeschichte. Vom Bau der Geometer Straße bis zur Zukunft als Boulevard“, in: „Historisches Jahrbuch der Stadt Graz“ (2010), S. 341-364, with Ulrich Tragatschnig.

Bert Theis is an artist, curator and activist. He lives and works in Milan. The public space is his privileged action area. He has participated in numerous international exhibitions such as the Biennales of Venice, Istanbul, Taiwan, Tirana, Gwangju and Busan in Korea as well as Manifesta 2 and Skulptur.Projekte in Münster, Germany, in 1997. For the past ten years he has coordinated the long-term projects Isola Art Center and out-Office for Urban Transformation in the context of the conflict between the residents of the Milan neighborhood of Isola and the Milan municipality and an American real estate company.

Ulrich Tragatschnig was born in Klagenfurt, Austria, in 1972. He studied History of Art at the University of Graz, was a research assistant in the special field of research "Modernity" and is currently working as an assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture of Graz University of Technology and art and architecture critic for the newspapers/journals *Falter* and *Architektur*.

Ramón Nibaldo Vargas Arias was born in Chile in 1962 and has lived in exile since 1974. In 1991 he graduated at the Sozialakademie Salzburg as a certified social worker. In 2008 he obtained a master's degree in Social Management at FH Joanneum– University of applied Sciences, Graz. He has been active in drug-related work for 17 years and since October 2010 he has been working for the unit "mobile sozialarbeit" (mobile social work) of the social services department of the municipality of Graz. Thematic focus: addiction, migration, health and health promotion.

Michael Zinganel studied Architecture at Graz University of Technology, Fine Arts at the Jan van Eyck Akademie Maastrich and obtained a doctoral degree in History from the University of Vienna. From 1996 to 2003 he was curator for visual arts at Forum Stadtpark Graz and in 2003 Research Fellow at the IFK – International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna. From 2001 to 2010 he was assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture of Graz University of Technology and had teaching assignments and visiting professorships at different universities. He lives and works as a cultural scientist, architecture theorist, visual artist and curator in Vienna.