University of Waterloo
School of Architecture
ARCH 684-001
LEC 0.50CR
Prof. Lola Sheppard

States of Imbalance

Mondays: 6:30pm-9:30pm, room 2026
Office hours: 12:30-1:30pm Thursday (by appointment)

The seminar is open to undergraduates in 3A or above, and graduate students.

INTRODUCTION

Sanford Kwinter, in his opening pages of his collected essays 'Far from Equilibrium' writes:

> "The phrase *far from equilibrium* is borrowed from the field of thermodynamics where, especially in the last four decades, it has come to refer to the special states of a system in which it is most likely to produce radical, productive, and unforeseeable behaviors. When close to equilibrium, the disturbances, anomalies, and events passing through a system are easily absorbed and damped out, but as a system is moved further from its rest places, it becomes increasingly ordered and differentiated. The more ordered and differentiated, however, the more unstable and expensive (in terms of energy required to sustain it) the system becomes. Instability, it turns out, is the precondition of creativity."

As environmental issues come to the fore, as economic collapses spread, as nations shift political alliances, and populations migrate, the notion of imbalance is perhaps our contemporary state of normalcy. Building off Kwinter's position, the seminar seeks to position, through a series of readings, a productive understanding of states of imbalance.

We are conditioned, as designers of the built environment, towards the organization of people, programs, movement, landscapes. Indeed the history of modern zoning and building codes in North America has been predicated on an anti-entropic notion of programmatic and social order. But are there scenarios in which states of imbalance or decline are productive? How much and how little do we, as designers, intervene within an environmental or urban system? And with what tools and strategies? How might we see them as opportunities for invention rather than pursue the impulse to redress their situation to a condition of normalcy? What new landscapes, new networks, and new urban models might emerge in the wake of these destabilized economic, social and environmental conditions?

Through the seminar we will engage writers from various disciplines who have examined the idea of political, social, economic, environmental and cultural imbalance and its spatial impacts on our cities and landscapes. The seminar will challenge the role and agency of architecture and design, given this context of instability. The intention of the seminar is to help students develop verbal, graphic, written skills in analysis and criticism.

COURSE STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

The seminar is organized around weekly readings, students presentations and a term research project. The seminar will provide the forum to students, for grounding their research within a broader theoretical discourse, developing a bibliography and the initial written argument for their thesis.

Discussions:
Students are expected to have read the weekly texts at least once and come to class with notes, questions and provocations, prepared to engage in critical discussion. Participation will be evaluated on the basis of quality of observations and discussion contributions. Attendance will be taken each week and more than one unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the participation component.**

In addition to weekly participation in discussions, students will be asked to lead one of the weekly discussions; and act as a respondent in a second class.

Class Presentations:
Both midway through the term, and at the end, students will be asked to present their research projects, which should take an urban, rural or ecological condition/phenomenon as a case study. The case study should be use to provoke questions back to the readings done throughout the term. A hand-out describing the mid-term and final requirements of the research paper will be handed in the first few weeks of term. **

Research Project:
For the final project, students will be asked to develop a research project – through visual representation and a text of approx. 7500 words. Students will be asked, through the lens of the case study, to position the role and agency of architecture, urbanism or landscape within a context charged with political, social, economic or cultural instability. These projects will be presented to the class at the mid-point of the term, and then as part of a final presentations during the last weeks of term. **

Final submissions must be uploaded to the course folder, in pdf format – date to be confirmed.

** Submission requirements are for students enrolled in the seminar independently of the M1 'States of Imbalance'.

COURSE EVALUATION

5.1 Class participation in weekly discussions	15%
5.2 Presentation to Weekly Reading	15%
5.3 Response to Weekly Reading	10%
5.4 Preliminary presentation of Final Project - including abstract, description of research intentions and methodology, bibliography and preliminary images	15%
5.5 Final Presentation and Project Submission	45%

Late submissions will be deducted 5% for each day submitted after the deadline.
Readings will be posted in the library and course folder at least two weeks prior to the class. As much as possible, relevant books will be put on course reserve in the library as well.

NOTE: Paper length and nature will differ for undergraduates and graduate students.

Undergrads will be expected to submit a 2000 word paper with visual documentation (maps, diagrams, illustrations of THEIR authorship).

Grad students will be expected to submit a 4000 word paper with visual documentation (maps, diagrams, illustrations of THEIR authorship).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Grievance:
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline:
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ to avoid committing an academic offense, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean.For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals:
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for or an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

Notes for Students with Disabilities:
The office of Person with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Penalty:
No extensions will be given on presentations scheduled in class, and students who fail to present will be given a grade of 0%. Students who hand in their paper late will be penalized. There will be a -5% penalty for papers handed in after the deadline. An additional 5% a day will be deducted for each calendar day after the deadline. Papers handed in after December 17 will be given a grade of 0%.

SEMINAR STRUCTURE / READINGS   **DRAFT**   *Note: readings subject to change*

W1:: The Agency of Intervention

Course Description and Introduction

Kwinter, Sanford. 'Introduction: de l"audace', <u>Far from Equilibrium: Essays on Technology and Design Culture</u>. Actar: Barcelona, p.16-19.

Wigley, Mark. "Towards Turbulence", <u>Agitation! See what Architecture is Shaking</u>. Volume #4, 2006. p.6-9.

W2:: NO CLASS

W3:: Destabilized States

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri, "Biopolitical Production", <u>Empire</u>. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press: 2000.
p. xi-xvii, 22-41.

Easterling, Keller. "Introduction", <u>Enduring Innocence: Global Architecture and Its Political Masquerades</u>. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press, 2005. p.1-14.

Beck, Ulrich, "Risk Society's 'Cosmopolitan Moment', <u>After Zero, New Geographies</u>. 2009. p. 24-34.

W4:: Economic Flows & Concentrations

Castells, Manuel. "The Space of Flows", <u>The Rise of the Network Society</u>. London: Blackwell, 1996. p.407-440

Sassen, Saskia. "Introduction: Whose City is It? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims", <u>Globalization and Its Discontents</u>. New York: the New Press, 1998. p.xviiii-xxxiv

<u>Additional Readings:</u>

Castells, Manuel. "Technopoles", <u>Technopoles of the World: The Making of the 21st Century industrial Complexes</u>. London: Routledge, 1994. p.1-10

W 5:: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

W 6:: Occupying the Margins

Eyal Weizman, "Lethal Theory," online at Weizman_lethal theory.pdf.

Solnit, Rebecca, "Thirty Nine Steps Across the Border and Back", <u>Storming the Gates of Paradise: Landscapes for Politics</u>. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007. P.75-96.

Zizek, Slavoj, "Some Politically Incorrect Reflections on Urban Violence in Paris and New Orleans and Related Matters", Urban Politics Now. ed., BAVO Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2007. p

Sassen, Saskia. "The De Facto Transnationalizing of Immigration Policy", Globalization and Its Discontents. New York: the New Press, 1998. p.5-26.

Additional Readings:

Blackwell, Adrian, "Casting Nets: On the Co-Constitutive Dispersion of Governance, Production and urbanization in Contemporary China", "Contested Spaces", Networked Cultures: Parallel Architectures and the Politics of Space, Rotterdam: NAI publishers, 2008. p.100-109.

Grosz, Elizabeth "Architecture of Excess", Architecture from the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002. P.151-166.

W7: Weak Urbanism

Auge, Marc. "From Places to Non-Places", Non-Places: An Introduction to Supermodernity. London: Verso, 2002. p. 61-93.

Berger, Alan, "Discourses for Landscape and Urbanization", Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006. P. 26-45, p.236-241.

Branzi, Andrea. Weak and Diffuse Modernity: The World of Projects at the beginning of the 21st Century. Skira: 1996.

Koolhaas, Rem."What Ever Happened to Urbanism?" (1994), in S,M,L,XL, OMA, (with Bruce Mau), The Monicelli Press, New York, 1995, pp. 959-971.

Lerup, Lars, "Stim and Dross: Rethinking the Metropolis", After the City. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press, 2000. p.47-63.

Lootsma, Bart, "The New Landscape", Mutations. Barcelona: Actar, Arc en Reve, 2001. p. 460-470.

W8:: Student Presentations

W9:: Segrated Urbanities

Davis, Mike. "Fortress LA", City of Quartz. New York: Verso, 1990. p.223-261

de Cauter, Lieven, "The City in the Age of Transcendental Capitalism ", The Capsular Civilization. Rotterdam: NAI publishers, 2004. p.41-74.

Mortenbock, P. and H. Mooshammer, "Contested Spaces", Networked Cultures: Parallel Architectures and the Politics of Space, Rotterdam: NAI publishers, 2008. p.74-87.

Sorkin, Michael " See you in Disney Land", Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space. ed. Michael Sorkin, New York: Noonday Press, 1992. p.205-232.

W10: Urbanisms of Excess

Bouman, Ole. "Truth or Suburbia", <u>Crisis What Crisis: Suburbia after the Crash</u>. Volume, Archis #3, 2006. P.12-15.

De'Hooghe, Alexander, "A Theory of the New Monumentality: From Crisis to Project." <u>Crisis What Crisis: Suburbia after the Crash</u>. Volume, Archis 2006#3. p.151-157.

Easterling Keller. "Interchange and Container: The New Orgman", <u>Perspecta,</u> Vol. 30, Settlement Patterns. (1999), pp. 112-121.

Maas, Winy, "Capacity" and "Architecture as Device", <u>KM3.</u> Barcelona: Actar, 2007.p.18-23, p.36-45.

W11:: Programmatic Enclaves:

Easterling, Keller. "El Ejido", <u>Enduring Innocence: Global Architecture and Its Political Masquerades</u>. Cambridge, MA.: MIT Press, 2005. P.39-58.

Martin, R.; Baxi, K., "Introduction" and "Fron New York to Silicon Valley", <u>Multi-National City: Architectural Itineraries</u> . Barcelon; Actar, 2007. P.7-13, 19-40

Pawley, Martin. "Terminal Architecture", <u>Terminal Architecture</u>. London: Reaktion Books, 1998. P.178-208.

W12:: Landscapes on Life Support

Hill, Kristina. 'Shifting Sites.' <u>Site Matters: Design Concepts, Histories, and Strategies</u>. eds. Carol j. Burns and Andrea Kahn. New York: Routledge, 2005: 131-152.

Kwinter, Sanford. "Notes on the Third Ecology", <u>Ecological Urbanism</u>. Baden, SW.: Lars Muller Publishers, 2010. p

Mays, John. "Bringing Back a Fresh Kill: Notes on a Dream of Territorial Resuscitation", <u>Crisis</u>, Verb Boogazine, Barcelona: Actar Publisher, 2006

Scott, Felicity D., "Shouting Apocalypse", <u>Architecture or Techno-utopia: Politics after Modernism.</u> Cambridge, MA.: 2007.p.209-245.

<u>Additonal Readings</u>
Pollak, Linda. "Sublime Matters: Fresh Kills", <u>Landscapes. Praxis Journal.</u> Cambridge:2002. P58-63.

Carson, Rachel. The Obligation to Endure", <u>Silent Spring</u>. New York: First Mariner Books, 2002. p.5-14.

Sandy, Matthew, "Starting Points: Gilles Clement and the Recuperation of Space". <u>After Zero, New Geographies</u>. 2009. p. 110-114.

W13: Final Project Presentations

W14: Final Project Hand-In, Date to be confirmed

Week 01

SEPT	M 12	COURSE INTRO
		The Agency of Intervention

Week 02

SEPT	M 19	NO CLASS

Week 03

SEPT	M 26	**Destabilized States**

Week 04

OCT	M 03	**Economic Flows & Concentrations**

Week 05

OCT	M 10	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

Week 06

OCT	M 17	**Occupying the Margins**

Week 07

OCT	M 24	**Weak Urbanism I**

Week 08

NOV	M 31	**Student Presentations**

Week 09

NOV	M 07	**Student Presentations**

Week 10

NOV	M 14	**Segrated Urbanities**

Week 11

NOV	M 21	**Urbanisms of Excess**

Week 12

NOV	M 28	**Landscapes on Life Support**

Week 13

	M 05	No class - Studio final reviews
		Workshop for grad students to work on their paper

Week 14

	TBC	**PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

Week 15

	TBC	PAPER HAND IN