Archive

The archive on Cosmopolitan Development collects and organises the work, research and teaching material of Michael Safier, one of the most influential figures of the Development Planning Unit, from the early 1990s to 2006.

The archive contains a wealth of material relating to Safier’s intellectual contribution to the international debate on cosmopolitanism and his innovative pedagogical approach developed at DPU that formed the basis for the MSc programme Cosmopolitan Development. The archive displays Michael’s early articles on cosmopolitan city in the 1990s, his work about Jerusalem and Sarajevo, and the teaching material he authored for the MSc Cosmopolitan Development. The archive also includes interviews with Michael, photographs he has taken and collected and other relevant material. All files available are free to download. The archival material was collected during January-April 2015 by the research team formed by Giovanna Astolfo, Sigi Atteneder and Giulia Carabelli.

This project was made possible by the patient collaboration and engaged supervision of Michael Safier.

Micheal Safier is a key figure in the Development Planning Unit who dedicated his life, investigation, teaching activity and professional practice to urban planning development, around the practice of cosmopolitan planning. In 1970 he was appointed Lecturer at the Architectural Association, London, Department of Development and Tropical Studies. In 1972 the Department transferred to University College London, where Micheal continued teaching until 2006. It was from here that he articulated his influential concepts of ‘urbicide’ and ‘cosmopolitan planning’ ‘room of manoeuvre’ and, alongside his teaching, participating as consultant or adviser on numerous important workshops, missions and Overseas Development Administration projects.

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