

This seminar is co-funded by the Bartlett Doctoral Initiative Fund and the AHRC-funded LAHP (London Arts and Humanities Partnership), and is part of an LAHP series for PhD students taking place in autumn 2015 entitled 'Practising Ethics'.

**The Bartlett**  
Faculty of the Built Environment



Convened by Professor Jane Rendell as part of the Bartlett Commission on Ethics in Built Environment Research.  
14.00–18.00, Monday 12 October 2015, Room G02, The Bartlett School of Architecture, 140 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2BX

## **Practising Ethics** Positionality, Spatiality and Subjectivity in Dialogue



## Biographies

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**Steve Pile** teaches Geography at The Open University. He has published on issues concerning place and the politics of identity. He is author of *Real Cities* (2005) and *The Body and The City* (1996). His collaborative projects include the recent collection, *Psychoanalytic Geographies*, edited with Paul Kingsbury. He is currently working on early Freudian psychoanalysis and geographies of the body.

**Jane Rendell** is an academic and writer, who trained and practiced as an architectural designer, before studying for her MSc and PhD in architectural history. Her interdisciplinary work, through which she has developed concepts of 'critical spatial practice' and 'site-writing', crosses architecture, art, feminism, history and psychoanalysis. Her authored books are *Site-Writing* (2010), *Art and Architecture* (2006), and *The Pursuit of Pleasure* (2002), and co-edited collections include *Critical Architecture* (2007), *The Unknown City* (2001), *Intersections* (2000), *Gender, Space, Architecture* (1999). She is Professor of Architecture and Art at the Bartlett, UCL. [www.janerendell.co.uk](http://www.janerendell.co.uk)

**Lesley Caldwell** is a psychoanalyst in private practice in London and Honorary Professor in the Psychoanalysis Unit at UCL where she organises the Interdisciplinary programme and supervises on doctoral and masters programmes. With Helen Taylor Robinson she is joint general editor of the *Collected Works of Donald Winnicott* (OUP, 2016). She has a long-standing interest in psychoanalysis and the arts. Professor Caldwell is also Honorary Senior Research Associate in the Italian department and with Dorigen Caldwell of Birkbeck coordinates the termly Rome lecture series. She has published on the city of Rome and its history and representations since 1870 and is currently completing an edited collection on Roman Modernities.

**Ger Duijzings** is Professor in Social Anthropology at the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies (LMU Munich and University of Regensburg). Before his move to Germany, he was Reader in the Anthropology of Eastern Europe at SSEES and Co-Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory. He carries out research on urban transformations and social inequality in post-socialist Bucharest (Romania).

**Mohamad Hafeda** is an artist and a designer. He is a partner of Febrik, a collaborative platform for participatory art and design research. Mohamad is a lecturer in architecture at Leeds Beckett University. He is the co-editor of *Narrating Beirut from its Borderlines* (Heinrich Boll Foundation, 2011), and *Creative Refuge* (Tadween, 2014).

**Sophie Handler** is a research-practitioner working between urban theory, social policy and creative practice. She has spent the last eight years exploring the spatial politics of ageing through participative urban interventions, creative writing, research and policy development. She is author of *The Fluid Pavement* (a large print psychogeographic novel on ageing), an *Alternative Age-friendly Handbook (for the socially engaged practitioner)* and is chair of the RIBA working group on Research and Ageing. Her practice-based work operates under the platform *Ageing Facilities*.

**Sharon Kivland** is an artist and writer. She is Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University. Her work considers what is put at stake by art, politics, and psychoanalysis.

**Jan Kubik** is Professor and Director of the UCL Slavonic and East European Studies. Among his research interests are: the relationship between culture and politics (including the politics of memory); protest politics, civil society and social movements; and interpretive and ethnographic methods in political science, communist political systems and post-communist transformations. His publications include: *The Power of Symbols against the Symbols of Power: The Rise of Solidarity and the Fall of State Socialism in Poland* and *Rebellious Civil Society: Popular Protest and Democratic Consolidation in Poland, 1989-1993* (with Grzegorz Ekiert). His recent work deals with the relationship between political science and cultural anthropology (*Anthropology and Political Science: A Convergent Approach*, with Myron Aronoff, Berghahn, 2013); critical analysis of post-communist studies (*Postcommunism from Within: Social Justice, Mobilization, and Hegemony*, co-edited with Amy Linch, NYU Press, 2013); and the politics of memory (*Twenty Years After Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*, edited with Michael Bernhard, OUP, 2014). His M.A. (sociology and philosophy) is from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland and his Ph.D. (anthropology, with distinction) from Columbia University.

**Cecilie Sachs Olsen** is a PhD researcher in Geography/Performance at Queen Mary University of London, and the co-founder of the urban research collective, zURBS. Her research is practice-based and revolves around how participatory art can be used as a framework to analyse and re-imagine urban space and politics.

In this symposium speakers will consider how ethics is practised from the perspective of positionality, spatiality and subjectivity in dialogue. Universities tend to have clear guidelines on the ethical procedures involved in gaining informed consent when interviewing subjects, but these often do not consider the subjective experiences and emotional affects of gathering verbal and visual materials. Geography, psychoanalysis, ethnography/anthropology, political science, architectural design and the visual/performing arts offer a more nuanced and conceptual understanding of the possible spatial, cultural and political settings involved in conversing. Drawing on their own experiences as students, supervisors, practitioners and researchers, speakers will draw out questions around the spatial positions we take up when speaking and listening, how these are informed by the psychic structures of subject-object relations, and power dynamics around seeing/being seen, speaking/being heard, and vary according to practice and discipline.

Speakers include: Professor Lesley Caldwell (Psychoanalysis Unit and Department of Italian, UCL), Professor Ger Duijzings (University of Regensburg), Dr Mohamad Hafeda (Febrik and Leeds Beckett University), Dr Sophie Handler (University of Manchester), Dr Sharon Kivland (Sheffield Hallam University), Professor Jan Kubik (Director of the School for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, UCL), Cecilie Sachs Olsen (zURBS and Queen Mary, University of London), Professor Steve Pile (Open University).

## Schedule

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14.00

### **Introduction**

Professor Jane Rendell (Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL)

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14.15 – 15.15 Session 1

### **Talking to Others**

Professor Lesley Caldwell (Psychoanalysis Unit and Department of Italian, UCL)

### **Couch and Chair: Looking and not looking in the patient analyst exchange**

Professor Steve Pile (Open University)

### **On the Ethics of Talking with the Dead**

I will discuss a few of the ethical questions raised by a project that involves spiritualists, mediums, healers and a public exhibition.

Professor Jan Kubik (Director of the School for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, UCL)

### **Ethical Dilemmas of Knowing Too Much.**

In the study of the relationship between formal and informal mechanisms of power, the researcher often learns 'too much.' Publishing 'everything one knows' may endanger many people. The dilemma is particularly pronounced in non-democratic systems, war zones, areas of conflict. What do we do?

Dr Mohamad Hafeda (Febrik and Leeds Beckett University)

### **Bordering Practices**

I will talk about negotiating the ethical procedures with subjects in a site-specific practice-led research project that explores the topic of political borders in Beirut from 2010 to 2013.

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15.15 – 15.45 Discussion

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15.45 – 16.15 Coffee

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16.15 – 17.15 Session 2

### **Practising the Ethics of Consent**

Professor Ger Duijzings (University of Regensburg)

### **Situations and alter egos: fieldwork as performance**

I will discuss the need for performative strategies in accessing special social and spatial niches that are hard to get into, such as highly securitised spaces and venues of conspicuous consumption, turning a blind eye to the usual protocols of consensus and claiming the right to produce situations and perform alter egos.

Dr Sophie Handler (University of Manchester)

### **Telling tales: ethical tactics for an alternative 'age-friendly' spatial practice**

## Schedule

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Cecilie Sachs Olsen (zURBS and Queen Mary, University of London)

### **Performing the Consent Form: navigating ethics in participatory arts practice**

The talk elucidates the tension between rigid ethical research procedures and participatory arts practice: how to impose ethics playfully?

Dr Sharon Kivland (Sheffield Hallam University)

### **An ethics of production opposed to conformity or I will do what I want**

A number of art works that refuse to submit to any committee of judgement.

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17.15 – 17.45 Discussion

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17.45 – 18.00 Final Thoughts

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18.00 Drinks

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