

# THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD?

NEW MONUMENTALITY, NEO-MODERNISM  
AND OTHER ZOMBIE URBAN UTOPIAS

10-11 JUNE 2016

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Register at [calvert22.org](http://calvert22.org)



## THE CENTRE CANNOT HOLD?

*The Centre Cannot Hold?* will officially launch Calvert 22 Foundation's 12 week season of art and events, *Power and Architecture*. Taking place from 10 June – 9 October 2016, the season will examine utopian public space and the quest for new national identities across the post-Soviet world.

The conference is hosted by the UCL SSEES FRINGE Centre, Calvert 22 Foundation, the UCL Urban Lab, the UCL Grand Challenges Fund and the UCL School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies.

Beyond the scholarly publication, which will be prepared on the basis of the conference proceedings, contributors have been invited to publish short versions of their papers online on *The Calvert Journal*.

Led by:

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The idea of the city dominated by a soaring landmark or a grand epicentre – whether a sacred temple, a secular monument or a Central Business District – was allegedly buried along with utopian high modernity, sometime during the second half of the 20th century. The new urban age taking shape in its place, say politicians, planners and scholars, will be humbler, more sustainable, collaborative and polycentric: eco-cities instead of monumental axes; pop-up innovation hubs rather than palaces of culture; fleeting anti-statues in place of equestrian heroes and sky-high monoliths; Gumtree and Airbnb amid the debris of the Galeries Lafayette and the Grand Hotel.

But is this centrifugal tendency really as absolute, inevitable – and desirable – as all that? And is the negation of hierarchy – on the terrain of the city itself, as well as of its descriptions and theorisations – in fact complicit in concealing new (or old) forms of domination? This conference will explore the aesthetics, politics, economics and affects of centrality and monumentality, from their 20th century golden age to their contemporary **inheritances, afterlives, ruins and appropriations**.

FRINGE Centre, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL &  
Global Studies Program, The New School, New York

Held at Calvert 22 Foundation, London, in conjunction with their season

### **POWER & ARCHITECTURE**

Supported by:  
UCL Grand Challenges Fund  
UCL Mellon Programme  
UCL Urban Lab



# FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2016

## REGISTRATION & COFFEE

8.30am

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## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

9am

- Alena Ledeneva (Director, SSEES FRINGE Centre)  
*On Fringers, Fringeists and Fringeism*
  - Michał Murawski (UCL SSEES) and Jonathan Bach (New School)  
*Re-Centring the Fringe*
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## KEYNOTE

9.15am–10am

- Vladimir Paperny (UCLA)  
*Centre and Periphery: A Personal Journey*
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## SESSION 1

### Zombie Socialism I (Moscow)

10.15am–11.30am

Chair: Michał Murawski (UCL SSEES)

- Andreas Schönle (Queen Mary, Department of Russian)  
*The Post-Post-Socialist Condition in Moscow: Centripetal Nostalgia in the Re-Purposing of VDNKh*
  - Dasha Paramonova (Strelka Architecture, Moscow)  
*From Unique to Public in 20 Years: Moscow Architecture After the Soviet Union*
  - Clementine Cecil (Director, Pushkin House, founder of Moscow Architecture Preservation Society)  
*Fortress City: The Hegemony of the Moscow Kremlin*
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## SESSION 2

### Zombie Socialism II (Palaces & Castles/Warsaw & Berlin)

11.45am–13.00am

Chair: Wendy Bracewell (UCL SSEES)

- Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll (Oxford) & Jonas Tinius (Humboldt University, European Ethnology)  
*Appropriating Universal Centrality: Containing the World in Berlin's New Humboldt Forum*
  - Jonathan Bach (New School)  
*The Palace and its Doubles*
  - Michał Murawski (UCL SSEES)  
*Palatial Communism in Warsaw and Beyond*
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## LUNCH BREAK

1pm–2pm

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## SESSION 3

### Zombie Socialism III (Imagining Berlin & Warsaw)

2pm–3pm

Chair: Uilleam Blacker (UCL SSEES)

- Aleksandra Polisievicz (artist, Warsaw)  
*Wartopia Warsaw: Simulations of the Imagination*
  - Lorenzo Tripodi (artist/researcher, Ogino Knauss)  
*Reimagining Berlin: The Center as Global Space of Exposure*
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## SESSION 4

### Dreams & Ideologies

3.15pm–4.30pm

Chair: Elizaveta Butakova (UCL Art History)

- Owen Hatherley (London)  
*Constructivism For and Against the Metropolis: From Gosprom to the Green City*
  - Heike Oevermann (TU Berlin)  
*Negotiating Urban Space: Interventions, Conflicts and the Dream of Horizontal Planning*
  - Douglas Murphy (London)  
*The Infinite Interior: Dreams of Universal Space and its Uneven Realisation*
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## SESSION 5

### Special Spaces? Enclaves and Zones

4.45pm–6pm

Chair: Jonathan Bach (New School)

- Łukasz Stanek (Manchester School of Architecture)  
*Lagos Central (Sovereign Geometries)*
  - Patrick Neveling (Utrecht University, Anthropology)  
*What Holds the Centre? Panama, Shannon, and the Spectre of Normal Capitalism in Not-So-Special Economic Zones*
  - Hilary Wainwright (Transnational Institute, London; Editor, *Red Pepper* magazine)  
*Red Cities as Radical Enclaves*
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## PUBLIC RECEPTION AT CALVERT 22

6pm–8pm

# SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2016

## REGISTRATION & COFFEE 9.30am

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## SESSION 6 The Edifice Complex: Verticality Revisited 10am–11.30am

Chair: Victor Buchli (UCL Anthropology)

- Vyjayanthi Rao (Terreform New York)  
*Verticality, Post-Socialism and Re-Structuring in Mumbai*
  - Andrew Harris (UCL Geography)  
*Infrastructural Visibility: The Political Performance of Vertical Transport Projects in Contemporary Mumbai*
  - Tom Wolseley (UCL Urban Lab artist-in-residence)  
*Vertical Horizons: The Shard, Wealth and Identity (a film in progress)*
  - Steve Graham (Newcastle)  
*Vanity and Violence: The Politics of Contemporary Skyscrapers*
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## SESSION 7 Hintercentres 11.45am–1.15pm

Chair: Clare Melhuish (UCL Urban Lab)

- Pushpa Arabindoo (UCL Geography)  
*Chennai: New Geographies of Hinterland*
  - Max Sternberg (Cambridge Architecture)  
*Reinvented Centres on the Periphery? Constructing Shared Heritage in German-Polish Border Towns*
  - Natalia Romik (UCL Bartlett)  
*Post-Shtetl: Spectral Transformations and Architectural Challenges in the Periphery's Bloodstream*
  - Laura Colini (artist/researcher, Ogino Knauss)  
*"Re:Centring Periphery": Navigating the Space of the Fringe*
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## LUNCH BREAK 1.15pm–2.15pm

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## SESSION 8 Morphologies of Monumentality 2.15pm–3.30pm

Chair: Peter Zusi (UCL SSEES)

- Wendy Pullan (Cambridge, Architecture)  
*The Fragmenting Centre: Partisan Monuments and the Question of Rights*
  - Yevgenia Belorusets (Kyiv, artist)  
*Let's Put Lenin's Head Back Together Again!*
  - Adam Kaasa (Director, Theatrum Mundi, RCA)  
*Domestic Monumentality: Scale and Affect in the Modern City*
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## SESSION 9 Axis Mundi: The New Sacred 3.45pm–5pm

Chair: Akosua Bonsu (UCL SSEES)

- James Noyes (UCL PACE)  
*Sacred Space in the Cityscape: Regulation, Reduction, Destruction*
  - Jennifer Mack (Uppsala, Anthropology)  
*Religious Austerity: Building the Sacred in the Secular City*
  - Kuba Snopek (Wrocław)  
*Architecture of the Seventh Day: The Late Socialist Sacred in Poland*
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## CLOSING SESSION Explosion: Control & Resistance in the Epicentre 5.15pm–6.30pm

Chair: Jan Kubik (Director, UCL SSEES)

- Mona Abaza (American University in Cairo)  
*The Tale of Two Cities Retold: After the Event, Enduring Cairo*
  - Joy Gerrard (London, artist)  
*Image as Mirage: Protest Crowd and Precarious Freedom*
  - Oleksiy Radynski (Visual Culture Research Centre, Kyiv)  
*First We Talk About Sentsov and Kolchenko, Then We Talk About the Rest*
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## CLOSING REMARKS 6.45pm–7pm

- Michał Murawski (UCL SSEES) and Jonathan Bach (New School)