

: Interactions :

*Understanding
Urban Conflicts*

Paris, July 5th & July 6th, 2013

Galerie Colbert & Faculté du Panthéon
Université de Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne

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Interactions 2013

Understanding urban conflicts

University of Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne - Atelier Condorcet

5-6 July 2013

'*Interactions*' is a biennial interdisciplinary workshop hosted by the Centre for Statistics, Analysis and Multidisciplinary Modelling (SAMM) in the University of Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne since 2011. The workshop series aims to bring together researchers from the natural sciences and mathematics, on one hand, and the humanities and social sciences, on the other, around a common area of study in order to exchange research questions and foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration. Specifically, *Interactions* sets itself the goal of highlighting overlaps, gaps and discrepancies that characterize the boundaries between qualitative and quantitative approaches, both within the social sciences, and across the social and natural sciences and mathematics.

The city has emerged as a leading area of multi- and interdisciplinary research. Particularly the role of different forms of conflict in cities has attracted considerable scholarly attention. A recent report by the World Bank qualified a majority of the world's conflicts as "urban". What may be defined as an urban conflict is of course extraordinarily diverse, ranging from dynamics of segregation, migration and gentrification to tensions between formal and informal urbanism, as well as to overt ethno-national struggles, radicalisation and militarisation. Within the social sciences, urban studies has tended to remain divided between qualitative and quantitative approaches. Theoretical physicists and other mathematical scientists have also started working on the city. They have explored and extended, for example, urban modelling techniques first developed in geography and sociology to study dynamics of segregation. What can researchers within urban studies gain from this broadening disciplinary field? Can the natural sciences also enter into a fruitful dialogue with qualitative approaches within the disciplines of human geography, urbanism, politics or history? What questions and concepts may challenge or complement basic assumptions and methodologies in the respective specialist fields?

Call for contributions

The workshop explicitly invites papers that are accessible to non-specialists and which focus on laying out some of the core questions, concepts and methods illustrated by research on case studies, rather than presenting particular, technical findings *per se*. The thematic scope of the workshop is deliberately inclusive and exploratory in the hope of setting an agenda for more specific inter-disciplinary pathways of research within urban studies. The diverse forms of residential segregation are nevertheless suggested as a possible lynchpin of the cross-disciplinary dialogue. Papers should be 30 minutes in length. Titles, abstracts and short biographies need to be submitted by June 21st. Panellists will be asked to send in some reading material that will serve as an introduction to the approach presented.

Practical details

The workshop will last 2 full days and will take place on July 5th and July 6th (participants are expected to arrive in Paris on July 4th). Basic travel and accommodation costs will be covered. Participants will also be invited to a workshop dinner following the first day.

In order to concretise the debate, workshop participants will be taken on a tour, given by a local NGO, of the Parisian neighbourhood of Château-Rouge/Goutte d'Or, an area that has been continuously targeted for social and urban policies over the last 30 years. The excursion will be followed by discussions of how some of the spatial and social phenomena encountered may be addressed by the different perspectives represented at the workshop.

Provisionally confirmed speakers

Dr David Chavalarias, CNRS - Centre d'Analyse et de Mathématique Sociales EHESS, Paris / Head of the Paris-ÎdF Complex Systems Institute

Dr Laetitia Gauvin, Research Associate, ISI Foundation, Torino

Dr Aurélien Hazan, Lecturer, LISSI, Université Paris-Est Créteil

Dr Konstantin Kasstrissiankis, Dpt of Architecture, Univ. of Cambridge

Mr Michał Murawski, Dpt of Social Anthropology, Univ. of Cambridge

Prof. Jean-Pierre Nadal, CNRS - Lab. de Physique Statistique, ENS / Centre d'Analyse et de Mathématique Sociales EHESS, Paris

Prof. Tommaso Vitale, Centres d'études européennes, SciencesPo., Paris

Dr Yair Wallach, Pears Lecturer in Israeli Studies, Dpt of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Dr Haim Yacobi, Reader, Dpt of Politics, Ben-Gurion Univ., Beer-Sheva

On the organisers

Dr Maximilian Sternberg is University Lecturer at the Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. He is a project partner of 'Conflict in Cities and the Contested State' funded by the Economic and Social Research Council - UK (www.conflictincities.org). He is co-author of *The Struggle for Jerusalem's Holy Places* (Routledge, forthcoming) and *Cistercian Architecture and Medieval Society* (Brill, forthcoming), as well as co-editor of *Phenomenologies of the City* (Ashgate, forthcoming).

Dr Julien Randon-Furling is University Lecturer in Mathematical Sciences at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the University of Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. He is a member of the SAMM research team. His work revolves around random processes, with focus points in stochastic geometry, statistical physics and what has become known as complex system science.