

Envisioning Transitions

Alma Mater Studiorum
University of Bologna
Department of Architecture

Architecture and Design
Cultures PhD programme



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA

Bodies, buildings, and boundaries

Conference
16th December 2022
9am - 6pm



Online Conference
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"Transition" is the dynamic process of changing state, going beyond, crossing over, and passing from one point to the next. The signification of the word is close to that of evolution, modification, mutation, and transformation, all of which are confined into a strictly restricted timeframe. Etymologically, "transitions" can be nothing else than temporary: they appear silently, burst, violently establish, and gradually disappear into reality. In their blinding momentariness, "transitions" bear with them the positive undertone of change and renewal, along with the hopefulness of that which is unknown.

If the term "transition" recurs regularly in the contemporary vocabulary of architecture and design cultures, this repetition reveals a period characterized by overlapping and sequential changes. The word is without a doubt overused, but not without reason. Indeed, we find ourselves in an unusually extended period of consecutive "transitions", overwhelmingly undefined in temporality and ambitions. As we are witnessing societies go through stark demographic, political, economic, and cultural changes, the intersecting problematics (e.g., ecological, digital, pandemic, etc.) form a rather complex topography of change, negatively charged by the instability of dilated time and the uncertainty of undefined destination.

"Transitions" are, in fact, inevitable. However, the contemporary situation of prolonged and composite mutations has formed a collective consciousness of uncritical obedience to precariousness, deforming the passage from one swirling crisis to the next through the optimistic lens of "transition". The word is employed with the confidence of a natural process, as if it were a storm, and while we affirm our existence in "transition", we nod our troubled times away.

Whether positively or negatively perceived, "transitions" form bridges between histories. Yet, what does it actually mean to be in "transition"? Can we define it as an autonomous and productive period whose importance could go beyond a starting and an ending date? How are "transitions" impacting and being impacted by human spaces, the built environment, and design cultures? What are some concrete, practical case studies that demonstrate how "transitions" could affect architecture and design cultures while emphasizing the role that these disciplines play in transitional processes?

It is within this backdrop that we put forward the theme of "transition"—in all its simplicity and complexity. **ENVISIONING TRANSITIONS: Bodies, buildings, and boundaries** is an interdisciplinary conference organised by the PhD programme in Architecture and Design Cultures, Department of Architecture, University of Bologna.

We invite scholars to think with us about "envisioning transitions". Submissions are welcome from PhD students, architects, designers, engineers, planners, urbanists, geographers, philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists, and all researchers interested in the topic.

In order to open up paths of research on a multitude of scales—from the interactions of human bodies with small, everyday objects, to urban environments and global networks at large—the conference is structured in three tracks: **bodies, buildings, and boundaries**. Submissions must adhere to one of these tracks.

Program Schedule

9am - 6pm

9:00 - 9:15 | Institutional Greetings

Fabrizio Ivan Apollonio - Director of the Department of Architecture

Annalisa Trentin - Coordinator of the PhD course in Architecture and project culture

9:15 - 9:50 | Opening Lecture and Q&A

Jean-Baptiste Fressoz - French National Centre for Scientific Research | CNRS

Bodies

9:50 - 10:30 | Lecture and Q&A

Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt - Stockholm University of the Arts

Suriashi as a method for mortal mo(nu)ments

10:30 - 11:30 | Paper Presentations and Q&A

Frederico Canuto - University of Minas Gerais

Reclaim (the Land used to be called by the colonizers as) Minas Gerais: Cosmopolitical Eccentricities and the new People

Eleonora D'ascenzi - University of Florence

The body responses and the role of neuro-design in the digital transition

Gloria Calderone, Eleonora Giannini - University of Florence

Urban choreographies: a reflection on the design with differently augmented bodies

Miguel Fernandes - University of Minho

The field of play: socio-spatial narratives of amateur football in the diffuse territory of northern Portugal

11:30-11:45 | Coffee Break

Boundaries

11:45 - 12:30 | Lecture and Q&A

Laura Kolbe - University of Helsinki

From Socialist Capital Cities to Neoliberal Metropolises: Transformation of Urban Symbols, Identities and Histories in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989

12:30 - 13:30 | Presentations and Q&A

Serena Del Puglia, Francesco Monterosso - University of Palermo

Design and infosphere Projects and communicative artifacts in the fourth revolution

Filipa Corais, Emília Araújo, Márcia Silva, Miguel Bandeira, Marta Labastida - University of Minho; Cecília Silva - University of Porto

Transition Experiments, A boost to 2050

Diana Gouveia Amaral - University of Minho

Dialogue between the building and the street. The transition space: from formality to informality

Martina Crapolicchio, Rossella Gugliotta, Michela Barosio, Marco Trisciuglio - Politecnico di Torino

"Transitional Morphologies". An Urban Paradigm

13:30 - 14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:45 | Presentations and Q&A

Deepika Jauhari - DARS, New Delhi

Consequences of Transitioning boundaries: From Rural to Urban Villages in the Growing City of Delhi

Marisa Carvalho Fernandes - University of Minho

A transitional landscape: framing Montejunto-Estrela from Orlando Ribeiro's descriptions

Mariangela Cardone - University of Bologna

Salus Space – Reflections on co-dwelled ecologies.

Paolo De Martino, John Hanna, Carola Hein - Delft University of Technology

Adaptive Strategies: Methodology, Scenario Thinking and Design Fiction. Naples and Beirut

Sarah Shrbaji - University of Minho

A transition into a migrant's memory of their escape path to Portugal: Practicing geo-architecture for the representation of a Syrian student migration

15:45 - 16:00 | Coffee Break

Buildings

16:00 - 16:45 | Lecture and Q&A

Paul Emmons - Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center of Virginia Tech

Betwixt and Between: Architecture's Mercurial Liminality

16:45 - 17:45 | Presentations and Q&A

Nouman Khadim - University of Campania; Rosa Agliata - Polytechnic University of Marche

A Guideline to Conduct Circularity Assessment at Whole-Building Level; Lesson Learnt from a Case Study

Emiliano Zandri - Sapienza University, Rome

Inhabited intervals between the city and the house. From transition spaces to relationship places

Selenia Marinelli - FVA – New Media Research and Independent researcher, Rome

Bio-informed architecture: material transitions to embody the cycles of life and death in the built environment

Hei Chan, Peter Hasdell - Hong Kong Polytechnic University

From tangible to intangible: Asset based architectural design in vulnerable community-Bersive 2 Iraq refugee camp as a case study

17:45 - 18:00 | Closing Remarks

Keynote Speakers

Jean-Baptiste Fressoz



JB Fressoz is a historian of science, technology and the environment. He was a lecturer at Imperial College London before joining the CNRS in Paris. He is the author of several books, including *L'Apocalypse joyeuse. une histoire du risque technologique* (2012), *L'événement anthropocène, la terre, l'histoire et nous* (2013, 2016) and *Les Révoltes du ciel. Une histoire du changement climatique, XVe-XXe siècles* (2020). The latter two books have been translated into Italian. He will next publish a book entitled: *Sans transition: une nouvelle histoire de l'énergie*.

Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt



Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt, PhD in Dance from University of Roehampton, UK, is a performer, choreographer, filmmaker and teacher. She is the current Head of the Master's programme in Dance Education at the Stockholm University of the Arts, and also works at Academy of Music and Drama at University of Gothenburg. Ami has co-chaired the Nordic Summer University Study Circle of Artistic Research with Dr Lucy Lyons. She is a member of the Peer Review board of Journal of Artistic Research. Ami often creates stage work (solo, and collaborative) based on her embodied life story in a particular theme. Her 90 min solo performance *A particular act of survival* received a performing arts award at Scenkonstgalan in Sweden in 2015. Her new screendance piece *Ancestor* premiered at Dansfilmfestivalen in Feb 2022. Ami makes dance films and documentaries about dance. Her debut film won an honorary mention at VidéoDanseGrandPrix in Paris 1995. She walks slowly as a ceremonial, subversive act thanks to her studies with Nishikawa Senrei and work with Japanese dance in Kyoto since 2000. Her research interests are practice-led and concern gender codified movement practice, non-hierarchical processing of global dance techniques, and auto-ethnographic accounts from within the practice. Her PhD thesis has the title *Suriashi as Experimental Pilgrimage in Urban and Other Spaces*.

Keynote Speakers

Laura Kolbe



Laura Kolbe, Ph.D. (Helsinki) professor of European history at the Department of History, University of Helsinki. She is author of *Helsinki, the Daughter of the Baltic Sea*, editor of *Finnish Cultural History I-V* and co-editor of the series *History of Metropolitan Development in Helsinki - post 1945*. Dr. Kolbe's research is in Finnish and European history, urban and university history, national and class history. Her latest research deals with urban governance, city halls and municipal policy making in Helsinki and Scandinavian capital cities during the 21st century. Kolbe is founder and chair of the Finnish Society for Urban Studies (2000). She was the International Planning History Society's (IPHS) Conference Convenor in 2000 and President of IPHS in 2007-2012. She is currently the chair for History Committee of the City of Helsinki.

Paul Emmons



Paul Emmons is a registered architect and the Patrick and Nancy Lathrop Professor in Architecture at Virginia Tech where he is Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Emmons is based at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center and chair of its PhD in Architecture and Design Research program. He earned a PhD in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota. His research on design practices focusing on architectural drawing has been presented at venues around the world. His published work includes the book *Drawing Imagining Building: Embodiment in Architectural Design Practices* (2020) and coedited volumes: *Ceilings and Dreams: The Architecture of Levity* (2019), *Confabulations: Storytelling in Architecture* (2018) and *The Cultural Role of Architecture* (2012).

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is composed of the members of the Academic Board of the PhD Programme in Architecture and Design Cultures, Department of Architecture, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna.

More information: <https://phd.unibo.it/architettura/en/people>

Organising Committee

XXXVI PhD Cycle in Architecture and Design Cultures: Andrea Cattabriga, Valentina De Matteo, Francesco Di Maio, Lorna Dragonetti, Arshia Eghbali, Clara Giardina, Marco Iannantuono, Jing Zou, Giulia Marzani, Angelo Massafra, Claudia Nigrelli, Serena Pagliula, Marco Palma, Dafni Retzepi, Yuqing Zhu.

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