

Seminar: Thursday 1 December 2011, 13-15.00, mospus-rummet

Joint session on **Writing Spaces** (see description below and suggestions for background literature)
Organized and introduced by David Pinder and Connie Svabo

Writing spaces

This discussion will focus on ways of writing, and on how space and place are enacted through writing practices. Given the significance of writing in our research, it is perhaps surprising that we don't explicitly reflect on and discuss its practice more, whether in terms of our own writing strategies or those of others. Yet it is now widely accepted that writing is never 'simply' reporting and that choices of words, metaphors, textual forms and the like matter and have effects. There is also much current interest in creative forms of writing within urban studies, geography, anthropology, cultural theory, planning and related fields, following longer histories of experimentation. In the process, writing has sometimes been understood as a 'critical spatial practice' or as a form of 'spatial exploration'.

The aim of this workshop is therefore to consider writing as a spatial practice by sharing and discussing examples that we have found interesting, inspiring, stimulating, exasperating or otherwise provoking. You are invited to participate by bringing a text that implicitly or explicitly addresses the issue of writing in relation to space and place. This might be a piece of theory, ethnography, empirical study, fiction, popular writing or something else. It might embody a creative and experimental approach itself, or enable reflection on writing in another way. It might be in any language, although the discussion will be in English. Each person is invited to present their text very briefly (3-5 minutes) in terms of why they have chosen it, how it engages space and place, what thoughts and questions it raises for their own work, and so on. Please bring photocopies of a single page extract to share with others.

Literature which may be of interest

Barnes, Trevor and Derek Gregory (1997) *Reading human geography: the poetics and politics of enquiry*. In Barnes and Gregory (eds) *'Reading Human Geography'*. London, Arnold, pp. 1-12.

Grillner, Katja: *Writing and landscape – setting scenes for critical reflection*, in *The Journal of Architecture*, Vol 8, 2003

Harrison, Stephan, Steve Pile and Nigel Thrift (eds) (2004) *'Patterned Ground: Entanglements of Nature and Culture'*. London, Reaktion Books.

Hughes, Rolf, (2007) *The DROWNING METHOD*. On giving and account in practice-based research, in Rendell et al. *Critical Architecture*

Hughes, Rolf (2007): *The Semi-living Author: Post-human Creative Agency*, in Anstey, Grillner & Hughes: *Architecture and authorship*, London Black Dog Publishing

Lorimer, Hayden and John Wylie (2010) *LOOP (a geography)*. *'Performance Research'* 15.4, 6-13.

Pile, Steve and Nigel Thrift (eds) (2000), *'City A-Z'*. London and New York, Routledge.

Pollock, Della(1998): *Performing Writing*, in Phelan & Zane, *The Ends of Performance*, NY University Press

Pred, Allan (2004) *'The Past is Not Dead: Facts, Fictions, and Enduring Racial Stereotypes'*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.

Rendell, Jane (2010) 'Site-Writing: The Architecture of Art Criticism'. London, IB Tauris.

Rendell, Jane (2005), Architecture-writing, in *The Journal of Architecture*, 10:3, 255-264

Sandercock, Leonie (2003) 'Cosmopolis II: Mongrel Cities of the 21st Century'. London and New York, Continuum. Chapter on The power of story in planning, pp. 181-204.

Wylie, J. (2010). Writing through landscape in Brace C, Jons-Putra a (eds.) *Process: Landscape and Text*, Amsterdam: Rodopi Press. 2009