

# DESIGNCULTURE

## CIVIC CITY

14.01.2010 — 18:30

SALON DE RECHERCHE

CORNER COLLEGE

LANGSTRASSE 84 ZÜRICH

ABOUT THE MEDIAL  
REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY.  
VIRTUAL, CARTOGRAPHIC,  
DIAGRAMMATIC, PROCESSUAL

PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ  
LIZE MOGEL  
ALEXIS BHAGAT  
MATTHIAS GÖRLICH



### Philippe Rekacewicz

Born in 1960, Philippe Rekacewicz is double national French and American. He is Geographer, cartographer and journalist. After the completion of his study in geography at University of Paris la Sorbone, he becomes in 1988 a permanent collaborator of the international newspaper *Le Monde diplomatique* in Paris (today 70 editions in more than 30 languages) where he is leading the cartographic production. From 1996 to 2006, he was also heading the cartographic unit of a relocated office of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) in Norway (UNEP/GRID-Arendal). He follows particularly issues such as demography, refugees and displaced persons, migration and statelessness persons, as well as environmental questions. More broadly, geopolitics and geostrategy. Philippe Rekacewicz works also on number of other project which bring together cartography, art and politics, especially studying how communities, political or economical powers produce the cartographic vision of the territories on which they operate, And how they can manipulate an lies with maps. Since 2006, he also teaches regularly at the University of Bologna (Italy) in the department of historical studies and geography). He has since 1988, published more than 2000 original thematic maps, 15 atlases and written number of articles which reflect research and vision on cartography and how to represent the world. He also often participates to exhibits linking cartography to art in Europe.

### Alexis Bhagat

Alexis Bhagat is a writer, sound artist and activist. His work is dedicated to the destruction of authorship and authority through the cultivation of new forms for radically polyvocal sound, transmission of promiscuous conversation, and obsessive never-ending correspondence. He speaks and writes on anarchism, cartography, cinema, sound art, peace, and language. His sound compositions are deployed as installations, "lectures" and radio broadcasts, and he frequently collaborates with the transmission arts organization [free103point9](http://free103point9.org). (<http://free103point9.org>) He also hosts a regular program on sound, music and aural culture called "Speakers" on Red House Art Radio. (<http://audience.redhouseartradio.org>) Alexis Bhagat is co-editor (with Lize Mogel) of *An Atlas of Radical Cartography* (*Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*, 2007), co-editor (with Gregory Gangemi) of *Sound Generation*, a collection of interviews with contemporary sound artists and composers (*Autonome*, 2010), and has organized concerts, discussions and "listening lounges" of sound art and phonographic work in New York, Japan, Vermont and India. He is founder and co-curator (with Lauren Rosati) of ((audience)), an organization established to provide new contexts for sound art that is currently exploring the cinema as a standardized platform for the diffusion of multi-channel sound compositions. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Institute for Anarchist Studies, a grant giving body supporting radical writers, and on the editorial board of their journal, *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory*. <http://anarchiststudies.org/perspectives> [www.nadalex.net](http://www.nadalex.net)

### Lize Mogel

Lize Mogel is an interdisciplinary artist who works with the interstices between art and cultural geography. She inserts and distributes and cartographic projects into public space and via publications. She is co-editor of the book/map collection "*An Atlas of Radical Cartography*" and co-curator of the exhibition "*An Atlas*", which is touring nationally. She also co-curated "*Genius Loci*", an exhibition of conceptual mappings of Los Angeles (Sci-Arc, Los Angeles, California Museum of Photography, Riverside). She has worked with groups including the Center for Land Use Interpretation and the *Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*. Exhibitions include the *Gwangju Biennale* (South Korea), common room (NYC), Casco (Utrecht), and "*Experimental Geography*" (touring). She has received grants from the Jerome Foundation, the LEF Foundation, the Graham Foundation, the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Danish Arts Council for her work. [www.publicgreen.com](http://www.publicgreen.com)

### Matthias Görlich

Matthias Görlich is a Darmstadt- and Zurich-based communication designer, teacher, and researcher. In 2000, he set up his own design studio as a platform for critical research, education, and design development. He worked on numerous international projects and consultancies including a commission by the United Nations to accompany a research and planning project for the improvement of living conditions in Palestinian refugee camps. Currently he is part of "*Cultural Spaces*", a research project initiated by the Goethe Institutes in India. He also co-directs "*Civic City*", a postgraduate program on the role of design in a social city based at the University for the Arts, Zurich. Here he also initiated "*White Spots Black Holes*", a research-project on the role of mapping in political contexts which is located at Institute Design2Context in Zurich. Matthias frequently teaches and lectures internationally for example at RWTH Aachen, ZHDK Zurich, KRVA Mumbai, University Darmstadt and others. [www.mgoerlich.com](http://www.mgoerlich.com) [www.whitespotsblackholes.com](http://www.whitespotsblackholes.com)

*What is the city of the present, and what cities do we wish for?*

*What means are needed to develop these?*

*Who is involved and when?*

Those preceding are some general questions for the framework of the first course titled "*Civic City-The Role of Design for a Social City*" initially focusing on the role of Design—specifically Communication Design—in exchange with urban planning.

Due to more process design scale formats and often short term interventions in urban spaces, there is a need for communication and a transparency of the interferences into the city (opposite the different publicness), as participatory concerns are increasingly transforming the field of urban design. Disciplinary borders set the course and architects, town planners and designers look for the mutual competencies, opening up new fields of inquiry.

In the context of ten three-day-long modules, experts of different disciplines, along with a guest advisory, bring together different points of view in relation to the specific module topic. Each individual course day is dedicated to separate focuses.

For more information, visit: <http://civic-city.zhdk.ch>

