

Course PM, ARK641, Master's thesis preparation course 3p
Autumn semester, 2020
Critical Spatial Perspectives



Description and aim

The purpose of the course is for the students to develop and finalize their project plan. The course prepares the students for their master's thesis under the guidance of assigned examiner(s) and supervisor(s). It explores specific theories and/or design methods associated with a particular niche of architecture and urban design and planning. It trains the students' ability to use design studies, precedent studies, context studies, material studies and/or theoretical texts as a basis for formulating a design problem and/or research query.

Master theses within this direction use theory and design practice to explore a critical perspective. Common approaches within the studio are qualitative, discursive and regenerative approaches. We critically investigate how we talk about, plan and reproduce society and (natural) environment, but also how new approaches for the design professions can contribute to making a difference. Such critical spatial perspectives can for example imply an analytical focus on how inequalities materialise in the built environment, through urbanisation, gentrification or segregation processes, and thereby contribute to creating unsustainable spatial hierarchies between people and places. Critical spatial practices can also question

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how uneven development, damaging environmental and spatial practices, and unsustainable consumption, devastate natural environments.

Content and structure

- 7 October, 09.00-17.00, lecture and presentation
 - The teacher gives a short lecture
 - The students present and get feedback
 - Ideas, background and relevance to direction and get feedback
- 14th of October 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 21st of October, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 11th of November, deadline 09.00. hand-in for mid-critic on Canvas
- 11th of November, mid-critic
 - The students present their project plan and receives feedback based on the presentation
- 18th of November, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 18th of November, deadline 17.00, Hand in project plan
- 25th of November 09.00-16.00, Final presentation and feedback
 - The examiners have read the project plan and gives feedback
- 9th of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for the course on Canvas
- 9th of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for initiating the MT term
 - Deliver final project plan and registration form
 - There will be a folder in the reception on the 3rd floor
- 13th of January, deadline 12.00, Deliver a final project plan for the exhibition
 - Starting the master's thesis term
 - There will be a folder in the reception on the 3rd floor

Submission requirements

We use Canvas for all our deliverances. As the course only has one Canvas page, please make sure you are uploading to the right direction.

The project plan should contain

An abstract, a title, purpose and aim, main questions, theoretical, practice base and inspirational references, methods and process, delimitations, and statement regarding competence and relevance to studio.

Evaluation criteria

Grading: Approved/not approved. Relevance of research question/contribution to broader discussions in society; Clearness of disposition/structure; Relevance and clearness of suggested methods; Relevance and clearness of suggested theory/literature; Relevance and clearness of suggested case/empirical analysis/design proposal; Relevance and clearness of plan for own process; Level of independency.

Faculty

Marco Adelfio, Nils Björling, Emilio Brandao, Isabelle Doucet, Julia Fredriksson, Kristina Grange, Shea Hagy, Anna-Johanna Klasander.

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