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UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative

January 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events



NEW COURSE Spring 2015 Public Space: Placemaking and Performance

Open to students from all departments--limited spaces still available

Urban designer Ghigo DiTommaso and choreographer Erika Chong Shuch will co-teach this course exploring notions of public space. Students will both investigate and intervene in the public realm, studying urban and performance theory and testing hypotheses through tactical placemaking experiments. [Learn more](#)



Cao Fei, *Mirage (Cosplayer Series)*, 2004

NEW COURSE Spring 2015 Art+Village+City in the Pearl River Delta

This research studio will critically investigate a range of urban art villages in the Pearl River Delta. Taught by Prof. Margaret Crawford (Architecture) and Asst. Prof. Winnie Wong (Rhetoric), the course includes intensive fieldwork in southern China during the Spring Recess. Throughout the studio, students will explore multidisciplinary methods in urban research and ethnographic fieldwork. [Learn more](#)



Fall 2015 Symposium Seeks Graduate Student Organizers

Next fall, the UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative, in collaboration with the UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative, will host a joint symposium on cities that will engage the perspectives of the urban design and planning disciplines, the arts, and the humanities. We are seeking graduate students to organize speaker panels starting now. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Susan Moffat at susanmoffat@berkeley.edu.

Recent News & Events



Rick Lowe: Artist and Community Activist

2014 MacArthur Fellow Rick Lowe of [Project Row Houses](#) visited Berkeley in November, bringing ideas from his arts-centered community development projects in Houston to campus and neighborhood audiences. He engaged with students, Oakland's Eastside Arts Alliance, Richmond's East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and other local groups. The visit was co-sponsored by the Arts Research Center, Global Urban Humanities Initiative, and others. [Read more](#)



Sensing Cityscapes: City of Light and Data

Taught by Prof. Greg Niemeyer (Art Practice) and Prof. Ron Rael (Architecture), this Fall 2014 [course](#) was featured in the [Contra Costa Times](#). Students built, programmed, and installed interactive urban light art projects that also acted as sensors to collect data on pedestrian behavior in key locations in the City of San Leandro. The results of the research were presented at [Count Me In: Walking and the City](#), co-sponsored by the Berkeley Center for New Media and CITRIS.



Tokyo, Tbilisi, Vienna, and Oakland

These were some of the places explored in the [Reading Cities, Sensing Cities](#) colloquium, a semester-long conversation about urban life. Artists, scholars, and practitioners from art history, architecture, music, film, new media, and more demonstrated how their respective disciplines investigate cities. Videos, presentations, and readings from the Fall 2014 colloquium are archived [here](#) and on our [videos page](#).



Student Blogposts on Reading Cities

Students were intrigued by talks on navigating the city as a blind person, Edo fire culture, Bay Area gentrification, the uses of Big Data, and much more. Their responses are available [here](#). Inspired by the [Reading Cities, Sensing Cities](#) colloquium speakers, students from Landscape Architecture, East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Information School, and other departments reflected on how urban humanities approaches can enrich our understanding of cities.

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The **Global Urban Humanities Initiative** is a joint venture of the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design and the Arts & Humanities Division of the College of Letters & Science and is funded by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

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SUSANMOFFAT@BERKELEY.EDU OR TWEET @URBANHUMANUCB**



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UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative
230 Wurster Hall #1820
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-1820
US



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