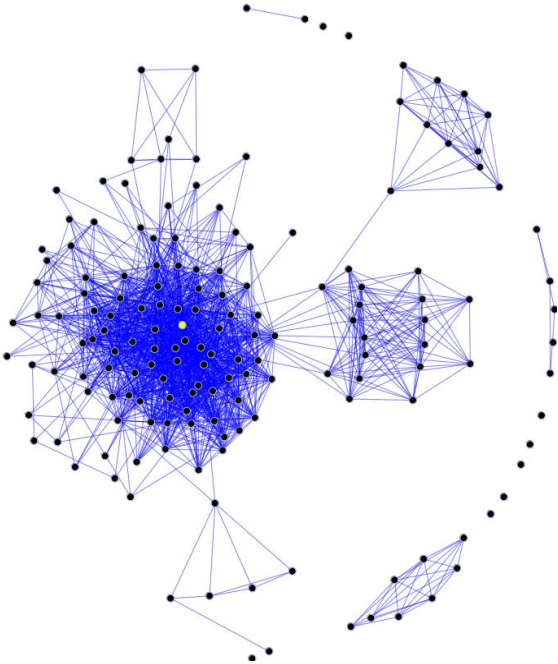


Transformations of the Public Sphere

International and Interdisciplinary Conference

April 13-14, 2012

Mershon Center, The Ohio State University



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Organized and/or sponsored by the
Departments of
Germanic Languages and
Literatures
History
Political Science
Spanish & Portuguese and the
Center for Latin American Studies

Speakers:
Michael Bongiorno, Sarah
Bongiorno, Ignacio Corona, Carlos
A. Forment, Nicholas Kiersey,
Edgar Landgraf, Christoph Menke,
Bart Overly, Juliane Rebentisch,
Jacob Schiff, Kam Shapiro, Joel
Wainwright, Spencer Weart

This conference investigates the historical and contemporary significance of the public sphere and modern social imaginaries—of the discourses, norms, and ideas shared by members of a given society. The motivation for such an investigation arises from the growing interdependence of different nations, regions, and communities that demands and generates new ways of political, legal, economic, strategic, and cultural forms of cooperation. What kind of public spaces facilitate and what kind of shared imaginaries support such cooperation? What aspects in society hinder productive communication and interaction? Does productive social cooperation presuppose certain governmental, in particular democratic structures? Answers to these and related questions will be developed by drawing on several relevant disciplines, including, but not limited to social and political science, cultural theory, philosophy, history, history of science, and media studies.

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Day 1: Friday, April 13, 2012

Coffee (8:00-8:30am)

Introduction: Bernd Fischer, The Ohio State University (8:30-8:45 am)

I. The Common in Aesthetics and Politics (8:45 am-11:00 am)

Moderator: Bernhard Malkmus, The Ohio State University

Edgar Landgraf, Bowling Green State University

“The Politicization of the Public in the Context of Niklas Luhmann’s Political Theory”

Juliane Rebentisch, Offenbach University of Art and Design

“The Democratic Public and its Aesthetic”

Christoph Menke, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University Frankfurt

“What is Aesthetic Freedom Today?”

Commentator: Philip Armstrong, The Ohio State University

Coffee (11:00 am-11:15 am)

II. Political Public Spheres (11:15 am-1:30 pm)

Moderator: Rick Livingston, The Ohio State University

Kam Shapiro, Illinois State University

“Toward a Reflexive Biopolitics: Cognitive and Affective Maps of Global Economies”

Jacob Schiff, University of Toronto

“Structurally Necessary Deformations of the Public Sphere”

Nicholas Kiersey, Ohio University-Chillicothe

“Occupy Wall Street as Immanent Critique: Why 'Communism' Matters for International Relations”

Commentator: Eugene Holland, The Ohio State University

Lunch (1:30-2:30 pm) for conference participants

III. Science in the Public Sphere (2:30-4:15 pm)

Moderator: Alan Beyerchen, The Ohio State University

Spencer Weart

“The Evolution of Nuclear Fear”

Joel Wainwright, The Ohio State University

“Climate Leviathan”

Commentator: Alan Beyerchen, The Ohio State University

Coffee (4:15 pm-5:00 pm)

IV. Columbus High Definition (CMHHD): Three architects look at the potential for Columbus to become an international leader in innovative public space and design (5:00-7:00 pm)

Moderator: John Davidson, The Ohio State University

Michael Bongiorno, DesignGroup

Sarah Bongiorno, ACP Visioning and Planning, Knowlton School of Architecture

Bart Overly, Blostein/Overly Architects; Knowlton School of Architecture

Dinner (8-10 pm) for conference participants, location TBA

Day 2: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Coffee (8:30 - 9 am)

V. International Public Spheres (9:00-10:45 am)

Moderator: Jennifer Mitzen, The Ohio State University

Carlos A. Forment, New School of Social Research, New York

“Working for Citizenship: Democratic Life in Argentina in the Wake of Neo-Liberal Globalization”

Ignacio Corona, The Ohio State University

"Genderizing the Public Sphere: Literary Nonfiction by Women in Mexico and Brazil"

Commentator: Anna Puga, The Ohio State University