

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Interstices: Journal of Architecture and Related Arts

Issue 20 *Political Matters: Spatial Thinking on the Alternative*

Theme Editors:

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Deadline: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - 5:00pm

### POLITICAL MATTERS: SPATIAL THINKING OF THE ALTERNATIVE

At a time when the Western political climate is synonymous with Brexit, Donald Trump and Boris Johnston, the Christchurch terrorist attack, Australia's Manus Island detention centres, the US-Mexico border and the global refugee crisis, the urgency of addressing the relationship between politics and space is more pressing than ever. To answer the question of what it means for space to be political beyond it merely being an expression of hegemonic orders, we follow Hannah Arendt's celebration of political action, and her stance that political questions are far too serious to be left to politicians (1970). We draw upon Chantal Mouffe's concept of agonism and the impossibility of a final reconciliation in thinking the political (2013). We acknowledge Paul Virilio's thinking on negative horizon whereby perception is not just dependent upon the framing and mastering of the rhetoric of media and memory, but rather this mastery is also framed and dependent upon seeing abysses (1989, 2005, 2009). Finally, we emphasise Michel Foucault's reconceptualisation of power as being productive rather than oppressive (1980). To make sense of, and come to grips with, this contemporary landscape requires a detailed reflection and analysis at different levels – individual, social, cultural, environmental, technological, medical, economic or legal.

Comprehending the complex forms of surveillance and governance in the age of contemporaneity requires one to problematise the limits of spatial politics in the society of control (1995). Indeed, it may require a different placing and questioning of ideas, events and spaces than the norm. Questioning and disrupting the limits of the norm may enable frictions and generate new knowledge. This issue of *Interstices* seeks papers that address the complexity at the nexus of architecture, urbanism, sociology, human geography and political philosophy, and focuses on the following themes:

- Power, Memory and Identity
- The Spectacle and the Screen
- Housing, Urban Commons and the Social
- Events, Flows and Public Space
- Territories, Walls and Peripheries

Discussion on the convolutedness of control societies are also oriented towards formulating the hopeful, active and productive role space may have in the formation of social movements and in transforming everyday life – in other words, where we become active participants in the cities we live in, rather than passive designers or consumers serving the interest of market economies. It is where liberating spaces for thinking differently can thrive. Likewise, it is where access to, and dwelling in, space is enabled. It is where we can engage with questions of conflict, security and territorial stability, however, not at the expense of dehumanising the Other. Moreover, the implication of these explorations for architectural pedagogy remains a fruitful opportunity for political agency and we encourage submissions on this topic as well.

The thematic call on *Political Matters: Spatial Thinking on the Alternative* for Issue 21 of *Interstices: Journal of Architecture and Related Arts* seeks ambitious, innovative and rigorous scholarship of 5,000-word papers. The proposed schedule is outlined below:

14<sup>th</sup> August 2019: Call for 5,000-word papers issued

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Deadline for 5,000-word paper submissions

July 2020: Estimated journal publication

For journal submission guidelines see: [https://interstices.ac.nz/index.php/Interstices/Style\\_Guide](https://interstices.ac.nz/index.php/Interstices/Style_Guide)  
For all Interstices matters see: <https://interstices.ac.nz/index.php/Interstices>

Reference:

- Arendt, Hannah. *Men in Dark Times*. London: Cape, 1970.
- Deleuze, Gilles. "Postscript on Control Societies." In *Negotiations*, 177 – 181. Translated by Martin Joughin. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.
- Foucault, Michel. "Truth and Power." In *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writing, 1972 – 1977*, edited by Colin Gordon, 109-33. New York: Vintage Books, 1980. Originally published in 1977 entitled *Vérité et pouvoir*.
- Mouffe, Chantal. *Agonistics: Thinking the World Politically*. London: Verso, 2013.
- Virilio, Paul. *Negative Horizon: An Essay on Dromoscopy*. Translated by Michael Degener. London: Continuum, 2005; *War and Cinema: The Logistics of Perception*. Translated by Patrick Camiller; London: Verso, 1989; *The Aesthetics of Disappearance*. Translated by Philip Beitchman. New York: Semiotext(e), 2009.