

ALTERNATIVES: GENDER, COMMUNITY & REGENERATION

*a day forum with workshops, in the Alternatives series
London, 11 November 2006
at the London School of Economics and Political Science*

<http://liquidculture.eu/alternatives/6.11/>



FIRST CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

We cordially invite submissions to the first ALTERNATIVES forum, on the theme GENDER, COMMUNITY & REGENERATION.

This meeting is designed to gather scholars and practitioners whose daily activity involves making or thinking in the broad field of urban regeneration in relation to gender issues, in a style that is non-conference like, facilitating informal discussions, creative approaches, and serendipitous exchange of information on research, development and active application of gender in regeneration.

We invite you to submit a short abstract that highlights your involvement or outlines present research or work on the themes discussed below.

IMPORTANT DATES

submission deadline: 22 september 2006
author notification: 2 october 2006

FORMATS OF PRESENTATIONS

panel short paper (20 minutes, followed by discussion at the end of the panel presentations)
the traditional format for research papers, accounts of running projects or best practices, collaboration schemes, policy analysis

workshop (1 hour)
open format for broader discussion opportunities, analysis of audio/video documentation or other media, or to start designing participatory projects

lightning talk (6 minutes)
short audio/video accounts, reports from the field, works in progress, rough cuts...

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FORUM THEMES

Urban change is a growing phenomenon of our modern world with “regeneration” being one of its major policies of implementation. Local communities that live in the midst of these social and physical transformations are integral to such processes.

Yet, despite a wider uptake of participatory approaches at all levels of regeneration schemes, the place of gender in practice and discourse is often still marginal, not adequately articulated nor organically integrated from the ground up. As long as women's and men's particular experiences of their living spaces are not taken into account, a truly transformative vision of regeneration remains out of reach.

The study and promotion of coherent urban regeneration strategies are becoming commonplace but as projects are developed, buildings are demolished or erected, communities displaced and work and the environment incidentally affected, the logic and purpose of such coherency must come under scrutiny by all parties involved.

The continuous demotion of gender as “women's issues” begs a range of questions: Who is involved in decision-making and at what levels? How is power being conceived of and negotiated? Is regeneration in need of a radical reconceptualization? If so, in what ways and by whom?

In order to shake the ground on which mainstream regeneration stands, constructive critical alternatives must be proposed. And, for spaces of fruitful debate, discussion and sharing to emerge it becomes crucial to travel across all conventional divisors that label interested groups as either “professionals” or “academics”.

This one day forum proposes, through practice, that alternative spaces which imaginatively challenge the status quo are possible if bridges are drawn between traditionally divided communities (i.e., “practitioner/activist” vs. academic ones), thus allowing for greater communication and understanding across a range of different issues.

The goal is to be able to provide a space where established roles are questioned and alternative viewpoints, means of empowerment and knowledge, tools for grassroots action, documentation, and campaigning are offered.

The scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to, the following major areas of practice and research as they relate to the “gendered” aspects of regeneration:

design, architecture and rebuilding ¶ housing ¶ green regeneration and environmental sustainability ¶ education ¶ funding and economic sustainability ¶ transport and mobility ¶ community engagement ¶ art and the urban ¶ employment and equality in economic opportunities ¶ communicative ecologies in urban contexts ¶ documenting and sharing documentation of urban regeneration ¶

Given its interdisciplinary focus, we welcome entries that demonstrate interest in any, or many of the above. We only require short abstracts that include your thoughts with respect to the issues above and a description of the relevant research or work you are carrying out. Please do not feel “tied down” by these categories or your “departmental focus”, but rather feel free to express your opinion in loose, interconnected, and experiential-based manner; better yet, propose “alternatives”.

ORGANIZATION AND CONTACTS

Conference project lead: Melissa Fernandez, LSE and Liquid Culture
Conference coordinator: Andrea Rota, LSE and Liquid Culture

For information contact: alternatives6.11@liquidculture.eu
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