

DOC.DAYS {EDAR}

An Event for PhD Candidates of the EDAR Program
Open to the Whole Community

24th April 13:00-18:00

With Pier Vittorio Aureli (TPOD)
Nitin Bathla (ETH Zurich)
Javier Contreras (HEAD)
Christophe van Gerrewey (ACHT)
Elena Cogato Lanza (LAB-U)
Stefana Parascho (CRCL)
Alfredo Thiermann (HITAM)

And the PhD Candidates:
Anna Karla Almeida (LAB-U)
Michela Bonomo (ACHT)
Jolanda Devalle (TPOD)
Theodora Giovanazzi (TPOD)
Akuto Konou (CEAT)
Gianna Ledermann (LDM)
Cyrus T. Lognonné (LHTS)

Organised by:

Anna Karla Almeida (LAB-U)
Michela Bonomo (ACHT)
Phi Nguyen (LAB-U/HEAD)
Helena Roux (CdH)

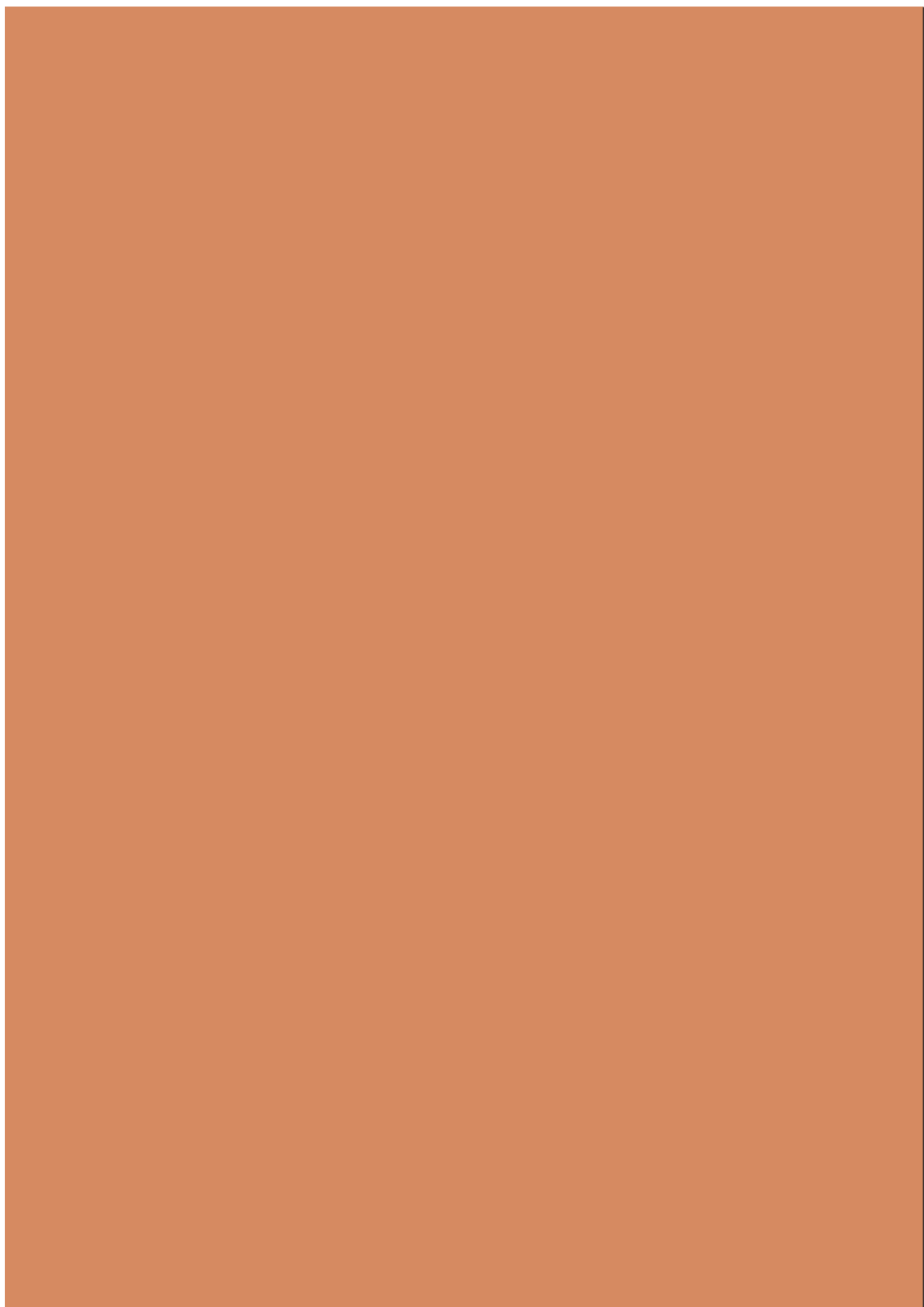


EPFL

24.04.2023

13h00 - 18h00 | HALL SG

docdays.cargo.site docdays@epfl.ch



DOC.DAYS {EDAR}
24th April 2023
SG HALL, EPFL Lausanne

SECOND DAY GENERAL SCHEDULE

13:00 Opening Speech
by Doc.Days Team

FIRST PANEL
13:10 - 15:30

15:35-15:45 Break

SECOND PANEL
15:50 - 17:30

18:00-19:30 Aperero

From 19:30
Dinner for Invited Speakers

*Next Page for Detailed Programme of Panels
**Respondents Bios from Page 20!



Discussants

Pier Vittorio Aureli (TPOD)
Elena Cogato Lanza (Lab-U, EDAR Director)
Christophe Van Gerrewey (ACHt)
Alfredo Thiermann (HITAM)
Stefana Parascho (CRCL)

Nitin Bathla (ETHZ)
Javier Contreras (HEAD)

DOC.DAYS EDAR
24th April
SG FOYER, EPFL Lausanne

DETAILED PROGRAMME

13:00- 13:05 Opening Speech by the DocDays Team

13:10-13:40- Presentation #1 & Discussion

Akuto Akpedze Konou (CEAT)

Urban Agriculture and Health in Africa from 2000 to 2020: a Systematic Review.

13:45-14:15- Presentation #2 & Discussion

Gianna Ledermann (LDM)

Making space for subsistence: Living and working in agrarian households

14:20-14:50- Presentation #3 & Discussion

Jolanda Devalle (TPOD)

Mother State: Domestic Space in Matrilineal Societies

14:55-15:25- Presentation #4 & Discussion

Michela Bonomo (ACHT)

Villas through press: The endorsement of the escape by Hoepli and Gorlich in Postwar Italy

15:35-15:45-Break

15:50-16:20- Presentation #5 & Discussion

Theodora Giovanazzi (TPOD)

Poverty and Architecture: the Making of the Poor

16:25-16:55- Presentation #6 & Discussion

Anna Karla Almeida (LAB-U)

Power spatialities in company towns: The modern biopolitical project in Northern Italy.

17:00-17:30- Presentation #7 & Discussion

Cyrus Thibault Lognonné (LHTS)

Mapping the environmentally situated practices of the Graphical Processing Unit (GPU)

From 19:30 Dinner for Invited Respondents



Akuto Akpedze Konou
(CEAT: Study Community for Regional planning)
Urban Agriculture and Health in Africa
from 2000 to 2020: a Systematic Review.

Just like humans, cities are born, live, breathe, eat, generate waste, and die. Urban agriculture is therefore a way for the city to meet some of these needs and to contribute to the preservation of its health. This presentation gives an overview about a scientific literature review developed in late 2020 aims to determine the behavior of scientific and grey literature data related to urban agriculture and urban health in African cities. The article narrates the study in a context where urban agriculture is increasingly popular, especially for cities in the Global South that are expanding at an unprecedented rate. The results show that the topic has a growing interest in the research world, while there is a necessity for more research in urban planning or architecture. Food security is the most addressed sub-theme and, thus, from their end, the immediate health impact of urban agriculture on urban health in Africa. However, these studies also pointed out that urban agriculture activity poses risks related to malaria and the irrigation of plants using wastewater. In closing, more research on urban agriculture's impacts on urban health should be increasingly done by planners and on other data bases than the ones used in this research. This work contributes to the studies carried out in the framework of my thesis entitled: "A spatial assessment of Urban Agriculture impacts on health: the case of Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania and Lomé, Togo."

Akuto Akpedze Konou (AKA Rolande) is a young female architect and urban planner since 2013, originally from Togo, Africa. After EAMAU in Togo, Iowa State University in the USA and some government projects and industry positions in different countries, Akuto is currently a PhD student and teaching assistant at EPFL in the CEAT lab doing a thesis on urban agriculture and health in African cities as part of the SNSF Sinergia African Contributions to Global Health project (<https://globalhealthafrica.ch/>). Fulbright Scholar, DKG World Fellowship and co-founder of Axe Durable, Konou & Co and AfriK Durabiliterre, she is passionate about researching innovative architectural and spatial techniques for communities sustainable planning on a global scale.



Caption: La cassée des noix chez les Benoit, Croy VD, 1915. Image source: Photographeur unkonwn,
<https://notrehistoire.ch/entries/7gBZyPPaYz1>

Gianna Morgane Ledermann

(LDM: Media and Design Laboratory)

Making space for subsistence: Living and working in agrarian households

Starting points of this research are contemporary practices and movements which call for a non-productivist, agroecological agriculture and refer to subsistence activities typical to the peasant farming style. The work argues that claiming agricultural practices and spaces which are usually considered to be outdated (such as the peasant farming style), points to ruptures in the commodification and homogenization strategies of the predominant industrial farming paradigm. It proposes thus a reframing of the broad history of agrarian spaces and their transformation since the mid-nineteenth century in Switzerland under the prism of subsistence activities. To identify these ruptures, the work takes the subsistence perspective: A feminist concept thinking social reproduction theory and subsistence practices of peasant farming from an ecofeminist view. Subsistence production is here defined as a site of potential rupture and alternative to the above-mentioned agro-industrial development. Overall, the research traces transformations and ruptures through actors such as humans, non-human biological, and objects through different narratives focusing on farm households, the reproduction of seeds, working with animals from birth to slaughter, and goods' trajectories. The presentation for the Doc.Days will focus on the first narrative on farm households. First, different conceptions such as labor and work, waged work, productive work, reproductive work, housework, domestic work, vernacular work, subsistence work, shadow work and Eigenarbeit will be mobilized to identify various forms of subsistence production performed in agrarian households. Second, through specific events, actors, objects, organizations, and spatial layouts of farms, the broad history of labor in agrarian households, oscillating between on the one hand a place of work and production with subsistence character, and on the other hand a place of affection and consumption, will be contextualized.

Gianna Ledermann is an architect (MSc & BSc Arch ETH Zurich 2008-2015) and lives in Lausanne and Zurich. She taught a scientific assistant at D-ARCH ETH Zurich with Prof. Christian Kerez (2015-2019), where she was awarded the Rectors Input Fund for the innovative teaching format Studio Panorama (2019, sabbatical Prof. Kerez). Since 2021 she is a Ph.D. candidate at EDAREPF Lausanne and investigates agrarian subsistence spaces from a feminist perspective.



Caption: Hopi women building a house

Jolanda Devalle
(TPOD: Theory and Project of Domestic Space)
Mother State: Domestic Space in Matrilineal Societies

It has been widely argued that domestic space closely mirrors the socioeconomic structures in which we live. The home, in this sense, is an inherently political architectural form. From as far back as 5000 BC, the authority of a patriarch as the (male) head of the household, permeated every aspect of social life, beginning an epic history of architecture in which the segregation of gendered labor within the home remained consistently present. But this is only one chapter in the history of domesticity, what does domestic space look like in a society in which these values are overturned?

This question prompted a study of the alternative spatial approaches of Matrilineal Societies, those that have existed in the past and those that are still present in indigenous cultures of Asia, Africa the Americas, and the Pacific area. These societies contradict many of the seemingly universal ideologies around family, gender, domesticity, marriage, and property. Their houses are similarly guided by a different set of priorities, showing that there is nothing inevitable about how we organize space and providing a helpful prompt to readdress the way we live and design our homes.

This contribution will present a selection of case studies and explain in what ways these examples are paradigmatic in supporting the research hypothesis.

Jolanda Devalle trained as an architect at the University of Cambridge and at the Yale School of Architecture where she held the 2016 Edward P. Bass Fellowship in Architecture. She practiced architecture in London at Foster + Partners and in New York at Selldorf Architects.



Caption: Cover of 'Ville D'oggi' publication
edited by Roberto Aloï - Hoepli 1961

Michela Bonomo

(ACHT:Architecture, Criticism, History & Theory)

Villas through press: The endormsement of the escape by Hoepli
and Gorlich in Postwar Italy

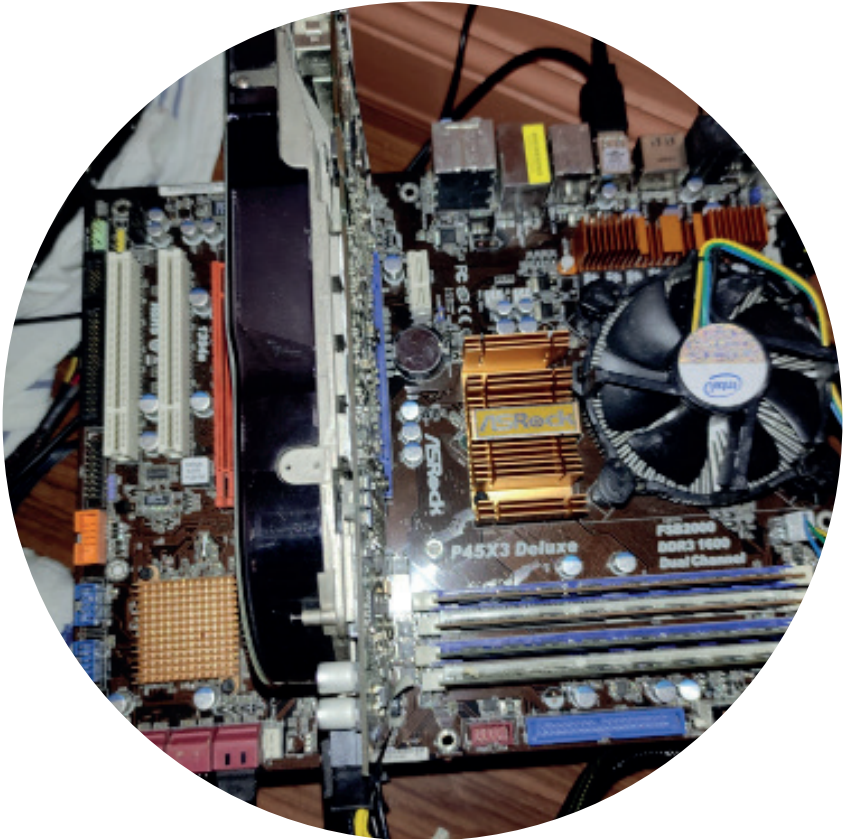
In the collective imagination, the villa is a manifesto of 'the good life', often representing for architects a laboratory for stylistic experimentation, as an exception in their portfolio.

The fate of the villa in contemporary architecture and research culture reflects its very own position: outside of the 'urban' centres of knowledge and critical inquiry, it is still abundantly present as an unexamined source of architectural intelligence, history and ideology. This situation is particularly applicable to Italy, the birthplace of the villa: in histories focusing on Italian post-war architecture, this type of building is strikingly absent despite a revival of this building type in this period.

This presentation, focuses on one chapter of a larger thesis and examines the role that the five books on holiday villas edited by the Aloï family and published by Hoepli had in disseminating and reinforcing the dream of escape.

Discussing the archival material provided by the Aloï family will be the start of a conversation around what the author defines as the project of villa-mania, which saw its peak in the post-war period and which ultimately resulted in changing the Italian coastal landscape irreversibly.

Michela Bonomo is a doctoral candidate in the laboratory of Architecture, Criticism, History and Theory under the supervision of Christophe Van Gerrewey and Pier Vittorio Aureli. Her doctoral research centres on the building typology and the ideology of the villa in Italy with particular focus on the Postwar period investigating concepts of privilege, domesticity, ecology and subject production.



Caption: Image of a GPU

Cyrus Thibault Lognonné

(LHST: Laboratory for the History & Science of Technology)

Mapping the environmentally situated practices of the Graphical
Processing Unit (GPU)

Digital growth and optimization is often depicted in the general public as weightless and non-materially situated: disembodied from our earth and its circuits of raw minerals extraction, purification and assemblage. Taking the counterpoint of such rhetorical tropes, my thesis will map the environmentally situated practices of computing by zooming-in at the level of the Graphical Processing Unit (GPU): the ubiquitous and critical computer chip accelerator required to power our actual digital landscape driven by energy intensive processes ranging artificial intelligence to 3D immersive environments. To this end, this research work will inquire about these environmental human practices of computing by focusing on two socio-technical contexts where computing and the environment intertwine: 1) The regulation of tantalum extraction by the International Labor Organization (ILO, Geneva), GPU thermal optimization through overclocking and 2) informal recycling of the GPU metal debris located in the electronic waste landfill of Agbogbloshie, Ghana. As a research-through-design PhD, it will also address these environmentally situated practices by combining academic research and fieldwork with hands-on critical and speculative design projects: inquiring about the ecological infrastructure of computing at the level of the materiality of the GPU itself. In opposition to these internet discourses, such hybrid inquiries will be foundational in order to address, map and speculate in an open-ended way about the past, present and near-future intersections and connection between computing power and our earth processes and materials.

Cyrus Khalatbari is an artist, designer and PhD candidate of the joint program between the Geneva Arts and Design University (HEAD - Genève, HES-SO) and EPFL. Inside his PhD, Cyrus' bridges ethnographic fieldwork, Science and Technology Studies (STS) with arts and design methodologies in order to address, at the level of the Graphical Processing Unit (GPU), the ecological implications of computing power and the digital.



Smokestacks, humans, and non-humans cohabited under the governance of the industry. The agricultural business led by the industry itself used the rural areas around the plant for food production. Source: Dalmine S.p.A. (1962) *Conversazioni.*, July - August 1962. Special edition in color.

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Anna Karla Almeida

(LAB-U: Laboratory of Urbanism)

Power spatialities in company towns, the case of Dalmine, Italy.

My presentation examines the entanglement of urban rationalities and industrial biopolitics in constructing company towns' identities and spatialities. An epitome of spatial production under industry's power in the 20th century, these cities were usually founded by a single enterprise through social and economic pioneering methods in previously uncolonized terrains. Although less documented, the city of Dalmine, Italy represents another relevant case of the Italian company town. This is partly because the company is still active today and contributes to the construction of the town's identity while most Italian company towns suffered decline and the consequent cessation of activities in the second half of the twentieth century. Through the intersection of historical, business archival, and urban research, my work dialogues with the unearthing traces reflecting the industry's power in the dalminese territory. Dalmine chronicles a microhistory to which extent the "vaster biopolitical action" of the modern western project was engaged to control, protect, manage, and emancipate life, and how company towns are a valuable archetype to sheds light on the narratives of these questioned spaces.

Anna Karla Almeida received a 5 years B.Arch degree in 2015 (Universidade Estadual do Maranhão, Brazil), a triple M.Sc. degree in Historical Sciences with honours in 2018 (University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, University of Padova and University of Evora) and is currently doing a PhD in Architecture and Sciences of the City at Laboratory of Urbanism (2019-2023) under the direction of Prof Paola Viganò.

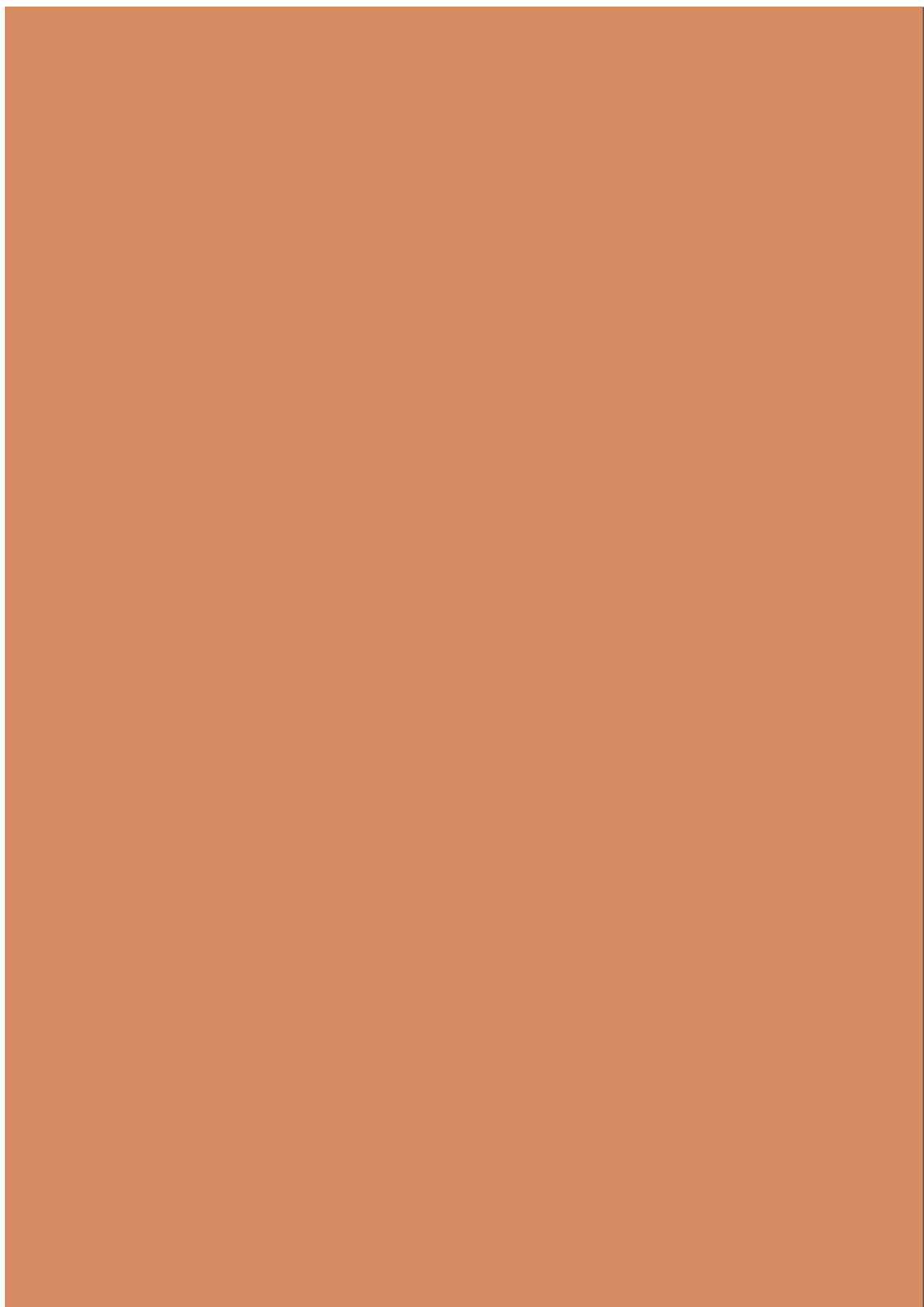


Caption: Follower of Hieronymus Bosch, Studies of Beggars and Cripples, pen and brown ink on paper, 1465-1559 ca., Albertina, Vienna.

Theodora Giovanazzi
(TPOD: Theory and Project of Domestic Space)
Poverty and Architecture: the Making of the Poor

My participation to the Doc.Days event will serve the dual objective of presenting and testing a preliminary table of contents for my PhD study titled "Poverty and Architecture: The Making of the Poor". The presentation will briefly introduce the overarching research hypothesis and the structure of the current index, vis-à-vis a series of paradigmatic case studies used to trace the social, moral, legal, and economic evolutions of the concept of poverty and their relationship to the project of domestic space in the Western context. The period under analysis will cover the early modern period (15th century) up to the end of the 20th century, culminating with the advent and realization of the Welfare State. The central hypothesis of this study is that charitable and philanthropic domestic arrangements for the poor subject may be investigated as active instruments used for the creation, coercion, and education of this particular social class. Accordingly, the selected case studies will be examined as potential precursors of the subsequent social housing typology, with the purpose of establishing a genealogy of welfare housing based on the assertion that its roots may be traced back to 16th-century housing provisions for the poor.

Theodora Giovanazzi (AA Dipl. MArch. ARB/RIBA Part II) is an architectural designer who graduated from the Architectural Association School in London in 2021. After 3 years spent working in various architecture practices and humanitarian organizations, she is currently pursuing a PhD under the supervision of Prof. Pier Vittorio Aureli in his Laboratory "Theory and Project of Domestic Space" at EPFL.



DISCUSSANTS
BIOS

Pier Vittorio Aureli (EPFL)

Pier Vittorio Aureli (Rome, 1973) is an architect and educator. He studied at the Istituto di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV) and later at the Berlage Institute and TU Delft where he earned his PhD. Aureli currently teaches at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne where he directs the Laboratory Theory and Project of Domestic space and teaches courses on History and Theories of Architecture. He has taught at the Architectural Association in London, Yale School of Architecture, Berlage Institute in Rotterdam, Columbia University in New York. Aureli is the author of several books including *The Project of Autonomy: Politics and Architecture Within and Against Capitalism* (2008), *The Possibility of an Absolute Architecture* (2011), *Less is Enough. On asceticism and architecture* (2013), *The City as a Project* (2014), *Ritual and Walls: The Architecture of Sacred Space* (2016, with Maria Shéhérazade Giudici), *The Room of One's Own. The Architecture of the Private Room* (2017, with Dogma), *Loveless. Minimum Dwelling and its Discontents* (2019, with Dogma), *Platform. Architecture and the Use of the Ground* (2021, with Dogma), *Living and Working* (2022, with Dogma) and *Architecture and Abstraction* (forthcoming in Spring 2023). Together with Martino Tattara, he is the co-founder of Dogma, an office for architecture based in Brussels. Dogma has developed a specific interest in large-scale interventions, urban research, and especially domestic space and its potential for transformation. Aureli is also a painter; the first solo exhibition of his paintings has taken place at Betts Project gallery in London in 2017.

Nitin Bathla (ETHZ)

I am a lecturer and postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zürich, where I coordinate the Doctoral Programme at the Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies. Additionally, I lecture on urban studies, political ecology, and sociology and work as part of the transdisciplinary project on agri-urbanisms at the Chair of Sociology. Previously, I have taught lectures in critical and postcolonial urban theory, urban research methods, and on housing cooperatives and global housing challenges at the Master of Advanced Studies in Housing program at ETH Wohnforum and the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. My doctoral research focused on the political economy of land, labour, and environment under extended urbanisation in India'.

In my research practice, I actively combine academic research with artistic practices of filmmaking, and socially-engaged art. My 2020 film Not Just Roads with Klearjos E. Papanicolaou premiered at several important film festivals across the world and won the Society of Architectural Historians Film Award for 2022. An ongoing art collaboration with Sumedha Garg, Studio Otherworlds investigates the entanglements between land, body, ecology, and labour with women migrant workers on the peripheries of Delhi. A few artworks produced as part of this project are currently displayed at the Zentrum Architektur Zürich. I am currently based in Zurich and extremely interested in exploring art, design, and science based collaborations.

Elena Cogato Lanza (EPFL - LAB-U)

Elena Cogato Lanza is an architect. She graduated from the University of Venice in 1991 and is a Doctor of Science (EPFL, 2000). She has been a Senior Scientist since 2007. Affiliated to EPFL's Laboratory of Urbanism since 2013, she is now Director ad interim of the doctoral programme EDAR (Architecture and Sciences of the City). She is also a member of the Scientific Committee of HABITAT Research Centre. Her research interests lie at the crossroads between the history and the theory of urbanism. Urbanism in the twentieth-century; the decline of the modern city and the need to revalue its spatial and material heritage; the investigation of concepts and methods of analysis (especially visual ones) with strong interdisciplinary and systemic implications: these themes form the core of her scientific activities. Her teaching activities spread across all levels of education: bachelor, master, doctorate, continuing education. Her research projects and scientific activities have mainly been financed by the SNSF (including the COST and Sinergia programmes), swissuniversities, and by internal EPFL Grants. Among her publications: *Post-Car World. Futurs de la ville-territoire* (with F. Bahrami, S. Berger, L. Pattaroni, 2021), *Territory in Crisis* (with C. Bianchetti, 2015), *Experimenting Proximity. The Urban Landscape Observatory* (with Ch. Girot, 2014), *De la différence urbaine* (with L. Pattaroni et alii, 2013). She has contributed to journals such as *AAFiles*, *OASE*, *Matière*, and has edited monographic issues of *Urban Planning*, *Contour*, or *FACES Journal d'Architecture*. She acts as a member of various international scientific editorial committees. Alongside her academic endeavours, she is Associate Publisher of the publishing house *MetisPresses* and, since 2015, she has been the President of the Board of the *Fondation Brailiard Architects* in Geneva.

Christophe Van Gerrewey (EPFL- ACHT)

Christophe Van Gerrewey (1982) is an architecture critic and theorist, writing about contemporary buildings, their recent histories and intellectual dimensions, and their connections to society, philosophy, art and literature. In particular, he is an expert on the work of OMA/Rem Koolhaas as well as on Belgian architecture. He is one of the editors of architecture journal OASE, and of art and culture journal De Witte Raaf.

In his writings, architecture is considered as a source of comprehensive and integrated knowledge that pertains to diverse disciplines - a way of looking at, and of understanding, many aspects of the world we live in. This gives his activities an unusually broad and comprehensive aspect, transcending divisions of knowledge. Since 2015, he is Assistant Professor Tenure Track of architecture theory at EPFL Lausanne. He was trained as an architect-engineer at Ghent University and as a literary theorist at KU Leuven. In Dutch, his mother tongue, he has published three novels and a collection of essays between 2013 and 2017.

Stefana Parascho (EPFL-CRCL)

Stefana Parascho is a researcher, architect, and educator whose work lies at the intersection of architecture, digital fabrication and computational design. She is currently an Assistant Professor at EPFL where she founded the Lab for Creative Computation (CRCL) Through her research, she has explored multi-robotic fabrication methods and their relationship to architectural design. Stefana investigated computational design techniques ranging from agent-based systems to sequential design and optimisation methods. Her goal is to strengthen the connection between design, structure, and fabrication, and boost the interdisciplinary nature of architecture through the development of accessible computational tools and robotic fabrication methods.

Before joining EPFL, Stefana was an Assistant Professor at Princeton University, where she led the CREATE Lab Princeton. She completed her doctorate in 2019 at ETH Zurich, Gramazio Kohler Research. Previously, she received her Diploma in Architectural Engineering from the University of Stuttgart and worked with DesignToProduction Stuttgart and Knippers Helbig Advanced Engineering.

Alfredo Thiermann (EPFL)

Alfredo Thiermann is an architect and Assistant Professor for History and Theory of Architecture at the École polytechnique fédérale in Lausanne. Through his practice and theoretical research, he explores the intersection between architecture and different media, from sound installations and film scenography to single family houses, public buildings, and large-scale infrastructures. He has taught and lectured at Harvard University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and other institutions. Alfredo's work has been published in A U, Revista ARQ, TRACE magazine, Zeppelin, Potlatch, Real Review, Thresholds, Archithese, GTA Papers, and BauNetz, and has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, the Istanbul Design Biennial, gta exhibitions in Zurich, and the Venice Art Biennale among other institutions. He has been the recipient of the Rome Prize of the German Academy in Rome.

Alfredo studied architecture, receiving his professional degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Chile and a Masters degree from Princeton University. He received his doctoral degree from the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zurich. He has been a fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, and at the Collegium Helveticum in Zurich. He is currently working on a forthcoming book titled *Radio-Activities: Architecture and Broadcasting in Cold War Berlin*. He lives, works, and takes care of Pedro Tristán and Juan Nataniel between Lausanne and Berlin.

