



Keynote Speakers

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Contemporary cities are racked by physical and infrastructural extremes - floods, droughts, heat islands, frozen pipes, lockdowns, stampedes, air pollution, rolling blackouts, electrical overloads. Urban life is becoming less predictable, less regulated and less manageable owing to the heft, duration and velocity of these material overflows and shortages. The central contention of this collective project is that **overflow and shortage are increasingly pertinent infrastructural conditions in cities today**, and our working hypothesis is that the measurement and management of these problems is therefore shaping urban futures more than ever before.

Drawing on established and emerging scholarship which identifies urban flows as an object of expert intervention and political disputation, the aim of this symposium is to consider how the problematization of such flows transforms alongside other global events like pandemics, rapid urbanisation, geopolitical conflicts, and climate change. It seeks to move beyond *Splintering Urbanism's* concerns with the ownership and location of infrastructures (e.g. privatisation and segmentation) to understand how “overflow” and “shortage” might help shed light on contemporary – and allegedly – “extreme” urban conditions.

What are the physical and social effects of overflows and shortages in cities today? How are they produced, physically, infrastructurally, and discursively? How are governments, citizens, and private firms responding to these new “elements of disorder”? And how do measurements of unexpected flows come to be translated into actionable techniques for city-making? In what ways are conditions of extremity and normalcy relative? Put differently, under what conditions does one group or place’s normal experience come to be publicly named as an “extreme”?

This symposium seeks to bring **anthropologists, geographers, urban planners, architects, and scholars in related fields** to discuss a broad array of cases drawn from across the world, infrastructure sectors, and histories. We invite panelists who take a qualitative approach to understanding these issues (droughts, blackouts, traffic jams, data leaks, etc.) with particular attention to how activists, experts, residents, citizens and officials are already transforming urban concerns about flows (or lack thereof) into actionable “problems”. We encourage applications from early career researchers across the globe.

The Flow/ Overflow/ Shortage (FOS) research collective invites you to **submit a brief abstract** of 2,000 characters via [this form](#) by **Monday March 27th, 2023**. If selected, participants will be asked to circulate a text of 1,500 words among fellow panelists prior to the symposium and to prepare a brief presentation of the text (12 minutes, open format). Presentations will be followed by a discussion. Each panel will be assigned one discussants (see below for confirmed discussants). Submissions and presentations may be in French or English.

Confirmed Discussants

Stephen Collier, Department of City and Regional Planning (University of California Berkeley)
Olivier Coutard, Laboratoire techniques territoires sociétés (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech)
Dimitris Dalakoglou, Faculty of Social Sciences (Vrije University Amsterdam)
Wangui Kimari, African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town)
Sudeshna Mitra, Indian Institute for Human Settlements
Mara Nogueira, Department of Geography (Birkbeck University)
Sophie Schramm, Department of Spatial Planning (Technische Universität Dortmund)

For any inquiries, please email us: flow.overflow.shortage@gmail.com

FOS Research Collective

Core Team

Sophia Abbas, Department of Anthropology (Yale University)
Suyash Barve, School of Business and Management (Queen Mary University of London)
Moritz Kasper, Department of Spatial Planning (Technische Universität Dortmund) and CRC1265 („Re-Figuration of Spaces“)
Demetra Kourri, Manchester School of Architecture (Manchester Metropolitan University)
James Christopher Mizes, Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire en sciences sociales (Université Paris-Dauphine) and Social and Cultural Anthropology Lab (Università di Bologna)
Andrea Pollio, Department of Urban and Regional Studies and Planning (Politecnico di Torino) and African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town)

Support/ Supervision

Momar Diongue, Laboratoire de géographie humaine (Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar)
Sylvy Jaglin, Laboratoire Techniques Territoires Sociétés (Université Gustave Eiffel)
Rohan Shivkumar, Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi School of Architecture and Environmental Studies

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