

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2011

The Geographical Imagination

Session proposal form

Please fill in all the details below and return to AC2011@rgs.org by **25 February 2011**.

Session summary	
Session Title:	Reproblematizing Regeneration
Research Group sponsor (if applicable):	Urban Geography Research Group
Session Convenor(s):	Julian Brigstocke
Session Convenor(s) Email:	Julian.Brigstocke@ncl.ac.uk
Session Abstract:	<p>The concept of regeneration has been central to understandings of the city and urban policy since the 1980s. This session aims to reconsider the normative and philosophical contours of the concept and to push it beyond its usual participation in neoliberal logics of economic growth and community empowerment. The aim is to re-pose the problem of regeneration in new, more productive ways, as well as to understand the exact nature of the problem as it presents itself in different policy contexts. Questions to be considered will include: What kind of a problem does the notion of urban regeneration pose? What sort of ontological commitments is it based upon? What metaphysics of growth, rebirth and emergence does (or should) it make use of? To what extent does urban regeneration discourse continue to participate in biological and theological ontologies and values? What new vocabularies of urban vibrancy are emerging, and through what means? Papers in the session will contribute to a discussion concerning the contemporary limits and potentials of urban regeneration discourse, and to a conversation about how discourses of urban vibrancy might be taken up or modified to facilitate more egalitarian and inclusive ways of understanding and transforming cities and urban communities.</p>
Keywords (max 5):	Urban; Regeneration; Biopolitics; Affect; Genealogy

Session Requirements		
Number of timeslots required in the conference programme	1	Session slots will be approximately 1hr 40minutes long, which accommodates 5 papers of 20min each including questions, or 7-10 shorter papers depending on format.
Type of session proposed e.g. papers, papers with discussant, posters, panel discussion, workshop...	Papers with discussant	The session organisers welcome innovative session formats. If you'd like to discuss a session format, please contact the organisers at AC2011@rgs.org .
Special audio visual requirements	None	Laptop with audio speakers, data projector and screen will be provided in each room. Most rooms should also have internet access (either wired or wireless). Speakers should bring their own laser pointers etc.
Any other special requests to be considered	Please don't let this session coincide with 'My, Myself and my Archive' or 'Emerging From the Dark' sessions, as presenters are also involved in these.	e.g. mobility requirements, room request, timetabling request.

Session details	
Session 1	

Session 1 Chair	Julian Brigstocke (Newcastle University)
Session 1 Chair email	Julian.Brigstocke@ncl.ac.uk
Paper 1 Title:	A Point in the Past and to the Future: Excavating the Roots of Regeneration in the “Barcelona Model”
Paper 1 Abstract:	<p>One of the much-discussed manifestations of global restructuring has been the rise of the entrepreneurial city and interurban competition, which has relied heavily on regeneration, city-branding, and ‘good’ urban planning and design. Within this context, the so-called ‘Barcelona Model’ has been hailed in international academic and professional circles as an example of innovation and good practice. The city’s public space projects, and the implementation of massive urban regeneration interventions strategically connected with mega-events, have showcased a particular ‘way of doing’ planning praised for its visionary qualities, fine architecture and urban design, and socially redistributive principles. However, this paper argues that the pervasive emphasis on physical projects and design accomplishments eclipses meaningful analytical dimensions and historical dynamics which are at the core of a complex and distinct ethos of re-generation in Barcelona. Moreover, the complexities of this ethos have been firmly inscribed in the city’s political project and cultural imagination; in its politics of urban representation and constructions of citizenship; and its perennial need for expansion and urban transformation. The paper shows the critical role of Barcelona’s intricate political history; strong cultural/national identity; civic pride; and long quest for modernity—manifested in a radical planning tradition—in shaping the values and priorities of the contemporary urban “model.” Notably, some of the most praised features and mechanisms of regeneration deployed in recent years can already be discerned in some form more than a hundred years ago.</p>
Paper 1 Author(s):	Lucrezia Miranda (University of California, Davis)
Paper 1 Presenter(s):	Lucrezia Miranda (University of California, Davis)
Paper 1 Author(s) email address:	lzmiranda@ucdavis.edu
Paper 2 Title:	Regeneration-Through-Demolition: Rationalities of Healing and Rescuing in Hoyerswerda, East Germany
Paper 2 Abstract:	<p>In 2001, the German Federal State and its <i>Länder</i> introduced a new urban regeneration policy, <i>Stadtumbau Ost</i> (Urban Renewal East) as a response to population loss and economic decline in East German cities. This policy finances the demolition of vacant housing and the regeneration of the remaining urban realm in participating cities. In order to partake, cities were obliged to produce ‘Integrated Urban Development Concepts’, which outline their individual regeneration strategies. In the context of governmentality studies, these concepts can be seen as technologies of making urban futures governable and of constituting the city as the proper context to face certain challenges.</p> <p>Employing a governmentality research perspective, this paper examines a city’s approach to <i>Stadtumbau</i>. It focuses on the spatial and temporal objects and different rationalities of regeneration in Hoyerswerda, once the booming Second Socialist City of the GDR, which has lost almost half its inhabitants since German Unity in 1990. Particular attention is drawn to the different kinds of subjects which are constituted in the process of governing Hoyerswerda’s regeneration-through-demolition process.</p>

	The paper shows how rationalities of healing and rescuing the city underpin the regeneration process, which is guided by the spatial object of a 'European City' and the temporal objects of 'stability' and reconnecting to historical roots. Depending on how and where they live, subjects are considered to possess or lack capacities for autonomous self-government. Subjects who are seen to lack these capacities are required to play along in the regeneration process and accept their potential relocation.
Paper 2 Author(s):	Nina Gribat (University of Stuttgart)
Paper 2 Presenter(s):	Nina Gribat (University of Stuttgart)
Paper 2 Author(s) email address:	nina.gribat@daad-alumni.de
Paper 3 Title:	The Biopolitics of Regeneration: Governing the Contingency of Emergent Urban Life
Paper 3 Abstract:	This paper is part of a larger project that seeks to broadly theorise the role of urban regeneration in governing the emergent relationships between cities, ecologies and securities. In this paper, the analytical framework offered by the biopolitics of security is found to offer a myriad of useful conceptualisations of how discourses of urbanism, ecology and security interact within particular problematisations of life and related spatial strategies for the promotion and protection of life, livelihoods and lifestyles. Through this framework, the paper will argue that the emergence of regeneration as a discourse within neo-liberal urban and regional policy can only be properly understood in relation to the problematisation of life that this discourse poses. Further to this, regeneration is inseparable from the biopolitical genealogy of urban governance that explores the political imaginary through which biological concepts such as 'milieu' and 'circulation' have since the 19 th century been employed to regulate species-life within cities. The paper pursues how the discourse of regeneration that has problematized neo-liberal urban governance is critically dependent upon a problematisation of life engendered by the emergence of the complexity sciences, that have since the 1980's reproblematised the vital functions of species life according to the capacities for complex adaptive emergence, or 'fitness'. The paper concludes with a series of reflections surrounding the proposition that life understood as pluripotent and emergent has become for security discourses a life subject to radical uncertainty, and problematises the securities of urban regeneration as part of an emerging biopolitical security <i>dispositif</i> that seeks to govern <i>through contingency</i> .
Paper 3 Author(s):	Corey Walker-Mortimer (Keele University)
Paper 3 Presenter(s):	Corey Walker-Mortimer (Keele University)
Paper 3 Author(s) email address:	c.b.walker-mortimer@ilpj.keele.ac.uk
Paper 4 Title:	The Affective Strategies of Regeneration
Paper 4 Abstract:	Through regeneration strategies, authorities and planners don't aim to just alter the towns and cities that they operate in; they aim to alter the people too. Many of the academic critiques of regeneration have recognised where this has been problematic, particularly in discussions of regeneration-as-gentrification. The latest version of this project is the discourse of the 'creative class', which seeks to attract that right sort of person to an urban area, or ideally, to cultivate 'creativity' in the existing residents, that is, to enact a change in subjectivities. These regeneration strategies have attempted to create 'better' consumer behaviour: changes in leisure activity, property buying patterns, etc. Whilst there has often been an implicit focus on subjectivities, academics have tended to look at regulation or processes of resistance, overlooking some of the strategies used in regeneration. Using strategies in the technical sense developed

	by de Certeau, I want to look at the affective basis of regeneration in a number of towns and cities. Examples of this might include marketing strategies which urge residents to 'love' their city or to 'get into' it. This also comes through into urban design, as planners attempt to create open spaces for festivals or events in which new affects can be cultivated. In exploring further the affective strategies of regeneration, we might develop a more nuanced understanding of how the ontologies of regeneration are enacted.
Paper 4 Author(s):	Robert Shaw (Durham University)
Paper 4 Presenter(s):	Robert Shaw (Durham University)
Paper 4 Author(s) email address:	robert.shaw@durham.ac.uk
Paper 5 Title:	Discussant
Paper 5 Abstract:	
Paper 5 Author(s):	
Paper 5 Presenter(s):	Julian Brigstocke (Newcastle University)
Paper 5 Author(s) email address:	Julian.Brigstocke@ncl.ac.uk

Please copy and paste the "Session details" table below if your session requires more than one timeslot (e.g. it has more than 5 papers and you need more time). If you are proposing another session on a different topic, please use a new form.