
Annual PhD Summer School of the Graduate Centre "Topology of Technology"

at the Technische Universität Darmstadt, June 25-29, 2008:



TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

After the Turn: Negotiating Disciplinary Perspectives on Space

In the past two decades the spatial turn has successfully put the category of space back on the agenda of many disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. In our summer school we would like to address the transdisciplinary implications of the current renaissance in spatial theory: Should the different spatial, topological and topographical turns actually be synchronized into the figure of one encompassing turn? Do we need more conceptual fine-tuning, or should we rely on a patchwork of competing approaches? How do we deal with spatial concepts that do not readily traverse disciplinary and cultural boundaries? Can/should transdisciplinary research avoid the metaphorical quality of paradigmatic conceptualisations of space? Are there convincing theoretical solutions to construe the relations between spatial structures and actions in space, or between the symbolic and the material dimensions of space? How has the focus on space affected disciplinary methodologies?

The program of the summer school has been designed to combine theoretical revision with the exploration of three particularly thriving fields of spatial discourse. On the first day, the lectures and group discussion will be concerned with the interrelations of *space and gender*. Topics for consideration here include the interaction of social practices and bodily deployment, the gendering of space and the spatial constitution of gender, and the relevance of gender-related perspectives in architectural practice and theory. On the second day, the focus will be on the spatial implications of *networks and flows*: What role does space play in actor network theory? Do we have to rethink the relations between macro- and microspaces and spatial and temporal compression in the light of globalized production, distribution and consumption? Do we need different concepts of agency, knowledge and information in order to tackle the complex phenomena of glocalisation? The final day of discussions will be dedicated to the spatial realities and scenarios of *human-machine interfaces*. This session is intended to engage with aspects such as intelligent environments, personalized services and user profiles, augmented realities and monitoring and tracking strategies to encourage a discussion of specific technologies which might require a reconsideration of the assumptions and metaphors in recently-established ways of talking about place and space.

The summer school will be held at the conference venue Evangelische Akademie Arnoldshain in Schmitten about 30 km north of Frankfurt (office@martin-niemoeller-haus.de). The standard conference fee will be 100,- Euros to cover accommodation and meals. Applications including a short letter of motivation and a description of the applicants' research projects must be submitted until **February 15, 2008** and should be sent to the following address:

Graduiertenkolleg TOPOLOGIE DER TECHNIK

Technische Universität Darmstadt

Karolinenplatz 5, D-64289 Darmstadt

gradkoll@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de