

eikones

NFS Bildkritik
NCCR Iconic Criticism

Streets, Routes, Methods I

Reflections on Paths, Spaces and Temporalities
International Conference,
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
Max-Planck-Institut, 5th – 6th May 2017

Location: Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
Max-Planck-Institut
Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51, 50122 Firenze, Italia

Contact: dir.wolf@khi.fi.it
Free admission until capacity is reached.



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Image: Bas Princen, from series based on Cedric Price's Potteries Thinkbelt,
Madeley Transfer Area site, Staffordshire, 2015.



Kunsthistorisches
Institut
in
Florenz

Max-Planck-Institut



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Paths can be serpentine, straight and anything in between; they might traverse barely accessible mountains, like the Inca Trail, or be straight, like desire lines. Paths come before roads, survive into the time of roads, or reappear in response to them. Paths tend to be overgrown, to disappear – in the desert sand – to be overbuilt or abandoned. They have their temporalities, seasons and spatialities, between proximity and distance. Paths are therefore not purely spatial affairs. Paths have a genuine temporal dimension beyond the duration of a traveler’s journey. Paths can be seen as chronotopoi, with literary, pictorial and cinematographic histories. Paths must be trodden in order to survive, exemplifying the Heraclitian formula μεταβάλλον ἀναπαύεται (‘it is in changing that things find repose’). The temporal dimension of paths ultimately allows us to overcome the sterile dichotomy between real and imagined paths (metaphors, allegories, models). They have a rich life in the world of metaphors, intrinsic to the notion of met-hodos, based on the Greek word for way, or path. This allies paths to language and, more specifically, writing, whose elements are also repetitions, tracks that are ‘inked in’. It is the remembered, the described, and thereby the reusable and transferable path. Paths within language can become ritual tools for the creation of new ones.

Beyond the above mentioned approaches to paths, the conference will explore their relationship to the environment, in line

with the eco-art historical project at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz. How do paths, trails and routes shape or even create landscape? What is the interplay of geomorphology, flora and fauna, animal and human agency? Paths introduce directionalities, itineraries and nets into the environment, they are linked to technologies of transport and movement; they offer viewpoints, changing horizons or deep immersion into flora or architecture; experiencing them is a multisensorial endeavor. Under the hodological conditions of global urban environments and post/industrial landscapes, paths run across streets, they can be subversive, democratic or pragmatic. They can be reinstalled as nostalgic evocations of a lost or overcome past, of rural or pastoral life, or serve mass tourism as well as new ecological approaches.

Organized by Hannah Baader, Adam Jasper, Stefan Neuner, Gerald Wildgruber and Gerhard Wolf

Program

Friday, 5th May, 2017

9:30	Hannah Baader (Florence /Berlin) and Stefan Neuner (Basel): Welcome and Introduction
10:15	Philip Ursprung (Zurich): Volcano Walks: Following the Explorer Franz Junghuhn on the Island of Java
11:00	Bas Princen (Rotterdam): (Central) Perspectives
Chair:	Hannah Baader (Florence/Berlin)
11:45	Break

12:00	Catalina Ospina (Chicago): At a Crossroads: the Emergence of Mopa Mopa Images in the Colonial Andes
12:45	Marco Musillo (Florence): The Ecology of Silent Descriptions: Semantic and Symbolical Paths towards the King of Trees
Chair:	Stefan Neuner (Basel)
13:30	Lunch Break
15:00	Himanshu Burte (Mumbai): Path, Place, and Network: The Politics of Roads in Mumbai
15:45	John Xaviers (Noira, Uttar Pradesh): Mattancherry Jew Street
Chair:	Peter Christensen (Berlin/Rochester, NY)
16:30	Break
17:00	Maia Mania (Tbilisi): “Le chemin des anes, le chemin des hommes...”
17:45	Lutz Robbers (Oldenburg): Paths and Lines: Negotiations in Architectural Image Practices
Chair:	Philip Ursprung (Zurich)
18:30	Break
18:45	Presentation of Works by Bas Princen (Fototeca)
19:15	Joseph Rykwert (London) and Francesco Pellizzi (New York): A Conversation

Saturday, 6th May 2017

09:15	Fabian Horn (Munich): The Conceptualization “Life is a Journey” in Early Greek Poetry and Thought
10:00	Velizar Sadovski (Vienna): The Roads of Indo-Iranian Ritual: Multidimensional Sacred Space and Topology of Transcendence
Chair:	Gerald Wildgruber (Basel)
10:45	Break

11:15	Gérard Chouin (Williamsburg, VA): (Im)Materiality, Diachrony, and Spatiality: Preliminary Thoughts about Three Dimensions of Long-Distance ‘Trade’ Routes in Medieval to Early Modern West Africa
12:00	João Carlos Nara Jr. (Rio de Janeiro): African Diaspora in Guanabara Bay: Slave Paths, Maritime Routes and Trade Streets in the Rio de Janeiro of 18th Century
12:45	J. Lorand Matory (Durham, NC): At the Crossroads: Afro-Atlantic and Central European Ethics of Intersectionality
Chair:	Adam Jasper (Basel)
13:30	Lunch Break
15:00	Martin Thiering (Berlin/Rome): Implicit and Tacit Knowledge in Flavio Biondo’s Historiographical and Geographical “Italia Illustrata”
15:45	Antonieta Reis Leite (Coimbra): Paths, Spaces and Temporalities on the Azores Islands Settlement (Sixteen Century). Methods Towards a New Landscape.
16:30	Nuno Grancho (Coimbra): Representation of Urban Spaces and Temporalities in the Colonial City of Diu
Chair:	Gerhard Wolf (Florence)
17:15	Gerhard Wolf (Florence): Concluding Remarks & Final Discussion