



URBAN FRICTION

The [urban interfaces]
graduate seminar
2017-2018

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Urban processes have been impacted by frictions all throughout history. The remarkable pace and dynamics of the current phase of global urbanization in the age of mediatization, datafication, and pervasive connectivity suggest a new age where insular, political boundaries have come to shift radically. Perhaps to a larger extent than before, people are identifying as global citizens. However, as a result of this spatial accumulation social, political and cultural frictions within our cities manifest themselves on a wide scale. In this year's [urban interfaces] graduate seminar series we open up a forum to debate and inquire about contemporary frictions being experienced in urban cities, namely:

- "Right to the City" and Civic Empowerment
- Mobility and Migration (Tourism to Refugees)
- Urban Institutions and Smart Platforms (e.g. Airbnb and Uber)

We intent to question these frictions from a critical, yet optimistic perspective. Frictions can be both obstructive and productive and, and we aim to disclose this paradox and approach frictions as a prospect to discuss their positive potential for urban culture and society. This seminar series proposes a framework to think about urban frictions, and about how urban media, art and performance as interventions in our cities' public spaces can productively address these frictions. In each session, we will focus on the temporality and performativity of media, art and performance, and the ambitions of the design of "frictional" urban interfaces as a form of critical making.

We invite anyone interested in the subject matter to participate in the Seminar. Specifically, the seminar is open to all ICON/RMeS/NICA members and registered participants, including PhD and Research Masters students from all universities in Netherlands. For this seminar series, a Research Master Student can earn 4 ECTS.

Organizers: Nanna Verhoeff, Michiel de Lange, Sigrid Merx, Hira Sheikh

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Seminars: November 8, January 31, February 28, May 9 (Time: 15:00 - 17:00)

Workshop: two-day "pressure cooker" workshop: February 27-28

Venue: Parnassos, Kruisstraat 201, Utrecht.

<https://urbaninterfaces.sites.uu.nl/>