

WELCOME TO THE FIRST [urban interfaces] NEWSLETTER

# [URBAN INTERFACES]

urbaninterfaces.net

[urban interfaces] is an initiative of the Department for Media and Culture Studies (MCW) and the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON) of the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University. The core team is always expanding and recently colleagues from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies have joined us.\* The aim of our group is to offer a research platform for investigating urban interfaces as sites for critical, creative, and participatory engagement in our cities. Focusing on situated media, art, and performance, the platform initiates critical reflections on how various technologies, infrastructures, and socio-spatial practices (co-)shape and stage urban culture and our lived experiences within it. With our research agenda and collaborations, it is our mission to contribute to equality, sustainability, and justice in our contemporary cities.

The topic of “the urban” calls for inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration. Working at the intersection of various academic disciplines within and beyond the humanities, our mission is to contribute to interdisciplinary scholarship in collaborations with, in particular, the geosciences, social sciences, law, economics and governance, as well as to the new directions developed in the creative humanities, environmental humanities, and urban humanities. Moreover, for our teaching, research, and outreach activities, we are invested in working with partners in the wider cultural field – from designers, artists, and curators to educators, activists, and policy-makers.

This newsletter will provide monthly updates on upcoming events and announcements from within [urban interfaces], as well as related/interesting updates from other organizations. If you know of any announcements of sessions, workshops, seminars, or other events/news that you think would be valuable and relevant additions, feel free to reach out to us at [urbaninterfaces@uu.nl](mailto:urbaninterfaces@uu.nl).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



### CREATIVE URBAN METHODS: A CRITICAL EXPLORATION

In this seminar, we will discuss ways to expand conventional ways of doing theory in, for and with cities and urban contexts. The growing catalog of creative methods for various disciplinary and interdisciplinary urban inquiries demonstrates a wide array of research techniques ranging from data walking to performative mapping or critical making, from experimental ethnography and co-creation to dramaturgical or interface analysis, and curatorial or action-based research to uncover and engage alternative ways of data collection, production, and analysis.

Dates:

- Session 1 – May 11th
- Session 2 – May 25th
- Session 3 – June 8th
- Workshop day – June 28th

Credits: 3 ECTS (seminar sessions) + 2 ECTS (workshop day)

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CREATIVE URBAN METHODS](#)



### De Futuristen: De Toekomst van Geld

– Dutch-spoken event –

Een wereld zonder geld is moeilijk voor te stellen. Maar wat is geld eigenlijk? En wie maakt de regels van ons geldstelsel? Economisch antropoloog en lid van [urban interfaces] dr. Coco Kanters onderzoekt hoe het anders kan. In een wereld waar miljarden wegsijpelen naar financiële centra en belastingparadijzen, kiezen sommigen ervoor om een eigen munteenheid te beginnen. Wat levert dit op? En wat zegt het over de aard van geld? De Futuristen is een theater talkshow, waarin theatermakers en wetenschappers de toekomst onderzoeken. Een unieke combinatie van interview en theater, waarin muzikanten en schrijvers de visie van een spraakmakende gast in één dag vertellen naar een voorstelling. Verser kan niet!

Waar: TivoliVredenburg

Wanneer: 6 februari 2023

Hoe laat: 20:00–21:30

[KLIK HIER VOOR DE FUTURISTEN](#)



### OPEN DIALOGUE SESSION 2: THE CITY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

In this session hosted by the Open Cities Platform, prof. dr. Paul Ziche will explore photography as the classic medium for documenting cities. All of us frequently do take photos in cities. But there are intriguing questions here: what makes a photo into a photo of a city? How can cityhood be made into a topic for photography? What is the relationship between photography and film, with respect to capturing cities/a city/the city (cinematic presentations of cities are a pretty prominent topic throughout the history of film)? What makes a photo into a photo of a particular city? Are ‘cityscapes’ indeed an instance of the more general category of ‘landscapes’?

We will explore these questions on the basis of photos that you bring along: bring some photos of cities (in any of the multiple senses of this term that have been hinted at), either your own photos or photos that you came across somewhere and found interesting, and we’ll discuss together what might be fitting categories for capturing cities via the medium of photography.

Location: t.b.a.

When: February 21st, 2023

Time: 15:30–17:00

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE OPEN DIALOGUE SESSION](#)



### WORKSHOP "NAVIGATING INTERSECTIONAL REALITIES THROUGH SMART URBANISM: GENDER, MEDIA AND DESIGN"

Smart cities are touted all over the world as bringing benefits to all citizens, but in reality the fruits are not equally sweet for everyone. The smart city discourse positions itself on a path to achieving sustainability, equity and safety in urban spaces through the use of data, sensors, dashboards, platforms and infrastructures. Vulnerable groups and people on the margins (including women, older adults, people with disabilities, low-income communities, people of color, migrants and sans-papiers) remain largely absent from these discussions and developments. How can we understand processes and discourses of in- and exclusion in today’s datafied smart cities? What can we learn from smart urbanisms in the Global South, and from street level experiences from vulnerable people?

Where: Utrecht University & MS Teams

When: April 12th, 2023

Time: 10:00–17:00

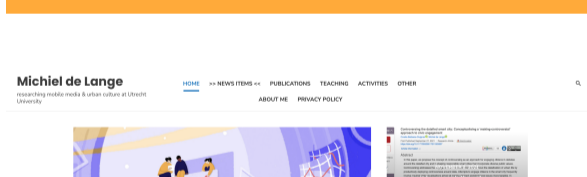
[CLICK HERE FOR THE FLYER](#)



### CURATORIAL CALL: CREATIVE URBAN METHODS WORKSHOP

This year, [urban interfaces] will organize a day of workshops that all provide interesting perspectives on Creative Urban Methods (see above). For these workshops, we are looking for enthusiastic individuals who would like to curate a workshop. We also invite individuals who are open to collaborating with others from different disciplines to propose a workshop idea to us. For more information, please feel free to reach out to us via [urbaninterfaces@uu.nl](mailto:urbaninterfaces@uu.nl) or click the button below.

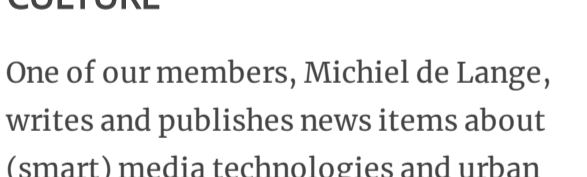
[REACH OUT TO US TO PROPOSE A WORKSHOP](#)



Chapter in the publication on 'Controversing the smart city'

<https://blog.bijt.org/>

[CLICK HERE FOR MICHIEL'S BLOG](#)



### ANNOUNCEMENT OPEN CITIES PLATFORM NEWSLETTER

From February onwards, the recently inaugurated Open Cities Platform will be sending out a monthly newsletter! This newsletter will provide updates on interesting events/announcements.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR THE OCP NEWSLETTER](#)