

# **MEDIA SPACE | PUBLIC SPACE**

Special Topics Seminar  
Media Studies Program: The New School  
Fall, 2005

## Instructors:

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This course serves as a convergence point for the myriad courses and programs that comprise the "Media Space | Public Space" (MS|PS) project, a year-long investigation of the relationships between public spaces, media technologies, their uses, and the mediated environments they create. Bringing together students from the Departments of Media Studies & Film, Design & Technology, Architecture, and International Affairs, this seminar takes the University and the city-at-large as extended classrooms, as laboratories, in which we can investigate how new media are shaping the ways we design and experience public space, and how the growing academic interest in "space" and "place" can contribute to theoretical and practical concerns germane to media studies and other fields concerned with media.

Students enrolled in the seminar will be asked to attend, over the course of the semester, a minimum of **ten** events that will be listed on the MS|PS events calendar. Those events will include relevant presentations in other Media Studies, Architecture, Design & Technology or International Affairs classes; events organized specifically for MP|PS (such as screenings, guest speakers, field trips); relevant events in other Departments and Divisions across the University; and programs and exhibits offered by the many cultural and activist organizations in the city that are concerned with issues central to MS|PS.

Students will sign up to attend specific events and to meet classmates at agreed upon times/places. Students will experience the events as a member of a small group from the class, and will schedule time after the event to discuss/debrief/concept-build with their small groups. The seminar facilitators will attend many of these events along with the students.

We will gather in the classroom for eight seminar sessions during the semester to discuss the course's foundation readings and our individual explorations of the seminar-related, outside-of-class events. In our in-class sessions, we will identify overarching themes, develop synthetic theories, draw conclusions about the relationships between media and space – and, ultimately, design and facilitate a culminating project that reflects our individual and collective understandings of those relationships.

Attendance of and Participation in classroom sessions and event sessions: 20%

Response Papers: 10 @ 5% each = 50%. Please post to the "Discussion" section on the class's portal site a 300-word response paper for each of the ten events you attend throughout the

semester. In these papers, we ask you to link your experiences at these events to the texts you're reading for class, and address how the events and the readings are contributing to your evolving understanding of the relationships between media and space. After posting your comments, be sure to return to the discussion to review the instructors' and your classmates' responses to your post, and to offer your own responses to others' posts. We ask that you post twice a week, at minimum.

Culminating Project/Event: 30%. Throughout the semester, as we encounter and engage with myriad approaches to, applications of, and experimentations with "media" and "space," we'll think about how we can make our own contribution to this new and expanding interdisciplinary field of inquiry. The culminating project is an "emergent" project – which means that its form and content will not be apparent to us as we begin our study, but will begin to take shape and attain focus as we continue to read, talk, and experience. We – either as a group of individuals or as one collective – may choose to pursue a particular "media space"-relevant topic or question through a scholarly research paper, or to chronicle and draw some conclusions about our semester's experiences through a textual, photographic, or, video production. We might opt to make a creative intervention into an urban space by designing, and exhibiting or staging, a public media art exhibit or performance. Regardless of what we decide to do, we'll translate our understandings and insights gained through seminar sessions and seminar-related events into one culminating event, which will take place in a dedicated space and be opened up to the public. This event will present a valuable opportunity for dialogue and exchange (verbal, visual, performative, etc.) between our class and the other MSPS-linked courses, the Department, the University, and the City.

#### Required Texts:

Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004).

David Morley, Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).

Howard Rheingold, Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution (Perseus, 2002).

Krzysztof Wodiczko, Critical Vehicles: Writings, Projects, Interviews (MIT, 1999).

### **CLASSROOM SESSION 1:**

**Tuesday, Sept 6**

Introduction:

Exploring the Connections and Tensions Between Media and Public Space  
A History of Theories Linking Media and Space

- Mimi Sheller & John Urry, "Mobile Transformations of 'Public' and 'Private' Life," Theory, Culture and Society 20:3 (2003): 107-125:

### **CLASSROOM SESSION 2:**

**Tuesday, Sept 13**

**Public Spheres: Spaces of Mediated Commerce and Control**

Agenda: Using theories of the "public sphere" and other political economic conceptions of space to help us begin thinking about potential overarching

themes. Developing potential through-lines that synthesize our thinking and production on the topic of media space][public space.

Probes: how people and practices are defining "publics" and "public spheres" ... what makes a place "public" ... what makes media "public" ... roles that commerce and systems of control play in public places ... media as contributing to or compromising "public-ness" ... media as constructing and maintaining, subverting or redirecting forces of commerce and control and "public spheres" ...

- Nick Couldry and Anna McCarthy, "Introduction: Orientations: Mapping MediaSpace," In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004): 1-18.
- David Morley, "Introduction" In Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).
- Jean Baudrillard & Marie Maclean, "The Masses: The Implosion of the Social in the Media" New Literary History 16:3 (Spring 1985): 577-89.
- Clive Barnett, "Neither Poison Nor Cure: Space, Scale and Public Life in Media Theory" In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004): 58-74.
- Krzysztof Wodiczko, Critical Vehicles: Writings, Projects, Interviews (MIT, 1999).

### **EVENT SESSION 3: FIELD TRIP: PLACE: EAST HARLEM GALLERY**

**Week of Sept. 19**

#### **Public Spheres: Spaces of Mediated Commerce and Control**

- David Morley, Chapters 1 & 2 In Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).
- Tricia Rose, "Fear of a Black Planet: Rap Music and Black Cultural Politics in the 1990s" The Journal of Negro Education 60:3 (Summer 1991): 276-90.
- Susan Bickford, "Constructing Inequality: City Spaces and the Architecture of Citizenship" Political Theory 28:3 (Jun 2000): 355-376.
- Arlene Davila, "The Marketable Neighborhood: Commercial Latinidad in New York's East Harlem" In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004): 95-113.

### **EVENT SESSION 4: INAUGURAL EVENT FOR MEDIA SPACE ][ PUBLIC SPACE**

**Tuesday Sept. 27 (during class time)**

#### **Public Spheres: Spaces of Mediated Commerce and Control**

- David Morley, Chapters 3 & 4 In Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).
- W.J.T. Mitchell, "An Interview with Barbara Kruger," Critical Inquiry, 17:2 (Winter 1991): 434-448
- Shaun Morres, "The Doubling of Place: Electronic Media, Time-Space Arrangements and Social Relationships" In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge,

2004): 21-36.

- Michael Bull: "To Each Their Own Bubble: Mobile Spaces of Sound in the City,": In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004): 275-293.

## **EVENT SESSION 5:**

**October 4**

### **Places: Cultural Geographies, Places of Mediated Meaning and Identity**

Agenda: Continuing to identify overarching themes and synthetic theories.  
Brainstorming for the Culminating Event

Probes: symbolic and physical geographies of public spaces ... how places "mean" ... how they contribute to their inhabitants' practices of identity construction ...how the presence or use of media in public spaces support or hinder various publics' practices of self-definition and meaning-making

- David Morley, Chapters 5 & 6 In Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).
- Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift, "Introduction" In Crang and Thrift, Eds., Thinking Space (Routledge, 2000): 1-30.
- Phil Hubbard, Rob Kitchin and Gill Valentine, "Thinking Space and Place," "Intellectual and Disciplinary Genealogies" In Key Thinkers on Space and Place (Sage, 2004): 3-15.
- Jane Jacobs, "The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact" In The Death and Life of Great American Cities (Vintage 1992): 55-73.

## **EVENT SESSION 6: FIELD TRIP: INVISIBLE CITIES**

**Week of Oct 10**

BCCP site, a.k.a. "the Hub," which is located in a gymnasium in Roosevelt Hall at Brooklyn College. Workshop would take place in part there and in part at the junction/cross-section of Nostrand and Flatbush Avenues.

### **Places: Cultural Geographies, Places of Mediated Meaning and Identity**

- Paolo Prato, "Music in the Streets: The Example of Washington Square Park in New York City" Popular Music 4 (1984): 151-163.
- Gillian Rose, "The Cultural Politics of Place: Local Representations and Oppositional Discourse in Two Films" Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 19:1 (1994): 46-60.
- Tong Soon Lee, "Technology and the Production of Islamic Space: The Call to Prayer in Singapore" Ethnomusicology 43:1 (1999): 86-100.

**CLASSROOM SESSION 3:**  
**Week of Oct 17**

**Places: Cultural Geographies, Places of Mediated Meaning and Identity**

- Steven W. Lewis, "The Media of New Public Spaces in Global Cities: Subway Advertising in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Taipei" Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies 17:3 (2003): 261-272.
- Takashi Fujitani, "Electronic Pageantry and Japan's 'Symbolic Emperor'" The Journal of Asian Studies 51:4 (Nov 1992): 824-40.

**Event Session 8:**  
**Week of Oct 2**

**Places: Cultural Geographies, Places of Mediated Meaning and Identity**

- Christopher Reed, "Imminent Domain: Queer Space in the Built Environment" Art Journal 55:4 (Winter 1996): 64-70.
- Julie Peteet "The Writing on the Walls: The Graffiti of the Intifada" Cultural Anthropology 11:2 (May 1996): 139-159.
- Fiona Allon, "An Ontology of Everyday Control: Space, Media Flows and 'Smart' Living in the Absolute Present," In Nick Couldry & Anna McCarthy, Eds., MediaSpace: Place, Scale and Culture in a Media Age (Routledge, 2004): 253-273.

**CLASSROOM SESSION 9:**  
**November 1**

**Spaces of Flows: How Media Modulate and Capture the flows of Bits and Bodies through Time and Space**

Agenda: Thinking conceptually and materially – that is, in terms of specific production or creative projects --- about the culminating event.

Probes: what it means for spaces to be dynamic, mobile, delocalized ...how the body experiences and navigates these spaces ... how media shape and occupy them ,,where media and bodies meet one another in these spaces ... what happens to power and meaning and identity in such dynamic physical and mediated environments ...

- David Morley, Chapters 7 & 8 In Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000).
- Mary Zournazi: "Navigating Movements: An Interview with Brian Massumi": <http://www.21cmagazine.com/issue2/massumi.html>
- Paul Adams, "Cyberspace and Virtual Places" Geographical Review 87: 2 (April 1997): 155-171.

**Event Session 10**  
**Week of Nov. 7**

**Spaces of Flows: How Media Modulate and Capture the flows of Bits and Bodies through Time and Space**

- David Morley, Ch. 9, 10, and 11 in Home Territories: Media, Mobility and Identity (Routledge, 2000): 149-245.

**CLASSROOM SESSION 11:**  
**November 15**

**Détournement and Deconstruction: Using Media to Dismantle and Reassemble Spaces and Publics**

Agenda: Defining the terms of the dialogue/exchange that will take place through the culminating event. Concretizing plans for the culminating event

Probes: how space is malleable ... practices a public has at its disposal to reshape space ... how/when spatial reshaping becomes a political project ...how media become instrumental in such endeavors

- Howard Rheingold, Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution (Perseus, 2002).
- Kyratso G. Karahalios, "Social Catalysts: Enhancing Communication in Mediated Spaces" Dissertation, Ph.D. In Media Arts and Sciences, MIT, June 24, 2004: <http://smg.media.mit.edu/papers/kkarahal/thesis/kk-dissertation.pdf>
- America Speaks: <http://www.americaspeaks.org/>.

**Event Session 12**  
**Week of November 21**

**Détournement and Deconstruction: Using Media to Dismantle and Reassemble Spaces and Publics**

- Shannon O'Lear, "Networks of Engagement: Electronic Communication and Grassroots Environmental Activism in Kaliningrad" Human Geography 81: 3 (1999): 165-178
- Jill Lane, "Digital Zapatistas," The Drama Review 47:2 (Summer 2003): 129-144.
- Thomas McDonough, "Situationist Space" October 67 (Winter 1994): 58-77.
- Jim Costanzo, "REPOhistory's Circulation: The Migration of Public Art to the Internet" Art Journal 59:4 (Winter 2000): 32-7.

**CLASSROOM SESSION 13:**  
**November 29**

**In-class Workshop to prepare for culminating event.**

**CULMINATING EVENT SESSION 14:  
DECEMBER 13**

**CLASSROOM SESSION 15:  
December 20**

Giving what we've made and done a share-able shape and form.