

Jeff Derksen

North American Cities at the Global Crossroads:

Culture/Public Space/ Counter-Publics

This two-day seminar will examine the cultural, spatial, and social pressures shaping North American cities.

Day One:

Feeling Creative?: Neoliberalism and the Right to the City

Richard Florida's influential model of "the creative city" has been picked up by North American looking to "rebrand" themselves and to generate investment within the competitive global-urban nexus. This has proven to be an inexpensive "policy fix" (as Jamie Peck points out) for cities, but it has created a class gap in real income in the cities that have applied Florida's program. Our seminar will look at how artists' groups and community groups critiqued the generalized idea of "creativity" through a program of "artistic critique" that provides a counter-discourse through programs of urban agriculture, dynamic public art practices, and culture as a fundamental aspect of urbanism and city life. Our seminar will look at artistic and community acts of "publicness" that understand public space as a production of space (in the Lefebvrian sense).

Richard Florida. "Preface", "The Transformation of Everyday Life," *The Rise of the Creative Class*. New York: Basic Books, 2004.

Helga Leitner, Jamie Peck, Eric S. Sheppard. "Squaring Up to Neoliberalism", *Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers*. New York/London: The Guilford Press, 2007.

Jamie Peck. "The Creativity Fix". *Fronesis* 24 (2007).

<http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2007-06-28-peck-en.html>

Henri Lefebvre, "The Right to the City." *Writings on Cities*. Trans. Eleonore Kofman and Elizabeth Lebas. London: Blackwell, 1996.

Neil Smith and Setha Low. "Introduction: The Imperative of Public Space". *The Politics of Public Space*. Eds. Setha Low and Neil Smith. London: Routledge, 2005.

Day Two:

Art & Cultural During Mega-events: Vancouver's Anti-Olympics Culture

Jules Boykoff. "The Anti-Olympics." *New Left Review* 67 (Feb/March 2011): 41-59.

Neil Smith and Jeff Derksen. "Urban Regeneration: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy." *Stan Douglas: Every Building on 100 West Hastings*. Ed. Reid Shier. Vancouver: CAG/ArsenalPulp, 2002: 63-92

Mustafa Dikec, "Justice and the spatial imagination." *Environment and Planning A*,

vol. 33 (2001): 1790.

Jamie Peck, Nik Theodore and Neil Brenner, "Postneoliberalism and its Discontents."
Antipode 41 (2009): 94-116.

Simon Sheik, "In the Place of the Public Sphere? Or, The World in Fragments",
[www:republicart.net](http://www.republicart.net).

/ or

David Harvey. "The Right to the City." *International Journal of Urban and
Regional Research* 27.4 (December 2003) 939- 941.