

KENNY R. CUPERS

Associate Professor
History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism
University of Basel
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2015– Associate Professor, History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanism
University of Basel
- 2012–15 Assistant Professor of Architectural History
School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Art History Program, School of Art and Design (zero-time appointment)
- 2011–12 Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture
School of Architecture & Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo
- 2010–11 Reyner Banham Fellow / Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture
School of Architecture & Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo

EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D., Harvard University
History of Architecture and Urbanism
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences / Graduate School of Design
(Interfaculty Program on Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning)
Areas of Expertise: Architectural and Urban History, 1750 to the present (major field exam);
Urban Anthropology (minor field exam)
Dissertation advisors: Antoine Picon, Eve Blau, Margaret Crawford, Jean-Louis Cohen (reader)
- 2006 A.M., Harvard University
History of Architecture and Urbanism
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences / Graduate School of Design
Interfaculty Program on Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning
- 2004 M.A., Goldsmiths College, University of London
Photography and Urban Cultures
Department of Sociology
- 2001 M.Sc., University of Leuven, *cum laude*
Architecture / Civil Engineering
Department of Architecture, Urbanism, and Planning
- 1998 B.Sc., University of Leuven, *cum laude*
Architecture / Civil Engineering
Department of Architecture, Urbanism, and Planning

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES

- 2018 Co-editor (with Catharina Gabriëlsson and Helena Mattsson), *Neoliberalism: An Architectural History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming)
- 2017 *Vive en (grand) ensemble: L'histoire architecturale de la banlieue* (French translation of *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France*) (Marseille: Parenthèses, forthcoming)
- 2017 Co-author (with Markus Miessen), *Spaces of Uncertainty: Berlin Revisited* (Basel: Birkhäuser, forthcoming)
- 2014 *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press)
Recipient of the following prizes and awards: Spiro Kostof Book Award by the Society of Architectural Historians; International Planning History Society Book Prize for European Planning History; Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize by the Vernacular Architecture Forum; Honorable Mention, Wylie Prize in French Studies
Reviewed in: *Planning Perspectives*; *The International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*; *French Culture, Politics & Society*; *The French Review*; *Buildings & Landscapes*; *The Town Planning Review*; *Contemporary French Civilization*; *Culture Machine*; *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (forthcoming)
- 2013 Editor, *Use Matters: An Alternative History of Architecture* (London: Routledge)
Reviewed in: *Journal of Architectural Education*; *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*
- 2009 Co-editor (with Isabelle Doucet), "Agency in Architecture: Reframing Criticality in Theory and Practice," special issue, *Footprint Journal* 4
- 2002 Co-author (with Markus Miessen), *Spaces of Uncertainty* (Wuppertal: Müller+Busmann)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2017 Co-author (with Charles Rice), "A Geometry of the Comical: Rohmer in Cergy-Pontoise," *AA Files* (forthcoming)
- 2017 "Human Territoriality and the Downfall of Public Housing," *Public Culture* 29, 1
- 2016 "Bodenständigkeit: The Environmental Epistemology of Modernism," *Journal of Architecture*, 21, 8
- 2016 "Géographie volontaire and the Territorial Logic of Architecture," *Architectural Histories* 4, 1
- 2016 "Mapping and Making Community in the Postwar European City," *Journal of Urban History* 42, 6
- 2015 "The Cultural Center: Architecture as Cultural Policy in Postwar Europe," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 74, 4
- 2011 "The Expertise of Participation: Mass Housing and Urban Planning in Postwar France," *Planning Perspectives* 26, 1
- 2010 "Designing Social Life: The Urbanism of the Grands Ensembles," *Positions* 1
- 2008 "Governing through Nature: Camps and Youth Movements in Interwar Germany and the United States," *Cultural Geographies* 15, 2
- 2005 "Towards a Nomadic Geography: Rethinking Space and Identity for the Potentials of Progressive Politics in the Contemporary City," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29, 4

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2017 "The Global Age of Mass Housing," in *A Cultural History of the Home in the Modern Age*, edited by Despina Stratigakos (London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming)
- 2017 "The Invention of Indigenous Architecture," in *Race and Modern Architecture*, edited by Irene Cheng, Mabel Wilson, and Charles Davis (forthcoming)

- 2017 “Powers of Association: Le Corbusier in the *banlieue*,” in *Terms of Appropriation: Essays on Architectural Influence*, edited by Ana Miljacki and Amanda Reeser Lawrence (London: Routledge, forthcoming)
- 2017 “Modernism as Accommodation,” in *Big Breuer: Modern Architecture for Postwar Institutions*, edited by Barry Bergdoll and Jonathan Massey (Baden, Switzerland: Lars Müller, forthcoming)
- 2017 Co-author (with Igor Demchenko), “Projective Geographies Between East and West,” in *East West Central: Re-Building Europe 1950–1990*, edited by Akos Moravanszky and Karl Kegler (Zurich: Gta Publications)
- 2016 “The Infrastructure of Participation: Cultural Centers in Postwar Europe,” in *Participation in Art and Architecture: Spaces of Interaction and Occupation*, edited by Martino Stierli and Mechtild Widrich (London: I.B. Tauris)
- 2016 “Shopping à l’américaine,” in *Shopping Town Europe*, edited by Tom Avermaete and Janina Gosseye (London: Bloomsbury)
- 2015 “The Mobile Urbanism of Los Angeles Street Vending,” in *Street Vending in the Neoliberal City: A Global Perspective on the Practices and Policies of a Marginalized Economy*, edited by Kristina Graaff and Noa Ha (New York: Berghahn Books)
- 2012 “Making Camp: Landscape and Community in the Interwar German Youth Movements,” in *Making a New World: Architecture and Communities in Interwar Europe*, edited by Tom Avermaete and Rajesh Heynickx (Leuven: Leuven University Press)
- 2012 “Promises of a Free Space,” in *Vlaamse Bouwmeester Cahier 3* (Belgium)

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS

- 2017 “Modern Architecture and the Environment: Towards a Cultural History,” Response for the EAHN Group “Architecture and Environment,” *Architectural Histories* (forthcoming)
- 2016 “Between Intention and the Unplanned,” in *On Tempelhofer Feld*, edited by Benjamin Deboosere and Wouter De Raeve (Leipzig: Spector Books)
- 2015 “Why We Like to Blame Buildings,” *Oxford University Press Blog* (online)
- 2014 “The Complex Legacy of Public Housing in Postwar France,” *Places: Design Observer* (online) (article extracted from *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France*)
- 2014 “The Studio and the City: Notes on Architectural Pedagogy,” in *(IN)formal L.A.: The Space of Politics*, edited by Victor Jones (New York: Evolo)
- 2014 “Where Is the Social Project?” *Journal of Architectural Education* 68, 1
- 2013 “Paris: Life Forms,” *Places: Design Observer* (online)
- 2012 Co-author (with Markus Miessen), “Participation and/or Criticality,” *Thresholds* 40
- 2005 “Conference Report: The Rise of Heterotopia,” *European Association for Architectural Education News Sheet*
- 2003 “Braakland,” *A+* (Belgium), no. 182

P R E S E N T A T I O N S

INVITED LECTURES

- 2016 “Projective Geographies,” History of Urban Design Colloquium, ETH Zurich and at Politecnico di Milano
- 2016 “The Architecture of German Colonization in Namibia and Poland, 1886–1919,” Research Group “Global Processes,” Chair Prof. Jürgen Osterhammel, Konstanz University
- 2016 “Le Corbusier and the Banlieues,” University of Basel, eikones
- 2016 “Project Growth: Territory, Geopolitics, Architecture,” ETH Zürich, Architecture Department

- 2016 “Human Territoriality and the Downfall of Public Housing,” keynote lecture, The Architecture of Deregulations: Postmodernism, Politics, and the Built Environment in Europe 1975–1995 conference, KTH Stockholm
- 2016 “Modernism, Environment, Epistemology,” Harvard University, GSD Ph.D. Talks
- 2015 “Architecture as *Kulturarbeit*: Colonization in Germany and Namibia,” University of Basel, Centre for African Studies
- 2014 “Human Territoriality and the Downfall of Public Housing,” Baden-Württemberg Seminar, Heidelberg Center for American Studies
- 2012 “The Social Project of Architecture,” Main Lecture Series, University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
- 2012 “The Social Project of Architecture,” Theoriesalon, Vienna
- 2011 “Architecture and Social Science in Postwar France,” Main Lecture Series, at State University of New York at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning
- 2011 “Architecture and Social Science in Postwar France,” University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design
- 2010 “Architecture and Everyday Life,” IE School of Architecture & Design, Spain
- 2003 “Spaces of Uncertainty,” Transformers / Urban Drift Colloquium, Berlin
- 2003 “Spaces of Uncertainty,” University of Leuven

INVITED SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 “Housing Postwar France,” Housing Conference, Architectural League of New York
- 2016 “Heimatstil Architecture between Namibia and Eastern Prussia,” Picturesque Modernities: Architectural Regionalism as a Global Process, German Center for Art History, Paris
- 2016 “Planetary Ruralization,” Center for Excellence in Arts and Humanities International Symposium “What Is the Urban,” Iowa State University
- 2016 “Indigeneity as Architectural Invention,” Race and Modern Architecture Workshop, Columbia University
- 2015 “La géographie volontaire de Paris,” Inventer le Grand Paris: Cross-perspectives on Metropolitan Areas from the 1940s to the Late 1960s, Petit Palais, Paris
- 2015 “The Architecture of Cultural Policy in Postwar Europe,” Second World Urbanity: Between Capitalist and Communist Utopias, Conference 3: Living Cities of the Second World, European University at Saint-Petersburg
- 2015 “Human Territoriality and the Downfall of Public Housing,” The Housing Question, University of San Diego
- 2014 “Géographie volontaire and the Territorial Logic of Architecture,” East West Central 02, ETH Zurich
- 2014 “Colonial Territoriality and its Aftermath: From Windhoek to Weimar,” The First World War as Caesura? Continuities and Ruptures in German Architecture, University of Kassel (absent)
- 2013 “The Autonomy of Use: Users and Consumers of Architecture,” A Strange Utility: Architecture towards Other Ends, Portland State University School of Architecture
- 2013 “From the Past into the Future: The Neighborhood Unit in Europe, 1930s–1950s,” (Re)constructing Communities in Europe 1918–1968, Radboud University Nijmegen
- 2011 “The House of Participation: Modern Cultural Centers in Western Europe,” Whose Participation? Spaces of Interaction in Contemporary Art and Architecture, ETH Zurich
- 2010 “Cities in Search of the User,” Annual Conference of the International New Town Institute, Almere, The Netherlands
- 2010 “The Urbanism of Los Angeles Street Vending,” Contesting the Streets, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2009 “Grands Ensembles, Villes Nouvelles, and the Changing Welfare State in France, 1955–1975,” France Now and Then, University of Chicago Paris Center

- 2009 Co-author (with Isabelle Doucet), “Agency in Architecture,” Buildings: Technologies or Interactions? Exploring the Intersections between Architectural Theory and the Social Sciences, Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary Research
- 2006 “Governing through Nature: National Youth Movements on Camp, 1900–1940,” Making a New World? Re-forming/Designing Modern Communities in Interwar Europe, University of Leuven

CONFERENCE PAPERS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACT SUBMISSION)

- 2015 “Soil and Settlement: The Environmental Epistemology of Modernism,” Society of Architectural Historians 68th Annual Conference
- 2014 “Shopping à l’américaine in the French New Towns,” European Architectural History Network Conference, Third International Meeting
- 2014 “Prefab Modernities: Mass Housing in Cold War Film,” College Art Association 102nd Annual Conference
- 2014 “Géographie Volontaire: The Territorial Logic of French Modernization, 1940–75,” Society of French Historical Studies 60th Annual Meeting
- 2013 “Environment, Behavior, and the Downfall of Public Housing,” Society for American Regional and City Planning History 15th National Conference
- 2012 “The Social Science of Design: Ultimate Projects of the *trente glorieuses*,” Society for French Historical Studies 58th Annual Meeting
- 2010 “Remaking the City in the Suburbs, 1965–1975,” Urban History Association 5th Biennial Conference
- 2009 “French New Towns: Planning in between Citizenship and Consumerism,” Society for American Regional and City Planning History 13th National Conference
- 2009 “Grands Ensembles, Villes Nouvelles, and the Changing Welfare State in France, 1955–1975,” Society of Architectural Historians 62nd Annual Conference
- 2008 “Modern Urbanism, the State and the User in Postwar France,” Urban History Association 4th Biennial Conference
- 2008 “Participation and Expertise in Postwar French Urbanism,” 9th European Association for Urban History Conference
- 2007 “Tactics of Mobility: The Spatial Politics of Street Vending in Los Angeles,” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers
- 2006 “The Urbanism of Los Angeles Street Vending,” Urbanism & Urbanization, Venice University

CHAired CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- 2017 Convenor of Roundtable, “Architecture, Modernization, and the City in Africa,” 7th European Conference of African Studies, Basel
- 2016 Co-chair (with Helena Mattsson), “Architecture and the Neoliberal Turn,” European Architectural History Network Conference, 4th International Meeting
- 2015 Chair, “Can Architects Be Socially Responsible?” Society for American Regional and City Planning History 16th National Conference
- 2015 Chair, “Where Is the Theory in Planning History?” Society for American Regional and City Planning History 16th National Conference
- 2014 Co-chair (with Alison Fisher), “Beyond Slab and Subdivision: Housing Alternatives after 1945,” Society of Architectural Historians 67th Annual Conference
- 2013 Co-chair (with Curt Gambetta), “The Circulation of Architecture,” Society of Architectural Historians 66th Annual Conference
- 2013 Co-chair (with Matthew Lasner), “Pedagogy Roundtable: Teaching the Built Environment Outside the Professional Box,” at the Society for American Regional and City Planning History 15th National Conference

PANELS, WORKSHOPS, AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Radikal Modern,” gallery conversation with Bernd Trasberger, 40 Jahre Berlinische Galerie
- 2015 Workshop Instructor, Wohnungsfrage Academy: The Housing System, Haus der Kulturen der Welt
- 2014 Presenter and Discussant, “Productive Critique: Architecture and State Capitalism in Postwar France,” Architecture and Left Critique, University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture
- 2011 Panel Moderator, Ineffably Urban, State University of New York at Buffalo
- 2011 Workshop Instructor, One-week Architectural Research Studio: (IN)formal L.A.: The Space of Politics, University of Southern California
- 2011 Workshop Instructor, Ten-day Architectural Research Studio: Spatial Agency: Situating the Political, Winter School Middle East, Kuwait

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014–15 Humboldt Fellowship (yearlong residency in Germany)
- 2014–15 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship [declined]
- 2010–11 Reyner Banham Fellowship, State University of New York at Buffalo (yearlong residency)

PREDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- 2009–10 Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Grant, Harvard University
- 2008–09 Chateaubriand Fellowship, Embassy of France in the United States
- 2007–08 Center for European Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2007–08 Frederick Sheldon Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2004–07 Fulbright Fellowship

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- 2014 Co-principal Investigator (with Prita Meier), Global Architectural History and Theory Collaborative: Course Development Grant for “The Architecture of Global Modernity, 1000–2000 CE” (\$15,000)
- 2011 Principal Investigator, Clarence Stein Award, Cornell University: French New Towns in a Global Perspective (\$9,000)
- 2011 Publication Grant, Van Eesteren-Fluck & Van Lohuizen Foundation: *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France* (\$10,000)
- 2003 Co-principal Investigator (with Markus Miessen), Flemish Government, Ministry of Culture Grant: Research and exhibition project Spaces of Uncertainty (€10,000)
- 2003 Co-principal Investigator (with Markus Miessen), Goethe Institute Grant (London): Research and exhibition project Spaces of Uncertainty (€2,000)

INTERNAL GRANTS

- 2014 Principal Investigator, University of Illinois Campus Research Board: Six-week travel to Tanzania and Namibia for research project “Architectural Modernism and Environment Science in Imperial Germany” (\$11,230)
- 2013 Principal Investigator, University of Illinois College of Fine and Applied Arts Creative Research Award: The Architectural Globalization of Mass Housing (\$6,000)
- 2012 Principal Investigator, University of Illinois Campus Research Board Award: Environment, Behavior, and the Criminalization of Public Housing (\$9,250)
- 2012 Publication Grant, University of Illinois Campus Research Board: *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France* (\$8,832)

2012 Publication Grant, University of Illinois Campus Research Board: *Use Matters: An Alternative History of Architecture* (\$6,787)

AWARDS

2016 Spiro Kostof Book Award by the Society of Architectural Historians, for *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France*

2015 Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize by the Vernacular Architecture Forum, for *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France*

2014–15 International Planning History Society Book Prize, for *The Social Project: Housing Postwar France*

2009 Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting Fellowship

2007 Unsung Hero Award, teaching excellence award by the Harvard Graduate School of Design

2006 Graduate Student Paper Award, Society for Urban National and Transnational Anthropology

2004 Prize for the Best Essay (First Prize), Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

2015 Territoriality
One-day workshop, University of Basel (21 December)

2011 Before and Beyond: Architecture and the User
Two-day conference, School of Architecture and Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo (April)

2011 *In Search of the User*
Video installation on the intersection of architecture and social science in postwar France, Gallery of the School of Architecture and Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo

2008 Street Vending in Los Angeles
Exhibition of urban research in group show *Post-it City: Occasional Urbanities*, Center for Contemporary Culture, Barcelona

2003–05 *Spaces of Uncertainty*
International exhibition (with Markus Miessen) at Aedes Gallery, Berlin (2005); 66 East Centre for Urban Culture, Amsterdam (2005); Recyclart, Brussels (2003); AA School, London (2003); Gallery Framework, Berlin (2003)

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL SUPERVISION

2017– Doctoral supervision of Giulia Scotto (University of Basel)

2015– Postdoctoral supervision of Dr. Ginger Nolan (University of Basel / Ph.D. Columbia University)

2012–17 Doctoral supervision of Tait Johnson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

DISCIPLINE

2016–19 External Examiner for University College London, MA Program in Architectural History

2015–16 Program Committee, Society for American Regional and City Planning History 16th National Conference

2015– Advisory Board, *Dialectic*

2014 Manuscript Reviewer, *Dialectic*

2010– Manuscript Reviewer, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture conference

2008– Manuscript Reviewer, *Urban History and Planning Perspectives*

2002–12 Visiting Studio Critic for architecture and urban planning studios: UCLA (2012), Yale (2011), University of Toronto (2011), Harvard GSD (2004–2008), MIT (2006), AA School (2005), TU Delft (2003), The Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning (2003), University of Leuven (2002 and 2004)

UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

2017– Director of urban studies Master’s program “Critical Urbanisms”
2015 Co-founder of urban studies Master’s program “Critical Urbanisms”
2017– Speaker for Urban Studies division
2017– Member, Teaching Committee
2015–16 Afrika Projektteam: review of Africa-related research at the University of Basel, Rectorate

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

2013–14 Accreditation Committee, School of Architecture
2013–14 Bylaws Committee, School of Architecture
2013–14 Campus Research Board, review of proposals
2013–14 Chair, Faculty Search Committee, School of Architecture
2013–14 Chair, History and Preservation Program, School of Architecture
2013–14 Krannert Art Museum Acquisitions Committee
2013–14 Lectures and Exhibitions Committee, School of Architecture
2012–13 Scholarships and Awards Committee, School of Architecture
2012–14 Studio Critic for design studios, School of Architecture

P R O F E S S I O N A L P R A C T I C E

2003–04 Architect, Block Architecture (London)
2002–03 Urban Planner, Alan Baxter & Associates (London)
2001–02 Architect, Studio Daniel Libeskind (Berlin)

L A N G U A G E S K I L L S

Fluent: English, French, German, Dutch (native language)
Basic: Spanish