

Going Underground: Excavating the Subterranean City. An Interdisciplinary Workshop, September 2006

Co-organised by SURF, Salford University and Centre for the Study of Cities and Regions, Geography Department, Durham University.
Venue: ARUP, Manchester, UK.

**Sponsored by ARUP
Final Programme 21st -22nd September 2006**

Rationale

At a time when underground spaces are being bombed by terrorists, networked by infrastructure operators, colonised by the military, excavated ever-more deeply by engineers and planners, and stalked intensively by a whole range of fictional narratives, archaeologists, historians, subterranean explorers and tourist guides, it is time for the urban subterranean to emerge as more than an esoteric interest within urban studies. This workshop will bring together 25 researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds to reflectively discuss the affinities between their work on the urban subterranean and assess the potential for constructing a more symmetrical view of the relations between the surface and the sub-surface city. There are therefore three objectives:

1. to review the work of researchers who have focused on the urban underground from across social science, history, the arts and media, engineering, architecture, journalism, literature and film studies to explore how the underground is understood from within these different disciplines.
2. to critically examine competing conceptual and theoretical approaches to the urban underground by contrasting their different ways of understanding the relations between the hidden and visible city.
3. to consider the desirability and feasibility of producing an interdisciplinary book on the urban underground and its relations with contemporary urban studies based on the papers presented at the workshop.

Arup is a global firm of planners, designers, engineers and business consultants providing a diverse range of professional services to clients around the world. The firm is the creative force behind many of the world's most innovative and sustainable buildings, transport and civil engineering projects. Established 60 years ago, the firm exerts a significant influence on the built environment and has more than 7000 employees, based in 70 offices in 32 countries, working on up to 10,000 projects at any one time. Arup has three global business areas - buildings, infrastructure and consulting - and our multi-disciplinary approach means that any given project may involve people from any or all of the sectors or regions in which we operate. Our fundamental aim is to achieve excellence in all we do by bringing together the best professionals in the world to meet our clients' needs.

Day 1, Thursday 21st September 2006

9.30am - 10.00am Coffee & Introduction

Session 1 - Subterranean Cities - 10.00am - 11.00am

- [The Cinematic Underworld: Spatial Metaphors in Film](#), David L. Pike Department of Literature American University. Author of "Subterranean Cities: The World Beneath Paris and London, 1800-1945, Cornell University Press."

11.00am - 11.30am Coffee

Session 2 - Subterranean Natures - 11.30am - 1.00pm

- [Making Naples' underground](#), Roberta Varriale, ISSM/CNR.
- [Hidden Leakage, the Meter and the New Political Ecology of Water in the UK](#), Will Medd, Lancaster University.
- [City Professionals and Sanitised Spaces](#), Russell Hitchings, University of Hull.

1.00pm - 2.30pm Lunch

Session 3 - Underground as Other - 2.30pm - 4.30pm

- [Phantom Spaces and the Public Realm](#), Matthew Gandy, University College London.
- ["Incidents" on the Underground: Stories of Death and Fear on the New York City Subway \(1902 - present\)](#), Zoë Reiter, Freie Universität.
- [Terrorism and Urban Structures](#), Ulrike Engel, TU Berlin.
- [The Underground as Target: Surveillance, Demonisation, and Post-Cold War Geopolitics](#), Stephen Graham, Durham University.

4.30pm - 5.00pm Refreshments

Session 4 - Underground Manchester - 5.00pm - 6.00pm

- Transforming Manchester and the Interface with Underground Infrastructure, Michael Wilton, Arup.
- [The Fragility of Underground Manchester: Earthquake swarm, Telecoms tunnel fire and the Sewer fat crisis](#), Simon Marvin, SURF.

8.00pm Dinner at Koh Samuai

Day 2, Friday 22nd September 2006

8.30am - 9.00am Coffee

Session 5 - Navigating Modern Subterranean - 9.00am - 11.00am

- [City Planning and Underground Space in France](#), Sabine Barles, Université de Paris 8.
- [Underground Resources and Sustainable Development in Urban Areas](#), Pascal Blunier, Pierrick Maire, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.
- [Imaging London Underground](#), Helen Scalway, London University.
- [Exposing the Secret City: Urban Exploration as 'Space Hacking'](#), Martin Dodge, University of Manchester and Rob Kitchin, National University of Ireland.

11.00am - 11.30am Coffee

Session 6 - Underground Urban Archaeologies - 11.30am - 1.00pm

- [The Subterranean Life of Moche Pyramids](#), Elisenda Vila Llonch.
- [Unearthing the Underworlds of Early Twentieth-Century Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), Amy Chazkel, City University of New York.
- [Underground Discourse in Richmond Virginia](#), Katherine Walker, College of William and Mary.

1.00pm - 2.00pm Lunch

Session 7 - Subterranean Architecture - 2.00pm - 4.00pm

- [Out of Site: Architectures of the Underground](#), Simon Guy, University of Manchester.
- [Tunnel Lives](#), Andrew Furman, Ryerson University and Thomas Kong, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- [Above the Below: Exploring the Impact of Public Art in Light-rail Systems Above and Below Ground](#), Cameron Cartiere, University of London
- [The Machine Room: Visualising a Commodified Subterra](#), Wayne Barrar, Massey University.

Close

Cancellations

- [Morlocks, Martians and Molemen: spatial imaginings of the underground in science fiction](#), David Wood, University of Newcastle.

- ["If you can't see him, how do you know he's not there?" The underground frame in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*](#), Richard E. Hanley, The City University of New York.
- [New York Underground: The Sub-version of the cosmopolitan in Walter Hill's film *The Warriors*](#), Gillian Jein, Trinity College Dublin.
- [Buried in Boston: Mapping the Bones of Slavery in Massachusetts](#), Barbara Lewis, University of Massachusetts.