

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

Marie Stender: Since We Became a Ghetto. Dystopian Place Branding in Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods

Leading Danish architects gave form to modernistic utopian visions of the good life as community, equality, green surroundings, light and air in the grand housing plans of the 1960s and 1970s. Today the very same areas, with their seemingly monotonous rows of housing blocks, are on the contrary associated with a powerful contemporary dystopia: the ghetto. An undesirable and frightening, yet very real place, held to pose a potential threat to the social order of wider society. The ghetto-concept has, in a Danish context, evolved from its original meaning of a walled Jewish neighbourhood into a powerful political technology, fuelled by the so-called “ghetto-list”, which paves the way for far-reaching physical and social intervention. Buildings are demolished to “open up the ghetto”, flats are merged to attract different kinds of tenant, and housing areas are transformed and renamed in order to slip their tainted reputation. This article analyses the impact of the ghetto-concept on tenants and other actors in a number of Danish neighbourhoods that have recently been “regenerated”. On the one hand, people struggle with the territorial stigmatization (Wacquant 2007a) inherent in being listed as ghetto-dwellers, but on the other, they also appropriate the notion of the ghetto and use it strategically. I introduce the concept of “dystopian place-branding” and discuss how place-making, political technology and the built materiality of architecture interact in dystopian brandscapes.

Keywords: ghetto, architecture, dystopia, stigma, brandscape, housing

Tova Højdestrand: Black Russian. Moral Conservative Nightmares about Totalitarian Neoliberalism

Sexual perversion, broken families, and a totalitarian state safeguarding “children’s rights” via the ruthless persecution of parents – these are central tropes in an increasingly conspicuous neoconservative nationalist discourse in Russia. An obscure global elite is assumed to have already accomplished this nightmare in the West, and is now plotting to assimilate Russia into the One World Government of the New World Order. This narrative was first articulated by a small clique of Russian Orthodox ultranationalists in the 1990s, but has since been elaborated further by the “Parents’ Movement”, a conservative movement that emerged

in the mid-2000s in protest against a comprehensive social policy reform. The movement is supported by a number of influential conservative politicians but its slapdash attitude to facts has prevented it from becoming a substantial political force. Nonetheless, the dystopian vision it instrumentalizes expresses a critique of neoliberal governmentality, and its mobilizing capacity contributes to the shaping of a libertarian, egalitarian and autonomous political subjectivity.

Keywords: nationalism, neoliberal governmentality, conspiracy theory, children's rights, social movements, Russia

Maia Ebsen: An Unconstrained Dystopia. The Cultivation of Food and Pessimistic Prospects in Portland, Oregon

The fight against the industrial production of food has accelerated over the past decade in the United States and across the country numerous initiatives are being developed to help rethink the country's food production. In 2015, I spent four months among groups of urban farmers in Portland, Oregon, who were involved in this process. These urban communities form the empirical basis for this article, which challenges existing analyses of urban agriculture as a utopian practice (e.g. Lockyer & Veteto 2013). By presenting the farmers' pessimistic view of the future, I point to the dystopian prospects that lay behind these projects. Despite overwhelming cynicism (cf. Sloterdijk 2001 [1987]), the farmers hoped that they could in some way impact these dystopian developments by creating space for as yet undefined experiences. Thus, urban agriculture constitutes a limited utopian space. This article argues that dystopian reflections serve as a motor for utopian practice.

Keywords: USA, Portland, urban farming, dystopia, cynicism, ethics

Marcus Ferreira Larsen: Dystopolis. The Militarization of Urban Policing and Political Imagination in Rio de Janeiro

In this article, I analyze the shortcomings of the recent UPP police strategy in Rio de Janeiro, supposed to constitute a new public security paradigm based on community policing, using the concepts of dystopia (Prakash 2010) and militarization (Lutz 2007). Based on long-term fieldwork in the Maré agglomeration of favelas on the city's periphery and contemporary historical analysis, the article argues that policing continues to be militarized. Instead of bringing peace and prosperity, this leads to increased insecurity and killings in the favela. Interviews with young favela residents revealed ambiguous ideas of a war that doesn't exist, but that is nonetheless experienced as having all too real effects – there is, I sug-

gest, a political imagination of a city at war with itself. It appears that this urban dystopia both contributes to and is itself a result of the militarization of the war on organized trafficker gangs. In this downward spiral of Dystopolis, the dystopian city, marginalised populations and neighbourhoods come to be considered as enemies of militarized state power.

Keywords: militarization, dystopia, policing, Rio de Janeiro, UPP, urban anthropology