STS turns aesthetic

Architecture, design and the fine arts as epistemic cultures in the making

Thursday,
7. November 2013

Friday,
8. November 2013

ETH Zurich
Rämistrasse 101, Raum ETZ E 81

HKB BUA
Hochschule der Künste Bern
Bern University of the Arts

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9⁰⁰ – 9³⁰ INTRODUCTION: Priska Gisler and Monika Kurath

9³⁰ – 10³⁵ KEYNOTE: Gillian Rose: Travelling aesthetics: STS, networks, and the inscription of feeling

10³⁵ – 10⁴⁵ COMMENT: Caroline Wiedmer

10⁴⁵ – 11¹⁵ COFFEE BREAK

FIRST THEMATIC SESSION:
Aesthetic practices in architecture, design and the arts:
STS analyses of aesthetic knowledge production
Moderation: Elke Bippus

11¹⁵ – 12⁰⁰ OPENING: Sophie Houdart: Being Cultural: Architecture and its making in context

12⁰⁰ – 12³⁰ COMMENT: Ignaz Strebel

12³⁰ – 13³⁰ LUNCH BREAK

13³⁰ – 14¹⁵ Anders Blok: Attachments to the commonplace: STS, sustainable architecture, and the aesthetic cosmopolitics of kyomachiya

14¹⁵ – 15⁰⁰ Hanna Göbel: Ethnographic fallacies? On STS perspectives involved with artistic research practices in urban design

15⁰⁰ – 15³⁰ COFFEE BREAK

15³⁰ – 16¹⁵ Astrid Schwarz: The design culture of 'building on nature'

16¹⁵ – 17⁰⁰ Laura Lucia Parolin, Alvise Mattozzi: What STS does to aesthetics and what esthetics practices do to STS? Few reflections from a case study

17⁰⁰ – 17³⁰ WRAP UP: Martina Merz

19⁰⁰ SPECIAL EVENT: CONFERENCE DINNER

Friday 8. November 2013

9⁰⁰ – 9⁴⁵ OPENING: Fernando Dominguez Rubio: Why there are no art objects in the North Pole? A few thoughts on the material ecologies of art, subjectivity, and design

9⁴⁵ – 10³⁰ COMMENT: Nina Wakeford

SECOND THEMATIC SESSION:
Aesthetic practices in architecture, design and the arts –
methodologies for the specific epistemological and aesthetic contexts
Moderation: Barbara Mauck

10³⁰ – 11¹⁵ Andrew Sempere: Performance/space: Authoring invisible scenography

11¹⁵ – 11⁴⁵ COFFEE BREAK

11⁴⁵ – 12⁰⁰ Claus Noppeney: Ephemeral, elusive and hard facts: scientific and aesthetic practices in scent design

12⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰ LUNCH BREAK

THIRD THEMATIC SESSION:
STS analysing aesthetic practices and institutional change
Moderation: Julie Harboe

13⁰⁰ – 13⁴⁵ Graham Owen: The Architectural Thesis as Site of Contestation: Pedagogy, Identity and Knowledge

13⁴⁵ – 14¹⁵ Azucena Klett; Zoe Mediero: A hundred methodologies: The construction of another institutionality from the standpoint of cultural production

14¹⁵ – 14⁴⁵ COFFEE BREAK

14⁴⁵ – 15³⁰ Bernhard Böhm: Stories about Stage Performances, Dramaturgical Experiments and Test Tubes. Some results of a case study on knowing and living in an arts based research project

15³⁰ – 16⁰⁰ WRAP UP: Claudia Mareis

16⁰⁰ COFFEE AND FAREWELL

Aesthetic practices, i.e., lingual and non-lingual competences of shaping, creating and experiencing the world, are core skills of practitioners in the field of art, design and architecture. Yet, recent changes in the university system, such as the academization and harmonization of higher education and the need to theorize, reflect and systematically analyse the discipline's own skills, have led to new discussions about the understandings of aesthetic practices.

Building on its rich tradition in analysing knowledge production in the hard sciences, a growing number of Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholars have become interested in artistic disciplines and started to analyse them in analogy to the natural sciences. Using approaches such as laboratory studies and actor-network theory (ANT), STS scholars analysed the research practices and the specific epistemic basis of fields like architecture, design and the fine arts.

This workshop will focus on how STS methods and approaches can be used to analyse architecture, art and design as well as their specific practices. Furthermore, a particular emphasis lies in the question, how the methodological and conceptual tools could be shaped to give consideration to the specific aesthetic understandings and situations of knowledge production in these fields. Thus, the workshop will also consider cultural studies perspectives from within the analysed disciplines. A last discussion topic will be on institutional transformations and their impact on knowledge production and the education of aesthetic practices.

Therefore, the aim of this workshop is threefold: First, it will discuss how aesthetic practices in architecture, design and the fine arts have been conceptualized by STS analyses. Second, it will ask what STS might learn from methodologies of artistic disciplines and third, it will discuss some of the consequences of institutional changes in those fields.

Organisation: Priska Gisler (Berne University of the Arts), Monika Kurath (ETH wohnforum) with Anna Flach (ETH ZH), Drilona Shehu (BUA), Monica Gaspar (ZHdK), Registration until October 31th: flach@arch.ethz.ch