032 The Esch Clinics

A COUNTER-ATLAS FOR THE MINETT: ON CRITICAL CARTOGRAPHY AND COLLECTIVE MAPPING

September 12, 2025 1/2
11:00-14:00

Denis Scuto
Henk van Houtum
Philippe Nathan
Sergio Cavalho
Melsida Babayan

This workshop is meant as a trigger-session to kick of the development of one of the research clusters of The Esch Clinics, investigating the relationships between the social and the urban and territorial landscape of the Minett (the land of the red rocks, Southern Luxembourg).

This non-public event will be structured along a series of conversations during which we will digest the input and results of the public lecture by Henk van Houtum the previous evening. Departing from this, we will collect a series of current critical positions concerning historic as well as contemporary forms of cartography and mapping in order to develop tools and strategies towards a potential counter-atlas of the Minett, and most importantly Esch itself.

Topically, it will be framing, from a historic perspective, the development of the last 170 years (the period of iron ore and the subsequent steel production in the region, around 1855) while, from a content perspective, it will focus on, generally speaking, the positive impact of migration. This territorial investigation will be accompanied by a study of the changing of the urban landscape due to dietary requirements, developing a critical mapping approach to the diverse realities when it comes to communities and neighbourhoods in the City of Esch and the Minett at large.

From a technical perspective, this meeting will also be used to identify the most relevant archives in the country and crossborder region concerning those topics.

Development team: Denis Scuto, Henk van Houtum, Philippe Nathan (2001), Sergio Cavalho (2001), Melsida Babayan (2001), Markus Miessen (COA), César Reyes (COA), Kristina Shatokhina (COA), Gustav Nielsen (COA)

DENIS SCUTO is the Chair History and Migrations at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH)

PROF. DR HENK VAN HOUTUM is Professor of Geopolitics and Political Geography at Radboud University Nijmegen and head of the Nijmegen Centre for Border Research. He writes and teaches on the cartopolitics and geopolitics of global justice, borders, bordering, and migration. For more info: www.henkvanhoutum.nl

MELSIDA BABAYAN (b. 1998) is an architect with a Master's degree from the University of Luxembourg, awarded the OAI Prize for Best Master Thesis and nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Award. She also holds a Bachelor's from the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia. Since 2023, she has been an architect at 2001.

SERGIO CARVALHO is an architect and partner at 2001 in Luxembourg, a practice he co-manages with Philippe Nathan. Specializing in sustainable and lowcarbon architecture, he brings a European perspective shaped by a strong academic background and fluency in six languages.

PHILIPPE NATHAN (1982) is a Brussels-trained architect from La Cambre and founder of 2001, an office in Esch-Alzette exploring territories, buildings, spaces, and ideas. Alongside practice, he contributes essays to newspapers and publications, serves as jury member for architecture schools and projects, and sits on the boards of KUFA, LUCA, and the Start-up Fund.

2001 is an architecture office.
The abstraction of its name reflects the ambition to act discreetly yet strategically within the environments shaped by society. These environments define its fields of work: territories, buildings, spaces, and ideas.

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