016 The Esch Clinics

ON HOMELESSNESS

November 25, 2024 1/2
18:30–20:00

Andres Lepik
Roger Faber
Mohammed Zanboa
Emmanuel Cornelius
Rahel Süß

This roundtable session is prompted by the opening on Nov 26th of an exhibition on Homelessness in Luxembourg City, which is curated by the German curator and historian Andres Lepik. With soaring land prices and a limited supply of affordable housing in Luxembourg, the topic of homelessness is more relevant than ever. In this conversation, we will address how these issues appear and reproduce in Luxembourg and how they might be approached and responded to in a meaningful way in the future.

An excerpt from the "Who's Next" exhibition description:

Homelessness—the state of having no home—is a growing global problem that requires local discussions and solutions. In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, it has noticeably become a collective concern. However, in recent years, the official political discourse in many countries around the world implies that poverty is a personal fault, and that if people experience homelessness, it is because they have not tried hard enough to secure shelter and livelihood. Although architecture alone cannot solve the problem of homelessness, the question arises: What and which roles can it play? Or, to be more precise, how can architecture collaborate with other disciplines in developing ways to permanently house those who do not have a home? Through research on the historical and current situation in Los Angeles, Moscow, Mumbai, New York, São Paulo, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Tokyo, the historical and current situation in Munich and other German cities, analyses of architectural case studies, originally commissioned and existing documentary films, and a library, this exhibition unfolds different entry points toward understanding homelessness and some of the many related problems.

In this session, researcher Mohammed Zanboa will present his work "After Arrival", a visual journey through the architecture that surrounds refugees in Luxembourg on their path to citizenship. This journey begins in the temporary centres – and never really ends. From the moment they lose their refugee status, they become refugees of the housing crisis as they are confronted with the housing market, which becomes the ultimate border.

ANDRES LEPIK is Professor for architecture history and curatorial studies at Technical University Munich (TUM) and director of Architecture Museum. He studied art history and finished with a PhD on architectural models in the Renaissance. In 1994 he started working as Curator at Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin presenting „Renzo Piano" (2000) and „Content. Rem Koolhaas and AMO/OMA" in 2003. From 2007 to 2011 he was Curator at the Architecture and Design Department in MoMA, New York, showing „Small Scale, Big Change. New Architectures of Social Engagement". In 2011/12 he was Loeb-Fellow at Graduate School of Design in Harvard University. Since 2012 in Munich he presented numerous exhibitions, as „AFRITECTURE. Building Social Change", (2013/14), „Lina Bo Bardi 100" (2015), „Francis Kéré. Radically Simple" (2016/17) and recently "Who's Next? Homelessness, Architecture and Cities" (2022). Andres Lepik has published numerous books and articles and lectured in many universities worldwide.

MOHAMMED ZANBOA is a Syrian architect, researcher, and photographer based in Luxembourg. His research primarily focuses on spatial justice in architecture and the housing rights of refugees, which he explored through his project After Arrival. His latest work combines architectural research and photography, offering a photographic journey that narrates the story of permanent temporality in refugee camps in Luxembourg. He aims to engage with communities, policymakers, artists, and architects towards action.

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Andres and Mohammed will join us together with Emmanuel Cornelius (Social Service Division, The City of Esch), Roger Faber (Inter-Actions, Luxembourg), Rahel Süß (Political scientist and philosopher, The Esch Clinics research resident), Markus Miessen (Professor of Urban Regeneration and Chair of the City of Esch, University of Luxembourg), César Reyes-Najera (Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Luxembourg), and Gustav Kjær Vad Nielsen (Doctoral Researcher, University of Luxembourg).



"Port of Entry - Kirchberg Plateau of Refugees". Tony Rollman Primary Reception Centre, Kirchberg, Luxembourg. 07.09.2023. The centre is next to the Secretariat of the European Parliament. © Mohammed Zanboa

ROGER FABER (b. 1955) After my studies in social work in Brussels, with two colleagues, I started in 1978 a project of community development in an underprivileged neighbourhood of Luxembourg: the Grund. This experience led us to found the non-profit organisation Inter-Actions in 1979. As the organisation developed (presently it runs more than 40 different social services), I applied in 1989 a two years course in management of social organisations in Frankfurt. I worked as director of Inter-Actions until my retirement in 2021 and currently I am the chairman of the board.

M. EMMANUEL CORNÉLIUS is the head of the social coordination department of the City of Esch-sur-Alzette since nearly 20 years. With his team he coordinates the actions of the social actors, public as well as private, and initiates on political demand social action plans (youth action plan, Senior Action plan, local security plan) and accompanies this during their first steps.

RAHEL SÜß is a political scientist and philosopher exploring desirable democratic and digital futures. Her work engages with key questions, including what a more empowered democracy might look like, the role of everyday democratic experiences, and the link between anxiety and democracy. Combining insights from political philosophy, social theory, and social psychology, she investigates how transformative change can be envisioned and realized. Rahel contributed to the award-winning ARD documentary Der Autokraten-Code (2024), exploring AI and autocracy.