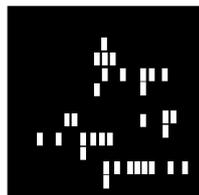


film festival



contested cities

schedule

The festival will run in three thematic blocks - **Space, Home and Economy** - with approximately ten minute intermissions. See the following pages for descriptions of the films and further information about the filmmakers.

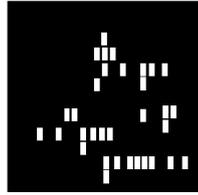
7:00 WELCOME

Alex Schafran, School of Geography, University of Leeds

7:10 SPACE

1	Future Suspended	Ross Domoney & crisis-scape team	Greece / UK	Greek with English subtitles	35"
2	Watchmen:	Edén Bastida	USA / Argentina		1"
	Ejercicio 1 To Police the Police: Ejercicio 2	Kullick & Julio Marín Estrada		2"	
3	Negocios Muertos	Pedro Natalio Rodriguez	Spain		3"
4	Preludes	Hannah Hardeman & Mick Schofield, Victor Katilis	UK	English	5"
5	Espacios Protegidos	José Antonio Mansilla López, Victoria Herranz & David Cordero	Spain	Spanish with English subtitles	9"
6	Upon a Crocus Cloth	Adele Myers	UK		7"

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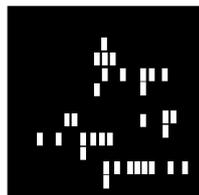
8:20 HOME

7	Dear Mandela	Dara Kell & Christopher Nizza	South Africa	English and Zulu with English subtitles	35"
8	Concrete Heart Land	Steven Ball & Rastko Novaković	UK	English	25"
9	Ladrillo por Ladrillo	Irene Durán Parra, Jorge Sequera Fernández & Alexis Wursten	Argentina Spain	Spanish with English subtitles	17"
10	Borde / Fronteras	Daniel Ramirez Corzo N.	Peru	Spanish with English subtitles	4"
11	Guadalajara: 3 Housing Stories	Giulia Testori & Luis Angel Flores	Mexico Italy	Spanish with English subtitles	10"
12	Ocupação Esperança	Monica Ribeiro e Ribeiro & Nacho Lemus / Destapiadas	Brazil Argentina	Portuguese with English subtitles	7"

10:10 ECONOMY

13	Creativity and the Capitalist City (excerpt)	Tino Buchholz	Netherlands Germany	Dutch with English subtitles	4"
14	City forgotten: The Fate of India's Small Cities	Ayona Datta	India	English and Hindi with English subtitles	15"
15	Capital	Maxim Pozdorovkin & Joe Bender	Kazakhstan USA	Russian and Kazakh with English subtitles	58"

film festival

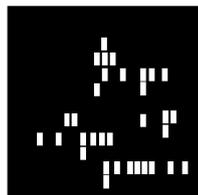


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film descriptions

	Future Suspended	Ross Domoney and crisis-scape team	Greece / UK	Greek with English subtitles	35"
1	<p>How does a global financial crisis permeate the spaces of the everyday in a city? This documentary film traces the multiple transformations of crisis-ridden Athenian public space and those who traverse it. In three parts, Future Suspended navigates its way through the past and the present of the crisis as it gets inscribed in Athens dwellers' minds, and as it plays out in their everyday lives. The first section, Privatised, explores the legacy of mass privatisation projects that preceded the 2004 Olympics, placing them in the context of present-day privatisation schemes. Part two, Devalued, examines the ever-shrinking spaces of migrants in the city and the violent devaluation that comes as a result. The final third, Militarised, explains how, at the exact moment when the state recedes from its welfare functions, this devaluation of Athenian lives becomes a generalised condition. Combining geography, anthropology, urban theory and research with visual research methods and digital design, the project has attempted to read the enormous (and often devastating) social and political change playing out before our eyes through the marks it leaves on spaces of the everyday. The rise of racism and xenophobia and the establishment of unprecedented policing are viewed through supposedly prosaic urban sites: the Athenian metro, the city's old and new airports, its highways, squares and streets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">crisis-scape.net</p>				
2	Watchmen: Ejercicio 1 To Police the Police: Ejercicio 2	Edén Bastida Kullick & Julio Marín Estrada	USA / Argentina		1" 2"
3	<p>Staring contest where the sides are clearly defined. To carefully observe that which monitors us permanently. Electronic devices placed on upon the usefulness of social movements as a way of signaling possible repressive actions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">edenbastidakullick.com</p>				
4	Preludes	Hannah Hardeman & Mick Schofield, Victor Katilis	UK	English	5"
	T.S. Eliot's 'Preludes', set in Leeds.				

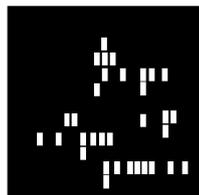
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5	Espacios Protegidos	José Antonio Mansilla López, Victoria Herranz & David Cordero	Spain	Spanish with English subtitles	9"
A photo montage that links the policy against women's rights (abortion) in Spain and the control of the urban space by the same administration.					
6	Upon a Crocus Cloth	Adele Myers	UK		7"
The city holds a myriad of character in her mist, many with similar problems but very different lifestyles. This film explores the scope of addiction and how it affects these characters lives. Based on a poem by David Constantine, published by Comma Press.					
				facebook.com/BokehYeah	
7	Dear Mandela	Dara Kell & Christopher Nizza	South Africa	English and Zulu with English subtitles	35"
When Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa, his government was faced with a seemingly insurmountable task: providing a better life for those who had suffered under apartheid. The cornerstone of Mandela's 'unbreakable promise' was an ambitious plan to ensure housing for all. Eighteen years later, as the number of families living in slums has doubled a frightening tale of betrayal is unfolding. The government is trying to 'eradicate the slums' by evicting shack dwellers from their homes at gunpoint, in scenes eerily reminiscent of apartheid-era forced removals. Determined to stop the bulldozers that are destroying homes and communities, a new social movement made up of the nation's poorest is challenging the evictions on the streets and in the courts. Dear Mandela is the remarkable story of Abahlali BaseMjondolo - Zulu for 'people of the shacks'. It is considered the largest movement of the poor to emerge in post-apartheid South Africa. Dear Mandela brings us into the everyday lives of three dynamic leaders of the movement. Determined to stop the evictions, Mazwi, Zama and Mnikelo met with their communities by candlelight to study and debate new housing legislation. The shack dwellers discovered that the innocuous-sounding Slums Act legalized mass evictions and violated the rights enshrined in the country's landmark Constitution. They challenged the Slums Act all the way to the highest court in the land - the hallowed Constitutional Court. The extraordinary achievements of the shack dwellers did not come without a price. Their movement's very existence is threatened by shack demolitions, assassination attempts and lengthy prison detention without trial. When Zama and Mazwi are drawn into a dangerous mob attack, they learn of the contradictions inherent in the difficult decisions leaders must make, and experience how great leadership is often accompanied by great sacrifice.					
dearmandela.com					

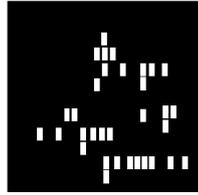
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8	Concrete Heart Land	Steven Ball & Rastko Novaković	UK	English	25"
	<p>Concrete Heart Land exposes the social cleansing of the Heygate Estate in Elephant and Castle, South London. It marks the moment that the estate was finally lost as social housing to make way for an unjust 'regeneration' scheme. Assembled from 12 years of archive materials the film charts the struggles of the local community to keep their homes, stay living in the area, and maintain communal benefits in the face of the advance of this now notorious 'urban redevelopment programme'. Throughout the film we hear the community engaging in some of the crucial battles with elected officials, planners, and barristers in municipal planning meetings, public enquiries, and interviews. Weaving through these recordings is a performance staged in 2012 on the then still inhabited estate. An assembled group of past and present residents, community activists, and critics of the Heygate plans chant texts composed from phrases used in the Regeneration Masterplan. The performances parody the technical language of regeneration and the aspirational language of gentrification. Over the course of 2012 and 2013 we filmed panoramic video images of the estate and interiors of some of the Heygate flats, all of which feature in the film. Having evicted the last residents in November 2013, Southwark Council and the developer Lend Lease are currently working towards the wider gentrification of the area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">concreteheartland.info</p>				
9	Ladrillo por Ladrillo	Irene Durán Parra, Jorge Sequera Fernández & Alexis Wursten	Argentina Spain	Spanish with English subtitles	17"
	<p>Los Pinos is an informal neighbourhood in the southern part of the City of Buenos Aires, which since 2004 has struggled for adequate health and living conditions. In collaboration with urban development professionals, the neighbours in this activist neighbourhood have been working on a new model of redevelopment, respecting as much as possible the existing community. In this documentary, the citizens of Los Pinos explain the process of building their neighbourhood, their desires and expectations, and show the importance of being protagonists in decisions affecting their own habitat.</p>				
10	Borde / Fronteras	Daniel Ramirez Corzo N.	Peru	Spanish with English subtitles	4"
	<p>A short film examining the link between gated communities, informal settlements, criminalization and segregation in Lima, seen side by side.</p>				
11	Guadalajara: 3 Housing Stories	Giulia Testori & Luis Angel Flores	Mexico Italy	Spanish with English subtitles	10"
	<p>Three scenes - the city centre, the formal neighbourhoods, and the informal periphery - which illustrate questions of conflict and change in Guadalajara, Mexico.</p>				

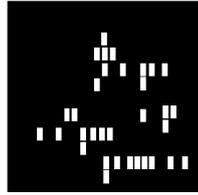
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12	Ocupação Esperança	Monica Ribeiro e Ribeiro & Nacho Lemus / Destapiadas	Brazil Argentina	Portuguese with English subtitles	7"
	An "occupation manual", showing the experiences of one group of residents in a large land occupation in Sao Paolo's periphery. destapiadas.org				
13	Creativity and the Capitalist City	Tino Buchholz	Netherlands Germany	Dutch with English subtitles	4"
	An excerpt featuring noted scholar Jamie Peck explaining Richard Florida and the roll of the "creative class" idea and creativity in shaping urban policy. Set in Amsterdam. creativecapitalistcity.org				
14	City forgotten: The Fate of India's Small Cities	Ayona Datta	India	English and Marathi with English subtitles	15"
	Malegaon, a small town near Nashik, Maharashtra, is driven solely by the power loom industry and is forgotten by the state and private sector since the terrorist bomb blasts of 2006. Through the eyes of its residents, local activists and civil society members, City Forgotten tells the story of Malegaon's fall from the Manchester of India to a town in decline, where its women and minorities continue to aspire for and claim their constitutional rights to education despite the lack of any real prospects for its future generations. ayonadatta.wordpress.com				
15	Capital	Maxim Pozdorovkin & Joe Bender	Kazakhstan USA	Russian and Kazakh with English subtitles	58"
	What does it mean for a nation to start anew? For Kazakhstan, the answer is to build Astana, the world's youngest capital, a utopian city of the future where skyscrapers and cranes stretch as far as the eye can see. Construction workers, TV reporters, and official tour guides spend their lives in the service of this city-in-progress. Capital, a documentary film by Maxim Pozdorovkin and Joe Bender, tells the story of Kazakhstan's new capital as it celebrates its tenth anniversary. Military parades, monumental architecture, song competitions, and human pyramids are only one side of the story; the other tells of thousands of migrants arriving to take part in their nation's new experiment. They come to Astana to build its golden monuments, to keep its markets open long after dark, and to push the city's frontiers deeper into the empty plains. Long time residents watch as a glistening new city rises up across the river and their dusty Soviet village turns into a "pearl of the steppe." As fear over the global financial climate spreads, leaving construction sites empty and the future of Kazakhstan's dream city uncertain, the residents find themselves caught between the official vision of Astana and the realities of life on utopia's outskirts. Filmed on location in Astana, Kazakhstan, Capital offers a glimpse into the ongoing development of a metropolis and the symbol of a nation. capitalfilm.net				

film festival



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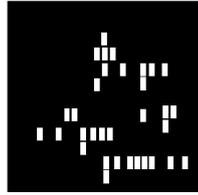
organiser's statement

This festival works to bring together a diverse set of films and videos which collectively work to build a holistic understanding of contestation in contemporary cities. The diversity is not simply geographic or linguistic, with more than a dozen countries and half dozen languages represented. They are diverse in their subject matter, taking into account both overt contestation (land occupations, protests, etc.) and more subtle forms of struggle, including around everyday life, broader economic processes, and public space. They are diverse in terms of their authors, including established voices with professional experience and amateur auteurs showing their first film. They are diverse in terms of where and what and how they conceptualize the city.

Contestation is not simply something that happens when things go wrong, or when people are angry. Virtually every corner of our urban life, from the smallest town to the biggest metropolis, was produced or is being reproduced through some form of contestation - social, cultural, economic, political or one of the many vast hybrids. As cities and all things urban grow more popular and more formally contested, we invite the audience to use these films to ask themselves about the full range of contestations happening around them, some of which are ongoing and others of which are buried in the vast history upon which all urban environments are built.

Dr. Alex Schafran
School of Geography
University of Leeds
September 2014

film festival



contested cities

about the organisers

What is Contested Cities?

Contested Cities is an international network of action, investigation and exchange of researchers from eight European and Latin American universities located in Madrid, Leeds, Mexico City, Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. At Leeds, it is hosted in the Cities and Social Justice research cluster in the School of Geography.

Which topics does Contested Cities tackle?

From a perspective that is critical with traditional political actors and committed with the action of social movements, Contested Cities will provide research about the consequences of the widespread neoliberalisation of urban politics in Europe and Latin America. It will carry out a comparative analysis of the variegated geographies and politics of gentrification, of the multiple and geographically uneven impacts of neoliberal politics in urban life and the strategies of resistance and re-appropriation of urban space by counter-hegemonic social movements in Europe and Latin America.

<http://www.contested-cities.net>

<http://contested-cities.net/CCleeds/>

<http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/>

Leeds Social and Environmental Justice Network

senjanet.leeds.ac.uk

Leeds SENJA Net is a network of academics based at the University of Leeds, actively engaged in research on/with struggles around social, economic and environmental justice.

Thanks

Wharf Chambers for hosting and being generally awesome; Paul Routledge and Giorgia Aiello for initial impetus and effort; Ana Cabrera Pacheco, Vicky Habermehl, Sara Gonzalez, Stuart Hodgkinson and the Contested Cities Team; all the filmmakers and people who submitted, and especially those that did not have their films shown. Extra special thanks to Alex Habermehl, poster designer extraordinaire, and the unparalleled UoLSoG IT Team of Qamir Zia and David Appleyard, who make everything run smoothly.