

"The Bristol Debates"

Friday April 1st, 4:45pm
A free event

Inspired by the 'Putney Debates' of 1647, when the Levellers and other agitators in Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army sought a new constitution for a Republic of England, this free event precedes a two day conference that follows on Saturday and Sunday at the Arnolfini: Digital Cultural Ecology and the Medium Sized City. Speakers at the opening event on Friday include:

George Ferguson CBE. Mayor of Bristol. Past President of the RIBA, co-founder of Ferguson Mann Architects; founder of the national architectural group Acanthus, UK.

Helen Davies. Director of Audience Engagement at Arnolfini.

Michael Jemtrud. Founding Director. Facility for Architectural Research in Media and Mediation; Professor and Former Director of the School of Architecture at McGill University, Canada.

Jon Dovey. Director REACT (Research & Enterprise for Arts and Creative Technologies); Professor of Screen Media. Department of Creative Industries and Education, UWE, UK.

Clare Reddington. Creative Director, Watershed, Visiting Professor UWE.

Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd April
Conference - £15 see overleaf

A series of discussions about how new media and technologies can help us rediscover the tradition of 'the commons' in the city of the digital age and will form the way we imagine, design, represent and live in cities.

Turn over for more information.

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A series of discussions about how new media and technologies can help us rediscover the tradition of 'the commons' in the city of the digital age.

The world is changing – fast. Cities are changing even faster. In Bristol we know technology, art and design will shape how we live in the 21st century. The question is... will they improve our lives and support the planet or just make the rich richer? Join leading thinkers to debate these issues at a crucial moment in urban history.

The conference is led by the Centre for Moving Image Research, the research group AMPS (Architecture, Media, Politics, Society) and the scholarly journal 'Architecture_MPS'. It is interested in exploring the still latent possibilities of the internet in urban, social and cultural contexts; the development of citizen-led 'hybrid cities' in which new technologies foster new behaviours; new ethnographic interpretations of the city and its peoples; and changing representations of the city in new and old formats: photography, film, animation, augmented and virtual realities.

The questions it asks include, but are not limited to: how can old urban infrastructures incorporate the possibilities of new technologies? How do these technologies affect design, participation, experience and representation in the city? Will new modes of communication and visualisation alter the 'culture' and 'economy' of these places and their peoples? Will passive city consumption be replaced by active engagement? How will inhabitants of these cities interact with each other, across boundaries and with their respective levers of power? In short, what are the implications and possibilities of the digital times in which we live, on the civic, cultural, aesthetic, economic, urban and architectural forum of medium-sized city?

For more information visit:
<http://architectureemps.com/bristol-uk>