
Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

2016

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Abstract Submission Form

- 1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Architectures and Publics: Tactics of Dialogue in the City
- 2. Format:** Written Paper and/or Verbal Presentation
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- 5. University or Company Affiliation:** previously of Victoria University of Wellington, currently Independent Researcher and Design Team Leader at Fearon Hay Architects

6. Abstract (300 words):

This paper considers an architectural design proposal for the fictional *Doorway to the Built Environment (Doorway)* in Wellington, New Zealand. Through critical analysis, I suggest ways in which practices of the city might generate, mediate and enable communication through changing landscapes of publics and cities.

Through design methodologies, the *Doorway* project aims to explore architectural possibilities for an informed interdisciplinary architecture forum in which to: engage publics in dialogues on the built environment from a variety of disciplinary and non-disciplinary perspectives and approaches; contribute towards establishing an agenda for future consideration of built environment issues; and open out the processes, values, identifications and uses of the discipline of architecture.

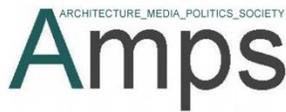
To explore these questions, the design methodology of the project is considered as a means of practicing of the city through design. Key drawing studies consider Wellington as a place in which publics, through practices and performances of their everyday lives, overlap in their performance of collective memories, imaginations, and aspirations. The project is framed by a series of de Certeauian performative *tactics*,

which move beyond formal design tactics. Design investigations are mediated: the city, the site, the pencil sketch, the CAD drawing, and public aspirations are projected back on the site. I consider the relationship of these methodologies to publics, and their methods of dialogue, including technologies, with regards to the specific conditions of Wellington City.

The project opens up broader questions about how specific parts of the built fabric of a city might form part of a network of social practices (physical, digital, daily, or longer term); and how the role of the built fabric of our cities can be reframed not only by these practices, but by designing for and through such practices.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Sophie Hamer is a practicing architectural graduate, writer, and architectural researcher based in New Zealand. Her work explores interdisciplinary intersections between architecture, art, literature, and psychoanalysis, with particular emphasis on the mediated construction of urban spaces.



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