

28–30 May 2021

**metroZones-Schule für städtisches Handeln:**

***Re-Reading the Map: conflicted spaces and the forensic gaze***

Digital discussion and analog workshop



In the framework of the supplementary program of:

## **MAPPING ALONG - Recording Margins of Conflict**

An exhibition curated by metroZones at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien ([link](#))

In this second metroZones school, we shift the focus from ways of making to ways of reading maps. We conceive reading not as passive but as an active sense-making procedure of reconstructing and deconstructing how a given mapping 'speaks to us'. Each mapping responds to other spatial images, so each reading corresponds to a re-reading, as a method for reflecting about situated spatial knowledge and power in cartographic practice. Through collaborative readings, we may uncover different or divergent cartographic discourses, strategies and languages. What role do mappings play in the materializing of urban conflicts and conflicted landscapes? What do they reveal (or obfuscate) in spatial settings, which underlying conflicts and power patterns? How may a (counter)forensic perspective materialize invisibilized crime and spatial conflictivity? These questions will be explored and discussed on the basis of selected mappings from Berlin (the dispute around the planned Amazon tower), Mexico City (as contested mega-urbanization) as well as the archive of the research agency Forensic Architecture.

The metroZones school starts on Friday evening with a lecture by Mexican architect Sergio Beltrán-García who will discuss a forensic perspective on mapping. On Saturday it continues with a workshop on creative readings of pre-selected mappings. The school will end on Sunday with a discussion on the outcomes and on the potential of re-reading maps in urban research by Monika Streule.

Both the Friday and Sunday discussions will be accessible via videoconference, a link will be provided to registered participants. The workshop on Saturday is limited to a certain number of participants and will likely take place in or around the Kunstraum Kreuzberg, depending on the current pandemic regulations; remote participation may be possible, please indicate when registering. Please register at [mappingalong@metrozones.info](mailto:mappingalong@metrozones.info).

**Friday 28.5.2021, 19:00-21:00 (via zoom)**

*The counter-forensic gaze: mapping to uncover public truth*

Public Lecture by Sergio Beltrán-García in conversation with Anne Huffschmid

Sergio will share his experience as an architect at the intersections of public truth-finding, memory, and architectural representation. He will present a number of examples of his implementation of one of the core concepts of Forensic Architecture's work: the *counter-forensic gaze*. The purpose is to provide theoretical tools which may assist the reading of maps produced by power structures. The lecture will be followed by a conversation with Anne who has also engaged with counter-forensics in her audiovisual research on forced disappearance, and will be open for the audience.

*Sergio Beltrán-García* is an architect, activist, and researcher interested in the aesthetics and politics of memory and memorial construction. He has accompanied the production of memorial processes in cases of human rights violations in Mexico, both in contestation of and in collaboration with government initiatives. He currently works as a researcher affiliated to Forensic Architecture (<https://www.sseltran.com/>).

**Saturday 29.5.2021, 10:00–18:00 (in situ)**

*Reading as reconstructing: mappings as territories for sense-making and dispute*

Workshop in Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien (see current pandemic regulations)

The workshop will be guided by Sergio Beltrán-García (Mexico City) and Monika Streule (Zurich) as well as by metroZones members Anne Huffschmid and Kathrin Wildner. Participants will interrogate and analyse mappings of different formats (paper, video, web-based, transmedia, geo-referential and other) from different urban and spatial settings, including Berlin and Mexico City. The workshop will combine working in small groups as well as collaborative exercises and discussions.

(Please register until 26th of May at: [mappingalong@metrozones.info](mailto:mappingalong@metrozones.info))

**Sunday 11:00–14:00 (via zoom)**

*Re-reading maps together: Collective knowledge production in urban research*

Public discussion with workshop participants, metroZones, Sergio Beltrán-García and comments by Monika Streule.

*Monika Streule* is an urban scholar based at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zürich. Her research engages with the social production of space, urbanization processes and inventive methodologies of qualitative research. Currently, she is working on her second book project on a decolonized socio-territorial approach in urban studies with a regional focus on Latin America, particularly Mexico City and La Paz-El Alto in Bolivia ([monikastreule.net](http://monikastreule.net)).