



ARCHITECTURE IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

Tuesday // 14.00-17.00

Lecturer: Dr. Benek Çinçik

This course will explore the relationship between geology and architecture with a particular focus on the Anthropocene thesis. Originating as a hypothesis in Earth System sciences, the term 'Anthropocene' designates a new geological epoch in which humans are defined as a dominant geologic force, acting upon the Earth's planetary system. "Following the Climate Change thesis, the Anthropocene is the latest planetary imagination that describes massive extinction, brutal resource extraction, and irreversible environmental damage. It reveals that the long-accepted division between nature and culture does not exist and therefore has been regarded as creating a paradigm shift in knowledge production."¹

Through emphasizing planetary scale and deep time, the Anthropocene provides a rich conceptual framework for situating architecture in a broader set of interrogations. It unsettles conventional understandings and epistemologies in architectural theory and practice. This course will firstly investigate a theoretical body of work on the Anthropocene from a range of disciplines including science and technology studies, geography and environmental humanities as well as newly emerging fields such as geo-humanities and Anthropocene studies. Then it will explore how this planetary imagination and geologic thinking can influence architectural theory through a close reading of related texts that investigate the intersection between the two fields of enquiry. Through reading essays from diverse disciplines the course will rehearse and explore new thinking tools, interpretive strategies and design epistemologies that are attuned to the Anthropocene.

The objectives of this course can be summarized as

- // to be able to read and interpret texts from a wide variety of disciplines
- // to be able to reflect on the readings and write critical texts
- // to develop an Anthropocenic lens and practice Anthropocenic thinking
- // to integrate Anthropocenic thinking into architectural theory and design

¹ Benek Çinçik, "Planetary Imaginations and the Anthropocene: Tracing Geoaesthetic Acts between 1968-1972", Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Edinburgh, 2021.