



The **Public** Interest

dcrp.ced.berkeley.edu/events/breslauer2009

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2009 Breslauer
Graduate Student
Conference

May 7-8
UC Berkeley

Organized by

Monica Guerra and Ricardo Cardoso

Sponsored by the

Division of International and Area Studies

Co-Sponsors

Department of Sociology

Institute of International Studies

Berkeley-Stanford City Group

Institute of Governmental Studies

Department of Geography

Department of City and Regional Planning

The Public Interest

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On the morning of 14 July 1902 the *Campanile di San Marco* vanished from Venice's skyline. Collapsing due to land subsidence, the bell tower resisted as a symbol of the city's main public space for almost 1000 years. Immediately after its collapse, the city council vowed to rebuild it *com'era, dov'era* – as it was, where it was. No hesitations. No doubts. No disagreements. Within 10 years, the job was done, despite the protests of those who thought the square looked better without it.

The reconstruction of Venice's Campanile as a societal practice, like many others before and after it, took place in the public interest. But what is the public interest? It is an ethical

and moral concept that has historically underlay claims to inclusion, justice and the notion of a shared, common good. Yet it is also a concept used through various mechanisms and to different ends by a vast set of diverse actors. Multiple concrete engagements thus result. Inaugurated on April 25 1912, the new *Campanile di San Marco* reverberated a certain notion of the public interest throughout a transformed Venice.

Set under the auspices of UC Berkeley's own Campanile (a replica of the replica), this multidisciplinary conference seeks to create an opportunity for discussing the public interest both as an operating logic for practice as well as an ethical claim linked to particular political imaginaries. It maps different ways in which meanings and objectives of the public interest are constantly redefined and reappropriated by exploring techniques, procedures and technologies deploying its idiom; analyzing contentions, participations and mobilizations of its diverse aspirations; and examining norms, normalizations and informalities in its constitution. It does so because the repercussions of how the public interest is defined and which actors are able to (re)define it have critical consequences for both conceptions and practices of government, democracy, development and social justice.

Monica Guerra and Ricardo Cardoso

Thursday May 7 Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler

5.00 pm **John Lie Dean**, International and Area Studies | Welcome
George Breslauer UCB EVCP | Opening Remarks
Craig Calhoun President, Social Science Research Council | Keynote Address
Welcome Reception

Friday May 8 IIS Conference Room, 223 Moses

PANEL 1 **CONTENTIONS, PARTICIPATIONS AND MOBILIZATIONS**
9.00 am Respondent: **Ingrid Seyer-Ochi** Graduate School of Education

The People Know Best: Developing Civic Participation in Urban Planning
Erin Lynn Evenhouse University of Michigan Urban Planning

State Patronage and Political Mobilization among Grassroots Associations in Brazil
Jessica Rich UCB Political Science

Representation of Oppositional Political Actors in Post-apartheid South Africa: the Implications of PAGAD, TAC, and COPE for Democratic Government
Gabriel Tourek University of Michigan Public Policy

Farming Oakland's Fallows? A Participatory Assessment of Vacant Land for Urban Agriculture in Oakland, California
Nathan McClintock UCB Geography

10.30 am *Coffee Break*

PANEL 2 **TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES AND TECHNOLOGIES**
10.45 am Respondent: **Michel Laguerre** Berkeley Center for Globalization and Information

Public Interest, Individual Enterprise: A Case of Participatory Development in Ecuador
Gabriel Arboleda UCB Architecture

Mediating Publics? Military Drones and Civic Action
Claudia Salamanca and **Katherine Chandler** UCB Rhetoric

Nuclear Energy Governance and the Politics of Social Justice: Technology, Regulation and Redistribution in Russia and France
Theocharis Grigoriadis UCB Political Science

12.15 pm *Lunch Break*

PANEL 3 **NORMS, NORMALIZATIONS AND INFORMALITIES**
1.00 pm Respondent: **Alfonso Valenzuela Aguilera** Institute of Urban and Regional Development

Cape Town: Negotiating the Public in the Neoliberal City
Sharone Tomer UCB Architecture

A Return to the City: Transacting Residents and Real Estate in the Redevelopment of San Francisco's Public Housing
Jane Rongerude UCB City and Regional Planning

Designing the Public in Miami
Hector Fernando Burga UCB City and Regional Planning

Planning Ruined Spaces in Contemporary Lisbon: Sorting Racialized Bodies in the Public Interest
Tiago Castela UCB Architecture

3.00 pm *Closing Reception*

Ananya Roy Department of City and Regional Planning | Closing Remarks