

Sharing Space in the City: The Spatial Politics of Urban Divisions

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Professor Anita Bakshi, SEBS - Landscape Architecture

MW 2:15-3:35P

Blake Hall Rm 128

Cook Campus

Will Count towards SEBS -Landscape Architecture Major

Will Count towards SEBS - Landscape Architecture Minor

This course critically examines a number of issues in ethno--nationally divided and contested cities in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Balkans, as well as so---called 'normal' cities in North America. We will discuss a number of contested spatial practices, including planning, redevelopment, heritage management, urban security, the privatization of public space, and various other mechanisms of division and exclusion. We will explore urban divides that take on a variety of forms including enclaves, gated communities, settlements, walls and other conflict infrastructure. Throughout this examination, we will continue to question the points of similarity and difference between cities divided by explicit political or national borders and other cities. Our investigation of divided cities will be used to rethink terms that are commonly used to discuss urban questions, including: 'power and resistance,' 'the 'right to the city,' and 'shared space.' A major focus of this course will be on heritage practices, and other engagements with memory, in places where history is heavily contested. For their final presentations and papers for this course, students are encouraged to reconceptualize or invent tools and methods for representing urban processes.

ANITA BAKSHI is an Instructor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University, where she teaches courses on Housing and Open Space Design, Visualization, and Research Methods. She is also an affiliated lecturer for the Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies (CHAPS) Program, teaching courses on Heritage and Planning in Divided Cities and Cultural Heritage and Community Organizing. She has a Master of Architecture degree from the University of California – Berkeley. Following several years in architectural practice in Chicago, California and the Foster+Partners Istanbul field office, she received her PhD in the History and Theory of Architecture from Cambridge University. Her PhD research with the Conflict in Cities Research Programme focused on space and memory in divided cities.

Her research has focused on questions of mapping and representation for contested environments, and she has exhibited maps and drawings that document ethnographic research in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). She engages in design research that explores new forms for monuments, memorials, and other commemorative structures. Current research investigates the role of landscape architecture and design in the Anthropocene era through a design proposal for a memorial that marks and describes

environmental losses and enables collective mourning and healing. Recent publications include “Urban Form and Memory Discourses in Contested Cities” in the *Journal of Urban Design* (2014), and “Trade and Exchange in Nicosia’s Common Realm” in 'Post Ottoman Coexistence: Sharing Space in the Shadow of Conflict' (2016).