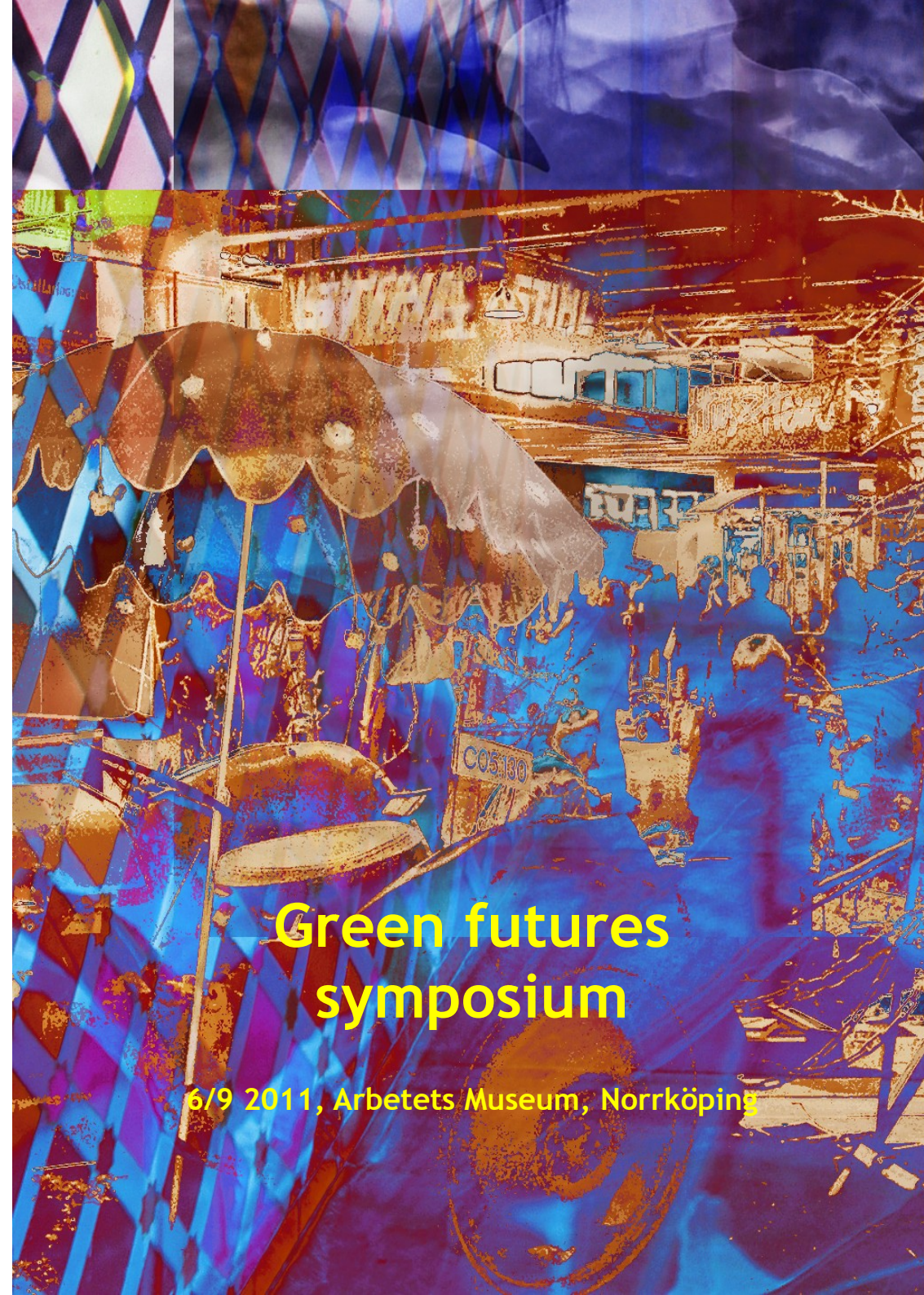


The symposium is free of charge. Prior registration is needed in order to secure a seat. Register by contacting Susanne Eriksson:  
susanne.eriksson@liu.se  
013-28 22 86

Organized by the Green Futures network, Linköping University, DevNet



Arbetets museum. Photo: Magdalena Kuchler



## Green Futures

### – from utopian grand schemes to micro-practices

10.00-10.15 Introduction by Karin Bradley and Johan Hedrén

10.15-11.15 Erik Swyngedouw  
Trouble with Nature: "Ecology as the New Opium of the People"

11.15-12.15 Lucy Sargisson  
Architecture and Utopia: three contrasting case studies: Dubai, New Urbanism and Cohousing

13.15-14.15 Katherine Gibson  
Sustaining Places: Disclosing New Development Pathways

14.15-15.15 Alexander Vasudevan  
Alternative Urbanisms and Spatial Politics: Towards a Genealogy of the Urban Commons

15.45-16.45 Constantin Petcou & Doina Petrescu (atelier d'architecture autogérée)  
Strategies and Tactics for Participative Utopias and Resilient Practices

Venue: Arbetets museum, Alvarummet, 6th floor

In the last decade of planning and policy making, utopian thought and experimental approaches to the organisation of society and the built environment have been rare. What has instead evolved during recent years is a rather firm consensus around the sustainable society as something created *within* the frames of the current society, by small steps such as eco-labelling, urban densification, recycling, green taxes, etc. Critical researchers, however, argue that this 'light greening' of the current societal and urban structures is not deep-reaching enough to really handle the threats posed by climate change, uneven global development, and growing socio-economic segregation. They call for visions of alternative futures and more deep-reaching approaches. At the same time, in the wake of the 'triple crisis', social movements are growing that challenge the predominant social order and open up for new ideas on green futures. Where can attempts in this direction be found and how can they be understood? To what extent are the current utopian energies strong enough to go beyond present comprehensions of social relations? To what extent are utopian thoughts and practices, in all its different guises, affecting political endeavours and institutional change? To what extent and how can historical utopian thought be re-read and made useful for current engagements in the field?

**Erik Swyngedouw** is a *Professor of Geography, School of Environment and Development, the University of Manchester*. His research programme is built around two main theoretical perspectives and articulated through two empirical 'windows'. The first research programme focuses on geographical political economy, with special attention to transformations in the capitalist space economy. The second research programme focuses on political-ecology, with particular emphasis on the governance, politics, and economics of water resources. The main theoretical objective here is to fuse theoretically social and physical processes. This aims to contribute to the formulation of a politically progressive socio-natural theory.

**Lucy Sargisson** is an *Associate Professor of Politics at the University of Nottingham*. Her research concerns political utopias and utopianism. It includes imaginary explorations of utopianism, and also lived experiments. Her publications deal with alternative lifestyles, intentional communities, religious fundamentalism, and feminist and environmentalist theories. She is currently working on a book project, 'Fools' Gold? Utopia in the Twenty-First Century' (Palgrave Macmillan), dealing with different aspects of contemporary utopian thought as manifested in architecture, theory, fiction and social experimentation. Another ongoing project deals with property and utopian alternatives to private property.

**Katherine Gibson** is a *Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney*. She is an economic geographer engaged in re-thinking economics and urbanism in the light of feminist, postcolonial and poststructuralist theory. As part of the Community Economies Collective [www.communityeconomies.org](http://www.communityeconomies.org) she is theorizing the ethical economic dynamics of regional community economies. She has directed large action research projects with communities in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Together with Julie Graham she is the co-author (as J.K. Gibson-Graham) of several books, including "The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It)"(2006), "A Postcapitalist Politics" (2006) and co-editor of "Class and its Others" (2000).

**Alexander Vasudevan** is a *lecturer in Cultural and Historical Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Nottingham*. He is currently working with a project on Alternative Urbanisms/Cartographies of protest, seeking to highlight the role of the German squatter movement from the 1960s onwards, relating it to recent debates about 'rights to the city' and the role of community planning and participatory architecture. He is also engaged in a collaborative project on Spaces of Enclosure where questions are explored as how individuals resist/reformulate practices of enclosure of public space. What forms of insurgent citizenship/subjectivity are prominent in practices of enclosure? To what extent can we identify a recognisable counter measure (a process of 'commonisation')?

**Constantin Petcou** is an *architect* based in Paris whose work focuses on the intersection between architecture, urbanism, and semiotics. He is co-founder of *atelier d'architecture autogérée* (*aaa – studio for self-managed architecture*), a collective platform which conducts explorations, actions and research concerning urban mutations and socio-political practices in the contemporary city. *aaa* acts through „urban tactics“ encouraging inhabitants to self-manage disused urban spaces, engage in nomad and reversible projects and initiating interstitial practices. *aaa* has acquired an international reputation and has become an important reference for contemporary participative practices in architecture and cultural initiatives related to sustainability.

**Doina Petrescu** is a *professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Sheffield*. She is the other co-founder of *atelier d'architecture autogérée*. Her research focuses on two main strands – gender and space within contemporary society and participation in architecture. Her approach is one that attempts to multiply the relationships between research, teaching and socially engaged practice and to broaden the scope of architectural discourse by bringing cultural, social and political issues to inform the design and thinking processes in architecture. She is aiming for a 'creative' research methodology, which reinvents its tools by crossing approaches from different disciplines: architectural theory and design, contemporary arts, social sciences, political philosophy, feminist theory.