

Decolonizing the Spatial History of the Americas | Call for Papers

University of Texas at Austin - February 10-11, 2020

To study the built environment of the Americas is to constantly wrestle with an inherent contradiction. While our disciplines of architecture, urban design, landscape, and planning share the fundamental belief that space and place matter, the overwhelming majority of our canonical knowledge and the vernacular used to describe these disciplines comes from another continent. We still teach architectural history as “North Atlantic history.”

To decolonize our spatial history is an urgent task to prepare educators to teach architectural history in a more inclusive way. For that to happen we need to develop new methods and bring new information to the table. Groups such as the Global Architectural History of Teaching Collaborative at MIT (GAHTC), and Cities South of Cancer (Cambridge, UK) are working on different aspects of this challenge.

The BELLA Research Group at UT Austin and the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Cambridge will co-host a colloquium on “Decolonizing the Spatial History of the Americas”, on February 10/11 2020, at the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin to foster a conversation on issues of race, ethnicity, geography, and gender vis-à-vis the teaching of architectural history of the American continent.

We invite all colleagues dealing with decolonial aspects of architectural history of the Americas to submit extended abstracts (750 words) before October 31st 2019 to be considered for presentation at the colloquium. Hosted by Fernando Luiz Lara (UTexas) and Felipe Hernandez (CLAS-Cambridge), the colloquium has as keynote speakers Prof. Arturo Escobar (Kenan Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Prof. Clara Irazabal-Zurita (Professor of Planning, Director of the Latinx and Latin American Studies Program, University of Missouri Kansas-City).

Submission guidelines:

Send 750-word abstract to decolonizingarchhistory@gmail.com before October 15, 2019.