

Open Call for Participants

'Exploring the Banlieue' Summer School

Monday July 8th – Friday July 12th 2013

Deadline for applications: Friday 24th May 2013

Banlieue Network is running a Summer School 8th-12th July 2013 in the Greater Paris area with the aim of exploring key aspects of the French banlieue (sub)culture. Our core group of participants is formed by members of the Network but limited places are now available for scholars, research students and urban practitioners who would be interested in contributing. Please find below information on the aims, the programme and the application process.

1. About the Summer School

Designed for researchers, research students (in particular at PhD-level), practitioners and urbanists whose work addresses notions of urban space and peripheral communities, this international Summer School provides a week-long inter-disciplinary programme exploring key aspects of the French banlieue (sub)culture. The programme aims to offer participants an opportunity to exchange their specific knowledge and personal or professional experience by engaging in a series of lectures, debates and urban walks on the theme of representations of the banlieue. The Summer School will run in parallel with a programme of creative workshops for young people living in the Greater Paris suburbs, with opportunities for researchers and young people to exchange and debate on issues around creative representations of the suburbs.

Launched by 'Banlieue Network', a group of scholars, artists and urban practitioners who aim to contribute to new thinking about future visions of the city and pathways for sustainable urban development, the Summer School programme has been developed in collaboration with the City Council of Drancy and other local partners. The programme draws on the advanced theoretical, empirical and practical specialisms of contributors in a range of disciplines, from sociology and urbanism to film and literature. The lectures will be given by scholars specialised in different areas of banlieue studies. The programme will explore the practice of suburban image making informed by a reflexive and critical perspective, including urban walks focusing on the suburban landscape and the opportunity for urban photography.

2. Programme

The Summer School programme is structured around a series of presentations, talks and discussions in the morning, followed by urban walks in the afternoon, led by specialists from the neighbourhood and accompanied by local residents. Researchers will be encouraged to take digital photos during the walks and engage in creative writing, which will contribute to the creative aims of the Summer

School. The walks will be followed by a discussion with young people from the neighbourhoods who will have taken part in workshops related to cultural representations of their neighbourhood.

The Summer School will be based in Saint-Denis. The presentations will take place in the morning at the Maison de Science de l'Homme Paris Nord (4 rue de la Croix Faron 93210 St-Denis la Plaine). After these sessions, participants will be divided into small groups and will join the creative workshops run by artists in the communities of Drancy, Bondy, Saint-Denis (and possibly La Courneuve – still waiting for the confirmation of the city council). These sessions will start with a lunch and end with an afternoon snack which will be offered by the city council. They will also provide us with a room equipped with computer and projector. The workshops will be aimed at young residents of the communities aged 16-23. The creative workshops will be composed of 2 hour-sessions and will be led by photographers, writers and other artists.

After the creative workshops participants will meet again in the early evening for an urban walk guided by people living in the communities who have a particular knowledge of their neighbourhood. The walks will be led by the workshop tutors and artists.

2.1. Walks and Evening Programmes at the Communities

Saint-Denis

The evening of the 8th July will be dedicated to Saint-Denis. After an urban walk led by photographer Jean-Michel Delage, originally from Saint-Denis, and local artists and residents, a conference-debate will take place, co-organised by the city council, on the theme of rap culture. A reception offered by the city council will follow.

La Courneuve

The evening of the 9th July will be dedicated to La Courneuve (to be confirmed). After an urban walk led by local associations (Africa, Global Potential) and residents, a conference-debate will take place, co-organised by the city council, on the theme of women in the banlieue. (to be confirmed). The discussion will be chaired by Marie-Madeleine Bertucci. A reception offered by the city council will follow.

Villiers-le Bel (?)

The evening of the 10th July will be dedicated to Villiers-le-Bel? (to be confirmed). After an urban walk led by local artists and residents, a conference-debate will take place, co-organised by the city council, on the theme of How to remake the banlieue? (to be confirmed). The discussion will be chaired by Michel Kokoreff (to be confirmed). A reception offered by the city council will follow.

Bondy

The evening of the 11th July will be dedicated to Bondy. After an urban walk led by local artists and residents, a conference-debate will take place, co-organised by the city council, on the theme of Youth and Employment (to be confirmed). The discussion will be chaired by Nordine Nabili, the director of Bondy Blog. A reception offered by the city council will follow.

2.1.4. Drancy

The evening of the 11th July will be dedicated to Bondy. After an urban walk led by local artists and residents, a conference-debate will take place, co-organised by the city council, on the theme of Banlieue Literature (to be confirmed). The discussion will be chaired by Christina Horvath with the participation of writer Mamadou Ndong and the co-authors of the collective book *les gars de Villers*. A reception offered by the city council will follow.

2.2. Collaborating Artists

Mamadou Mahmoud Ndong

Writer, photographer, playwright, film maker, Drancy.

Dianne Regisford

Social Sculptor, Oxford.

Sophie Tonneau

Actress, singer, musician, playwright, stage director, Paris.

Ibrahim Kaba (known as Kalou)

Photographer, Paris / Bamako.

Jean-Michel Delage

Photographer, Angers / Saint-Denis.

Pierre Terrasson

Photographer, Paris / Auvergniers.

Liza Dimpleby

Artist, writer and lecturer, with particular interests in walking, writing and drawing through the city.

John Perivolaris

Documentary and fine art photographer, curator, writer, researcher, educator, and organiser of photographic events.

Mish Aminoff

Photographer, lecturer in film studies.

2.3. Collaborating Academics

Juliet Carpenter is a Senior Research Fellow of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development: Spatial Planning Group, with particular interests in urban regeneration, community engagement and participation in planning, among others. She is currently a Research Fellow at l'Institut d'Urbanisme de Lyon.

Christina Horvath is a Senior Lecturer in French Studies at Oxford Brookes University whose research is in 20th and 21st- century French and Francophone writing, society and culture. On this she has

published *Le roman urbain: un genre de la surmodernité*. Her current research includes issues of 'banlieue' narratives in the greater Paris area.

Jörg Knieling is the Vice-President of the HafenCity University, Professor for Urban Planning and Regional Development and a Member of the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning. He is currently involved in several international research consortiums and has published four books on subjects such as climate change and planning cultures.

Marie-Madeleine Bertucci is a Professor of Sociolinguistics at Cergy-Pontoise University with particular research interests in banlieues, youth parlance and plurilingual and pluricultural situations, among others. She is currently undertaking a study on verbal battles and ritual insults among young people of Francophone immigrant origin.

Bruno Levasseur is a Lecturer of French Studies at Roehampton University, with particular research interests in cultural representations of postcolonial France. His recent and current projects have focused on the representations of the cité des 4000 in La Courneuve.

Sandrine Roginsky is a senior lecturer of Communication and Media at the Catholic University in Louvain, specialising in the construction of discourse and portrayals on the internet. She has previously worked at the European Parliament and is currently undertaking a project on the use of social networks within European institutions.

Edward Welch is a Senior Lecturer in French at Durham University, specialising in post-war French literary and visual culture. His current projects include a study on urban development in post-war France and The Durham Centre for Advanced Photography, of which he is a founding member and co-director.

3. Participants

The Summer School aims to foster an interdisciplinary learning and creative environment in order to facilitate knowledge transfer and synthesis between theory and practice of suburban space. It will be particularly relevant to those with an interest in the representations of the urban periphery, from different disciplinary perspectives.

We aim to recruit a range of researchers with an active involvement in debates around the nature of city spaces and how artistic images might not only convey meaning but can also contribute to advancing knowledge and understanding about communities on the periphery and challenging the prejudice attached to them.

Attendance at the Summer School is free, although participants are expected to cover the costs of their travel, accommodation, breakfast and evening dinner. Lunch and tea will be provided. The number of places at the Summer School is limited to 20 in total. It is expected that participants are available to attend the Summer School for the full week. .

4. Outcomes

The Summer School will provide participants with a structured framework of theoretical talks, discussions and debates, visual presentations and urban walks, including the opportunity to capture images of the suburbs through photography. Participants will immerse themselves in a suburban environment where they are expected to share in the experience of knowledge transfer which will advance their knowledge on suburban communities. They will benefit from opportunities to exchange their views and experience with scholars, researchers, artists, practitioners, and members of the communities involved in the Summer School which will help them develop a nuanced understanding of the banlieue subculture and social phenomena attached to the suburbs.

At the end of the Summer School, a touring exhibition will be organized with a curated selection of participants' photographs and written texts, provided by both the researchers as well as young people from the suburbs. This work will be showcased in France, Britain and other European countries through an exhibition and a bilingual non-academic book communicating the 'banlieue' experience beyond its locality and providing a resource to challenge negative stereotypes.

5. Practical Information

The working language of the Summer School will be French but some of the creative contributions may be produced in English.

Participants are encouraged to bring a digital camera, or mobile phone with camera, so that photos taken on the urban walks can be uploaded to Facebook or other social media platforms. Please ensure that all equipment is covered by insurance as the Summer School takes no responsibility for items lost or stolen whilst attending or travelling to the course.

For participants who do not live in the Paris area, hotels will be suggested that are near the Summer School venue. Details will be provided at a later date.

6. Program Outline

Draft Summer School Programme

	Timetable	Saint-Denis	Bondy	Drancy	La Courneuve	Villiers(?)
Mon 8 th July	10.00-12.00	Registration/ introduction				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	13.00-15.00	Writing workshop	Theatre workshop	Photography workshop		
	15.00-17.00	Photography Workshop	Art Workshop	Writing workshop		

	17.30-19.30	Urban Walk in Saint-Denis				
	20.00	Conference debate in Saint-Denis, followed by reception and concert				
	Timetable	Saint-Denis	Bondy	Drancy	La Courneuve	Villiers(?)
Tue 9 th July	10.00-12.00	Presentations/Discussion				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	13.00-15.00	Writing workshop	Theatre workshop	Photography workshop		
	15.00-17.00	Photography Workshop	Art Workshop	Writing workshop		
	17.30-19.30				Urban Walk in La Courneuve	
	20.00				Conference Debate in la Courneuve	
	Timetable	Saint-Denis	Bondy	Drancy	La Courneuve	Villiers(?)
Wed 10 th July	10.00-12.00	Presentations/Discussion				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	13.00-15.00	Writing workshop	Theatre workshop	Photography workshop		
	15.00-17.00	Photography workshop	Art Workshop	Writing workshop		
	17.30-19.30					Urban Walk in Villiers
	20.00					Conference debate in Villiers followed by reception
	Timetable	Saint-Denis	Bondy	Drancy	La Courneuve	Villiers(?)

Thu 11 th July	10.00-12.00	Registration/ introduction				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	13.00-15.00	Writing workshop	Theatre workshop	Photography workshop		
	15.00-17.00	Photography workshop	Art Workshop	Writing workshop		
	17.30-19.30		Urban Walk in Bondy			
	20.00		Conference debate in Bondy followed by reception			
	Timetable	Saint-Denis	Bondy	Drancy	La Courneuve	Villiers(?)
Fri 12 th July	10.00-12.00	Presentations/ Discussion				
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
	13.00-15.00	Writing workshop	Theatre workshop	Photography workshop		
	15.00-17.00	Photography workshop	Art Workshop	Writing workshop		
	17.30-19.30			Urban Walk in Drancy		
	20.00			Conference debate in Drancy followed by reception		

7. Further Information and Application

The application process is now open, and closes on 24th May 2013. To apply, please email the following details to the Dr Christina Horvath, the Summer School Coordinator (banlieue.network@gmail.com):

Your name

A short description (4 lines) with the most essential information about yourself

Institution

Contact details

General subject area (Planning, French studies, Linguistics etc)

Specialist area

Motivation for applying (a statement of max. 150 words)

Christina Horvath & Juliet Carpenter

Banlieue Network coordinators