Friday Talks
Ross Exo Adams

Title: To Fill the Earth: Circulation and Urbanization

Brief Description: Today, the urban as a category of space remains a vague notion—a background condition made visible empirically through its effects and treated as the outcome of a certain naturalised, transhistorical capacity of human co-habitation. As a result, despite the common fact of urbanization as a planetary phenomenon, we remain unable to qualify the urban itself as a distinct spatial order of the modern world, let alone how to interrogate the political nature of this space. My work attempts to write a political history of the urban. I do so by examining the concept of circulation, since circulation is not only central to the knowledge and practices of urbanization, but it also constitutes a certain historical nexus between political form and spatial order. My research is framed by three fundamental questions: How is it that circulation became epistemologically bound up with the city? What is the relationship between circulation and urbanization? And, more broadly, what is the relationship between circulation and power?

Bio: Ross Exo Adams is an architect and urbanist whose work looks at the historical and political intersection between circulation and urbanization. He is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Iowa State University. His writing has been published widely on urbanization, circulation, urban political ecology and architectural practice. He has taught at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, The Architectural Association, The Berlage Institute in Rotterdam, NL and at Brighton University in the UK. His work has been exhibited in the Venice Biennale, the Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York City, the Centre of Contemporary Architecture in Moscow and the Netherlands Architecture Institute in Rotterdam. He holds a Master of Architecture from the Berlage Institute and a Ph.D. from the London Consortium for which he was awarded the 2011 LKE Ozolins Studentship by the RIBA.