

Organizer and Chair: **Valenta, Markha**, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Re-Imagining the City

In a world propelled by growing inequalities and intimacies between flows of money, people and ideas, the city has become the epicenter of our practices of imagination. The city is the place where the material and the contingent are formalized and dissolved, it is the object of fantastic aspirations, the site of terror and of ingenious pragmatics. Even as politicians and planners yearn to mold the city into the ideal urban and national showcase, others claim space in the city on their own terms, terms that are often as imported as the money, aesthetics and migrants transforming the city's face and body. This panel seeks to address how, among others, religious groups, gay activists, documentary makers, and visual artists engage the city to construct and circulate alternative versions of what it means to live in the 21st century while, at moments, dissenting from hegemonic urban narratives and the logic of global fast-capitalism.