

Katedra filozofie FF ZČU v Plzni
Vás zve na přednášky

Steering casualness: Drifting as an artistic method
(ve čtvrtek 12. 3. 2008 od 11:00 hodin, místnost SP319)

&

Urban atmospheres: Olfactory maps of Vienna
(v pátek 13. 3. 2008 od 10:00 hodin, místnost SP319)

které přednese

Univ.-Doz.DDr. Mădălina Diaconu
(Institut für Philosophie der Universität Wien)



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Steering casualness: Drifting as an artistic method

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Anotace: The lecture focuses on the ambivalence of drifting, which means not only the physical movement of strolling aimlessly, but also to let oneself being carried away in life by chance. The phenomena of the *flânerie* (Walter Benjamin, Siegfried Kracauer), the French situationists' *dérives*, the sociology of the hobo (Robert E. Park) and Charles Chaplin's early films illustrate this fundamental ambiguity of the urban strolling. Moreover, the practice of drifting as a *method* of city exploration turns out to be a paradoxical project, which implies to get deliberately lost and to act by doing nothing, to react with a calculated spontaneity and to steer passivity. Such wanderers conquer the city by succumbing to its fascination, experience the personal freedom as a productive idleness, and find self-fulfilment in creative improvisations. Drifting may thus be converted from a work method of the creative class into a way of life.

Urban atmospheres: Olfactory maps of Vienna

(v pátek 13. 3. 2008 od 10:00 hodin, místnost SP319)

Anotace: "Smell maps" and commented "smell tours" through Vienna provide the basis for an analysis of the olfactory space. The lecture argues that olfaction may become a privileged experience of space, in which the tendency to objectification seems to reach its limits and the subject opens itself to an unmediated encounter with space as a whole. From the perspective of the lived experience, (olfactory) space converts itself from a physical container and a relatively stable order of juxtaposed objects into a medium of life, a qualitative atmosphere, and a field of forces. Smellscapes are thus shifting patterns that are criss-crossed by trails and have volume, intensity and impact.

Also the unavoidable exposure to smells implies a common responsibility in shaping the environment. The ideal of an odourless city is not only utopian, but would also imply an impoverishment of our sensory experience. On this background, the paradoxical task of mapping smellscapes aims to sensitise the city residents for the non-visual qualities of the public space and to develop their aptitude to describe odours.

Mădălina Diaconu (PhD Bucharest 1996, PhD Vienna 1998, Habilitation Vienna 2006) is Dozentin at the Institute for Philosophy at the University of Vienna. She is currently managing the interdisciplinary research project "Haptic and Olfactory Design. Resources for Vienna's Creative Industries", a cooperation between the University of Vienna, the University of Applied Arts, the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences and ZOOM-Kindermuseum of Vienna. Her last publications include: *Bukarest – Wien. Eine kulturhistorische Touristik an Europas Rändern* (with Lukas Marcel Vosicky, 2007), *On Fragrance and Stench. A Phenomenological Interpretation of Olfaction* (in Romanian, 2007), *Tasten, Riechen, Schmecken. Eine Ästhetik der anästhesierten Sinne* (Habilitation thesis, 2005), etc. Member of the Editorial Board of *Studia Phænomenologica* and of the International Advisory Board of the journals *Contemporary Aesthetics* (Castine, U.S.A.) and *The Senses and Society* (Oxford).