

After the urban is over or before it has really begun? Urban theory today

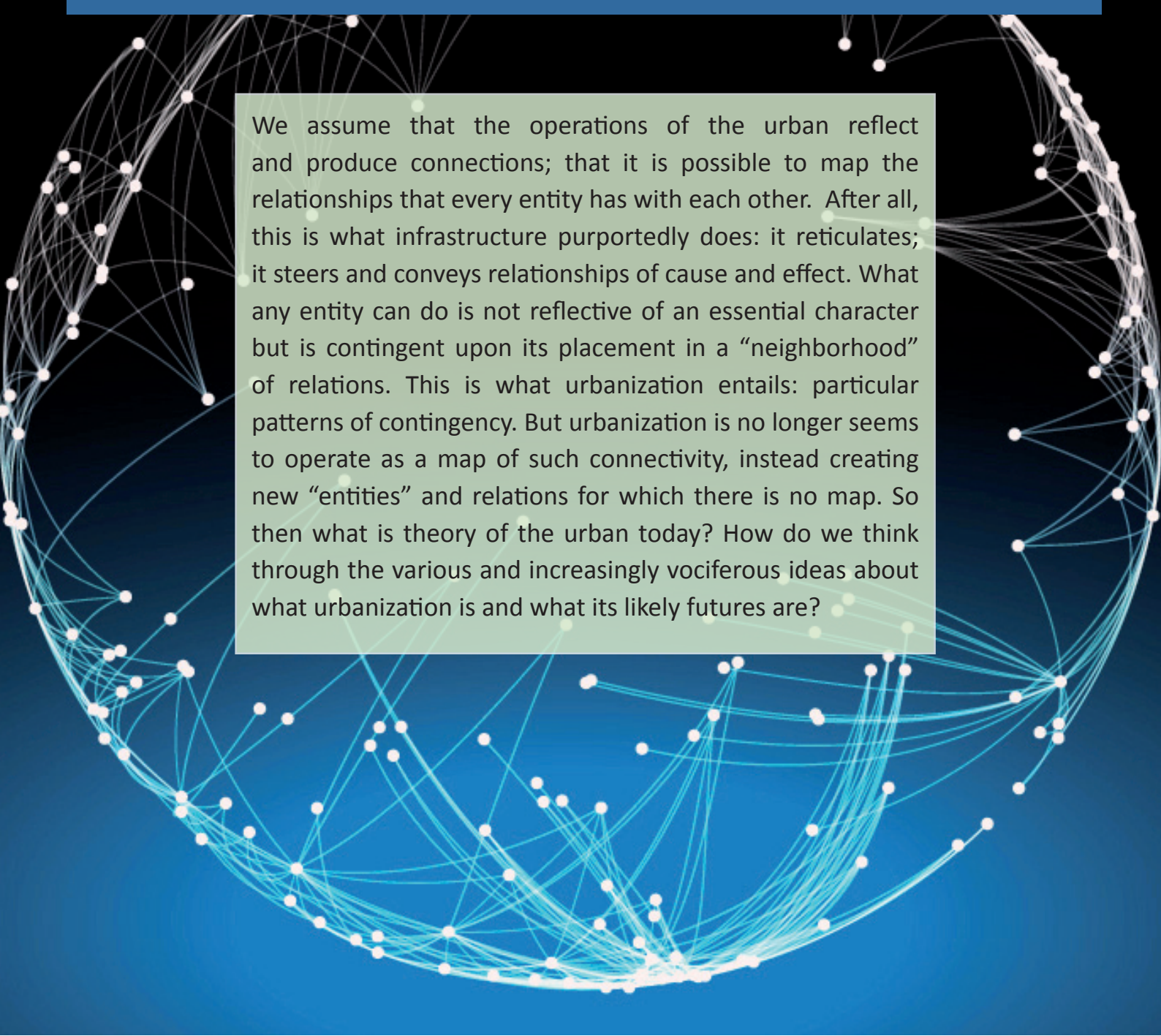
WORKSHOP

Organized by AbdouMaliq Simone, Max Planck Institute for the
Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

- by invitation only -

TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2016, 14:00-17:00
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Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

A large, complex network diagram is overlaid on the bottom half of the page. It consists of numerous white circular nodes connected by thin, light blue lines, forming a dense, interconnected web that resembles a globe or a complex urban structure. The nodes are distributed across the entire width of the page, with a higher concentration towards the bottom.

We assume that the operations of the urban reflect and produce connections; that it is possible to map the relationships that every entity has with each other. After all, this is what infrastructure purportedly does: it reticulates; it steers and conveys relationships of cause and effect. What any entity can do is not reflective of an essential character but is contingent upon its placement in a “neighborhood” of relations. This is what urbanization entails: particular patterns of contingency. But urbanization is no longer seems to operate as a map of such connectivity, instead creating new “entities” and relations for which there is no map. So then what is theory of the urban today? How do we think through the various and increasingly vociferous ideas about what urbanization is and what its likely futures are?