

Date

September 28, 2010

Time

2pm - 4:30pm

Venue

Gallery
Female Orphan School
Building EZ
Parramatta Campus
([View map](#))

RSVP

Tulika Dubey
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Apologies

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[View 2010 Seminar
schedule](#)

Rob Shields

(University of Alberta)

Ecologies of Affect

'Ecologies of Affect' summarizes a collective theoretical project on the the spatialisation of emotional dispositions by members of the Space and Culture Research Group. Such processes 'place' affects as normative to specific places and milieux. Intangibles such as affect are grounded in the concrete materiality of place, objects and interacting bodies. It amounts to an a-rational government of disposition through a type of emotional geography. This paper draws examples from both Fort McMurray Alberta and 'The Strip' in Las Vegas Nevada to demonstrate the application of this approach to understanding social situations and encounters as they unfold to constitute cultural topologies. The peculiar temporalities of the virtual allow the past as nostalgia and the future as desire to dominate the material present. Yet affect itself appears not as simply virtual but a liminal boundary object, a 'syncretis' of the ideal and actual.

Rob Shields, Co-Editor, *Space and Culture*. City-Region Studies Centre Academic Director. Henry Marshall Tory Chair and Professor, Departments of Sociology / Art and Design, University of Alberta. 2-184 10230 Jasper Ave. Edmonton AB Canada T5J 4P6 . Rob Shields work spans architecture and planning as well as media and cultural studies. His early career was in passive solar architectural design. He founded *Space and Culture* an international peer-refereed journal, and *CURB* planning magazine, has lectured in half a dozen countries and given numerous keynote and plenary talks on the identities of *Places on the Margin* (Outstanding Book of the Year 1991), on consumption and *Lifestyle Shopping* (ed. 1993), urban and architectural issues such as *What is a City? Rethinking the Urban After Katrina* (ed. 2008), and *Building Tomorrow: Innovation in Construction* (ed. 2005), as well as theorists such as *Henri Lefebvre* (1999), and the relevance of *The Virtual* (2003) and of *Cultures of Internet* (ed. 1996) to everyday urban life. New work ranges from facilitating *Strategic Thinking for Regions* to co-edited studies of *Ecologies of Affect*, and a monograph on *Topologies of Space*

Willard McCarty

(King's College, London)

What is (or could be) digital cultural research?

Digital devices are now commonplace, relatively cheap and hugely popular throughout the post-industrialised world. Their proliferation, diversity and capacities show no sign of abating or even stabilizing. In many areas of urban life their success has made them simply part of the furniture and our dependence on them, often unwitting, almost total. Yet in academic research the tools, methods and media which these devices enable have not fulfilled the promise that nevertheless continues to attract us and which survives critical examination. It is not hype. We *should* be able to do more than we are doing. But how? Where does one start?

In this seminar I will examine the possibilities of "digital cultural research" in two senses: (1) research into the cultures brought about or profoundly affected by digital devices, and (2) cultural research undertaken with their non-trivial help. My emphasis will be on the latter, although the former is unavoidable not just because they are nearly ubiquitous but more interestingly because the researcher who uses them sees and reasons differently. I will cite examples of digital projects in the humanities but argue that the crucial first steps are self-reflexively critical and cognitive.

Willard McCarty is commenced a fractional appointment at CCR, commencing in mid-2010. Professor McCarty's work focuses on humanities computing, but in consequence is also concerned with the interrelations between the humanities and the sciences in particular and the nature of interdisciplinary research as a whole. His research is philosophical and historical in character but is based on enquiry into what computing can do for literary criticism. Professor McCarty is the author of *Humanities Computing* (Palgrave, 2005). He is the editor of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* and of *Humanist*, and is also an active member of the *Dictionary of Words in the Wild*. He is also *Professor of Humanities Computing* at King's College London.