“Counterpublic” is a term coined by the philosopher and critical theorist Nancy Fraser and the literary scholar and queer theorist Michael Warner more than 20 years ago. By design, the word is a multiplier, destabilizing the notion of a homogenized unified public (space) with designated intermediate zones and congregation areas (in between private and public) occupied by specific, often marginalized, sometimes queer, and subcultural groupings.

Following this, the counterpublic raises questions of not only in/exclusion but of social justice. A unified public assumes a level playing field, an idealized space incompatible with the lives of many. In this light, counterpublics enact forms of resistance but also of retreat. We should bear in mind though that counterpublics are not always genuinely virtuous forums. The political far-right extends the idea into a so-called “populist” and anti-egalitarian dimension. For instance, governments across Europe have instrumentalized reinforcing discriminative reproductive rights against women, and homophobic and racist policies posited as public opinion. In our (post-)pandemic time, the democratic and taken-for-granted notions of “public” appear to have come under pressure. Art is sometimes informed by or can resemble the practices and motivations of counterpublics with its discourses. At the same time, interventions allow for traversing their spatialities, offering strategies for imagining other lived publics. While queer studies have adopted the notion for specific spaces of non-heteronormative every day, this lecture series asks more broadly about the potentials and locations of counterpublics concerning situated built spaces, architectural theory, digital infrastructure, and how these too influence the practices of publics.
09 may 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Gabrielle Schaad,  TU Munich

23 may 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Aleksandra Gajowy,  University College, Dublin

30 may 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Dubravka Sekulić,  Royal College of Art, London

13 june 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Ben Campkin,  UCL Urban Laboratory, Bartlett UCL East, London

20 june 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Cole Collins,  TU Munich

27 june 2022  Hybrid Academy of Fine Arts Munich ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Gürsöy Doğtaş,  University of Applied Arts, Vienna in conversation with  Gerry Bibby,  Academy of Fine Arts, Munich

4 july 2022  ZOOM-Meeting  6:30-8 pm (CET)  Maria Grever,  Erasmus University Rotterdam

registration link for all ZOOM-meetings:
https://tum-conf.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Mudemvqz-kqGN1nEjPfheuqGKtuFlk7bkmx