

“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.

## LECTURE SERIES 2022

*Organised by:*  
**Lehrstuhl Theorie und Geschichte  
für Architektur, Kunst und Design**  
Technische Universität München

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*In cooperation with:*  
**Gerry Bibby** (Professor of Sculpture)  
**Academy of Fine Arts Munich (AdBK)**

# BUILDING ON COUNTERPUBLICS



©Mark Bowler, Chariots, [gay sauna club, Shoreditch London], 2016.

## Cultural Heritage, History and Criticism

09 may 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Gabrielle Schaad</a> , <i>TU Munich</i>
23 may 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Aleksandra Gajowy</a> , <i>University College, Dublin</i>
30 may 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Dubravka Sekulić</a> , <i>Royal College of Art, London</i>
13 june 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Ben Campkin</a> , <i>UCL Urban Laboratory, Bartlett UCL East, London</i>

20 june 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Cole Collins</a> , <i>TU Munich</i>
27 june 2022	Hybrid Academy of Fine Arts Munich ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Gürsoy Doğtaş</a> , <i>University of Applied Arts, Vienna</i> <i>in conversation with</i> <a href="#">Gerry Bibby</a> , <i>Academy of Fine Arts, Munich</i>
4 july 2022	ZOOM-Meeting 6:30-8 pm (CET)	<a href="#">Maria Grever</a> , <i>Erasmus University Rotterdam</i>

*registration link for all ZOOM-meetings:*

<https://tum-conf.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Mudemvqz-kqGN1nEjPfheuqGKtuFlk7bkmx>