



## The Engineered City: Infrastructures of Place-Making in the Construction Industry

**Speaker:** Professor Julia Lossau  
University of Bremen

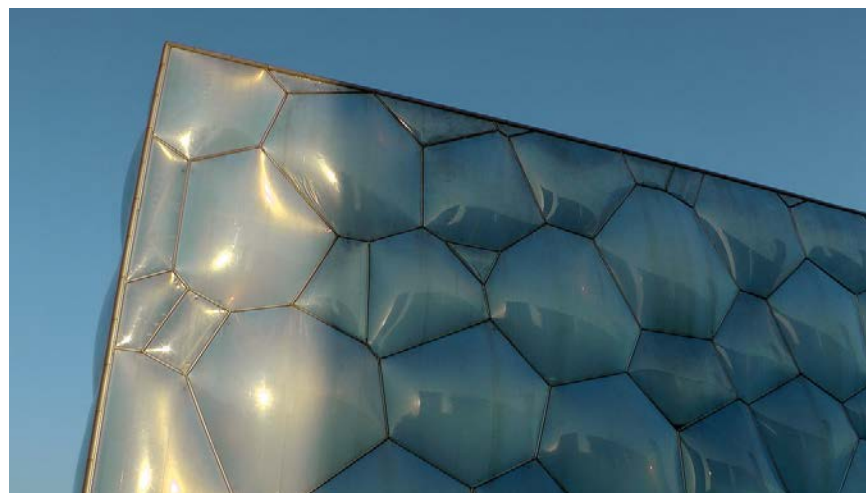
**Chair:** Assoc Professor Tracey Skelton  
Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday 5 October, 3.30pm

**Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 #02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

### Abstract

The production of urban places has long been a prominent topic in urban studies. Since the 1980s numerous authors have examined the making of the city from different perspectives, focusing on the significance of discursive representations of place, on the role of materials built into places and, more recently, on travelling policies and knowledges about urban development. Over the years the practices of actors as different as policy-makers and planners, investors and developers, artists and architects, real-estate agents and financial analysts have been explored in some depth. A group of professionals which has received less attention is engineers who, as I will argue, play a critical role in the interstices of urban representations, materials and policies. In order to shed light on their place-making practices, my seminar will draw upon narrative interviews I carried out with engineers who have been active in the recent making of Singapore as a spectacular global city. More specifically I will concentrate on representatives of a global construction company delivering specialised cladding systems made of ETFE, a fluorine-based plastic. By interpreting my participants' accounts of materials and technologies, of places and identities, I aim at carving out infrastructures of place-making in the construction industry.



### About the Speaker

*Julia Lossau* is Professor of Human Geography at the University of Bremen. The special focus of her professorship is on urban geography, but she is also interested in cultural and political geographical approaches. Epistemologically speaking, her work is driven by a general interest in contradictions and, more specifically, in postcolonial theories. Her current research project explores the connections between places through materialities, technologies and social practice, focusing on Singapore and Bremen as case studies.

ADMISSION IS FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME