



UCL



**MARXIST
MORPHOLOGIES**

MICHAŁ MURAWSKI

UCL SSEES

A Critique of Flat Infrastructures, Fuzzy Property and Complexified Cities

MATERIAL & VISUAL CULTURE SEMINAR SERIES

UCL ANTHROPOLOGY
Daryll Forde Seminar Room
14 Taviton Street

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER AT 5PM

Marxist Morphologies:
A Critique of Flat Infrastructures, Fuzzy Property and Complexified Cities
Dr Michał Murawski

UCL Department of Anthropology:
Material, Visual and Digital Culture Seminar
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/news-and-events/seminar-series/material-visual-digital-culture-research-seminar-series>

Monday 12th October, 5-6.30pm.
Darryl Forde Seminar Room (2nd Floor), 14 Taviton Street.
Followed by refreshments.

Abstract

Drawing on examples from socialist-era and post-1989 Warsaw, this talk critiques some assumptions often made by urban anthropologists and other scholars of cities, with a focus on currently fashionable theories of 'infrastructure'. It problematizes some of the ways in which scholarship informed by ANT, assemblage theory and other varieties of (post)-postmodernism makes use of morphological optics to represent social life as necessarily 'flat', 'complex', 'fuzzy' and 'partial'. As a corrective, it posits a 'vertical' Marxist notion of infrastructure – founded on a dynamic understanding of the relationship between determining economic base and determined superstructure – as a way of providing a glimpse into another world. A world in which heretic morphologies – vertical planes, totalities, reductions of complexity – continue to thrive.

Biography

Dr Michał Murawski is Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, University College London. He completed his PhD in Social Anthropology at Cambridge in 2014. With a focus on Warsaw and Moscow, his work examines how cities in Eastern Europe grapple with socialist-era legacies in their built environments.

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