ACTS OF DESIGN:
New Housing Paradigms in
North America

Friday,
November 16, 2018
ACTS OF DESIGN: New Housing Paradigms in North America examines contemporary housing and serves as a platform to present issues of residential design for working communities.

Specifically looking at the North American cities of Mexico City, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, and Toronto, among others, Acts of Design focuses on the intersection between design, architecture, and housing in mostly urban settings, and highlights concerns around paradigms of working across a variety of situations - economic, cultural, social, or environmental. These projects and case studies reveal how collective housing is created and how design is enacted.

While there was once a western-dominated formal narrative in the design of housing, the conversation is now driven by place-based aesthetic, cultural, environmental, and economic concerns. How does design affect the outcome of housing across different types, scales, and economic structures? How do architects address the subject of design and housing within their respective cities, and how does their approach change when they design elsewhere? How is housing thought of across cultures? What does it mean to design housing today? What is next for housing in North America? What is important for teaching and scholarship around design, architecture, and collective housing? A series of five panels formulated around these questions will challenge leading architects, planners, and historians to present and discuss their concerns and ideas.
INTRODUCTION

- Dean Amale Andraos
- Hilary Sample,* MOS, New York

TERRITORIO DE GIGANTES, 9:45am

- Tatiana Bilbao,* Tatiana Bilbao Estudio, Mexico City
- Derek Dellekamp, Dellekamp Arquitectos, Mexico City
- Anna Puigjaner,* MAIO, Barcelona
- Moderated by Hilary Sample,* MOS, New York

SMALL TO LARGE SHARING, 11:00am

- Fernanda Canales, Fernanda Canales Arquitectura, Mexico City
- Jorge Ambrosi and Gabriela Etchegaray,* AMBROSI | ETCHEGARAY, Mexico City
- Luis Carranza,* Roger Williams University, Rhode Island
- Moderated by Adam Frampton,* Only If Architecture, New York

MORNING KEYNOTE, 12:15pm

- Julia Gómez Candela, Infonavit, Mexico City

LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE, 1:45pm

- Maurice Cox, Planning and Development Department, City of Detroit

LIVABILITY AND DESIGN EXCELLENCE, 2:30pm

- Lisa Yun Lee, National Public Housing Museum, Chicago
- David Brody, Parsons School of Design, New York
- Hans Ibelings, Daniels, University of Toronto
- Moderated by Cassim Shepard, S/Q Projects, New York

COFFEE BREAK

DESIGN OF A CERTAIN SCALE, 4:00pm

- Lorcan O’Herlihy, Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects, Los Angeles
- Brigitte Shim, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, Toronto
- Marc Norman, Taubman College, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Weston Walker, Studio Gang, Chicago/New York/San Francisco
- Moderated by Michael Bell,* Bell-Seong Architecture, New York

CLOSING DISCUSSION, 5:40pm

- Tatiana Bilbao, Tatiana Bilbao Estudio, Mexico City
- Maurice Cox, Planning and Development Department, City of Detroit
- Julia Gómez Candela, Infonavit, Mexico City
- Hilary Sample,* MOS, New York
- Brigitte Shim, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, Toronto
- Moderated by Reinhold Martin,* The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture

*Columbia GSAPP Faculty
“Territorio de Gigantes” is a case study of a project directed by Tatiana Bilbao Tatiana Bilbao Estudio, Mexico City as part of a masterplan for the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico. The project, which includes workers’ housing and a series of public spaces, was collaboratively designed by leading architects including, Derek Dellekamp Dellekamp Arquitectos, Mexico City, Simon Hartmann HHF Architects, Basel, Anna Puigjaner Columbia GSAPP, MAIO, Barcelona, and Hilary Sample Columbia GSAPP, MOS, New York. Each architect will present their housing project for the masterplan and discuss their role in the collaborative process.

TERRITORIO DE GIGANTES

“Territorio de Gigantes” is a case study of a project directed by Tatiana Bilbao. The project, which includes workers’ housing and a series of public spaces, was collaboratively designed by leading architects including, Derek Dellekamp, Simon Hartmann, and Anna Puigjaner. Each architect will present their housing project for the masterplan and discuss their role in the collaborative process.

SIMON HARTMANN founded HHF Architects in 2003 with Tilo Herlach and Simon Frommenwiler. Since then, HHF Architects has realized numerous projects in Switzerland, Germany, China, France, Mexico, and the USA. The scope of their work ranges from urbanism and large-scale construction to public pavilions and interior design. However, their primary architectural focus is on housing of all kinds, from single units to entire neighborhoods.

Collaborations with other architects and artists has always been key to the architectural practice of HHF. Most prominently, the collective projects of Jinhua Architecture Park and Ordos 100 in China, and Ruta del Peregrino and Territorio de Gigantes in Mexico.

In addition to building, teaching is a vital element of HHF’s practice. The principals of HHF have all worked as visiting professors at various universities. Currently, they are teaching at Yale School of Architecture and Harvard Graduate School of Design.

DEREK DELLEKAMP founded Dellekamp Arquitectos in Mexico City in 1999. The firm aims to find unique solutions to the specific conditions of each project through a rigorous research methodology. Its multidisciplinary approach endows its architecture with both pragmatic and creative attributes. Their ongoing work with social housing stems from a deep interest in the city as the very basis of pluralistic, modern society. As the epicenters of social life and economic opportunity, cities also present us with problems of inequality and segregation. If we believe that the health of our society can be measured by observing the health our cities, how can we, as architects, address the physical symptoms of these problems?

Their work is encouraged by the belief that design is a powerful tool for the positive transformation of the world we inhabit. They firmly believe that each person deserves the right to equal participation in the public, productive, and private life of the city and that it is the responsibility of designers and citizens to work to achieve this. From their experiences researching and designing social housing, Dellekamp Arquitectos has derived a set of basic principles to guide their work: A reciprocal and fundamental relationship links the house to the city. People deserve the right to determine their own housing needs. A home must possess positive value belonging to its residents.

ANNA PUIGJANER is an associate professor of professional practice at Columbia GSAPP and coordinator of the Core I architecture studios. Puigjaner unites theory and practice by combining academic research and editorial work with the professional activity of MAIO, an architectural office co-founded in Barcelona in 2012. MAIO collaborates with artists and practitioners from outside the field and has a particular interest in developing new models of collective housing. She received Harvard GSD’s Wheelwright Prize in 2016 and was nominated as a finalist in the Rolex
Mentor and Protégé Initiative. She has previously taught at the Royal College of Art and the Barcelona School of Architecture. As editor, she has run the magazine Quaderns d’Arquitectura i Urbanisme for the past six years. Her ongoing research and writing on the “Kitchenless City” has been published in different forms, including in “The Quantified Home” (Lars Müller Publishers, 2014) and Together! “The New Architecture of the Collective” (Ruby Press, 2017). Recent projects include “110 Rooms”—a 22-unit innovative housing block in Barcelona—and a series of exhibition designs for the Milan Furniture Fair and the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, among others. (4)

HILARY SAMPLE is an associate professor at Columbia GSAPP, where she coordinates the Core Architecture Studios and Core III Housing Studios. She is an architect and principal of MOS Architects, which she co-founded with Michael Meredith in 2003. An internationally recognized architectural practice, MOS was the recipient of the 2015 Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum National Design Award in Architecture, the 2010 American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Award, and the 2008 Architectural League of New York Emerging Voices Award. Recent awards include: the 2015 Global Holcim Award for sustainable construction (Asia-Pacific Region), for Community Center No. 3 (Lali Gurans Orphanage); the cover of Abitare and an AIA NY State Award of Excellence, for School No. 1 (Krabbesholm Højskole); the 2014 accession of the firm’s modular, off-grid House No. 5 (Museum of Outdoor Arts Element House) into the Museum of Modern Art, Architecture and Design Collection; the acquisition of House No. 3 (Lot No. 6/Ordos) into the permanent collection of The Art Institute of Chicago; and selection of Pavilion No. 4 (Afterparty) for the 2009 MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program. (5)

SMALL TO LARGE SHARING

Small to Large Sharing examines contemporary conditions of the small scale as it relates to domestic living, the consequences of multiplying the small scale to something larger, and how designing for small scale affects both lifestyles and building practices. Speakers Fernanda Canales Fernanda Canales Arquitectura, Mexico City, Jorge Ambrosi and Gabriela Etchegaray Columbia GSAPP, AMBROSI | ETCHEGARAY, Mexico City, and Luis E. Carranza Columbia GSAPP, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island present case studies and histories from Mexico City with the goal of better understanding how housing is designed and constructed within a rapidly growing and densely populated region. Moderated by Adam Frampton Columbia GSAPP, Only If Architecture, New York.

AMBROSI | ETCHEGARAY is an architecture office based in Mexico City, founded by Jorge Ambrosi and Gabriela Etchegaray in 2011. The firm’s work responds to the notion that buildings have the power and responsibility to both provide experiences and shape the future of architectural knowledge. Their projects illuminate the relationship between art and architecture, and are designed as a direct response to human and social concerns in relation to their environment.

The typology of housing has been a constant subject of study. The firm is focused on rethinking themes of collective and urban growth as well as examining the true expression of lifestyle in a neighborhood and specific site. Their housing work attempts to question the ideas of domesticity, minimalism, and austerity with ethical and aesthetic actions. In the process, structural solutions are interwoven with a study of materials. (6)

FERNANDA CANALES holds a PhD degree (cum laude) in Architecture from the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, Spain, a BA degree (with honors) from the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, and a MA degree from the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Barcelona. She received the Emerging Voices Award from The Architectural League of New York in 2018, and her work has been selected for the AR House Awards by the Architectural Review, and Record Houses (2018) by Architectural Record. She was selected as a candidate for the Swiss Architecture Award (2018) and is author of books such as “Vivienda Colectiva en México, el derecho a la arquitectura” (Gustavo Gili, 2017) and “Architecture in Mexico 1900-2010” (Arquine, 2013). Her work has been exhibited
in venues such as The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, The Gallatin Gallery in New York and the Venice Biennale. It presents new ways of looking at theories and buildings in order to redefine the connection between housing and the city. (7)

Luís E. Carranza is adjunct associate professor at GSAPP and professor of architecture at Roger Williams University. He obtained his BArch at the University of Southern California and his PhD in Architectural History and Theory from Harvard University.

His research focuses primarily on modern art and architecture in Latin America, with an emphasis on Mexico. He has published a number of works, including “Architecture as Revolution: Episodes in the History of Modern Mexico” (2010) and “Modern Architecture in Latin America: Art, Technology, Utopia” (with Fernando Lara, 2015).

His current research addresses Mexican radical functionalist architecture in Mexico, in particular that of Juan O’Gorman. Forthcoming publications include, “Experiments in (Radical) Functionalism” (anticipated 2019), and the history of Carlos Lazo’s design and planning work for the Department of Communications and Public Works (SCOP) in Mexico, including production of his low income housing prototypes “civilized caves.” (8)

Adam Frampton, AIA is the principal of Only If, a New York City-based design practice for architecture and urbanism. Only If was founded in 2013 and is currently engaged in a range of projects, from the design of small interiors, to single and multifamily housing, to larger-scale urban planning, research, and speculation. Only If currently has a 13’-4” (4m) wide house under construction and for the past 2 years has been working on an 84-unit senior affordable housing project, both located in Brooklyn. Adam Frampton is also an adjunct assistant professor at GSAPP and co-author of “Cities Without Ground” (2012). He previously worked for seven years as an associate at OMA in Rotterdam and Hong Kong. He holds an MArch from Princeton University and is a registered architect in the Netherlands and the US. (9)

KEYNOTES

The morning closes with a keynote lecture by Julia Gómez Candela Infonavit, Mexico City, who outlines how the design group at Infonavit, The National Workers’ Housing Fund Institute, is organized within the larger institution. After the lunch break, Maurice Cox Planning and Development Department, City of Detroit will open the afternoon with a keynote on the current and upcoming housing work planned in Detroit, Michigan, a city experiencing an unprecedented revitalization.

Julia Candela studied architecture at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid. Currently, she is the head of housing quality improvement in the Research Center for Sustainable Development (CIDS) at Infonavit (The National Workers’ Housing Fund Institute). Infonavit is an autonomous fiscal entity founded in 1972 in compliance with Article 123 of the Mexican Constitution. It is a social service organization that administers National Housing Fund resources and operates a financial system that allows account holders to obtain an affordable mortgage. Its structure comprises equal representation of the workers sector, the private sector, and the government sector.

Infonavit’s goal is to generate value for workers, their families, and communities through housing and savings solutions that allow them to increase their equity and quality of life in a sustainable manner for a dignified retirement. In 2016, Infonavit created CIDS to promote the improvement of the quality and the patrimonial value of houses financed by Infonavit, and to raise the standard of living of the respective inhabitants. CIDS offers a better quality of life to its beneficiaries, and develops applied research and dissemination of methods, processes, strategies, and technologies that facilitate the sustainability of the communities that live in the homes financed by the Infonavit. (10)
MAURICE COX is the director of planning for the City of Detroit. He is an urban designer, architectural educator, and former mayor of the City of Charlottesville, VA. He most recently served as associate dean for community engagement at the Tulane University School of Architecture and director of the Tulane City Center, a university-affiliated practice operating at the intersection of design, urban research, and civic engagement throughout the New Orleans community.

Cox has taught at Syracuse University, the University of Virginia, and Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. His experience merging architecture, politics, and design education led to his being named one of “20 Masters of Design” in 2004 by Fast Company Business Magazine. He served as design director of the National Endowment for the Arts from 2007-2010 where he led the NEA’s Your Town Rural Institute, the Governor’s Institute on Community Design, the Mayors’ Institute on City Design, and oversaw direct grants to the design community across the U.S. In 2013, Cox was named one of the Most Admired Design Educators in America in the annual ranking of Design Intelligence. (11)

LIVABILITY AND DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Livability and Design Excellence turns its attention to specific ways of living and the effects they have on their inhabitants. Lisa Yun Lee National Public Housing Museum, Chicago presents on the Museum’s oral history project and the expertise that public housing residents can contribute to planning for and building healthy communities. David Brody Parsons School of Design, New York presents the work in his book Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor, and Hans Ibelings University of Toronto on his book “Rise and Sprawl: The Condominiumization of Toronto.” These examples of contemporary and historic conditions of place make visible what has been rendered invisible in design. Moderated by Cassim Shepard Columbia GSAPP, S/Q Projects, New York.

DAVID BRODY is a professor of design studies at Parsons School of Design, a division of The New School. His work focuses on the relationship between design and labor, especially in the context of hotels. David Brody is interested in looking at issues related to the design of physical space as well as service design. He is the author of “Visualizing American Empire: Orientalism and Imperialism in the Philippines” (Chicago, 2010) as well as “Housekeeping by Design: Hotels and Labor” (Chicago, 2016). David is also the co-editor of “Design Studies: A Reader” (Berg, 2009). He teaches a range of courses at Parsons, including American Art, Theorizing Luxury, and Topics in American Design. He received his undergraduate degree in American Studies from Vassar College and his Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University. (12)

HANS IBELINGS is an architectural historian and critic. He teaches at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design of the University of Toronto and is the publisher and editor of the “Architecture Observer” (Montreal/Amsterdam). Together with PARTISANS he wrote “Rise and Sprawl: The Condominiumization of Toronto” (2016), which analyzes recently constructed condo towers in Canada's largest city. Prior to moving to Canada in 2012, he was the editor and publisher of “A10 new European architecture,” a magazine which he founded in 2004 together with graphic designer Arjan Groot. He is currently working with Boris Brorman Jensen on the first English-language monograph of the work of Danish modernists Knud Friis and Elmar Moltke. (13)

LISA YUN LEE is the executive director of the National Public Housing Museum in Chicago, Illinois. When the NPHM opens in the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes, it will be the first cultural institution dedicated to interpreting the American experience in public housing. As a museum and site of conscience, NPHM will not only preserve and interpret history but also work to promote housing as a human right. The Museum will include restored apartment exhibitions, an oral history archive, an Entrepreneurship Hub with a cooperative Museum store, and projects that bridge the divide between the arts, culture, and innovative public policy. Lisa Yun Lee is a cultural activist, a professor of Art History and Gender and Women's Studies at University of Illinois at Chicago, and an enthusiastic advocate of the potential of house museums to advance social justice. She was also the previous director of the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. (14)
Cassim Shepard produces non-fiction media about cities, buildings, and places, with a particular emphasis on the intellectual history of housing, infrastructure, and cultural institutions. In addition to teaching courses at GSAPP that focus on narrative, digital storytelling, and the complex encounter between architecture and poverty, he has been a guest lecturer in the Cities Programme of the London School of Economics, a Poiesis Fellow at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University, and has served as the founding editor of Urban Omnibus, a publication of The Architectural League of New York. His video work has been screened at the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, and the United Nations, among many other venues around the world. He studied filmmaking at Harvard University, urban geography at Kings College London, and urban planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His first book, “Citymakers: the Culture and Craft of Practical Urbanism” (Monacelli Press) was published in 2017.

Michael Bell is professor of architecture at GSAPP and is founding chair of the Columbia Conference on Architecture, Engineering and Materials, a research program run in coordination with Columbia’s School of Engineering and the Institute for Lightweight Structures and Conceptual Design (ILEK) at the University of Stuttgart.

Bell’s architectural design has been commissioned by The Museum of Modern Art, New York and is included in the permanent collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. His Binocular House is featured in “American Masterwork Houses of the 20th and 21st Century” by Kenneth Frampton. Books by Michael Bell include: “Engineered Transparency; Solid States”, “Post-Ductility; Permanent Change”; “16 Houses”; “Michael Bell: Space Replaces Us and Slow Space”.

Bell has taught at the University of California, Berkeley, Rice University, and held visiting professorships at Harvard University, the University of Michigan, Berkeley, and Stanford. Michael Bell received a MArch degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a BS degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Bell currently practices with Eunjeong Seong in New York and runs a satellite studio in Berkeley.

MARC NORMAN is the founder of the consulting firm Ideas and Action and an associate professor of practice at the University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Norman has worked in the field of community development and finance for over 20 years. Having worked for for-profit and nonprofit organizations, consulting firms and investment banks, he currently consults with architects, planners, non-profit organizations, and others throughout the United States. Current projects include economic development analysis and anti-gentrification measures on behalf of cities and Community Development Financial Institutions. In addition to the work of the consulting firm, Norman conducts research and writes on issues of housing and economic development. His exhibition, “Designing Affordability”, which was shown in New York, Sydney, and Shenzhen, highlighted innovative housing developments along with techniques for bringing efficient, affordable, and equitable developments to scale.

Design of a Certain Scale focuses on specific projects as case studies of design at different scales while emphasizing the importance of place in design. Lorcan O’Herlihy Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects, Los Angeles presents on mid-sized housing projects in downtown Los Angeles, Brigitte Shim Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, Toronto on the “Integral House in Toronto,” Marc Norman Taubman College, Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor on the process of accomplishing housing in complex markets, and Weston Walker Studio Gang, Chicago/New York/San Francisco on City Hyde Park in Chicago’s South Side. Michael Bell Columbia GSAPP, Bell-Seong Architecture, New York will moderate a discussion on housing’s relationship to municipalities, materials, and technology.

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LORCAN O’HERLIHY Architects [LOHA] engages the ever-changing complexities of the urban landscape, embracing architecture’s role as a catalyst for change. With a conscious understanding that architecture operates within a layered context of political, developmental, environmental, and social structures, LOHA seeks to elevate the human condition via the built environment. With over two decades of work, projects by LOHA shape the urban environment, provide essential housing, and enrich society with spaces that support and facilitate culture.

Driven by ruthless optimism and creative pragmatism, we believe that bold, enlightened design elevates the soul and enriches communities. In our commitment to consider architecture’s impact to the social condition, LOHA developed a distinct approach as a guiding philosophy and method for the firm: Amplified Urbanism. As a methodology, Amplified Urbanism seeks to reimagine the creative interaction between public and private spaces, emphasize social and civic connections, and work within existing ecological and infrastructural patterns to cultivate vibrant communities.

As cities around the world continue to grow in population and density, housing is increasingly an urgent issue. Our expertise in housing has been developed over years of practice across a range of scales from single family residences to large, low-income developments. As with all our projects, housing extends beyond the interior space to engage with and respond to the surrounding community. Using the principles outlined in Amplified Urbanism, we seek a multi-faceted approach to develop housing projects that foster community within the built environment. (18)

BRIGITTE SHIM is a professor at the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto and a principal at Shim-Sutcliffe Architects. Shim, along with her partner A. Howard Sutcliffe, formed the architectural design practice Shim-Sutcliffe Architects in 1994. Their critical design practice reflects their shared interest in and passion for the integration and interrelated scales of architecture, landscape, and interior and industrial design. To date, Shim and Sutcliffe have received fourteen Governor General’s Medals and Awards for architecture as well as an American Institute of Architects National Honor Award, among many other professional accolades. Shim has also served on numerous international, national, and local design juries as an advocate for design excellence, including the 2007 Aga Khan Architecture Award Master jury. Shim is a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (FRAIC), an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (Hon FAIA), and an elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy (RCA). She is a registered architect in the Province of Ontario (OAA), the State of Maine, and the State of Hawaii. (19)

WESTON WALKER is design principal-in-charge of Studio Gang’s New York office, where he leads a team of architects and a diverse portfolio of projects. Weston’s work spans many different types and scales, including cultural institutions, universities, civic buildings, and towers. His current projects include a major expansion of the American Museum of Natural History, a new training facility for FDNY’s Rescue Company 2, and 40 Tenth Avenue in New York’s Meatpacking District. He has worked on several of the firm’s high profile residential projects, including the Yonge + St. Clair Tower in Toronto and City Hyde Park in Chicago.

Weston is a graduate of Yale University, where he received his MArch and was awarded the AIA Henry Adams Medal. He received his BA in Music from Cornell University, graduating summa cum laude for his thesis work exploring systems of perception and meaning in both musical and architectural spaces. Walker is a Registered Architect in Illinois and New York, a member of the American Institute of Architects, a LEED Accredited Professional, and serves on the Board of the New York Urban Design Forum. (20)
CLOSING DISCUSSION

The Closing Discussion brings together speakers from earlier conversations to consider how the design of housing in North America is shaping development and architectural thought. Moderated by Reinhold Martin Columbia GSAPP, The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture.

- REINHOLD MARTIN is professor of architecture at Columbia GSAPP, where he directs the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture. He is a member of Columbia’s Institute for Comparative Literature and Society as well as the Committee on Global Thought. Martin is a founding co-editor of the journal Grey Room and has published widely on the history and theory of modern and contemporary architecture. He is the author of “The Organizational Complex: Architecture, Media, and Corporate Space” (MIT Press, 2003), “Utopia’s Ghost: Architecture and Postmodernism, Again” (Minnesota, 2010), “The Urban Apparatus: Mediapolitics and the City” (Minnesota, 2016), as well as the co-author, with Kadambari Baxi, of “Multi-National City: Architectural Itineraries” (Actar, 2007). His work centers on histories of space, power, and the aesthetic imagination, particularly as mediated by technical infrastructures. Related areas of research include architecture and epistemology, globalization and cities, and media history. Currently, Martin is working on a publication on the history of the American university as a media complex. (21)
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