



Wednesday December 17th 2014, 13.30-16.30

Aula Gamma - Scuola di Architettura e Società, Politecnico di Milano

Via Ampere 2 - Milano, MM2 Piola, Tram 23, 33

“The Political Economy of Spaces of Exclusion”

Manuel B. Aalbers

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The students of the course in *Contemporary City: social change and policies* of the MSc in Urban Planning and Policy Design will introduce the lecture.

Discussion: **Massimo Bricocoli, Lidia Manzo, Stefania Sabatinelli**

(DASU, Politecnico di Milano)

Abstract

Spaces of decline, exclusion or vulnerability are produced. Neighborhood decline is not a natural thing but a result of the actions of abstract space makers such as governments, lenders, brokers, landlords and developers. Both public and private actors do not simply limit their risk in low-income neighbourhoods, but actively and passively structure the process of neighborhood decline, e.g. by producing maps that not only describe but also prescribe neighborhood decline. The withdrawal of mortgage loans and insurance, city services, and investment more generally speaking, demonstrates the ways states and companies act upon perceived neighborhood decline and contribute to the social, physical and symbolic construction of neighborhood decline.

Manuel B. Aalbers is associate professor of Human Geography at KU Leuven/University of Leuven (Belgium). His main research interest is in the intersection of real estate (including housing), finance and states. He has published on redlining, social and financial exclusion, neighbourhood change (including decline and gentrification), the privatization of social housing, financialization, and the Anglophone hegemony in academia. He is the author of "Place, Exclusion, and Mortgage Markets" (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), the editor of "Subprime Cities: The Political Economy of Mortgage Markets" (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012) and the associate editor of the "Encyclopedia of Urban Studies" (Sage, 2010). He directs the research programme "The Real Estate/Financial Complex": <http://ees.kuleuven.be/refcom>