

18 nov .
2022

11h00 - 12h15
Géopolis 3799

FREE ENTRY

public space observatory:
campaigning for better
designed, used, and managed
public spaces

Patricia Aelbrecht
Cardiff University

Patricia Aelbrecht

is an urban designer and academic, and Co-Founding Director of the Public Space Observatory Research Centre in the Geography and Planning School at Cardiff University. She is also Editor in Chief of URBAN DESIGN International, a Palgrave Journal. Her research sits at the intersection of urban design, environmental-behavioural studies, intercultural studies, and human geography. She has published widely on the design and sociology of the public realm with a particular focus on informal social practices in public space and the role of public space design and management in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue.

In 2019, a group of academics came together to establish Public Space Observatory Research Centre (PSO) in Cardiff University, a knowledge exchange platform in public space research, practice and policy. The PSO's mission is to bring together local, national and international academics, practitioners and policymakers engaged with the provision, design, management and use of public space. Its primary aim is to build new partnerships and collaborations, share resources, promote knowledge exchange, empower local communities through education, training and capacity building, and advance cutting-edge knowledge in public space design, management and use theories, practices, and policies. In this lecture, Patricia Aelbrecht, one of the co-founders and directors, will talk about two of the PSO projects: The 'Public Space Toolkit for Wales', a piece of national public realm design guidance which aims to help Welsh local authorities to implement the Welsh placemaking agenda and improve the public realm of Welsh cities and town centers, and a project 'Urban Design and Spaces for Encounter' and a partnership with the Greater London Authority, Urban Design Group, and Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design which investigates the role of public spaces and their urban design in promoting cross-cultural encounters and experiences of social cohesion, with a view to inform current European social cohesion and integration agendas.