

International Conference

SQUAT

ALL OVER THE WORLD

8th – 9th
January 2026
9am to 6:30pm

CAMPUS CONDORCET

Aubervilliers (France)

Place du Front populaire

Stations : Front populaire (line 12); La Plaine Stade de France (RER B); Stade de France Saint-Denis (RER D); Métallurgie (bus 239 or 139)

Keynote speaker: Miguel Martinez

Squatting can be defined as occupying a place without the approval of its legal owner. It encompasses practices that can be termed in various ways and that are found in both urban and rural contexts: occupation of buildings (whether or not intended for residential use), of land or agricultural plots, slums, makeshift camps, informal settlements, occupied or self-managed social centres, ZADs (zones à défendre, i.e. zones to defend) and squats occupied by artists or activists.

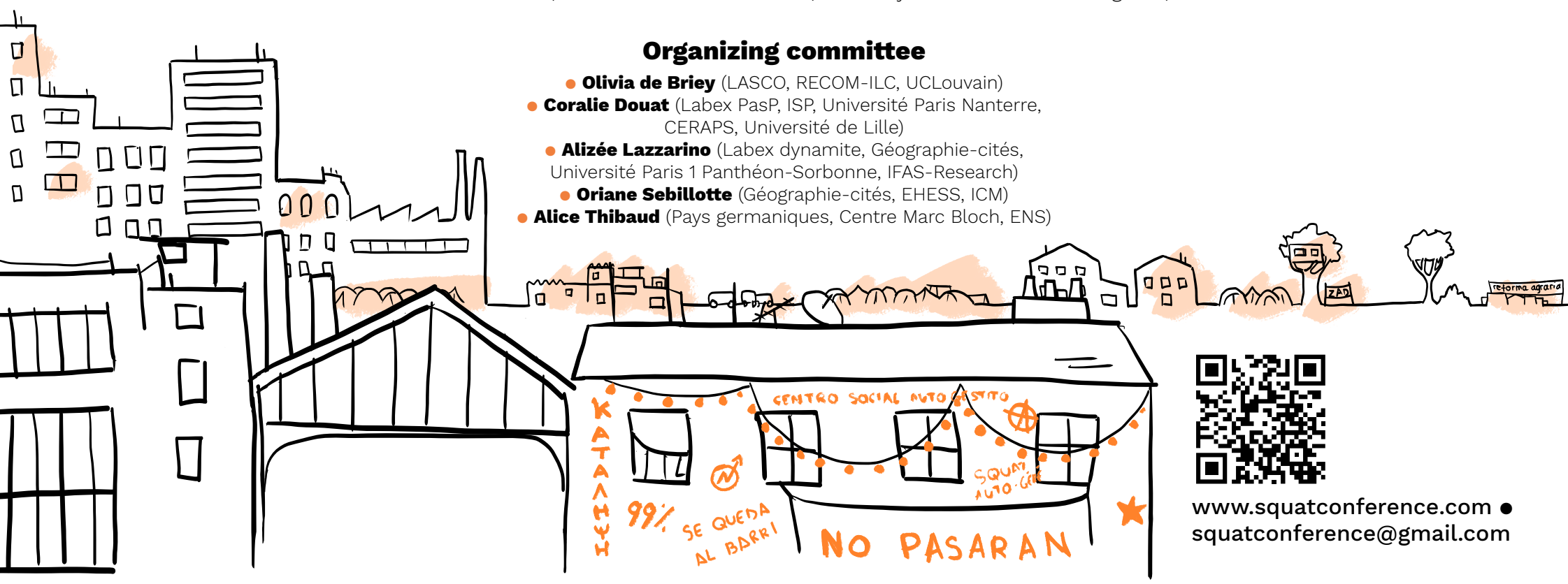
The aim of this conference is to encourage dialogue between studies focusing on squatting in the North and the South, between illegal occupations of land and real estate. The goal is to combine different disciplinary approaches and various fields of study in order to understand what illegal or informal occupations can tell us about our contemporary societies.

Scientific committee

- **Miguel A. Martínez** (IBF, Uppsala University, Sweden) ● **Thomas Aguilera** (Arènes UMR 6051, Sciences Po Rennes, France)
- **Marcelo Carvalho Rosa** (Não-exemplar, CPDA/UFRRJ, Brasil) ● **Sutapa Chattopadhyay** (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada) ● **Margherita Grazioli** (GSSI – Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italia) ● **Stella Paterniani** (State University of Campinas, Brasil) ● **Cécile Péchu** (IEP et CRAPUL, Unil Lausanne, Switzerland) ● **Amandine Spire** (Université Paris-Cité, CESSMA, France) ● **Alexander Vasudevan** (University of Oxford, United Kingdom)

Organizing committee

- **Olivia de Briey** (LASCO, RECOM-ILC, UCLouvain)
- **Coralie Douat** (Labex PasP, ISP, Université Paris Nanterre, CERAPS, Université de Lille)
- **Alizée Lazzarino** (Labex dynamite, Géographie-cités, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IFAS-Research)
- **Oriane Sebillotte** (Géographie-cités, EHESS, ICM)
- **Alice Thibaud** (Pays germaniques, Centre Marc Bloch, ENS)





Program

Day #1 - 8 January

8:30-9:00 • Welcome & breakfast in front of auditorium 250

9:00-9:15 • Introduction organizing committee

9:15-10:15 • Inaugural keynote Miguel Martínez (Uppsala Uni., Sweden)

10:30-12:30 • Panel #1 Relationship to space and socio-spatial trajectories

Discussion: Djemila Zeneidi (CNRS, France)

Océane De Oliveira (Uni. Paris Nanterre, France) • “Moving through the fragmented city : informal occupation and the socio-spatial trajectories of the urban poor in Cape Town, South Africa”

Priti Narayan (UBC, Canada) • “The political economy of the slum: considerations of labour, reproduction, caste, and value”

Ezgi Halioglu Kahraman (CU, Turkiye & IHEID, Switzerland) • “Reconfiguring Squatter Destiny: Negotiating Marginality and Integration across Shifting Trajectories”

Antonin Gay-Dupuy (Uni. Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France) • “France's shantytowns, a gateway to the city (1955 - 1975)”

12:30-1:45 • Lunch

1:45-3:45 • Panel #2 Relationship to politics and the political: Infrapolitics

Discussion: Stella Paterniani (Unicamp, Brazil)

Kachu Alex Wong (U of T, Canada) & Alan Smart (Uni. of Calgary, Canada) • “Mediating embarrassment: Postwar Hong Kong squatters in imperial and Chinese media”

Soumya Ranjan Gahir (Ravenshaw Uni., India) • “Squatting in Silence: Epistemic Disobedience and the Homeless Occupations of Tokyo's Public Parks”

Jyoti (Jawaharlal Nehru Uni., India) • “Women in Marginalized Spaces: Mapping Everyday Resistance”

Perla Abou Sleiman (Uni. du Littoral-Côte-d'Opale, France) • “‘No land's land?’ Squatting informality and governing the ungoverned in Beirut's southern peripheries”

4:00-6:00 • Roundtable #1 The ethics of conducting research in occupied areas and among minority populations: what stance(s) and methodology should be adopted? (in French with instant live translation)

Animation: Olivia De Briey (UCLouvain, Belgium) & Coralie Douat (Uni. Paris Nanterre, Uni. de Lille, France)

• Laurent Beauguitte (CNRS, France)

• Sophie Del Fa (activist and professor at UCLouvain, Belgium)

• Alizée Lazzarino (Uni. Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Labex Dynamite, IFAS, France)

• Jean-Baptiste Molina (squatter at Zonnekloppe and former researcher, Brussels, Belgium)

• Lourenço Melo (militant in the Sindicato d'Habitatge, Barcelona, Spain)

Practical informations:



The Conference is free. All the event will be held in:

Auditorium 250, Centre des Colloques

Campus Condorcet, Place du Front Populaire, Aubervilliers (France)

unless indicated otherwise



Day #2 - 9 January

8:30-9:00 • Welcome & breakfast in front of auditorium 250

9:00-11:00 • Panel #3 Relationship to politics and the political: Political commitments

Discussion: Sophie Del Fa (UCLouvain, Belgium)

Sutapa Chattopadhyay (StFX, Canada) • “CARCERAL versus COUNTER-CARCERAL SPACES”

Paula Bologna (Uni. of Leeds, United Kingdom) • “‘espaço’ as a Situated Category: Ethnographic Insights from a São Paulo Squat”

Marilia Dos Santos (Unicamp, Brazil) • “Baobafricanizing the Americas: Black Cosmopoetics, Occupation and Afrofuturist Politics at Casa de Cultura Tainã and Rede Mocambos”

Dušanka Milosavljević (Uni. of Belgrade, Serbia) • “From Occupation to Institution? Emergent Cultures in the Squatted Student Cultural Center during the 2024/2025 Student Protests in Serbia”

Carolina Laiate (USP, Brazil) • “Ocupação dos Imigrantes: a collective action of creation of new spatial temporalities in a mundialized metropolis”

9:00-11:00 • Parallel panel Radical Housing Journal: What is the law for? Legal activism and advocacy in support of informal housing struggles

Room 100, Centre des Colloques

Organization: Melora Koepke (UVic, Canada); Saila-Maria Saaristo (ISCTE-IUL, Portugal)

11:15-1:15 • Panel #4 Historical evolution of squat’s relationship with the State

Discussion: Thomas Aguilera (Sciences Po Rennes, France)

Asma Mehan (Texas Tech Uni., USA) • “Mapping the Political Economy of Informal Settlements in Ciudad Juárez”

Adriana Vieira Lima (UEFS, Brazil) & **Liana Viveiros** (UFBA, Brazil) • “Squatters and Transformations in Public Action: The Gamboa Community in the Old Town of Salvador (Brazil)”

Valérie Clerc (IRD, France) • “A reconfiguration of the categorization of Syrian informal settlements? Resident mobilizations and transformations in public action in post-Assad Syria”

Gomer Betancor Nuez (NDEU, Spain) & **Miguel A. Martínez** (Uppsala Uni., Sweden) • “From Squatting to Hybrid Autonomy: The development of 2.0 Social Centres in Madrid since 2000”

1:15-2:30 • Lunch

2:30-4:30 • Panel #5 Relationship with the state and with capitalism; transformations in public action: Institutionnalisation

Discussion: Margherita Grazioli (GSSI, Italia)

Robert González (UAB, Spain) • “Who Owns Matters? Shifts in the Legitimization of Squatting within Barcelona’s Housing Movement”

Vanessa Regazzi (Unica, Italy) • “Investigating the formalization of housing occupations: the case of Carracci Casa Comune”

Matheus Pinzan (USP, Brazil) • “Reframing Institutionalization: Theoretical Contributions from the Trajectory of Squatter Movements in Central São Paulo, Brazil”

Fernanda Jahn Verri (UFPeL, Brazil) • “Squatting, occupying the courts, and countering eviction: the case of Ocupação Dois de Junho in Porto Alegre, Brazil”

4:45-6:45 • Roundtable #2 “Paris based squatter collective and squat support group Les Digitales” “For the freedom to live, organize and circulate”: perspectives for a political ecology, and for the defense of squats and occupation movements

Organization: Paris based squatter collective and squat support group Les Digitales

Nathan Siegrist (Uni. of Gothenburg, Sweden) • “PLAC: Squatting on the Urban Frontier of the Financialized City”

Rossana Capobianco (Sapienza Uni., Italia) • “Living Otherwise. The Occupied Space as Ontopolitical Interruption”

Jérémy Baudier, Anaïs De Bock, Ben Kerste, Béatrice Mésini & Marie-Aude Salomon (EHESS, CNRS, TELEMMe, Paroles Vives, France) • “Life Trajectories in Squats: Itinerary, Itinerancy, Iteration”

Mathilde Moaty (Uni. Paris Nanterre, France) • “Legal recognition and urban uncertainty: navigating rights and displacement in a São Paulo favela”

6:45 • Concluding word

organizing committee

7:00 • Cocktail

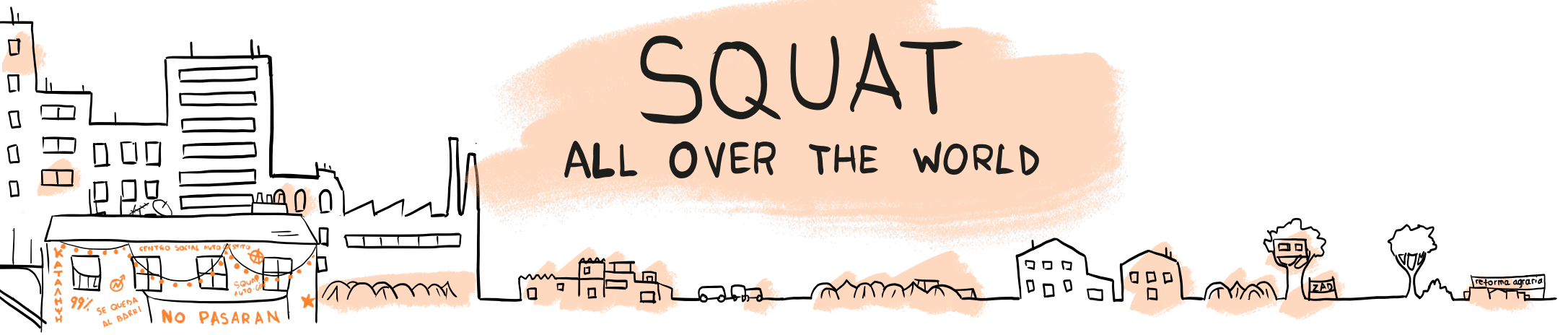
Foyer, Centre des Colloques

Activist kitchen Commun Maïs - free participation to support them

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There is no fee to attend

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www.squatconference.com • squatconference@gmail.com

