

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: The 'dwelling hotel' and the Feminist Transformation of Dutch Housing

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Listening In

**Conversations on
Architectures, Cities
and Landscapes
1700-1900**

Programme and abstracts

**8, 13, 14 & 15
September 2023
ETH Zürich**

A conference organised by
the ERC project Women Writing Architecture 1700-1900
and the SNF project Building Identity 1750-1850

ISBN 978-3-907363-27-0

building
Identity



Swiss National
Science Foundation



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ETH zürich

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Listening In:
Conversations on
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Landscapes 1700-1900
Group Anne Hultzsch and
Maarten Delbeke Chair
Programme and abstracts

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Programme

Friday 8th September 2023

15.00 - 16.30

ONLINE PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT

Listening In Introductions

Introduction

Anne Hultzsich & Sigrid de Jong

Gertrude Jekyll

Camila Medina Novoa - ETH Zürich

Shan Shili

Lingyu Wu - Tsinghua University

Catherine Ponsonby

Rebecca Tropp - University of Cambridge

Anne Pépin

Yannick Etoundi - Brown University

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Elena Martinez-Millana - TU Delft & U. P. de Madrid

Iranian Women and Jane Dieulafoy

Narciss M. Sohrabi - Paris Nanterre University

The Princesse des Ursins

Alba Carballeira - Independent Scholar

Wet Nurses

Ana Gisele Ozaki - University of Virginia

Doña Marcela

Margarita R. Ochoa - Loyola Marymount University

Programme

Friday 8th September 2023

Mademoiselle Dervieux

Iris Moon - Metropolitan Museum of Art

Discussion & Close

Anne Hultzsch, Sigrid de Jong, Sol Pérez-Martínez, Nikos Magouliotis, and Maarten Delbeke

Programme

Wednesday 13th September 2023

17.00 - 17.30	Registration	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 foyer
17.30 - 17.45	INTRODUCTION Listening In	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
17.45 - 19.00	OPENING KEYNOTE Prof Mabel O. Wilson	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
19.00 - 19.30	Welcome drink	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E Terrace

Programme

Thursday 14th September 2023

08.30 - 9.00	Registration & Coffee	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 Foyer
09.00 - 9.30	WELCOME	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
09.30 - 11.00	SESSION 1 Fictions	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 Foyer
11.30 - 13.00	SESSION 2 Urbanities	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch	ETH Hönggerberg Bellavista
14.30 - 16.00	SESSION 3 Reforms	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 Foyer
16.30 - 18.00	SESSION 4 Domesticities	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
18.00 - 19.30	Apéro	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E Terrace

Programme

Friday 15th September 2023

08.30 - 9.00	Registration & Coffee	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 Foyer
09.00 - 10.30	SESSION 5 Enclosures	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1 Foyer
11.00 - 12.30	SESSION 6 Letters	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch	ETH Hönggerberg Bellavista
14.00 - 15.30	SESSION 7 Travelogues	ETH Hönggerberg HIL E1
15.30 - 16.30	Transport to Zentrum	E-link bus
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee	ETH Zentrum HG E Foyer
17.00 - 18.00	ROUNDTABLE Listening In to Zurich	ETH Zentrum HG E3
18.00 - 19.30	CLOSING KEYNOTE Prof Jane Rendell	ETH Zentrum HG E3
19.30 - 21.30	Apéro riche	ETH Zentrum HG Dozentenfoyer



Listening In

Introductions

Friday 8th September

Listening In: Introductions

Online pre-conference event

Listening In: Conversations on Architectures, Cities and Landscapes 1700-1900 launches on 8 September 2023 with a pre-conference online event: the Listening In Introductions. In a compact format, ten participants present short portraits of actors and their works that they conceive as relevant to architectural and spatial histories. Not commonly considered as sources of the architectural canon, actors introduced stem from different corners of the world, from Asia and Europe to the Americas and Africa. By listening to these less-heard voices speaking about their environments, we collectively open our canons and expand our sources proposing new approaches to how we reconstruct the past in an inclusive way.

Presentations are followed by a conversation with the scientific committee of the conference including Anne Hultzsch, Sigrid de Jong, Sol Pérez Martínez, Nikos Magouliotis, and Maarten Delbeke.

Camila Medina Novoa - ETH Zürich

Lingyu Wu - Tsinghua University

Rebecca Tropp - University of Cambridge

Yannick Etoundi - Brown University

Elena Martinez-Millana - TU Delft & Universidad P. de Madrid

Narciss M. Sohrabi - Paris Nanterre University

Alba Carballeira - Independent Scholar

Ana Gisele Ozaki - University of Virginia

Margarita R. Ochoa - Loyola Marymount University

Iris Moon - Metropolitan Museum of Art

Charlotte Perkins Gilman: The 'dwelling hotel' and the Feminist Transformation of Dutch Housing.

This proposal reviews the 19th-century American feminist Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) and her influence on Dutch housing during the early 20th century, particularly due to her book *Women and Economics: A Study of the Economic Relation Between Men and Women as a Factor in Social Evolution* (1898). Gilman deplored mistress-servant relations as much as husband-wife exploitation, so she advocated for kitchenless apartments with dining rooms and day-care centres in cities, as well as kitchenless houses in suburban blocks, suggesting that female entrepreneurs organize cooked-food delivery, childcare, and cleaning services on a 'business basis'. As Dolores Hayden pointed out, in *Women and Economics* Gilman introduced the feminist 'apartment hotel' as an element of urban evolution: 'the human race was evolving in a more cooperative direction, so, too, she was sure that the physical form of human habitations was subject to evolutionary forces'.

In the Netherlands the shortage of domestic servants became a problematic issue at the end of the 19th century, and it stimulated middle-class housewives and architects to find solutions. Gilman's work had an influence on this: In the American feminist's view, this shortage of servants jeopardized the liberation of middle- and upper-class women, who were now forced to stay in the privacy of the home instead of playing a public role. The reception of Gilman's 'grand domestic revolution' - i.e. the attempt for the centralisation of all domestic services - generated interesting projects in the Netherlands, from 'collective kitchens' (the first of which opened in Amsterdam in 1903), to the Dutch version of the 'apartment hotel', which came to be known as the 'dwelling hotel' (*woonhotel*). The first of these 'dwelling hotels' opened in the Hague in 1906 and was followed by more, some of which were no longer designed for families but for single working women.

Dr Elena Martínez-Millana -TU Delft & U. P. de Madrid

Elena Martínez-Millana is a *Margarita Salas* Postdoctoral Fellow (Ministry of Universities, Spanish Government) funded by the Next Generation European Union programme for three years (2022-2024), based at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM). Elena holds a PhD in Advanced Architectural Projects (UPM), with the 'Cum Laude' and 'International Doctorate' distinctions, and she received the 'Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Award 2020-2021' (UPM). She is a member of the research groups *Collective Housing* (UPM), and *Architecture Culture and Modernity* (TU Delft). She is also a Visiting Scholar at the *Jaap Bakema Study Centre*, Het Nieuwe Instituut, in Rotterdam.

Who do we listen to when we write histories of architectures, cities, and landscapes? How many women authors can we find among our sources? How many of them are cited by those whose research we read? We argue that women and other marginalised groups have always been part of conversations on architectures, cities, and landscapes - but we have not had the space to listen to them. This conference is an invitation to reconstruct such conversations, real, imagined, and metaphorical ones, taking place in the 18th and 19th centuries, in any region, in order to diversify the ways we write histories. Taking the art of conversation, integral as both practice and form to the period in Western thought, and repurposing it to dismantle the exclusivity of historiography, this conference calls for contributions which bring women into dialogue with others.

Listening In proposes a new approach to the 'canon' and its protagonists. Rather than either fighting its existence or expanding it by means of 'exceptions to the rule', we call for the setting up of productive conversations. We acknowledge that the canon never exists on its own; instead, it is shaped by what Griselda Pollock has called 'that which, while repressed, is always present as its structuring other' (1999, 8). This conference is envisaged as a listening exercise. We regard a conversation as both codified practice as well as a specific act of verbal exchange, spoken or written, on a particular subject – here architectures, cities, and landscapes – occurring in a specific site, from street to salon, kitchen to court, construction site to theatre, field to church, or book to newspaper, to name but a few.



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