Shock and Awe: a hundred years of bombing from above
10-12 November 2011
London School of Economics and Goldsmiths, University of London

Opening keynote lecture:
Thursday 10 November, 6.30-8pm
Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building, LSE

Bombing Savages in Law, in Fact, in Fiction
Sven Lindqvist
Chaired by: Paul Gilroy

This opening lecture by Sven Lindqvist, author of *A History of Bombing* (New Press, 2003), will provide a historical context for the conference as a whole. It will assess critically the cultural politics of a century of bombing.

Conference, day one
Friday 11 November, 10am-9.30pm
New Academic Building, LG 02, Goldsmiths

Registration
9-10am

Session one: Law, Violence, Legitimacy
10am-12pm

The first session will examine how bombing altered the relationship between law and armed combat. Specifically it will explore the rationalisations for violence targeted at civilians and the manufacture of popular legitimacy. These issues will be examined through a discussion of historical examples from Korea and Japan.

Creating a Cordon Sanitaire: U.S. Strategic Bombing and Civilians in Korea
Alexander B. Downes, Duke University

Kobe 1945, the Unnatural History of Restoration
Hiroki Ogarasawa, Kobe University, Japan

Lunch break (lunch is not provided)
12-1pm

Session two: Colonialism, Airpower and Race
1-3.30pm

This session will re-evaluate the significance of the colonial history of bombing that predates the devastation of European cities during World War Two. The use of aerial attack in the interests of European imperialism opens up questions of the relationship between race thinking and the ordering of humankind. It not only includes the Italian attacks in Libya in 1911 but also the extensive use of bombing by British colonialists from 1919 in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Africa. We seek to understand how that colonial experience and the racial distinctions it involved affected the thinking of theorists of bombing like Arthur 'Bomber' Harris, with his campaigns of night and area bombing that targeted military and civilians alike.

The Day that Buenos Aires was bombed
Miguel Mellino, Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale

'The Colonial Guernica' – 8 February 1958: The Bombing of Sakiet as an International Turning Point in the Algerian War of Independence 1954-1962
Martin Evans, University of Portsmouth

Trust Your Senses?: Militarism and Multiculture
Les Back, Goldsmiths, University of London

Session three: Writing, Poetry and Peace Monuments
4-6.30pm

This session will explore the ways in which bombing militarised domestic space and artistic inspiration, taking account of the gendered dimensions of this process as well as the larger contexts of the militarisation of women's

lives and of cultural responses to acts of war. The session will revisit Virginia Woolf's famous essay 'Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid', explore the poetry of Woolf and Louis MacNeice and discuss the anti-air-warfare monument in Woodford Green, commissioned by Sylvia Pankhurst and designed by Eric Benfield. The session will examine how figures like Woolf, MacNiece, Pankhurst and Benfield addressed anti-imperialism, culture and war, together with their appeals and arguments for peace.

Sylvia Pankhurst, The Stone Bomb and Eric Benfield
Patrick Wright, King's College, London

Virginia Woolf: 'Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid'
Michèle Barrett, Queen Mary, University of London

"'In a blitz you notice people's virtues': Louis MacNeice, Virginia Woolf, and the cultural response to bombing"
Daniel Swift, Skidmore College

Reception
7pm
Delegates are invited to attend an evening reception, which will include the launch of 'Noise of the Past: Sensing the Post-colonial', edited by Nirmal Puwar & Sanjay Sharma. Special Issue of The Senses & Society (Vol.6, No.3), Nov. 2011. http://tinyurl.com/noise-senses-berg

Film Screening
8-9.30pm
A selection of films from the collection of the Imperial War Museum, introduced by Toby Haggith

Conference, day two
Saturday 12 November, 10am-4pm
New Academic Building, LG 02, Goldsmiths

Session four: Shock, Rubble, Clearance
10am-1pm

This session will explore the historical portrayals of the London Blitz as well as contemporary war-torn landscapes. It focuses on recent attempts to recover more complicated varied experiences of the Blitz according to social class and moral conduct. It will also seek to assess the devastation of air bombing related to post-war slum clearance and reconstruction and the relationship between social class, migration and residence. It will attempt to connect an understanding of the war-torn urban landscape with the subsequent patterns of city change and urban regeneration that will culminate in the 2012 Olympics.

Chaired by: A.B. Huber

Psychoanalysis and the Blitz
Daniel Pick, Birkbeck College

Bombers and Bombing in Britain's postcolonial melancholia
Paul Gilroy, London School of Economics

Bombed Out
Nirmal Puwar, Goldsmiths, University of London

Lunch break (lunch is not provided)
1-2.30pm

Closing Keynote Lecture:
2.30pm

From a view to a kill: drones and late modern war
Derek Gregory, Peter Wall Distinguished professor, University of British Columbia

Derek Gregory, author of *The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq* (Wiley- Blackwell, 2004) with discussant Eyal Weizman, Goldsmiths, author of *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation* (Verso, 2007)

Closing discussion: chaired by Paul Gilroy and Les Back