Keynote
Prof. David Morley
“Home Territories: Virtual and Material Geographies”

Date: Wednesday, 14.3.2018 // 18:00
Location: AIL Angewandte Innovation Laboratory
Franz Josefs Kai 3, 1010 Vienna

This talk will address the role of communications technologies in transforming our senses of home, place, territory and identity. It will be concerned with the interrelation of virtual and material geographies in the context of processes of globalisation and de-territorialisation.

We will consider the significance of the contemporary transgression and de-stabilisation of borders and investigate how they are now regulated in relation to ‘spaces of belonging’ at different geographical scales, in both on- and off-line territories. The anxieties of those who feel left behind by the forces of globalisation, as the problematic realm of the ‘far’ invades what had previously been perceived as the secure realm of the local, will be explored in relation to questions of nationalism, xenophobia and nostalgia.

Generalised models of ‘nomadology’ will be addressed alongside empirical questions of how many people remain both sedentary and local in their orientations. We shall also consider the ‘politics of waiting’ and how varying forms of ‘connexity’ now function as both modes and indices of inequality. In this context, we will also evaluate the contribution of the ‘new mobilities’ paradigm in redefining the study of communications so as to incorporate within it questions concerning the movement of both bodies and commodities (as well as that of information) which were previously confined to the neglected field of transport geography.

David Morley is Professor of Communications in the Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths College, University of London. His publications include Spaces of Identity (with Kevin Robins, Routledge 1996); Home Territories (Routledge, 2001); Media, Modernity and Technology (Routledge, 2006) and most recently Communications and Mobility. The Migrant, the Mobile and the Container Box (Blackwell, 2017).