

Colloquium Series

Featuring Alumni in Celebration of 100 Years of OSU Geography

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleyways: Urban Public Spaces

Rickie Sanders, Professor

Temple University

3:30pm Thursday Nov. 20

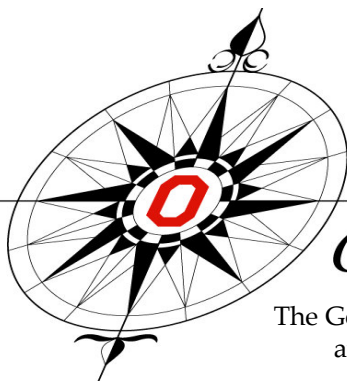
Derby 1080

This paper considers public spaces of all scales, e.g. the great formal plazas as well as the small, organic public spaces in cities. Public spaces reflect values and preferences but at the same time they present us with a way to think about the nature of our society. The large formal spaces are sites where protests are expected to take place and thus they shape what is going on in the world. The smaller, organic spaces - streets, sidewalks, alleys - are theaters where everyday democracy is constructed and where communities decide who will be included. Public spaces are not just architectural forms or material constructions but they are part of a dynamic and fluid dialogue which ultimately reflects our tastes, values and visions. Its very presence as a material thing and a conceptual framing of the world and the ideas we hold, makes it constitutive of the processes that created it in the first place, either through the materiality of the tangible, visible scene or through the symbolic qualities embedded in it that make it undeniably and unmistakably normative.

Pizza Lunch

12:00pm Friday Nov. 21

Opening theme: "Using new, locative, and digital media technologies to explore neighborhood narratives"



*A Century of
Geography*
Ohio State University

The Geography Colloquium series is funded in part through the John Nelson Endowment and the Alumni, Faculty, and Friends of the Ohio State Geography endowment.