

# THE POLITICAL EQUATOR

A 3-DAY TRANS-BORDER  
PUBLIC EVENT  
JUNE 9 - 10 - 11 : 2006  
SAN DIEGO / TIJUANA

THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO  
in collaboration with  
THE HAUDENSCHILD GARAGE  
CASA FAMILIAR and inSite

URBANITIES OF LABOR  
AND SURVEILLANCE

Co-sponsors:  
**Division of Arts and Humanities, UCSD**  
**Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT)**  
**California Western School of Law, San Diego**

Conveners:  
Steve Fagin & Teddy Cruz  
Eloisa Haudenschild & Michael Krichman

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[www.politicequator.org](http://www.politicequator.org)

Tracing an imaginary line along the US/México border and extending it directly across a map of the world, what emerges is a *political equator* that roughly corresponds with the revised geography of the post-9/11 world according to Thomas P. M. Barnett's scheme for *The Pentagon's New Map*, in which he effectively divides the globe into "Functioning Core," or parts of the world where "globalization is thick with network connectivity, financial transactions, liberal media flows, and collective security," and "Non-Integrating Gap," "regions plagued by politically repressive regimes, widespread poverty and disease, routine mass murder, and ... chronic conflicts that incubate the next generation of global terrorists."

Along this imaginary border encircling the globe lie some of the world's most contested thresholds: the US/México border at San Diego/Tijuana, the most intensified portal for immigration from Latin America to the United States; the Strait of Gibraltar, where waves of migration flow from North Africa into Europe; the Israeli/Palestinian border that divides the Middle East, along with the embattled frontiers of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Jordan; the Line of Control between the Indian state of Kashmir and Azad (free) Kashmir on the Pakistani side; the Taiwan Strait where relations between China and Taiwan are increasingly strained as the Pearl River Delta rapidly becomes China's economic gateway for the flow of foreign capital, supported by the traditional centers of Hong Kong and Shanghai.

These are only a few of the critical thresholds of a world in which the politics of density and labor are transforming not only the sites of conflict but also the centers of production and consumption, while unprecedented socio-cultural demographics rearrange flows of information and capital. The dramatic images emerging from the political equator are intensified by the current political climate in which terrorism and its opposite, fear, set the stage for current confrontations over immigration policy and the regulation of borders worldwide. The result is an urbanism born of surveillance and exclusion which casts these geographies of conflict as anticipatory scenarios of the 21st-century global metropolis, where the city will increasingly become the battleground in which control and transgression, formal and informal economies, legal and illegal occupations meet.

**DAY 1 - FRIDAY, JUNE 9**  
**CASA FAMILIAR**  
119 West Hall Avenue  
San Ysidro, California 92173

**7:00 PM**

Casa Familiar, a Community based NGO engaged in urban, social, and cultural activism at the border, is the stage for a debate on the politics of immigration, labor, and surveillance in the post-9/11 city.

**Eyal Weizman**, Director,  
Centre for Research Architecture,  
Goldsmith's College, University of London

**Andrew Ross**, Director,  
Metropolitan Studies Program &  
Professor of American Studies, New York University

**Teddy Cruz**, Architect & Associate Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

Moderator  
**Steve Fagin**, Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

Music, Monica Camacho  
Tacos, Casa Familiar

**DAY 2 - SATURDAY, JUNE 10**  
**Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT)**  
Avenida Paseo de los Heroes  
Tijuana, Baja California 22320

**8:00 PM**

The Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT) will be the site for the San Diego/Tijuana premier of Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre's *Maquilapolis*. This activist documentary explores the politics of labor at the US/México border, exposing NAFTA's role in the making of an environmental disaster and the eclipse of women-workers' rights.

**Vicky Funari**, Filmmaker, Co-director & Producer

**Sergio De La Torre**, Artist, Co-director & Producer  
(MFA, Visual Arts Department, UCSD)

Moderator  
**Roberto Tejada**, Visual Arts Critic & Assistant  
Professor, Visual Arts Department, UCSD

**DAY 3 - SUNDAY, JUNE 11**  
**HAUDENSCHILD GARAGE**  
1870 La Jolla Rancho Road  
La Jolla, California 92037

**12:00 NOON**

Tucked in the hills of La Jolla, the Haudenschild Garage, which has become an alternative platform for cultural exchange and debate, will be the site of a presentation of Cao Fei's *San Yuan Li Project*, a multimedia work that looks at San Yuan Li, a village which has taken shape in the city of Guangzhou, in order to expose the contradictions inherent in the process of modernization and urbanization in China today. The presentation will be followed by a discussion with curators and artists.

**Cao Fei**, Artist, Guangzhou, China

**Hou Hanru**, Visual Arts Curator & Professor,  
San Francisco Arts Institute

**Pi Li**, Visual Arts Curator  
Professor, Curatorial Studies Department,  
Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing

Moderator  
**Norman Bryson**, Professor of Art History,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

# POLITICAL THE

NOVEMBER 16 - 17: 2007  
A 2-DAY TRANS-BORDER EVENT  
SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA

Tracing an imaginary line along the US/México border and extending it directly across a map of the world, what emerges is a *political equator* that roughly corresponds with the revised geography of the post-9/11 world according to Thomas P. M. Barnett's scheme for *The Pentagon's New Map*, in which he effectively divides the globe into "Functioning Core," or parts of the world where "globalization is thick with network connectivity, financial transactions, liberal media flows, and collective security," and "Non-Integrating Gap," "regions plagued by politically repressive regimes, widespread poverty and disease, routine mass murder, and ... chronic conflicts that incubate the next generation of global terrorists."

The Political Equator Conferences were launched in June 2006 with an investigation into the theme of Urbanities of Labor and Surveillance. Political Equator II stages an exploration of the intersection between sociopolitical and natural domains, foregrounding the notion of a *collective territory*, but also a *territory of collaboration* that transgresses hemispheric boundaries. At the core of such trans-hemispheric sociopolitical and economic dynamics is the conflict between transcontinental borders and the natural and social ecologies they interrupt and seek to erase. A renewed politics of environmental activism, searching for effective paths to sustainability worldwide, increasingly collides and eventually clashes with the now-ubiquitous climate of heightened security and territorial dominance that is flourishing at the local as well as the global scale. What has been called the "disaster capitalism complex" is rapidly rising to its own form of dominance as global warming and terrorism challenge aging urban infrastructure and threaten fragile ecosystems and economies.

The field of operations represented by the collectives of architects and urbanists brought together for Political Equator II traces an invisible trajectory across the political equator. This time the axis runs south to north, along which emergent Latin American practices of intervention simultaneously engage the politics of the environment and policies that are shaping contemporary cities. The Political Equator re-emerges in 2007 as a collaboration with Tránsito(ry) Público / Public(o) Transit(orio), following an event-based itinerary that travels from Los Angeles to San Diego to Tijuana, and back again. This provocative series of events and interventions will be hosted by major cultural institutions, neighborhood-based NGOs, and independent alternative spaces, eventually crossing over into the no man's land of the border zone itself, where the Tijuana River symbolizes the conflicts these collaborative practices seek to expose and engage.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 Main Lobby UNION STATION / AMTRACK Pacific Surfliner

800 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

### 12:30 PM

#### A Conversation on the Move

Traveling by train from Los Angeles to the US/México border, and shifting from Tránsito(ry) Público to Political Equator II, this colloquium unfolds as it moves through the landscape. The diverse character of a Southern California megalopolis is revealed as the train cuts a section through the artificial and natural ecologies of the territory linking Alta and Baja California.

with **Teddy Cruz**, Architect + Associate Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

## haudenschildGarage

1870 La Jolla Rancho Road  
La Jolla, California 92037

### 7:00 PM

#### Table of Collaboration:

**Arepas + Empanadas**  
Providing a cultural platform that stands somewhere between a salon and an alternative space, the goal of the *haudenschildGarage* is to be a home away from home for cultural experimentation, play, and conversation. The *haudenschildGarage* commissioned Raúl Cárdenas de Torolab to construct a Table of Collaboration as the stage for this exchange between two collaborative practices of artists and architects.

#### Ala Plástica

Silvina Babich + Alejandro Meitín  
La Plata

#### Caracas Think Tank

Alfredo Brillenbourg + Hubert Klumpner  
Caracas

#### Moderator

**Ariana Hernandez**, Assistant Professor of  
Media Studies, Communication Department, UCSD

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 THE FRONT at CASA FAMILIAR

147 West San Ysidro Boulevard  
San Ysidro, California 92173

### 10:00 AM

#### Intervention: Fences + Food

As a community-based non-profit organization, Casa Familiar engages in cultural, social, and urban activism at the US/México border, generating the material for collaborative and interventionist art works. Casa's recently inaugurated neighborhood center confronts the border in the neighborhood of San Ysidro: The Front is the site of an intervention involving two collaborative urban practices.

#### Tercerunquinto

Gabriel Cázarez Salas, Julio Castro Carreón +  
Rolando Flores Tovar  
Monterrey + México City

#### Torolab

Raúl Cárdenas  
Tijuana

#### Moderators

**Jennifer Flores Sternad**, Art Critic and Curator;  
MA Candidate, Art History Department, UCLA

**Felipe Zuniga**, Visual Artist and Art Facilitator;  
MFA Candidate, Visual Arts Department, UCSD

Tacos: Food for Thought

# EQUATOR II

## THE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO (UCSD)

in collaboration with  
**haudenschildGarage**  
Casa Familiar  
Centro Cultural Tijuana (CECUT)  
inSite

## COLLECTIVE TERRITORIES / TERRITORIES OF COLLABORATION

### Co-sponsors:

University of California Institute for Research in the Arts (UCIRA)  
Division of Arts and Humanities, UCSD  
Woodbury University, San Diego  
The New School of Architecture  
**Lui Velazquez** in conjunction with:  
Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo (PAC)  
Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA)  
PARC Foundation

**Teddy Cruz** (San Diego) • Silvina Babich + Alejandro Meitín, **Ala Plástica** (La Plata) • Alfredo Brillenbourg + Hubert Klumpner, **Caracas Think Tank** (Caracas) • Gabriel Cázarez Salas, Julio Castro Carreón + Rolando Flores Tovar, **Tercerunquinto** (Monterrey + México City) • Raúl Cárdenas, **Torolab** (Tijuana) • **Jennifer Flores Sternad** (Los Angeles) • **Felipe Zuniga** (San Diego) • **Ariana Hernandez** (San Diego) • **Food for Thought** (San Diego) • **Oscar Romo** (San Diego) • **Gilles Clément** (Paris + La Vallée) • **Lesley Stern** (San Diego) • John Palmesino, **Territorial Agency** (Basel) + **Multiplicity** (Milan) • Kyong Park + Srđjan Jovanovic Weiss, **Lost Highway Expedition** (Belgrade) • **Lieven de Cauter** (Brussels) • **Markus Miessen** (London) • **The Boredom Patrol** (Tijuana)

### For more information:

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### in collaboration with

## TRÁNSITO(RY) PÚBLICO / PUBLIC(O) TRANSIT(ORIO)

November 13-16 + 18-20: 2007

Los Angeles

**Ala Plástica** (La Plata) • **An Atlas** (Los Angeles) • **Bijari** (São Paulo) • **Butchialis de Panochtitlan** (Los Angeles) • **Etcétera + Internacional Errorista** (Buenos Aires) • **Frente 3 de Fevereiro** (São Paulo) • **Gloria Alvarez** (Los Angeles) • **Jenny Jaramillo** (Quito) • **Journal of Aesthetics & Protest** (Los Angeles) • **Just Space(s)** (Los Angeles) • **Kirsten Dufour** (Copenhagen) • **La Lleca** (México City) • **Make/shift** (Los Angeles) • **María Adela Díaz** (Los Angeles) • **Mónica Mayer** (México City) • **Mothers of East Los Angeles (MELA)** (Los Angeles) • **Pilar Riaño-Alcalá** (Vancouver) • **Proyecto Jardín** (Los Angeles) • **Regina José Galindo** (Guatemala City) • **Suzanne Lacy** (Los Angeles) • **Ulises Unda** (Quito) • **Ultra-red** (Los Angeles) • **Womyn Image Makers** (Los Angeles) • **Yreina Cervantez** (Los Angeles)

Downtown Labor Center, UCLA  
Farmlab + Under Spring  
Glorya Kaufman Dance Theater, UCLA  
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions / LACE  
Los Angeles State Historic Park  
MacArthur Park  
MFA Public Practice Program at Otis College of Art + Design  
18th Street Arts Center  
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles / MOCA  
Royce Hall + Faculty Center, UCLA

### For more information:

[www.publictransitorio.com](http://www.publictransitorio.com)

## TIJUANA BORDER CHECKPOINT

### 1:00 PM

#### Sounthbound Border Crossing

Participants will cross the border on foot with the general public, passing through the world's busiest checkpoint and witnessing the manifold contradictions that fracture the natural and political territory of the border zone. Our border crossing will be amplified by a bus ride along the Tijuana River, taking us deep into the city's sprawling expanse of informal residential settlements, *maquiladora* factories, and miniature simulations of American-style suburban housing developments.

with **Teddy Cruz**, Architect + Associate Professor,  
Visual Arts Department, UCSD

**Oscar Romo**, Coastal Training Program Coordinator,  
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

## CENTRO CULTURAL TIJUANA (CECUT)

Avenida Paseo de los Heroes  
Tijuana, Baja California 22320

### 5:00 PM

#### Lecture by Gilles Clément:

##### The Third Landscape and its Share in the Planetary Garden

Clément's theoretical project has evolved from his principle of the *jardin en mouvement* or dynamic gardening, to the broader notion of the *jardin planetaire* or planetary garden, to his political project on the potential of the fragment or spatial leftover to become a refuge for biodiversity: Clément's *Manifeste du Tiers paysage*, or Manifesto on the Third Landscape (2004, forthcoming in English), is the basis for a preliminary survey and analysis of Third Landscape sites in the border zone along the Tijuana River.

#### Gilles Clément

Landscape Architect + Gardener,  
Paris + La Vallée, France;  
Professor, École nationale supérieure  
du paysage, Versailles

#### Respondent

**Lesley Stern**, Film Theorist and Historian;  
Chair, Visual Arts Department, UCSD

## CENTRO CULTURAL TIJUANA (CECUT)

Avenida Paseo de los Heroes  
Tijuana, Baja California 22320

### 8:00 PM

#### Conversation:

##### From Tijuana to the World

Political Equator II concludes at CECUT with a forum for discussion and reflection in which observations on the US/México border dividing San Diego and Tijuana will be refracted in light of territorial phenomena and practices characterizing border zones around the world.

#### John Palmesino

Architect + Principal of Territorial Agency,  
Basel, Switzerland; Co-founder of Multiplicity, Milan

#### Lost Highway Expedition

Kyong Park, Associate Professor, Visual Arts  
Department, University of California, San Diego +  
Srđjan Jovanovic Weiss, School of Missing Studies,  
New York + Belgrade

#### Moderators

**Lieven de Cauter**, Philosopher +  
Author of *Capsular Civilization*, Brussels

**Markus Miessen**, Architect + Co-editor  
of *Did Someone Say Participate?*, London

**The Boredom Patrol**

DJ Fingerlust