



An event organised by MARC
(Manchester Architecture Research Centre)

When a town is called Dachau: Urban reinvention and the stature of place

Alan Marcus

How does the weight of history reconfigure a sense of place? The experimental short film *In Place of Death* (dir. Alan Marcus) employs an observational cinematic style to approach this question. It explores the integration of an infamous concentration camp (attracting 800,000 visitors p.a.) into the fabric of the picturesque Bavarian town of Dachau. It observes how visitors interact with an iconic place and its inherited stigma and invites viewers to interpret the daily rituals and oppositions that unfold. The talk will also address what the film doesn't show, including a large SS training camp and headquarters adjoining the memorial site, which is intact and controversially redeveloped, but out of bounds to visitors.

Alan Marcus is Reader in Film and Visual Culture and Head of Department at King's College, University of Aberdeen. He co-edited *Visualizing the City* (Routledge, 2007), and has served as guest editor for *The Journal of Architecture* (2006), *The History of Photography* (2006) and *Film Studies* (2007) on themes associated with memory and urban visual representations. His films include *In Place of Death* (2008), which is one of a quartet of films for the Carnegie-funded research project *In Time of Place* (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/timeofplace>).

14:00, Tuesday, Nov. 11 2008

Kilburn Building, 1.1

Campus map: www.manchester.ac.uk/map



Manchester
Metropolitan
University



The University of Manchester

msa is a joint school of the Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. www.msa.ac.uk