

## CLAS Events - Easter Term 2025

**Tuesday 13 May - 5:00pm | Film Screening & Panel discussion**

**Room S1 - First Floor, Alison Richard Building**

### ***Street Architecture in Covid-19 São Paulo***

[Fraya Frehse](#) (Universidade de São Paulo) - *present virtually*

[Felipe Hernández](#) (University of Cambridge)

[Professor François Penz](#) (University of Cambridge)

[Jenny Mander](#) (University of Cambridge)

Chair: Xiangshu Li (Film and Screen Studies, University of Cambridge)

**Synopsis:** While architecture contests, conferences, and exhibitions in the 21st century debate construction projects for people who dwell in the streets, in a world where rough sleeping has become a global sociospatial phenomenon, we find an inspiring *other knowledge* at work on São Paulo's sidewalks, squares, and roadsides amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

If architecture is the human art of ingeniously converting plastic, aesthetic, and technical-constructive intents into physical space, the individuals we will now meet introduced me to a unique and challenging architecture. Junior, João, and Cleberson's ages vary between 39 and 59 years old, as do their places of birth: medium-sized or small cities. What unites them: a remarkable technical-inventive architectural talent, shaped in an everyday life of vulnerability that typifies the socioeconomic, sanitary, and psychological life conditions on the streets of São Paulo, especially since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. These men escorted me, the photographer, and the cameraman behind these images through their dwellings on September 2021.

The film was commissioned by the Museum of Architecture of the Technical University of Munich (Germany) for the purposes of the exhibition titled "Who's Next: Homelessness, Architecture, and Cities", which starred in Munich on 6 November 2021 and has since then been featured in Hamburg, Bozano and Luxembourg.

**[Film in Portuguese; Captions in English and German]**

Year: 2021 - Duration: 22'40''

Direction, Screenplay, Technical Revision & Narration: Fraya Frehse

Cinematography & Editing: Bruno Nogueirão

Photography & Camera: Tiago Queiroz

Subtitles & English Translation: Paulo Scarpa / German Translation: Rainer Domschke



**Fraya Frehse** is an Associate Professor of Sociology (of the City, of Space and Everyday Life) at the University of São Paulo (USP) and has held two Visiting Fellowships at CLAS since 2020, respectively the CLAS Visiting Fellowship and The British Academy Visiting Fellowship 2023. Since 2020 she is a Life Member of Clare Hall College (University of Cambridge). At USP, she coordinates the Center for Studies and Research on the Sociology of Space and Time and also is a member of the 'Global Cities' Program of the University of São Paulo Institute of Advanced Studies.

For almost twenty-five years of ethnographic research, Frehse has worked on the everyday uses of the São Paulo downtown streets and squares by homeless people and other socioeconomically poor pedestrians at different historical moments from the early 19th to the 21st century. Her research career on the ethnographic present is grounded on an almost whole previous decade (1997-2004) of ethnographically driven documentary research. Frehse's overall objective has been to contribute to urban theory by highlighting what the daily patterns of social inequality in Latin America's urban public spaces – in their temporally fleeting, bodily and materially mediated ways – disclose about urbanization amidst broader historical processes, which have been conceptualized differently in time: modernity, globalization, etc.

