

**Prof. Dr. Sabine Knierbein,  
presenting:**

**Quo vadis public space?  
Conceptual explorations of  
lived space and everyday  
life in urban studies**



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**Public space research has been undergoing several conjunctures over the last decades, at times influenced by new approaches to urban design and policy, or responding to and making sense of social change, civic upheaval and the multiple crises moments of democracy. The relevance of conceptions of both public space and lived space has been discussed through conceptual interweaving and bridging, declaring the need to re-theorize lived space in times when everything seems somehow unsettled: First and foremost urban everyday life. With the aim to rediscuss the potentials and pitfalls of public space in relation particularly to everchanging urban cultures, Knierbein revisited Lefebvre's three volume edition of "The Critique of Everyday Life" with the idea to reintegrate its key findings into wider urban studies debates so as to newly articulate a need for deeper theorization of everyday life, and its (urbanized) geographies of encounter: lived space. While drawing connections between social, cultural and political theory and the more praxis-oriented debates in the spatial arts, Lefebvre's critique has been updated through more recent positions that have emerged vociferously in the new millennium. This lecture will offer some insights from this four-years-long conceptual research process.**

**Prof. Dr. Sabine Knierbein is the Head of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space at the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at the TU Wien.**

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