

110C

Proposal, Plans and Presentation

"Making of a Binational Territory"

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Concentrated on the idea and practice of Public Culture, "Making of a Binational Territory" is a project about creating a multi-state zone between San Diego and Tijuana. The premise of "Binational Territory" is that the political boundary between nation-states is not a singular line that divides the sovereignty of different citizenships, but rather is a much wider physical zone of overlapping cultural, social and economic territories between adjoining nation-states. The transmigration of capital and labor between the borders produce new zones of influence from one nation-state to another, whose geographic area may span from Canada to Guatemala, and perhaps even wider.

Keeping in mind that borders are not only politically defined but also overlapping social, cultural and economic territories of the adjacent nation-states, "Making of a Binational Territory" will designate theoretical areas between San Diego and Tijuana where people of both nations can freely enter without any visa or other international travel documents. A new hybrid state that is legal and sovereign according to the mutualized laws of both states, this "Binational Territory" will fully exercise the benefit of a dual state, which can neutralized the current unilateral behavior of NAFTA, or more accurately portray and innovate the conditions of multinational companies and the globalizations of labor and capital in one officialized multi-national territories. Some of the earlier precedents are colonial entropots such Hong Kong and Singapore, or Special Economic Zones of China, Special Administrative Region such as Hong Kong and Macau, or various unofficial internationalized communities in United Arab Emirates.

The class will first begin with research on the condition of multi-states and internationalized zones, as well as the theoretical territory of a "Binational Territory, which would include Tijuana River, Tijuana National Estuarine Research Reserve, San Ysidro and Pacific Gateway Park on the northern half, and Zona Centro, Empleados Federales, Zona Urbana, and Colonial Libertad on the southern half. Then the students will develop various projects, physical, social, cultural and other forms of engagements with the landscape, to discover, represent and to activate the existing and future condition of binational realities and conditions. Students' proposals are of course hypothetical, yet grounded on real conditions and future potentials. Each ideas are to develop a plan of concept, process and manifestation, including collaborating and participating organizations and institutions, the budget and schedule. A practice of developing a project, students are to integrate all these components of their project into a form of public presentation at the end.

Skills required:

Already know, or willing to learn ADOBE Illustrator, In-Design, PowerPoint, and other graphic softwares on your own during the course.