On construction sites the world is altered in a very solid, material way. That’s not the whole story, of course: If someone builds a house, a railroad or any other thing, there is more under construction than the mere object itself. With spade and excavator contemporary imaginations, visions and historical concepts are equally reshaped or renewed. Interventions into the physical landscape are always accompanied by interventions into the imaginary landscape.

The workshop as well as the public lecture will examine the discursive alongside the performative construction of reality when things are being built. Construction sites are ideal objects for a cultural studies approach, as they show in a very literary sense, that the world not so much has a certain state, but that the world is constantly being rebuilt, reshaped and reimagined.
Location:
Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart
Kabinett FrL. Friz (6. OG)
Mailänder Platz 1
70173 Stuttgart

FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER
13:00 h
Socialism under construction
Marius Böttcher (Weimar, Germany)
On emergence and disappearance of things. Construction sites in DEFA films

Marie Collier (London, UK)
Socialist construction in Soviet Photo Illustrated Periodicals, 1928-1932

15:00 h
The modern city under construction
Catarina Caetano da Rosa
(Lisbon's modernity under construction in the 19th century

Patrick Leitner (Paris, France)
Grand Central Station in New York and Modern Paris

Ipek Sen/ Sebnem Soher
(Istanbul, Turkey)
Becoming a permanent construction site: Istanbul in the 1950’s

17:00 h
Nations under construction / Discussion
Liliana Luga (Budapest, Hungary)
Building a Space for Negotiation: Nationalistic Rhetoric, Multi-ethnicity and the Construction of the Orthodox Cathedral in Cluj

Filippo Menga (Cagliari, Italy)
Building a nation through a dam: the case of Rogun in Tajikistan

20:00 h
PUBLIC LECTURE
Location:
Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart
Max-Bense-Forum, UG

SATURDAY, 16 NOVEMBER
9:30 h
Colonies under construction
Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum
(Berlin, Germany)
Babylon - vom Megaprojekt zum Mythos

Sören Fischer (Dresden, Germany)
Reshaping the Venetian Terraferma, Remarks on Literacy, Pictorial and Architectural Perception of Early Modern Landscape Transformation

11:00 h
Representations under construction
Eike-Christian Heine
(Stuttgart, Germany)
Performativity and Discourse – Constructing the Kiel Canal and a harmonic Germany

14:00 h
De-Constructions / Discussion
Christoph Rauhut
(Zurich, Switzerland)
Constructing conceptions of description – The 19th-century building site as source and contradiction

Francesca Russello Ammon
(Pennsylvania, USA)
Demolition as Progress: The Urban Renewal Construction Site in Postwar America