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Mara Ferreri

## The Permanence of Temporary Urbanism

*Normalising Precarity in Austerity London*

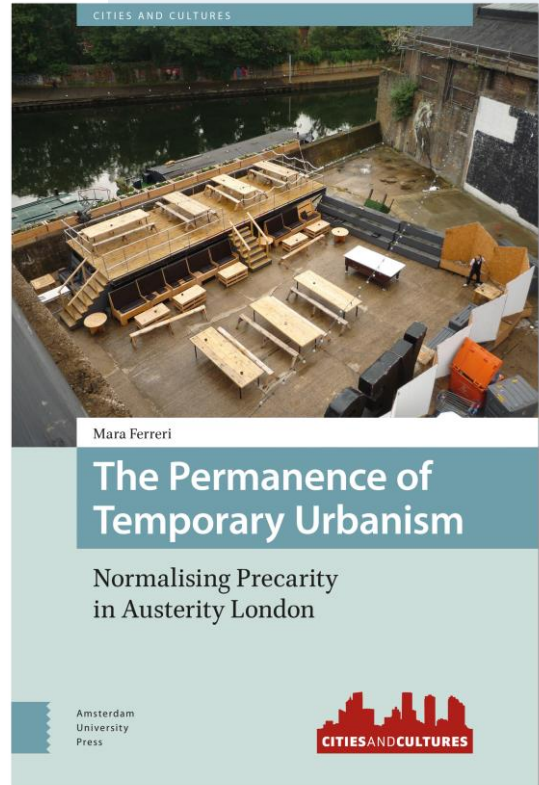
Temporary urbanism has become a distinctive feature of urban life after the 2008 global financial crisis. This book offers a critical exploration of its emergence and establishment as a seductive discourse and as an entangled field of practice encompassing architecture, visual and performative arts, urban regeneration policies and planning. Drawing on seven years of semi-ethnographic research, it explores the politics of temporariness from a situated analysis of neighbourhood transformation, media representations and wider political and cultural shifts in austerity London. Through a longitudinal engagement with projects and practitioners, the book tests the power of aesthetic and cultural interventions and highlights tensions between the promise of vacant space re-appropriation and its commodification. Against the normalisation of ephemerality, it presents a critique of the permanence of temporary urbanism as a glamorisation of the anticipatory politics of precarity which are transforming cities, subjectivities and imaginaries of urban action.

### BIOGRAPHY

Mara Ferreri is an urban and cultural geographer. She is VC Research Fellow in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences at Northumbria University, UK.

'This is an excellent book. The author combines an analysis of the complex narratives and policy rhetoric surrounding the temporary uses of urban space, with an in-depth ethnographic observation of practices of temporary use and their perceptions by various stakeholders. She embeds the London field work in contemporary debates and recent scholarship from urban and cultural geography, urban studies, architectural and planning studies, in a perceptive and refined manner, leading to powerful conclusions about the ambiguous role of temporary uses of space in a post-austerity, neoliberal city where precarious forms of living and working have become dominant.'

-Professor Claire Colomb, The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London



Cities and Cultures  
March 2021  
194 pages, 10 b/w illustrations  
Hardback  
156 x 234 mm  
€89.00 / £81.00 / \$110.00  
€88.99 / £80.99 / \$109.99

ISBN 9789462984912  
e-ISBN 9789048535828  
BISAC SOC026030 / POL002000 / SOC045000  
BIC JFSG / JFFB / RPC

### KEYWORDS

Pop-up, Temporary Urbanism, Architecture, Art, Activism, London

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