On the 28th of october in room C, there will be a debate about globalisation and the local identity led by ir. Gregory Bracken, ir. Jaap Nieuwenhuis and dr. Leeke Reinderts. The debate is organized by graduation students of the Complex Cities group from Urbanism. Illustrated by three cases over the world, different topics about globalisation and the local identities will be discussed.

Program

14.00-14.05	Entrance
14.05-14.10	Introduction talk by organisers
14.10-14.20	Presentation Gregory Bracken - Shenzen, China
14.20-14.40	Debate proposition1
14.45-14.55	Presentation by Jaap Nieuwenhuis - Rotterdam, The Netherlands
14.55-15.15	Debate proposition 2
15.20-15.30	Presentation Leeke Reinderts - Coney Island, NYC, USA
15.30-15.50	Debate proposition 2
15.50-15.55	Round up talk by organisers

Propositions

1. **The new economy** – China, Shenzen
   Spatial transformation and the consequence for its identity

   "How does rapid spatial transformation, due to globalisation, changes the identity of the city's original residents?"

   In the case of the pearl river delta in China, rapid city transformation has changed the spatial morphology of the landscape of urban village into global cities. In their growth, these cities have engulfed the original settlements (urban villages), along with the identity of its original citizens. To what extent do these urban villages (often with poor services and infrastructure) play a role in this identity? Can past heritage, culture or social relation, all which contribute to personal and local identity, disappear in such a situation? Then, what is the new identity? Does it conflict with the old one?

2. **Creating identity** – Rotterdam, The Netherlands
   The perception of identity by different stakeholders

   "What conflicts arise from different perceptions of identity by different people and organizations and how could identity be measured?"

   There seems to be consensus of the existence of a 'Rotterdam-mentality'. Citizens of Rotterdam identify the city as a harbour city, a labour city, a multi-cultural city and overall as a city that is 'down-to-earth'. However, this identity is represented by the municipality and commercial organisations, for example through architecture or events. In contrast to citizens, these organizations use identity as a tool to work with, and therefore might adapt the concept the 'Rotterdam identity' according to their own interests. How to know what is the 'true' identity? Are there any scientific tools to measure identity?

3. **Degrading Identity** – Coney Island // Brooklyn // NYC
   The transformation of a place's identity in relation to different actors

   "What is the balance between city guidance, nostalgia and residents in keeping and creating a city identity?"

   Coney Island has been the beacon for transformation in New York for a long time now. First, as a playground for urban experimentation, now, as a place where identity is unvalued by city planners, protested to keep the same by nostalgias and almost forgotten by current residents. How will this degradation of identity develop, who will have the upper hand in this process and is this again transferable to Manhattan -and the rest of the world-?