Designing for Civic Culture in Urban Public Space?

The case of shared space

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Structure of lecture

- Introduction
  - Shared Space technical
  - Shared Space social

- Case study: St Olavs Plass in Oslo
  - Shared Space as a design to manage mobility as a part of civic culture?

Shared Space

Sonnenfelsplatz, Graz, Austria

http://www.sensational-adelaide.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=5275

Shared Space

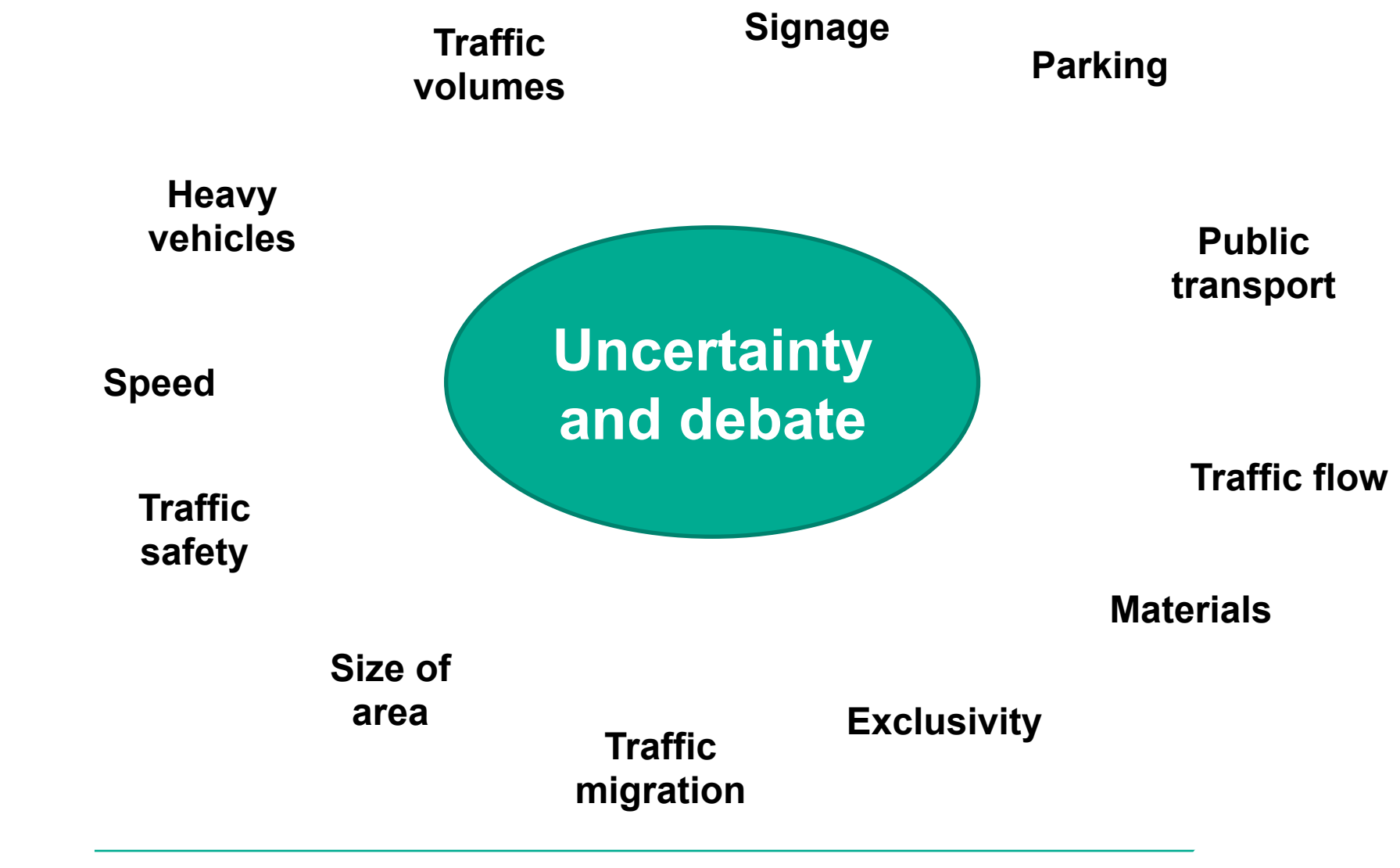
New Road, Brighton, UK

http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/walkonomics/31709/are-streets-more-walkable-if-pavements-are-removed

Shared Space

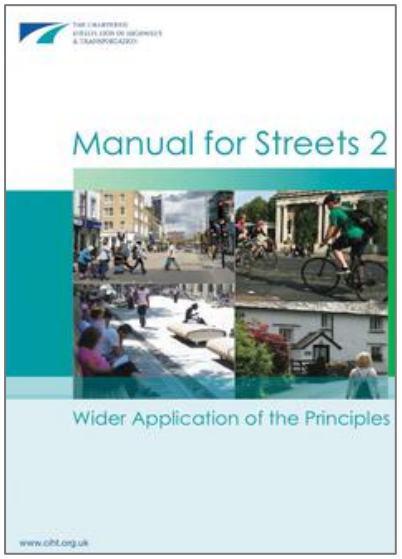
Mariahilfer Strasse, Vienna, Austria

Typical “standard issues” in debate



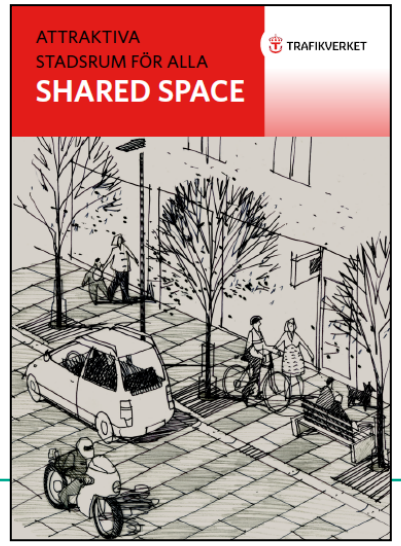
Guidance

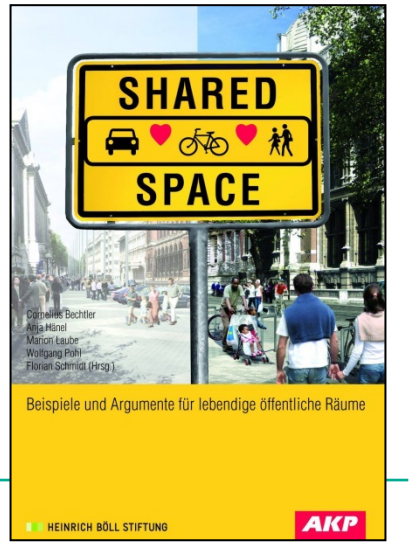
Forschungsgesellschaft für Straßen- und Verkehrswesen
Arbeitsgruppe Straßenentwurf
FGSV
Hinweise
zu Straßenräumen mit
besonderem Überquerungsbedarf
– Anwendungsmöglichkeiten
des „Shared Space"-Gedankens
W 1
Ausgabe 2011


Manual for Streets 2
Wider Application of the Principles

Trafikksikkerhets-
håndboken
Effekt =
A/B
C/D

Department for
Transport
LTN 1/11
Shared Space


ATTRAKTIVA
STADSRUM FÖR ALLA
SHARED SPACE
TRAFIKVERKET


SHARED
SPACE
Cornelius Bechtler
Anja Hänel
Marion Laube
Wolfgang Pohl
Florian Schmidt (Hrsg.)
Beispiele und Argumente für lebendige öffentliche Räume
HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
AKP

Answers - layout

Volume (v/d)	Design solution
∑ < 9.000	Conventional right of way
∑ = 9.000 – 14.000	*Mini* - circle
∑ = 14.000 – 24.000	Roundabout
∑ > 24.000	Traffic signals / no shared space
	Type of segregation
∑ < 4.000	Mix
∑ > 4.000 – 20.000	*Soft* segregation
∑ > 20.000	Standard segregation

Gerlach, 2009

Answers – traffic volumes

Traffic tresholds						
	Peek time v/h	Peek time heavy veh. and public transport / h	Density of walking, cycling / (1000 m^2)	crossings / h.	speed	Length
Square	< 1.000	< 50	> 100	> 100	20–30 km/ h	< 500 m
Linear / street	< 1800	< 80				

FGSV, 2011

Shared space as a challenging idea

- The shared space idea as a critique to existing approaches, on two levels:
  - Professional (planning, design)
    - Rejects prevailing concepts of traffic regulation and street design
  - User level
    - An urban landscape that challenges conventional means of interaction in streets

Shared Space to manage mobility in public space?

Technical behaviour

Social behaviour

- **Top-down, externally imposed order**

- **Bottom-up, socially created order**

Research focus
– the user perspective

- How does social interaction play out under Shared Space conditions?

- How, and to what extend, do users engage in *creating order*?

Case study of social interaction: St Olavs Plass - Oslo

Photo: Arne Langleite

StOP 2

1. floor
restaurant/café
2.+ offices

StOP 3

1. floor: café, supermarket
2.+ offices

Universitetsgata 2

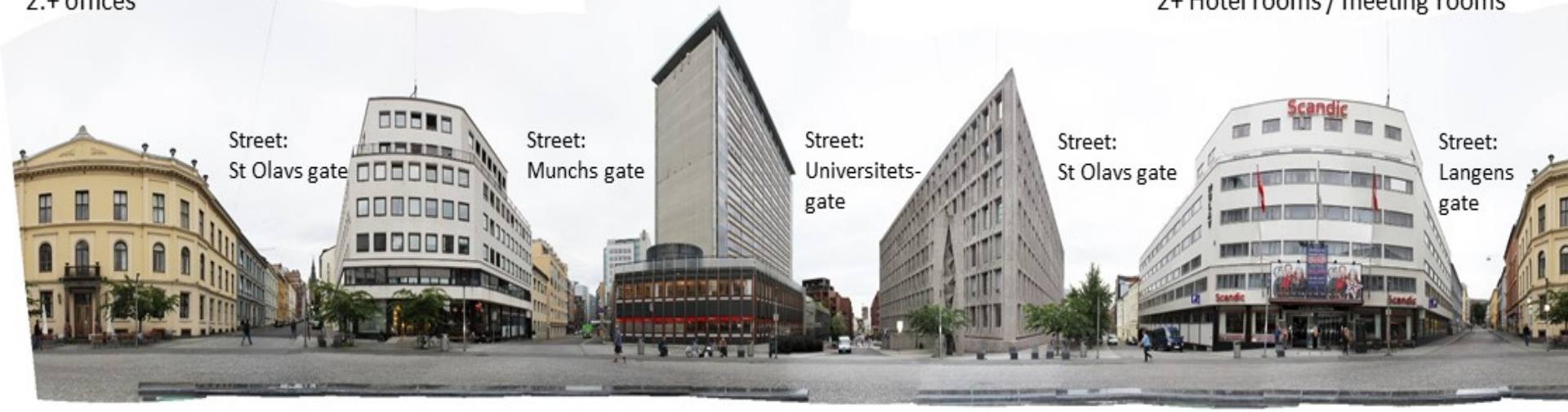
1. floor: Post office
2.+ offices

StOP 5

Oslo University,
Faculty of law

StOP 1

1. floor: Scandic hotel, bar, restaurant and Theater Edderkobben
2+ Hotel rooms / meeting rooms



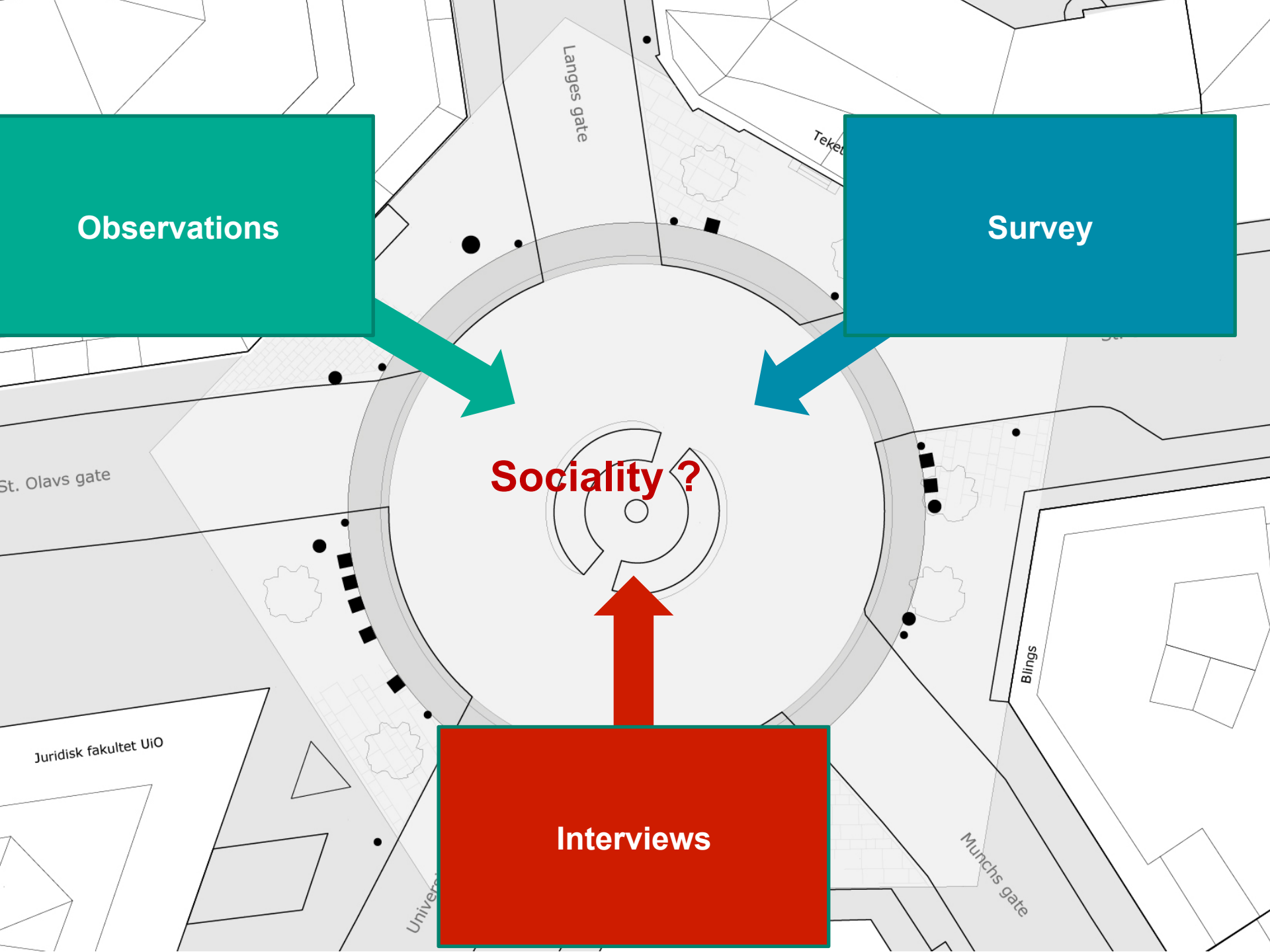
Street activities related to building
- Street serving on entire sidewalk
- Meeting, drinking, eating, talking, relaxing
- Children play in sculpture while parents sit at restaurant
- Lunch breaks in sculpture

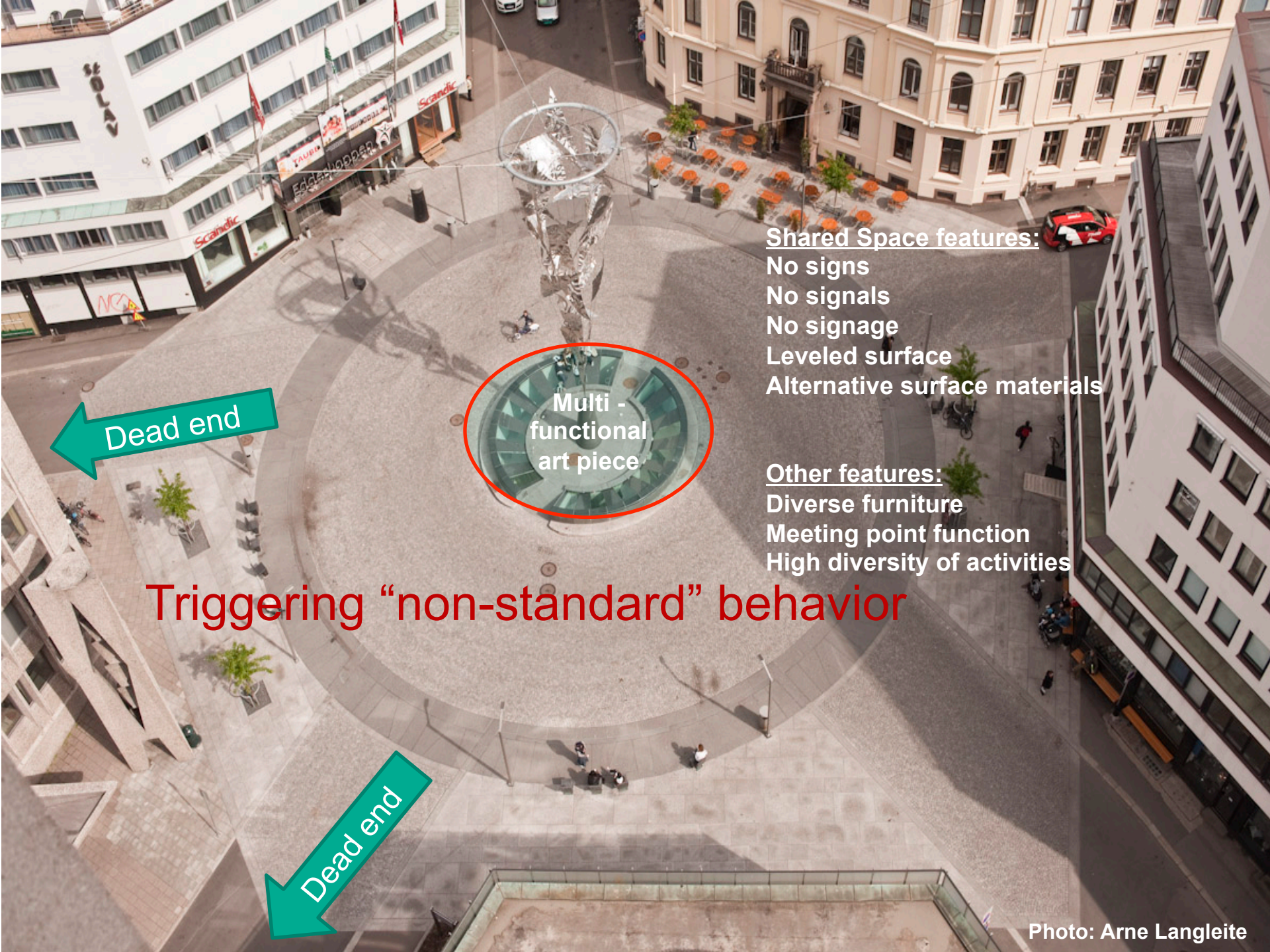
Street activities related to building
- Café Chairs, tables and benches used by customers.
- Meeting, drinking, eating, talking, relaxing
- Children play in sculpture while parents sit at cafe
- Lunch breaks in sculpture
- Bycicle parking.
- Divers service vehicles

Street activities related to building
- People sit on stone chairs and stone wall.
- Preferred stopping space for vehicles.
- Walk through sidewalk.
- Lunch breaks in sculpture

Street activities related to building
- Students an employees have breaks in sculpture and visit cafe/restaurant

Street activities related to building
- Guests arrive and leave.
- Tourist busses manneuver
- Guests visit square / sculpture
- Cafe serving outside
- Meeting, drinking, eating, talking, relaxing


Observations
Survey
Sociality ?
Interviews
Langes gate
St. Olavs gate
Juridisk fakultet UiO
Blings
Munchs gate



Shared Space features:
No signs
No signals
No signage
Leveled surface
Alternative surface materials

Other features:
Diverse furniture
Meeting point function
High diversity of activities

Triggering “non-standard” behavior

Photo: Arne Langleite

bingo

Scandic

Scandic

Scandic
BJARTE
Gu kor goy!
Edderkoppen
SCANDIC EDDERKOPPEN

"Ellevilt og herlig!"
"Humorsprederen!"
BJARTE
Gu kor goy!
PREMIERE 24. OKTOBER
Edderkoppen
Scandic

ST. OLAVS GT 12.

BJARTE
Gu kor goy!
Edderkoppen
Scandic
SCANDIC EDDERKOPPEN

Edderkoppen

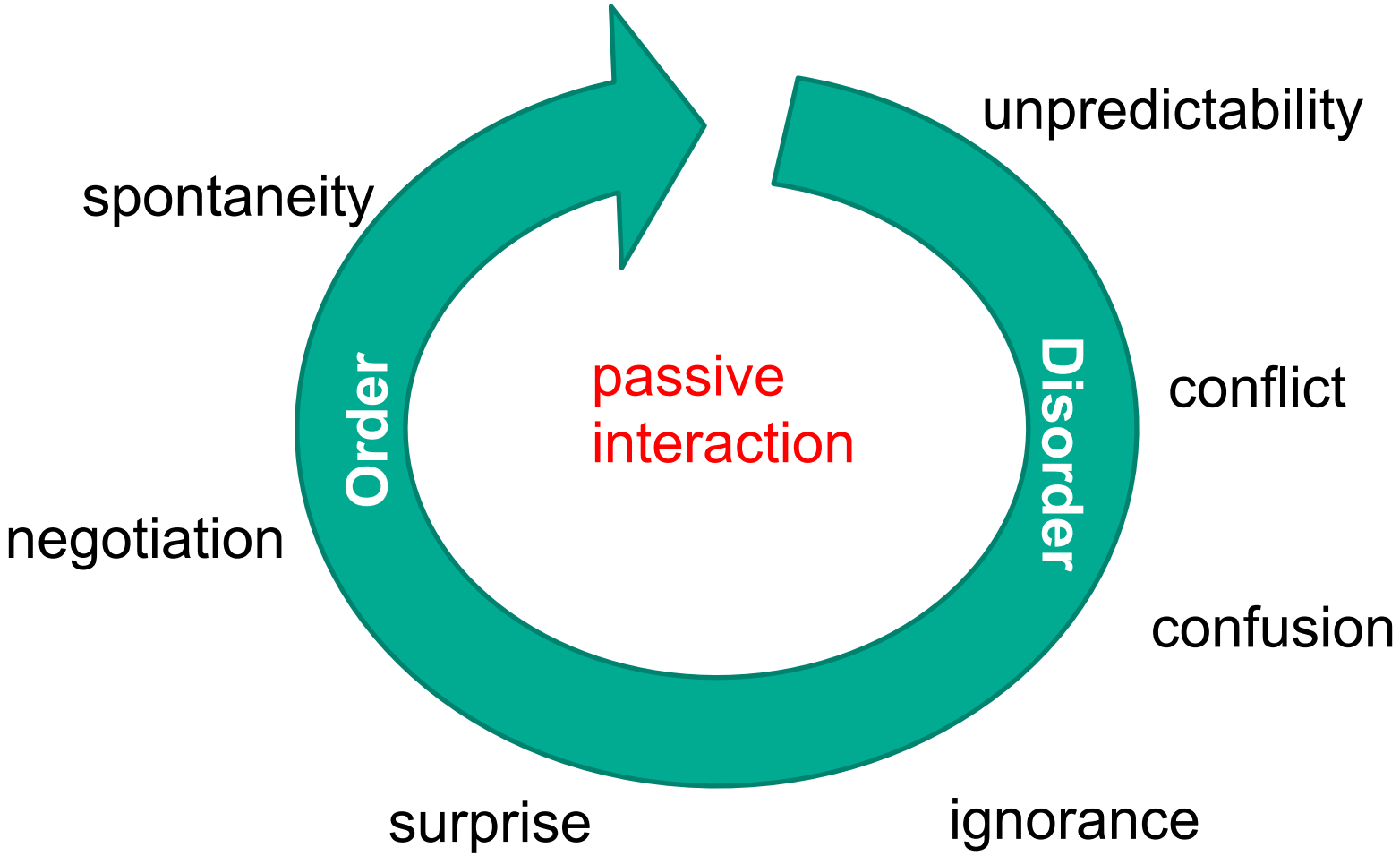
Langley

posten

Prel. Findings

- Socio-spatial characteristics
  - Light confusion and conflict
  - High frequency and variation of “non-standard” behaviour
  - Dissonance instead of harmony
  - Constant renewal and re-negotiation of momentary order
  - Many versions of order (in terms of user composition, activities, noise, weather)

Main characteristics of mobile patterns



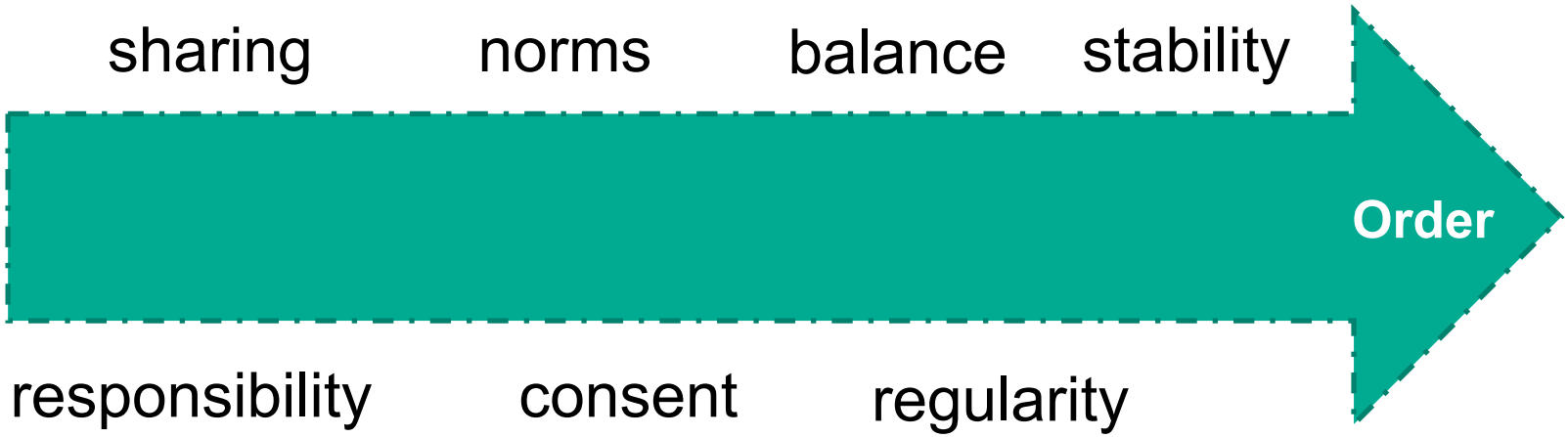
Civic culture characteristics

- Ash Amin (2007):
  - «virtue» of public place is conditioned by:
    - openness
    - crowdedness, diversity,
    - incompleteness,
    - improvisation,
    - disorder or light regulation.

Findings

- Users apply strategies of passive interaction - minimize direct interaction
- Users struggle with *themselves* not only the space is ambiguous, but users are as well
- Users create the «landscape» momentary – socio-spatial constallations are constantly changing

Shared space from the “outside” (the representative view)



Discussion - Democracy?

- Does sharing imply mobile democracy?
- Does mobile democracy imply civic culture?

Thank you for your attention!

Photo: Arne Langleite