

# Foreword

Molecular biologist John Cairns demonstrated in 1988 how the DNA of bacteria could be changed by its environment. In an article entitled “The Origin of Mutants,” he describes an experiment where bacteria placed in a petri dish develops the capacity to digest lactose after being fed a milk-based diet for a specified amount of time.

Like Cairns’s bacteria, whose DNA was re-written within the space of a petri dish, humans could be considered mutants as well – conditioned by lived space, both built and imagined. That being so, the body’s disposition is gradually altered by outside forces, whether they be political, economic, social, or material.

Looking at specific subject matters pertaining to contemporary urbanisation, including poverty, informality, migration, governance, ageing, logistics and real estate development, *Spaces of Change* explores how a range of actors, both humans and things, shape the very territory that in turn reshapes us.

*Spaces of Change* compiles excerpts from on-going research conducted by the team of the Territorial Organisation module at the Future Cities Laboratory Singapore/ETH Zurich.

Marc Angéil  
Benjamin Leclair-Paquet  
Singapore & Zurich, 2014