

## 1. Artistic interventions in urban space

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Format: Traditional (call for abstracts and individual presentations of around 15 minutes)

This session focuses on artistic interventions in urban space and explores their manifold implications in connection with urban politics. Of particular interest are the forms of (self-authorized) artistic appropriation and perception of urban space, especially artistic interventions that address the norming of public spaces, for example, by questioning and irritating prohibitions and surveillance tendencies. What forms of such interventions exist in which specific urban spaces and how is the relationship to a broader public shaped? How are different urban actors addressed and – beyond the classic notions of the public – made part of the intervention itself? On the other hand, this session sheds light on the strategies and objectives of urban authorities in their approach to art in urban space. An important question here is in which areas of the city are artistic interventions supported and encouraged by public or private funding agencies, and in which areas are they mostly obstructed. What kind of works and interventions are being supported with what justifications and which ones are being fought against as ‘vandalism or ‘disturbance’? Also of interest are the consequences of the respective urban policies: does the encouragement of artistic interventions in urban space open up new forms of participation and involvement (in private as well as in public)? And in this connection, what about increasing tendencies of displacement and social segregation? Last but not least, contributions are very welcome in this session that mainly deal with the methodological questions of research on artistic interventions and urban politics. Of particular interest are discussions on how sociological research can be expanded through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and what similarities and differences can be discovered with respect to artistic research. For example, artists who make the norming of urban spaces the subject of their work often adopt similar strategies as those known in the sociological context from ethnomethodology – Garfinkel’s concept of ‘crises experiments’ – while the practice of ‘dérive’, cultivated by the Situationist International, has been increasingly taken up in social urban research in the last years. Given these trends, it is of central interest in this session to explore the relationship between sociological and artistic strategies in urban research more closely.