European Sociological Association
Research Network 37 (Urban Sociology)
IV Midterm Conference

*Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures*

Bologna, 27th-29th of January 2021 (Online conference)

Organized by:
European Sociological Association (ESA) – Research Network 337 (Urban Sociology)
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In collaboration with:
University of Bologna, Department of Sociology and Business Law (SDE)
SDE webpage: https://sde.unibo.it/en/department
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Conference Organizing Committee
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Rui Carvalho (Brown University - Providence)
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Tommaso Rimondi (University of Bologna)

The conference will be hosted by the University of Bologna and held online using a Zoom platform provided by ESA.
Conference Presentation

Exactly one hundred years ago, in 1920, the world was finally resurfacing from a devastating global health crisis. Misleadingly, albeit too commonly known as the ‘1918 Spanish Flu’, this deadly influenza pandemic – arguably the most severe one in modern history – lasted over two years, infected an estimated 500 million people, approximately one-third of the world’s population at the time, and caused an estimated death of more than 50 million people. Roughly one century later, we find ourselves amidst another pandemic threat, one whose social consequences we are still to fully comprehend, and whose obvious discrepancies and all too alarming similarities to the global virulent outbreak of one century ago invites sociological questions about modernity, globalization, urbanization, and social change and persistence. Has the course of social change in the last century been such that all and any similarities between the two pandemic outbreaks are little more than flukes? Or are these similarities a manifestation of Karl Marx’s contention in the *Eighteenth Brumaire* (1852) that history is set to repeat itself “first as tragedy, then as farce”?

2020 also commemorates the 100th anniversary of the death of Max Weber. Unquestionably recognized as one of the forefathers of Western Sociology, Weber has inspired the imagination and scholarship of generations of social scientists, regardless of epistemological traditions, methodological boundaries, regions of study, or fields of interest. Urban sociologists are not an exception. In fact, 2021 – the year in which this conference will be held – marks the centennial anniversary of yet another landmark: the posthumous publication of Max Weber’s edited volume on *The City*, a pivotal work for the (at the time) expanding field of Urban Sociology, where Weber tried to outline the foundations of his systematic theory of urbanism and urban development.

We take the occasion of these centennial landmarks to reflect about the past, present, and future of cities and urban societies, urban theories and urban practices, through and beyond the works of Weber. The last century has provided us with a wealth of theoretical perspectives on the city and its development, from the ecological theories of the Chicago School, through neo-Marxist and political economic approaches, to the more recent rise of post-structural, postmodern, and postcolonial urban studies. Cities have changed greatly in the last century, and so have our ways of theoretically conceptualizing, methodologically approaching, and pragmatically acting upon cities. And, as the present pandemic situation shows all too well, cities keep changing every day, and it will continue to do so in the future, creating a continuous demand for the reconsideration and redefinition of urban theories and urban practices.
CONFERENCE PROGRAM DAY BY DAY

WEDNESDAY 01.27.2021

KEYNOTE SPEECH:
GIAMPAOLO NUVOLATI (UNIVERSITY OF MILAN BICOCCA)
Does the city still exist? Is urban sociology alive?

PROVOCATIONS REGARDING OUR DISCIPLINE

2 - Between old urban inequalities and new urban opportunities (Panel 1)

New tourist regional strategies in the Covid-19 time. The Apulia case study

Beyond the gentrifier stereotypes:
An approach on lifestyles of those who choose to live in the city center

Care-networks, resistance and self-organization: Trans sex workers’ struggle in urban Turkey

4 - From neighborhood to community, or from community to neighborhood?

(Panel "Urban Ethnographies")

Visualizing Belonging in Urban Spaces:
Citizen remapping of a multicultural neighborhood

The role of the quality of urban environment in the propensity for community participation: the case of three neighborhoods in Milan, Italy

Homosexual neighborhoods: places of inclusiveness, integration and tourist appeal

5 - In/Exclusion at the festival city

Exclusionary implications of civic events with inclusive goals.
Cultural power and associative styles

Festivals of Light, between creativity and city branding

Echoes of equality. Negotiations of audience dynamics in equality-themed events in Hull UK City of Culture 2017

8 - New pathways of ecological gentrification in Europe?

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THURSDAY 01.28.2021

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*the meeting is scheduled according to Central European Time*

*Passcode for every Zoom meeting: bologna*

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<td>Tommaso Rimondi (University of Bologna, <a href="mailto:tommaso.rimondi2@unibo.it">tommaso.rimondi2@unibo.it</a>)</td>
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**Presentations**
Letizia Carrera (University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, letizia.carrera@uniba.it)

**New tourist regional strategies in the Covid-19 time. The Apulia case study**

The tragic pandemic is having a depth impact on the economic and employment level, in particular on the tourism sector, meant in the broadest sense that includes all its related activities. Different territories - countries, regions, cities - have reacted in very different ways, sometimes suffering this setback or, on the contrary, reacting to it by activating new alternative tourism proposals based on the enhancement of the so-called "minor tourist heritage", or of en plein air tourist routes, from cycling to urban and extra-urban walking routes. The different types of tourism offer have often combined with types of slow and sustainable tourism. Actually, the slow crossing of places is presented as a privileged way to meet the demand for emotions and experience made by the "new tourist", who looks for the authenticity and atmosphere of places, but who is also more and more often attentive to a responsible approach to territories. At the same time, the offer of open places represents and is emphasised as a guarantee from the health point of view and as an opportunity for a form of alternative tourism. It would be interesting to analyze the tourist strategies of a very particular region as Apulia, that in few years has reached an important national and international image, about new kind of cultural, historical and artistic heritage offer, starting from the “Piil cultural program” of this region and its different proposals.

Clarissa dos Santos Veloso
(Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, clarissaveloso25@gmail.com)

**Beyond the gentrifier stereotypes:**

**an approach on lifestyles of those who choose to live in the city center**

This paper aims at analyzing lifestyles’ traits of middle-class individuals who have chosen to live in central and historical neighborhoods in big cities. Their residential choice is the main theme explored here, focusing on the reasons why they moved to inner-city neighborhoods. Secondly, the approach to their social practices, consumer behaviors, and preferences helps to connect residential choice to beliefs and perceptions of life in urban centers. The data analyzed in this paper comes from interviews with newcomers of Floresta, a central neighborhood in Belo Horizonte (Brazil). Located in the eastern region, Floresta is among the oldest neighborhoods in the city and was protected as an urban heritage site in the city in 1996 due to its historical, architectural, identity, and memorial values. Interviewees address their motivations for living in Floresta and their sense of belonging in three interlinked spheres: the neighborhood’s centrality, its heritage status, and appreciation for old-timers’ lifestyles. Heritage is revealed in its material and intangible dimensions, which are based on the residents’ own experience but also on external representations about Floresta. In addition, newcomers refer to Floresta’s physical and symbolic characteristics, focusing on its central location as one of the greater attributes, and on ways of life performed by old-timers, with the appreciation of aspects that allude to life in the countryside. I examine the relations between the taste and motivation of this newcomer’s group and the literature on the widespread word gentrifier and on other terms that have emerged to identify and name the agents of gentrification as an urban phenomenon.

Tanja Ehmann (University of Applied Sciences of Potsdam, ehmann@fh-potsdam.de)

**Vagabondage and the right to the city**

In this presentation I would like to introduce the Vagabundenkongress 2020 project. The Vagabundenkongress takes its inspiration from the 1929 congress of the same name, which was organized by Gregor Gog and a collective of homeless and wandering artists. Around 500
people attended the congress in Stuttgart with the primary goal of demanding rights for homeless people. In August 2020 activists and artists with or without a permanent residence organized a congress at a public park area in Berlin. The event was given license by the police to take place as a political demonstration after a previous request to register the congress as a public event was refused by the district administration. In analysing the three-year long process to realize the congress, there are some clear similarities between the past and the present: conditions, circumstances, communication processes and practices for organizing and mobilizing people from the streets and bring them together with artists and activists who demand for the right to the city and freedom of movement. In my work I will aim to develop the concept of Vagabondage as socio-cultural, socio-ecological and artistic practice and as a figuration of thought and explore questions about commodification of public space, the segregation and discrimination of homeless people and how the re-appropriation of public spaces, even if only as a temporary situationist spectacle, could be perceived as an emancipatory action.

Ezgi Guler (European University Institute - Florence, ezgi.guler@eui.eu)

Care-networks, resistance and self-organization: Trans sex workers’ struggle in urban Turkey

Through ethnographic methods and semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted over two years from August 2017 to August 2019, this research, explores the coping and resisting strategies of transgender sex workers in urban Turkey with pervasive violence and societal exclusion. Moving beyond the structural discourses of victimization, I situate the responses of sex workers within their specific urban and relational context and enquire their support networks and collective coping strategies. Furthermore, I examine the ways in which sex workers resist violence, stigma, and discrimination, in order to actively challenge their conditions and to make advancements in their lives, even in the most constraining circumstances. For instance, they establish their own territorial social movements and participate in or organize political action, in addition to getting involved in support exchanges. However, their care networks and practices of resistance are not necessarily expressions of unequivocal solidarity. I also explore the ways in which precarious, violent, and exclusionary forces not only condition trans sex workers’ circumstances, but also render their informal networks and collective efforts precarious. I particularly find that although solidarity persists, precariousness, at work and in the life, hinder the emergence of their collective resistance.

4 - From neighborhood to community, or from community to neighborhood? (Panel “Urban Ethnographies”)

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Chairs

Marek Nowak (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, marek.nowak@amu.edu.pl)
Przemysław Pluciński (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, plucin@amu.edu.pl)
Presentations

Ipek Demirsu (University of Padua, ipek.demirsudibiase@phd.unipd.it)

**Visualizing Belonging in Urban Spaces:**

**Citizen Remapping of a Multicultural Neighborhood**

The cityspace is a particular socio-political setting where a multitude of social actors and spatial identities flourish. The proximity of situated everyday practices can give way to both an inward looking exclusionary identity based on reactionary values, or an outward looking pluralist identity based on cosmopolitan principles. Such spatial dimension in the analysis of identities is especially relevant in local struggles that seek to define membership to the political community, where shared urban spaces become both subjects and objects in rewriting terms of belonging. This research is an attempt to unearth what makes it possible for a multicultural neighborhood like Veronetta to strive as a pluralist model of urban citizenship bringing together different migrant communities as well as sexual minorities, in the city of Verona known as the stronghold of far-right and ultra-Catholic groups who take pride in a resilient particularistic identity. A novel approach to urban ethnography is undertaken with the method of respondent-generated imagery. By asking participants with a variety of backgrounds to photograph the neighborhood they live in, the study seeks to illustrate how a pluralist understanding of belonging is constructed via urban spaces and everyday situated practices from the eyes of city-zens. Taken as communicative cues, these photos are then elaborated through in-depth interviews. In so doing, the research provides much needed insights onto concrete bottom-up processes of progressive community building in the everyday urban context, as well as how these processes are manifested in the material realities of the cityspace.

Luca Bottini (University of Milan Bicocca, luca.bottini@unimib.it)

**The role of the quality of urban environment in the propensity for community participation: the case of three neighborhoods in Milan, Italy**

This paper presents the results of a research that took place during the period 2016-2019 in three neighborhoods of the city of Milan. The objective was to investigate the existence of a relationship between the perception of the environmental quality of the neighborhood and the propensity for community participation in three sample of residents within the city. The idea of urban space which we refer follows the socio-physical paradigm proposed in environmental psychology, so the space can be interpreted as an object where social, symbolic and physical features are embedded each other. The urban space conceived as such interacts directly with people through a transactional relationship, where people influence spaces and vice-versa. So, the working hypothesis was to expect different levels of community participation based on the average level of quality of urban environment perceived: the better the quality the better the participation and vice-versa. Using a websurvey technique, the relationship between urban space and residents’ behavior in community participation has been studied. A group of validated psychometric scales has been administered in order to detect the degree of quality of the urban environment perceived and finally through regression models was investigated the role played by spatial and socio-demographic factors in influencing the propensity of the sample of citizens in community participation. Research outcomes show a strong relation between spatial perception and positive/negative propensity to participate and these variables affect remarkably more than sociodemographic factors. This highlights how space can play a strong role in understanding of urban phenomena, giving at it not only a background role in the whole analytical process comprehension. The neighborhoods chosen were sufficiently different for their spatial, historical
and social backgrounds, so we could measure how much community participation differed based on the diverse urban areas characteristics which had been investigated.

Fabio Corbisiero (University of Naples “Federico II”, fabio.corbisiero@unina.it)
Salvatore Monaco (Free University of Bozen, salvatore.monaco@unibz.it)

**Homosexual neighborhoods: places of inclusiveness, integration and tourist appeal**

In recent decades homosexual community has started a self-determination process, contributing to a morphological transformation of the cities. In particular, in large cities the neighborhood represents the best example of a “homosexualized” place, in which public and private spaces in it contribute to overcoming the male heterosexual domain in society. These are “villages”, “districts”, “clusters”, urban contexts that not only represent places of encounter, exchange and contamination for the inhabitants, capable of facing the social hostility built by homophobia, but that also give to the cities appeal and tourist interest, as they stand out as poles of inclusiveness and integration. The paper intends to retrace the main steps that led to the birth and development of homosexual neighborhoods, retracing the most interesting interpretative models proposed by sociology.

**5 – In/Exclusion at the festival city**

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**Chairs**

Briony Sharp (University of West of Scotland, briony.sharp@uws.ac.uk)
Louise Platt (Manchester Metropolitan University, l.platt@mmu.ac.uk)
Rebecca Finkel (Queen Margareth University - Edinburgh, rfinkel@qmu.ac.uk)

**Presentations**

Sabastiano Citroni (Insubria University - Varese, sebastiano.citroni@uninsubria.it)

**Exclusionary implications of civic events with inclusive goals. Cultural Power and Associative Styles**

This contribution draws on an ethnographic account of two civil society events, both focused on “everyday multiculturalism” as a strategy to pursue goals of social inclusion in the same neighbourhood on the outskirts of Milan. The empirical evidence presented introduces two main research findings. The first concerns a recurrent pattern in the way civil society events unfold: their production of subtle forms of social exclusion through practices and organising processes that are genuinely inclusive in both their intentions and subsequent development. The second illustrates different exclusionary implications produced by the two similar observed civic events, and underlines how they took shape through two associative styles. This variable is crucial in the discussion proposed regarding the type of control and form of cultural power exerted by civil society subjects when setting up urban events with inclusive goals.

Manuel Garcia-Ruiz (ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon, urbiteit@gmail.com)

**Festivals of Light, between creativity and city branding**

In the last 20 years, the number of festivals of light has grown exponentially, going from a few and very specific events, with a strong artistic character, to being impossible to quantify and
respond to commercial, tourist and entertainment logics. The municipalities learned very quickly to integrate this type of program into their calendars, and to assimilate them into their political agendas as tactics to improve certain problems such as seasonality, brand image, or international projection. Although highly criticized for an apparent commodification of the arts, or for being considered as catalysts for a disneyification of urban space, festivals of lights have managed to position themselves and occupy a very specific niche market between the tourism industry and the cultural and creative industries. In this work we will analyze the instrumentalization of the festival "Lumina", which took place in the Portuguese town of Cascais between 2011 and 2018. We will review the corporate communication developed in order to set up a new brand for the city, more creative and innovative; as well as we will deepen into the municipal strategic plans in the area of tourism and culture. We will carry this analysis with resource to journal and media coverage. This work, in addition to the documentary analysis, responds to an extensive ethnographic work carried out with the different actors responsible for the organization of the event.

Barbara Grabher (University of Graz, grabher.barbara@gmail.com)

Echoes of Equality. Negotiations of audience dynamics in equality-themed events in Hull UK City of Culture 2017

In this paper, I examine the correlations between sensations of togetherness and the celebration of equality-themed events in the context of Hull’s celebration of the title UK City of Culture in 2017. My analysis bases on the ethnographic study of six equality-themed events including among others Hull’s Women of the World festival, the commemorative celebration of LGBT50 and the annually reoccurring Freedom Festival. I work with material collected in collaboration with so-called ‘observing-participants’: a team of citizen scientists, who observed and documented their event experiences for the purposes of the research project Gendering Cities of Culture (Grabher, 2018). Drawing upon Victor Turner’s (1989) initial consideration and Edith Turner’s (2012) further developments of the concept of communitas, I argue that the investigated equality-themed events are characterised by ‘sharing common experiences with one’s fellow’ in the ‘unique and magical’ atmosphere of togetherness (E. Turner, 2012: 5). My analysis suggests that echo-chambers are a consequential effect to the shared sensation and thematic interest. Daniel, a research participant and visitor to Hull’s Women of the World Festival, explains the echo-effect: ‘I think [echo-chambers] are like reinforcing an idea, which we all agree upon already. We are already agreeing at the entrance. […] It is like a club where we are all already part of.’ Through a nuanced understanding of the echo-dynamic, I argue that related experiences strongly contribute to the atmosphere and narrative of the equality-themed events. Concluding from the collected empirical material, sensations of togetherness and expected echo-chambers are crucial factors for the motivations and expectations of audience members to attend and engage with celebrations of equality.
8 – New pathways of ecological gentrification in Europe?

https://zoom.us/j/97869873585?pwd=R0lwWVRWbnpkdmt3aDJlc0o1cllYQT09

Chairs

Michael Friesenecker (University of Vienna, michael.friesenecker@univie.ac.at)
Giorgio Osti (University of Padua, g.osti@unipd.it)
Tim Lukas (University of Wuppertal, lukas@uni-wuppertal.de)
Roberta Cucca (Norwegian University of Life Sciences - Oslo, roberta.cucca@nmbu.no)
Jan Üblacker (EBZ Business School - Bochum, j.ueblacker@ebz-bs.de)
Ilaria Beretta (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart – Brescia campus, ilaria.beretta@unicatt.it)

Presentations

Caterina Bracchi (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan, caterina.bracchi@unicatt.it)
Ilaria Beretta (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart – Brescia campus, ilaria.beretta@unicatt.it)

**Mantova Hub: A potential case of blue gentrification?**

As the international literature on gentrification specializes and refines, new and more specific social phenomena are identified, such as the ‘green gentrification’, ‘blue gentrification’, ‘transport gentrification’. As international research shows, cities (i.e. Oslo, Copenaghen, Vienna, Leipzig) have been recently redefining their relationship with the water, and blue infrastructure are becoming elements of new, upmarket development projects. Most cities are trying to transform brownfield sites (ex-harbours) into new, high-quality, urban districts, which include not only expensive apartments but also creative, cultural and technological industries as well as commodified leisure and entertainment spaces. But, according to some authors (cfr. Cucca, 2019: 55), these processes involve social injustice problems, fostering appropriation of the economic values of an environmental resource by one class from another. According to Oakley, for example, (2011: 234), “waterfront renewal is being driven by a neoliberal competitive city paradigm” and megastructures and signature buildings epitomise the performativity of neoliberal competitiveness on the waterfront (Doucet et al. in Cucca, 2019: 55). The city of Mantova, in Northern Italy, was founded on one of the widest wetlands of Italy. Throughout the centuries, different reclaims and canalizations have taken place but, more recently, especially the area around the ancient port has been left in disuse creating a no-man’s-land between the city and the lake Inferiore, around which popular- and social-housing districts have emerged. Today a regeneration project to give new life to this area via the development of public facilities such as a school, a research centre, a hostel and a bikeway has been approved and financed. The “Mantova Hub” project focuses on regaining access to an area of the city long forgotten in name of sustainability, and on restructuring the relationship of the citizenship with the lake. The case study wants to analyze the role that the urban regeneration project “Mantova Hub” might play for a new definition of the relationship between the city and its waters. The aim of the research is to investigate whether the project, developed in a marginal area of the city, traditionally a social-housing and popular neighborhood, could represent in the medium/long-term a prosperous ground for a case of eco- and blue gentrification.
Dani Broitman (Technion - Israel Technological Institute, danib@technion.ac.il)

**Urban dynamics, land use change and ecological gentrification: A Dutch case study**

Ecosystem services are defined as benefits obtained by humans from ecosystem functions and processes. A large part of the ecosystem services available to dwellers in urban areas is directly related to the configuration of land uses in their immediate neighborhoods. In particular, the location and extent of nearby urban green infrastructures, defined as a network of interconnected natural, semi-natural and artificial green areas within and around cities. These urban green infrastructures provide a wide range of important and valuable ecosystem services, ranging from psycho-physical well-being and recreation, to micro-climatic regulation. But since these ecosystem services depend intrinsically on the relative location and accessibility between the source and the (potential) beneficiary, their provision is necessarily unequal in space: For example, dwellers living relatively far away from green infrastructures are disadvantaged in this aspect, compared to people that live close to them. But the physical environment of the city is also dynamic and generally experience parallel processes of spatial expansion and land use change. Therefore, the provision of ecosystem services related to urban green infrastructures change over time, and together with them, their associated inequality. However, and quite surprisingly, an elusive and often neglected aspect of ecosystem services assessment has been a proper identification of the beneficiaries: Who win, and who lose in the playground defined by land use change dynamics? This presentation suggests a method to explicitly assess the availability of ecosystem services related to green infrastructures over time based on the interfaces between changing land uses and the places where people live. Using a detailed spatial analysis of land-use change and residential location in The Netherlands over almost two decades, we identify places in which ecological gentrification is taking place, along with the location of ecosystem-services disadvantaged areas. The results show that there is a large mismatch between “traditional” measures of gentrification and the specific “green-infrastructure-related” gentrification addressed by this study.

Rebecca Cavicchia (Norwegian University of Life Sciences - Oslo, rebecca.cavicchia@nmbu.no)

**Urban densification and displacement pressure: new perspectives on ecological gentrification**

As the strong linkage between urban sustainability strategies and socio-spatial inequalities is increasingly recognized, there is a need in planning research to better understand the drivers of possible “unjust sustainabilities”. A recent but extensive body of studies has introduced new perspectives on the ways gentrification is traditionally portrayed, providing relevant theoretical contributions and empirical evidence about associations between deemed sustainable initiatives and various forms of ecological gentrification. Even though urban densification is increasingly scrutinized for its connections with gentrification, neighborhood-level studies investigating new densification areas, socio-demographic change and displacement pressure are still lacking, especially in European contexts. To aim at filling this gap I will use Oslo as a case study of urban densification. Adopting an urban political ecology perspective, I will combine i) quantitative analysis of socio-demographic data; ii) spatial analysis to map associations between densification, displacement pressure and neighborhood change; and iii) critical analysis of local development plans. Specifically, the paper focuses on densification hubs, newly developed areas around transportation nodes in semi-central areas of the city. For three decades, Oslo has implemented transportation-hubs densification as a primary anti-sprawl strategy, contributing to its reputation as one of the most sustainable European cities. However, the adoption of densification has
coincided with a neoliberal turn of the public policies. I argue that in a combination of neoliberal planning and housing policies, and increasing desirability of “environment friendly” life-style, more middle-upper income residents choose to live in close proximity to transportation hubs and high-density mixed-use areas, while such opportunity may be hindered for low and moderate income residents. As the main tenure form in Oslo is homeownership, direct displacement is a limited phenomenon compared to other contexts. Therefore, I build on Marcuse’s displacement(s) definitions, arguing for associations between new densification areas, indirect displacement and displacement pressure. Despite recent efforts by the Municipality of Oslo, an integration of measures of housing affordability and displacement risk containment with urban sustainability policies is still lacking, thus suggesting the necessity for rethinking the existing policy framework.

Giorgio Osti (University of Padua, g.osti@unipd.it)

*Seeds of eco-gentrification in the middle size rivertowns of Po Valley*

The presentation concerns a research in progress on rivers and cities in Northern Italy. The macro area is scattered of hundred middle size towns built nearby short rivers rich of water. Most of them were crucial factors of industrialisation and goods mobility. Now those functions have disappeared almost completely and rivers forgotten. However, ecological worries and chances are changing the drift to river marginalisation. Water security and the importance to protect watercourse in the heart of cities are mobilising old and new resources. One of them, amazingly, are societies of canoeing et similia. They have often hundred members and sometimes work for third persons, like disable people. Such associations are crucial actors in the possible formation of river advocacy coalition. Thus, gentrification is not any more based on traditional real estate improvements, but on more immaterial processes – recreation, sporting, making parlour - in which new social barriers emerge. The research is based on a sample of 25 cities, province capitals, selected on a universe of 43, all placed in the Po river watershed. Analysis will concern ‘games’ and ‘projects’ along those town rivers. The former term recalls the concept of agonist reciprocity, essentially a relational model, the latter recalls the organisational literature on projectification, not far from governmentality references to new social orders.

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**THURSDAY 01.28.2021**

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**Chairs**

Alexandre Vaz (Nova University of Lisbon, avazphoto@yahoo.com)
Frédéric Vidal (Authonomous University of Lisbon, fvidal@autonoma.pt)
Monica Bernardi (University of Milan Bicocca, monica.bernardi@unimib.it)

Tourist platformization: a look to the case of Milan

The work starts from the assumption that the sharing economy and digital platforms are opening opportunities and challenges for cities, shaping a new urban tourism. Contemporary tourists gain new chances in terms of hospitality, mobility and experience (European Union, 2015; Dredge and Gymothy, 2015); nevertheless, the massive spread of short term rental (STR) platforms is activating/strengthening processes of gentrification (Guttentag, 2013), hotelization and disneyfication (Bryman, 2004; Lee, 2016) for some cities, exacerbating the already difficult situation of the affordable housing (Brauckmann, 2017; Wachsmuth and Weisler, 2018). The case study chosen is Milan, since according to the Global Destination Cities Index, it scores 5th place in Europe, surpassing Rome (8th) and Venice (10th), and 15th place around the world. The city has also adopted specific guidelines to promote and manage the “sharing economy”, signed the Sharing Cities Declaration and launched several local initiatives (such as the civic crowdfunding campaign, the coworking vouchers, the city food policy ...). The study adopts a mixed method approach: first a focus group with experts deepens the specific case of Short-Term Rentals (STR) in relation to urban tourism, then the case study is analysed relying on institutional and scientific materials for the “policy part”, and on the outlines of the main local sharing services for the “offer part”. Lastly, a set of semi-structured interviews to local owners of hostels and low budget hotels collects the perception of the traditional local hospitality sector towards “tourist platformization”.

The conclusions propose some preliminary considerations about the emergence of a new urban tourism based on sharing economy services and platforms. The analysis shows different levels of awareness: the voice of experts contextualizes the case study in the bigger picture of risks and challenges posed by digital platforms; while the opinions of traditional business operators testify a perception of the phenomenon still confused and only partially aware of its impacts. The contribution paves the way for further analysis on the topic. A last remark is related to the global pandemic that has completely changed the tourist panorama, by zeroing out tourism and emptying our cities, reversing also the STR scenario and probably setting the ground for a “new new urban tourism” (Bernardi, 2020; Gainsforth, 2020).

Maria João Gomes (Cics.Nova Lisbon, mjaomgomes@yahoo.com)
Luis Manata (Cics.Nova Lisbon, lmanata@gmail.com)
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Tourism in a peripheral territory in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon

This presentation is about a study of the older part of Almada, a city separated from Lisbon by the Tagus estuary. This territory is characterized by a suburbia development in the second half of the XX century and, presently, strongly marked by vacant industrial areas. It has a privileged location on the other side of the river, just in front of Lisbon historic center, and it is noteworthy the small historic center and the astonishing views. Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, has been experiencing, in particular since the crisis, a strong promotion on the national and local level to attract investment and visitors. The intensification of tourists is causing a huge socio-spatial impact on the older part of the city for many already considered excessive. Following the trend of New Urban Tourism and the aim of visiting territories off the beaten path, (small) businesses and
the local authority of Almada see here an opportunity to gain market share. In this sense, the goal of this article is to present the perception of place regarding visitors, and to apprehend their characteristics and what attracts them. The second objective is to capture the impact that the huge increase of tourism in Lisbon is having in this territory and how the population faces an increment of visitors. A multi-method approach is used based on the analysis of different social media, press, blogs, tourist guides, interviews, statistical data as well as surveys to visitors and to people that use this area on a regular basis. Results indicate that visitors are essentially Europeans and travel independently. The research also shows that, influenced by Lisbon’s dynamics, real estate prices in the territory are suffering a significant increase. However, tourism is positively viewed by the population. It is considered a mechanism of economic development and urban requalification.

Anneli Leemet (Tallinn University, anneli.leemet@gmail.com)
Katrin Paadam (Tallinn University of Technology, katrin.paadam@taltech.ee)
Liis Ojamae (Tallinn University of Technology, liis.ojamae@taltech.ee)
Janika Loorberg (Tallinn University of Technology, jaanika.loorberg@gmail.com)

Residing in the heart of tourism.

Post-gentrification attempts to preserve heritage and life in the Old Town of Tallinn

Living in the historical medieval city centre, with its built-in contradictions between the promise of expected life quality and the city’s perceived advantages as a tourism destination, is a challenge in many ways. As a powerful resource for shaping residential identities, the symbolic capital consecrated in the built heritage of the Old Town in Tallinn equally occurs the primary source for branding strategies to attract ever larger flows of tourists, as well as property investors and agents offering various forms of accommodation. The presentation addresses complex intertwined issues related to the preservation of the Tallinn Old Town architectural heritage both as a home as well as a tourist attraction. In the post-gentrification era, the situation is characterised by continuously transforming circumstances of diversifying social composition of residents (homeowners, tenants), increasing tourism loads and urban policy attempts to secure interests of different actors. Thus, the main focus of the presentation is set on tensions between tourism, heritage preservation and residential sphere reverberated in expectations and strategies of different actors involved as well as providing critical assessment of the prior and post pandemic situations. The discussion draws on evidence from more recent interdisciplinary research (Michelson et al 2020; Michelson and Paadam 2016; Michelson 2014; Michelson and Paadam 2010), showing homeowners as significant reproducers of heritage through their daily spatial practices, efforts made into community building and property restoration as well as critically identifying policy measures for alleviating the consequences of extensive tourism. The analysis also provides new knowledge and potentially new perspectives from the joint-study of urban sociologists and architectural historians conducted in Tallinn.

Antonietta Mazzette (University of Sassari, mazzette@uniss.it)
Sara Spanu (University of Milan Bicocca, sara.spanu@unimib.it)

Temporary housing and persistent problems: urban attractive in a post pandemic era

In recent decades several European cities have been frantically focused on becoming attractive places. This has impacted the use of the city and led to a set of new practices aimed at: 1) making the historical and artistic heritage an economic asset; 2) renewing the city’s image through new architectural buildings; 3) regenerating abandoned areas for cultural and recreational purposes;
4) being the venue for national and international events. Such practices were all targeted to attract provisional and temporary populations, rather than permanent residents. Therefore, the increase of city users and consumers was inherent in the very assumptions of these policies: if the city is able to welcome and accommodate visitors/tourists/temporary inhabitants, great margins of urban success can be achieved. In this context, residents are also part of the circuits of entertainment and consumption, even though their social role can conflict with the very essence of the urban revitalization policies. One negative effect was that it became less convenient to rent out housing to resident populations, thus favoring temporary uses and contributing to the expulsion of the most vulnerable stable groups. The ongoing health emergency has strikingly highlighted how fragile this model of social life was, first and foremost with reference to the mobility of temporary urban living, a phenomenon that has expanded as a result of the spread of specialized online platforms, such as Airbnb. The increase of temporary housing, mainly for tourism, triggered, in fact, a change in the morphology of neighborhoods and urban areas with questionable outcomes regarding the physical and social regeneration of places, which has been exacerbated by the health measures imposed by the Covid-19 epidemic. In a problematic approach, this paper questions whether a rethinking of housing can be included in the agenda of local administrations and whether it can represent a first step in developing a different urban model.

Riccardo Valente (Rovira i Vigili University - Tarragona, riccardo.valente@urv.cat)

Micro-Geographies of crime and fear in Barcelona: seeking a relationship between urban mobilities and people insecurities

The relationship between crime and urban mobilities has received little attention up to present in favour of a rather static focus on the environmental features of urban areas as predictors for future victimization. Yet, crime is a highly dynamic phenomenon and prior literature has shown that it does not take place randomly but, instead, it concentrates spatially in a very small portion of a city. Also, if crime itself is concentrated in a few places, it seems reasonable to expect the same to be true for fear of crime, defined as the negative emotional reactions generated by crime or symbols associated with crime. The present research aims at analysing how social practices and the use of space might be connected with crime patterns, on one hand, and the emergence of a feeling of unsafety among residents, on the other. The analysis specifically focuses on the impact that tourism-related mobility flows (tourists and what goes with them: workers, lifestyle migrants, investments, etc.) could have on crime occurrence in Barcelona. Mobilities and crime were assumed to share a two-fold relationship. First, crime and fear in residential settings can push residents to alter their daily routine or even to move out, as a last resort. Second, mobilities (e.g. around night life districts or touristic venues, etcetera) are supposed to increase opportunities for crime to occur. As for the analytical approach, the ambition is to provide a dynamic operationalization of ‘context’ and explore alternative measures of residential settings. The proposed approach was intended to reduce the bias associated with neighbourhood-based analysis so as to shed light on the spatial heterogeneity of objective and/or subjective determinants of people’s fears. The provisional results reveal that victimization in Barcelona is connected to residential instability (co-presence of tourists/non-stable population with residents) and features of architectural and social disorder. These findings underline the tense relationship between stable populations (residents) and “floating” collectives (tourists). The research benefits from the support of the ongoing project SMARTDEST — Cities as mobility hubs: tackling social exclusion through ‘smart’ citizen engagement, funded under the Horizon 2020 program.
4 - From neighborhood to community, or from community to neighborhood?
(Panel “In search for the community: local struggles in the global perspective”)

https://zoom.us/j/96547547291?pwd=ZFNSZDZ3S1VGdS9JbjudhN1i1bDIzdz09

Chairs
Marek Nowak (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, arek.nowak@amu.edu.pl)
Przemysław Pluciński (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, plucin@amu.edu.pl)

Presentations
Fayrouz Eldabbagh (fayrouz.eldabbagh@gmail.com)

Mobilization and politicization of informal settlements in the face of urban development projects: The protest movements of residents of Al-Warraq island neighborhood in Cairo (1998 - 2018)

Urban renewal of informal settlements in the center of the Greater Cairo Region is part of a general "settlement policies". These governmental policies intervene on the "socio-spatial distribution of individuals", which include the displacement of part or the whole population living in a given space, which instigate reactions, political and social contestations between the state and the inhabitants because each has their own material interests and symbolic perceptions on the territory they defend. In general, researchers tend to focus on the criminalization or the geographical statistical dimension of informal areas. In this paper, the researcher aim to investigate Al-Warraq Island, an informal area, as social space built by the needs, identities, hopes, and problems of the residents of this neighborhood, to focus on the social structure of the neighborhood to examine the movement of ordinary people, to know what they think, their practices of appropriation of everyday space, as well as the forms by which they contest politically the presence of power in their territory against urban development projects. Hence, "How are residents of the Al-Warraq Island neighborhood mobilizing and politicizing themselves against urban development projects?" The first Hypothesis discusses the transformation of the "informal social networks" in the informal district from the role of suppliers of equipment and services independently from the state towards the role of politicization and resistance. The neighborhood, therefore, engages in collective actions through a social organization formed by strong networks of informal sociability linked by a common space of the neighborhood. The second hypothesis argues on the daily and circumstantial common experiences, which the inhabitants of the neighborhood undergo on the island of Al-Warraq, re-emerge a common perception and an attachment to a common identity of “inhabitant of the neighborhood” which makes them react together. The third hypothesis examines the moral economic perspective (a threat to their livelihood associated with a sense of injustice) that is framed by the entrepreneurs of politicization in the neighborhood. Therefore, the inhabitants will be ready to bear the cost of a political commitment for its protection.
Ceren Kulkul (Humboldt University of Berlin, cerenkulkul@gmail.com)

Social construction of religious belief and transnational identities in community building processes: a case study of Turkish Muslim women in Berlin neighborhoods

My PhD dissertation project aims to conceptualize religious observance and moral religiosity in the case of a transnational social group by asking the question of how these two different ways of believing affect social networking, use of city, and access to resources, daily routines and social roles. Focusing on the second and third cohorts of Turkish Muslim women in Berlin, the research differentiate religious belief as an instrument, as a practice, as a way of constructing community, as culture, as a set of moral codes and as spirituality. The sample consists of women with migration background who identify themselves Turkish and Muslim. The age range is intentionally wide -between 21 and 66- because differences among cohorts influence the analysis and give more comprehensive perspective. There are two groups within the sample. First group who regularly practice religion and relate their way of life dedicated to Islamic norms, codes, discourses and are predominantly socialized into Islam, is identified as religious observant. This group sees religion as an instrument to social networking, community building, and access to resources and so on. The second group, on the other hand, is composed of women who identify themselves Muslims but rather in a moral and spiritual way. In the conference, I would like to present a chapter of my thesis that focuses on community building processes and social networks of Turkish Muslim women in and out their neighborhoods. Under this section, I present the concepts of help, respect, reciprocity as well as neighborly relations and rituals of social networking. With the supervision of Prof. Dr. Talja Blokland, I conceptualize community and how it is constructed among family, relatives, mosque and other Turkish women on the street. Comparison among two sample groups will enable me to discuss different ways of community construction and urban-social relations in detail. I will also show the reciprocal relationship between social ties, community and neighborhood. The perspective in the chapter is to see neighborhood as a social relations grid and understanding the idea of belonging and community through it.

Chiara Milan (University of Graz, chiara.milan@uni-graz.at)

Reclaiming the cities in the Western Balkans: from right to the city groups to municipalist platforms

In recent years, the privatization and commodification of natural resources, urban space and public services has inspired social action, political mobilizations and protests in many places around the world, including the Western Balkans. Whereas scholars examined urban commons and right to the city (RTC) groups in Western societies, little scholarly has so far explored their emergence and development at the periphery of Europe. Nevertheless, various forms of urban mobilizations undertaken with the aim of constructing “cities for people and not for profit” emerged in the last decade in the Yugoslav successor states. This variety of citizen initiatives and grassroots groups protesting against the marketization of space employed different tactics, and put in place a radical alternative model of space organization that goes beyond the dichotomy public/private, affirming spaces and services as “urban commons”, namely resources belonging to the collectivity that cannot be inserted in the commodification and privatization process. Stemming from these initiatives, some groups decided to give birth to political platforms that, inspired to the global municipalist movement, opted for entering the political arena by running for local elections. This paper explores the different outcomes of two RTC groups that transformed in recent years into municipalist platforms, namely “Zagreb is ours” (Zagreb je naš)
in Zagreb, Croatia and “We won't let Belgrade d(r)own” (Ne davimo Beograd) in Belgrade, Serbia. Based on ethnographic work and a series of in-depth interviews with activists, the paper analyses the ways in which RTC groups responded to the privatisation of space and services in the recent years, and the different trajectories they took while moving from the contentious field to the electoral arena. Specifically, it strives to explain why in Zagreb they managed to enter the electoral arena, while failing to do in Belgrade.

Taru Silvonen (Cardiff University, silvonent@cardiff.ac.uk)

The relationship between neighbourhood and community formation: the case of a former informal settlement in Mexico City

From Wellman and Leighton’s classic categorisation of ‘community lost, saved or liberated’ to Castell’s ‘network society’, how social interactions relate to urban space and localities is central to the theme of neighbourhoods and communities. Understanding neighbourhood as a socio-spatial setting and community as social ties within that spatial setting raises the question what the relationship between neighbourhood and community is. Informal settlements provide a fascinating setting for examining this relationship because of the inherently intertwined spatial and social processes of constructing and inhabiting unused space. Settlements that appear in urban peripheries can be formed through organised group efforts or through a series of coincidental events. Their formation is characterised by cooperation, suggesting that the process of constructing the built environment takes place in tandem with the formation of a social setting. Drawing on six months of ethnographic fieldwork, this paper considers local residents’ contributions to transforming agricultural land to an urban settlement in Mexico City through the lens of community and neighbourhood formation. Collaborative processes from small neighbour groups to broader neighbourhood-wide projects that contributed to the delivery of basic services and urban infrastructure also enabled the formation of local social ties and support networks. The ethnographic case study shows how collaboration between residents led to the formation of community networks. The finding that community-oriented networks have gradually become replaced by more personal networks indicates that collaborations between local residents played an active role in forming and transforming both the community and the living environment.

A shift from an informal settlement to a consolidated, densely habited urban neighbourhood characterised by insecurity and disorder is further reflected in local social ties and exchange of social support which has become more limited. The finding that local social ties that developed during neighbourhood formation have begun to diminish, resembling a ‘community lost’, shows a close relationship between neighbourhood and community. The paper proposes that furthering the understanding of the connection between neighbourhood and community has potential to support declining neighbourhoods and communities.

1 – Artistic interventions in urban space

https://zoom.us/j/99989221753?pwd=MHowSjhLTU1xalRjWHZGZi9yUkpkUT09

Chairs

Andrea Glauser (University of Music and Performing Arts - Vienna, glauser@mdw.ac.at)
Barbara Kremser (University of Music and Performing Arts - Vienna, kremser@mdw.ac.at)
Presentations

Rachel Mader (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Lucerne, rachel.mader@hslu.ch)

«Political Pornography» or emancipatory populism? The Center for Political Beauty (Zentrum für Politische Schönheit) and its multi-layered choreography of the public sphere

Since more than ten years the Berlin-based artist group Zentrum für Politische Schönheit (ZPS) is known for its spectacular performances in the public sphere with which they react on the political issues they consider as urgent and treated in a cynical way by those in power. Be it the refugee crisis or the rise of the political right especially in Germany, with their «aggressive humanism» (ZPS) they not only point to the grievances and clearly accuse the politically responsible persons, they also sketch and to a certain point realize possible solutions for crises they diagnose. The densely composed interventions all interact with the different layers the public sphere is made of. Strategies of communication via posters, the internet or one-to-one information on the street are combined with mass demonstrations, symbolic manifestations (e.g. temporary installation of memorials), public staging of private rituals like funerals and public calls for decentralised participatory interventions are part of their activities, usually combined into a striking and rather noisy event. Quite a few of these activities are halfway illegal, usually the ZPS very carefully plays with these boundaries. Even though their actions always are accurately fitted on the topic, the above mentioned criteria show a unique signature which regularly enrage the critique – another layer of the public sphere – who is whether scandalized by the «political pornography» (Süddeutsche Zeitung) they see in these staging, whereas others praise the radical literacy in their activities, pointing out that it’s not the language of the ZPS that is scandalous, but the reality the group is referring to. The paper will dissect this constellation by following the theoretical reflections of Tom Holert. He insists that we should ask who uses which visual argument for what (Holert 2008), assuming that visual resources are used for governing (Holert uses the term «Regieren» in german) in a dynamic social setting. Starting from this background I will analyse if the interventions of the ZPS are intensifying the state of emergency currently often declared (among others Stéphane Hessel and more recently Bernhard Pörksen 2018). Or if the group develops and tests an alternative critical vocabulary for the public sphere, a requests Chantal Mouffe – among others – in her recent publication For a Left Populism (2019) declare as an urgent need.

Eynat Mendelson Shwartz (Technion - Israeli Institution of Technology, eynatme@campus.technion.ac.il)

Nir Mualam (Technion - Israeli Institution of Technology, Nirm@technion.ac.il)

How much do cities want to control their public spaces? A look into mural regulation

Murals are a common phenomenon in urban landscapes, weaving artistic and cultural expressions into the city. Some are promoted by the establishment while others are created as resistance. Despite their popularity, murals may generate tensions and contradictions among stakeholders that can lead to real life disputes. At the root of these issues lies the paradoxical ontology of murals: namely, their dual identity as both a public and private phenomenon. On one hand, they are located in the public realm, exposed to public interests. On the other hand, they are located on specific walls and are therefore dependent on proprietary and personal concerns. Through the years, the importance of the visualization and design of urban environments has grown. Local governments are seen in many places around the world as responsible for the city’s
public spaces, taking on the role of regulators, mediators, and facilitators. Furthermore, they have the difficult task of balancing public and private rights and interests, such as maintaining public order and protecting individual rights and freedoms. But, do cities really want to control all of their public spaces? The answer is not simple and contains many considerations. Their ability to control public spaces is a double-edged sword. On one hand, as local governments assume a high degree of control, they are granted stronger tools to shape their murals to better suit the city’s vision, but on other hand, this ability may collide with the freedoms of property owners, artists, and communities, weakening the city’s creative forces and emasculating informal activities. In the paper we focus on Portland, Oregon, chosen for its progressive planning system and its 'creative city' approach. We examine the city approaches murals, its role in governing public spaces, and the amount of control it chooses to have over murals. By doing so, we will highlight the dilemmas local governments face when promoting mural policy and how mural policies affect the ability of property owners and initiators to promote murals. We believe this information will also aid artists and activists to better understand the framework in which they are working in and the decision-making process of municipalities. we conducted an extended mural policy analysis in the two cities, using policy documents, guidelines, legislation, and other secondary sources. Then we conducted a series of semi-structured interviews with key figures

Emanuele Stochino (University of Brescia, socialarte@tim.it)

The Capacity of Street Art of Spread out the Message of the Prevention on the COVID-19

This abstract aims to show how Street Art, through its recent productions on COVID-19, is reflecting on change: of social relationships, both individual and intra-individual, taking place in society and how an art form manages to convey in effective way, through humor and simplicity, the information of new behaviors to prevent the spread of the pandemic. According to Peter Bengtson (2014) the term "Street Art" cannot be defined in a conclusive way since it is constantly being negotiated. As both the themes and the artistic techniques of Street Art are not pre-established as they vary according to the evolution: -Social and historical change, in the issues to be treated. -Scientific and new technological evolutions both in materials and in social media.

In 2019 WHO published the report "What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being?" Where it emerged that the effects of art on health can be found both in the areas of health promotion and prevention (as in the case of the corona virus) and in the management and treatment of pathologies (psychiatric, assistance to the chronically ill, etc.) In the case of COVID-19, some street artists have created works that underline some "well-being" themes promoted by the WHO, including: •Prevention, Tvboy's work "Love at the time of the coronavirus" represents a reinterpretation of Hayez's "The Kiss", where Romeo and Juliet wear a mask. •Growing need for the re-evaluation of spirituality by ordinary people, as in the work that represents the Virgin Mary with a gas mask. •The appreciation for the work done by health care workers is depicted in the form of super heroes (for example the work of Kai Uzey "Super nurse") or Tvboy angels. Street Art acquires its authority through mediating complex information, in this case about COVID-19, and the trust that people place in street artists. The latter show the problems starting from common sense and use symbols linked to the popular tradition "high" (angels) and "low" (comics). The reference of Street Art to tradition, that is, knowledge learned and settled in the past to transmit "information" about the present, puts man at the center both as a human being and as a citizen who must make decisions about his future. e (Fiorucci, 2017).
"How to survive the day? public schnitzel, bus traffic and other escape attempts"

"How to survive the day" is the central question posed by the social scientists Laurie Taylor and Stanley Cohen, who in Ausbruchversuche (1977 ibid.) write about "everyday life, about the uncertainty of this life and about the fragility of identities". In contradiction between the necessity of the so-called "reality work" (requirements and forces of social and civil reality) and the so-called "identity work", which consists of keeping a "free, underdetermined ego", is according to Taylor/Cohen the main problem of personal dealing with life. In order to make implicit social norms of reality work visible, it is helpful to break - at least temporarily - rules of everyday interaction. The fact that routines and interpretations do not correspond to those of other people in our social circle creates dysfunctions that make us aware of our habits. These disturbances can be provoked by epidemics, political measures, ethnomethodological crisis experiments (Garfinkel), escape attempts (Taylor/Cohen), or by art, for example, when a dining car (Barbara Ungepflegt, 2019) is opened on the day the prohibition of eating and drinking in Vienna's subways was decreed by the governor and schnitzel and champagne were served to the passengers by the artists. The question " How to get through the day?" is asked by many people every day and escape attempts are not only, but especially in the current Corona crisis as little as possible or are punished by the Executive. The art intervention Air pnp - Air pause and peep (Barbara Ungepflegt, 2017 and 2020) can be understood as an escape attempt that reflects the fragility of identities: With the slogan from the Airbnb rental platform "Trust - everything will work out fine" in her mind, Barbara Ungepflegt moved into a specially built extension of a bus stop in Vienna, where she lived two weeks. Air pnp focuses on how the own four walls are more and more made available to wealthy strangers and throws the intimacy and fragility (of life) into the public, outside. Unweaning takes place: At home worldwide and always in search of one's (self). This work tries to illustrate how art can try to help people to find a way out of their own bubble, to try to make escape attempts. Following this goal, one of the questions underlying this presentation could be formulated as follows: What crises can art create to bring changes in supposedly regulated (crisis) systems?

12 – Urban regeneration: policies and effects (Panel 1)

https://zoom.us/j/92890353629?pwd=ZWdGWXRyZlhxS0FVDBySkxKWi5dz09

Chairs

Sònia Alves (University of Lisbon, sonia.alves@ics.ulisboa.pt)
Veronica Conte (University of Milan Bicocca, v.conte12@campus.unimib.it)
Hans Thor Andersen (AAU – Aalborg University, hta@sbi.aau.dk)
Davide Olori (University of Bologna, davide.olori@unibo.it)

Presentations

Federico Camerin (IUAV University of Venice, fcamerin@iuav.it)

The regeneration of industrial neighbourhoods towards the creation of new profit-oriented areas of centrality.
A comparison between Barcelona’s Poblenou and Bologna’s Bolognina
This proposal compares the recent capitalist-led urban regeneration policies of Barcelona’s Poblenou and Bologna’s Bolognina working-class neighbourhoods, which are two context struggling between exchange value and use value, and their socio-spatial impacts. This comparison aims at matching the contradictions arising from neoliberal urban regeneration policies of the Western capitalist city in its meaning of entity which works based on a remarkable role of finance and of land rent as generators of urban growth and socio-spatial transformation bearing in mind the following issues. Firstly, despite Bolognina is smaller than Poblenou –also with a different urban and urban planning history–, the two neighbourhoods followed similar urban evolutions propelled by Fordism aiming to materialise working-class spaces. Secondly, in Poblenou a number of large urban projects –such as 1986-1992 Olympic Village, 1990-2004 Diagonal Mar-Forum, and 2000 22@– already regenerated former industrial and railway assets, while in Bolognina the abandonment took place later and most of the land is still abandoned. This study shows how 20th-century urban development patterns led to a gradual underperforming of Poblenou’s and Bolognina’s large industrial, military and railway properties. Under the concepts of social inclusion, innovation, and sustainability, both cases shows a market-led urban regeneration process to increase the land value. Such planning derived from the global tendencies transforming these cities. Even if Poblenou is an already consolidating study case of urban transformation, Bolognina is still in a phase of early regeneration. These cases can be argued to be a sample of the late 20th-century-capitalist city faced a new global tendency: the city marketing strategies were the “generators” of speculative economies driven by the owners of large properties of urban land, also the public ones. In summary, the analysis showed a trend based on the so-called strategy of “urban surgery” carried out on great properties which originally house local productive activities –such as industrial and railway ones. The typical functions of Poblenou and Bolognina started to be treated as “ordinary” goods from which capitalist interests seek the extrapolation of the maximum economic benefit at the expense of the existing built heritage and socio-economic features.

Fabio Maria Esposito (University of Naples “Federico II”, fabiomaria.esposito@unina.it)
Ilaria Marotta (University of Naples “Federico II”, ilaria.marotta@unina.it)

Regenerating the post-industrial city by fostering innovation?
The case of the Polo Universitario Napoli Est in San Giovanni a Teduccio

Since deindustrialization, spatial, social and productive voids characterize the peripheries and semi-peripheries of many western cities, these territorial segments are often subject to planning activities, scientific analysis and public debates. In the most recent rhetoric perspective of urban regeneration, these areas are characterized as spaces for redevelopment, ‘sustainable’ urban mending and social infrastructuring and form the base for new interventions and planning trajectories. This contribution intends to critically explore this perspective by proposing the results of a research - launched in early 2019 and still ongoing - about the case of the “Polo Universitario Napoli Est”, an Academic and Technological Centre of the Federico II University of Naples. The Centre arose in 2016 upon the ashes of one of the largest abandoned industrial areas in the eastern suburbs of Naples, in the frame of a project co-financed by the EU and led by the Region Campania, and hosts some activities of the Department for Engineering as well as different Innovation Hubs and Academies managed by private companies (e.g. Apple Developer Academy). In terms of pure territorial planning, it is meant to be a social infrastructure, an attempt to “build for people” (Klinenberg, 2018) with the aim of reviving the economy, enhancing local identity, and socializing culture and technological innovation. The research, developed by a multidisciplinary team made up of sociologists, engineers, architects, historians
and economists, aims to investigate the sustainability of buildings, planning management and socialization processes that affect the quality of life of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood and of the Centre’s users. In particular, the sociological component aims to analyse the social and cultural sustainability of the intervention through a mixed methods approach, asking whether and to what extent the techno-structural work has an impact on the local community. The first data emerging from 200 administered questionnaires, several in-depth interviews and a photographic mapping of the neighbourhood indicate that the effects on the social fabric outside the area of the Centre are still rarefied, while confirming the innovative and relational but rather endogamous nature of academic activity.

Tongyun Du (Copenhagen University, todu@ign.ku.dk)

**Housing property and neighborhood interaction under urban renewal: the outcomes in urban China**

The major problem in the contemporary Chinese urbanization, in particular the urban renewal part, is not the change of the physical environment but the ambiguity in property rights. This study explains the urban renewal process, the housing reform and the compensation regime of China. Further, it examines the social and spatial impacts of three different urban renewal periods of recent Chinese history. Besides, this paper describes the type of property rights and relocation policy in Chongqing. Using questionnaire survey data conducted in Chongqing, China the hanging situation and development of property rights in Chongqing after urban renewal were elaborated. Results indicate that, after urban renewal, the proportion of residents in ‘commodity house’ increased strongly (From 19 % to 32 %) and ‘unit public housing (partially private)’ and ‘housing authority public housing’ has dropped, from 18 % to 8 % and from 7 % to 4 % respectively. The degree of a different form of interaction with neighbors (helping, chatting, visiting) is significantly different among the property groups, no matter is current housing property or original housing property. Residents who rent housing and residents who rented housing before urban renewal both have the lowest degree of interaction. However, residents who live in social housing and residents who lived in social housing before urban renewal have the highest interaction with neighbors. The residential socio-demography will also affect the current property rights of the residence. Higher education and High-income population have the ability to afford a house and were less likely to rent the house. People above 50 years old less likely to rent a house or live in social housing right now.

Sara Mela (Polytechnic University of Turin, sara.mela@polito.it)

**Regeneration and/or gentrification: the case of Aurora neighborhood in Turin**

In Italy, gentrification assumes specific characteristics that depend on a number of variables including: first of all, the presence of a large part of the population in homeownership and a limited number of people at risk of displacement; secondly, the presence in many cities of poor neighborhoods with high concentration of ethnic minorities very close to centers with a prestigious historical and architectural heritage. Processes of urban regeneration in neighborhoods of this type can trigger paths of progressive gentrification, going against initial intentions and ending up in expelling part of the population or isolating the poorest groups in the most degraded sectors of the neighborhoods. Literature on gentrification has described the processes of change in neighborhoods and sought to identify the factors associated with these processes; however, little effort has yet been made to identify ways of intervening in neighborhoods "at risk of gentrification". It emerges the need of studies that address the issue not ex post, when the transformation is completed, but ex ante, starting from the identification
and analysis of areas of possible gentrification, and lead to the definition of planning processes that can improve living conditions, limiting the risk of gentrification. These processes start from local resources and move in the direction of strengthening the resilience of the neighborhood, according to shared objectives. The paper contains the results of a qualitative survey carried out by the Politecnico of Turin as part of an action-research project in the Aurora district of Turin. This project led to the opening of a space in the district: a meeting place between University and the neighborhood, where to imagine and develop initiatives and projects with local actors. The analysis was conducted through quantitative data and 50 interviews with privileged witnesses; it highlighted the concerns of residents about the triggering of possible gentrification processes and opened the way to possible strategies for a "light" regeneration that could bring benefits to resident groups and identify some key elements: the redevelopment of public spaces to make them more attractive to residents, the strengthening of meeting centers, the networking with schools and civil society resources, the revitalization of economic fabric, the promotion of artistic and cultural projects aimed at improving social and political inclusion.

11.15 - 13.00

SESSIONS

4 - From neighborhood to community, or from community to neighborhood?
(Panel “Neighborhoods, communities, neoliberal urbanization and beyond”)

https://zoom.us/j/96007220603?pwd=aC9TbS9zZzlK0FUazdTZnJUd29qQT09

Chairs

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Andrzej Bukowski (Jagiellonian University - Krakow, contraab@wp.pl)
Marta Smagacz-Poziemska (Jagiellonian University - Krakow, marta.smagacz-poziemska@uj.edu.pl)

Re-doing care practices through materialities. Some examples from Poland’s big cities neighbourhoods

In our presentation we would like to discuss a role materiality plays in transformation and reproduction of care practices in urban housing estates. By using three categories: encounters, concerns and competences we will take a look at three capabilities of materialities that make them the important agents of neighbourhood care practices reproduction. First, we analyze how particular places stimulate local contacts and subsequently, neighbourhood ties and mutual care. Second, we will present the interconnections between taking care of shared space and taking care for people living there. Third, we will argue that sharing practical skills with neighbours enable pursuing care practices. Our findings, based on the field research conducted in 2016-18, become more and more significant in the current pandemic context. The restrictions of physical
distance and fear of using the objects and places which are used by other people limit the possibility of sharing practical skills and make it difficult to take care of the neighbours and of neighbourhood.

Madalena Corte-Real (University Institute of Lisbon, mcorereal@sapo.pt)
Sandra Marques Pereira (University Institute of Lisbon, s.marquespereira@iscte-iul.pt)

**Trajectories in middle class suburban neighborhoods in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area**

The development of mass housing, essentially in suburban areas, following modernist principles, has been associated with distressed neighborhoods in view of technical and social problems. In Southern Europe, mass housing was mainly developed by the private sector differently from other European societies. Consequently, middle classes were the main target of those developments. This presentation is based on two case-studies of middle-class housing estates, built in the seventies of the twentieth century, in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. The goal is to look at the suburbanization process and to apprehend how these estates emerged in the context of the regional urban planning, how they developed and how they are perceived in terms of sense of belonging by their residents as well as levels of satisfaction. Methodologically, documental analysis of the plans of the housing estates in the context of the larger spatial management is considered as well as auscultation to the residents. Research indicates positive trajectories with high levels of satisfaction in living in these particular suburban neighborhoods.

Daniele Karasz (Ensa Paris La Villette, daniele.karasz@univie.ac.at)
Hamida Sivac (University of Vienna, hamida.sivac@univie.ac.at)
Mark Scherner (University of Vienna, mark.scherner@univie.ac.at)

**Community and repression in new built neighbourhoods:**

re-discussing social control in engaged neighbourhood communities

Urban development in many European cities also builds on the ideas of social mix and cohesive residential communities. Despite all critique, social mix communities are framed as “urban villages”, whereby the neighbourhood community and its controlling function are depicted as a guarantee for security. The repressive aspect of community life, which is traditionally highlighted in the rural context, is mostly ignored when speaking about urban neighbourhoods. The paper will point to this gap in discussing the living together in a large, newly built housing estate in Vienna, Austria. The project was finished in 2019 and is composed by more than 200 subsidized units. The paper builds on our experience as engaged researchers that were directly involved into the planning and the support of the living together in the estate. Financed by housing cooperatives, our project should foster the living together of neighbours with heterogeneous social and ethnic backgrounds. As applied research, our project pursued policy goals, such as social sustainability and social mix. In also considering the lockdown period in spring 2020, the paper will especially focus on the role of online platforms at neighbourhood level. We will discuss how digital platforms became a possibility for neighbours to establish activities, such as festivities and the support of elderly persons during the lockdown. At the same time, the platforms were used to organize the repression of activities among neighbours, such as small parties and the use of a community garden. The paper builds on ethnographic material and describes the positioning of exemplary residents, that where engaged in the organization of certain neighbourhood activities as well as in the repression of others. Our analysis will draw from the work of Norbert Elias. Thereby, we will put an emphasis on his theoretical understanding of neighbourhood as a set of shifting, conflictual power relations. The paper points to the repressive activities entailed in such conflicts; we frame these activities as key to debate frictions between the notions of
neighbourhood, “top-down” implemented community, social mix and cohesion. The focus on the role of digital media will allow us to embed such tensions into aspects of broader urban and regional development.

Tadas Sarunas (Vilnius University, tadas.sarunas@gmail.com)

**Pleasures and pains of urban restructuring: housing practices and symbolic violence in central Vilnius**

In this paper I analyse how the sense of feeling at home is influenced by subjects’ social class, housing tenure type and trajectory in the social space. Changes in such attitudes towards housing and life in the city are connected with the general shifts in housing policy. In a critique of Anglo-Saxon debate on the phenomenon of gentrification I follow Savage’s and Wacquants’ invitations for a Bourdieusian turn in urban sociology. I develop my approach to ethnography of neighbourhood, which allows to look at everyday experiences of people in gentrifying areas as reflecting larger processes of changes in the structure of social class, followed by distant events of economic restructuring. I choose to look at a neighbourhood as at a dense concentration of specific housing within the larger material and symbolic structure of the city. My historic analysis of fields of housing and urban planning in Vilnius allowed to situate the case of neighbourhood in a context of larger structural developments of the city. Ethnographic research of housing histories and current housing practices of subjects living in two houses of one of the “gentrifying” areas of Vilnius show how mundane conflicts and unanticipated solidarities between the neighbours are a part of overall classificatory struggles over urban space. In these struggles some actors are rewarded and some are penalised by the public discourses on the city. These symbolic inequalities are manifesting in the everyday life as isolated acts of symbolic violence.

13 – Housing informality in the Global North: a socio-historical approach

[https://zoom.us/j/96621037825?pwd=Q3ZvK3VrSVBOeDUwNDUxQkhBZXQ3UT09](https://zoom.us/j/96621037825?pwd=Q3ZvK3VrSVBOeDUwNDUxQkhBZXQ3UT09)

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Gaja Maestri (Aston University – Birmingham, g.maestri@aston.ac.uk)

**Presentations**

Maxime Felder (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - Lausanne, maxime.felder@gmail.com)

**Informal housing for informal workers in wealthy Geneva**

This paper deals with informal housing in the prosperous and orderly city of Geneva (Switzerland). At least since the end of WWII, foreign workers have been living in precarious and informal conditions. Paradoxically, while its labour market depends on this cheap manpower, Geneva’s housing market cannot absorb it. A historical approach shows that rather than giving rise to informal settlements such as slums or camps, informal housing emerges in the interstices of the formal housing sector and remain largely invisible. When the issue becomes a public problem and attracts media attention, local authorities respond with temporary solutions while relying on civil society. In the 1950s, seasonal workers were struggling to find housing and slept in garages or buildings under construction. In the 1960s, the growing numbers of workers...
prompted local authorities to provide former military barracks and an exhibition hall for emergency use. In the 1990s, as refugees from the former Yugoslavia became the most pressing "public problem", collective shelters for workers were used to accommodate asylum-seekers and refugees. During the same period, a large squatters’ scene was developing in Geneva, with more than 160 occupied buildings, partly accommodating undocumented newcomers. In the 2000s, with the squat scene gradually disappearing, undocumented newcomers are housed both out of sight and out of regulation: they sublet beds in shared rooms, or rooms in shared flats, without the protections afforded to tenants. In 2020 COVID crisis, some of these undocumented workers lost their housing. Again, local authorities hastily turned former military barracks into accommodations, while the hockey stadium became a food bank. In a city that seems to stand for formality, informal forms of housing have persisted for decades, especially for newcomers. Our current research shows that some of them initially sleep in cars, in tents, in parks, in unoccupied houses and in sublet rooms. This short historical account underlines the continuum between formal and informal housing, with intermediate solutions sometimes organised or at least supported by the state (sheds and shelters that do not meet legal standards, places not intended for housing used as emergency accommodation – underground antiatomic shelters, former military barracks, churches, etc.). This contribution aims at opening up a broader reflexion about the politics of hospitality in European cities.

Francesca Ferlicca (IUAV University of Venice, f.ferlicca@stud.iuav.it )

The regularization of the “borgate” of Rome at the intersection between modernity and tradition

The term informality has gained significant currency and has largely been applied to the studies of economic and development processes occurring in the global south. While informality has become the ‘idiom of urbanization’ (Roy 2009) in the global south, its uptake in the study of urbanization in the global north has been somewhat limited (Ward 1999, 2003; Mukhija and Loukaitou-Sideris 2014). Yet, such moves to use ‘southern theory’ to explain urban dynamics in the Global North and vice versa are increasingly necessary. This paper explores an early case of informal development in the North and its interpretations and theoretical implications. We focus in particular on the modes of urbanization of the borgate in Rome, and the public institutional strategies adopted to integrate the informal city over the post-war period. The political action of the various urban regimes oscillated between the political recognition of a collective movement and the legal recognition of individual property rights. The roman experience shows a progressive entrenchment of the mechanisms of relegation to the private sphere of individual demands and mobilizations. Also, Rome represent a terrain at the intersection between a process of modernization and a resistance to tradition (Cremaschi, 2019). The paper will try to cross fertilise interpretations that have served well for the Global South and the Roman case, with the aim to merge them to meet the challenge of understanding forms of urban development and socio-economic relationships in the Global North.

Laurent Pugnot Lambert (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, laurentpugnotlambert@yahoo.fr)

Unplanned homes: “zemlânka” as a specific object of Soviet housing informality

Among the significant amount of studies dedicated to Soviet urbanism and Soviet urban history, almost none has really dealt with housing informality up to this day. Most of them have pointed out the importance of Soviet urban planning as a global project conceived to control and set in order urban everyday life, and have often understated the ways inhabitants managed to cope
with authoritarian urban politics and housing scarcity in Soviet towns. Adopting a social history frame, this paper proposal aims to explore informal housing’s specific patterns in the Soviet Union during the 1930’s through the case of “zemlânki”. A zemlânka was a rudimentary self-builds mud hut, a typical Soviet informal home which spread around new towns and so-called socialist cities built during the First Five Year Plan, when urbanization dramatically increased, driven by masses of peasants fleeing collectivization. Zemlânki thus became an omnipresent element of urban landscape around the new industrial centres. In a context of harsh housing crisis, building home by oneself was often the only way to get an accommodation close to the town, but it was also a means to own a private form of domestic space out of the State-controlled housing fund. This paper intends to emphasise what kind of social and political stakes such unplanned homes implied: as an hybrid object, between town and campaigns, zemlânki were both the expression of a search of a precarious family autonomy for peasants freshly arrived in towns, and an illegal type of housing interpreted as a form of resistance in the eyes of local authorities. Whereas Soviet regime allegedly ended the housing question by eradicating private property and socializing real estate, zemlânki were perceived as an anomaly, a source of social danger and corruption, threatening the process of civilisation socialist cities were supposed to implement in the fast urbanising USSR of the 1930’s. These tensions between local authorities and inhabitants revealed by informal housing will be studied here through the case of Uralmash, a giant Soviet factory-socialist city built during the 1930’s near to Sverdlovsk, in the Ural region.

Valesca Lima (Maynooth University, valesca.lima@ucdconnect.ie)

From Housing Crisis to Housing Justice
The housing and homeless crisis in Ireland has led to a resurgence in political and media interest. Homelessness in particular, has become a highly debated issue over the past decade and the imagery of increasing family homelessness as a consequence of the housing crisis has stirred up public indignation. Campaigners and housing activists have challenged the government’s market-based policy responses and demanded housing that is accessible to those who need it. This article analyses the strategies used by housing activists to frame homelessness and the housing crisis. Using a framing analysis perspective of social movements, this paper examines the role played by housing activists in problematizing the homelessness issue and the ways they frame the housing crisis. It does so by analysing interviews with housing activists as well as documentary data in order to investigate the political framing of housing advocacy groups. The results show that the construction of political framings is influenced by housing struggles in the post-austerity context. The process of constructing a motivational framing is based on resistance and resilience strategies to accommodate broader projects through a human rights-based approach.

12 – Urban regeneration: policies and effects (Panel 2)

https://zoom.us/j/96529178877?pwd=TDNTY0ZzQnl2eDRPMM2l3eBFqUHBTdz09

Chairs
Sònia Alves (University of Lisbon, sonia.alves@ics.ulisboa.pt)
Veronica Conte (University of Milan Bicocca, v.conte12@campus.unimib.it)
Hans Thor Andersen (AAU – Aalborg University, hta@sbi.aau.dk)
Against the backdrop of China’s very recent urbanisation boom as well as its roaring real estate market, Chinese cities have been undergoing extensive regeneration processes since the early 2000s. Urban space has been increasingly seen as a commodity and a new revenue source for public finance, owing to the commodification of land use rights and the privatization of housing. In many cities, local governments facilitate property-led redevelopments often at the cost of housing rights and social improvements. Through the case study of one regeneration project in Beijing’s historic area, “Dashilar project”, this article analyses how urban regeneration happens at the neighbourhood level during the last decade (2009-2019) and argues that urban regeneration is happening through a plurality of resistances and conflicts within the state coalition and in between the state and the civil society, over the historical meanings of the built environment and tenure/property status in the historic area. The rise and fall of Dashilar project evokes a contested space of power and profits, which is evident in, for instance, divergent visions among stakeholders, incoherent urban policies among different government departments and agencies at multiple levels, etc. Moreover, urban regeneration of central historic areas are subject to wider urban planning processes at municipal level as well as city branding strategies. Through this case study, this article rethinks the implications of growth-machine theory in so-called neoliberal Chinese cities and compares the mechanisms of urban (re)development between China and European cities. This article is based on empirical research conducted in 2019 that includes more than thirty in-depth interviews with a range of stakeholders i.e. planners, bureaucrats, developers, architects, academics, residents, and creative business owners, in addition to secondary data such as media reports and policy documents.

This paper looks at the uneven effects of urban regeneration in India from a gendered and classed perspective. Economic liberalisation since the 1990s in India has caused profound social, economic and aesthetic regeneration and redevelopment of Indian cities. These shifts have not only created a change to the physical landscapes of cities, but have also brought a much broader social and cultural rebranding of city spaces as part of a project of building ‘smart’ cities of a ‘new’ and ‘smart’ India. In particular, the drive to make ‘clean’, ‘efficient’ ‘safe’ and ‘smart’ cities, as part of the wider process of neoliberal expansion of this ‘new’ India, has redefined urban life and urban politics in the country.

While the SDGs are present in urban policy in general today and several cities have developed strategies to implement them, there are still difficulties, especially when it comes to the social dimension of sustainability. Sustainable urban development include goal conflicts and a need to
integrate policy sectors to solve these conflicts. Goal conflicts are usually also viewed as rational and possible to solve with extended knowledge. Knowledge integration, for example through co-production, is identified as a key element to support conflict resolution. However, the processes of knowledge integration have so far received limited attention. Previous academic work on collaborative planning, such as citizen participation and co-production/creation, often focus on the power dimension such as legitimacy of the decisions coming out of these processes (political legitimacy). Less light have been shed on the relation between the legitimacy of the knowledge brought into co-production processes and the legitimacy of the political decisions they result in. Are these different perspectives of legitimacy compatible and how is it dealt with in practice? This paper aims to deepen understanding of how different types of knowledge can be integrated into planning processes to increase the ability to manage goal conflicts in sustainable planning. It explores the concept of legitimacy when including different actors in the knowledge production. The research is conducted through a case study on the re-development project the RiverCity Gothenburg, Sweden. Within this project, I follow an informal collaborative knowledge integration process where the development project invited a diverse set of actors to broaden and deepen the knowledge base of how to create a sustainable city district without exceeding the financial budget. This paper contributes with empirical insights to an informal knowledge integration process and provides in-depth understanding of the role of knowledge use in conflict resolution processes within sustainable urban planning.

15 – Rewriting belonging and identity through urban spaces: everyday city in turbulent times (Panel “Co-existence and competing identities in the city-space”)

https://zoom.us/j/92023425077?pwd=bEtSdHJQTZQbHBPYXVmeTJBBb0VDZz09

Chairs

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Presentations

Marianna d’Ovidio (University of Milan Bicocca, marianna.dovidio@unimib.it)

Reimaging the urban future in Taranto, Italy: how creative work contributes to the urban identity

The paper discusses how work can be interpreted as a tool for place-making and agonistic conception of the urban space in the historic centre of Taranto, Italy, focusing on a set of economic activities in the sphere of culture and creativity, whose meanings and ethics go beyond the only economic rationality, and which represent examples of bottom-up urban regeneration, building urban identity and contributing to the urban future. Two theoretical frameworks have been mobilised: firstly, these practices are observed as working activities, exploring their instrumental, as well as ethical meanings (Chandler, 2016; Couldry & Littler, 2011; Ekinsmyth, 2011; Gill & Pratt, 2008; McRobbie, 2016; Nixon & Crewe, 2004; Taylor, 2015), applying also the broad concept of diverse economy (Gibson-Graham, 2008). Secondly, in order to understand the
impact on the urban space (either the actual use and its conception and imagining) the concept of place-making is used, particularly as developed within the critical urban studies (Brenner, 2009; Degen, 2017; Massey, 2005; Mbaye & Dinardi, 2019; McFarlane, 2018; Mould, 2019; Zilberstein, 2019). Based on empirical case-studies analysis, the paper shows that the observed working practices can have also a political aim and they represent actions of place-making and resistance to hegemonic forces shaping the urban space.

Susanne Frank (TU Dortmund University, susanne.frank@tu-dortmund.de)

Seismograph of coexistence: on the importance of greeting in heterogeneous neighborhoods

As urban populations are diversifying, numerous studies investigate the social mechanisms which enable very different individuals and social groups to live together in heterogeneous neighborhoods, characterized by plural and often contradictory norms and values. What is striking in this context: When local residents are asked to assess the quality of coexistence in shared public and semi-public spaces, one topic is raised particularly often: Greeting among neighbors (who remain otherwise unknown). Satisfaction with living together is regularly measured by the existence of greeting contacts. Conversely, absent greeting contacts often serve as a reason for frustration or even bitterness with regard to neighborhood relations. While the topic of greeting has been touched upon in a large number of neighborhood studies, it has hardly been brought to the forefront of attention. This is what I am striving for in my presentation: I would like to understand why it is precisely the small, at first glance so inconspicuous everyday gesture of greeting that unfolds such high social and symbolic significance for the perception and interpretation of neighborhood relations, particularly in diverse (large) urban quarters. To this end, I will examine general sociological theories and classical urban community studies in which the fundamental meaning of (neighborly) greeting is spelled out. In the light of these findings, I will then describe and interpret current thematizations and problematizations of greeting in super-diverse neighborhoods. Here, I can also draw on my own empirical research. Taking up Butler and Robson’s famous metaphor of “social tectonics” (different social groups in mixed neighborhoods are like “tectonic plates” below the earth’s crust: they move past each other with little or only occasional contact), I will then interpret the basic social practice of greeting as a "seismograph of the social" which records the tectonics of heterogeneous neighborhoods and registers their oscillations, tensions and incidental clashes. I will conclude by arguing that anyone who theoretically, empirically, or practically deals with living together in heterogeneous neighborhoods will find an excellent indicator and starting point in the question of greeting relations.

Frédéric Vidal (Autonomous University of Lisbon, fvidal@autonoma.pt)
Alexandre Vaz (Nova University of Lisbon, avazphoto@yahoo.com)

My City is not anymore my city: the role of nostalgia in city conflicts and urban identities

In the last decades, deep transformations in the travel industry connected with the information and communications technology, low cost flights and short-term rentals have given rise to the emerging market of the city break destination. Lisbon visitors started growing every year on a two digit basis and in a decade they would double, becoming one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world. Today, even if the number of visitor here seems pale by comparison with Paris or Rome, Lisbon is crushing records when it comes to visitor/local ratios and short term rental density in historic neighborhoods. This industry, that drove the economic recovery
after the crisis and accounts today for about 10% of jobs and GDP, isn’t free of social impacts. The emergence of conflicts and resistance to tourism in particular and city change in general is becoming visible and loud. The same trend has been witnessed in many different touristic setting including many European cities such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Venice, Zagreb and many others. When we look closer at the discourses against tourism and city transformation there is one key element that seems often overlooked: an idealized and nostalgic view of the past. This discourse is often supported by activist and academics that have produced an expert guild on negative impacts of tourism on urban fabrics and communities. In many recent academic papers about the city as a place of social struggle is suggested that in the neoliberal system citizens became disempowered. These ideas recover arguments that tend to compare a single moment in time (present) with a conflated reified past. It’s undeniable that technology accelerates change, but the city has always been a place of struggle. Tourism has effectively been a polarizing element of these debates in recent years. The spread of the covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020 put the touristic industry on hold. It is still too early to guess what will happen in a foreseeable future but the fact is that the challenges that tourism has posed up to this point can largely be transposed to a post-pandemic reality. Cities will always be stages of dispute and these circumstances may strongly affect tourism but will most likely produce strengthened disputes about city space and belonging.

Marco Ciorli (University of Turin, marco.ciorli@unito.it)

Books and Covers: contending identities and social infrastructure in urban local libraries

Despite transformations and challenges, public libraries are key actors against the dissolution of the public realm in urban environments and represent critical examples to observe the conditions for new forms of common and daily making of urban identities. Furthermore, spaces such as libraries may provide public arenas otherwise denied to the most vulnerable, support advocacy, and contrast isolation and exclusion, thus better achieving social justice compared with more conflicting market-based environments. However, any political management of the public space reflect the social conflict between contending belongings and representations, regulating proper use and legitimate disorder, penalizing behaviors, and stabilizing long-standing and novel forms of exclusion. While libraries participate in significant regeneration processes that affect entire neighborhoods, or even broader culture-led and design-based shaping of the city image, these multifaceted interactions shape emotional and material frames that may target specific social groups to the detriment of others. Accessibility and belonging in libraries are essential because they question the very notions of public and legitimate use(r). The production of new domesticity and affection is a decisive reality, mostly in the case of vulnerable or marginal populations, to whom the library provide daily shelter and access to sockets or digital resources. Nevertheless, conflicting images and interests reproduce public debates on behavior and appearance, and often support privatization and stigma both trough daily practices and criminalization. My qualitative research focuses on the connections between levels of power, relationships and space in Italian library environments, considering potentials and criticalities of public libraries as forms of social infrastructure and sources of place-based social representations. Contributing to the up-to-date interest in commonality and justice both in the fields of sociology and library science, I analyze the different trends between the identification of an ultimate or claimed frontier addressed to the most disadvantaged, a comprehensive and neutral social infrastructure, or an appropriated middle-class amenity.
2 - Between old urban inequalities and new urban opportunities (Panel 2)

https://zoom.us/j/98489405120?pwd=NkVmYVVweEFRL3NMeFNpUpENTVidz09

Chairs
Marta Smagacz-Poziemska (Jagiellonian University - Krakow, marta.smagacz-
poziemska@uj.edu.pl)
Patricia Pereira (Nova University of Lisbon, ppereira@fcsh.unl.pt)

Presentations

Ia Kupatadze (Ilia State University - Tbilisi, ia.kupatadze@iliauni.edu.ge)

Open City: a post socialist city Tbilisi
This presentation will discuss and apply the open city concept theory for Tbilisi, the Capital of
Georgia. In the past decades, Tbilisi had to face many challenges caused by political, social, and
economic changes. In the Soviet times, socialist ideology completely changed the city, taking it
from a non-linear to the linear model, an alternative to Howard’s Garden City Concept. The city’s
natural development and the natural city formation process were fully rejected by the Soviet
authorities. Guided by a strict political and social ideology, planners and architects ‘served as
mediators of ideological discourse’ (DeHaan, 2013) without any authority to make suggestions
based on their knowledge and experience that were not in agreement with the leadership.
Throughout the presentation, I will talk about Soviet city planning specificities by discussing an
area building and housing development in the city. I will address the planning of the city and the
housing during the Soviet times (the hidden s
egregation), the aftermath of the collapse of the
USSR, and the current situation. The question that the presentation will pose is: (How) can the
city be redeveloped in order to create a potential for a sustainable, inhabitant oriented, less
segregated open city? I study one of the Soviet-era buildings and the ideology that served as the
basis of its construction. I will address some of the reasons why this might be the case, as well as
the ideological background of the building itself, its architectural, as well as cultural and social
values. I will also address its relationship with the surrounding buildings, the street, and the
public spaces around it. The city, together with physical forms and social relationships, must form
a structure – an open system that serves inhabitants. It can be described as a social process,
which studies the relationship between ‘the past, present, and the possible cannot be
separated... The notion that the city can be designed on a new foundation, without considering
history and society is not possible (Lefebvre, 1996). But the cities we live in are not pleasant,
accessible for everyone, diverse and healthy. Tbilisi is not an exception. The question that the
presentation will address is: (how) can the city (Tbilisi) be redesigned and redeveloped in order
to become an ‘open’ city.

Davide Alberto Zorloni (London School of Economics, d.zorloni@lse.ac.uk)
Nancy Holman (London School of Economics, n.e.holman@lse.ac.uk)
Alan Mace (London School of Economics, a.mace@lse.ac.uk)
Pablo Navarrete-Hernandez (Polytechnic University of Milan, pablojavier.navarrete@polimi.it)

Fearing difference:
The impact of ethnic composition on safety perception in the Milanese urban context
Our paper analyses how the discourse around urban safety has tied to both the ‘unruly subject’ and urban interventions alongside increasing racialized dialogues about immigration. As the Italian state has shifted away from more collective views of society to ones of individual responsibility, there has been a co-terminus move which has reconceptualized how ‘danger’ is defined and how ‘good citizens’ are protected from the ‘bad’ who are largely described in the social discourse as disorderly people. This process started in the Nineties and flourished in the last decade, when, at both the national and local scale, “security packages” and bipartisan ordinances started addressing issues of anti-social behavior in order to restore the long-lost decorum in Italian cities. These measures did not apply uniquely to the entire population; in fact, they all implicitly targeted immigrant populations. The latest evolutions in the Italian political situation have highlighted a rise of a xenophobic sentiment, captured by the strong consensus that anti-immigration parties – namely Salvini’s Lega and Meloni’s Fratelli d’Italia – have and by the rising numbers of hate crimes and racist episodes reported in Italy. We want to investigate whether this direct link between micro-criminality and immigrant population impacts on perceptions of safety in Milanese residents when they find themselves with people who ‘look different’ where this difference is elided with delinquency. To test this, we employ an image-based randomized controlled trial approach that uses photo simulation techniques to manipulate ethnicity composition in white-dominated urban spaces and in urban contexts normally defined as “unsafe” in local ordinances and media accounts (e.g. alley ways, graffiti, ‘broken windows’).

Manuel Lutz (Technical University of Berlin, manuel.lutz@metropolitanstudies.de)

**A small place for my own: Searching qualities of home in informal housing**

In response to housing crisis new forms of small and shared housing emerge on housing markets in the Global North that remind critics to the poor and often informal housing arrangements of the early 20th century. For lack of data we can not quantify how the continuum of formal and informal housing options between proper homes and homelessness changed over time. Furthermore, the changing forms of housing pose challenges to asses the changing qualities of informal housing. Developers argue, contemporary co-living improves informal practices of sub-letting and room-sharing making them more transparent and flexible thus offering new qualities of living small. At the same time with micro-management, insecure tenure and exploitative rents, new forms of precarious housing informality are plausible in co-living, too. At the beginning of a new research project this paper seeks to address the inherent ambiguity of housing informality in the Global North through a socio-historical approach. To test the hypothesis that informal practices can produce (minimum) qualities of home, it compares today’s co-living with its historical functional equivalents of small and shared living: the single-room occupancy hotels, boarding houses or special hostels for singles and workers. We know that informal practices were and are used to realize housing qualities bottom-up (to adapt and maximize use value) within housing conditions where profit and control are maximized top-down formally and informally. Historical accounts generally problematize the precarious conditions of such poor and informal housing. But some studies also recognize therein qualities of home that users can not have anywhere else. Tracing such nuanced accounts of ambiguity, the paper presents a literature review of historical and contemporary small and shared living in Western Europe and the US. The review identifies which criteria researchers use to recognize minimum qualities of home, e.g. shelter, privacy, dignity, autonomy, standards, centrality. Accounting for the historical changes of the meanings of home (e.g. the shift from discipline to self-discipline), this review provides a conceptual mapping of historical housing forms and practices to offer clues for how and to what end we can inquire the changing boundaries of informal housing in today’s small and shared
Spatial perspectives on transnationalism. Results from a research project in Plovdiv-Stolipinovo

The entry of Bulgaria and Romania into the EU increased especially transnational pattern of migration. In Germany, for example, this has led to excessive demands in many communes because the migrating people only live and work within those communes for a certain period of time, in order to escape the prevailing poverty in their own country. Since we have no funded knowledge, as to why the people of these countries come to Germany and then leave again, we implemented a field research in Stolipinovo, Bulgaria. Stolipinovo is the largest segregated Roma community inside of the EU. The people in the neighborhood suffer from absolute poverty and discrimination by the majority Bulgarians and especially the bad image of their residence has a serious effect to the life of the Roma. In a bundle of studies, phenomena like poverty, violence, transnational family life and poverty were addressed. The contribution focus on the construction of transnational social spaces under the conditions of segregation and poverty. Results show that residents in Stolipinovo suffer from poverty in their own country and this affects their everyday life as well as the situation on the labor market. This spatial dimension of exclusion caused the decision of many people of the community to migrate to specific neighborhoods in other countries but coming back to Stolipinovo on an irregular basis. All in all, because of poverty and discrimination, transnational social spaces were formed and those do effect family life. In this perspective, the spatial dimension of transnationalism is analytically helpful to understand strategies to escape from poverty and discrimination but also weaken family relations and community bases solidarity.

14.00
15.45

SECTIONS

15 – Rewriting belonging and identity through urban spaces: everyday city in turbulent times (Panel “The urban street and street culture”)

https://zoom.us/j/93862463797?pwd=eFJiUjRzUE8rSTNNaVhlIRZQnBaZz09

Chairs

Ipek Demirsu (University of Padua, ipek.demirsudibiase@phd.unipd.it)
Fabio Bertoni (University of Cagliari, fabio.bertoni88@gmail.com)

Presentations

Jelena Božilović (University of Niš, jelena.bozilovic@filfak.ni.ac.rs)
Jelena Petkovic (University of Niš, jelena.petkovic@filfak.ni.ac.rs)

Postsocialism, cultural memory and urban public space: an ideological perspective on street names

The subject matter of this paper is an analysis of an ideological perspective on the names of city streets. Its starting point is the fact that a change in official state ideology has multiple manifestations, some of which pertain to urban public spaces. By naming streets, squares, public institutions, erecting monuments, every government strives to legitimize its order and to provide a more solid foundation for its own ideologies. Following the dissolution of the Socialist...
Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRJ), a period of post-socialism ensued on the territories of the former republics and provinces, which for Serbia meant a process of revising the past with the aim of wiping the slate clean of memories of everything Yugoslav-related. In the context of the deconstruction of the previous supranational identity, it marked the beginning of the affirmation of individuals and events from Serbian history which refer to its medieval past, as well as periods in history prior to the creation of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, the wave of revisions spread engulfed the names of city streets as well, which were then given names of influential individuals from the aforementioned periods in history. It is interesting, however, that irrespective of such changes, in the names of streets of the City of Niš today we still find the dominant memory of the anti-fascist movement, the national liberation struggle (NOB), and the national heroes of the time. Street names in Serbia thus bear witness to the fact that opposing ideological currents created a specific cultural memory interwoven into the urban public space. Such a cultural memory is based on an ideological heterogeneity which emerged from a combination of a re-traditionalization process which glorifies Serbian national history on the one hand, and a strong anti-fascist cultural memory permeated by a supranational ideology of everything Yugoslav on the other. This thesis is supported by an analysis which in a methodological sense relies on official data on street names in city municipalities, obtained from the City Administration Office of the City of Niš.

Federica Castelli (Roma Tre University, federica.castelli@uniroma3.it)

Walking and wandering: streets as political space of desire

Streets don't simply take people from one place to another. A street is a laboratory, a process, and an intimate, relational, and political space. Street is a conflictual, playful, passionate space of desire. Every street has a secret life, and is part of the urban unconscious. But streets are also a technology and subjectivating dispositives. A definition of street is impossible. Just like we can witness the fact there's never “one” street (but many overlapping directions in the same street), we understand that streets have many senses, since they gather, host, and give life to multiple desires that change together with the specific experience everyone holds in its environment (that is emotional and political at the same time), and with the position subjects hold in respect of those lines of power that cross and define it. So a child, a shopkeeper, and an old lady will have different experiences of the same street. Many political and artistic practices have shown the intense political role the street have in everyday life, and the bond between streets, politics, and bodies. The most evident are those collective moments creating passionate public spaces, such as protests (Butler, Castelli). But the very act of walking the street can be intended as political practice. In this sense, the paper will focus on some specific practices, such as situationist psychogeography, and some specific collective focusing on walking and wandering as creative political experiences (Stalker, the Wander Society). Against the map as the very figure of repressive authority, the street can be intended as a space for the unexpected, for contingency, and political relationships. Walking the streets can be an hacking practice. Streets can be TAZ (Temporary Autonomous Zones, following Bey’s definition). This paper will take into account everyday experiences of the street from an embodied perspective, underling the affective and emotional role of streets against their reduction to maps, and against the neoliberal abstract space. It will take into account De Certeau’s definition of walking as a practice of enunciation and re-signification of urban space, as well as a feminist embodied perspective that take into account the link between bodies, politics, and space. It will focus on everyday practices of redefinition (Lefebvre, De Certeau) against capitalistic enclosures, demarcations, dispossessions (Federici), and against laws of profit, efficiency, efficacy (Debord).
Mihai Stelian Rusu (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, mihai.rusu@ulbsibiu.ro)

**Post-socialist changes of urban nomenclature:**

*a quantitative analysis of street renaming in three Romanian cities*

Critical scholars of place-name studies have compellingly demonstrated that significant transformations in a society's namescape follow suit major power shifts and regime changes. However, despite the wealth of particular case studies existing in the literature, scarce efforts have been made to examine street name changes in a comparative framework using statistical modeling techniques of multivariate analysis. This paper aims to overcome these shortcomings by developing a comparative approach to analyzing post-socialist street-naming transformations in three Romanian cities from Transylvania (Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, and Sibiu). Based on comprehensive data collected from multiple sources, the study builds a logistic regression model that allows identifying the contribution of each factor to post-socialist toponymic change. The findings pinpoint two classes of factors that influence streets renaming after the fall of state-socialism in Romania: street name characteristics (politicized designations directly associated with the socialist regime) and topographic features (geographical centrality and size). The paper concludes by highlighting the street names' intrinsic vulnerability as political devices of commemoration and makes the case that toponymic change is structured by topographic importance.

Olga Tzatzadaki (Iuav University of Venice, otzatzadaki@iuav.it)

**From hard work to spritz rituals, in Hogan shoes: designing the socio-spatial profile of the entrepreneurial class of the Northeast Italian region's widespread city (città diffusa) through non-conventional narrations**

The paper studies the embodied daily habits of the entrepreneurial class in the widespread suburban city (città diffusa) of the northeast Italian region, as such habits have been built up after the economic boom of the region, in the last decades. It's the particular social behaviors and everyday spatial practices of this class, which define a particular place-based identity, through which one desires to be identified in the minds of the local community. The radical economical changes in the territory introduced a self-constructed middle class, which follows certain patterns of everyday gestures, behaviors and lifestyle, also manifested through consumption preferences. It is interesting to understand how body language and certain spatial practices represent a testimony of social status and well-being achieved, and how the body and lifestyles convey emotional messages (eg, shame/pride/fear) to the public (local society/social media), which receives and decodes them. Our goal is to describe this class's identity characteristics through the study of the body in relation to the space and to the local community, in order to interpret the social “product” of the economic boom in this territory. The research methodology proposed is a discussion between different narrative voices: literary and cinematographic narration (the so-called “non-conventional tools” of research) produced by local writers and cinematic directors and their interviews. Such tools, very rich and accurate in descriptions, can unveil information not obtainable by conventional tools of research, for the study of relationships between the individual, the space (private and public) and the everyday. This work has a threefold goal: to investigate the everyday practices of identity construction of the entrepreneurial-middle class in the territory under investigation, to highlight the importance of not-conventional tools in urban research and to understand the transformation of local identities as a “social product” of radical and sudden economical and spatial transformations.
2 - Between old urban inequalities and new urban opportunities (Panel 3)

https://zoom.us/j/94842138274?pwd=ZUJDb2dyakhiVmVqclImNjITUVRMZz09

Chairs
Katrin Paadam (Tallinn University of Technology, katrin.paadam@taltech.ee)
Rui Carvalho (Brown University - Providence, rui_carvalho@brown.edu)

Presentations

Pinelopi Vergou (University of Thessaly, pvergou@uth.gr)

Refugee flows and institutional changes:
between local policies, urban practices and spatial segregation in Greek cities

Migration policies is a result of a complex interaction between political actors, especially in the local level; international and non-governmental organizations; local solidarity initiatives and mobilizations which help to overcome tensions and obstacles with the local population, especially when far-right groups increased. Many studies revealed the two way process of the integration and the importance of local residents in creating the conditions for the inclusion of refugees but also the transformation of local communities in various ways, through migration flows. In Greek cities, the social practices of natives played an important role in the implementation of the immigration policy for the newcomers, where refugees perceived as a threat to personal and community security. New forms of social mobilization and solidarity actions of citizens, collective bodies and community-based initiatives helped to overcome these tensions and obstacles of refugee integration. The paper explores to what extent social infrastructure (social and cultural capital resources) serves as precondition for refugee integration in Greek cities and to what extent does social infrastructure and social initiatives for refugee integration, affect urban transformation and institutional changes. The empirical material of this study is based on a qualitative research, through in-depth semi-structured interviews conducted among residents, refugees and key local actors in different cities in Greece. The study reveals the complexity of the social spatial diversity that refugees face but also the transformation of local states and civil society. These new conditions brought different outcomes for refugees’ integration but also new challenges for the role of local institutions and their success or failure for the social inclusion of the newcomers, based on cooperation or competition with different social actors.

Linda Schumilas (FH Münster, linda.schumilas@fh-muenster.de)
Sebastian Kurtenbach (FH Münster, kurtenbach@fh-muenster.de)

Perspectives on the prevention of radicalization. Empirical results from Germany

Radicalization of people, especially juveniles, is a social problem also in Europe and we focus on islamist radicalization in our contribution. However, the spatial patterns of radicalization of individuals is not equal distributed among all regions, cities or neighborhoods of a country. For example in Germany, many of the foreign fighter who migrated to the Islamic State from urban areas lived in poor neighborhoods. However, this spatial patterns have long been overseen, because individual factors or group dynamics were in the scope to explain radicalization. However, the spatial perspective is helpful for doing prevention. Against this background, we present results from a three years research project about prevention of islamist radicalization in
Germany in two steps. First, we show the general spatial patterns and structure of prevention projects in Germany. Seconds, we will analyze the landscape of project in Dortmund Nordstadt, a large and diverse segregated neighborhood in Germany, based on quantitative and qualitative data. Results show, that more than 150 projects were active in the neighborhood with a wide variety of projects. We propose that such a differentiated landscape of projects is one explanation why radicalization was never a large problem in the neighborhood in the last years. Furthermore, we discuss implications for further research in prevention neighborhood effects by spatial concentrated landscapes of social project in segregated areas.

Livia Assis (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, liviamatos.assis@gmail.com)
Luciana Andrade (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, lucianatandrade1@gmail.com)

Residential and commercial standards in a middle-class neighborhood in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

This paper aims at analysis of the changes in Anchieta neighborhood’s residential and commercial dynamics. Located in the central area of Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais, Brazil, it is characterized by the strong presence of the highly educated middle class, this neighborhood has been going through a process of urban renewal – here analysed as gentrification. Such an urban phenomenon consists in the entry of a social group with higher status than those residing in a territory, in order to provoke the expulsion of the latter. From the work of secondary data such as the Tax on Private Property and on Urban Territorial Property (IPTU) and the registration of the Tax on Real Estate Trade (ITBI), as well as conducting interviews with residents and merchants, was found that the urban renovation in Anchieta consists of both a new-building gentrification process and a commercial gentrification process, and such processes occur from the entry of higher middle class strata into an already elite area. Unlike other studies on the subject, gentrification is analyzed in an already privileged area and is composed of a middle class population, in addition to demonstrating a spatial pattern of concentration of urban and cultural services in the city.

Maria Chiara Cela (University of Milan Bicocca, m.cela@campus.unimib.it)

How have neighbours’ relationships and the use of shared space played out during the COVID-19 emergency? An exploration of the solidarity initiatives in the Milan-based social housing project Ospitalità Solidale

The COVID-19 pandemic broke out in societies already deeply affected by decades of austerity politics (The RHJ Editorial Collective, 2020). Since the 1980s, many countries have been witnessing a decline in the public provision of social services following the massive cutbacks of public funding under the influence of neoliberal policies. Indeed housing is one of the welfare state policy fields most affected by the ever-growing retrenchment of the state. The ongoing reorganisation of welfare states has brought to the expansion of unmet housing needs (Brokking et al., 2017), which is exacerbated by the increasing commodification of housing and by the process of financialization. As happened during and after other catastrophes and crisis, the COVID-19 emergency has revealed and multiplied pre-existing conditions of inequalities; including housing related ones. During the pandemic many mutual aid and solidarity initiatives providing food, medicine, and money had been practiced in different ways as an immediate response to worsening existential situations (The RHJ Editorial Collective, 2020). Those initiatives emerged especially at local (urban and neighbourhood) level. Urban contexts and neighbourhoods in cities are places where initiatives of coping with social exclusion already rose and developed in the last years. The neighbourhood is a space of social action where recipients
of services, citizens, and civil society actors can take on an active role in addressing unmet social and housing needs through socially innovative practices. There is a wide literature on social innovation in cities around the world (Pradel-Miquel et al., 2020), especially as response to austerity policies. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, research is needed to explore local social innovative initiatives to tackle the effects of the pandemic that neither the state nor the market (alone) have been able to sort out. My research project aims to contribute to this goal through an exploratory study of the initiatives undertaken by the young inhabitants of a Milan-based social housing project called Ospitalità Solidale. This pilot program offers affordable housing in two public housing neighbourhoods to young people who, in turn, engage in community work. The relationships established during the time by the young hosts with the other inhabitants of the public housing buildings and within themselves have been essential for the solidarity activities practiced during the lockdown.

Enrico Tommarchi (University of Hull, E.Tommarchi@hull.ac.uk)

**Port cities, cultural cities? The symbolic impacts of culture-led urban regeneration on port-city relationships across Europe**

Since the 1980s, policy makers in many European port cities have been keen on pursuing culture-led urban regeneration, either to compensate for the negative impacts of deindustrialisation and port restructuring or to gain competitive advantage within interurban competition. While some of these experiences have been commented upon in relation to the socio-economic impacts or the rhetoric of culture-led urban regeneration, the broader, long-term outcomes of these schemes on the symbolic, cultural connections between ports and cities are seldom explored. The legacy of these policies is also unfolding in a very different context, shaped by structural processes of capitalist accumulation, gentrification and touristification, with prospects of changing public attitudes towards culture and leisure in the years to come. This paper is part of a research on culture- and event-led urban regeneration and port-city relationships across Europe and explores how these schemes, acting on the attractiveness of port cities, have been contributing to eroding or emphasising certain aspects of their maritime identity and to introduce new elements in these relationships. A retroductive, comparative exploration of the long-term trajectories of culture-led urban regeneration policies in Genoa (Italy), Rotterdam (The Netherlands) and Valencia (Spain) aims to shed light on how the symbolic aspects of the relationships between ports and cities – e.g. maritime history and heritage, the connection with the sea – have been renegotiated through these policies. It examines how maritime heritage assets and port cityscapes have been spectacularised to generate new meanings and relationships. It interrogates on whether the touristification of port cities is also translating into a reframing of ports themselves as tourist attractions or whether this process is spoiling European port cities of their maritime nature.

17 - Residential segregation and the study of social structure of towns and metropolises. Empirical and methodological advances in urban sociology (Panel 1)

https://zoom.us/j/92650453564?pwd=RFlxZWhJMmRkQ2JZajh4cS8ramRCUT09
This paper compares and analyzes the Brazilian major metropolitan regions (MRs), analyzing their socio-spatial structure in 2010. The distribution of the socio-occupational categories in the territory of the 14 MRs was verified, using a methodology developed by the Observatório das Metrópoles network. This methodology calls for the use of binary correspondence factor analysis and ascending hierarchical classification to find spatial units with strong internal homogeneity and high external heterogeneity. The units of analyses are the Áreas de Ponderação (AP) defined by the IBGE for the aggregation of census data. Statistical analyses were developed by the StatLab computer package, where all Áreas de Ponderação pertaining to the 14 MRs were loaded, with the respective number of workers associated with each of the 23 socio-occupational categories that constitute the representation of the social hierarchy built by the Observatório das Metrópoles. The application of the methodology described above generated a typology of Áreas de Ponderação, composed of four socio-spatial types, entitled: Superior, Heterogeneous, Worker and Popular. These four types are present in all Brazilian MRs, revealing discernible and comparable structural and spatial patterns. The identification of such patterns was carried out based on a set of stacked column graphs, contrasting the relative importance of each of the four socio-spatial types across the 14 MRs. In turn, the examination of the geographic distribution of socio-spatial types was carried out using choropleth maps for each of the 14 MRs. The results reveal significant specificities in the socio-spatial structure of the 14 MRs and three distinct center-peripheral spatial patterns, helping to understand the differential processes of segregation in Brazil.

Dani Broitman (Technion - Israel Technological Institute, danib@technion.ac.il)

Dynamics of neighborhood segregation and land values in urban areas

The present analysis is part of a larger research agenda that conceptualizes the urban system a dynamic spatial playground. This playground is composed of different cities, which in turn contain a mosaic of residential areas with variate socioeconomic characteristics. The large set of households living in the urban system are the players, continuously trying to improve their position and sometimes also their location. This households’ behavior, together with planning and administrative measures defined by the authorities, continuously modifies the playground itself, and hence influencing future households’ decisions. In this inherently out-of-equilibrium setting, over time, there are “winners” and “losers”. The main research question is how to describe and explain the spatio-temporal dynamics of both categories in urban areas. Two potential and highly relevant explanatory variables of these spatio-temporal dynamics are
residential segregation and land values. Although theoretical studies about possible mutual relations between both variables are available, empirical spatial analyses of their co-evolution over time are scarce. This is the gap addressed by the present analysis. Based on an extensive data set of all the adult Israeli population between 2008 and 2018, and a compilation of all the registered real-estate transactions performed during the same period in the country, we were able to create detailed maps of both variables. Socio-economic segregation indexes are calculated using household’s income, and land values are calculated dis-aggregating real-estate values in their land and built structure components. The attractivity of a place is then expressed by the land value, which represent the willingness to pay for living there. Due to the detailed data availability, we can analyse fine-grain spatial levels (as small statistical areas) and gradually aggregate them to larger areas (neighborhoods, cities, and metropolitan areas). The analysis of the joint evolution of social segregation and land values shows that the dynamic between both is far from being simple, depends partially on the geographical resolution and also on local characteristics (large or small cities, central or peripheral areas, etc.). Although the study is mainly exploratory, it pinpoints the places and situations where further research may be more productive and valuable.

Jules Bodet (University Paris 8, bodet.jules@gmail.com)

How representations about urban spatial segregation and school segregation mutually reinforce each other

The article submitted proposes to study how school segregation, as an existing situation and ongoing process, can be the product of the representations of the territory and of segregation conveyed by public and private actors. The narratives and representations of the territory and of segregation by the actors (elected officials, associative representatives, parents, representatives from local collectivities and institutions such as National Education) studied here are understood as the elements of a cumulative segregation process within which the perception of residential and school segregation, as well as the methods deployed to fight them (like "priority education"), can favor the strengthening of segregation by superimposing school segregation onto the other factors of segregation. This article will mainly be based on a field study conducted in middle schools during the first quarter of 2018 in the city of Melun. It will also be supplemented by an analysis of the first returns of the statistical analyzes of segregation (dissimilarity and local entropy indices [DUNCAN and DUNCAN, 1955; MASSEY and DENTON, 1988 ; GIVORD and others, 2016]) that convey the difference between the social composition of the urban segregation (the school sectors corresponding to the theoretical recruitment of the targeted middle schools) and the school segregation (the real social composition of these middle schools) in the French department of Hauts-de-Seine analyzed in my doctoral research. This analysis has the particularity of being based on the smallest spatial unit of diffused statistical data in France, which corresponds to squares of 200 meters per side. To date, no French research on segregation has been narrowed down to this statistical scale. This article insists on the influence of representations in the reproduction of school segregation and on the feedback loop effects of school segregation which can lead to an accentuation of segregation. The use of qualitative methods of analysis of representations borrows both from the sociology of education [OBERTI, 2007; VAN ZANTEN, 2001] and local geopolitics [SUBRA, 2016], brings a new dimension to understanding the construction and/or the reproduction of the dynamics of urban segregation. Concerning this qualitative contribution, the research material used consists in the analysis of the speeches and representations of the actors compiled through an informational monitoring and semi-directed interviews.
Peripheral diffusion and concentrations: the residential dynamics of foreign population in Bologna and Milan

Internationals migrations are strongly affecting contemporary urban societies, particularly in the Southern Europe. Despite its global nature, migrations have relevant local impacts and they may contribute to better understand (contemporary) urban transformations. Research has widely stressed the differences between the North American and the European model regarding the distribution, concentration, and segregation of foreign residents. However, there is not a single European model. In this framework, the paper analyses the medium-period (2011-2018) location dynamics of foreign residents in Bologna and Milan. The aim is to understand the shared and specific features as well as the changes in the residential patterns of foreign citizens in the two South-European urban contexts. To reach the objectives, we collected open data provided by the Municipal Registry and the Real Estate Market Observatory and we used GIS (Quantum Gis and Geo-Segregation Analyzer) to analyse them. The residential patterns of foreign residents have been analysed through various indices in order to take into account the different dimensions of the segregation (Massey and Denton, 1988). Furthermore, the localization quotient (QL) was considered to evaluate the over- or under-representation of the foreign population. Finally, for evaluating the relation between foreigners’ residential patterns and real estate market, we have also considered the change in housing prices (rental and sale). The results of the diachronic statistical and spatial analysis may contribute to the debate on residential patterns of foreign populations in Southern European urban contexts. First, the absence of residential segregation and the presence of interstitial forms of spatial concentration are confirmed. However, there are growing processes of diffusion and “peripheralization” of foreign residents. Furthermore, the analysis suggests the higher influence of socio-economic condition with respect to ethnic/national origin. In this framework, the comparison between the two Italian cities has highlighted some specificities demonstrating the role of local factors, such as history, urban morphology and urban policies, in influencing the residential patterns of foreign residents.

19. Urban practices and urban institutions: thoughts on segregation and the spatiality of everyday resource organization, social networks and social capital

https://zoom.us/j/91440087538?pwd=cFFMQXcxSy9MVStJeXpyT0xZVjhYZz09

Chairs

Talja Blokland (Humboldt University of Berlin, talja.blokland@hu-berlin.de)
Robert Vief (Humboldt University of Berlin, robert.vief@hu-berlin.de)
Henrik Schultze (Humboldt University of Berlin, henrik.schultze@hu-berlin.de)
Daniela Krueger (Humboldt University of Berlin, daniela.krueger@hu-berlin.de)
Presentations

Arianna Lucia Cavaliere (University of Milan Bicocca, a.cavaliere4@campus.unimib.it)

Quality of life of intra - EU migrant families in Vienna: Children, spaces and social ties

The discussion revolves around an empirical contribution to the debate on quality of life. Adopting the ambitious theoretical framework of the capability approach, the study wants to go beyond the measurement of objective indicators and closer to the experiences and opinions of child and adult research subjects. The ethnographic study is planned to involve in total 12 families of Italian and Hungarian origin living in Vienna with children aged 6-11. A subjectively-filtered comparison is pursued between Vienna —city of residence, chosen for its acknowledged high level of quality of life assessed through objective indicators—and previous places of residence (city, neighborhood) in Italy and Hungary. The analysis of the effects of the pandemic on families’ everyday life has become a further research goal. The preliminary outcomes of the first phase of fieldwork reveal that in Vienna, a city with efficient mobility and easily accessible services and infrastructures (Nuvolati, 2009), the formation and cultivation of social ties is crucial for integration and quality of life. For parents—some of them reporting of initial isolation or confinement in “expat bubbles”—children boost interactions in everyday life, through the mediation of childcare institutions and practices in public spaces. For the children involved, schools seem the main source of interactions with peers and formation of friendship ties. This converges with literature on schools being focal places of ‘social geographies of everyday life’ for children and families (Collins & Coleman, 2008). The reflection on the role of schools both as institutions and physical places sheds light on the implications of the reiterated political decision to suspend didactic activities in presence in Austria to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, limiting mobility between and within cities, and thus downsizing the mobilities paradigm, shows that the neighborhood of residence still matters, especially for children and their families (Van Kempen & Wissink, 2014). In particular, indoor and outdoor spaces in housing compounds, nearby playgrounds and parks offer the opportunity for proximity contacts based on friendship or familiarity. Face-to-face interactions seem to be an irreplaceable need for smaller children, whereas older children/ pre-teenagers made broad use of new media (for example, messaging tools and videogames) to maintain friendship ties already before the pandemic. New media increasingly mediate parents’ interactions with people and places also at the local level. Most evidently amidst the current crisis, social media groups and expat networks (ethnic-based, neighborhood-based, mixed-nationality) appear as fundamental sources of social capital. This conference contribution wants to stimulate the discussion on the influences of institutions and practices—embedded in physical and virtual spaces at different scale levels—on social interactions, social capital and quality of life.


Alma Sophie Seiberth (European University Viadrina - Oder Frankfurt, almaseiberth@gmail.com)

Informal tactics, gendered spaces and modes of subversion: women navigating Istanbul’s public space
The particular make up of Istanbul’s urban public space presents a unique challenge to women with regard to mobility, safety and expected behavioral norms. The difference in the social and normative order of a certain mahalle (neighborhood) can change within the proximity of three streets and requires women to deploy spatial practices and tactics while navigating urban public space. In my talk, I will focus on the intersecting relationship of three dimensions shaping the fabric of female experience in living and moving through modern day Istanbul: (1) gendered spaces, (2) female agency in using informal tactics, and (3) practical modes of subversion. My argument is that informal tactics can be fruitfully interpreted as a form of sexual dissidence. Once they are seen in this light, they allow making explicit what is implicit in how women move, dress, plan ahead and unconsciously act. The presented research is based on in-depth interviews with female University students in Istanbul and aims to show how crucial mental maps and informal everyday tactics are for women’s daily routes. These tactics, perceived as forms of situated knowledge tied to embodied practices, are applied when necessary according to place, time of the day and company. As such they are an internalized knowledge of answers to questions like: Where to walk, when, with whom, dressed how, and why. This particular kind of implicit knowledge and resulting tactics are used in order to navigate through the differing social rules and norms of neighbourhood and leisure spaces in Istanbul. Whether it is a spontaneous covering of certain body parts or a beforehand planned change of routes depending on the time of the day (daytime, night-time) this qualitative study shows that women rely on mental maps, spatial routines and informal tactics for personal safety while traveling Istanbul’s public space. This research focuses on the individual level and engages with women’s agency and creativity in navigating these changing normative regimes. The informal tactics researched here, in their function as women’s spatial practices, are used as a tool in subverting dominant ideological discourses around mobility and proper conduct for women in Turkish society. This study is thereby able to show how women in their spatial routines, translate personal agency into effective strategies to prevent experiences of violence and sexual harassment in urban public space.

Solène Le Borgne (University of Amsterdam, s.f.leborgne@uva.nl)

The role of informal social capital in shrinking cities: conceptual and empirical challenges

The topic of urban shrinkage has been for about twenty years on the European research agenda, raising political and scientific awareness on this phenomenon. Shrinking cities have been defined as "urban areas that have experienced population loss, economic downturn, employment decline and social problems as symptoms of a structural crisis" (Martinez-Fernandez et al., 2012, p. 214). This translates in selective outmigration of younger and better educated inhabitants, while sociospatial segregation increases at the local level. The residents’ mobility, or the absence of it, is thus at the core of the topic. The consequences of urban shrinkage on the experience of local residents remain partly uncovered by research, but this is changing under the impulse of several studies. Negative perceptions and experiences such as mistrust between actors and disempowerment, can be found simultaneously with positive accounts, such as feelings of comfort, social integration and belonging. Most important, researchers found a decline in formal social capital resulting in a lesser capacity to conduct civic action to counteract shrinkage, while informal social networks and mutual support between residents remained strong (Coquard, 2019; Ročak, 2019; Ročak, Hospers and Reverda, 2016). Against this background, my research investigates the role of place specific informal social capital, in relation with place attachment, in the residents’ ability to cope with the consequences of urban shrinkage, in French medium-sized...
cities. My hypothesis is that informal social capital allows access to alternative resources for residents, thanks to which they are better equipped to face the diverse consequences of shrinkage. This leads to an improvement of their objective situations and perception of it, and an overall increase of life satisfaction. I present preliminary results of an ongoing case study research, conducted in a city of 34,000 inhabitants, which has lost 25% of its population since 1975. Based on a mixed-methods approach, I analyse data collected from a survey and in-depth semi-structured interviews. I will investigate in particular the interaction between, and role of the different scales: from neighbourhood based social networks, to city-wide and external ones. I question the strength of my conceptual model in the light of these first results, and consider different paths to develop the theoretical and empirical research further.

COQUARD B., 2019, Ceux qui restent, Faire sa vie dans les campagnes en déclin, Paris, La Découverte (L’envers des faits), 211p.


ROČAK M., 2019, “Perspectives of civil society on governance of urban shrinkage: the cases of Heerlen (Netherlands) and Blaenau Gwent (Wales) compared,” European Planning Studies, 27, pp.699–721.


Agata Troost (TU Delft, a.a.troost@tudelft.nl)

The effects of individuals’ neighbourhood histories on educational attainment

Updated abstract: In my presentation, I would like to talk about the ideas and findings from my two most recent papers. The first one, already finished and submitted for publication, is about the neighbourhood histories of individuals; the second one, for which I should present the empirical results, compares the effects of exposure to neighbourhood poverty and affluence on educational attainment. The first of the presented papers contributes to the literature by studying educational attainment and systematically comparing the effects of the timing, accumulation, duration and sequencing of exposure to neighbourhood deprivation. We used longitudinal register data to study the population of children born in the Netherlands in 1995 and follow them until the age of 23. Our findings show that it is important to separate the early adult years (age 18–22) from earlier years when constructing individual histories of exposure to neighbourhood poverty. We find that the effect of exposure to neighbourhood deprivation on educational attainment during adolescence is slightly stronger than the effect of exposure during childhood. We also find that individuals with improving neighbourhood conditions over time reach a higher educational level compared to those who remained in neighbourhoods with the highest poverty rates. In general, our findings show that the observed relationship between neighbourhood poverty and educational attainment depends on how exposure to neighbourhood poverty is conceptualized and measured. Choosing just one dimension or operationalisation could lead to under-or overestimation of the importance of exposure to neighbourhood poverty. The second paper uses the same data and outcome variable as the first one, but focuses on comparing the effects of exposure to poverty and affluence in neighbourhoods. We hypothesise that in the relatively wealthy country of the Netherlands, with no areas of extreme poverty, it is the lack of social contact with higher educated, affluent neighbours which determines the future educational level of children to a larger extent than growing up surrounded by poor households. Our models confirm this by showing stronger effects of exposure to affluence than to poverty. With interaction models we also show that children from richer families are less affected by their spatial context, with the very richest ones not being affected at all. While conducting empirical analysis, the paper also includes a critique of the
An overwhelming focus on poverty within the neighbourhood effects field, combined with neglect of studying the rich households, which are more powerful as social actors and therefore the driving force behind spatial segregation. In my presentation, I aim to concentrate on the theoretical background of these papers rather than on the methodology. I would like to hear questions and comments from everyone regardless of their familiarity with or opinion about neighbourhood effects research.

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**FRIDAY 01.29.2021**

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<td><strong>17 - Residential segregation and the study of social structure of towns and metropolises. Empirical and methodological advances in urban sociology (Panel 2)</strong></td>
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**Chairs**

Niccolò Morelli (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan, niccolo.morelli@unicatt.it)
Jonathan Pratshke (University of Naples “Federico II”, jonathan.pratshke@unina.it)
Tommaso Vitale (Sciences Po Paris, tommaso.vitale@sciencespo.fr)
Matteo Piolatto (University of Brescia, matteo.piolatto@inventati.org)

**Presentations**

Sebastian Kohl (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, kohl@mpifg.de)

*Measuring urban segregation through housing markets*
Residential segregation is usually measured in terms of economic or ethnic characteristics of the urban population. Simultaneously, housing markets are probably the key mechanism through which all kinds of segregation are believed to increase or decrease. This article therefore attempts to use housing market characteristics, particularly rents and prices, to describe across-city and over-time trends in segregation. Not only might housing markets be a more direct proxy to understand and predict segregation. Geo-referenced prices also make data widely public and allow for more fine-grained and better harmonized analyses of segregation across cities even of different jurisdictions and administrative boundaries. We suggest a couple of housing-based segregation measures, such as the Gini-coefficient, 20-80 ratios or the classical segregation index by highest versus lowest rents or prices. Housing qualities such as average crowding rates or square meter could be extensions. By comparing housing and more traditional economic segregation indices, we do find expected correlations, but nowhere perfect ones. Our theory is that housing market dynamics have a certain dynamique propre, beyond the underlying economic structure, and are stronger anticipating and fast-moving.

Tomoko Kubo (University of Tsukuba, tmkkb@geoenv.tsukuba.ac.jp)

Disparities in living conditions between city centers and shrinking suburbs: A case study of super-aging and post-growth Japan

Japanese society has been rapidly moving in a super-aging and post-growth direction since the first decade of the 21st century. Due to the shift of post-war urban and housing policies from a welfare to neo-liberalist state, the relationships among housing, family, and welfare have changed, resulting in the emergence of a divided Tokyo, where a disparity in living conditions has emerged between the city center and the shrinking suburbs. Entrepreneurial governance has stimulated urban development and investment from both the public and private sectors, as well as from domestic and foreign investors, in central Tokyo since the first decade of the 21st century. In contrast, Tokyo’s outer suburbs have been rapidly aging and shrinking in recent years. Most of these suburbs were developed in the 1970s and 1980s with construction of privately-owned detached houses whose owners now tend to be elderly couples. These owners tend to have stayed in the same house for decades, and their adult children moved to city centers. In this way, urban and housing policies, uneven urban investment, and urbanization cycles have caused a residential segregation in terms of age structure and living conditions in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

This paper aims to examine the emergence of this type of residential segregation in Tokyo by focusing on institutional backgrounds, urban investment, housing supply, and living conditions since the 1950s. We reviewed the literature and analyzed governmental documents to examine the causes of the social division of Tokyo. Moreover, GIS analysis is used to explain the reality of residential segregation in terms of uneven distribution of elderly versus working-age residents, old versus new buildings and urban infrastructure, and expensive versus affordable housing in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The original contribution of this study is summarized as follows: 1) although previous studies used criteria such as income, occupational status, and national/municipal policies for their analysis, we focused on the relationships among investment, policies, housing, and residential mobility to explain the emergence of residential segregation in Tokyo; 2) we adopted metropolitan and municipal scales for the analysis; and 3) super-aging and post-growth Japan offer unique criteria for residential segregation, which can contribute to segregation studies and debates on the shrinking city phenomenon in Japan.
Generational divides in housing opportunities and increasing residential age segregation: Evidence from the UK

This paper investigates trends in neighbourhood age segregation and how these are associated with local housing affordability. Examining these relationships is particularly pertinent given increasing housing inequalities and population ageing, in Europe and elsewhere. With evidence from the UK, this paper makes four arguments: First, that generational divides in housing opportunities are spatially manifest in increasing residential age segregation; second, that studying residential age segregation offers an opportunity to retheorise assumptions about residential segregation; third, that combining census and ‘big’ administrative data can usefully further insight into drivers of spatial inequalities; and, fourth, that age segregation matters for housing and cohesion policies, and social scientists are particularly well placed to bring the concepts of residential age segregation and housing (un)affordability into debates about intergenerational relationships and spatial inequalities.

The paper employs census-based harmonised population data (2001 and 2011) for small areas with local house prices statistics (for sale and for rent) and household incomes in England and Wales. House price and income data have been obtained from the Urban Big Data Centre and the Office for National Statistics. Analyses are undertaken for sub-district areas (OA and MSOA). The paper employs two measures of residential segregation (interaction and exposure) and multivariate multilevel regression, stratified by urban-rural typology. The results reveal a widespread trend of increasing congregation of older groups (65 and over) and decreasing interaction between older and younger adults (aged 25-44) across neighbourhoods within small areas, both urban and rural, since 2001. Crucially, our findings indicate that housing (un)affordability (for sales and rentals) is a powerful predictor of residential age segregation, above and beyond other local characteristics, and with relatively similar effects in urban and rural areas. Should policy be concerned with increasing residential separateness of older and younger people? Recent policy discourses on mixing and intergenerational relations would suggest so. In this case, the findings of this paper imply that housing market intervention, and housing planning and development, need to take heed of the spatial-demographic implications of the increasing mis-match between house prices and income, and how this varies across neighbourhoods.

It never rains but it pours. Re-emerging social inequalities in city centres: the case of Barcelona

After the deep crisis, the Spanish economy shows signs of starting a new stage of recovery from 2014. Although this economic improvement has not benefitted the entire population, it has an impact on the housing market, activity and employment. In addition, it generates changes in the mobility flows that cause social and spatial significant transformations in urban areas. The main objective of this paper is to analyse the economic dynamics and their impact on urban transformation processes trough three axis: housing market evolution, changes in residential mobility and socioeconomic and demographic changes in the social structure of the population through households in urban areas. Urban centres have experimented deep changes since the late 1990’s, and have set the stage of various processes of inequality, polarization, and even gentrification. Far from returning to before 2008, economic recovery introduces even more
elements of instability that influence (among other factors) on a strong bubble in rental prices in the greater urban areas; an increment of tourist accommodation; growth of vulnerable population who have to adapt to atypical circumstances to access to housing and internal residential movements flows in the metropolitan regions that are not organized and predictable. Migratory flows are characterized by their own fragmentation not only but people that carry it out but also the destinations of their movements. Our analyses take into account three periods: pre-crisis (before 2008), economic crisis (2008-2014) and post-crisis (2014-now). We will focus concretely on the urban centres of Barcelona using secondary sources such as Population and Housing Census (2011), Residential Variation Statistics (INE, 1998-2018) and Sociodemographic Survey of Barcelona (2017). This work is part of a research project entitled New Motilities and socio residential reconfiguration in post crisis: Socioeconomic and demographic consequences in Spanish Urban Areas (RTI2018-095667-B-I00) funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. Multivariate analysis provide a typology of neighbourhoods according to the contribution of these new and multiple urban processes. In conclusion, new factors play a key role contributing to more fragmented urban areas and generating new social inequalities processes.

18 - Welcoming spaces? Opportunities and challenges for newcomers (roundtable)

https://zoom.us/j/98517499845?pwd=cE5ULzhjaGhjU1jNutd4ZFICTFluZz09

Chairs
Pierluigi Musarò (University of Bologna, pierluigi.musaro@unibo.it)
Maurizio Bergamaschi (University of Bologna, maurizio.bergamaschi@unibo.it)
Paola Parmiggiani (University of Bologna, paola.parmiggiani@unibo.it)

Presentations
Laura Foelske (University of Siegen, laura.foelske@uni-siegen.de)
Sabine Meier (University of Siegen, sabine.meier@uni-siegen.de)

Managing ´Welcoming Spaces´ middle-up-down: impressions of selected municipalities in Thuringia and Rhineland Palatinate (D)

Justyna Szałańska (Warsaw School of Economics, jszala@sgh.waw.pl)
Marta Pachocka (Warsaw School of Economics, marta.pachocka@gmail.com)
Pawel Kubicki (Warsaw School of Economics, pkubick@sgh.waw.pl)

Welcoming spaces in a non-welcoming country: who offers hospitality to migrants in Poland?

Jana Finke (Utrecht University, j.c.finke@uu.nl)
Karin Geuijen (Utrecht University, k.geuijen@uu.nl)

Migration policy in the Netherlands: opportunities and constraints for welcoming spaces for refugees in shrinkage areas
A whole-of-community approach to migrant integration in small and medium-sized towns and rural areas: Contextual factors and the multilevel political dynamics of local integration policies

Leticia Santaballa (University of La Coruña, leticia.santaballa@udc.es)
Estela Vallejo (Cepaim foundation - Madrid, estelavallejo@cepaim.org)

The situation of immigrants living in shrinking areas in Spain: a preliminary approach

Alice Lomonaco (University of Bologna, alice.lomonaco2@unibo.it)
Melissa Moralli (University of Bologna, melissa.moralli2@unibo.it)

Preliminary insights about the presence on non-EU migrants in Italian shrinking areas: opportunities and risks

3 - Theoretical and Methodological challenges for the urban sociology
(Panel 1)

https://zoom.us/j/98587729264?pwd=QlNKS2VaazJzVDFrUUViU2RTSWVuQT09

Chairs

Maria Victoria Gomez (University “Carlos III” of Madrid, mgomez@polsoc.uc3m.es)
Jan Üblacker (EBZ Business School - Bochum, j.ueblacker@ebz-bs.de)

Presentations

Xabier Artàzcoz (University of Barcelona, xartazga12@alumnes.ub.edu)

Sociographies in contemporary urban space

Some of the answers to the questions raised about the future of the human habitat, go through effectively understanding how its inhabitants relate and use the urban space and assimilate the transformations produced in it. As many reports have predicted, by 2050 about two-thirds of the world’s population would live in urban environments. On this way toward the metaurbanization of the territory seems that city borders are definitely diluting and new complex, extensive and vague models are emerging transforming urban ecosystem in something, unitary and homogeneous, but also fragmented, discontinuous, unequal, undetermined, unpinned and diffuse. This huge challenge raises, once again, complex questions around how will urban planning strategies determine and impact in the particular characteristics of the relational structures of social life. In the attempt to answer it, the current presentation will be divided in three phases: an historical descriptive review, a theoretical explicative assembly and, finally, an operative mapping representation. The initial purpose will be to describe taking as a reference the historical review of four methodological approaches, the way economic geography, human ecology, situational analysis and environmental psychology have tried to explain how groups, resources and system activities have been organized and distributed in urban places. Secondly, the analysis of each point of view, research methods and approximation scales, will allow defining a combined theoretical framework integrated with the principal elements around the spatial system analysis: the locational dimension of the activities that distribute produced goods, services and information; the social dimension of the orientations toward the constitution of
groups and social identity; the exchange dimension based on the individual and collective choices and the judgment dimension which deals with the meanings of the environment. Finally, the last purpose of the work will deal with the graphic representation process and the creation of an operative mapping language, which at the end could be used as a useful social diagnostic tool during the planning process of urban regeneration and transformation.

Giulia Carones (Humboldt University of Berlin, giulia.carones@gmail.com)

Towards a Geography of the Ephemeral: Ethnography of an occupied space in Milan, Italy

The paper engages grassroots alternatives to the urban neoliberal paradigm, to the all-encompassing “smart city” imperative and metropolis’ cultural life increasingly based on mega-events. In particular, the paper considers alternatives envisaged by citizens in explicit reference to the urban commons. Adopting ethnography as its methodological framework, the research describes the experiences of LUMe – Laboratorio Universitario Metropolitano –, an occupied cultural centre in Milan, Italy, active since April 2015. The work interrogates LUMe participants’ perception of the city, as well as their conscious political stance towards encroaching privatisation trends within the city. The aim of the present research is twofold. Firstly, by drawing on the theoretical framework and the extant literature on participatory mapping, cognitive mapping and emotional mapping, the study develops a methodological toolkit, applying it to obtain a deeper understanding of the phenomenology of conflict as perceived by urban social movements. Secondly, the research aims to contribute to the debates on the relevance of reclaiming a right to the city via occupations, and on the very possibility of representing such claims. To appreciate the interplay between globalised cities’ increasingly event-based cultural offer and the precarity that constitutes the agency domain of urban social movements, the research develops the novel concept geography of the ephemeral as a feature of a new, hatching, phenomenology of the city.

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Desire Paths: a way of walking

The project “Desire Paths: a way of walking” stemmed from a self-reflection on practices we reproduced every-day, that we wished to explore by drawing together creativity, performative interventions and visual arts as tools for research in the field of cultural geographies. We focused on the act of walking in the city, declinated for its symbolic meanings, its everyday familiarity, and its value as multisensorial bodily experience. Our objective was investigating and discussing these plural dimensions of the act of walking, while simultaneously questioning the relation between body and urban environment through the more-than-representational lens. Hence, we formulated a research project that tried simultaneously to respond to our curiosity and to do it combining different methodologies, in order to grow beyond conventional academic methods and outputs. Therefore, having identified different “desire paths” in the city of Lisbon our work consisted in making visible the invisible trails walkers cover in the city, experimenting with a performative exercise and recording how these urban interventions affected other users of the space. Inspired by the transience of the act of walking itself, we sought to intervene in manners that aligned with this sense of temporariness and evental. Hence, we used fleeting materials
playing with the attention, corporality and rhythm of walkers, and with the texture and ephemerality of the paths. The short film produced with the recordings of the interventions simultaneously documents the process of data collection and serves as presentation of the results, showcasing how the users of the city react, confront and engage with the emergence and disappearance of the "desire paths".

Kseniia Kalashnikova (Novosibirsk State University, Kalashnikova345@mail.ru)

In search for the "real": developing a concept of authenticity for researching the cities industrial heritage

The industrial heritage continues to play an important role in the post-Soviet space both from the point of view of urban landscapes, attractive for tourists, and from the point of view of the citizens’ self-awareness. However, the search for analytical concepts to explain the transformations taking place in cities with an industrial past remains relevant. This paper proposes the concept of authenticity as a research tool. This concept is becoming increasingly popular in the social sciences; however, it is mainly used in theoretical works, not in applied research, especially in Russia. In our opinion, this is due to the lack of a unified sociological definition of authenticity, and, as a result, to the lack of stable indicators for measuring it in an empirical study. This paper provides an overview of approaches to the authenticity definition (authenticity as an objective characteristic, as a social construct and as a feeling). Authenticity as an objective characteristic is based on confirmed authorship or attribution to time, place, technology. Authenticity as a constructed category is based on the perception of images of a place, its symbols and statuses. Authenticity as a human feeling arises in the process of individual and collective activity in space and is characterized as a feeling of "rootedness" and "reality" of experience. Indicators have been developed by which one or another approach can be recognized in narratives. The conclusion is made about the possibilities of using the concept of authenticity (in framework of Henri Lefebvre "spatial triad") as a tool for researching the transformation processes in industrial areas. Authenticity as objective characteristic performs as a source of power for professionals, who manipulate urban space (representations of space). Authenticity as a human feeling is tied to personal identity and everyday practices of city-dwelling (representational space). At the level of spatial practice, the previous two levels are combined. Representations of space are manifested in formal prohibitions on practices of production of physical space and in design techniques that create a sense of authenticity. Representational space can manifest itself in, for example, unregulated artistic practices, or certain everyday routes of citizens: favorite places, shops, etc. At this level authenticity is a construct: formal and informal signs, symbols of status are constructs of an authentic image.

21. Social innovation in the cities: politics, policies and actors (Panel 1)

https://zoom.us/j/93174800493?pwd=U0E5UDVuYUYzaTRNdTNtajNZbXF1QT09

Chairs

Adriano Cirulli (UniNettuno University, a.cirulli@uninettunouniversity.net)
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Presentations

Filippo Borreani (University of Turin, filippo.borreani@edu.unito.it)

The culture of corporate social innovation
This contribution focuses on the analysis of the organisational culture of a group of actors that constitute a hub for social innovation in a suburban district of the city of Turin. The research aims to show how this culture, strongly linked to an entrepreneurial mentality and the so-called "Californian Ideology", influences proposals for local development and the perception of the city’s needs and problems. The research is developed using qualitative methods (interviews and participant observation) and the analysis of the "grey literature" produced by the organisations themselves on the issue of social innovation.

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Community-based Enterprises in Urban Areas: New Models of Regeneration and Social Innovation
Community-based Enterprises represent a new way of organizing production (of a good or a service) for the reference community (in its interest), with the community itself (through the participation of the subjects that compose it), through an enterprise (by means of an economic activity) (Mori, 2018). These elements lead us to reflect on the ability of Community-based Enterprises to act as a new tool in the dialogue between civil society and local administration in the process of co-production of goods and services (Pestoff, 2012; Borzaga, 2015) that enhance marginal areas in urban contexts. Thanks to the inclusive governance model (Tortia, 2008; Sacchetti, Birchall, 2017), these companies carry out activities for the reference community, guaranteeing all members the opportunity to participate in management, promoting socio-economic development and strengthening networks of relationships within the territory. In the light of the recent studies on the subject (Bailey, 2012; Borzaga, Zandonai, 2015; Mori, Sforzi, 2018), the sectors on which many Community-based Enterprises focus themselves are the promotion of tourism, which include activities devoted to the recovery of paths and historical buildings, dedicated to restore local traditions and to provide agricultural and social services (Euricse, 2020). Starting from the analysis of some Italian case studies Community-based Enterprises in urban contexts, this paper aims to reflect on the ability of these models to create new participatory and self-organization processes of civil society through the tourism sector as a privileged area for regenerate the districts of the cities starting from the enhancement of the artistic and cultural heritage available. Drawing from physical regeneration, thanks to these enterprises, it is possibile to witness a process of social regeneration (Sacchetti, Borzaga, 2018) and social innovation (Moulaert et al. 2013; Barbera, Parisi, 2019) which sees the community as a protagonist in co-production of goods and services functional to meet emerging needs in a dialogue with the public and private actors of the territory which enable the social capital to be increased (Fukuyama, 1995; Putnam, 2000; Bagnasco, Piselli, Pizzorno, 2001).

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Luca Storti (University of Turin, luca.storti@unito.it)

Social innovation between micro-mechanisms of regulation and spatial issues:
A comparative study on communities of renewable energy in New Aquitaine (France)

Social innovation can be conceived as a multifaceted phenomenon that originates from the combination of horizontal mechanisms of regulation, such as market and reciprocity, and gives rise to experiences of collective provision of public goods. Neoliberalism has favoured the emergence of such experiences by favouring the spread of market logic and "regulatory gaps" that "heterodox forms" of economic experiences can fill. The energy sector is not exempt from these trends. In the present work, we will focus on a relevant emerging experience, the communities of renewable energy (hereafter CREOs), which consist of groups of citizens engaged in the production and/or delivery of renewable energy. In particular, the CREOs we will analyse develop photovoltaic projects in the region of New Aquitaine (France): they finance the installation of solar panels on public and/or private building and sell the energy to third actors. Through a comparative investigation based on qualitative data, we will show how this form of social innovation might assume different connotations from one context to another. Indeed, besides the mix of market and reciprocity exchanges they originate from, each CREO relies upon spatial context factors (i.e., density and heterogeneity of social networks, institutional frameworks, collective identities situated at the local level, conventions driving collective action), that affect their aims and organization aspects. The latter also operate as "coordinating mechanisms" and, in turn, are likely to intervene in the space surrounding the CREOs. Indeed, the influence the CREOs might exert on the local context is not limited to modifying the physical space by installing photovoltaic panels in more or less urban areas. The CREOs, in fact, are the expression of a project of territory and society, the realization of which passes through the collaboration with local administrations and local profit or non-profit actors. In definitive, our analysis aims to explore: i) actors’ motivations within CREOs, in order to detect their “systems of reference”; ii) situational elements, both material and immaterial, with the aim to detect how context shape actors’ agency; iii) the embeddedness of actors’ agency and how it shape both the context and the management of CREOs. The analysis of how the concrete features of social innovation are formed in the space will be developed by merging the literature on the theory of convention and the one on embeddedness.

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Silvia De Nardis (University of Rome “La Sapienza”, silvia.denardis@uniroma1.it)

Towards different forms of Social Urbanism:

social innovation and informal urban practices in Rome

This paper explores the relationship between social innovation and informal practices in the contemporary city, proposing a vision of informality as an alternative to neoliberal policies. In a period of de-regulation and progressive weakening of the welfare state, national and local institution have to tackle urban transformations at different scales and with various level of complexity. Against this context, experiences of self-organization are spreading everywhere, taking the form of community-based actions and alternative paths, in response to the unmet needs of people. Some interventions assume the traits of abusive occupation, re-appropriation or co-production of public spaces. The theoretical and practical implications related to the concept of urban informality suggest a reflection on the possible outcomes of informal actions in terms of innovation and activation of social capital. The aim of encouraging forms of collaboration between public and private actors outlines a model of solidarity society that claims that "right to the city" (Lefebvre, 1968). Urban informality induces us, on the one hand, to reflect on the potential and limits of actions that determine the active involvement of several actors, who are promoters and recipients of the actions put in place. On the other hand, it highlights the
possible risks of these practices such as the affirmation of laissez-faire policies, non-interventionist attitudes and de-responsibility of the State. Further side-effects of unregulated actions are linked to the aestheticization of poverty to the strengthening of the connection between informality and margin. These conditions tend to produce further stigma and exclusion perspective of informality as an activator of social innovation and heuristic tool for the analysis of territorial practices (Roy, 2015). This study proposes a critical approach which considers informality as 1. an organizational logic; 2. a metropolitan urbanization method (Roy and AlSayyad, 2004) and 3. a set of phenomena that manifest themselves in the space of the formal-informal continuum. Some experiences in Rome highlight how informal practices are placed between the formal and the informal in connection and not in contrast with formality. These forms of space production appear as micro-innovations, able to influence urban policies and affect public management.

11.15-13.00

3 - Theoretical and Methodological challenges for the urban sociology (Panel 2)

https://zoom.us/j/98587729264?pwd=QlNKS2VaazJzVDFrUViU2RTSWVuQT09

Chairs
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Presentations
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Stefano Magariello (Anglia Ruskin University – Cambridge, sm2242@pgr.aru.ac.uk)

Observing the practice of littering in the city: theoretical and methodological reflections

Littering is a widespread phenomenon with noticeable effects on the natural and the urban environment. With extent to the latter, this contribution aims to share theoretical and methodological reflections based on our experience within a research project about this topic in which we made use of non-participant observation in selected spots of small settlements and big cities in Northwest Italy. From a theoretical perspective, we would like to discuss the urgency to locate littering within the dominion of practices rather than behaviours, also paying attention on materiality and on the relevant role that littered objects and infrastructures play in this picture. In our opinion, littering has too frequently been framed as an individual behaviour, ultimately believed to depend on litterers’ anti-environmental attitudes. Conversely, we propose to move towards a practice-based understanding which takes into account the inherent materiality of the issue, specifically due to the massive presence of litter-to-be objects in our everyday life. Such an approach would help shaping policies not just focusing on the moment when a piece of waste is littered, but on the whole process instead, ultimately starting from production of ‘unnecessary’ items and their use. In addition, we would like to discuss some methodological issues connected to our approach based on the observation of the practice of littering when it takes place in public areas: an extremely time-consuming research task, yet able to provide a privileged viewpoint.
Çağdaş Can (Bauhaus University Weimar, cagdas.can@outlook.com)

**Discussing the relation between the authority, space and everyday life through heterotopia spaces: the case of Istanbul**

Heterotopia as an abstract concept suggested by Foucault and Lefebvre has recently found a ground in academic research, especially in the field of urban sociology. Foucault introduced heterotopia as a spatial concept to describe the spaces of others. Authorities always seek for a homogeneity over its control area. This homogeneity takes form by the intentions, demands, moral values of authority, and it represents an image of utopia. Foucault’s heterotopias are those places which break the homogeneity. Lefebvre revisits the term in a different way. According to him, seeking for this utopia in the “real” world inevitably creates isotopia spaces, which are conceived spaces of authorities, and heterotopian spaces, where the outlanders of the intended utopia are accumulated. For Lefebvre heterotopias are the places of struggles against authorities, the alternative spaces of oppositional groups with emancipatory potentials.

The main aim of the current research is to approach heterotopia spaces in a way that enables to explore the relationship between the authority, space and everyday life. I present Istanbul city as a case for this investigation. Throughout the history Istanbul has been of great interest to political actors. This interest turns the city into a place of conflict and struggle for power. We can chase these struggles just by focusing on the planned and executed projects, changing perception of architecture and urban planning history of the city. The built space has a role in ordering society in two ways. First by locating people within the space in relation to each other through different levels of aggregation and segregation, second by setting physical structures like buildings, paths, boundaries, zones and markers. Both processes generate different movement patterns, encountering possibilities and accessibility for different actors of society. All these outcomes represent the social order in spatial form. With the current research I present the planning history of the city under four periods starting from early 19th century, and focus on how different political authorities conceived Istanbul, and everyday life. In other terms I will picturize the “utopia” imagination of the authorities, how this “utopia” manifested through planning of the city, and which heterotopia experiences of “others” such as “Gecekondu” neighborhoods and “Gezi Park” occupation emerged in the process of constructing this “utopia”.

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Clarissa Veloso (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, clarissaveloso25@gmail.com)

**Neighborhood studies in Belo Horizonte, Brazil: a systematic review of academic publications in the last 30 years**

This paper aims at analyzing the academic production of neighborhood studies in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, identifying and relating their historical, spatial, theoretical, thematic, and methodological frameworks. To this end, we employed a systematic review of neighborhood studies published between 1990 and 2020 in thesis and dissertations from the graduate programs in Sociology, Social Sciences, Geography, and Architecture and Urbanism of two universities (Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais and Federal University of Minas Gerais). The meta-analysis of neighborhood studies in Belo Horizonte shows that most investigations employed qualitative research methodologies and are concentrated in the 2000s. Researches have focused on central and peripheral neighborhoods as well as on favelas. Among the themes of studies on peripheral neighborhoods and favelas, we can find inequalities, segregation, stigma, youth, housing, crime, and public security. Studies on central neighborhoods, which are also the oldest in the city, have
emphasized themes related to sociability, memory, lifestyles, identity, and cultural heritage. Neighborhood studies are also present in the production of several geographers, architects and urban planners who reflected on neighborhood definitions.

Yan Rees (Bielefeld University y.rees@uni-bielefeld.de)

Exploring Social Cohesion in the Digital Sphere: evidence from a mixed-methods multi-sited study in German Rural Areas

While most studies on social cohesion and digitization focus exclusively on cities, we aim to explore how digital neighborhood platforms affect social cohesion and community life in rural areas in Germany. On the one hand our main research interest lies in the utilization of digital neighborhood platforms and its impact on neighborhood coexistence in rural areas. On the other hand, we also focus on possible effects of these platforms on social cohesion in the social space. Following a mixed-methods design combining standardized questionnaires (n=600), socio-structural data on the neighborhood level as well as in-depth interviews with local inhabitants and local media discourses on digitization, we examine eight villages in total consisting of four primary cases and four regional comparison cases. In two of the primary cases of the utilization of digital neighborhood platforms among its population is rather high while neither the regional comparative examples nor the other primary examples show any utilization of such digital platforms. By comparing our primary cases with the regional comparison cases, we are able to analyze ensuing effects on social cohesion and social life following the utilization of digital neighborhood platforms. Additionally, we consider regional sociocultural factors in our respective research sites, following the notion that ‘space matters’ when gathering and analyzing data on the neighborhood level. We discuss our results in the light of the theoretical frames of social cohesion as well as neighborhood efficacy. At the same time, we stress the fruitfulness of combining quantitative and qualitative methods for Urban research in general. In the contribution we will present the first results of our first of four cases, a rural community in Western Germany and provide an outlook to further research.

21. Social innovation in the cities: politics, policies and actors (Panel 2)

https://zoom.us/j/93174800493?pwd=UIE5UDVuYUYzaTRNdTNTajN2ZbXF1QT09

Chairs

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Presentations

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Under the veil of urban social innovation:
commodification of social life and privatization of the public city

The dismantling of the “Public City” contrasts with the high expectations about the Urban
Destiny, and contributes to design as “fractured” contemporary Global Cities, in which a basic duality of rich and poor, formal and informal, organized and disintegrated, ruled and unruly, separated and linked at the same time is shown. Two decades of neo-liberal reforms, formal democratization, and globalizing urban modernity have produced nothing but disillusion for a vast area of city residents, estimated to live in the “Anti-City”: poverty, insecurity and exclusion are the main characters by which the neo-liberal economic model deals with the performance and representation gap of “real democracy” and spreads high social costs among the lower sectors of the population. Under the veil of decorum-related groups, aiming at a City with clean walls and without political leaflets and tags, it stands a sort of “short circuit” between the urban vision of a “Clean and Polite City” and the social strategy of a “Slow and Resilient City”, which is worth to be deepened. Our survey’s epistemology consists of a double-level approach, as the Authors live in popular districts at risk of gentrification: we belong to an observatory (the Global City Observatory, inner to the “S. Pio V” Institute of Political Studies) which works as a research group – “when doors are closed” – and as services’ provider from grassroots associations and local committee, “when doors are open”. With reference to the latter case, an “open door” implies that, to the eyes of the external person, the social fact itself (“gentrification”, for example) is not investigated by an academic institution, but by a network within those districts and slums the survey is focused on. Under a methodological point of view, by the instruments of visual sociology and some in-depth interviews to local activists, the essay seeks to investigate the transition from popular districts’ former political culture (their identity, their past struggle for recognition, the battles for the right to housing and for immigrants’ inclusion), to the present gentrified process of urban transformation, specifically in the sense of the substitution of low-income residents with upper-class newcomers and affluent tourists, attracted by the naïve atmosphere and the working class memories.

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Collaborative housing as social innovation in Barcelona and Catalonia: a social capital analysis of citizen-government alliances and networks

The paper presents emerging initiatives for the implementation of collaborative housing in Barcelona and Catalonia as a form of social innovation. Using a social capital framework, we shed light on how alliances and networks between the state and civil society have been used to foster innovative housing models. Collaborative housing initiatives have been growing across European cities. In Barcelona and Catalonia, a severe housing crisis has catalyzed the emergence of self-organized groups, which advocate for non-speculative housing models. Such groups benefit from a progressive government in the Barcelona municipality, an existing social fabric of neighborhood activism and a tradition of cooperatives in Catalonia. After implementation of a few pilot projects, collaborative housing initiatives are now expanding in the region, predominantly inspired by the Andel Danish model, which allows housing to be decommodified and presents an alternative form of tenure. The presented qualitative research is the result of semi-structured interviews with housing providers, residents, members of cooperatives and municipal authorities involved in the implementation and expansion of collaborative housing. Drawing on a social capital framework, the paper scrutinizes how bonding, bridging and linking social capital are being mobilized across neighbourhood, city and regional scales. Results suggest that bonding social capital amongst civil society groups, which operate within an existing high level of activism...
at the neighborhood scale, has been crucial to give strength to the cooperative sector and built linking social capital with municipalities. Meanwhile, local authorities have been supporting the formation of social capital through information sharing and creation of new alliances. Building bridging social capital with different actors beyond the local scale reveals to be crucial for expansion of alternative housing models, but remains as a major challenge for stakeholders. The paper highlights the potential of a social capital framework in revealing how social innovations such as collaborative housing get negotiated through alliances and networks amongst state and civil society groups, across multiple scales. Nonetheless, the research also points that social capital itself is not sufficient for implementing and expanding non-speculative housing models, in face of scarce land and credit, added with a fierce competition for housing in Barcelona and Catalonia.

Anastasia Pirotskaya (Russian Academy of Sciences, a.pirotskaya@mail.ru)

**Social effects, problems and obstacles in the implementation of the smart city technologies: Perception of local authorities, IT businessmen, urban researchers and citizens of Novosibirsk, Russia**

The smart city concept has gained an immense popularity and affects political, economical and social relations worldwide. Therefore it’s worth figuring out, who benefits from it and what role authorities, business and residents play in this situation. The purposes of this study are to examine the interaction between local authorities, IT business, urban researchers and citizens, identify their perception of smart city concept as well as to explore the main obstacles to the implementation of smart city technologies in Russia. At this stage of research database includes 5 expert interviews and 60 semi-formalized interviews with residents of Novosibirsk, aged 18-60. The study has shown that residents perceive smart city as a set of applications that help them to solve everyday problems. However experts think of smart city as an integrative notion which is at the same time extremely vague due to its marketing origin. Also experts are highly concerned about social effects of spreading smart technologies, like digital divide and loss of internet privacy, while citizens don’t see these as a threat. The main problems of the smart technologies implementation are related to the fact that the government doesn’t have enough finances to cooperate with IT companies, isn’t ready to work with researchers, and also doesn’t see the point of asking for residents’ opinions. Also citizens aren’t willing to participate in the city life, unless it’s related to their living district. Another reason is that Russian regions are significantly different from each other and are governed by their own local authorities.

Emanuele Polizzi (University of Milan Bicocca, emanuele.polizzi@unimib.it)

**An ambiguous social innovation. Foundations and welfare programs in urban contexts**

In the last few years, almost every actor dealing with the welfare sector has been using the concept of social innovation as a main objective of its activity: citizens groups deeply rooted in the local communities, municipalities and third sector organizations who provide social services at the local level, big philanthropic foundations born from the market sector. The good promises aroused by this term have enhanced its circulation among these different actors trying to legitimize their social initiatives but it have also increased its ambiguity, as it is used for very different kinds of activities.

One of the most interesting example of this ambiguous use of the concept can be detectable in the in the social programs promoted and financed by the banking foundations in the Italian context. Banking foundations in Italy are complex actors introduced in the Nineties by a reform of the Italian bank systems that separated the philanthropic branch of the most important banks
from their market branch. What came up from this reform was a system of local philanthropic institutions whose governance is decided from both public institutions and civil society actors and whose mission is to promote the cultural and social life of their territories. This paper will present an empirical analysis of the main social innovation program of the largest Italian banking foundation, Fondazione Cariplo, in which 16 local projects at the urban level have been examined. I will show how these projects work in the urban contexts, the way in which they try to legitimize their role by claiming to address the whole local community and not only the more marginalized ones and the ambiguous effects their practices have on the local welfare system.

22. Responsible cities: imaginaries, practices and policies in a challenging era

https://zoom.us/j/98680923060?pwd=cnRzWkpYbWJYeUt4OVgrdXVjQkVCUT09

Chairs

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Presentations

Maria Victoria Gomez (University “Carlos III” of Madrid, mgomez@polsoc.uc3m.es)

COVID 19 in Madrid (Spain): imaginaries, practices, and policies

During the confinement of the pandemic, we have seen our neighbours face difficult personal situations, but our experience has also transcended particular circumstances and led us to reflect on structural causes that go beyond this dramatic episode. Personal experiences together with the discovery of the objective factors behind situations of crisis are the two terms of the equation that promote, as Wright Mills pointed out, the sociological imagination. In times of confinement there were moments in which we believed that we would change radically and that cities would also do so as a result of the experience of fighting COVID 19. We attended the unforgettable experience of breathing fresh air and seeing our cities empty for the first time. We verified the insufficiency of the public health services and saw how most vulnerable neighbourhoods suffered to a greater extent from the impact of the pandemic and how deficiencies in the habitability of housing had an impact on the social and psychological effects of confinement. We welcomed the capacity of resistance to this traumatic experience that the neighbourhood networks provided. We perceived that local shops increased in value. They are all ingredients through which we can imagine a more friendly, liveable and responsible city. However, the obstacles to be overcome are not negligible and some of them act as trends that oppose the desired changes: the habits that anchor us to past experience, the short-term effects that make us fear contagion in public transport, the impact of state emergency policies on the local level, such as the need to revitalize employment in the short term, the impact on the restriction of public spending of the increase in the national debt, the forms of work protection that interfere with plans to transition to the ‘green economy’ (car manufacturing maintenance or predatory tourism for example) are effects that are often ignored when analysing local
governance policies. This communication aims to highlight the obstacles that the city of Madrid is encountering in the way to the imagined after the outbreak of COVID 19. It is based on the comparison of the local governance measures of the Madrid City Council with evidence of the willingness to change taken from the exploration of surveys, sources of opinion and analysis of different mobilizations of the citizenry in favour of the transformation towards a responsible city.

Roberta Discetti (University of Portsmouth, roberta.discetti@myport.ac.uk)

Local communities re-imaging just cities: Insights from the Fairtrade Towns movement in the UK

As the largest consumers of resources, cities have a crucial role to play in the transition towards sustainable and just economies. One of the major challenges cities are called to address is managing food and agriculture systems taking into account local and global dimensions. Due to increasing world population and urbanisation processes, food systems are producing degenerative impacts, such as environmental degradation and increased social inequalities. Cities have a significant potential to contribute to systemic changes, but they cannot achieve just economies alone: this requires involving several actors and, crucially, local communities.

In this paper, I look at transformative imaginaries and practices of local communities within the context of “Fairtrade Towns”, a global social movement campaigning for sustainable cities with particular attention to food consumption. Launched in the UK in 2001, this under-researched movement promotes the consumption of fair trade products in local communities, through the engagement of local authorities, educational actors, faith groups and local businesses. Particularly, I look at frames and practices crafted by local communities to re-imagine just cities on three key issues: sustainable consumption, public procurement, and socially innovative policies. Combining digital ethnography with a focus on frames and culture in social movements, this study tackles the politics of signification at work within Fairtrade cities, to analyse which frames these transformative communities employ and what ethics they reflect. If we consider local communities as a “bundle of narratives”, what might we learn on responsible cities through a focus on imaginary and frames? Can an exploration of the mechanisms through which local communities shape the meanings of civic consumption expand our knowledge on the ability of cities to bring about social change? Taking a longitudinal approach (2001-2017), findings uncover multiple diagnostic and prognostic frames produced by Fairtrade communities. The exploration of these different frames allows the identification of Fairtrade cities as responsible cities where multiple projects of social change and non-conventional political participation are produced and reproduced. By doing so, this paper provides new insights on the interplay between cities and local communities within globalisation processes, through a focus on sustainable consumption and social change.

Stefano Magariello (Anglia Ruskin University - Peterborough, sm2242@pgr.aru.ac.uk)

Policy work practices and imaginaries towards the decarbonised city of the future: the case of Valencia

With cities being required to reduce their emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change, local authorities across Europe are working towards a low carbon energy transition for their urban areas. For my PhD research, I am investigating the case of Valencia (Spain), where significant efforts are being put into action. By adopting practice theory and the concept of sociotechnical imaginaries, I focus on the way local policy workers enact energy policy practices within a sociotechnical imaginary, which ultimately includes European, national and local aspects.
in the definition of shared desirable visions of the future. Indeed, energy policy workers are the
main object of inquiry and my data collection was undertaken making large use of virtual
interaction with them, where a traditional ethnographic approach was prevented by the COVID-
19 emergency. In line with my theoretical approach, I specifically address topics such as policy
work practices and visions of a future decarbonised city. Thus, I investigate in which way these
two elements interact and contribute to shaping and reproducing each other.

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**Potential of Co-Produced Urban Narratives**

In my book “Walking in the City”, I compared the space production of literature and art works
staging in Berlin and Buenos Aires by applying among others Lefebvre’s triadic space
production model in the analysis. Their peculiar way of the respective mobile city appropriation,
its specific and simultaneous re-production of the conceived, perceived and lived spaces not only
reflected thereby the cultural characteristics of the current city discourses and narrating
traditions. Rather, it showed that the social/lived space – the only one with a double location in
Lefebvre’s triadic model - and its central narratives have a key function in the question of
whether they enable alternative practices, social/individual changes or utopic perspectives:
Imaginaries or myths are often more powerful than the ‘real’ city experience or, formulated the
other way around: Narrative activities have the potential to transform urban discourses and
practices, are crucial for social and political change and alternative appropriations of urban
space. Thus, so my thesis, not only urban imaginaries, routines, and concepts have to be
analyzed, at the same time there have to be introduced alternative, co-produced narratives to
challenge changes. In my recent research project in collaboration with a team of cultural, social
scientist and artists in Europa and Africa, we study the interplay between lived, perceived, and
conceived space with a focus on urban squares and create narratives as ‘tools’ to augment,
transgress the ‘real’ urban space, and let them travel between the continents and the very
different concepts and functions of squares. On the other side the Covid-crisis let pop-up short-
term planned temporary public urban spaces that introduced alternative (?) narrations in mostly
orphaned, also touristic cities. For the conference I would like to present and discuss as a
research method - eventually with a member of my team from overseas in a north-south-
dialogue (if possible, name will follow) - one alternative reading example of a (temporary) square
and the potential of its corresponding co-produced urban narrations.

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**Developing a modern welfare and cooperation paradigm**

I am following the path set by Aleksandra Bielewicz and Olga Rodak (2016) whose aim, as stated
in “Nowe Peryferie” (New Peripheries) magazine, is to revive the dialogue between the
countryside and the cities and deepen the analysis of the rights and interests related to the
countryside as a place where people live and perform their daily work. Taking into account social,
environmental, and cultural functions of agriculture, this approach is based on the belief that food
should not be treated as an “ordinary commodity” and that the farmer is not just an “ordinary
entrepreneur.” Bilewicz and Rodak proposed a framework for the discussion, constructing the
idea of “the right to the countryside” which draws upon Lefebvre’s “right to the city”. In doing so,
they expanded the scope of the discourse on urban movements to include issues related to the ways of living and modes of work which are anchored in the everyday life of the “periphery” and are often overshadowed by broadly discussed social and spatial conflicts.

In the proposed paper, I present the postulated space of dialogue through the lens of solidarity. Adopting the approach of Rahel Jaeggi (2001), I understand solidarity as a form of “non-instrumental cooperation” based on individuals recognising their connections and building mutual and symmetrical relations. For Jaeggi, reciprocity occurs in an “enlarged” form – it is mediated by a common fate and refers to social integration.

In my paper, I focus on the changes in the relationship between the city and the countryside and the deconstruction of the prevailing paradigm of modernisation, which, in the spirit of multidisciplinarity, may draw more attention to research in ecology, philosophy, ethnography, and history (Kaleta 2018, Sadura et al. 2017). Alternative scenarios of urban-rural relations are situated in the socialisation and democratisation of production, distribution and consumption of food within the framework of bottom-up food networks. These networks originate from urban consumption practices and are based on creating transparent relations between urban consumers and rural producers. My analysis will be based on a literature review, taking into consideration the narratives and practices known both from the humanities and everyday social life. I position myself as a person involved in grassroots initiatives within the food sovereignty movement, which, to some extent, introduces also a transdisciplinary approach to the subject.

24 - Migrations, urban transformations and ICT solutions

https://zoom.us/j/91660416295?pwd=dTFIOHJPaEROODRXMXV0VnhvRnREdz09

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This round table aims to analyze the points of convergence between migration studies and those devoted to cities and technological services. On the other hand, it aims to create a dialogue between specialists in migration, citizen sciences and ICT solutions. As an urban fact, immigration participates in the reproduction and transformation of the city not only by stimulating the processes of city renovation and rehabilitation, but also by redefining the relationship between the needs of migrants and public services, as well as the relationship between para-institutional actors (associations, cooperatives, etc.) and public authorities. The need for profound changes in the relationships between actors, services and the urban space is thus emerging. Indeed, to the migratory flows of previous decades must be added the high influx of asylum seekers and
refugees in Europe from 2015 onwards. These processes have thus generated questions relating to the integration of migrant population (legal status procedures, legislative and policy changes, and longer-term issues relating to integration policies, etc.). In addition, there has also been an increased interest in social inclusion measures within the EU and Member States (Eurofound, 2018). As a result, the presence of migrant populations participates in the redistribution and creation of new urban functions (social centres, listening centres, hubs, etc.) and their spatial integration. At the same time, this transformation of the urban space and its population increasingly requires a capacity to coordinate the actions of the different actors in the city who deal with migration, especially those involved in the integration process of migrant populations. On the other hand, these transformations generate a new demand for comparable and above all shared data between different actors, as well as a facilitation of the relationship between migrants’ needs and public services. In this sense, the role that ICT solutions can play is central and is increasingly at the heart of research programmes and projects and actions funded at different levels of governance. ICT solutions, with their potential in data analysis and integration on the one hand, and with user interfaces that are increasingly easy to access, can thus respond to the new challenges facing European cities.

This round table therefore wants to discuss the relationship between the migration phenomenon, the transformations it brings about in contemporary cities, and the role of ICT solutions in the responses that are put in place. In this discussion, contributions will be accepted on the following topics:

1. Theoretical debates on the relationship between migration, urban transformation and new technologies;
2. experimentation with new technologies aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants in different sectors, such as housing, education, health and work;
3. the implementation of technological solutions aimed at promoting and innovating coordination and communication between the different actors operating in essential services for migrants.

On this topic, which is still in its experimental stage, the session would like to promote dialogue between the knowledge being built up by field actors and researchers. The expected contributions could be of a theoretical nature, although preference will be given to contributions based on empirical knowledge.

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<tr>
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<td>17.00</td>
<td>Keynote Speech: Ayse Caglar, <em>Migrants within city-making processes: Looking through the lens of disempowered cities</em></td>
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<td>Debate and conclusion</td>
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