

**RC21 CONFERENCE**

14-16 July 2021 Online Edition

# **BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



**Sensing the City**

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# WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

16:30-18:00 CEST

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

Plenary 1 | Ash Amin

**Space/Subject: Vernaculars of Endurance in Delhi's Slums and Streets**

Wednesday 14 July 2021

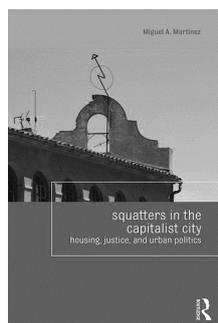
16:30 - 17:45 (CEST)

This lecture is on how subjectivity is made in the dwelling of places. When habitat is acknowledged as an influence on personhood, it is often seen as an external force affecting body and mind. Based on an ethnography of mental health in a slum and among the homeless in Delhi, the lecture argues that place - in its design, atmosphere, habitat, sensorial qualities, built form - enters into subjective experience and identity through how it is intimately dwelt. Conceiving place as internal and integral to the rhythms of human endurance - in this case of poverty - has important implications for how urban identities are conceptualized and how the granularity of place could help improve states of mental health.

# WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

18:15-19:45 CEST

## AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS SESSION



### Squatters in the Capitalist City

**Session Organiser(s)** | Miguel A. Martinez

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | AMC144

**Room 24** | Author Meets Critics room

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

with Manuel Aalbers, Hans Pruijt, Dominika Polanska, Eleonora Pasotti

# ROUND TABLES

## The urban governance of COVID-19 (I)

**Session Organiser(s)** | Roger Keil

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | RT139

**Room 2** | Market Square (COVID-19 round tables)

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Governing COVID-19 in an Urbanizing World: Lessons from Southeast Asia**

Creighton Connolly

### **COVID-19 in Lombardy region: post-suburban patterns and inequalities of care**

Lorenzo De Vidovich

### **Between imposition and possibility: Democracy and the political economy of pandemic responses in Canada and Germany**

Ahmed Allahwala

## Food, the Senses and the City

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ferne Edwards, Grit Wesser, Roos Gerritsen

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | RT136

**Room 23** | Round Table room

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

Diti Bhattacharya, Melissa Biggs, Guillermo Gomez, Joel Hart, Aitzpea Leizaola, Daniel Monterescu, Premila van Ommen

# PAPER PRESENTATIONS

## S36 | Sensing the city during walking / cycling the “first / last mile”

**Session Organiser(s)** | Apostolos Arvanitis, Sokratis Basbas, Stella Giannakopoulou

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS133

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Embodied First / Last Miles - Three Sensory Autoethnographies**

Daniel Zwangslitner, Elettra Carnelli, Elif Simge Fettahoğlu Özgen

How we move in the city is unique for every individual. We share the same patterns and modes as well as everyday urban spaces: each journey is an individual imprint on the urban space, and likewise it is an everyday urban imprint on personal experience(s). We commute to work, we get the essential needs met, and socially interact in those FM/LM journeys, which are embedded in our day to day life, and our experiences of the urban. Those journeys, both in trajectory and in their perception are mutable, through elements like mode of transport, rhythms and flows of public mobilities, physicalities of the urban environment, or specific and temporal sensorial features. As such, those journeys provide a social perspective of

the everyday city that is individual and shared simultaneously. Traditional representations of the spatial experiences of movement are heavily based on a separation of the mind, body and space, and the senses in themselves. The new mobilities paradigm considers the social as assemblages of humans and objects and their steady reconfiguration in space and time (Sheller, M. & Urry, J. 2006). Sensory Ethnography (Pink 2009) offers an approach that not only leaves the dichotomy of body and mind behind but integrates the spatial dimension. According to Cresswell (2010) along with the physical movement and its representations, embodied and personal experiences play a crucial role in the definition of movement. In the context of Munich three sensory autoethnographies investigate the manifold everyday relations between the individual and the urban environment.

### **Investigating residents' perceptions of the urban environment during walking the first mile / last mile, in the metro system of Thessaloniki, in Greece**

Tzanni Olga

The "first mile / last mile" problem is of crucial importance in urban planning, during the last decades. This paper, investigates the way that individuals interact with their city, during their everyday walking routes to/from the metro station. The station of Ampelokipi, in the city of Thessaloniki, in Greece, was the case study area. The survey took place through personal interviews with questionnaires addressed at the local residents. People were asked on which elements of the build environment make a route attractive or non-attractive, and encourage or discourage them from walking. In addition, they were asked on the criteria that affect their choices of the routes they follow between point of origin and destination, and what would make them to modify their usual route. Statistical analysis results draw useful conclusions about the individuals' behavior, their sensitivity and way of interaction with the urban environment. The survey revealed that individuals' demographic characteristics, affect their perceptions of the surrounding built environment. Results of the survey may contribute to a future local urban planning policy. The main focus will be on the improvement of the urban environment conditions, mainly on appropriate infrastructure for walking or cycling (e.g. crosswalk improvements, pedestrian signals, protected bike lanes, wayfinding for all society groups, access connection etc.). This will enhance the quality of city and will encourage people to walk.

### **Investigating the "First Mile/Last Mile problem" in urban planning. Case study: Metro system in Thessaloniki, Greece**

Viktoria Karakeke, Evangelia Eirini Koktsidou

The term "First Mile/Last Mile Problem" (FMLM) is used to describe the way that passengers access transport hubs. The means of transport and the available infrastructures of the surrounding areas are considered key factors in increasing/decreasing the attractiveness of transportation modes. In this frame, this paper investigates FMLM at two selected stations of the under-construction metro in the city of Thessaloniki, in Greece; the stations Papafi and Nea Elvetia. The aim of the paper is to investigate pedestrian accessibility around the two stations, in relation to the urban characteristics. Two buffer zones of 400m and 800m, around each station, were examined through in situ survey in terms of: sidewalks' condition, level of accessibility and connectivity, land-uses, sense of safety, infrastructure etc. Urban elements were presented through different maps. The main findings of the survey reveal the inefficiencies of the current infrastructures, mainly the poor condition of the pedestrian network, the absence of bike network and the absence of high mixture of land-uses around the two stations. Comparison with relative literature reveals local inefficiencies and future prospects. The results of the survey may contribute to the urban planning policy of the city, to the direction of the improvement of the metro stations' surrounding areas. Certain proposals of the survey are directed to the enhancement of the walkability of the FMLM, in order for the creation of a more attractive and sustainable, local metro system.

## **S86 | Production of urban space and contemporary finance: public policies and social spending**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ursula Dias Peres, Luciana de Oliveira Royer

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS125

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **The institutional development and the budgetary analysis of policies for women in Sao Paulo city in 2013-2016**

Maria Angélica Fernandes, Silvio Gabriel Serrano Nunes, André Galindo da Costa

For the last three decades, from 1989 to 2016, the municipality of Sao Paulo has registered the experiences of public policies for women. Those policies have not occurred continuously, however an improvement can be seen in the

institutional setup of the organ responsible for its implementation. During that period, Sao Paulo has been not only the seat of several regional, intrastate, national and international events as well as an important centre for the debate and development of institutional actions regarding this subject in the field of sexual and reproductive rights, education, sexist violence fight, employment and income generation, and urban planning. These policies were implemented at the outskirts with low indexes of social indicators. This work also presents budgetary and financial information of the municipality of Sao Paulo regarding the investments done in specific actions and programs related to policies for women. The period of time chosen for this study is due to the institutionalization of the budgetary and financial autonomy resulting from the creation of the Municipal Secretary of Policies for Women. It is also highlighted on this period the increase of the social control through the Municipal Conferences of Policies for Women and the creation of the Municipal Council of Women of Sao Paulo. Another relevant element was the implementation of quota for women at the Municipal Participative Councils, organisms which represent the social demands of marginalized areas of the centres of decision of public policies.

### **"The DNA of Government": The Rise of Smart Auditing Technologies in Assessing Municipal Services**

Chris Hurl

This article explores the role of professional service firms in selling 'smart' auditing technologies to municipal governments to assess their services. Drawing on a case study of the Municipal Reference Model (MRM), developed by municipal information officers, in collaboration with private consultants in the 1990s, and later taken up by KPMG, a transnational professional service firm, the article documents the packaging of new forms of service assessment across the province of Ontario (Canada). The article explores three aspects of this process: First, through the promotion of these technologies, firms have been able to tap into existing contracts in order to deepen and diversify relationships with municipal governments, consolidating a policy apparatus that increasingly depends on the work of private actors for its day-to-day functioning. Second, the resulting product is transformed into a commodity that can be packaged and circulated by professional service firms to other jurisdictions cross-nationally. Third, through such technologies, logics of New Public Management (NPM) become hardwired into municipal policy-making, as services increasing become commensurable across jurisdictions, enabling their reconfiguration and disciplining within a pseudo-market for services.

### **The role of the state in the financialisation of housing in Spain after the 2008 economic crisis**

Javier Gil, Miguel A. Martínez

After the 2008 global financial crisis, the Basel III regularity framework intended to strengthen capital requirements for banks by increasing bank liquidity and decreasing bank leverage. Banks had to get rid of "toxic assets" (properties subject to unpaid loans) in order to gain liquidity. But in Spain the opposite was occurring: thousands of families were evicted for not being able to pay their mortgage debts off, and the banks' portfolios were filling up with devalued houses and unpaid debts. In this context, the Spanish central government intervened the real estate and financial sectors in order to foster massive sales to international investors ("vulture funds"). These agents would thus purchase most the housing units owned by the banks, under privileged conditions and below market prices. This process is the cornerstone of the restructuring of the Spanish financial system as a response to the 2008 economic crisis but its immediate effect was a skyrocketed and unprecedented increase of rental prices. This paper analyses the specific public policies implemented by the Spanish Government in order to fuel the above restructuring process. In particular, it is argued that those policies have relaunched a new cycle of housing financialisation and have worsened and extended the housing crisis triggered by the 2008 global economic crisis.

### **Arrangements of governance and financing in urban development: Urban Consortium Operations in São Paulo, Brazil**

Simone Guerresi de Mello

Urban intervention in restricted perimeters, based on the association between state action and private interests, have among their goals the expansion of financing possibilities for urban development.

New arrangements of governance and financing have been associated with instruments of urban renewal intervention, in line with ideals of a new role for the State, less executor, more enabler of private action.

Brazilian Urban Consortium Operations are representative of these arrangements. They have undergone institutional adaptations over time and new narratives have been incorporated. The possibility of investing in social housing have been highlighted in the justifications and promises related to these projects.

In this context, two questions may arise: First, what is the financial contribution of these interventions? The analysis of budget execution data for the city of São Paulo shows the growing participation of these resources in the municipality's investments. Urban Operations represents about 20% of all investment in urban development made by the city in 17 years (2003-2019).

Considering this apparent financial success, the second question that guides this article follows: How these resources were allocated? Previous papers and official documents suggest that interventions aimed at increasing land value had priority over the (re) distributive expenses such as housing policy.

This work intends to perceive that, beyond great financial collection, the allocative choice matters. Governance arrangements and policy instruments chosen to implement urban policies matters. Despite how much resources are available, if only part of the announced objectives is achieved, social and spatial inequality can be deepened.

### **Public-Private Partnership and State: Public and private finance in the construction and operation of Line 4-Yellow of the Sao Paulo Subway**

Victor Iacovini, Novaski, Mariana

From the 90s onwards, the Government of Sao Paulo (GSP) amplified its scope of action to enable the expansion of the Sao Paulo Subway Company (Cia do Metropolitano de São Paulo, Metrô-SP) creating new business models focusing on concessions and public-private partnerships (PPPs). Beyond the fiscal crisis, the larger context of political and economical crisis, productive restructuring and state reform, the GSP became the main financier, articulator and guarantor of a private market of concessions and PPPs, with the Line 4-Yellow of the Metrô-SP as the precursor of this new model. The methodology is based on the analysis of the economic demonstrations of the Administrative Reports (Metrô-SP, 1990-2019; ViaQuatro, 2012-2019) and the analysis of the administrative discourse in those Reports; and the bibliography associated. The preliminary analysis shows the Government made large efforts to create interesting conditions, not only financially, to the private sector. A new market niche was created with attractive conditions and guarantees to the private business in contrast to the economic and fiscal crisis scenario faced by the Country and the Federal and State Governments. Although the concession for the construction and operation of the Line involved a large volume of private and external resources, this amount was less than the financing from the State Treasury. Despite the rhetorical argument that a private concession would attract more investment than the state (fiscal source), the government still remains the main investor.

## S61 | Extended Urbanisation: From State Strategies to Everyday Life

**Session Organiser(s)** | Christian Schmid, Nitin Bathla

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS090

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Arcadia. Urbanisation of the Unbuilt. Politics of land and nature at the countryside of Greek economic crisis**

Metaxia Markaki

At the mountainous core of Peloponnese lies a place called Arcadia. At a first glance, Arcadia has remained in the shadow of processes of urbanization. Due to its rough topography, the area has been seemingly bypassed by urban growth, witnessing successive waves of population loss. In the comfort of this contemporary myth –of a depopulating rural periphery, intact by urban transformation– the image of Arcadia has remained frozen: a landscape of villages and shepherds, a land returned to “wilderness”, a countryside of escapism from the agglomeration, a city–fallback.

However, subtle contradictions in land structures and in emerging new patterns of everyday life testify a radical transformation that is taking place here. A rigid administrative restructuring of local governance units, a policy of privatizations, a system of state subsidies for agriculture and livestock, an inexistent land-cadaster under formation appear as evidences of a process of transformation that occurs at the level of the abstract, the invisible and the unbuilt. They narrate that deeply engraved in the picturesque image and in the patterns of land and nature lies the politics of Greek crisis, the complex relation of a nation state with IMF and its lenders, the current international interests in land restructuring and accumulation.

Through the case study of Arcadia and its shepherds, this contribution will discuss urban transformations taking place in the Greek countryside during the economic crisis, under a broader understanding of planetary processes manifesting in the territories of extended urbanisation.

### **Mechanised Mining, Infrastructure, Gold Coast's Peripheral Spaces, C 1900-57**

Ernest Sasu Kwame Sewordor

Recent scholarship have insightfully re-evaluated the transfer of technical knowledge into colonised territories to demonstrate inconsistencies in colonial thinking (Plageman 2013), demonstrated African adaptation of ‘imported’ technologies on their own terms (Hart 2016) to renegotiate imperial power (Cooper and Stoler 1997). These post-colonial reflections refined Ronald Robinson’s ‘railway imperialism’ proposition (Robinson, 1991). Nonetheless, a common thread that informed largescale state-building infrastructures in early post-independence Africa and projects of colonial states was the supposition that they embodied ‘developmentalist’ tendencies, accompanied by urban change. Yet, where post-colonial infrastructures failed (Scott 1998), its colonial counterparts have been critiqued as exploitative (Rodney, 1972). While these strands of literature centre the state, this paper de-emphasises same by claiming that distinct, but intertwined aspirations – of the colonial state, of private mining companies, and of indigenous Africans – collaboratively extended Gold Coast’s urban landscape from cities to peripheral regions as the early mining industry gained footing. Ultimately, this paper seeks to question the assumption that the colonial state’s intention to control urban design associated with the emerging mining industry effectively since the 1900s was non-negotiable by focusing on how indigenous African agents experienced, negotiated, and rationalised the making of their own ‘urban’ realities despite colonial state desires.

Informed mainly by archival research in Ghana, colonial legislations – perceived here as latent infrastructure upon which strategies for shaping industrial mining spaces are pivoted – provide an entry point to critically unpacked intricate lived experiences that bound existing cities with nascent mining to re-define the ‘urban’.

### **Beijing Winter Olympic Games 2022: a new step for urbanization and consumption**

Florence Graezer Bideau, Thierry Theurillat

The 2022 Beijing Winter Games is a multiscale state project involving Central, Provincial, Municipal and Districts Governments. It aims at accelerating urbanization in the whole metropolitan area (Beijing-Tianjin-Baoding) also by incorporating remote mountainous and rural areas into the urban consumption spaces. Urban consumption spaces are viewed as economic development and extension of the urban built environment as part of a new step for land-driven accumulation, which goes along with state policies to promote cultural heritage and new leisure and sports activities to legitimate the massive economic and societal transformation induced by the Games. This paper emphasizes three distinct areas that are iconic of these urbanization and civilization processes. In the city historical core, Imperial heritage is preserved for city branding and global and national tourism. The built environment of many central districts have been

kept on being renovated since the early 2000s which at the same time is also an operation of removal of existing popular inhabitants. The steel plant of Shougang and industrial heritage is being turned into a new urban pole in Eastern Beijing that aims to attract new generations of creative urbanites and consumers of fashionable urban sports. The main location for the Games, the mountains districts, implies a radical transformation of the landscape and traditional built environment, the pastoral economy and social behaviors and practices. Simultaneously, the Games legacy means to turn the whole area into a new urban consumption, leisure activity and residential spaces for middle and upper-middle urban citizens of the whole metropolitan area.

### **Post-mining territories as a form of extended urbanization. A spatial strategy to shape and regulate a territory of extended urbanisation in a peripheral area of Tuscany (Italy)**

Camilla Perrone, Alessandro Balducci, Maddalena Rossi, Flavia Giallorenzo

Nowadays processes of extended urbanization are transforming urban territories in unprecedented ways. Post-mining territories are structural component of the contemporary urban condition and take part of this process contributing to an understanding of how urban experiences unfold in a post-carbon society. These kinds of territories are often located in post-urban areas and create new landscapes of abandonment. Sometimes, they are stigmatized as landscapes that witness an unsustainable development and, therefore, an obstacle to the transition to a post-carbon society. Sometimes they become the object of predatory capitalist investment being entrapped into the dialectics of fixity and motion (the contradiction between the dynamics of urbanization and the permanence).

The paper contributes to this debate and shows an emerging kind of “post-mining urban” under conditions of extended urbanisation, which go beyond the two understandings above. In particular it explores the path of formation of this kind of “urban” in relation with previous experiences of peripheralisation through the loss of mining activities, and the weakening of social infrastructure. While doing it the paper shows a tentative approach to the reparation of post-mining territories (of extended urbanisation) through a spatial strategy that re-builds the territorial structures of a site located in a peripheral area of central Tuscany in Italy (named “Santa Barbara”), exploited by Enel (an Italian multinational energy company) for almost 50 years.

Finally, the paper gives general suggestions on how to approach urban spaces in territories of extended urbanisation by means of state and spatial strategies to shape and regulate such urbanisation.

### **Constructing extended urbanisation in the North Sea- the limits to the sensory apparatus**

Nancy Couling

The emergence of the North Sea as maritime territory of extended urbanisation is marked by the on-going systematic spatial transformations that have occurred since the Second World War. Vast continental shelves, which had previously belonged to the high seas, were bought under the control of the state through the establishment of exclusive economic zones, thus creating a new state space earmarked for extraction of resources and industrialised production. Both oily, metallic living and working environments offshore and the commodification of the open horizon itself, characterise the sensory experience of this extended urban space. Heightened levels of control are required to accommodate such oppositions. Increasingly regulated, yet fragmented, unfamiliar and ecologically degraded, an investigation of maritime capitalism’s confrontation with the complex, contingent, volatile, magnetic “natural” space of the North Sea reveals extreme and unresolved contradictions.

This paper discusses the processes of extended urbanisation in the North Sea through the delivery of fish, energy and retired rigs to three landings located in Scotland, Germany and Norway respectively. Linked to offshore sites of capture and extraction with differing frequencies, degrees of complexity and habitation densities, these landings are nodes of exchange for reciprocal relations between concentrated and extended urbanisation. Uncoordinated State and regional legislation meet here, neoliberal practices infiltrate the fishing industry and the visual environment is either silent or dwarfs the human scale. Together these places exemplify the processes of constructing an improbable “sea” of extended urbanisation underscored by increasing forms of control at all levels.

## **S7 | Shaping the City through Migration Industries**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Nir Cohen, Tatiana Fogelman, Henrik Lebuhn

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS007

**Room 7** | Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

## **Remittance real estate: Labor migration and urban development in departure cities**

Jonas Koenig

Migration, obviously, connects places. And yet, urban studies have so far mostly focused on the destination cities of international migration flows. Based on a circular understanding of migration, this paper turns to the “departure cities” of transnational labor migration and conceptualizes how they are shaped by the temporary absence and presence of people as well as the permanent flow of information, goods and funds. As many examples show, monetary remittances of migrant workers in particular have the potential to substantially impact on the every-day life and the built environment of departure cities. The paper argues that such a remittance-driven mode of urbanization is not only a temporary phenomenon that occurs in times of economic and political transition. Rather, different actors such as real estate agents, financial service providers, and construction businesses potentially establish a relatively stable, self-reinforcing and inherently translocal mode of urban development that comes along with specific societal and political challenges. Empirically, the paper is based on preliminary findings from Tirana, the capital city of Albania. The country, like most of its neighbors, has been affected by high rates of (temporary) emigration for decades. Meanwhile, remittances have left a significant imprint on Tirana’s urban fabric. While most of the respective construction activities have been informal in the 1990s, an emerging migration industry now contributes to the formalization and upscaling of remittance investments.

## **Urban immigrant enclaves and migration industries: The case of Israel**

Hila Zaban

Migrants tend to segregate in enclaves where they lead a familiar lifestyle alongside people who can provide a support system. Such enclaves shape our cities commercially and economically; dictating property prices and urban characteristics. But how do these enclaves come about? This paper engages with Cranston et al.’s work on migration industries, saying that it is ‘the labour involved in managing, facilitating and controlling migration that makes it an industry’ (2018: 544). Relying on the case of Jewish immigration to Israel, I argue that the players dictating in which urban areas migrants settle are government and local-government agencies, privatised migration organisations, property developers, real estate agents and, of course, personal networks. These players manage, facilitate and control migration in various ways. To illustrate this, I rely on qualitative data gathered in three research projects I did in Israel over the past decade, in various Israeli cities and relating to immigrants and second home owners from different countries—the United States, the UK, France and Ethiopia. I look at how and why people decide where to settle upon immigrating on the one hand, and on the role of various MI actors on the other. I argue that what seems like a free-choice individual decision is in fact a structured act, repeating patterns of the imagined urban geographies produced by agents of migration and various urban stakeholders. The result is uneven patterns of location and consumption of urban services, where privileged and underprivileged migrants alike locate, effectively distancing themselves from other groups.

## **Housing provision for refugees: a new source of profit extraction?**

Nihad El-Kayed, Matthias Bernt, Madlen Pilz, Ulrike Hamann

In this talk we focus on ways in which the ‘migration industries’ related to the provision of housing shapes the arrival of refugees in cities. Based on empirical studies in Halle, Schwerin, Berlin, Stuttgart and Dresden we bring two issues together.

First, we show how the privatisation of public housing has led to a financialized accumulation model in the German housing sector which is based on the provision of low-cost flats for disadvantaged parts of the population. With the growing immigration of refugees to Germany since 2015, this model has gained intensified popularity. It is now present in many peripheral estates and intensifies social segregation while increasing diversity.

Second, we discuss how the access to housing has been shaped by numerous new agents who have “channelled” refugee’s housing needs into particular sectors of the housing market. Where finding housing is almost inaccessible for households on social welfare, the situation is even worse for refugees living in camps. This situation has given rise to a new ‘migration industry’ for housing which offers these services for excessive fees with dubious quality.

Bringing these two issues together, we argue that housing provision to refugees has become a new business strategy by different actors which results in a concentration of the emerging demand into particular housing sectors. This not only results in new opportunities for profit extraction but shapes an “internal” border regime resulting in new patterns of segregation and a concentration of refugees in particular types of disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

## **Global Crisis, Local Government: The Drivers of Turkish Municipalities' Refugee Policies**

Ervin Sezgin, Gül Tuçaltan

More than 90% of 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey have settled in urban areas. In several cities, their number reaches to hundreds of thousands. This unprecedented situation poses extreme challenges to the country that require coordination and cooperation of different levels and actors of governance. Facing the crisis on the frontline, local governments responded in their own ways, in line with their capacities and political views. The analysis of Migration Master Plans (MMP) of 12 Turkish municipalities shows that Syrian migration affected more than 30 municipal service areas in varying degrees.

However, municipalities' response is limited to a few priority areas, including park maintenance, security and social cohesion. Our research focuses on the reasons of this limitation. Adopting a new institutionalist perspective, we analyse the three main phases of MMP preparation (resilience assessment, strategy development and integration to the municipality strategic plans) in relation to the wider social and political context. We particularly pay attention to the transformation of national and international migration policies in the country; major political parties' position in the crisis; and the perception of Syrian immigrants in the society. We conclude that local governments are dependent to national and international agenda; therefore, they cannot produce comprehensive migration policies. The financial and legal dependency to the central state, lack of guiding policies and principles produced at the national level, international partners' priorities, and public opinion on immigrants creates an institutional structure that limits the agency of local governments in policy production.

### **Migration Industry in Nigeria: The Cartels, the Capital and the Oaths**

Olawale Lawal

Nigeria has the fifth highest number of citizens who cross the Mediterranean and the highest number of migrants flow within the ECOWAS sub-region in the bid to search for greener pastures. These migrations are often perilous. This work offers a comprehensive conceptualization of why migrants ignore the clear danger in the movement from Kano (Nigeria) through Agadez and Qatroun (Niger) to Serbha, (Libya) and the Mediterranean Sea to Lampedusa (Italy). This work proposes the concept of a closed-option migration industry in Nigeria as the ensemble of entrepreneurs, businesses and services which, motivated by the pursuit of commercial motive, left migrants at the mercy of the cartels. The precept is that in spite of the capital intensive nature and cost of migration, migrants are charged only registration fee of \$120 for a service and investment which reek in \$40,000 for the cartels. This work links the desperation and perils of the migrants to the quest to pay back the total cost of investment and this leads to the casting of an inviolable pact in form of oath-taking. The paper contends that migration is actually precarious and is directed by the consequences of oath breaking and economic despondency of migrants. This work is exploratory as primary sources of data are interviews with deportees who had used the migration routes, interviews and access to the data of the IOM, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Immigration Service etc.

## **S22 | Smart city backlash: resistances, insistences and divergence**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Carina Listerborn, Lorena Melgaço

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS033

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Critical Theory of Technology and Democracy in the Smart City**

Ryan Wittingslow

Smart cities are urban areas that use big data methods to more efficiently manage assets and municipal resources. It is a tempting prospect: the optimisation of urban space, seemingly unburdened by ideology or politics. There are, however, concerns associated with optimising the panopticon, as I will argue in this paper. My argument is composed of five distinct parts.

First, I provide an account of the 'technical rationality' that underpins smart city systems. Per Herbert Marcuse and Andrew Feenberg, technical rationality is a discourse wherein substantive political questions are reduced to supposedly 'neutral' questions of efficiency or cost-effectiveness.

Second, I provide an analysis of the mechanisms by which technical rationality manifests in smart cities: what is called 'persuasive technology'. Unfortunately, I argue, these political artefacts are designed absent sufficient either meta-ethical, collaborative, and/or procedural justification.

Third, and contra technical rationality, I argue that democratic processes are inherently, and necessarily, both slow and inefficient. This inefficiency is not a flaw. This very slowness helps guarantee that new policies, laws, and procedures are given sufficient deliberative scrutiny.

Fourth, I argue that, unless designed and implemented with adequate deliberative oversight and critical attention, smart city technologies have the potential to compromise the necessarily slow, methodical, and pluralistic processes that legitimate structures of democratic governance.

Finally, I conclude by arguing that these technologies must undergo what Feenberg calls a "democratic transformation from below": a transformation whereby citizens bring these technologies under collective control, whilst simultaneously preserving the legitimacy of democratic systems.

## Why did Google's attempt to build a smart city district on Toronto's waterfront fail?

Guy Baeten

Google's sister company Sidewalk Labs signed an agreement with the planning authority Waterfront Toronto to develop a smart city district in Toronto's harbour area in October 2017. In May 2020, Sidewalk Labs' CEO Dan Doctoroff announced the withdrawal of those plans. This paper will illustrate how Google's failure to develop a smart city was the result of at least four factors. First, there was an exceptional concerted effort by activists, journalists, academics and entrepreneurs to systematically discredit Google's plans. Second, Google's plans were overambitious and went far beyond the 2017 agreement, opening up for critique from authorities and citizens alike. Third, Google's communication strategies were deeply flawed from the beginning. Fourth, Sidewalk Labs, in 2017 a two-year old start-up company, had no experience whatsoever in handling urban development projects. The Toronto experiments have handed Sidewalk Labs invaluable experiences that can be put to good use to make their next attempt to build a smart city elsewhere successful.

## The future of the city

Andreas Walker, Martin Burkhardt

According to the United Nations, two thirds of humanity will live in cities in 2050. In view of the ecological challenges (climate, resources, biosphere, etc.), the future of our planet will be decided in cities. At least outside Europe, this future will take place for billions of people in megacities, in cities that have no or several centers. Frequently proposed answers to these architectural and spatial requirements are Smart Cities. The new concepts of so-called Smart Cities differ from conventional urban concepts primarily through the use of digital (communication) technologies. They attempt to make cities more ecologically compatible, replacing the biosphere with a technosphere, whereby the former is to be controlled. However, there are several ways to intelligently design, plan, construct and build smaller, manageable units in cities. Technology-savvy Smart Cities are just one way of developing cities, another one takes place through social, cultural and political processes and relies on cooperation. Cooperation between the various parties involved from politics, economy, architecture, city and regional planning and citizens provides the opportunity to change and improve living conditions in an economically and ecologically sustainable manner. In concrete terms, this means that the people who live in a city, a district, a community or a region have to be increasingly empowered to participate in shaping the city. In addition to the theoretical framework of intelligent urban design, we want to show its possibilities by means of examples of projects, in which we are involved (Schlächtern, Fulda).

## S23 | Contested Territories – epistemological and methodological approaches

**Session Organiser(s)** | Michael Lukas, Philipp Horn, Michael Janoschka

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS035

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Disenchanted Infrastructures, Contested Territories and Marginalised Communities. An Urban Political Ecology of Displacement and Resettlement of Kurdish Ethnic Community in South-eastern Turkey.**

Cansu Sonmez

The paper contributes the literature gap within the theoretical platform of urban political ecology by analysing struggles, vulnerabilities and socio-ecologies of everyday life of marginalised Kurdish people in the wake of the construction of Ilisu dam in an already contested territory of South-eastern Turkey. The study interrogates how the relationship between development-induced displacement and resettlement and 'Kurdish question' (or 'Kurdistan Freedom Movement') impact on the experiences of displaced and resettled Kurdish community from their own perspectives. It questions whether mega infrastructural developments -Ilisu dam project in this case- that lead to displacement and resettlement, implemented implicitly and explicitly to inflict harm upon the ethnic groups in an already conflicted geography of South-eastern Turkey. If so, the study explores how, why and with which consequences of development-induced displacement and resettlement are reflected upon displaced and resettled Kurdish people through their own experiences. A qualitative empirical study was carried out in Hasankeyf town, Batman city before the submergence of the town. Findings suggest that displacement and resettlement in the presence of patriarchal urban metabolism break down and traumatise women's socio-ecological and spatial relationships with the housing elements such as kitchen and gardens. Second, some local people in Hasankeyf have a fear of losing their income sources from tourism due to the regional terrorism and marginalisation, therefore, people try to maintain terror-free urban metabolism by socio-spatially discriminating a group of Kurdish people who are more

inclined to support PKK activism and grassroots movements. The study shows that socio-spatial discrimination through racialised unfair treatments of state capitalism lead to the (re)production of uneven urban environments, relative deprivation, and resentment for Kurdish people. Lastly, the study argues that the processes and the meaning of displacement and resettlement due to Ilisu dam are disenchanting from the perspectives of Kurdish people, consequently, ingenerated a 'disenchanted infrastructure' in an already contested territory.

Keywords: displacement and resettlement; urban political ecology; contested territory; Kurdish question; trauma; urban metabolism; marginality; socio-spatial discrimination; disenchanted infrastructure.

## **Negotiation of claims of urban citizenship and belonging in postmigrant urban society and space: examples from German cities**

Annegret Haase, Maria Budnik, Christoph Hedtke, Alexander Krahmer

In our contribution, we analyse how claims of urban citizenship (in the sense of e.g. Hess and Lebuhn) and belonging are being negotiated in postmigrant society and space (in the understanding of Foroutan). We show how these claims are being discussed and negotiated and how this negotiation impacts on urban society and space. We draw on examples from different urban environments in Germany: Leipzig as a large city with dynamic international immigration since 30 years and Bebra as a small town looking back to a long history of immigration. For Leipzig, we show how claims of citizenship and belonging are emerging as part of an always more international urban society and how they are negotiated in an urban society and space that faces dynamic change. We take current conflicts on the role of Leipzig's migrant council and the planned construction of a new mosque in an inner-city neighbourhood as examples. For Bebra, we show how claims of citizenship and belonging can be undermined by the way official procedures to further "improve" integration through a so-called integration commission are being shaped. By means of this contrasting comparison, we discuss conditions of the negotiation of claims of citizenship and belonging in postmigrant urban society, potentials and obstacles for a successful negotiation of those claims as well as overarching theoretical/epistemological and methodical implications. The empirical evidence stems from the research project MigraChance that deals with the role of migration-related conflicts in cities and towns and their impact on institutional change (2018-2021, [www.migrachance.de](http://www.migrachance.de)).

## **Parking vehicles in La Merced market, Mexico City. Displacement policies, informal labor, and the contention for the urban space**

Gianmarco Peterlongo

The paper analyzes the social production of space by informal workers, offering an ethnographic insight on the daily life of a group of unauthorized car parkers - *franeleros* - operating in the Mexico City largest retail food market, La Merced, and who are facing a displacement urban policy. Launched in 2014, the urban master plan "Plan Maestro de Rescate Integral de La Merced" promises to radically renovate this commercial neighborhood in the heart of Mexico City and aims to promote tourism and real estate investments, starting with eradicating economic informality and unconventional uses of public space. Thus, the urban space becomes contested, because street traders claim the right to subsistence, but urban policies try to displace them, depicting informality as sign of an underdeveloped economy and incompatible with the neighborhood renewal. I spent some months working with a group of *franeleros*, observing what is their social role at a spatial level and looking at the informal negotiations they carry out with other actors, such as authorities, neighbors, or formal traders. What emerges from the fieldwork is a moral economy of the space, where different actors cooperate to take care of their workplace, i.e. the streets, reclaiming their right to stay. Moving from Thompson's moral economy to the Lefebvrian right to the city, the paper shows urban informalities as moral placed-based economies that build alternative meanings of the public space essential for the social reproduction of the city.

## **Exploring the 'right to the island' and the 'right to nature'**

Macià Blázquez-Salom, Fernando Sabaté-Bel, Alejandro Armas-Díaz

Islands worldwide experience the commodification of land and natural resources closely related to touristic activity and urbanization. As Baldacchino (2012) suggests islands represent epitomes of commodified represented spaces, and in this regard, the focus on islands would shed light on how the production of socio-natures shapes the dynamics of capital accumulation, dispossession and resistance. By paying attention to the interplay between insularity and socioecological transformations we aim to expand the literature on the neoliberalization of socio-natures.

We explore the contestation against urban-tourist development in the islands of Majorca and Tenerife in recent decades. Both experience an intense expansion of the artificial land uses since the touristic boom in the mid-20th century, intensified with neoliberal capitalism by the commodification of more everyday life elements. Not surprisingly, environmental struggles in both islands have facilitated greater mobilization than other claims. The empirical survey of the spatio-temporal evolution of these two Spanish islands illustrate and helps to deepen in the conceptual development of the right to the island and to nature. First, the idea of the "right to nature" developed by Gilbert and Philips (2003) and Apostolopoulou and Adams (2019). This is a right to influence and rule the processes by which nature-society relationships are (re)shaped by urbanization and capitalism. Second, the notion of the "right to the island" coined by Clark's (2013), as a right that relays on political action in order to foster a sustainable island future.

## **S77 | Sensing Urban Exclusion: Atmospheric Attunement and Creative Interpretation**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ed Charlton

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS113

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **The Walls Collaboratory: Exploring interfaces of urban exclusion in Johannesburg**

Hanna Baumann, Jill Weintroub

In response to the panel's call to privilege the sensory and the atmospheric in our research, this paper moves beyond conventional approaches and attempts to read exclusionary spaces differently by offering experimental and creative responses to a selection of sites located within and surrounding the iconic city of Johannesburg, South Africa. We report on provisional collaborative research undertaken under the title 'The Walls Collaboratory: Exploring interfaces of urban exclusion in Johannesburg' where we seek to understand the 'ordinary affects' and 'atmospheres of exclusion' adhering to a series of sites and zones of marginality in or near Johannesburg. From the general to the particular, we take in the drama and menace of the mining waste dumps encircling this quintessential 'City of Gold' with their toxic and malevolent atmospheres/affects, before addressing the unseen, unvoiced atmospheres of urban spaces such as the iconic Constitution Hill precinct, imagined as a place without walls for the 'new' South Africa, in juxtaposition with newly privatised inner city enclaves where previously public spaces are secured and managed by corporate interests for the benefit of their employees.

### **Towards a Political Geography of Sensation: Security Aesthetics and Urban Exclusion in Jamaica**

Rivke Jaffe

This paper examines the role of aesthetics in the formation of urban difference and exclusion, focusing on the communities of sense that emerge through attunement to specific security atmospheres. It connects anthropological work on the politics of aesthetics to considerations of spatiality and materiality, in order to develop a more emplaced understanding of the relations between aesthetic forms, bodies and urban politics. Specifically, I focus on security aesthetics in the context of Kingston, Jamaica, discussing how feelings of safety connect to inclusion and exclusion. Security signs, buildings, technologies and arrangements of bodies move and interpellate people in different ways, reinforcing existing forms of differentiated citizenship or delineating new forms of political community in and beyond the nation-state. Understanding the connection between urban security aesthetics and processes of subject formation requires an attentiveness to the built environment of cities, and the entanglement of aesthetic forms with their material surroundings. I propose that the ethnographic approach to aesthetics and affect elaborated here can help us understand the role of the senses in shaping the political geographies of cities.

### **Following the Flood: The Politics of 'Emergency' Claim-Making and Exclusion in Alexandria**

Dina Zayed

Egypt's second city may find itself below sea-level before the end of the century. But beyond abstracted global climate projections, little is known on who in Alexandria is most vulnerable to climate change, and the socio-political determinants shaping that vulnerability. This paper presents a discussion on the merits of using sensory and narrative driven ethnographic methods that reconstructed a 2015 flood – an approach that took the researcher to the infrastructural and figurative margins of the city. By 'following' the flood, the paper draws on conceptualizations of space and events as bound by the senses – ones that can amount to collective exercises of place-making and which allowed for making the intangibility of the political nature of climate change tangible. Based on doctoral research in Egypt, the paper reveals a grounded account of the networks and alliances that were sparked in a moment of crisis, showing how patterns of urban exclusion were disrupted – even if their impacts and forms were short-lived. In exploring the multi-sensory narratives of the flood, it uncovers the ways disenfranchised informal neighborhoods employed a combination of mobilization tools to connect with one another and with sources of external support to alleviate a crisis as material and tangible as the city's rain drainage and sewage water engulfing their homes. By adopting sensory methods, the paper aims to highlight how urban claims can be invoked in states of crisis, potentially allowing for the most marginalized to affectively and discursively occupy spaces they are otherwise systemically excluded from.

### **Reclaiming urgency in Beirut, Paris and London**

Helene Marie Abiraad, Elona Hoover

This paper brings together emerging ideas developed through our separate doctoral research projects which involve learning with activists and attending to affective experiences relating to public and common spaces in Beirut, Paris and London. When discussing findings from our ethnographic research, urgency emerged as a common thread in our analyses of collective experiences, one which would benefit from a more careful examination.

Urgency is grounded in a common experience across our study sites: austere urban environments dominated by globalizing political economic forces of dispossession, accumulation and greed. We understand urgency as a collective affect or atmosphere that is sometimes expressed through emotions. Conceptualised in this way, attention to urgency unearths complex relations between embodied, emotional experiences and urban changes. In Beirut, these relationships are experienced through the rapid changes in urban infrastructure and the lack of public spaces. In London, through austerity policies, the closure of community spaces and construction of a housing crisis. In Paris, through the politics of migration and integration in urban space and rise of temporary urbanism. However, we suggest that materially grounded experiences of urgency within collective projects and struggles can also challenge dominant temporalities of speed and efficiency usually associated with urgency.

We examine how activist practices might help us reclaim the ethical dimensions of urgency, as felt through experiences that involve multiple and contrasting temporalities. A reclaimed urgency might be one way of resisting temporal narratives that dominate the way in which memory, national identity, relations towards 'otherness' or climate change are constructed.

### **Air and the City: Poverty, exposure and waste in Mumbai**

Priyam Tripathy

How are air and urban atmospheres experienced and perceived at the margins of the global city? How do urban atmospheres become embodied, metabolized, and understood from the context of one of the city's most stigmatized spaces, its garbage grounds? I examine these questions by narrating the sensorial experiences of residents working with urban waste on the margins of Mumbai, around the city's major garbage grounds. I focus on the narratives residents and workers bring to the entanglements of air, waste, and urbanism, and foreground three dimensions in making sense of urban atmospheres: smell, fire, and water. From this position, I reflect on the politics of air in the city, and consider the implications for 'air justice'. I contribute to the wider effort in urban research to understand the experience and politics of urban atmosphere and do so by connecting the everyday perceptions and lived experiences to the city's urban political ecologies and changing waste configurations.

## **S46 | The Political Consequences of Gentrification**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Jan Üblacker

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS071

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **The socio-political context and political consequences of gentrification in post-socialist Budapest – local movements in an illiberal country**

Gergely Olt

In this paper I present how neo-patrimonial features of the post-socialist transformation (Szelényi and Csillag, 2015) affected both gentrification and the emergence of local social movements against it in Budapest. In recent publications we described how neo-patrimonial ways of privatisation affected commodification of housing (a), how this socio-political context resulted in a highly uneven and poorly regulated commercial gentrification (taking the form of NTE tourism) (b), and how the illiberal national political context affects local politics and municipal sovereignty (c). In this paper I connect these findings with the recent and somewhat surprising local electoral success of the opposition parties in my research areas, based on my long term ethnographic field research with close non-participant observation of local bottom up residential movements. I present how they emerged a.) in response to conflicts of commercial gentrification fighting against nuisance and for a restrictive regulation of NTE and b.) after the pioneer gentrification of a formerly stigmatised and currently very mixed inner city area that was governed by revanchist policies until the last municipal election. I also present how the two different types of gentrification (both showing post-socialist, neo-patrimonial features) resulted in contrasting political attitudes of these movements ("law and order" and "progressive") and how the illiberal political context influenced their dissimilar positions in local politics. The analysis takes seriously the diversity of state interventions, policy rationales and social contexts influencing gentrification (Bernt, 2012; 2016a) and the consequences of the post-socialist transformation (Bernt, 2016b) while it looks beyond universal political-economic assumptions.

## **Nested spatio-temporal political subjectivation in an East German neighbourhood**

Leon Rosa Reichle

Through the concept of nested spatio-temporal political subjectivation, this paper explores the impact of urban restructuring on residents' and city dwellers' political relation to the world.

This paper is based on a dialogue of literatures on East Germany's and Leipzig's historical development with my findings from 13 months of ethnographic and qualitative field work, following the daily lives of tenants in an inner-city neighbourhood. Drawing on this material, I explore a specific range of political subjectivations. In a politically polarized neighbourhood (with recent high turnouts for the left party and the AfD), I interrogate authoritarian attitudes among my research subjects, trying to understand how political subjectivation is mediated by spatial changes (Belina 2013; Miggelbrink 2020). This includes an analysis of authoritarian answers to the housing question (Bescherer, Reichle 2021) that specifically refer to processes of de- and revaluation in the wake of gentrification. How do tenants politically interpret their experiences in a changing neighbourhood? Or, more subtly, how do changes in tenants' neighbourhoods impact their political relation to the world and their social surroundings?

I argue that local mechanisms of de- and revaluation must be conceived as embedded in wider political-economic changes, that are co-constitutive both for local processes of gentrification, and, as I will hypothesize, the specific way these are mediated in processes of political subjectivation

## **Rethinking State-Driven Gentrification in China: A Case Study of the Urban Regeneration in Beijing's Historic Area 2009-2019**

LIU Ying

For a long time, the built environment and spatial structure of cities in China have been often viewed as a direct outcome of the will of the state, both national and local governments with powerful capacity, levered by robust policy instruments that believed to be carefully designed, well-coordinated and implemented. However, the reality of Beijing's historic core seemingly suggests otherwise – after rounds of interventions endorsed by the central and local state, and its allies, the historic area (i.e., hutong area) remains as a mess in the heart of the city. How is urban regeneration happening in Beijing's historic neighbourhoods?

Through a case study of the Dashilar project, I trace back the regeneration dynamics of the area over the last decade and conducted over thirty in-depth interviews with a range of stakeholders including planners, bureaucrats, developers, architects, academics, residents, and creative business owners. Using 'gentrification' as a key analytical lens, I argue that urban regeneration is happening through a plurality of resistances and conflicts within the state and its coalition and in between the state and the civil society, over the historical meanings of the built environment and tenure/property in the hutong area. During the process, the state constitutes and coordinates an array of contradictory groups, interests, and imaginaries. By showing the hutong as a paradox of fragmented interests and representations, I challenge the neat story of an overarching state and its hegemonic urban policy regime, and give details to a messy reality.

## **S45 | Sound and the city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sandra Jasper

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS069

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Urban acoustic ecology and The World Soundscape Project sound archive**

Jonathan Prior

Initiated in the late 1960s at Simon Fraser University, The World Soundscape Project (WSP) pioneered attempts to document and recompose urban soundscapes, through the production of field recording LPs, radio programmes, books, and pamphlets. Many of the project's members, including R. Murray Schafer, Hildegard Westerkamp, and Barry Truax, have become central figures in acoustic ecology, and their methods, from sound mapping to soundwalks, remain influential across sound studies. Currently, scholarly reflections on the WSP's activities have been overwhelmingly restricted to Schafer's consideration of noise and noise pollution, particularly through a reading of his text *The Tuning of the World*. However, and perhaps rather ironically, such readings of the WSP have drowned out less didactic moments within the WSP's collective oeuvre. In this paper, I present an analysis of the WSP's substantial archive that consists of sound recordings, photographs, maps, charts, and texts, with a particular focus on the Group's 1973 cross-Canada recording tour that features prominently within the archive. Here, I aim to explore modes of listening undertaken by the WSP that do not

neatly map onto a “conservative politics of silence” (Thompson, 2017: 89) through a listening with – not just a reading of – the WSP. Along the way, I reflect upon the role of different recording and archival technologies in shaping what is recorded and what is consumed from the archive, and how urban spaces are made through and articulated by performing the archive.

### **Urban Sonic Research and Sound Map: [soundinbetweenness.org](http://soundinbetweenness.org)**

Elif Sena Karahan

Architecture is not a steady phenomenon. It moves, resonates between bodies and things through sound. Due to its physical behaviour, sound as a dynamic element of space creates continuous affection between things and living creatures, allowing them to act as subjects and objects of space. Truax (1984) elucidates in *Acoustic Communication*, this continuously evolving relationship among environment, sound, and individual/body considering the individual a source and listener simultaneously. In this sphere, the movement of sound blurs the border between society and the individual, thus turning physical space into a social one, which is reproduced each moment in the urban context dictated by the daily movement.

My question was; “Can sound be defined as a factor in the process of social reproduction of space?” This research produced a sound map based on soundwalk recordings, soundscape analysis and surveys.

To better understand the relation of sound, individual and environment in urban field research, we created [soundinbetweenness.org](http://soundinbetweenness.org) for collecting crowdsourced data. A soundwalk in the field of research (Oxford&Istanbul) is converted into a flipbook formed by sound postcards (specific moment QR codes) allowing users to access the website. Here, users can create their postcards (upload field-records) and join the survey. This process will enrich the sonic information of the urban environment/ individual experiences for further soundscape analysis and create awareness of the everyday sonic field.

This platform aims to serve these projects, and also interdisciplinary approaches on sound and city relation to create multi-directional discussions at local and global scales.

### **City as composition through participation**

Banu Çiçek Tülü

The visual approach in urban design shadows the hearing and listening abilities. Sound is one of the sensory elements that help users to understand their environment. Acoustic environment is not only the background sound or a specific soundscape neither a question of noise pollution caused by traffic or daily activities. It is rather about understanding the auditory experiences and discovering the sonic territories in urban space by listening and hearing. It is important to understand, those sensory elements require further research strategies than measurements and laboratory work. One of the useful approaches is understanding the rhythms of the experiences in urban space. Influenced by the Lefebvre’s rhythm analysis, this paper is two folded. Firstly, it scrutinizes the ways in which the rhythm of the urban sound creates a composition of the city. Secondly, it proposes sound as a participatory tool in urban research and focuses on various methods to include sound into the urban design process while involving the artistic practice that employs sound in urban space. Throughout the paper, the crucial potential of researching sound in urban design practice will be examined. How can sound contribute to understanding the built environment? What are the methodologies that foster sound as a participatory tool? What kind of rhythms do we encounter in urban space? How does sound create a composition? In this paper, the ambivalent relation between sound, architecture and urban space will be discussed from a historical point of view while presenting various interdisciplinary methodologies related to sound in urban research.

### **Clean City Sonopathy**

Matt Lewis

How do we acknowledge the importance of making a noise whilst at the same time tackling issues around urban sound? Using the water fountain as a container for a variety of social issues, this paper investigates how listening in relation to urban planning has become politicised. The aim being to explore how sounds can embody issues and also to question how artists and designers might go beyond representation to working with communities in order to create sonic democracy. Drawing upon research in some of the UK’s fastest growing cities this work shows how government and developers often overlook opportunities for imaginative solutions to issues such as noise and allow for the creation of sonically banal spaces. Fountains, a go to solution to noise and a form of sonic decoration, are ubiquitous in many public and private spaces. Their usage represents a consumption of acoustic space and an attempt at the privatisation of aesthetic experience. A practice through which, not only are the conglomerate parts of our cultural experience reduced to the lowest common denominator, but the perceptual space in which these operate subsumed to form part of the process. Lefebvre, in *The Production of Space* (1991) extends Adorno’s concepts around the commodification of leisure, to the commodification of space explains how space in the form of a commodity space is necessarily divided, standardised and measured. In

contemporary listening practices, as exemplified by the fountain, it is this standardised format of the water-feature that represents the measured commodification of acoustic space.

### **For whom will the city speak? – Challenges and possibilities of future urban soundscapes as a public domain**

Josh Hernandez

Current trends suggest that future urban soundscapes will be calmer and quieter thanks to advances in technology and urban design (e.g. electric vehicles, pedestrianisation). Acoustic environments will be more conducive to deliberate design and intervention—but the nature of these interventions will be determined by social and political understandings of soundscapes. Through interviews and surveys, the current conceptualisations of public urban soundscapes in Sydney, Australia are explored from two perspectives: top-down (governance and design), and bottom-up (members of the hearing public). Presently, the acoustic environment is disregarded as a secondary, aesthetic concern. There are no clear boundaries of one's "rights" within it—and mechanisms of noise regulation are skewed towards loudness mitigation. This limited understanding does not acknowledge the high variability of soundscape perception—and it opens the door to exploitation by powerful interests generating exclusive, discordant sounds. Instead of this, I argue that society must reconceptualise urban soundscapes—acknowledging the importance of soundscape quality rather than quantity, and positioning the urban soundscape as a structural, social concern which impacts on placemaking. 'Noise regulation' should be redefined with aims towards non-hostile, concordant acoustic environments—and in the popular sphere, sound and sonification should be taught as mechanisms of agency and interaction. These proposed ideals are discussed and iterated through spatially immersive audio experiences, which invite audiences to speculate on future possibilities of soundscape through their embodied interactions. A new typology of soundscape is also proposed which facilitates creation and genesis, not just description and analysis, of sounds and acoustic environments.

## **S21 | Making Sense of the City: a pedagogical encounter?**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Daniel Gutiérrez-Ujaque, Monica Degen

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS031

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Finding place: Engaging with the city through the practice of illustration**

Tânia Alexandra Cardoso

Urban imaginary tends to travel in both, in the minds of city dwellers and physically throughout the world within mass communication. This means that as a communication piece illustrated cities may approach social and urban awareness in a creative and qualitative way through urban imaginary. As such, this paper reflects on embodied experiences in the city as an artistic research methodology and how urban sensations are reflected in or affect the artist's engagement in the city. Drawing in situ ('on location') plays a crucial role in this embodied approach as an essential part of the engagement with the city enhancing the awareness and understanding of urban space, its issues and its everyday life. The embodied experiences and urban space directly impact the practice of drawing and the choices of the illustrator in a dynamic play between documentation and performance. This dynamic contributes for the social value of the illustrated city and its product, the final illustration, is a serious contribution to pose questions regarding urban issues, politics and qualitative knowledge. Through an auto-ethnographic reflection on my own artistic practice I intend to discuss how urban space directly impacts the artist's perception while appropriating it and the importance of embodied methodologies in the creation of illustrated cities and academic research. By exploring the city through artistic practice, I gather information about geography, architecture, stories, secret spaces, and urban legends that lay beyond the concrete urban infrastructure and that create ambiguity in the systems in which the city is represented.

### **From learning contexts to learning atmospheres, a journey in the company of contemporary art**

Quim Bonastra, Glòria Jové

The notion of "context" has been central in the research related to the socio-cultural turn that has been carried out in the field of Education during the last decades (McDermott, 1993; Cole, 1996; Edwards, 2009). It is common among researchers to affirm that context is a fundamental element in the learning process – a process that must be understood in relation to the context in which it occurs. In this article we show a reconceptualization of the notion of learning context through our teaching practice. We will specially show the contemporary art laden "learning contexts" we create for the opening days of our courses in Initial Teacher Education (Geography and Pedagogy-Processes and Educational Contexts, Faculty of Education, University of Lleida, Spain). Starting from the Cultural-Historical Activity Theory of Vygotsky (Stetsenko, 1993),

will take us to the notions of “situation” proposed by Dewey (1963 and 1991) and “constructed situation” by Situationists and Letterists (Debord, 1957), which will, in turn, lead us to raise the possibility of a “constructed learning situation” (Bonastra & Jové, 2017). We will end by showing the possibilities offered by understanding “constructed learning situations” from the notion of “atmosphere” (Bohme, 1995 and 2016; Griffero, 2014; McCormack, 2018; Gandy 2017; Wolf, 2015) which allows us to overcome some of the limitations and contradictions of Situationist and Letterist discourses and practices (Pyyry, 2018), put them in tune with the contemporary educational needs, and develop situated, embodied, imaginative and emotional educational practices (Michels et al., 2020)

Keywords: Learning contexts, situations, contemporary art, atmospheres, senses

## **Landscape as pedagogy and right: the political contributions of the experience of reading the world by affections**

Hulda Erna Wehmann, Catharina Lima

This article discusses the theoretical and methodological contributions of the notion of Inhabited Landscape to a more democratic urban planning, from a PhD research in a slum in Northeast Brazil (WEHMANN, 2019). Inhabited Landscape is defined as an aesthetic experience resulting from a relationship between the world and its inhabitant, through which they affect each other. (LIMA et al, 2017). Such an experience allows individuals to be subject both to a poetic (re)construction of their world, in order to inhabit it (HEIDEGGER, 1970), as well as to their own (re)constitution (DEWEY, 2010, p.212). As such, Landscape is understood in the field of affection, being the “here and now” of the body in the daily experience of place as opposed to the alienation and disaggregation of contemporary space. Through it, it is possible to understand the implications between the aesthetic experience of landscape and the political engagement of individuals to protect and control their living space. Thus, the inhabited Landscape appears as critical reading of the world that justifies the claim to the right to the landscape (WEHMANN & LIMA, 2019) as an essential part to achieve the true right of the city. Furthermore, the article discusses the methodological issues necessary to work with these meanings in urban structuring: how to inquire about these perceptions, and for whom? How to insert different imagery in the design of spaces in constant change?, as a comment on the possibilities brought by the qualitative research of phenomenological inspiration for the theme.

## **Seeing through feeling: Capturing the senses with handmade film animation**

Aristofanis Soulikias

Much of what is termed “urban experience” today is prejudiced and mediated by those images and narratives created by a dominant, commercially-driven, culture. The development of highly sophisticated visualization software has facilitated architects and designers to present drawings or animations of the urban space that can be spatially accurate, photorealistic, and, often, with a preference to newness. Absent are the impromptu possibilities of street life, atmosphere, signs of decay (time), and social realities. Furthermore, these technologies tend to favour the sense of vision over other more haptic senses.

In the present paper, I will explain how in my own work and research I examine the possibilities of film animation, which consists of handmade techniques, in communicating a sensory urban experience. Unlike the hegemonic narratives told through tools that are expensive and difficult to learn, handmade animation techniques are more accessible, and allow for a fuller understanding of the city’s sensorial landscape as well as a haptic experience for the viewer. My animated documentary, *Last Dance on the Main* (2014), featured the voices of Montreal activists and artists who resisted the expropriation of their historic venue. The artisanal way of making the film was a sensorial exploration of the historic neighbourhood in question, but also an expression of resistance to the orthodoxy of computer-generated depictions of new urban developments. My current research is focused on Montreal’s urban parks and their evolution as places of exercising the senses, especially during the COVID pandemic.

## **S28 | Children and adolescents as co-producers of knowledge on urban spaces**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sven De Visscher, Anna Juliane Heinrich, Jolijn De Haene

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS042

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Teenagers paint their town**

Vandyshev Michail, Veselkova Natalia, Pryamikova Elena

The paper is based on research project materials “Trajectories of mobility of the working-age population of small and medium-sized monotowns of various profiles” (supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), № 18-011-00456, 2018-2020). The empirical base consists of 107 individual semi-formalized interviews with experts and residents of the towns under research, and 28 group discussions among high school students and college students (417 participants) using drawing techniques.

We study small cities of the Ural region. What does a small city look like in the eyes of teenagers today? How attractive is it to them? On the one hand, this is a well-known and relatively comfortable living environment. On the other hand, according to adolescents, the larger the city, the more opportunities.

The methodological design of our study involves the use of several methods. Firstly, group discussions with schoolchildren and students of secondary vocational education, during which participants drew mental maps. They talked about their experience living in the city and participating in urban life. We obtained significant data showing the features of the perception of space by this category of citizens. On mental maps, we record a large number of elements from the arsenal of the post-industrial economy - brands of retail chains; attributes of “mobile” life - cars, motorcycles, as well as industrial elements traditional for such cities - city-forming enterprises.

### **How to start a conversation on child friendly vertical housing? A participatory approach to conducting and disseminating research with children and teenagers.**

Marlies Marreel, Jo Boonen

Child friendly vertical housing tends to be framed as a *contradictio in terminis* in the Flemish public debate on housing. Politicians avoid the discussion and architects or developers refer primarily to the situation of young singles or couples and older people whose children have already left their home (Whitzman & Mizrachi, 2009). The affordances and opportunities for children and teenagers are often marginally considered in these planning processes. In the multidisciplinary BLOK-research project, a team of social work and landscape architecture researchers explored their perspective in order to answer the question on how to develop meaningful, liveable and supportive vertical housing environments.

The first part of this contribution is focused on the methodology of involving children and teenagers as co-researchers. We combined different methods of what is called ‘experiential research’, a participatory form of qualitative research, including individual interviews with mental mapping exercises and group activities such as guided walks and photo-essays.

In the second part of this contribution we focus on the dialogic ways in which the research results were presented and discussed with planners, designers, social workers and policy-makers, following our perspective on planning as a collective learning process (De Visscher & Sacré, 2017). In this regard we discuss (1) Europark 360°, the virtual reality environment of one of our research cases in Antwerp and (2) the organisation of an interactive exhibition, both of them aiming to start a conversation on the topic of child friendly vertical housing, starting from children and teenager’s perspectives.

### **Reimagining Everyday Spaces with Children in New Delhi, India**

Ruchi Varma, Geetam Tiwari

Children account for over 30% urban population in India and at the same time over 27 children die daily due to road accidents. Despite this, the children are only consumers of their daily built environment designed by adults. In the pilot study, we engaged with students as co-designers between ages 9-10 years from a school in New Delhi to develop a practical bottom up approach to generate a blueprint for the access to their school that works for every user. This creates an immediate impact by increasing safety and a long term ownership as a citizen. The Crosswalk Curriculum by HumanQind is an interactive step by step approach across human centered design workshops & outreach in the community that transforms young people from consumers - participants - co-producers - leaders and bring change to their everyday urban spaces such as schools. The case study showcases a great example to catalyze the decision making ecosystem at all levels and centralize focus on a single mandate so as to develop interventions not for, but with children. This approach is focused and fitting into the frameworks of UNCRC, SDGs and is central to building knowledge through human values of kindness and compassion.

## **S39 | Urban Amenities, Cultural Consumption, Middle-Class Identities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Levent Soysal, Jan Rath

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS059

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

## **Purchasing the right to the city view: a case of a Starbucks in an upper-class neighborhood in Istanbul**

Tugba Gocer

With its famous silhouette, Istanbul is a city that one can enjoy the beautiful views of Bosphorus from various locations along its two coasts. One of the best locations is the Bebek coast. Yet, enjoying the view comes with high prices if you want to take a sip from your coffee in a café next to the sea. The neighborhood itself is not only associated with luxury consumption and upper class tastes, but also it is known as one of the most expensive districts in terms of real estate indexes. In such an environment, a familiar space, a Starbucks right on the sea, provides a middle class haven to consume the view in the midst of upper class neighborhood.

Existing literature on Starbucks are either demonizing Starbucks for its impact on the annihilation of the small/local coffee shops or praising it because of its creation of a “third place” (Oldenburg, 1989). Also, many consumer experiences studies acknowledge Starbucks’ function as providing a place for hangout or a free Wi-Fi working hub. In this paper, I argue the meaning of Starbucks in Bebek for middle class consumption is its location for the consumption of the city rather than a coffee or interior design. I aim to develop an alternative perspective to customary public discourse in Turkey which considers coffee from a Starbucks as a “conspicuous consumption”. I examine “Bebek Starbucks” as a semi-public space which enables the consumption of the privatized view of Bosphorus by the public.

## **Cultural Consumption Practices and Convergence: The Case of Two Gated Housing Residences in Istanbul**

Merve Aygun

An unprecedented scale of global changes has confronted people and cities over the past decades. In accordance with the new machineries of the global cultural economy, Istanbul has also undergone an urban transformation concurrently with its counterparts. In the new socio-spatial order of the city, cultural consumption has become the central part of self-expression, and individuals have increasingly become embedded in universalistic terms to pursue a life deemed worth, aesthetic, and beautiful. Based on ethnographic research undertaken in two gated housing settlements in Istanbul, my argument in this paper is two-fold. First, I argue that there is significant level of convergence in cultural consumption practices of people who are differentiated symbolically based on the spatial choices of their housing. Second, I argue that living in a gated housing settlement does not necessarily promote an isolated pattern of lifestyle for its residents. For the global infrastructure of cities provides an ever-increasing range of more readily available consumption experiences and wider realm of everyday leisure to a larger section of society. Utilizing data gathered from semi-structured interviews conducted with respondents from two gated housing residences, this paper aims to provide an alternative perspective concerning how global cultural economy, city, and the urban life constitutes a converged setting in cultural consumption practices of the individuals who have significantly different spatial choices for housing.

## **The Effect of Online Platforms on Local Cultural Consumption: Kadıköy, Istanbul**

Deniz Halman Tomaka

Today, local cultural development has a global character in many parts of the world. There is a marketable local culture construction in the commonality of the discourse of reshaping cities. This formation follows global cultural trends, though, with its localness, it attracts redesign of spaces for the new middle class. Urban segmentation based on differences in consumption habits can be observed in cities that cannot be counted as single-centered, such as Istanbul. Kadıköy, located in the central position of Istanbul's Anatolian side, is one of the important parts of the fragmented centered city in terms of the new middle class following a change, based on elite cultural consumption. In regard of this sense, Kadıköy has a symbiotic cultural bond that is developing with its public and private spaces.

Online platforms are locally effective in terms of familiarity with change and convergence. Therefore, in this study, online platforms such as Airbnb, Trip Advisor, Booking will be considered as a trigger of the redesign process. These platforms offer an alternative, unique and authentically oriented touristic activities in terms of both home-type accommodation options and experiences which highlights local cultures in global standardization. Thus, Kadıköy is becoming a middle-class cultural consumption space with commercial gentrification.

## **Working out (in) the neighbourhood: The healthy bodies and derelict buildings of CrossFit**

Sebastian Juhnke

The CrossFit exercise regimen is the fastest growing fitness franchises in the world. Since its introduction in 2009, more than 13,000 stripped-down gyms opened, usually located in former industrial premises in gentrifying urban districts. The gritty, ‘authentic’ aesthetics of dilapidated factories, garages or tram depots appears as essential to CrossFit as its self-understanding as a global and local work-out community. Existing research has focused on CrossFit as a ‘cult’ and a culture, on its aesthetics and the construction of masculinity and the postfeminist body. However, the impact of the CrossFit

phenomenon on its physical and social surrounding, processes of urban change and social identity formation has been neglected thus far.

This paper argues that the study of CrossFit gyms and its members helps to understand how urban identities and scenes that are organized around social class, lifestyle and cultural consumption are constituted. It suggests that for understanding how cities are reshaped today the ascent of CrossFit is as essential as the 'ABC of gentrification': art galleries, boutiques and coffee shops. CrossFit is often connected to an infrastructure of eating healthy and displaying well-trained bodies. Through its high frequency of workouts, an emphasis on community and the importance of physical space, CrossFit strongly shapes its members senses of self, place and belonging. This paper will discuss the social and cultural changes linked to the sport as manifest in the city and how they relate to the pervasiveness of middle-class lifestyles, the formation of urban communities and questions of social inequality.

### **The infrastructural production of mobile lifestyles: specialty coffee shops as mobility hubs in Lisbon**

Franz Buhr, Brito-Henriques Eduardo, Larrabure Sara, Cocola-Gant Agustín

Art galleries, boutiques and cafés have already been labelled the 'ABC of gentrification'. Specialty coffee shops are usually seen as thermometers of urban change, signalling increasing rental prices and commercial 'upgrade'. Portugal's first specialty coffee shop opened in Lisbon in 2015 and, by 2020, this number amounted to over 50. The mushrooming of such business format took place alongside the increasing numbers of tourist arrivals to the city. In such places, most menus are set in English and food and beverage options are not the ones Lisboners are familiar with; yet, tourism alone does not explain the success of Lisbon's new coffee scene. The research is the result of a three-year Horizon 2020 project and relying on participant observation and in-depth interviews with users and workers of these coffee shops, we found that they are places that assemble various kinds of mobile, middle-class and transnational populations, from tourists, to digital nomads, expats and other lifestyle migrants. As such, we contend that third wave coffee should be seen as part of a broader urban infrastructure enabling various kinds of mobile lifestyles to converge to Lisbon. These places unveil the stratifications within mobile lifestyles (middling and privileged migration) and the ways they establish spaces of convergence with hipster economies, urban creatives and local middle-classes in a context of accelerated urban change. In this regard, the paper will reveal how these spaces of consumption further blur the lines between gentrification and touristification.

## **S29 | De-limiting, experiencing and crossing metropolitan boundaries between the urban and "non-urban"**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sofia Pagliarin

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS044

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Urban edges, the reverse side of the metropolis: a network of lived places located at the interface of urban and non-urban worlds**

Emeline Bailly, Sylvie Laroche

The cross-border territory of Greater Geneva has one of the highest rates of urban growth in Europe. Its natural and built heritage is under pressure, particularly at the urban edges. Urban Edges represent a network of interfaces between non-urban environments (penetrating greenery, wooded areas, agricultural crown) and urban environments (city entrance, suburbs, village center).

The research-project (Bailly - CSTB, Finger – HEPIA – scientific coordinators) focuses on these diffuse metropolitan urban edges. It is based on an urban and ecological analysis cross-referenced with a user survey. It has shown that urban edges are more than urban fronts on the outskirts of the metropolis. They are constitutive of the metropolitan territory. More than spatial or perceived borders, they create a more or less continuous network of places. More than a boundary or interface, they promote a network of places with singular atmospheres and landscapes.

They appear even more as resource places for their users as they multiply sensitive experiences. They have a metaphorical potential for projection outside the metropolis.

On the strength of these results, edges are not a structuring element of a form but a foundation of metropolitan urban quality. In what ways do urban edges create a network of singular places? How do they foster multi-sensory, emotional and imaginary worlds? In what ways do they create a resource for experiencing varied atmospheres and landscapes? How

do they create a dialogue between the urban and the non-urban, the spontaneous and the controlled, the private and the public at different metropolitan scales?

### **Boundary definition from the top. The role of urban containment policies in metropolitan planning processes in Mexico**

Tania Guerrero Rios

This paper looks at how multiple definitions of what constitutes 'urban' are affected by different configurations of actors and its power relations, which are particularly complex at a metropolitan scale. The Metropolitan Area of Mexico City is a prime example of discrepancies between metropolitan boundary definitions, where political boundaries overlap socio-spatial processes and natural borders. This complexity is reflected on its highly unequal distribution of services and employment, which is enhanced by a lack of a metropolitan government body that could steer urbanization processes towards a more sustainable and inclusive development. Against this reality, the federal government launched a policy aiming to steer urban development towards priority areas through the implementation of Urban Containment Policies (applied to 59 metropolitan areas in the country). By defining geographical areas suitable for future development, this policy is constantly shifting and redefining the limits of what is urban from what could and would be urban in the near future. I look at the implications of how these limits between urban/non-urban spaces are defined, who is involved in this definition and how do local actors navigate/adapt/contest this definition. This paper offers a critical analysis of the implications of such top-down approach to boundary definition and the consequences it has for metropolitan urban planning in a context where low implementation skills and limited financial resources hinder the success of bottom-up tactics.

### **Between urban and rural: land transformations at the fringes of the Parisian agglomeration**

Joel Idt

In this paper, we are focussing on the transformation processes of territories located on the fringes of large conurbations. The specificity of these spaces lies in their hybrid character between urban and rural. Consequently, the transformations refer on the one hand to urbanization processes that are specific to the development of the agglomeration and that push its limits, and on the other hand to the reorganization of the rural world, particularly of agriculture.

Practices of land transformations are at the crossroad of these different logics and are revealing this double dynamic. Based on a fieldwork conducted at the fringes of the Paris metropolitan area (France), within the framework of the PSDR CAP-IDF research programme, we examine the specificities of land transformations in these areas on the border between urban and rural.

The interface situation induces a great diversity in the forms and rationalities of transformations, particularly in the case of agricultural land. The hybrid nature of urban and agricultural logics allows actors to play and sometimes circumvent the rules prescribed by urban planning documents. We can also find perverse effects, specific to this interface situation, of postponing urbanization beyond the limits of planning documents. More broadly, our work questions the specificity of the forms of evolution of these spaces marked by very strong interdependencies between urban and rural areas.

# WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

## 20:00-21:30 CEST

## ROUND TABLES

### The urban governance of COVID-19 (II)

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eduardo Marques, María José Álvarez-Rivadulla

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | RT143

**Room 2** | Market Square (COVID-19 round tables)

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

Lorena Barberia, María Celeste Ratto, Catalina Ortiz, Friederike Fleischer, María Luisa Méndez

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

### S36 | Sensing the city during walking / cycling the “first / last mile”

**Session Organiser(s)** | Apostolos Arvanitis, Sokratis Basbas, Stella Giannakopoulou

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS134

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

#### **Mode transitions: bicycle and high-capacity public transport in the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo**

Deiny Facanha Costa

The São Paulo Metropolitan Region (SPMR) is a socio-spatially unequal metropolis with heterogeneous distribution of infrastructure and opportunities, configured by a radiocentric rail transport network concentrated in the central area. Thinking in this context and the possibility of bicycle connecting origin and/or destination with the public transport station, this article aims to analyze the first/last mile (FMLM) travels and the provision of bike parking in high capacity public transport stations. The relevance of the research lies in the understanding of the offer in the urban area and how the intermodal trips between bicycles and high-capacity public transport are carried out in the SPMR. Yet, considering that most of the existing literature on FMLM originates from developed countries, this article aims to contribute to knowledge in developing countries, as a basis for future researches. The structure adopted for the article starts with the context of displacements and insertion of the grid by tracks in the urban area, differentiating between METRÔ and CPTM stations, located predominantly in the center and edges of the RMSP, respectively. Followed by understanding the difference in the supply of bike parking at stations and understanding intermodal displacements according to the 2017 Metro Origin and Destination Survey. Finally, the main conclusions are summarized.

#### **Walking as a design methodology to investigate and understand layers beyond the ones dictated by the city**

Litty Teresa Salas

Reflecting on Rebecca Solnit's book - Wanderlust, a history of walking, the essay aims to draw out deep rooted experiences and relationships that narrates one's perception of the city. Walking allows one to experience the space in a slow and

steady motion, that gives us enough time to ponder and absorb the externalities of the environment. By walking, we are stimulating a transformation of space to place, and by accessing routes that are often not dictated by the city, we are able to encroach upon a layer of the city that hasn't been consciously worked on. But how can we situate and develop a design methodology that acknowledges the change of experience from place to place, drawing in contexts from culturally, politically, geographically and democratically different cities.

Borrowing the concept of Flaneur, a literary figure of much controversy and often sought to be dead, one can navigate the different layers of the urbane only by walking it aimlessly. While the setting in which the Flaneur was created has been changed and remodeled drastically with many cities being designed to be no longer exciting, the Flaneur needs a changing, a millennial transformation that allows us to experience many facets of the city that cannot be navigated without the feet. In doing so, we are introducing a tool, a research methodology that helps us determine the minutest aspects of urban design using the five bodily senses that are actively involved in the process of walking.

### **Exploring the senses during everyday FM/LM trip routes – Wrocław, Poland**

Natalia Bursiewicz

The main aim of the paper and the presentation is to examine the walking experience of the inhabitants of Wrocław, Poland during their everyday FM/LM trip routes. The idea is to find out how do people move in the city (especially historical center) and whether senses determine those movements in any way. The methodology used in the research includes multidisciplinary literature studies and a detailed case study of the city of Wrocław based on 100 surveys and observations. The given research comprises a part of the bigger scientific project in the area of relation between health and the city. The research held in Wrocław provides new perspective on the perception of the city and its urban design. Special attention in the research was given to the comparison between men and women (age 25-45) and the way they perceive and "feel" the surrounding (architecture, greenery, smells, sounds etc.). The article examines the importance of senses and social participation in the process of urban planning. Moreover it emphasizes the crucial role of senses in citizens' well-being and mental health. Therefore, the goal of the research is to exemplify the importance of the multi-sensory experience, that architects and planners should give to the process of sustainable urban planning and development.

## **S86 | Production of urban space and contemporary finance: public policies and social spending**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ursula Dias Peres, Luciana de Oliveira Royer

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS126

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Technocratic decisions and financial arrangements in São Paulo subway: a look through politics**

Daniela Costanzo de Assis Pereira

High capacity systems are essential to the functioning of large metropolises. The São Paulo Metropolitan Region (SPMR) has a rail transport system, but it answers for just around 7% of the city's mobility, while a third of all daily journeys are made by bus. It is composed of subway and train lines, run by two different public companies owned by the São Paulo state government. Although the system has substantial effects on the city, it is subject to another politics, influenced primarily by state dynamics, with relatively low accountability to the local electorate. A central element in these dynamics has been the continuous control of the state government by the same political group, although with two different parties, in an environment of low electoral competition. So, this policy had no alternative governance.

To explore these issues concerning the subway system, we analyse the patterns of governance (Marques 2012; Le Galès 2011) of this policy focusing on line construction. The aim is to evaluate their distributive or regressive character, besides discussing the fare policy, a decisive factor in terms of providing access for the city's most impoverished population. The trajectory of this policy shows a tendency of incremental progressivism. New lines went gradually expanded to the city's peripheries, but in a meagre pace and always quite far from facing the demand, increasingly lagging behind the expansion of the city.

### **Decentralisation in public service provision: comparative study of waste management in the cities of London and São Paulo**

Alexandre Pereira

This research discusses the impact of the decentralisation in the administration of public services at municipal level. The study compares two models of decentralisation exploring the provision of solid waste management (SWM) services in the cities of São Paulo, in Brazil, and London, in the UK. These two cities show two contrasting systems of regional planning. London has a decentralised provision of SWM, where each borough has the autonomy to contract and manage its own services; while in São Paulo the contracts are centralised in the City Hall, where the Mayor establishes concession contracts with only two companies to cover all sub-districts of the city. Through an exploratory scope, this research aims to discuss how these two governance models affect the finance and the construction of the public space, in terms of the environment, public health and poverty reduction, exploring the impact of these different models in the management of public money, in the market of public service provision and the quality of services provided for the population in different regions of the city.

### **Land property taxes in metropolis of global south: actors, interests and strategies in the case of São Paulo (2000-2016).**

Guilherme Nascimento Minarelli

In political science and urban studies literatures, little or nothing is said about property taxes policies – which have great relevance in the reproduction of inequalities over time (PIKETTY, 2016) and space. The governance of fiscal policies is poorly analyzed, mainly at the local level in comparative and qualitative terms. In contexts of great inequalities and administrative decentralization of land property taxes, as is the case of Latin America and Brazilian cities, who are the actors, their interests and strategies to reform these taxes? The responses available in the literature are basically based on the theory of the median voter (MELTZER; RICHARD, 1981) and on the partisan government (ideology) (ESPING-ANDERSEN, 1991). Lots of questions about the level of redistribution, the dynamics among the main involved actors and the policies verified empirically are still unanswered. From an institutionalist perspective of urban policies (MARQUES, 2018), regarding veto arenas (IMMERGUT, 1996) and coalitions cleavages (HOLLAND; SCHNEIDER, 2017), this article seeks to present the analysis of three cases of governments with different ideological positions in the city of São Paulo (2000-2016). The analysis shows what are the interests, constraints and strategies of involved actors in the definition of land property tax reforms in a metropolis from the global south. Despite ideological differences, all governments seek to increase the collection and do it in a progressive way. Nonetheless, they use different instruments and strategies, according to specified contexts and coalitions, in an electorally competitive environment and in constant dispute for low income voters.

### **Geographies of fiscal exception in the Brazilian municipality: A fiscal sociological approach to the IPTU in Rio de Janeiro 1988-2018**

Theo Temple

The IPTU or urban property tax (Imposto Predial e Territorial Urbano) is of significant financial importance to Brazilian municipalities but is rarely fully exploited. The 1988 tax code outlined a potential framework through which Brazilian municipalities could progressively levy the tax, improve the management of land use as well as support fiscal decentralization in the context of a return to democracy. In many municipalities however, the IPTU is riddled with official and unofficial tax exemptions lowering potential revenue and reinforcing geographies of urban inequality. This paper explores the various means by which the urban property tax burden is avoided and the possible social and spatial implications of these fiscal lacunae. Using a case study of the municipality of Rio de Janeiro from 1988-2018, I will consider IPTU exemptions through the idea of 'spaces of exception' as developed by Giorgio Agambem (2005) and Aihwa Ong (2006). In doing so I will explore the political geography of fiscal exceptions and how these relate to broader processes of urban inclusion and exclusion.

## **S61 | Extended Urbanisation: From State Strategies to Everyday Life**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Christian Schmid, Nitin Bathla

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS091

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Extended urbanisation of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Everyday practices of resistance against displacement and dispossession**

Manuel Bayón, Michael Janoschka, Gustavo Durán

The Amazon can be considered as one of the key areas worldwide where extended urbanisation is consolidating, for instance by the commodities boom construction of new infrastructures and the emergence of new urban centres. Amongst

others, the Initiative for the Integration of the South American Regional Infrastructure, promoted especially by Brazilian elites, has been generating a new phase of extended urbanisation for the last two decades. In the case of Ecuador, Amazonian cities initially created because of the expansion of oil extraction and agrarian colonisation, attracting impoverished peasantry migrating from the other regions of the country. However, the Amazonian cities have now the highest percentage of urban growth in the country, with intra-regional, often rural-to-urban migrations forming new peri-urban areas that have also given birth to a new rural-urban peasant political subject. Through the comparison between a new indigenous urbanisation of 30 families around the new river port of the Manta-Manaos axis that prevents its displacement by state planning, and a new indigenous neighbourhood formed from the occupation of 300 families from a nearby hacienda in a provincial capital, our ongoing investigation demonstrates the contradictions between state planning for capital expansion and the dispute over widespread urbanisation by indigenous sectors historically excluded from central spaces. Under these conditions, extended urbanisation is not a linear process, but produces an apparent paradox in which the urban is both the displacement matrix and the way to access rights amid deeply rooted social structures of racism.

### **Emergent national state projects of extended urbanization: An examination of Asian cases**

Gavin M Shatkin

Both quantitative analyses of land use change, and qualitative examinations of government plans, indicate that many mega-urban regions and urban corridors, particularly in Asia and Africa, are experiencing a wave of rapid spatial expansion. This paper argues that waves of extended urbanization such as this have historically reflected the simultaneous emergence of national state political projects to build political coalitions around agendas of economic growth and the distribution of land rents in extended urban regions. States seek to do so by capitalizing on moments of opportunity presented by shifts in the investment priorities of transnational financial actors, and by advances in infrastructure and logistics technologies that enable the incorporation of new areas into transnational circuits of capital accumulation. Hence regional expansion in a given context is not a gradual and linear process, but is instead marked by waves of disruptive and politically contentious reforms and plans intended to enable real estate, infrastructure, and logistics megaprojects. The current wave of political projects around extended urbanization is marked by distinct features, including the increasingly fragmented and decentralized nature of transnational finance, and geopolitical dynamics associated with the rise of China and the emergence of an increasingly polycentric global order. It is consequently marked by geopolitical competition to shape emergent state agendas of extended urbanization, and by increasing variegation in the models of infrastructure-driven extended urbanization that state actors adopt, as manifest for example in different models of land-based financing of infrastructure. The chapter illustrates these arguments with examples from contemporary Asia.

### **Manufacturing the Zone - understanding and engaging with capital-led development**

Ina Valkanova

This paper dissects one of the most explosive tension fields of the post-industrial society, the increasingly complex relationship between production and place by looking at the development of a special economic zone in the periphery of the city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Special economic zones are service landscapes, mainly driven by capital accumulation processes, designed to provide cities with products. They were created as a business model to generate profit for private companies. The hinterland territory has been re-zoned and re-shaped entirely by economical aspects, creating an extended urbanisation and annex to the existing city. The paper looks into the way this particular economic zone in Plovdiv developed from one cherry processing factory into the biggest investment project of the country hosting numerous global manufacturing companies and maps the resulting socio-urban transformations in the region. The research highlights the contradictions that arise when these developments are framed as non-city and reduced to a mono-functional infrastructure space, while their social, environmental and urban impact on their region are neglected. Large-scale projects of extended urbanisation are not a product of only economic dynamics but are created collectively by power relations and political decisions on local and global level. If they are collectively created, they could only be collectively transformed. The paper intends to identify opportunities and methods to imagine these spaces as a product of common understanding and transform them from an extractive economy to an economy that creates local value.

### **Extended urbanization in India: understanding and spatializing new urban geographies in the countryside**

Robbin Jan van Duijne, Chetan Choithani, Jan Nijman

The future of Indian urbanization is increasingly a story of rural-to-urban settlement reclassification. The latest Indian Census showed that over 2.500 settlements in the countryside had transitioned from “village” (rural) to “town” (urban) between 2001 and 2011, an unparalleled increase in the number of urban settlements. One third of India’s urban growth is now in this condition, and this type of growth generally takes place at the bottom of the urban system. Geographically, reclassified settlements are located in what used to be predominantly agrarian territories, typically at some distance from more established cities. To understand these processes, and to see whether they align with prevailing theories and conceptualizations on “the urban”, this article draws on substantial primary data collection efforts conducted in two study sites in India’s northeast, in the states of Bihar and West Bengal. Using 650 household surveys and 350 firm surveys, we excavate the available alternative livelihood options and the nature of the local economies in these reclassified

settlements. We find that the connections to bigger cities, nationally and internationally, are key to understanding the processes shaping and reshaping these geographies in India's countryside. These findings have a bearing on current theoretical and conceptual debates in urban studies.

### **The urbanisation of wilderness: resistance to the urban and institutional crises through the example of the Adula Park, Switzerland**

Mosè Cometta, Mathis Stock

In the context of the ongoing « planetary urbanisation » (Lefebvre 2000), the urban extension goes beyond the sub- and peri-urban, and touches through conservation and touristification processes specific mountain areas. Our contribution analyses the rejection of the Adula National Park in Switzerland as a resistance to ongoing urbanization in three steps: First, the Ticino urban transition from a paradigm of decentralised centralisation (Diener et al. 2006) towards a model of functional specialisation will be discussed. The urbanisation of peripheral valleys is seen as an infra-urban territory in the light of a gradient of urban qualities from the hyperurban to the infra-urban. The case of Adula Park represents well this transition for infra-urban areas. Second, the project of a National Park, which manifests the neoliberal paradigm of protected areas (Büscher & Arsel 2012), has been rejected by the population. The analysis of the discourse shows what we call a « discursive asynchrony » between supporters and detractors. While talking about the same park, they refer to completely different realities. The rejection of the park suggests a refusal of the new urban planning paradigm. Third, the pace of urban transition forces institutions to find new ways of managing the territory. This implies rapid and drastic political and cultural changes. Part of the population, still culturally linked to rural and wilderness ideals, resists such changes. The difficulty of bridging these two positions risks compromising the legitimacy of the institutions. Does the ongoing planetary urbanisation signify a crisis of democratic institutions?

## **S7 | Shaping the City through Migration Industries**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Nir Cohen, Tatiana Fogelman, Henrik Lebuhn

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS008

**Room 7** | Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **City of movement? Migrant's infrastructuring practices in Athens**

Mirjam Wajsberg, Joris Schapendonk

In migration studies, there is an increasing interest in understanding how migration processes are shaped by different forms of brokerage and mediation. We relate this debate to the field of urban studies by bringing together the concepts of migration infrastructure (Xiang and Lindquist, 2014) and the notion of people as infrastructure (Simone, 2004a). By combining these conceptual starting points, we aim to better understand how migrants actively mediate their im/mobility in the urban environment of Athens through ad hoc and informal constellations in which care, mobility and economic opportunities are facilitated. In so doing, we acknowledge that migrants actively create and navigate the infrastructures of the city, while at the same time recognising that many people are on their way to somewhere else, making their sojourns in Athens just one of many episodes of their migration trajectory. The ethnographic material thus illustrates how these infrastructuring practices are crucial in facilitating both placemaking as well as mobility in urban spaces and how these practices leave material and social traces in the urban fabric of Athens.

### **Translating the nation through the livable city: Digital intermediaries as emerging integration industries in Copenhagen**

Julia Christensen, Tatiana Fogelman

Since the turn towards integrationism, research on state integration policies and private, state- subsidized providers of integration services has burgeoned. Little attention has been, however, paid to a new kind of actor that migrants draw on to make sense of the cities they settle in —namely popular, social media-based intermediaries. Though not as numerous as state or migrant- community intermediaries, their digital, multi-platform presence allows for an extensive and abiding reach in newcomers' navigation of the host country's society and culture. This paper conceptualizes such unofficial intermediaries as a part of an emerging, digitally-based integration industries that are focused primarily on cities - reflecting not only migrants' actual geographies of settlement in urban areas but also broader urbanization of identities. Focusing on Copenhagen we examine two expatriate bloggers with the strongest social media presence and conduct content and visual analysis of their posts on Instagram and their own websites. We draw on the Scandinavian-institutionalist concept of translation as a social, performative practice in order to analyze how they translate the city to the newcomers and thus contribute to its remaking in the digital realm. We focus especially on the key motifs that have over the last decade become part of the broader political and popular discourse on Copenhagen's livable urbanism.

## **Thinking Globalisation From Below: Mapping Immigrant Nannies in Istanbul**

Melis Aydin

A new way of human flows through the cities is one of the important impacts of globalisation. Istanbul is a city which is affected, and transformed by different human flows, has been receiving migrants from a large variety of different geographies. Due to informal working, and residing circumstances, one of the least visible human flows in Istanbul is migrant domestic workers.

This study aims to research the spatiality of migrant women nannies in Istanbul, and their connection with various global circuits, as well as to investigate the spatial relationship between third parties, immigrant women, and employers in order to map the effects of different relationships on space affecting lower circuits of globalisation.

At the first stage of this study, the location of the third parties, the employment agencies in Istanbul are detected. At the second stage, with the help of the information, and the advertisements in those employment agencies, the location of the employers looking for nannies, and migrant women looking for employment as nannies are detected. At the final stage, the spatial relationships between employment agencies, immigrant women, and employers', and their spatial reflections on Istanbul are investigated.

In conclusion, it is found out that although the spatiality of employment agencies, and employers are intersecting in some parts of the city, the immigrant domestic workers are clustered in different districts in Istanbul. Additionally, while employment agencies and employers are located mostly in the central parts of the city, immigrant workers are located mostly in the periphery.

## **Corporate migration industries in the production of transnational spaces in the global city Tokyo**

Sakura Yamamura

Migration is one the main challenges in global politics and urban societies are increasingly characterized by migrant-led diversity. Such social change is especially observed and discussed in global cities, where not only the global flow of capital and goods, but also of people is concentrated. In fact, in such global cities, the dual migration of transnational migration from above and below are thought to be channeled more strongly into than any other arrival cities. Although the connection between the global phenomenon and the socio-spatial impacts on the cities on the local level appears evident, empirical research on the socio-spatial dimension of such transnational migration remains rather rare and the mechanism of the production of transnational spaces underexplored.

Basing on qualitative interviews with 45 transnational financial professionals (i.e. transnationalism from above) as well as with recently arrived transnational labor migrants from below, this paper sheds light on these socio-spatial diversification processes within the global city Tokyo. It explores the crucial role of different economic actors in the urban diversification: global corporates as structural forces but also local intermediary actors, such as relocation and real estate companies as well as service firms and agencies, i.e. corporate migration industries, that manage and channel the global flow of diverse transnational migrants not only into specific cities in the global network, but also into specific socio-spatial patterns in the local urban space. It gives new insights into the diversification dynamics of transnational urban spaces specifically in Tokyo, but also within the network of global cities.

## **Shifting Barriers and Solutions: Labor Recruitment Agencies and Policy Formulation in the 20th Century US**

Edward Mohr

While recent research has illuminated the role of the Migration Industry in overcoming barriers to immigration, less is known about its influence on internal movement within federations and subsequent connections to immigrant flows. Understanding the importance of linkages between internal migration and immigration policy, this project will employ a transnational perspective to decenter the role of the state from analysis and investigate how labor recruiters within the Migration Industry historically helped migrants cross both internal and external barriers to movement. While states aimed to limit both types of migration during the 20th century, labor recruiters acted as a countervailing force by influencing ideas of migration as well as through overcoming barriers to movement. Despite the often-contradicting interests between state and private-sector agencies, governments nevertheless found few alternatives to working with labor recruiters in shaping migration. This paper will specifically focus on the role of labor recruiters in influencing migration and immigration policies in the United States during the 20th century. Theories examining how ideas of movement are constructed by different actors will be combined with economic data to help explain how recruiters influenced policymakers' choices in creating legislation. Labor recruiters were historically integral actors in the US, impacting the migration of individuals moving into and around the country as well as ideas surrounding movement through advocacy work and legal battles. The result is that these private-sector actors helped steer the country's migration policies and flows according to their own interests, shaping inequalities that continue to influence the country today.

## S22 | Smart city backlash: resistances, insistences and divergence

**Session Organiser(s)** | Carina Listerborn, Lorena Melgaço

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS034

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Contesting the smart city: A case study from the Global South**

Adriana de la Peña

Guadalajara Ciudad Creativa Digital (GCCD) is a government-led Smart City project in the city center of Guadalajara, Mexico. Through a media content analysis and interviews with local leaders of the contestation movements, this paper analyzes how local actors have contested the neoliberal modes of governance associated with the smart city paradigm that drives GCCD. Drawing on theoretical approaches that have (a) highlighted the ways in which communitarianism has been co-opted by neoliberal narratives and (b) advocate for an analysis of the reciprocal relationship between neoliberal governances and contestation against it, I examine the extent to which local actors drew on neoliberal tropes and reproduced neoliberal narratives as they mobilized against the GCCD. I found that local actors hold variegated and contradicting imaginaries, many of which are rooted in the same neoliberal narratives that they contest. The paper thus contributes to a better understanding of how local communities in the Global South are contesting different layers of neoliberal urbanism.

### **'Homegrown' Smart Cities: empowering or deregulating Indian municipal government?**

Persis Taraporevala

The Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015 in India, necessitates the creation of corporate parastatal entities in 100 Indian cities. These entities have been highly contentious as they will be given the rights and responsibilities of local municipal government, they are open to private investment and have no obligation to ensure the presence of local elected councillors as company shareholders, on the board or in any decision-making capacity within the parastatal entity (Khan et al. 2018). Furthermore, the legal validity of these parastatal entities within the constitutional framework of India is unclear and I will explore these spaces of legal ambiguity and resistance to understand the relationship between these municipal and corporate entities of governance in one case study – Pune – in western India.

The existing body of literature on Indian Smart Cities recognises this potential conflict of power however it does not detail the relationship between these two bodies neither does it acknowledge that India has a long and complicated history with local electoral politics (made mandatory only after the 74th Constitutional Amendment in the 1990s). I analyse the Smart Cities Mission through the lens of critical legal studies and explore this highly contested and fluid relationship through elite interviews, within the municipalities and corporate entities and through an 'institutional ethnography' (Scheppelle 2004; Taber 2010) of 'graphic artefacts' (Hull 2012) which include government communications and other forms of paper that effectively create and legitimise this new entrant into the political and legal landscape of Indian urban governance.

### **Grassroots Digital-Urbanism, Implication of discourses and potential of practices**

Niloufar Vadiati

Many smart city projects have been criticised for being ostensibly top-down planning practice with weak collaborative engagement with civil sector and local communities; And also, for not being able to solve some of the city's old challenges: exclusion, marginalisation and inequality.

Meanwhile, on the peripheral side of the digitalisation process in cities, there is an emergent movement that is committed to a participatory vision for urban development. This movement is among a decentralised, locally rooted network of cooperatives, and initiatives that are experimenting the technological diffusion into the former grassroots practices of urbanism which is addressing equality, democracy and inclusion. Technology, in this sense, has played a mediating drive to tackle urban issues and demonstrates the possibilities for alternative modes of development which goes beyond surveillance-profit logic.

The research goal of this proposal is to provide an understanding of the series of these urban experiments, that are shaping counter-settings to state-corporate digitalisation in the grassroots level of cities. Achieving this understanding means detail accounts of the ideology, organisational structure, their extent of collaboration with the city, and their synergic role for locals in the nuanced process of digitalisation in cities.

Methodological nature of this research is qualitative. Empirically first different cases of the grassroots digital-urbanism initiatives in Berlin, Amsterdam and Barcelona have been selected. To examine the relational dynamics in each of these initiatives, an ethnographic approach based on a combination of participant observation, semi-structured interviews and discourse analysis will be conducted.

## S23 | Contested Territories – epistemological and methodological approaches

**Session Organiser(s)** | Michael Lukas, Philipp Horn, Michael Janoschka

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS036

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Floresta as a neighbourhood in contest in the city of Porto Alegre (Brazil).**

Vanessa Marx

The 4th District is an old industrial area in the city of Porto Alegre composed of the following neighbourhood's: Floresta, São Geraldo, Navegantes, Farrapos and Humaitá. Floresta is a neighbourhood that is located between the downtown and high-class neighbourhood called Moinhos de Vento. We could say that this is a neighbourhood in dispute crossed by different forces. On the one hand, agents of social movements claiming the struggle for housing in the settlement, artists painting walls and establishing networks of creative economy, garbage collectors seeking the permanence of their communities. On the other hand, forces of urban entrepreneurship trying to advance in the upper part of the district through the creation of new real estate projects as well as international projects for revitalization the zone. The research developed is based on the actors' view of the Floresta neighbourhood. The theory is based on three points: the financialization of the city (FIX, 2011; HARVEY, 2006) the internationalization of the city (SASSEN, 2000, MARX, 2008) and the right to the city (LEFEBVRE, 2001; HARVEY, 2014). The empirical study develops from a qualitative methodology that starts from walks in the neighbourhood with routes taken by the agents and from semi-structured interviews that capture their relationship with the neighbourhood. The article seeks to establish the relationship between theory and empirical study to understand what the disputes in the territory are, the contested spaces and the sense of belonging or exclusion from relational aspects between the actors of the Floresta neighbourhood.

### **Contested Territories in Brazil – A Cultural Approach**

Claudia Seldin, Caio César de Azevedo Barros, Pedro Vitor Costa, Victória Michelini

The concept of contested territories is increasingly present in the recent literature. However, we have yet to find works focusing on contestations taking place specifically in cultural territories. This presentation aims to define the concept of 'contested territories of culture' in unequal cities, while highlighting their importance as resistant motors in Brazil.

We begin by discussing how territories are theoretically defined, focusing on their symbolic dimension. We highlight authors, who present them as products of collective action and identities. We, then, stress the importance of the concept of territories for Latin American resistance movements. Moreover, we argue how, within marginalized areas of Brazil, cultural territories are often temporary, and self-organized in a bottom-up manner, incorporating several conflicts. More importantly, they are 'contesting territories', which question the established order, offering cultural options to populations, who are frequently left behind due to inefficient public policies.

To illustrate our conceptualization, we present two case studies resulting from our ethnographic research in the peripheries of Rio de Janeiro: the Realengo Flyover Cultural Space, an improvised cultural center under a flyover; and the Cine Taquara, an informal cinema adjacent to a bus-rapid-transit station. Both work towards changing the realities of their communities and are currently struggling to assure their continuity. Their trajectories reveal contestations regarding race, gender, land property, and more.

We argue that, while they cannot be perceived as romanticized miracle solutions to the broader issues of urban unevenness, they do consist in key tools in the fight for cultural access in Rio today.

### **Articulating History, Memory and the City: methodological perspectives from the neighborhood of Itapuã and its water-related trades.**

Thaís Troncon Rosa, Yago Bruno Santos de Souza

This article aims to present theoretical and methodological reflections on the research linked to the project "Urbanisms and urbanities on the margins of the city" (FAUFBA - Brazil). It seeks an exploration of urbanism and the formation of urbanities based on the notions of 'margins' and 'thresholds', examining the socio-spatial dimensions and, above all, the intricacies of shaping different 'urbanity regimes' to be considered analytical. and politically. (ROSA, 2017). The research is carried out in the neighborhood of Itapuã (Salvador - BA), Brazil, considering its historicity, since the emergence of Salvador (the first capital of Brazil), until its current consolidation as a neighborhood, which has always had exchange relations ( GANDON, 2018, p. 38). Based on this, there is a study - confronting hegemonic history, iconography and oral

history - focused on practices and knowledge linked to 'water', since this natural resource is central to the promotion of urbanities in the territory - which, paradoxically, will not always favor its existence. In the neighborhood, the varied bodies of water and waterfronts are locus of practices performed by the Afro-descendant and Amerindian layers of society, like fishing and the earning trade as articulating activities between public space, race and gender (GANDON, 2018; REIS, 2019; AKOTIRENE, 2018). In this way, we seek to make visible the erasures committed historically by the hegemonic narratives about the production of space and its occupation, being, in the daily life of Salvador and its surroundings, mostly diasporic.

### **New methodological approaches to studying urban contestations: formal and informal civic infrastructures**

Elena Tykanova, Anna Zhelnina

The dominant theories of public participation were created to work in "developed democracies:" classic texts on civic engagement applied to cities in the Global North. They focused on the measurable and visible behaviors, such as membership in voluntary associations, participation in elections, strategic choices of social movements, leadership, efficiency of collective action. The contribution of scholarship from the Global South changed the civil society studies significantly. Most notably, the discovery of informality helped urban scholars see the various forms of collective action and civic engagement that previously fell below the radar of classic approaches: civic action in the cracks between the governmental institutions, in the "grey areas" of the state's attention, action that compensates for failures of the existing formal institutions.

In our paper, we would like to bring the achievements of the two bodies of scholarship together and reflect on the potential contribution of the cities not fitting the "North-South" divide as neatly. Building on our research experience in Russian cities, we would like to make a case for the concept of "civic infrastructures" to analyze the collective mobilizations for the right to the city. Civic infrastructures include both the formal democratic participation tools and legal norms, and informal practices, networks, and ideas of urbanites about creating and maintaining the public good.

Based on our comparative research of several cases of local mobilizations against undesirable urban developments in Russian large cities, we will demonstrate the advantages of this concept in analyses of urban contestations in different urban contexts.

## **S77 | Sensing Urban Exclusion: Atmospheric Attunement and Creative Interpretation**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ed Charlton

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS114

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Unequal urban atmospheres. A performance bruxelloise**

Alice Salimbeni

Marion Young (1990) believes that space injustice should be revealed through the direct experience of the people who live it and Thrift (2008) states that the best way to explore people's experience is through the study of the emotional relationship they establish with space. Adopting these approaches in my doctoral research on the relationship between women and urban spaces, I organized in Brussels the "Atelier de la Traversée", a participatory workshop which explores the urban, held together with 15 women supported by the local association Le Poisson sans bicyclette (December 2019/May 2020).

Through imagined and performative experience, the workshop aims at bringing out fears, passions, desires, pleasures that condition the intensity of ex/in-clusion of women in urban spaces.

These elements make up negative/positive urban atmospheres (Gandy, 2017) for women, i.e. those sensory situations in which spatial discrimination becomes perceptible (Hasse, 2012) and those others where it is not.

This paper raises the question of the passage from subjective experience to political interpretations, aimed at identifying collective urban meanings. To respond to this need, a part of the workshop was dedicated to the shared conception and realization of three mini film-fictions aimed at disassembling and reassembling spatial injustices and identifying places, acts, practices, smells, gazes, speeds, rhythms able to synthesize the individual lived atmospheres and to transform them in political creative spatial narrations.

The results of the performance (and of the film-experience) lead us to unveil harassment, stigmatization, gender inequities that camouflage, hide, conceal in the urban spaces.

### **Navigating Exclusions within Infrastructures of Leisure: Visual Expressions and Examinations of Single Screen Theatre Spaces and the lives of their Labour Force.**

Vikas John, Sandeep Viswanath, Vikrant M S, Lokesh B S

Cinema, and its multi layered processes of production and consumption, are intricately woven into the cultural fabric of any city. This paper examines a particular thread in such a weave - looking at the experiences of workers and their exclusions in localized cultural (cinema) production and exhibition eco-systems. It does so by using the visual medium as both a mode of interrogation as well of expression. The site of analysis for the study was single screen theatres in one of the most rapidly urbanising cityscapes in India – Bengaluru. Such spaces, or infrastructures of leisure, are (while still being current) remnants of the past, currently fighting a losing battle with multiplexes and more recently, the shift to online spaces. This work examines the experiences of part producers of that cinematic cultural experience – theatre workers, traditionally considered peripheral to the production process. The study used still photography and video recordings to document and self-document worker’s everyday life and invited participants to engage in the analysis of such produced material. This allowed for a participatory approach and an enriched analysis that draws on Tobin et. al.’s (2009) methodology called video-cued multivocal ethnography, which is a process of creating artefacts of analysis (in this case, videos and still photographs) by both respondents and the interlocutors, and making meaning through a negotiated engagement between the two sets of visual products and their producers. As the paper will show, this method allowed participants to both express their condition and examine their conditionality in innovative ways.

### **Affective atmosphere of social exclusion. Reflections on a vulnerable neighborhood in Palermo, Italy.**

Nicola Di Croce

The contribution introduces the notion of urban atmosphere (Bohme, 2017) and aims to show how everyday sounds contribute in shaping the “sonic image” of a city. In order to do so the article explores the concept of affect (Thrift, 2011), affective atmosphere (Anderson, 2009), and affective tonality (Thibaud, 2015), as key tools to acknowledge the profound interaction between bodies and their experience of everyday life. Thus, urban sounds, as affective tonalities, are described as active forces that influence bodies, their movements and feelings. Following this perspective the text aims to demonstrate that a better understanding of the setting of urban atmosphere can give crucial insights for the investigation of how the sonic environment is regulated and engineered, and what is the policing of the sensible that orient humans’ perceived universe.

In support of this theoretical background, the contribution presents the outcomes of a case study developed in Palermo (in the neighborhood named “San Giovanni e Paolo”), where the author was involved in a participatory sound art and research project in the framework of a culture-based urban regeneration process. The case study embraced a collaborative methodology aiming to empower local communities and implement urban policy analysis and design tools within a particularly vulnerable neighborhood. The goal was to demonstrate how participatory sound art practice can uncover innovative perspectives on the relationship between vulnerable neighborhoods, power hierarchies, social inequalities, and gender issues.

### **"Like Living It Again": Writing lyrically about social exclusion as a lived everyday in Soacha, Colombia.**

David Anderson

Based on fieldwork conducted within an informal settlement of Soacha, Colombia, this paper discusses the ways in which research can effectively understand and communicate the experience of living within a socially marginalised urban neighbourhood. In acknowledging that there is a gap between what we experience as researchers and the experiences of our participants, I discuss how this sensory distance can be accounted for in the way we write and use data.

Approaching space and the city as experienced and qualified by the body, first and foremost (Lefebvre 1991; 1996; 2014), I consider how lyrical writing (Abbott 2007; 2016) can play a part in helping to communicate the sensations of being in place during research and feeling emotional responses, and how admitting these responses into our work can have value. I also discuss the ways in which I used creative outputs from workshops with local children – particularly photography – to expand my register for communication poetically rather than descriptively, illustrating the affective connections forged between local children and the people, places, animals and plants that populate their everyday encounters. Marrying these visual outputs with ethnographic and interview data, I argue that listening carefully to our participants (Back 2007) is a key part of communicating the truth of social life. Within my own research, this problematised social exclusion as dialectically formed, lived and contested through the interplay between structural forces and injustices and the everyday life of neighbourhood inhabitants.

## S46 | The Political Consequences of Gentrification

**Session Organiser(s)** | Jan Üblacker

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS072

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **“Fundamentally delivering something good”; austerity, urban development, and morality in Newcastle and Gateshead, UK**

Sarah Winkler-Reid

After almost 10 years of austerity, the neighbouring cities of Newcastle and Gateshead in the North East of England, find themselves in “unprecedentedly dire times”. Huge cuts to the local government budgets and growing demands for social care, mean they are struggling to meet even their basic statutory requirements. At the same time, a 27-story tower block - the tallest in the city, a 200-million-pound arena, and a giant viewing wheel are all being built or planned. While the consequences of this kind of urban development - increasing rent and property prices, dispossession and the widening of existing inequalities - have been well-documented, this paper focuses on the perspectives of local politicians, contractors and developers. Drawing from on-going ethnographic fieldwork on construction and urban development in the North East of England, I will show from their perspective, development offers an answer to austerity; projects create jobs, raise revenue and help the cities “thrive and grow”. This is not a lack of concern with the lives and well-being of others, but a different way of conceptualising what is at stake, and the best way to work on behalf of others. I will argue for the importance of attending to the perspectives of those people differently positioned in relation to urban development and the ways morality informs these perspectives.

### **Politics of low-income housing, gentrification and citizenship in Mumbai**

Smytta Yadav

The proposed paper is on everyday forms of citizenship as experienced by low income households in cities of global south in India. It discusses on the different types of documentations the urban poor need to provide to show their relationship with the city. I propose to focus on two Indian cities namely- Mumbai and Delhi over a period of two years (2017-2019). These cities are identified by the Indian government to be a highly volatile housing market with a growing phenomena of slum gentrification, uneven development in urban spaces as well as a more complex land and housing tenure system (Lees., et 2015; 2016). These are demographically different cities each presenting its own unique challenges to inclusive housing. The majority of the urban poor who migrate to these cities continue to maintain links with their villages where they already have documents such as voter cards, social provision cards, job cards, birth certificates, and so on. Therefore, without giving up their relations with their village, the migrants as the new urban poor cannot acquire the full citizenship experience, meaning they have a limited citizenship experience, limited political voice to influence change at a policy level and a continue to live in unacceptable living conditions. The paper avers that very little theoretical work has been done into the notions of right and access to the city (Parnell 2012), as well as hybrid, mobile and pluralistic forms of citizenship.

### **The impact of gentrification on electoral agendas: the example of municipal elections in Bordeaux and Saint-Denis (France)**

Sophie Gruyer

To understand the political consequences of gentrification, Sociology of public action can be extremely helpful. There are many ways to study the political aspect of gentrification but in this paper, we will focus on the link between gentrification and political agendas. We chose to question this relation in a specific context: municipal elections.

To what extent are gentrification processes affecting the electoral agendas during local elections? We will contribute to define the factors and reasons that can turn gentrification into a major issue during municipal elections.

This study is based on the analysis of the last municipal elections (2020) in two French cities: Bordeaux and Saint-Denis. Bordeaux is already gentrified in most of its territory, whereas in Saint-Denis, the process has just begun. This difference enabled us to test our hypothesis in two opposed socio-spatial contexts. The method we used can be declined in two parts: the observation of eight meetings of the main candidates, and the analysis of their election platforms and manifestos.

Thanks to these observations we did, we identified three factors that can make gentrification a major issue. First, the gentrification’s stage, and the knowledge of it by the candidates, has an impact on the role played by this issue in electoral agenda. Then, the political competition has also a massive impact: the more left-wing candidates there are, the more gentrification becomes important in the debate. Finally, political actions initiated by inhabitants are decisive in the emergence of gentrification as a critical issue during the campaign.

## S45 | Sound and the city

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sandra Jasper

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS070

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Decentering the human listener in urban planning and design research: toward a sonic materialist account of urban public space in transformation**

Caroline Claus, Burak Pak, Nicola Di Croce, Peter Cusack, Sven Sterken

This contribution discusses the consequences of understanding urban sound as physical, as well as informational affect (Goodman, 2009) in the context of urban planning and research. It will start with a review of the 'ontological turn' in sound studies (Cox, 2011, 2018; Thompson, 2017; Goh, 2017) in the light of the material-affective processes that are currently transforming the fields of urban studies, and more precisely in urban open space analysis (Rodríguez-Giralt, López, & García, 2009; Goodman et al., 2019). Building on this review, it will extend the arguments for a human listener's decentralisation in urban research reflecting on how anthropocentric sound planning can evolve toward a sonic materialism approach which can potentially contend with sonorous based struggles occurring in the planning of urban open spaces (Rodríguez-Giralt et al., 2009; Goodman et al., 2019). Recognizing the disempowerment, societal inequalities and alienation that are present in segregated neighbourhoods undergoing urban transformation in Brussels, this paper will introduce novel sonic planning strategies for addressing alienation, repression and immobility. These strategies will particularly respond to the militarised public space development taking place along the Brussels Western railway, where the importance of the affective and disruptive capacities of sound are clear and extensive (Claus, 2018; Claus and Pak, 2019). In conclusion, this research will demonstrate how a conceptual move towards sonic materialism in urban planning research can: i) open up planning to 'differing' spatialities such as acoustic territories ii) alter perceptions on legitimacy or accountability iii) activate the potential for urban reassembly and rearrangements.

### **Ordering the private within the life-in-common: noise in the neighborly relations**

Liubov Chernysheva

This paper will examine how privacy is ordered in a modern neighborhood in a post-socialist city, St. Petersburg (Russia). Investigating the circulation of sounds in a multi-apartment new building on the outskirts of the city I will trace different aspects of privacy in post-socialist housing. Sounds of neighboring problematize connections between the autonomy of one private life and the co-presence of many private lives in buildings with poor sound insulation and high crowding. Following the sources and discussions of sounds, I will demonstrate how privacy is enacted in conflicts associated with the violation of private boundaries. How does a sound become the noise? The study finds a whole range of answers to these questions: in the production of noise, various substances are mobilized and connected, including dwellers and housing management companies, household appliances, structural elements of houses, decoration materials for apartments, and installation of heating systems. Accountability is redistributed, and private is redefined through its dependence on multiple configurations related to the production of sounds. As a result, I suggest rethinking the centrality of a person, a subjectivity in defining and studying privacy. Rather privacy is a distributed matter that does not belong to one subjectivity but achieved by the joint work of many participants, both human and non-human, people and their practices as well as elements of infrastructures or local laws. This work produces different modes of privacy that go beyond both traditional understandings of public/private division in social science and disclose post-socialist socio-material orders.

### **Silencing?!: A Soundtrack of a Resisting City**

Manal Massalha

In the Jewish-Palestinian city of Lydd - Lod, on 3 September 2017, the day of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha, the ultranationalist mayor Yair Revivo of the Likud party, followed by police officers, stormed into the city's Dahmash Mosque at 5:30 am and tried to stop the special Eid prayer broadcasted through loudspeakers. Revivo's pretext was sound pollution. The immediate context was the 2017 Muezzin Law, a bill debated at the Israeli parliament, that seeks to institutionalise a ban on the public call to the dawn prayer, limit the volume of loudspeakers in residential areas at all hours and criminalise those who refuse to comply.

How can the soundscape of a city help untangle its past and present, urbanity and socio-spatiality, cultural, economic and political landscape? What does it tell us about its (post)colonial legacy, racial hierarchy and the lines of inclusion/exclusion? How is law mobilised to silence and racialise sonic scenes? And what role agency and music play in resisting silences and violence. The paper seeks to address the questions drawing on ethnographic, visual (photographic) and soundscaping research conducted in late 2017, in and on the city of Lydd; home to the first vocal and politically and socially conscious Palestinian hip hop group and ill-famed for crime, drugs, and poverty.

## S21 | Making Sense of the City: a pedagogical encounter?

**Session Organiser(s)** | Daniel Gutiérrez-Ujaque, Monica Degen

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS032

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Sensing the city through empathy. A pedagogical exploration**

Richard Nunes, Carolina Vasilikou, Adrian Tagg

In *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Paulo Freire (1968) critically re-examines the relationship between learner and learned. The view maintained that the learner ought to have an integral role in knowledge creation rather than treated as an 'empty vessel'. Inspired by Freire, we explore the nexus of this critical pedagogy with recent concerns over the muddled distinctions between the 'real' and 'imagined' in cities. This is particularly apparent given the rise of new technologies e.g. augmented reality and smart cities whereby knowledge of the city, and concurrently our sensing of it, is a given. Concern with what is represented, who is represented and how has been a long-standing feature of critical urban studies (Soja 1996, c.f. Foucault 1998 [1967] and Lefebvre 1991). Within this consideration we argue that there remains a lack of understanding of the spaces of empathy. We offer the case study of a multidisciplinary design hackathon, with participants tasked with providing wayfinding solutions for visitors with physical or mental impairments, in our efforts to explore this nexus of sense-making/critical pedagogy.

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### **Learning from experience, sharing with design: the educational potential of booklets on urban issues**

Marcela Rosenburg Figueiredo, Felipe Carnevalli De Brot, Rita de Cássia Lucena Velloso

This paper aims to highlight the potential of producing educational booklets about urban questions. Those booklets are here understood as a tool that gives visibility to different urban experiences and, at the same time, translate, in a pedagogical way, data, statistics and information about the processes that shape our lives in cities. In order to formulate this analysis, we took the example of Urbe Urge project. Held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, the project was developed in collaboration with architecture collectives, social movements and representatives of the public power for the production of printed booklets that compile graphic information on seven urban themes: garbage, housing, security, public space, urban mobility, water and agroecology.

As scattered information is gathered, crossed with official data and displayed in a graphic and accessible way, together with the experiences, speeches, and urban imaginary brought by specialists, activists and ordinary citizens, the project attempted to make visible the relations of inequality and power taking place in cities in the global south. In these cities, competition for investment and international tourism linked to territorial marketing projects embodies a much more complex dimension considering the latent socio-spatial inequalities.

Using Urbe Urge as a starting point, we aim to investigate the potential and limitations of educational tools that promote discussions about the city's production processes in a prospective way. Also, we intend to address how urban experiences of a variety of individuals who inhabit our cities can be understood as a privileged material of knowledge about the urban space.

### **Approaches for putting the sensory city on the agenda of urban policy and practice**

Franziska Schreiber

The "sensual revolution" (Bull & Howes, 2016) in critical urban research creates a new understanding of how the multisensory and emotional qualities of urban spaces shape urban life and mental health of city dwellers, thus opening up whole new doors for the design of liveable cities. However, the growing body of research has somehow bypassed urban policy and practice and not yet penetrated curricula development and pedagogy in related fields. To this point, the multisensory urban experience is hardly considered in planning and designing cities and largely absent from debates about urban futures. The assumption remains stubborn that decision-making needs an "objective process" that is not influenced by subjective feelings and perceptions (Fatullah & Willis, 2018). Changing this mindset requires new ways of translating and communicating knowledge on the sensory experience for city planning and development.

Based on the findings of the project “Sense the City”, this paper seeks to contribute to the two aims of the session by introducing four practical approaches. It will present 1) a magazine containing illustrated stories about different aspects of sensory cities that speaks to planners, decision makers and the general public alike; 2) a digital platform facilitating learning and increasing the visibility of the topic; 3) a toolkit in form of a fold-out poster developed for practitioners and equipped with guidelines and methods on how to make planning and participation processes more sensory; and 4) a workshop format combining sensory approaches with methods from futurology that has been applied in different pedagogical contexts.

## **S28 | Children and adolescents as co-producers of knowledge on urban spaces**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sven De Visscher, Anna Juliane Heinrich, Jolijn De Haene

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS043

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Children and Adolescents as active stakeholders in public open spaces: A Case Study in Al-Khalifa Neighborhood, Historic Cairo**

Hadeer Saeed Dahab

Urban spaces are a living environment for contemplation, learning, and enjoyment. In historic areas, they are the free enjoyable places where children and adolescents socialize, interact and communicate with each other.

This paper explores how children and adolescents can take an active role in designing and influencing their surrounding public open spaces through a participatory design thinking approach in the context of Historic Cairo. It uses different projects, implemented by the Athar Lina Initiative in the al-Khalifa neighbourhood of Historic Cairo, as case studies to explore different forms of engaging the children as a prime target in public open space development. Understanding the relationship between the children and their neighbourhood's built environment, their perceptions of the surroundings as well as discovering the potential of engaging them as active stakeholders in the design, implementation, and management processes are key elements.

The paper analyzes the different projects of Athar Lina over the last six years that related to Children and Adolescents Engagement, Heritage Education and Open Spaces Reclamation in historic context and brings up useful recommendations for considering the children and Adolescents as active stakeholders not only in the designing and implementation phases of public open spaces but also as active guardians in the monitoring and management phase.

Keywords: Children, Public open spaces, Al-Khalifa area, Community participation, urban development.

### **Chalo!: Gendered Youth Action during Urban Flooding in a Central Indian Muslim Basti**

Febe De Geest

Based on ethnographic research with Muslim youth living in an informal settlement in the central Indian city of Nagpur, I investigate youth actions during an environmental crisis situation, and how these actions contribute to the experience and performance of gender identity. In doing so, I introduce a more gendered perspective to recent scholarship on the various ways in which youth are ‘shaping the city’ as an outcome of their social and political actions (e.g. Simone 2005; Thieme 2010, 2017; Makau 2011). Specifically, this paper focuses on the actions that young Muslim men and women do during floods in their urban neighborhoods. Men see their actions during floods – which they describe as ‘rescuing’, ‘helping’ – as a way to challenge common narratives about them as ‘criminals’ and ‘unemployed’. Young women believe that their actions during flooding – ‘taking care of the children’, ‘explaining to others what is happening ...’ – reproduce local narratives about them as ‘vulnerable’ and ‘fragile’. By exploring the influence young people have in precarious environmental neighbourhoods, I highlight the important role of youth in civil society and the potential of their actions to contribute to development and social change. Moreover, by looking at what these actions mean for their notions and understanding of masculinity and femininity, I argue that youth action in contexts of environmental distress is highly inflected by prevalent local notions of gender identity.

### **Learning by playing games: involving and educating the younger inhabitants to the awareness and imagination of the city**

Valentina Rossella Zucca

The difficulty of living in the contemporary city defines boundaries and impacts especially on the weaker sections of the population, of which children have the least strong decision-making and communicative power. Finding effective methodologies of involvement can be important to educate the inhabitants from the earliest autonomous understanding and experimentation of the city, to build a deep-rooted sense of respect and awareness towards the commons. It is also a fundamental requirement to adapt top-down projects to truly inclusive models for the needs of all inhabitants.

The proposal reflects on the role of playing games to involve and educate the younger inhabitants in the awareness of the urban space. Starting from the experience with IMMOI collective, the research refers to the processes of investigation and temporary use on abandoned spaces with children between 6 and 12 years old.

Therefore, different games were designed starting from innovative pedagogical methods and trying different approaches depending on the age and the learning mechanisms of the children involved.

The methodologies have been tested with groups of children of three intermediate cities of southern Italy, inside schools, libraries and underused public spaces. The scale of these towns makes them meaningful for research, since they present poor urbanity and peculiar social dynamics, which are produced by the “in between” condition that weakens the cultural and intergenerational relations.

Educating children to the right to the city is a fundamental asset to improve public space and playing is an effective method to imagine about city.

## **S39 | Urban Amenities, Cultural Consumption, Middle-Class Identities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Levent Soysal, Jan Rath

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS060

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Wednesday 14 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **The Food Frontier: Consuming Gentrification in Sunset Park Slope (Brooklyn, NY)**

Manuel B. Aalbers, Lidia K.C. Manzo

The consumption of food plays an important role in gentrification processes as it is one of the ways in which gentrification is expressed at the level of lifestyle practices and highlights the new middle-class habitus. The significance of food to many gentrifiers is a key entry into the representation of an urban neighborhood. In this paper we look at how food performs different functions to gentrifiers in the neighborhoods of South Brooklyn. In particular we look at three areas with different levels of gentrification: super-gentrified Park Slope, gentrifying Greenwood Heights (originally known as Sunset Park-North) and marginally gentrified Sunset Park. Whereas Park Slope is home to the Brooklyn foodie movement – best known for being artisanal, healthy, organic, local and “cool” – Sunset Park’s ethnic enclaves are valued for their presumed “authentic” character, at least in the eyes and mouths of Park Slope’s gentrifiers. As such, gentrifiers do not only consume their own neighborhood but also nearby areas and thereby visibly influence neighborhood change processes and reshape gentrification frontiers. In this paper we explore the way gentrification interconnects with the development of an individual habitus as a spatial manifestation in which gourmet food practices are crucial to the construction of a class-specific lifestyle in the urban scene. Food practices and retail transition are part and parcel of the process of gentrification through which new patterns of spatial inequalities, urban meanings and identities are produced and re-produced.

### **The Revitalized Common of Libraries: Public Life, Culture-led Urban Transformation and Justice**

Marco Ciorli

Arguments about the dissolution of the public have enhanced the interest for renewed urban scenes as catalysts for communal life, combining matters of ownership with practices of place-making. Among the diverse amenities that shape social and cultural transformations, such as social bookshops or coffee bars, traditional public institutions also take part, in order to restore their function, or even contribute to the overall cultural economy of cities.

Despite the well-known erosion of public services and the role of books, civic libraries represent community-building environments and settings for a variety of activities. Transversal and public in nature, libraries represent more equal alternatives to market-related settings of leisure and cultural consumption, and provide public arenas otherwise denied to the most vulnerable. Nevertheless, they raise similar concerns about accessibility and the right to the city. Besides long-standing ambivalences related to hegemonic and liberal notions of legitimate public behavior and personal development, iconic and innovative facilities (re)produce urban scenes that normalize the interests and tastes of privileged target groups and thus affect the potential of such forms of social infrastructure.

Through a diachronic and ethnographic study of two Italian cases, I address the dynamics of bridging and bonding offered by public libraries, observing the diverse possibilities among being an “ultimate frontier” responsive to the marginal, a comprehensive cosmopolitan scene, or a middle-class amenity. With the present contribution, I focus on the latter, in order to evaluate potentials and criticalities of libraries concerning territorial inequality and culture-led regeneration of urban materiality and landscapes.

### **White Middle-Class Values as Settler Colonial Logic**

Miguel Montalva Barba

This qualitative paper focuses on the narratives that white-middle-class residents of a gentrifying progressive borough in Boston, Massachusetts, perform that reenact a settler colonial logic. This paper addresses how whiteness is (re)created in these spaces and places even when white residents can see these issues in a critical light. Based on the extended case method, this paper utilizes various methods to analyze this social phenomenon where theory is always at the center (Burawoy 1998; 2009; 2017). In particular, the majority of the findings presented here are from thirty-three in-depth residential life history interviews and thirty-six resident profiles from a trusted non-profit organization. The data shows that white respondents distinctly and deliberately used “white children” and the “white family” as tools to support an emplaced racialized system of oppression.

### **Public waters- the passions, pleasures and politics of bathing in the city: A new and urban commons**

Sophie Watson

This paper explores how the substance of water has a unique power to evoke passions, attachments and a sense of connection and belonging which enrolls bodies in new socialities, alliances, publics and politics in unpredictable ways, but nevertheless in ways which are embedded in prior histories and cultures. Water in its very substance appears as soft and sublime, as redemptive and spiritual, as connecting and enabling, as wild and cleansing, and as having the capacity to enhance a sense of wellbeing in those that swim in it. Where interventions are made which threaten the inclusion of multiple publics in water spaces, water becomes an actor in enlisting active participation in the spaces and events that unfold. The vibrant matter of water flows across and shapes human and nonhuman bodies producing new sites of consumption.

These spaces, partly because they are often free or very affordable, are growing in popularity in the context of a growing focus on healthy bodies just as many public spaces are under threat, drawing together a diversity of ethnicities, classes, genders and ages, creating a unique form of urban commons in many cities.

### **Distinction and Belonging in Post-Olympics East Village**

Piero Corcillo

This paper is based on research conducted in the London East Village – the London 2012 Athletes’ Village - in Stratford (east London). It maps the development of the neighbourhood in the context of local and national urban policy, the regeneration of Stratford, the proposal to host the Olympics, place-making and branding strategies, and the lived experiences of residents across a range of tenures. Bourdieu’s (1977) concepts of distinction and symbolic violence guide the data analysis. The work draws on data from semi-structured interviews, observation, documentary analysis, and census data secondary analysis.

The thesis argues that various processes, practices and actors come together to produce an aesthetic that valorises the dispositions of young, white and middle-class individuals. The management looks after all aspects of life in the neighbourhood. It provides beautified public space, amenities and middle-class lifestyle shops and restaurants, as the theatrical stage on which spectacles – events, markets and sport classes - are played out. The only director is the management itself. Most of the residents are on short-term leases. They describe their residential experience as a dream or holiday, and develop a sense of temporary belonging to the neighbourhood. At the same time, East Village is a space that actively reproduces the exclusion of working-class and BAME individuals who make up the majority of the Stratford and east London population.

## **S29 | De-limiting, experiencing and crossing metropolitan boundaries between the urban and “non-urban”**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sofia Pagliarin

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS045

### **Accross undisciplined boundaries**

Carole Lévesque

The act of walking, said Michel de Certeau, is to the urban system what speech is to language. While language is an agreed upon system of meaning, speech is what allows language to come alive through intonation, fluency and articulation. In the same manner, walking is a space of enunciation: it allows for an appropriation of the city's spaces with rhythm, diversion and purpose. Drawing connections between places and people, between times and habits, clear and ambiguous zones, across physical or social limits and boundaries, walking allows for alternative narratives about the city to be woven through and with the urban system in place.

Based upon three studies led in Montreal, Rome and Beirut, this paper will recount a research method engaged in the documentation of "undisciplined" places. Looking at leftover, abandoned, or in-between states places and communities, within cities or at their closest periphery, force us to question the agreed upon and challenge our perception of how or why boundaries may have been built and maintained. Considering such undisciplined places as worthy of investigation and of urban knowledge gives them a voice within discourses pertaining to the development of cities and allows different ways of considering limits within the city and its landscape, be it social, economic, or literally natural. While their study may give them a voice, it also helps us in thinking back on the various reasons that may forge our predilection for containing these places into well delimited areas as anomalies against standard practices.

### **Unpacking the Politics at the Peripheries of Istanbul: A Case Study in a Mass Housing Estate in Kayasehir-Istanbul**

Ceylin Idel

Low-income groups in the metropolitan areas have increasingly been directed to mass housing estates in the peripheries for meeting their housing needs in the contemporary era. While the modernist designs and (almost) complete infrastructures of these estates are constituting a source of pride for states, residents face various problems due to the not-yet-urbanized condition of the peripheries. From long commuting hours to lack of social spaces, these estates subject their residents to isolated and individualized forms of life. This bird eye view of the housing estates in peripheries is shared by many different cities, however a closer look reveals various forms of collective organization in the peripheries that mediate non-urban conditions to provide welfare for residents. The literature explores anti-systemic collective organizations that provide urban welfare in the absence of the state provision. Kayasehir Mass Housing Estate at the peripheries of Istanbul-Turkey challenges this dichotomic relationship. While the residents of Kayasehir share the difficulties of being located at the peripheries as in other countries, they constitute a strong voting block for the ruling party (i.e. AKP), who initiated the mass housing estates. By looking at the social and political mechanisms that mediate urban welfare for Kayasehir residents, this study aims to understand how the dissidence and grievances at the peripheries of Istanbul are subsumed by the pro-systemic collective organizations. Methods for this research include interviews with the religious associations and local branches of the AKP, which constitute the main social and political mediators, and participant observations at local social events.

### **The fight to preserve sertão identity: a garden community project in Vargem Grande, Rio de Janeiro**

Ariley Dias

In Brazil, rural identity is related to sertão, a category which designates lands far from urbanized coastal areas. The proximity to a tropical forest, the absence of apartment buildings, the high number of autoconstructed residences (Caldeira, 2017), and the use of the bicycle as the leading mode of transport compose a typical sertão landscape in Vargem Grande, a western neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro. During the last three decades, the sertão lifestyle has attracted a middle-class population to live there. But the 2011 Rio Master Plan established the city as an entirely urban area. It harms the continuity of farming activities in Vargem Grande and allows building projects which can change the rural scenery. This paper analyses a community garden project conducted by recent migrants. They have two main objectives. The first one is to demonstrate the border rural/urban as the main factor to preserve ecosystem functioning. The sertão landscape conservation, as well as middle-class migration, are a critic of the urbanization process (Milles, 2008) in Rio. The second one is to show that the sertão lifestyle is not related to a nostalgia sense based only on personal issues (Low, 2004). This task has to overcome ambiguous opinions about the increase of favelas in Vargem Grande. As residents of favelas don't match with static sertão population imaginary, middle-class residents in the neighborhood tend to see them as a misfit, a frequent attribution to those who live in these informal settlements in Brazil (Valladares, 2019).

# THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

## 12:00-13:30 CEST

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Plenary 2 | Friederike Landau**

**Infrastructuring Activism: On Political Difference in Public Art**

Thursday 15 July 2021

12:00-13:30 (CEST)

In this plenary lecture, I push for a conceptual framework to understand the political implications of art projects in the public realm. By interweaving the theoretical trajectories of infrastructuring and political difference, I seek to conceptualize how contingent constellations of people, places, (hi)stories and things create new moments or movements of 'the political'. With help of the trope of infrastructuring, rather than infrastructure, I attend to the myriad of practices, politics and poetics that arise from exchanges between bodies and objects that are differently imbued with power and (im)mobility. Via the lens of political difference, I differentiate (however, not neatly or definitively) between 'politics' and 'the political'. From this, I propose to conceptualize the conflictual claims to spatial justice, belonging and cultural (re)presentation in public art projects as political difference in public art. Within this ever-oscillating difference, materializing in both contradictions between and interpenetrations of politics and the political, the infrastructuring of artistic activism can emerge as modality of the political.

Drawing on my pre-pandemic fieldwork from 2019, I present an empirical vignette from recently commissioned public artwork in Vancouver's historically marginalized neighborhood of Chinatown. By tracing processes of temporary commissioning, street art interventions, and community engagement, I unpack the temporal and spatial 'politics' and 'the political' of murals. This political difference of public art is nestled between complex urban cultural politics of reconciliation, multi-generational legacies of racism, discrimination and hardship on the one hand, and contemporary challenges of rising property prices, place-branding and policing of public space on the other. It arises between the logistical, bureaucratic, sanctioned 'politics' of public art, and its uneven, dislocatory counterpart of 'the political' of public art - for example, in the form of graffiti. The analytic of political difference, I argue, helps to empirically and conceptually navigate and possibly also (re)activate always-already lingering antagonisms in the urban cultural fabric.

## ROUND TABLES

### **The urban governance of COVID-19 (I)**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Roger Keil

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | RT140

**Room 2** | Market Square (COVID-19 round tables)

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

#### **City diplomacy in (a) crisis? The Networked urban governance of COVID-19**

Michele Acuto

#### **Lockdown: Comparing context, experience, and outcome, across cities in South Africa and China**

Philip Harrison, Margot Rubin, Yan Yang

## Strategies for Post-Urbanization

Fedor Kudryavtsev

## Pandemics and Social Conflicts in an Unequal City: The Case of São Paulo

Kazuo Nakano, Renato Cymbalista

# PAPER PRESENTATIONS

## S63 | Reflecting on the normative and the analytical in urban research: on values, theories, and methodologies

**Session Organiser(s)** | Katrin Grossmann, Elena Trubina

**Track** | Urban methods

**Code** | PS094

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

### Sustainable?! Are you serious?! Urban Development

Carolin Schroeder

Urban planning per se is a normative discipline: the aim of all theory and practice is to shape the future of society as a whole. At the same time, it sees itself as a predominantly application-oriented discipline, based to a large extent on findings from other disciplines: Initially based on findings from engineering disciplines, since the early 1970s this also included findings from political and social sciences. In this understanding, the majority of urban planners (in Germany) today see themselves as acting in the common good and aiming to take into account the largest possible share (or average) of civil society affected.

Sustainable urban development (the sustainable city) is a comparatively new area of application, this approach can be described as an urban planning mainstream in many corners of the world. After many years of practical experience, the question remains unanswered as to why well-thought-out approaches to sustainable urban development meet with relatively little acceptance in politics, business and society. The consequent question arises: How can normative approaches, such as sustainable urban development, be promoted and implemented? What exactly entitles urban planning actors to do so? And to what extent and how can other norms and values be dealt with in this context?

The transdisciplinary project 'Neue Mobilität Berlin' (<http://neue-mobilitaet.berlin/>) addresses these challenges by working with local networks of civil society, stakeholders, mobility providers, scientists, administrators and politicians. The contribution will provide insights into intermediary findings from a project targeting a highly emotionalized and contested topic: local mobility.

### Values and ethics in planning law and policy: a review of European planning systems in times of deregulation

Stefanie Dühr

The 'neoliberal turn' of the past decades in the organisation and conduct of spatial planning has been much debated (Waterhout et al. 2013). This paper addresses the question in how far processes of deregulation have affected underlying values for spatial planning in European countries, as set out in planning legislation and embedded in planning policies. The paper is based on a desk study content analysis of planning laws and planning policy in Germany, The Netherlands and the UK since the global financial crisis of 2008. The three countries represent different types of spatial planning, and rely on different legal and administrative mechanisms for their operation (CEC 1997, ESPON 2018). The framework for analysis is based on previous analyses of how EU values and norms influence spatial planning of the member states (cf. Needham and Hoekveld 2014), and relevant reflections from the three planning systems under study. The focus of investigation is on normative concepts aimed at achieving 'good' and 'fair' planning outcomes, as well as procedural issues in relation to 'good conduct', justice, human rights and the ethical representation of divergent views in planning processes. The findings allow a reflection on the changing nature of planning as mediating interests for the benefit of the general public for different types of spatial planning system, and prompts a discussion about the level of disconnect between planning policies and processes from the values set out in their underlying constitutional or legal bases in different settings.

## **Social sustainability, a popular and chaotic concept – is there a way out of the mess?**

Hannah Saldert

While social sustainability is attracting attention in urban studies, there are still uncertainties on how to define the concept. It is often introduced as the least studied dimensions of sustainable development and that there is no consensus on a definition. What you find in the literature is, therefore, a multitude of approaches to conceptualising the concept and the literature is described as chaotic, contradictory or confusing. A common focus in more recent studies in the urban planning literature on social sustainability is how to address challenges of creating indicators and measuring it in urban development. A common method to do this has been to conduct meta-analysis of earlier research and policy and creating new categories by grouping common concepts and aspects. However, this seems to disregard the different ontological and epistemological approaches to defining social sustainability. They neither seem to take into account different definitions of the multifaceted concepts used in the definitions (justice, equity, cohesion a.s.o) and end up categorising the concepts differently. While there is value in developing indicators and making social sustainability measurable in urban development, it is questionable if these diverse categorisations not only reproduces the already chaotic and confusing literature on social sustainability. In my research project, I aim to develop a more evolved understanding of the concept of social sustainability. In this paper, I reflect on how the concept has been used and developed in urban planning literature and what this development means for its analytical rigour in urban studies.

## **Business Improvement Areas and the Justification of Urban Revitalization; Using the Pragmatic Sociology of Critique to Understand Neoliberal Urban Governance**

Daniel Kudla

Drawing upon a case study of two residential development projects in a mid-sized Canadian city (London, Ontario), I use the pragmatic sociology of critique (Boltanski & Chiapello, 2005; Boltanski & Thévenot, 2006; Boltanski, 2011) to examine the outcomes of normative and morally-laden residential planning discussions and debates. I argue that the urban planning process should be examined through three interrelated areas of focus: 1) interactional settings where social actors draw upon socio-historically created grammars of worth; 2) role of contemporary capitalist organizations in shaping members' goals, motivations, and values; and (3) the institutional contexts within which interactions are located. In particular, my case study shows how members of a Business Improvement Area (BIA) attempted to control and frame local residents' critiques of the developments in ways that justified the business community's market-oriented goals. The first case shows how, despite the business community's opposition, local community residents successfully convinced city councilors to incorporate affordable housing units as part of a development condition for a private high-rise development project (albeit a marginal amount of units). The second case shows how the business community dominated the community consultation process and used stereotypical claims about "criminal" low-income residents to justify various crime control strategies to a non-profit affordable housing development. Taken together, these cases show how an empirical focus on normative and morally-laden urban planning discussions can uncover the particular ways that neoliberal market goals are successfully justified and critiqued during urban planning debates.

## **Democracy and Emancipation in Mega-cities**

Marta Wojciechowska

This article challenges two commonly held views in political and urban theory. The first is that democracy is in crisis and that it is not able to respond to the growing complexities of the modern world. The second is that mega-cities are spaces of misery that are too chaotic to be governed democratically. This article develops an alternative conception of democracy, according to which any polity can be democratic if it promotes the political agency of its members in conditions of complex equality. Following this conception, a democratic polity should promote a variety of direct and indirect ways to enable its members to realise their choices in relation to the rules of collective life. Furthermore, a democratic polity should create conditions that permit its members to reflect on these rules. This conception of democracy enables us to look beyond the state and to evaluate democratic prospects in unconventional settings. As an example of such an unconventional setting, the thesis focuses on mega-cities, defined as large and diverse forms of urban settlements. Mega-cities instantiate complexity, interdependence and fragmentation of collective decision-making. My analysis suggests that the way to effectively govern mega-cities lies in a mixture of social, structural, and political strategies. In existing mega-cities such strategies are often successfully implemented by civil society organisations, social movements, and institutions of participatory governance. The article concludes that the present democratic ideal is relevant for the guidance of decision-making even within challenging and complex settings like mega-cities.

# S51 | The Paradox of Mega Urban Projects: Imaginaries, Practices and Experiences

**Session Organiser(s)** | Mayra Mosciaro, Yunpeng Zhang

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS077

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

## **New towns lacking cultural identity: A case of Tung Chung in Hong Kong**

Inge Goudsmit, Stephanie Cheung

Starting in the 1970s, the Hong Kong Government has developed a series of new towns to alleviate the congestion of the urban areas and provide housing for its growing population. These mega urban projects currently house half of the city's population. Despite the governments' claims for the creation of self-contained communities, previous research has shown there is a large spatial disparity between Hong Kong's central districts and its new towns due to the shortage of economic opportunities and social inequality in the latter. Few studies have however examined whether the claim of self-containment can be justified in the provision of civic and cultural infrastructure. In particular the later generations of new towns lack public facilities and, arguably, cultural identity. Although not uncontested, civic buildings can be an important mechanism to shape a collective urban character and institute an urban imaginary (Kaika 2010). We compared the provision of communal facilities in the latest new town of Tung Chung with those in the previous generations, while drawing on spatial observations and interviews with local residents, NGO's and district councilors. We find that (1) there is an overall shortage of civic and cultural infrastructure, (2) the new town is generally perceived as 'dormitory community', missing activities and distinctiveness and (3) this impedes the imaginary of self-containment. As Tung Chung's population is forecasted to triple in the next decade, while an enormous further extension in East Lantau is currently being planned, there is an urgent need to recognize and address these challenges.

## **Planned Ambitions versus lived realities: A case of slum rehousing in the periphery of Mumbai**

Vidya Sagar Pancholi

The paper examines the lived experiences of the poor with the Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme in Kalyan Dombivli (KD) city, India. The scheme, which was a part of a larger project of world-class city-making, aimed at freeing the cities of 'slums' by offering a secured tenure to the urban poor (Roy, 2014). Adopting an ethnographic approach, the paper examines data on poorer groups' lived-experiences in rehousing spaces and reveals that different poorer groups experience the informal settlement rehousing in different ways (c.f. Charlton & Meth, 2017; Lemanski, Charlton, & Meth, 2017; Charlton, 2018). The paper reveals that while a mixed-caste (socio-spatial) community experiences upward social mobility and social integration in their lives, a majority Dalit caste (the ex-untouchable communities of India) community experiences further marginalisation. The paper highlights the significance of examining the process of informal settlement consolidation – which shapes various socio-spatial inequalities, vulnerabilities, and exclusions amongst the poorer groups – in understanding how various groups amongst the urban poor experience rehousing spaces. Findings from the paper call for a greater need for decentralisation and multi-stakeholder participation in the process of planning.

## **Disjunct realities: The imaginaries of mega-infrastructure projects**

Shriya Anand, Neha Sami

The Indian national government has been increasingly emphasizing the development and building of new infrastructure, since the late 1990s, especially focusing on urban regions. The latest push is an ambitious scheme that will link the country through air, road, rail, and sea and river ports. India is not the only country that is investing heavily in the development of mega-infrastructure however. Across Asia and Africa, there is a growing trend towards the development of mega-infrastructure projects, the most prominent of these being the Belt-Road Initiative (Arakali and Koduganti, 2019; Ballard et al., 2017; Yu, 2017). The emergence of these megaprojects bring with them aspirations and imaginations of growth, which are not always translated on the ground as these projects get built and executed. Looking at two mega-infrastructure corridor projects that are at present in various stages of development, this paper focuses on how the plans for the mega-projects are being translated at the local level, by whom, and through what mechanisms. In particular, we look at how local and state authorities interpret national level plans, and how these are shaped by historical and place-specific factors. We focus on the Delhi-Mumbai and Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridors, and examine the outcomes on the ground, taking the case of specific sub-projects of both industrial corridors. This research draws on primary data collected through interviews, a review of plan documents and reports as well as a review of grey literature.

## **Paradoxes of the Penang Transport Master Plan: Competing Visions of Landscape Transformation in a Worlding City**

Creighton Connolly

This paper seeks to understand the dramatic landscape transformations unfolding across much of Asia, which are rapidly expanding into their hinterlands through the expansion of new infrastructure and residential development. In doing so, it uses the case of Penang, Malaysia, which has embarked on an ambitious plan to expand its transportation infrastructure and redevelop its coastlines, known as the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP). This is being financed through the acquisition of massive amounts of land in order to achieve analogous goals of infrastructure modernization and rapid economic growth in the absence of sufficient state funds. However, the planned infrastructure projects have been found to be incompatible with their surrounding landscapes, and would exacerbate existing social inequalities, and have thus generated considerable resistance from civil society groups. In examining these claims, this presentation will highlight some of the innovative ways in which local residents and activists have sought to resist the socio-natural transformation of their urban environment, and how the government has responded. By tracing these controversies over Penang's redevelopment, this presentation contributes to recent research in urban studies which has sought to theorize emergent processes of mega project development and understand the urban governance strategies attempting to make them more socio-ecologically just and sustainable.

### **Territorial Ambitions: Shifting Scales of Urban Mega Projects in Istanbul**

Elif Simge Fettahoğlu Özgen , İpek Akpınar Aksugür, Benedict Boucsein, Prof Dr.

How we move in the city is unique for every individual. We share the same patterns and modes as well as everyday urban spaces: each journey is an individual imprint on the urban space, and likewise it is an everyday urban imprint on personal experience(s). We commute to work, we get the essential needs met, and socially interact in those FM/LM journeys, which are embedded in our day to day life, and our experiences of the urban. Those journeys, both in trajectory and in their perception are mutable, through elements like mode of transport, rhythms and flows of public mobilities, physicalities of the urban environment, or specific and temporal sensorial features. As such, those journeys provide a social perspective of the everyday city that is individual and shared simultaneously. Traditional representations of the spatial experiences of movement are heavily based on a separation of the mind, body and space, and the senses in themselves. The new mobilities paradigm considers the social as assemblages of humans and objects and their steady reconfiguration in space and time (Sheller, M. & Urry, J. 2006). Sensory Ethnography (Pink 2009) offers an approach that not only leaves the dichotomy of body and mind behind but integrates the spatial dimension. According to Cresswell (2010) along with the physical movement and its representations, embodied and personal experiences play a crucial role in the definition of movement. In the context of Munich three sensory autoethnographies investigate the manifold everyday relations between the individual and the urban environment.

## **S13 | Manufacturing in the contemporary city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marianna D'Ovidio, Valentina Pacetti

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS019

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

### **Polycentrism and bipolarity: the construction of territorial policies in the Turin metropolitan area**

Ianira Vassallo, Cristina Bianchetti, Eloy LLevat Soy, Luis Martin Sanchez

Turin, in the last decades, had to manage a difficult transition process from ville productive to a post-industrial dimension. On the one hand, inside the municipal boundaries different policies denying the industrial past and at the same time focused on promoting a new image of the city based on culture and tourism; on the other hand, in the peripheral municipalities, were in the last century many PIP (Piani di Insediamento Produttivo) have been built (due to production decentralization) processing the loss of industrial production has been more controversial. Support policies for companies have been implemented, economical incentives have been imagined, technical expertise have been built up over time to manage the divestment process and to implement new economies. All this is now visible in the territory. This archipelago of productive spaces is what counts in the industrial projects today. Inside the city center, on the contrary, while the public policies support programs that fly over the manufacturing industry, other actors trying to launch initiatives closely related to the Turin manufacturing past.

It can be said that this transition process was conducted in two diametrically opposite ways: on the one hand a territory for manufacturing and on the other a territory without manufacturing.

This contribution therefore investigates this 'separation' through three case-studies. The first one explores the expansion of Pirelli's plants (Settimo Torinese), the second case observes the work of Montepo company (in Trofarello), and the third case explores the Manufacturing Innovation Center 4.0 the only real industrial project in the city.

## **Planning urban manufacturing, built form and urban environments: lessons from inner London**

Jessica Ferm, Sam Griffiths, Dimitrios Panayotopoulos-Tsiros, Francesca Froy, Nicolas Palominos Ortega

Despite concerns about the loss of industry, industrial land and buildings in high-value post-industrial cities, there is concurrently a renewed enthusiasm for the revival of 'new' urban manufacturing and its potential to contribute to the economic and social diversity of cities. Yet, little is known about how policy can best support the retention and growth of urban manufacturing.

This paper engages with this debate and explores the relationship between contemporary urban manufacturing and the evolution of its related built form, street networks, and planning policy. Through the examination of two areas of inner London with concentrations of urban manufacturing – Hackney Mare Street and Old Kent Road – the paper examines the historical evolution and transformation of their built environment, investigating how infrastructure, war damages and planning policies, have led to the current urban tissue and the range of existing urban manufacturing building typologies.

The paper reveals that, despite demographic and territorial similarities in the late 19th Century, the mixed land uses and smaller plot sizes of Hackney Mare Street has allowed for a more organic and resilient development pattern, whereas the greater separation of land uses, large plot sizes and more formal, rule-governed environment in the Old Kent Road has facilitated its 'reimagination' for large-scale regeneration. The paper concludes that greater attention needs to be paid to the relationships between urban manufacturing activity and built urban form if policies that aim to protect or support the revival of manufacturing in cities are to avoid negative unintended consequences.

## **Brussels' reindustrialization: a broken or simply a misplaced promise?**

Nadia Casabella

If the beginning of the century was marked by a form of hesitation concerning the manufacturing future of Europe (Veugeleers, 2013) today, the benefits of a continental stable manufacturing base are indisputable if only from the viewpoint of reducing exposure to increasing global volatility. This is particularly true for cities, where light industry has successfully prevented the relocation of jobs. This urban phenomenon is increasingly attracting the attention of policymakers especially in cities where demographic growth and public policies have displaced production and distribution activities to their periphery (e.g. London or Amsterdam).

In Brussels, this periurbanisation is particularly worrisome: the relocation of these activities negatively impacts the economic base upon which the region depends even if economic dynamics would extend beyond the regional territory. This fact helped to trigger a series of reflections on the "productive city" and resulted in regional public policies dealing with land (re)development (e.g. the "Canal Plan" or the ZEMU land use tool). The paper analyzes the impact of such policies in three Brussels districts located within the old industrial axis: Masui, Heyvaert and West Station. The three areas suffer from structural disinvestment and have been battered by successive waves of deindustrialization, displacement, and disempowerment of the local actors. Reindustrialisation attempts seem rather disruptive as they entail fundamental changes in business models and spatial organization, further requiring the involvement of all actors along the value and supply chain to make it true -actors who are endowed with varied and sometimes unbalanced capacities to face a transition.

## **(De) industrialization on a scale of small Ural towns**

Elena Pryamikova, Veselkova Natalia, Vandyshev Mikhail

On the scale of large cities, industrial production was squeezed out to improve the quality of life of citizens, to make urban life more environmentally friendly. We see a completely different picture in the small towns of the Urals - the industrial region of Russia, once rich in natural resources. Such towns arose around factories, plants seemed to be overgrown with urban infrastructure — residential buildings, shops, public spaces, roads, etc. The scale of the plant was determined by the needs of the country, the scale of the town — by the labor requirements for the plant. The closure of factories, their modernization led to the appearance of significant voids in the space of the town. In the town of Alapaevsk, a metallurgical plant was founded in 1704 and lasted until 2018. Now the place of the plant is fenced, the workshops and equipment are dismantled and put into processing. An "incomplete" place in the city's space has lost its former semantic meanings, but no new ones have arisen. Residents speak about their regret over the closure of the plant. The scale of post-industrial production, which is replacing, is not comparable with the previous scale of industrialism. A future without a plant causes fear and uncertainty.

## S76 | Home-making, Intimate Spaces and the City

**Session Organiser(s)** | Mahuya Bandyopadhyay

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS111

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

### **Home-making while homeless: Livelihood and intervention of Hong Kong street sleepers under extreme inequality**

Geerhardt Kornatowski, Constance Ching

Against the backdrop of rising housing inequality and distrust on social governance in Hong Kong, public perception on homelessness has shifted from a 'blame the individual' to blame the society' discourse in the past decade. Such framing portrays homeless people as victims of social structures and punitive policies. While more effort has been put in providing various forms of transitional housing in recent years, 'street sleepers' (official term for rough sleepers in Hong Kong) continue to engage in home-making processes outside of the predominant housing system(s). Unable or unwilling to partake in a system at-large that treats housing primarily as a commodified asset and is perceived to be exploitative, these individuals creatively employ a myriad of home-making strategies as temporary yet relatively safe dwelling places. Anchored in the concept of 'home as place' vs. 'home as residence' (May 2000), we identify themes such as safety, comfort, autonomy, dignity, support network, convenience, affordability and community by examining the lived experiences and microgeographies of those labeled as homeless in a reconstructive life history approach. Furthermore, we focus on a variety of interventions by the voluntary sector in the home-making process that lead to different pathways through Hong Kong's housing system. The findings contribute to alternative meanings of home by highlighting the porosity of boundaries between the public and the private, and on how homeless people and voluntary sector organizations navigate through it. They also point to how the relationship between home, homelessness and housing in a highly unequal city is redefined.

### **From Need for Shelter to Desire for Home: A psychoanalytic reading on the role of housing for the constitution of ontological security**

Lucas Pohl, Ilse Helbrecht, Carolin Genz, Janina Dobrusskin

Home is often conceptualized in a dual way as being both a physical space of living and a psycho-social place of belonging. To engage with this dual nature of home, housing scholars often refer to the concept of ontological security in order to understand how different forms of housing affect subjective well-being. This paper extends the scope of this research by asking how home has to be constituted to sustain ontological security. Developing a framework inspired by the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, this paper aims to understand what kind of psycho-social-spatial arrangements are involved in establishing ontological security. Based on empirical research in Vancouver BC Canada, it follows three modalities of home-making: the need for shelter as the most basic psychic relation to survival, the demand for housing as a psycho-social arrangement with the Other, and the desire for home as a psycho-spatial constitution in the fantasy. Through this, the paper calls for a psychoanalytic understanding of home that follows the ways of how the subject is actively and dynamically inscribed into its social and built environment.

### **The Effect of Single Women's Fear of Male Violence on Homemaking Practices and Choices in Istanbul: Boundaries and Struggles**

Ceren Lordoglu

According to the Gender Gap Index (2020) of the World Economic Forum, Turkey is the 130th country out of 153 countries. Violence against women is widespread, and male violence is increasing every year in Turkey. Male violence restricts women's widespread urban use. In Turkey, the typical household structure consists of nuclear families. Single women living apart from their families, particularly before marriage is not a common and approved practice. Hence, for a single woman to choose where to live necessitates considering many different criteria and mostly depends on the economic conditions and security issues. Single women's fear of male violence is often decisive in homemaking practices and neighborhood choices. With this paper, I aim to scrutinize the results of the research that I conducted with 28 women who live in three different districts in Istanbul. Based on my biographical interviews, in this presentation, I aim to identify to map out the relation of single women's fear of male violence with their homemaking choices through the concepts of feminist geography literature and the findings of the research. I aim not only to pose the effects of women's fear but also to reveal the tactics women have developed to deal with this situation. It is crucial to examine the limitations that women faced with neighborhood choice and homemaking practices, to consider the gender inequalities through space, and to grasp the relation with the social control of women.

## **Staying at home when home isn't safe: homelessness in a time of crisis**

Leah Chan

This article investigates the epistemic violence embedded in attitudes towards home and homelessness in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic. Globally, slogans that instruct people to 'stay at home' to 'stay safe' have ignored the complexity and diversity of experiences of homelessness and houselessness. Using autoethnography, this article questions the notion of home and homelessness when an individual is unable to stay at home, and thus contributes to an emerging body of literature critiquing the 'stay at home' political responses to the pandemic. In doing so, this autoethnographic account breaks the bricks that cement the home as a site of safety, by showing how race, activism, and community intersect in different sites of home, housing, homelessness and houselessness, and how these sites are entangled with online and offline spaces. In these reflections, epistemic violence is inseparable from the violent experiences of coronavirus-racism, fascism, home, houselessness and homelessness, and thus this paper ends by offering suggestions on how we can disrupt the hegemony of the 'stay home' to 'stay safe' slogan, which is but a microcosm of a wider misrepresentation of home.

## **S11 | The Politics & Aesthetics of the Urban Commons: Navigating the Gaze of the City, the State, the Market**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Louis Volont, Peer Smets

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS015

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

### **Urban Commons and the coproduction with the (local)State. Insight from a study of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.**

Iolanda Bianchi, Laura Calvet-Mir, Mara Ferreri, Sergio Villamayor, Marina Pera

Over the last decades, Commons have re-emerged as collective social practices alternative to the State and the Market that can develop autonomous paths of emancipation from capitalism. However, they are embedded in the capitalist system and they have to relate with both of them. This paper will focus on the relations that Urban Commons maintain with the (local)State suggesting that they can be examined through the category of coproduction. It will present results from a study of Urban Commons-(local)State coproduction relations carried out in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB). In the study, we mapped commons initiatives in the 36 municipalities of the AMB, building on 14 existing databases and maps. The result is a map of 1160 commons initiatives, unevenly distributed throughout the AMB area. By analysing and categorising them through virtual ethnography, we show that almost half of the initiatives (43%) do not manifest any relations with the public administration, and those that do (40%), are mostly linked to local municipalities. We also did 20 semi-structured interviews to initiative's representatives in two neighbourhoods with major concentration of commons initiatives. Interviews revealed that most commons initiatives coproduce their goods/services with the local government. We, thus, propose a preliminary classification of Urban Commons-(local)State coproduction relations. The paper concludes by stressing the importance of the coproduction category to understand the way Urban Commons can be maintained over time. Despite the (supposed) autonomy of Urban Commons, they often rely on the support of the (local) State to develop in the capitalist system.

### **Art Events as Commons: The Bangkok Biennial as a Counter-Strategy to Appropriation**

Lara van Meeteren, Bart Wissink

The art biennial is one of the prime podia through which people encounter contemporary art today. While applauded as sites of experimentation, in recent years they have come to be seen as symptoms of almost everything that is wrong with the international art world as well. Criticism especially targets a certain type of biennial, organised with financial support of entrepreneurial governments and corporations, and meant to promote the economy of cities and regions, or the corporate interests of their sponsors. However, next to state-funded and corporate-funded biennials, there are 'other' biennials that represent a third model of commons-oriented art events. The Bangkok Biennial – an artist-led bottom up initiative, organised for the first time in 2018 in stark contrast to the corporate funded Bangkok Art Biennale and state-funded Thailand Biennale – is one such event. In this paper we aim to analyse this Bangkok Biennial – as well as commons-oriented art events elsewhere in Thailand (e.g. Womanifesto and the Chiang Mai Social Installation) and the Southeast Asian region (e.g. Viva Excon and Biennale Jogja – against the background of an emerging literature on commoning as a mode of resistance against market and state. More specifically, we will address the following questions: What type of art is

produced and exhibited, and how is this different from other events? What motivates the organisers and participants? Which formats of organisation and co-production exist, and which strategies are used to resist appropriation? How does this biennial engage with the wider spatial context of the city?

### **Multiculturalism and tolerance in the United Arab Emirates: building urban commons through subjective aesthetic experiences**

Maxime JAFFRÉ

The rapid social and economic change of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) raises new questions related to multiculturalism and tolerance. Since the last two decades, the modernization of the UAE has attracted numerous foreigners and expatriates. With more than 200 nationalities living together in the same country, the UAE has now become one of the most multicultural and globalized country in the world. This new foreign population is now surpassing the Emirati national populations that may now feel as a minority in their own country. In 2019, the 'Year of Tolerance' has been officially declared by the UAE government. This new policy aims at establishing the UAE as a new model of tolerance in the Middle Eastern region. For this, the UAE has undertaken major urban changes by building several cultural institutions in order to enhance ethnical and cultural diversity. New landmark buildings such as Louvre Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Museum, Dubai Future Museum, Burj Khalifa, and Dubai Expo-2020 aim at building urban commons through subjective aesthetic experiences, where contemporary architecture, design and the arts seek to incarnate the new spirit of the UAE.

This paper will analyze how political strategies deployed by the UAE government put urban commons on the agenda for inscribing Abu Dhabi and Dubai as new cultural scenes on the world map. The research will critically investigate and compare how institutions and landmark buildings are promoting new aesthetic experiences for the construction of urban commons and tolerance among UAE populations.

## **S2 | Proximity, relationality and mediated encounters: co-constituting urban dynamics through the everyday practices of neighbouring**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Lynda Cheshire, Zheng Wang

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS002

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 12:00-13:30 CEST

### **Balconies, windows, and doorways: The architecture of living difference among Alevi and Sunni neighbors in urban Turkey**

Banu Gokarikel, Anna Secor

While encounters with strangers in public spaces have been central to ideas about the politics of difference, this paper argues for the ethical and political significance of encounters among neighbors that take place within the liminal, porous, and ambiguously public/private spaces of neighborhoods. Drawing on research conducted between 2013 and 2016, we focus on the dynamic entanglements of everyday relations between Alevi and Sunni neighbours in three cities across Turkey. There is much at stake in these relations in Sunni-majority Turkey, where Alevis have been at once recognized in their similarity and disavowed and persecuted in their difference. In this paper, we analyze how the unique materiality of the spaces of and between neighbors in these cities provides possibilities for recognizing and responding to sectarian differences. Balconies, windows, and doorways in apartment buildings provide uncertain boundaries between interiority/exteriority that simultaneously generate intimacy and distance, privacy and exposure. Our participant narratives show how neighbors navigate this complex spatiality by regulating the visibilities, sounds, and smells of their everyday lives, keeping or sharing secrets, and cultivating varying degrees of closeness. We argue that the affective architecture of neighborhood life creates multiple openings for receptive ethical engagement with difference among neighbors. However, there are also anxious antagonisms that exacerbate the precarity of marginalized populations such as Alevis. By centering the spatiality of neighbors and neighborhoods, our analysis contributes to understanding the intimacies, entanglements, and estrangements of living difference at a time of heightened insecurity for minoritized groups in Turkey and globally.

## **Conflicts, senses and banal transgression: Practices of neighbouring in the allotment garden**

Nina Schuster

Since allotment gardens are the extended living room of the gardeners, neighbourhood is also an aspect of gardening in cities. The plots and garden houses are very close to each other, and activities are taking place mostly outside: no walls in between, only plants and fences. Assuming that allotment gardens are places of banal transgression (Amin) allowing encounters of people with different social backgrounds who may interact at eye level, I argue that the conflicts that occur show how difference is negotiated here. Sounds, smell and sights (regarding weed and aesthetics) are some of the crucial aspects in these conflicts. The paper discusses how these sensual aspects point to macro-processes inherent in everyday situations, how social inequalities are re/produced and what kinds of practices, norms and regulations are used by whom and how.

German allotment associations are shaped by a particular historical tradition. Many gardeners consider the association as a kind of community. The paper refers to empirical data from an ethnographic research project on everyday practices and negotiations of difference in German allotment gardens in Dortmund and Leipzig (funded by DFG/German Research Foundation).

## **Boundary-making through everyday practices of neighbouring in a socially mixed housing area in Berlin**

Simone Tappert

Kreuzberg, an inner-city area in Berlin, Germany, has experienced a diversification of the urban population since the reunification in 1989. Due to urban re-structuring processes, increased mobility and migration, and gentrification gaining momentum, the area has become a contested space. This affects how residents experience living in the neighbourhood, how “living with” or “living next to” is negotiated through everyday practices of neighbouring, and how residents relate to the neighbourhood. This ethnographic study explores neighbourhood as a social and affective space shaping and being shaped by everyday practices, experiences, and social relations. It looks at how residents in the socially mixed housing area draw boundaries and connect in everyday encounters, how these encounters are shaped by processes of selfing and othering and how this affects notions of belonging and dis-belonging to the neighbourhood. It argues that through mundane practices of neighbouring, such as greeting the neighbour, making small talk on the staircase or properly disposing of waste, social categorisations of the “good” or “bad” neighbour are reproduced, negotiated and contested. Those acts of neighbouring are shaped by cultural practices, norms and values, and affect notions of belonging and dis-belonging to the neighbourhood.

## **Neighbouring, rooting, proximity, gender and care in the city. A case study of vulnerable neighborhoods in Madrid.**

Margarita Barañano Cid, Elisa Brey, José Ariza, Paola Leenhouts

The objective of this paper is to analyze the importance of spatial roots, proximity spaces and neighbouring in a Southern European city, such as Madrid, with regard to the satisfaction of daily care and, even more broadly, to participation in community and social life. The sustained thesis is that such roots and neighbouring constitute central socio-existential supports (Castel, 2010), especially in the case of the inhabitants of vulnerable neighborhoods, on which the study focuses. Its relevance is understood within the framework of macro-urban structures and processes typical of a familistic welfare regime, highly localized and gendered. Proximity spaces are especially important in this regime, since it is where many of the daily care or leisure activities, and social and community networks are deployed.

In addition, this paper seeks to understand the transformations of neighbouring, rooting or proximity spaces in a context of globalization and COVID-19, strongly crossed by urban segregation, gender, class or ethnicity. Contributions such as those of McDowell, Massey, Boden, Ahmed, Boccagni, Sassen or Castel, among others, are taken into account. The paper is supported by various research funded projects: COMURES (Resilient Communities. Local roots and social networks in the global city. the case of Madrid from a comparative approach), financed by the Community of Madrid and the European Social Fund; GENREDAB (Gender, social networks, roots, local welfare and care in Ibero-American cities) and CAMVIVSOC (Influence of changes in the regimes of production and access to housing on the social restructuring of large Spanish cities).

## **S59 | Shaping urban sociality: Collaborative workspaces as social infrastructures in cities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Janet Merkel, Vasilis Avdikos

**Track** | Urban production and reproduction

**Code** | PS088

### **“Coworking is about timing:” everyday life, mobility and sense of place in regional Victoria, Australia**

Elisabetta Crovara

In this paper, I examine how coworking practices intersect with significant events in people’s lives in regional areas. I understand these practices through ethnographic fieldwork in regional towns in Victoria, Australia. Through in-depth life history interviews with coworking founders and members, I explore the social role that coworking spaces have for people who moved from large urban centres to small regional towns. By drawing upon geographical literature on mobility and a relational sense of place, I describe regional coworking spaces as open and continuously evolving. In other words, I consider both the material and immaterial aspects of coworking spaces, whose effects stretch beyond their physical boundaries, as part of a wider network of social relations, and of people’s macro and micro mobilities. In doing so, this paper offers a two-fold contribution to the emerging literature on the social and spatial dimensions of coworking spaces. First, I show how coworking practices are profoundly connected to and influenced by people’s life choices, relationships, and mobilities. This, I argue, enables new understandings of the temporalities of coworking spaces, and their impact on both people and places. Second, by focusing on everyday life and mobilities in regional areas, this paper responds to the paucity of research on regional coworking. In short, I argue that the social role of coworking spaces is highly significant for regional centres, owing to the multiple ways that they inflect experiences of regional life.

### **The rise of a local coworking model: community-led approaches to shape urban development locally**

Irene Manzini Ceinar

Initially, it was characterised by independent and affordable workspaces to face the economic recession. An increase in commercialisation and neoliberal trends represent the second wave. Following this neo-corporate wave, community-led, or resilient coworking emerged with the purpose to benefit the local context. Those spaces embrace the evolution of work towards flexibility, enhancing spill-over, and cross-fertilisation effects. Many of them pair with charities, local associations or cooperatives, aiming at supporting the local community, such as Outlandish in Finsbury Park, London – a no-profit worker co-op.

In 2017 Outlandish launched Space4, a local coworking space providing self-training and drop-in workshops for residents that focus mainly on digital skills. Since the beginning, Space4 acted as a bridge between the local community and the Council. Recently, Space4 secured the management for ten years and success in a contract with the council to deliver some strategies for local economic development to commission services locally.

The Space4’s model defines itself a ‘local coworking’ and, especially during pandemic times, it arises the needs for a hybrid between a shared office and a community space, aiming at providing affordable workspace and work opportunities firstly to residents. The Good Neighbourhood Work Club (Kilburn, London) represents an innovative model. The space has been created during the lockdown period by residents to support their community in pandemic times, functioning as social infrastructure for the whole neighbourhood. In light of this emerging model, can we talk about a fourth wave of coworking?

### **South Working: Smart working in and for marginal areas?**

Maristella Cacciapaglia, Mario Mirabile

The COVID-19 crisis can be considered a "perfect storm" that brings to shore inequalities and other long-ignored issues, but also opportunities to be seized – the smart working. It refers to a new management philosophy based on the return to workers' flexibility and autonomy in the choice of spaces, schedules, and tools to be used, in the face of greater responsibility for results.

Referring to the work done in any place, potentially overcoming a classic dilemma of regional economists (i.e., Do People Follow Jobs or do Jobs Follow People?), smart working can be further considered an opportunity for local development of marginal areas from which people usually go away or at most are passing by, leaving the resident population with scarce crucial services.

This paper aims to study smart working in and for marginal areas through the case-study of "South Working", born in Southern Italy specifically considering smart working as a tool for achieving greater economic, social and territorial cohesion, also through the activation of a network of spaces which are as much equipped for agile work as real physical and social complexes for local communities, existing or to boost.

In particular, using mainly qualitative methods like life histories and semi-structured interviews, the questions arise as to (i) whether and how both those workspaces and south workers engage with the neighborhoods they are situated in; (ii)

whether and how south workers wish to participate in the growth of the community and the territory in which they want to work from.

### **Encountering in Space: Transition from a Common to a Community of Freelancers in Istanbul**

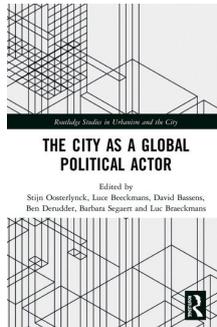
Özlem İlyas

The conditions and relations of production leading to or enabling freelancing as a quite recent and actually amorphous mode of production is underscrutinized. Critical accounts on precarity could simply define it as an isolating experience emanating from the individualization of work (Standig, 2011). Neoliberal representations, on the other hand, imply freelancing to enable a sovereign form of freedom outside the constraints of time and space. I argue both accounts fail to attend to the embodied experiences of freelancers and have depoliticizing and disempowering effects. I concur that space could be a grid of analysis opening up a view to the coeval multiplicities (Massey, 2005) constituting the space of freelancing. However, I argue neoliberal response to the isolating conditions of precarity in the form of commodification of space needs to be countered with a post-fantasmatic reorientation to space which would avow the variety of class and non-class differences among freelancers, turning them into creative points of ethico-political intervention (Gibson-Graham, 2006). I draw on the participatory action research I engaged in a collective space of freelancers in Istanbul, called *Dünyada Mekân* (A Place in the World) to point to the potentials and difficulties of building and sustaining non-capitalist spaces of the common. This space operated between 2015-2019 and the encounters it enabled led to the emergence of a freelancer's solidarity network called *Ofissizler* (The Officeless) in 2018. I also account for both the potentials and hinderances brought by the subsequent deterritorialization of the common in the form of a solidarity network.

# THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

## 14:00-15:30 CEST

## AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS SESSION



### **Cities as Global Political Actors**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ben Derudder, Luce Beekmans

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | AMC145

**Room 24** | Author Meets Critics room

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

with Michele Acuto, Sam Taveirne, Carola Fricke, Jorn Koelemaj

## ROUND TABLES

### **The urban governance of COVID-19 (I)**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Roger Keil

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | RT141

**Room 2** | Market Square (COVID-19 round tables)

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Polarization in the Viral City**

Harris Ali, Stefan Treffers

### **Is urban density to blame for the spread of pandemics?**

Shlomo Angel, Alex Blei

### **Care and COVID-19 at the socio-spatial periphery: understanding neighbourhood experiences of immigrants living with dementia in Toronto's 'in-between city'**

Samantha Biglieri

### **Cities' responses to Covid-19 in China: Wuhan and beyond**

Xuefei Ren

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

### **S63 | Reflecting on the normative and the analytical in urban research: on values, theories, and methodologies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Katrin Grossmann, Elena Trubina

**Track** | Urban methods

**Code** | PS095

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Utopia as Method of Radical Struggle for New Values: Urban Marxism, Geographical Anarchism and the Fight Against the Progressive Neoliberalism**

Piotr Juskowiak

Ever since the publication of *The Condition of the Working Class in England* urban Marxism – inaugurated *avant la lettre* by Engels – is susceptible to criticism in terms of “normative deficit”. Although many have changed in this field thanks to the bold redefinitions of justice (Harvey 1996), solidarity (Merrifield 2011) or democracy (Purcell 2008), one can still argue that the normative dimension of urban Marxism – especially in light of relatively few discussions on the anti-capitalist spatial orders – is nothing but a supplement to its main current (i.e. the political economy of capitalist urbanization) and an underdeveloped code of values vulnerable for hostile capture by progressive urban neoliberalism.

The paper looks for a way out from this conundrum by trying to reconcile urban Marxism with the second variant of spatially conscious socialism – the geographical anarchism. Leaving aside the reasons for an “eternal” conflict between the mentioned approaches (Harvey 2017; Springer 2017) I offer the new place of their encounter redefining the old concept of utopia. In contrast to the traditional understandings of the latter, I highlight its practical and holistic character interpreting it as a method of critical inquiry about normative underpinnings of urban politics (Levitas 2013), collective process of experimentation with new radical values and everyday practices (Springer 2016) and prefigurative impulse aiming at new visions of urban future (Kinna 2016). Seen in this way utopia provides the new normative platform for radically democratic politics centered around the practices of autogestion and urban commoning.

### **Dismantling Post-socialism: The Conceptual Promise of the 'Global East' and its Fallacies**

Stefan Janković, Jorn Koelemaij

Eastern European scholars often rightfully feel as being excluded from dominant paradigms of social science. Similar things occur with Eastern European cities: their socio-spatial trajectories are often still seen as fuzzy and distorted absolvings of socialist institutional relicts, gradually transitioning towards Western models of urban development. This (semi-)peripheral situation, however, recently got faced with an alternative conceptual category: that of the Global East. Relying on comparative ontology, this cadre seeks to present former socialist spaces outside the vast spatial continuum of Global North versus Global South. Even though this move might be sympathetically read as an attempt to re-map the common cultural topography and dismantle the vacuous concept of post-socialism, the conceptual promise of Global East itself retains many categorical fallacies. In this paper, we seek to critically re-examine the Global East, pointing at its poor capacities to explicate contemporary urban processes. The paper is organized around two major points. It is first underlined how the Global East transmits a specific political epistemology. By becoming a normative device designed to

inverse the alleged 'backwardness' of the Easterners, it still fails to distort the Westerners' knowledge production monopoly. Outside this political impulse to present the East as liminal space, our second point revolves around underlining the progressive composition of cities. Namely, escaping from potential confining into spatial containers such as the Global East, equally calls for studying Eastern European cities in terms of connections established by various actors and constant interaction of spaces that in effect creates their current realities.

### **The ideal of upward social mobility in Western urban thought: its history, politics and contradictions**

Anthony Miro Born

From the traditional writings of the Chicago School of Human Ecology, to current neighbourhood effects research, the ideal of social mobility has been highly regarded and deployed in the context of urban poverty. For liberal, social-democratic and conservative policy makers and scholars alike, social mobility seems to offer a panacea: who would not want that individuals move up the "social ladder"? The publication of the widely cited Opportunity Atlas by Raj Chetty et al. (2018; 2019) is the most recent example of how mainstream urban research is guided by a strong belief in upward social mobility. In light of the above, this paper critically explores the history and politics, and the contradictions, of the ideal of upward social mobility as a normative aim in Western urban thought. In particular, it seeks to de-mystify the ideological discourses within social mobility narratives in subordinate neighborhoods. In this way, the paper sheds light on how such an ideal asserts the primacy of competitiveness, justifies different forms of inequality and echoes systems of (de)valorisation. Ultimately, this paper shifts the attention to a more critical understanding of the production and lived experience of the social mobility ideal in urban thought and practice in the context of marginalized neighbourhoods.

### **Building cultural indicators in Abu Dhabi: Methodological challenges and comparative perspectives**

Elena Raevskikh, Randa Omar Bin Haidar, Norah Abdulaziz Al Khamis

Evidence-based decision-making in Abu Dhabi cultural sector is increasingly being influenced by the socio-cultural sustainability concerns. The Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi has increased its support of this focus by funding new research instruments, including CultureSTATS-AD project. One of the methodological challenges of CultureSTATS-AD project consists in support of evidence-based decision making through articulation of the locally anchored and the internationally comparable dimensions of the evolving culture statistics system. The present paper addresses this methodological challenge by adopting a pragmatic approach to Abu Dhabi culture vocabulary and existing culture-related statistical variables. The practical usages of culture definitions by the policymakers, culture professionals, academics, etc. replicate a myriad of underlying social processes. We suggest a transversal contextual analysis of Abu Dhabi culture documentation in order to understand in what conceptual, legal and social contexts each of the currently used culture definitions is inserted. Next, we propose to analyse consistency between cultural documentation and existing elements of culture statistics. Even though our approach doesn't pretend to be exhaustive, it allows identifying the first linchpins of culture indicator building in Abu Dhabi and permits further alignment with the international standards.

### **Childhood in Urban Spaces of the Global South: Values, Epistemologies and Research Practices**

Aireen Grace Andal

This work explores on the idea of 'children as subjects' in relation to urban spaces in the Global South and research. While the Convention on the Rights of the Child explicitly includes in children's rights to voice out their choices and decisions that affect their living environment, the ambiguity around children's place in urban spaces is far from resolved. This work then puts into dialogue children's voice as a normativity in childhood studies using Santos' (2014) epistemologies of the south. It discusses how the social realities of children are differently produced in the Global South compared to the normativities of Western critical theory. In Western discourse, the child is mainly associated to a normative concept of universal child, in which the child subject is constructed in a linear, universal development model. This work argues, however, that focusing on the epistemologies in the Global South enables us to understand the differences and complexity of children's urban lives. Analysis shows that children's participation in Global South's urban spaces is not a linear and individualized experience but rather relational and interdependently situated. Children in these areas have variabilities in subject positions and the moral values as well as an ever changing set of vulnerabilities depending on their circumstances and reasoned arguments. This allows for some reflections on how researchers can be more mindful of the normativities they assume when conducting and writing research on children in urban areas of the Global South.

# S51 | The Paradox of Mega Urban Projects: Imaginaries, Practices and Experiences

**Session Organiser(s)** | Mayra Mosciaro, Yunpeng Zhang

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS078

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

## **The afterlives of urban megaprojects: Grounding policy models and recirculating knowledge through domestic networks**

Gabriel Silvestre, Guillermo Jajamovich

This paper interrogates and expands understandings of agency in processes of knowledge circulation by focusing on actors switching their position from the demand-side to the supply-side of policy knowledge about urban megaprojects. In doing so, we contribute to recent debates about the importance of accounting to other scales beyond the local-global binary that dominates the policy mobilities literature and to the politics of policy translation and dissemination. Emphasis is given to the performative role of domestic actors and their practices in localising mobile policies of urban regeneration in ‘gateway cities’ while leveraging and recirculating knowledge within their national contexts. Conceptualised as policy brokers and policy entrepreneurs, such actors are more attuned to the local dynamics and able to distil context-specific lessons that are sensitive to national regulatory frameworks, funding, and political contingencies. We focus on two urban megaprojects of waterfront regeneration in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro that introduced new practices while making use of inter-referencing, drawing on in-depth interviews with policy actors and archival material. We argue that an attention to ‘follow the reformatted model’ reveals how policy models mutate as they conform to contextual factors and to particular interests. The analysis of such processes allows us to transcend the local-global dichotomy and to trace multiscale connections between multiple projects.

## **The Networked City: How Blanka Tunnel Extended Beyond Its Boundaries**

Demetra Kourri

Prague’s Blanka tunnel project has been a site for assembling social relations in the capital city and the Czech Republic for decades. The longest inner city tunnel in Europe appears to hold the typical characteristics of a “mega project” (Flyvbjerg 2005); over-budget, over-time and a trigger for public controversies. While mega-projects result in significant financial burdens and often ignore local development needs (ibid. 2005), this paper argues that they can also become strong driving forces for the development of alternative mobility practices while enabling platforms for resilient citizenship. Building on the idea that infrastructure can be seen as always in a state of “becoming” (Star 1999) as always unfinished and in a state of flux - as well as Barry Allen’s extended understanding of technical “artifact” (Allen 2008), this paper demonstrates how a new infrastructural layer such as Blanka cannot be seamlessly placed in the city without affecting other networks and infrastructural layers. Mobilizing an ANT methodology, we see how the planning and construction of Blanka has extended beyond the tunnel itself, to facilitate the development of new mobility related practices and relations in the city of Prague. Through the empirical facets presented, we see how various actors deal with the issues that emerged – the implementation of cycling, traffic intensities and pollution – by inventing solutions, moving between actors’ worlds, from one field to another, and from one expertise to another. Their actions challenge our preset views of the city (Yaneva 2015), to ones that are unique to their context.

## **Discourses and imaginaries of development in a secondary Central European city – the case of New Centre of Łódź mega project.**

Jakub Galuszka

New Centre of Łódź is a mega project realised in Łódź, Poland since 2007. It assumed redevelopment of 90 hectares brownfield area located in the city centre, creation of new cultural facilities, public spaces and multimodal transportation node linked to envisaged fast railway system. The paper concentrates on the analysis of public discourse and implementation flow of the two main component of the project. First - new cultural facilities envisaged to be created in extravagant buildings designed by star-architects. Second - the creation of multimodal transportation node. While the former was positioned in the centre of public discourse, generated conflict between main stakeholders of the project and attracted outspoken support of citizens, the latter remained predominantly marginalised as a technical issue. The factors shaping the much debated ‘city of culture’ aspect of the project and much overlooked ‘sustainable transportation’ aspect are juxtaposed in the paper and analysed in relation to discourses shaping the imaginaries of development in a secondary Central European city. The analysis is conducted based on the review of project documentation, public discourses concerning the New Centre of Łódź as well as author’s direct involvement into the project in its initial phase.

## **A Mega Project of Hope or a “Monument to Waste”? Racialized Capitalism and Infrastructure in the Yucatan Peninsula**

Claudia Fonseca Alfaro

El Tren Maya—the Mayan Train—is one of the most important infrastructural and developmental projects of the 2018-2024 Mexican federal administration led by president Andrés Manuel López Obrador. A proposal to construct “1,500 kilometers of hope” in the form of a rail network connecting urban centers and secondary settlements across five states in the southeast of the country, the mega project aims, according to its official website, to “improve the quality of life of people, take care of the environment and trigger sustainable development” by “integrating” the region to the rest of the nation and increasing the number of tourists that visit the “Mayan World.” After a referendum criticized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for not following international standards, and without an environmental impact assessment, construction began on June 1st 2020—despite protests from indigenous groups, voiced concerns of scientists and environmental activists, and the raging COVID-19 pandemic. As the project is implemented, this paper aims to analyze the imaginaries constructed by the government in the form of websites, brochures, promotional videos, and policy documents to explore the interplay between racialized capitalism and infrastructure against a background of commodification of Mayan culture. Relying on Nancy Fraser’s concept of “expropriation”—“accumulation by other means”—I explore how the mega project is discursively naturalized and justified in an area that has historically been perceived as marginalized, indigenous and isolated, and subjected to developmentalist projects that can be analyzed through the lens of racialized capitalism.

## **Understanding China's Cities of Spectacle: Urban Public Space and Development Campaigns in Guangzhou**

Ryanne Flock

Chinese cities are making a name for themselves through „accumulation by spectacle“ (Guthman 2008), „event-led development“ (Shin 2014) and the accompanying “triumphalist space” (Marvin, 2008). Analyzing Beijing’s Olympic Games in 2008, Shanghai’s Expo in 2009 or Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010, studies elucidate the fast change of the urban fabric and the interconnection of commercial profits with pro-state propaganda. These mega events appear as a once-in-lifetime-chance for a city, orchestrated during a specific time and in purpose-built venues. This paper, however, argues: The spectacle in urban China expands into everyday public life and spaces due to repeating urban development campaigns. The campaign of the “Civilized City” and the “Hygienic City” prepared and accompanied the Asian Games held in Guangzhou, which will serve as a case study. Based on fieldwork conducted from 2010-2014, complemented by the analysis of propaganda posters, yearbooks, local chronicles, newspaper articles and governmental announcements, I will show: 1) how urban development campaigns emerged out of the Communist ideology starting from the early 1980s; 2) how they interconnected with the Asian Games and extended the Games’ influence beyond the actual event; 3) how they extended the government’s focus to public spaces of urban routine; 4) how public spaces were zoned and its governance rhythimized to repeatedly present idealized islands of an orderly and pacified public. Moreover, this paper wants to delve deeper into Guy Debord’s idea of a “society of (integrated) spectacle” to understand the economic as well as political spectacularization of Chinese urban public space today.

## **S13 | Manufacturing in the contemporary city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marianna D'Ovidio, Valentina Pacetti

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS020

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Manufacturing and the city: Turing and Stuttgart cases**

Valeria Fedeli, rahma dridi, Ilaria Mariotti, federica rossi

The changing relationship between the industry and the city can be regarded as the epiphenomena of the ‘global economic restructuring’ occurred in the late twenty-century, largely premised upon the need to rethink the industrial space in the locus of the ‘urban’; and vice-versa. Trends are emerging which are suggesting the progressive peripheralization of industrial and productive activities, which have largely moved out of central areas because no longer compatible with the new models of urban spaces. This changing relationship and apparent antithesis among the city and the industry require reframing the conceptual understanding of what is urban and what is industrial. Drawing upon the investigation of two major European industrial cities like the Metropolitan City of Turin and Verban Region Stuttgart, analysed in the ESPON MISTA project, this contribution aims at unveiling to what level the systematic shift of industrial activities towards peri-urban areas has happened and what is changing in the current relationship between the industry and the city.

## From factories to marriage halls - a case study Bangalore's industrial transformation

Aditi Dey, Shriya Anand

While planned industrial development has been central to the Indian economy since Independence, like many late industrialising countries India's industrial growth has not reached its full potential. There has not been enough conceptual work focusing on post-industrial transformations in a global South context and what local economies emerge in these spaces. Our work focuses on a particular neighbourhood in Bangalore, and the two distinct types of trajectories that have emerged there. While some industrial neighbourhoods have witnessed well known consequences of deindustrialization such as the mills-to-malls trajectory of redevelopment (Lees, 2015), others have had distinct kinds of developments. One such example is Rajajinagar, an industrial suburb which was planned in 1949, in order to encourage local entrepreneurs to start small scale industries. Following economic liberalisation in 1991, a string of small scale industries that became unprofitable started transitioning into marriage halls. Other parts of the neighbourhood still have functioning small scale industries.

## Forgotten values of industrial city still alive: what can the creative city learn from its industrial counterpart?

Jani Kozina

In last two decades, the creative city agenda evolved into predominantly neoliberal policy instrument which seems to hide rather than reduce urban inequalities characterized by gentrification, unaffordability, precariousness and segregation. Scholars have just recently started to search for alternatives of understanding and developing the creative city today by highlighting the usefulness of older concepts of urban development. However, nobody has focused yet on modernist city of public well-being as a historical city from the industrial age, where culture serves as the articulation of shared values in everyday life. The main objective of this presentation is to elevate the discussion of the creative city and its socially regressive urban policies by re-inventing the lessons from building an industrial city not only as its predecessor but also as its contemporary counterpart. We conducted 19 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in an industrial town of Velenje that was built as a new socialist town after WWII in Slovenia. Our results suggest that collective knowledge, memories, emotions and reflections maintain the inseparable values of industrialism and socialism on which the town was founded. Industrial development has shaped a specific cultural environment, a concentration of tacit knowledge, attitudes, values and traditions related to solidarity, mutual respect, comradeship, equality and multiculturalism. These values are in line with socialist nostalgia as a retrospective utopia, desire and hope for a safe world, solidarity and prosperity. We conclude that creative cities could take lessons from their industrial counterparts by creating a more inclusive urban governance and diverse socio-cultural practices.

## Manufacturing, the city, and crafts

Jasna Sersic

Crafts are increasingly recognized as one of the distinctive assets of the European economy, heritage and history. They constitute much of the grand universe of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) which create close to 60% of the value-added in Europe and generate up to 67% of the jobs. Even though throughout history, crafts played an important role for socio-economic and spatial development in Europe, leaving a specific urban imprint to cities and to the creation of urban knowledge and economy, today their potential value and possibilities to act as a catalyst for urban spatial development are not yet fully explored. The challenge is how to understand their role and opportunities in a post-industrial scenario as a resource for urban development. Are crafts still present in the city, and which ones, how are they organized, how do they connect to the urban space, and policymaking? In order to explore these questions further, this paper will provide a theoretical discussion on the relation between traditional crafts as manufacturing and urban space with the aim to provide analytical tools for understanding how to strengthen crafts in the developmental urban policies and to determine under which conditions crafts have been able to contribute to urban development. This means that the three components (socio-economic development, spatial development and the production/transmission of knowledge) will be jointly considered, as an integrated system so as to provide a holistic perspective on crafts production activities, while situating them in the urban space discourse.

## S34 | The im|mobile city: methodologies, justice and right to mobility

**Session Organiser(s)** | Karol Kurnicki, Cosmin Popan, Ragnhild Dahl Wikstrøm

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS052

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

## **Walking in the City in Uncanny Times: Sensing the Night with Feminist Approach**

Yasemin Bahçekapılı, Burcu Tüm

Within the researches of mobility, the access of women to the city is a part of feminist discussion for re-claiming city. Walking is the micro dimension of the relationship established with the city by interactions and encounters, and the most striking practice of mobility. On the other hand, when space and time are considered together, the nights are always prepared to sacrifice, since it is kept out of the context of daily life. Concordantly, in the time of pandemic, most cities are under total curfew especially at night. Thus, this perception of night, which puts already boundaries as uncanny times for mobility, creates challenges with diverse aspects to women in the context of gender roles.

This study aims to think about the city in the night and mobility of women by walking. The research was conducted with an action research study; the walks in Athens and Istanbul. Walks were realised with ten women from each city at night. Before and after the walks a discussion circle was executed about gender, city and night. It is concluded that women tend to develop some tactics during their walk in the night. One of the sources that shape the perception of a city at night is based on memory: through one's own bad experiences or the experiences of others. The ideas which were developed together during the walks will be new sources for mobility of women with the aim of reclaiming cities' night.

## **Flow: drainage networks and interdependence in the city**

Afra Foli

In Accra, recurring seasonal floods endanger lives and livelihoods, particularly among the city's poorest. As wastewater flows away from some in the city, it flows towards others. As run-off flows away from some parts of the city, it stagnates in other parts. These discrepancies pose key questions on spatial and social patterns. In this paper I use the mobility of waste water and run-off to understand interdependence in the city, making the assertion that drainage networks can illuminate how social relations are formed and mediated by both geomorphology and infrastructure. While a mutual, yet asymmetric, dependence is expected between those living upstream and downstream, infrastructure has the potential to transform or mediate these relations.

Using a series of mapping exercises, I identify microbasins in Accra, 'naturally' occurring areas bound by flow. These basins defy district boundaries and often contain multiple forms of land use and a variety of social categories. Focusing on two microbasins known to have frequent flooding I use interview and observation material both upstream and downstream to conclude that in the context of incremental development, a mix of public and private infrastructural intervention, and high land prices, the practices of those upstream have a noticeable effect on those downstream – with only the resourceful able to manage those effects.

## **Migration, everyday spatialities and experiences of belonging for migrant Indian women in India and Australia**

SriPallavi Nadimpalli

Migration in the contemporary era is complex and is no longer limited to fixed categories and patterns. Further, decisions to migrate and the course of migration (including both pre and post relocation), are interlinked with other everyday spatial mobilities. Also, migration causes a relocation (and sometimes a dislocation) of daily activities and time-space rhythms in the life-course of an individual. If migration can be understood as long-distance, long-term (either temporary or permanent) movement, transcending either national or international borders, and everyday movements as (comparatively) short-distance, short-term, temporary movements (Malmberg 1997), both migration and everyday spatialities can be examined as varying spatio-temporal movements. Using Hägerstrand's time-geography, this paper explores the inter-relationship between these different spatio-temporal movements, to understand its influence on the experiences of belonging, particularly for migrant women. The emphasis is on 'movement' as an important dimension to experience and enact belonging in a place. Drawing from empirical research in two cases: internal migrants in Hyderabad, India and Indian international migrants in Australia; this paper aims to explore the relationship between people, places and movement in the articulation of belonging.

## **SI2 | Privileged Mobilities and Urban Transformation**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Christine Barwick, Eve Bantman, Hila Zaban

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS017

**Room 7** | Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

## **« Making room. » Wealthy european migrants and the Solvay neighbourhood transformation (Brussels)**

Charlotte Casier

The communication will examine the contribution of wealthy migrants to the social transformation of urban territories, analysing the processes and agents that facilitate the settlement of that specific social group in certain neighbourhoods. The results are mainly based on a field survey conducted between February and June 2018 by qualitative methods in the Brussels Solvay neighbourhood. Solvay is located east of the Brussels inner ring and near Matonge, the popular Congolese commercial centre. Since 2000 it has been internationalising and upgrading because of the settlement of a large population of wealthy Europeans, attracted by the international functions of Brussels and the institutions of the European Union. This case-study demonstrates that the arrival of this high-income group is linked to the production of "ready-to-use" spaces for the latter by a multitude of economic agents, by the redevelopment of public space, the construction of a trendy commercial offer and the development of new segments of the real estate market, reflecting a generalized gentrification of the district. Real estate and commercial actors thus benefit from this solvent public, present in the short term and with particular consumption patterns. The public authorities support or even anticipate this transformation. It ousts the working classes of the area by the reduction in the supply of affordable housing, the creation of new commercial structures and policies to control urban space. In this way, the various agents who "make room" for wealthy Europeans in certain Brussels districts actively contribute to the transformation of the city.

## **Reflections on "privilege" in the EU mobility regime: Self and place representations of young transnationals in Lisbon**

Jennifer McGarrigle, Lea Molina Caminero

Following the assumption that privileged mobilities can be considered an example of global power asymmetries and the formation of a new transnational self-conception of the middle class (Elliott & Urry, 2010; King, 2018), the present contribution aims to reflect on inequalities within the intra-EU mobility regime. Hereby, we use relative privilege as a lens to understand inequalities, or socio-cultural hierarchies, in the intra-EU mobility regime and precarity experienced under advanced capitalism. Rather than naturalizing unequal hierarchies of social class, gender or skills, the study of lifestyle-related mobilities seems to be a fruitful approach to shed light on how privileges are performed and embodied within migratory processes and how they produce specific stratifications in placemaking processes in the city of arrival (Engbersen et al., 2017; Hayes & Zaban, 2020). While combining the theoretical framework of lifestyle migration (Benson & O'Reilly, 2009) with King's understanding of "European youth mobilities" (2018), we aim to foreground discussions on the meaning of mobilities for the younger generation. Drawing on qualitative data collected through guideline-based biographic interviews with lifestyle-led migrants in Lisbon, the present contribution aims to understand how privileges and processes of becoming are manifested and negotiated in place-making processes by young international mobile individuals in Lisbon. Accordingly, we ask, how inherited privileges within the intra-EU mobility regime are reflected a. in the self-perceptions of young migrants regarding their position and role as (relatively) 'privileged' foreigners in the city, and b. in the way they use, appropriate and perceive their impact upon urban places.

## **European visitors' mobility and urban tourist practices in Brussels**

Sara Ficarelli

Urban tourism has been increasing in the past decades, and tourist practices constitute an important challenge in urban transformation. Nevertheless, such practices have been underestimated. It's therefore of primary importance to investigate how visitors create their urban visit. The study case of this research is tourist practices in Brussels. Our main purpose is to understand how visitors build their visit during a city-trip. We believe that the results of this research would help improving our knowledge of the contemporary urban transformation in the Belgian capital, especially in its city-center. Our target research is European visitors coming to Brussels for a self-organized city-trip. The work is based on in-field observation and semi-structured interviews, started from July 2019. The qualitative method resulted the best option to map the visitor's practices and to identify their profile. In addition, the semi-structured interview allows for an insight into the visitor's perspective and what their initial expectations were. Our first results show different categories of tourist practices. An important role is played by improvised activities, such as street food and street performances. Furthermore, we can identify different types of visitors in relation to their choices of activities. For example, we noticed that people who have experience in urban tourism tend to have a more standardized modus operandi, which can be influenced by other variables, like their educational level. Considering the possible impact of these results, the analysis could be of inspiration to other researches on urban transformation and urban sociology.

## **"SMARTER CITIES, LESS JUST DESTINATIONS? Examining the relational power of enabled tourists"**

Antonio Paolo Russo, Fiammetta Brandajs

This paper introduces a critical framework to analyse how 'smart' plays out in tourism places. While the Smart City is today a widely popular storyline for urban development and politics, comparable to that which the 'competitive city',

'sustainable city' and 'creative city' have been in the past decades, 'Smart Destination' can be seen as an incipient articulation of the smart city paradigm in places that are tourist destinations. Cities are bound to develop the SD toolbox when they face either or both the following challenges: 1) maintaining or increasing their competitive share in the context of an increasingly volatile and 'mobile' visitor market and 2) coping with the increasing pressures produced by tourism on the resident population. In fact, it is possible to relate to many SD experiences where the first objective is clearly targeted, but cases and scientific evidence where SD are focusing on the social field are circumstantial.

Our paper will thus analyse three 'smart' systems operating in Barcelona, Spain (and shared by many other urban tourism destinations globally) and provides an examination of the agencies involved as well as potential or measurable impacts on local communities. This feeds a discussion about 'smart' in relation to tourism, which is concluded nuancing an alternative of community-powered smart solutions and analysing the challenges that a transition of smart city strategies towards such alternatives present.

## **S71 | Precarious beginnings - Global perspectives on forced migrants' struggle for housing**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Hala El-Moussawi, René Kreichauf, Tolu Lanrewaju-Kadri, Ilse van Liempt

**Track** | Urban Diversity & Migration

**Code** | PS103

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Forced migrants' struggle to find home in the Veneto Region (Italy): local challenges and responses**

Giovanna Marconi, Eriselda Shkopi

Having completed their application process for humanitarian protection, 17,689 forced migrants had to leave the Italian reception system in 2019. Less than half of them (39.5%) have reached labour and housing autonomy. In the same year in the Veneto Region (North East of Italy) 9,374 forced migrants were still living in reception facilities. Many have already finished their period of stay, and most of them will have to exit soon. Although they represent only 0.2% of the total population of the region, they are facing serious difficulties in accessing housing, and stakeholders on the ground convene that this is the major challenge they face.

Based on the preliminary results of a year-long in depth qualitative research started in June 2019 as part of an AMIF project, which explored the 7 main cities of Veneto, this paper intends to delve into this issue by examining for these cities: i) the state of the public and private housing markets, and the barriers that migrants encounter in accessing it due to the structural lack of available public social housing stock and institutional discrimination on the one hand, and high levels of xenophobic attitudes, non decent housing, unaffordable costs, spatial segregation, intercultural conflicts and evictions on the other; ii) the (often innovative) bottom-up initiatives to help forced migrants to find (and maintain) adequate housing, promoted by civil society organizations', CBOs and informal groups – sometimes in collaboration with local governments – which are promising but far from compensating for the void left by policies.

### **The (non)transition of forced migrants into the housing market in Luxembourg: a protracted stay in reception facilities**

Léa Lemaire, Lucas Oesch

This paper focuses on the (non)inclusion of forced migrants into the Luxembourgish housing market. In Luxembourg, most asylum seekers are accommodated in reception facilities upon arrival. Once they are granted with a protection status, they are supposed to move into private housing. However, because of a lack of affordable housing in Luxembourg, their stay in reception facilities often becomes protracted. Moreover, they are not obliged to leave the reception facilities once they obtain their protection status. They are allowed to stay in the facilities during 3 months without paying a fee, after what they have to pay a monthly "rent". This paper analyses this (non)transition for forced migrants in Luxembourg from refugee accommodation into the housing market. The protracted stay of forced migrants in reception facilities represents a form of "alternative" to social and affordable housing. However, with this process, refugees end up being legally included in Luxembourg, but remain excluded from the housing market. They are experiencing a form of permanently temporary accommodation affecting their subjectivity, by the creation of a form of "suspended residency". This research is based on qualitative fieldwork conducted in several reception facilities and localities in Luxembourg. It combines in-depth interviews with forced migrants and semi-structured interviews with state and NGOs actors involved in the management of the facilities and the housing of forced migrants at the national and local level.

## **Interrogating the Social Capital of Urban Refugees in Nigeria**

Rebecca Enobong Roberts, Ogochukwu Okanya, Taibat Lawanson

The insecurity and humanitarian crisis based conflict in Northern Nigeria have displaced an estimated population of 2.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Nigeria according to the IDMC, (2019) report. This figure is rapidly increasing due to the ongoing spat of violence caused by the Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsman insurgency, and natural disasters and boundary adjustment related issues. Victims of displacement are scattered across displacement camps in Nigeria while an estimated population of 541,000 live in camps in Cameroon, while 240,000 are reported to in camps in Chad and Niger Republic. Resettlement efforts for this group by humanitarian interventions seem to be slow in achieving the intended outcome as it is slowly creating a dependency trap. The financial cost of maintaining these camps necessitates the need for structural and sustainable approaches to resettlement. Whereas most studies focus on resettlement effort aided by the international communities and the government, few studies have explored the individual and independent attempts by victims to restart their lives. This project examines the processes of self-resettlement efforts of Internally Displacement Persons (IDP) from northern Nigeria and their self and community governance and network structures in cities that aid such resettlement as well as the challenges facing this group in cities. The primary aim of this working paper/study is to assess the prevalent factors inhibiting this group of migrants in cities (where they move to, the processes involved and the realities as such destinations). Secondly, it contextualizes the challenges of self-help-resettlements of this vulnerable group as well as assess city governance readiness to accommodate this demography. It adopts an anthropological approach; through a mixed methodology for data collection by accessing IDP in four Nigerian cities. It hypothesises that an understanding between the independent resettlement efforts could better inform interventions of integration in cities and proposes a multi-stakeholder approach for resettlement interventions.

## **Impact of the “competitive management” of uncertainty on the praxis of relocated slum dwellers - Case of Tamesna-Morocco**

Meryem Belkadi

“Competitive management” (Marris, 1996) in the neoliberal Moroccan context, led in 2011, to the set out of protests and demonstrations, claiming the end of the “hogra”, that encapsulates social injustices and economic exclusion experienced by the disenfranchised communities. Morocco has always been shaken throughout its history by civil uprisings, resulting in repression by the political apparatus – the “mekhzen”. Amongst these forms of repression, is the restructuring, the sanitization of slums, and the displacement of the urban poor that result in social alienation, and the overlooking, not only of systemic issues, but also of the tragic social aftermaths of broken social networks, and the loss of the urban identity. In the absence of effective policies to alleviate poverty, unemployment and economic insecurity, communities develop their own means, and fight back to support themselves and their families. These processes entail spatial and social reproduction. Hence, this paper aims at investigating new informal mechanisms of public space occupancy, as well as socio-economic patterns emerging from these occupancies (i.e. leisure, knowledge/information sharing, and trading). This research will focus on relocated households, living in the new town of Tamesna, in the urban periphery of Rabat, to attempt to answer the following questions: 1) What shifts in housing policies could result in the future from a better incorporation of the community-based knowledge observed in the praxis of these communities (Lefebvre, 1968)? How can these observations lead to the shift of the management of uncertainty from a “competitive management” to a “cooperative management”?

## **S23 | Contested Territories – epistemological and methodological approaches**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Michael Lukas, Philipp Horn, Michael Janoschka

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS037

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Contested territories in the context of hazard prone-areas in Indonesia**

Bobby Rahman, Pieter Van den Broeck

This paper addresses the concept of “contested territories” in the context of hazards and risks, by examining case studies of the implementation of the Merapi’s “no-build zone” in volcanic settings and the location of public infrastructure development in the earthquake-tsunami hazard-prone area in Yogyakarta Province, Indonesia. The research indicates that contested territories exist in disaster policy background when conflicts emerge between the control holder over the interpretation of disaster risk and dictated local communities. This involves political power, the neglected local community

voice, the multi-interpretation of risk, and the dominance of the positivist epistemological approach in dealing with the hazard and risk of disaster. In the Merapi case, establishing the status of an area as "hazardous" or "safe" expresses the interests of the existing hegemony to cover ecological agendas that are geographically highly dependent on the contested territories. Meanwhile, a hazard-prone area is designated as the location for public infrastructure and narrated as a "safe" place, using various justifications. Consequently, the disaster risk reduction agenda is only driven by limited elite interests and departs from its fundamental goal. This "contested territory" represents a dilemmatic situation between the pressures of rapid development and economic growth and location-based vulnerability. The paper proposes a "contested territory" debate by offering a framework from the point of view of the disaster. It builds an analytical framework from the perspective of the social construction of disaster, which can help to deconstruct the process of disaster risk reduction and re-directing disaster strategies.

### **Bridging the sociocultural differences between academia, state agencies and peasant and indigenous organizations in the north of Argentina**

Jimena Ramos Berrondo, Matias Berger

This paper seeks to reflect on the epistemological and methodological challenges posed by researchers while analyzing contested territories. To do this, we draw upon our research experience building a multiple case study of two nature reserves in the Impenetrable (northeast of Argentina): Teuco – Bermejito and Reserva Grande, where we conducted in – depth interviews and participant observation during the following periods (2008 – 2010) and (2013 – 2016).

Both of the reserves have been disputed over the years by complex networks that include indigenous and peasant leaders, state agents at different levels, NGO's, missionaries and international organizations. These interactions have produced discourses and practices that claim different meanings and goals over these territories. In order to study this, we used a sociological relational approach combined with anthropology of the state theories (Bourdieu, Sharma & Gupta, Warman). In addition, we combined latin american and european theoretical frameworks in order to understand the meanings and values of actors from different life worlds (Long) as well as the exchanges among them (Bailey, Wolf, Cardoso de Oliveira).

To conclude, we will examine the different cognitive schemes a researcher has to deal with while interacting with subjects from different life worlds. How can one give voice to all of them considering the power relations they are immersed in? How can one interact with groups that have conflicting relations while maintaining objectivity? How can our research be applied in policy making decisions and impact their territories?

### **Insurgent Urbanism as a tool to interpret and act in contested territories**

Juliana Canedo, Luciana Andrade

This work aims at using the idea of Insurgent Urbanism to propose a methodological discussion of different forms of acting in contested territories, incorporating in a more complex way collaboration, participation and transdisciplinary processes. In order to do that we intend to use the decolonial literature (Walsh 2013) and the discussions of insurgent planning (Miraftab, 2009).

Our interpretation of insurgent urbanism considers that it can only exist when both citizens and planners build and develop together the urban environment. It is more than the debate between top-down or bottom-up solutions, but how we can produce spaces in a more horizontal way, considering the different types of knowledge and views of the urban space that conforms the city.

This debate comes from the empirical experience with a Brazilian squat located in Rio de Janeiro. Since 2014 we have been developing activities with Solano Trindade involving different actors like the university, researchers, activists, social movements, dwellers and also international partners in the transformation, design and production of the space.

Besides the local Brazilian context, we propose to use the insurgent urbanism as a lens to observe and promote collaborative actions and to discuss how this complex interaction can contribute to the current praxis in planning and developing of other spaces also in the Global North. This approach is the base of our recent research on Refugee Camps in Germany and although it is in its initial phase we would like to point out the intended outcomes and possible actions in this field.

### **Contested Forests and counter-ecologies to the urbanisation of commons in a Delhi without Borders**

Nitin Bathla

In the unconstrained production of urban land for the extended urbanisation of Delhi, forests have become a contested commodity (Gururani 2018) which both the state and the civil society seek to territorialize. In 2019, the state of Haryana (adjoining Delhi) enacted the PLPA Amendment effectively turning over 80,000 hectares of forests into urban land. The amendment was a conclusive step in the over three-decade long process through which the region has been transformed into an extended metropolis (Ginsburg 1991) through synoecism. In the meantime, the village commons have been consolidated as forests not only through the transfer of ownership but also through the plantation of exotic invasive species such as Prosopis Juliflora and Acacia Tortilis through foreign aid. Concomitant to this abstraction, civil society groups

have been attempting to counter this alienation through the production of 'counter-ecologies', reintroducing native species and claiming these spaces as public parks and strip forests. A proposal for construction of a highway road passing through one of these 'counter-ecologies', the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, brought this contestation at the forefront. Claiming the park as a 'sacred forest', the civil society coalition began contesting not only the specific road, but also the enclosure of forests for urbanisation in general. Through discussing this specific case in this paper, I seek to elaborate the 'urbanisation of commons' through environmental and land-use abstraction. Furthermore, building upon Peluso's (1995) foundational work on 'counter-cartography', I aim to discuss how civil society groups mobilise around 'counter-ecologies' to contest territorialisation by the state.

### **Transnational mining in the Colombian Caribbean, production and contestation of territory: Coal mining crisis and challenges for a post-extractivist scenario**

Ernesto Carlos Garcia Solano

Transnational mining is a global activity and supports the requirements of the current economic system that, exponentially, demands minerals and energy for production, financial speculation, and in turn, allows social reproduction. Large multinational mining companies have made an effort to secure and install strategic enclaves, especially in the global south, implementing an extractive model that uses sophisticated technologies in huge open-pit mines. This entails very high levels of social and environmental impact, generating large liabilities and conflicts.

This paper addresses the extraction of coal by transnational mining companies that operate in northern Colombia, a naturally and culturally diverse region. The aim is to study the socio-spatial transformations produced and identify existing disputes in order to propose alternative lines towards the collective planning of a post-extractivist scenario.

In the development of this inquiry, narratives are contrasted and approaches are used to show the neocolonial production of space, understanding coloniality as a pattern of power extended over time and that entails the naturalization of territorial, ethnic, cultural and knowledge hierarchies, making possible the continuity of relations of domination, ensuring the possibilities of exploitation and breaking traditional ways of life.

The work shows devices that make mining projects viable and how they coerce regulations and discourses. This situation is contrasted with the visions of the communities involved in the present disputes, in such a way, an approximation is achieved that establishes a dialogue between epistemic traditions and local knowledge, constituting an input to propose alternatives to the existing territorial model.

## **S19 | Housing Evictions: Hidden expressions of extreme housing precarity**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eva Swyngedouw

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PSO27

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Revisiting Displacement- Social Reproduction Nexus: A Feminist Ethnography of Gendered Dispossessions in Gentrifying Tarlabasi, Istanbul**

Bahar Sakizlioglu

There is a growing literature investigating displacement from a relational, temporal perspective (Atkinson 2015, Sakizlioglu 2014, Shaw and Hagemans 2015). This exciting literature, however, lacks feminist ethnographies of everyday displacements, thereby falls short of explaining gendered experiences and dispossessions involved in gentrification and displacement.

In this paper, I address this gap in the literature and investigate the question Lees et al. (2008) formulated some 10 years ago: 'Does the gentrifying inner-city act as an emancipatory space for all women?' (p.213). I approach gentrification and displacement as the social and spatial manifestation of the 'crisis of social reproduction' as coined by Nancy Fraser (2017) and analyze material and affective labor involved in pursuing social reproduction in gentrifying neighborhoods. I focus on the lived experiences of low-income women, who went through displacement and/or stayed put in a neighborhood targeted for gentrification, namely Tarlabasi, Istanbul. As a fast-changing city with its intertwined geographies of disinvestment and gentrification, Istanbul offers not only a rich array of ethnographic possibilities to investigate mutual constitution of gender and space but also a case that expands the mainstream focus of displacement research beyond the North American and European cities.

Embracing feminist ethnography and based on 25 interviews with low-income women living under the threat of displacement, the paper shows that everyday struggles around continuing social reproduction are not only very gendered but also related to and directly affected by power struggles over social reproduction at other scales and on different sites.

### **Home unhoused: (im)mobile belongings, eviction and attachment to place**

Hanna Hilbrandt, Ifigeneia Dimitrakou

This paper explores housing precarity as the result of financialization and associated disinvestment strategies. While much literature concerned with the financialization of housing has focused on the global reconfigurations of housing markets (Aalbers 2018), recent debates have also turned to the ways in which financialization transforms modalities of renting (Fields 2013; Fields und Uffer 2016). Across the western world, the literature documents how new corporate landlords effect the affordability, accessibility, and quality of rental space (Holm 2010; Beswick et al. 2016; Fields 2014). Few studies focus on the everyday experience of disinvestment and housing insecurity caused by financialization.

This paper explores how the abstract notion of financial profit making translates into the lives of inhabitants of financialized housing through disinvestment, possibly modernization und ultimately eviction. This discussion is based on qualitative research on the large-scale housing complex Hannibal II in Dortmund (Germany). In 2013, this run-down building was sold off to an opaque conglomerate of international investors. Following further years without maintenance and the Grenfell Tower fire in London in 2017, the city evicted its 753 residents as the result of serious fire safety and building maintenance concerns. The paper zooms into the ways in which strategies of disinvestment have altered the materiality of the house to discuss how disinvestment shifts social practices of inhabitation and by that the social positions and relationships of the renters. It raises questions regarding the precarisation of renting through the materiality of the house and the role of the state in securing social reproduction.

### **From the corporate landlord to the private landlord's threat: Evictions as an expression of tenant-landlord conflict in Barcelona**

Marta ILL-Raga

In Spain, after 2008, massive evictions took place in relation to mortgage payment defaults. Nevertheless, today, more than 70% of the evictions come from the rental market. The current paper seeks to present evictions from a processual and relational perspective, as the final expression of the landlord-tenant conflict. Through the exploration of different case-studies (conflicts) from the Metropolitan Region of Barcelona the research documents experiences of tenants and their encounters with landlords, their processes of negotiation and mobilisation to stay put, all under a constant threat of visible (judicial) or invisible evictions, the latter referring to unwanted displacements triggered by rent increases or contract terminations. An ethnographic research has been carried mainly through participant observation at the Union of Tenants of Barcelona, attending contract negotiations between landlords and tenants, eviction court procedures, mobilisations and demonstrations to stay put, and accompanying tenants to bureaucratic appointments with housing officers, amongst other everyday experiences. The data gathered through participant observation and interviews with actors involved in different rental conflicts shows that tenants facing eviction have different levels of precariousness and deprivation. Nevertheless, as a process of social negotiation to stay put, in which rental contract negotiation becomes intermingled with social mobilisation, a distinction and comparison is proposed between corporate or financial landlords on the one hand, and private particular landlords on the other, in that moral categories of deservingness and obligation are differently attached to landed properties throughout the conflictual process leading to either a judicial or invisible eviction.

### **Gendered approaches towards housing evictions in São Paulo Metropolitan Region: contributions by the Evictions Observatory's action-research project**

Paula Freire Santoro, Marina Kohler Harkot, Larissa Gdynia Lacerda, Isabela Berloff Alho, Gisele Aparecida de Sá Brito

Among researchers working with victims of housing evictions in Global South, there's a growing understanding these processes have, besides class, a clear gender, race and age dimension. This paper aims to discuss housing evictions in São Paulo Metropolitan Region (SPMR) from an intersectional approach, suggesting novel methods of looking at dispossession processes while making visible the different consequences they have on the different bodies and territories. It uses experiences, results and hypotheses linked to the research led by the Evictions Observatory (Observatório de Remoções), a Brazilian network created in 2014 in São Paulo, and nowadays has partners in three other capitals.

The action-research done by the Evictions Observatory aims to monitor, analyse, understand and act upon current collective eviction processes and identify not only the victims and the impact on their lives, but the nature of the big political picture of those processes, in a dialogue with the national and global context of these phenomena. With a methodology that comprises the mapping of the evictions and eviction threats, and ethnographic research that closely monitors specific territories which are under menace, this data collected by the Evictions Observatory will be looked at from a perspective that highlights how racialized women are the major victims of those operations, in dialogue with the

body of research that has been done on the subject in Brazil and abroad. Also intends to highlight the differences in local processes, where removal is part of several, continuous and slow processes of urban violence over low-income territories.

## **S10 | The ‘European City’ in the early 21st Century**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Wouter van Gent, Willem Boterman, Marco Bontje

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS014

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Urban Diaspora: a (new) geography of inequality in European multi-ethnic cities**

Sonia Arbaci, Daniel Sorando

This paper advances an alternative metaphor – the ‘urban diaspora’ - to conceptualise ethnic (de)segregation in European cities. This captures the systemic processes of (forced) centrifugal expulsion from central areas into successive metropolitan rings that translate into patterns of ethnic desegregation and dispersal (Arbaci 2019). Rather than upward socio-residential mobility, these reflect processes of marginalisation, segmentation and exclusion. We argue that multiple forms of urban diaspora have become an essential part of the (new) geography of European cities since the incremental (re)commodification of their welfare regimes/housing systems.

It first traces the emergence of the urban diaspora across (Southern) European multi-ethnic cities, by intersecting changes in welfare regimes/housing systems, migration waves, city’s socio-spatial structure and urban policies until the 2008 financial crisis. Then, it explores how this process has developed across European cities following different paces of recommodification, by examining ethnic (de)segregation patterns in Lisbon, Madrid and London metropolitan areas in relation to changes in the spatial distribution of foreign groups, socio-economic categories, housing tenures and housing/urban policies until the mid-2010s.

By recognising ‘how’ marginalisation is linked to dispersal processes, the paper challenges theories considering spatial segregation an indicator of social inequality. The focus on the ethnic dimension complements European scholarship that argues that segregation-inequality nexus is far from linear and distinguishes peripheralisation from suburbanisation. The ‘urban diaspora’ outlines a systemic understanding of segregation, away from the narrow focus on ethno-racial division, poverty and market dynamics, whilst showing the central role of the state in the production of urban inequality.

### **The Southern European City: the role of housing informality and its associated politics**

Francesco Chiodeli, Alessandro Coppola

Against the backdrop of the debate around the peculiar features of the “European city”, several scholars have identified the specificities of Southern European countries in the field of housing and welfare. In particular, the weak presence of state-provided housing in a context characterized by high incidence of homeownership and the pivotal role of family networks in access to housing are recognized as critical characteristics of the housing regime of such countries. Within this framework, the pivotal role played by informality is rather underestimated by research.

The current paper aims at clarifying the crucial role of housing informality in terms structural features of the Southern European city and its associated housing regime. At this purpose, it focuses on the case of Italy – which is read as a hyper-example of phenomena occurring also in other Mediterranean countries. The manuscript shows the relevance of different kinds of housing informality as crucial elements of the current urban configuration of several Italian cities. Such housing informalities are shaped and governed by different public institutions, in a constant interaction with a variety of different actors (individual and collective, legal and illegal), which respond to a highly varied set of political incentives. Overall, three main strategic uses of public measures for housing illegality emerge from the Italian case: the exclusionary politics of race and marginalisation; the governmentalisation of social problems; the selective legitimation of specific social groups. Such politics of housing informality is a characterizing feature of many Italian cities – and, possibly, of the ‘Southern European city’.

### **Strategies to tackle overtourism impacts in European cities: Lessons from Oporto, Lisbon and Barcelona**

Sílvia Sousa, Alberto Rodríguez-Barcón, Paulo Pinho

Tourism, especially in historical and central areas, is shaping not only urban economies but also urban development and local communities in European cities. Overtourism, touristification, tourismophobia and other phenomena regarding the overall negative impact of tourism on cities, their residents’ liveability and visitors’ experience, gave this domain, which evolved since World War II, a new and enhanced perceptibility. Nevertheless, long established and somewhat outdated

concepts, such as tourism carrying capacity, tourism congestion management and limits to acceptable change, but also the more recent social carrying capacity concept, support the arguments for current sustainable tourism strategies put in place in most European cities. Through an extensive literature review, and using the cases of three Southern European cities, Lisbon and Oporto (Portugal) and Barcelona (Spain), as illustrations of tourist European cities under pressure, this paper aims to identify the main problems, challenges and successful or unsuccessful solutions that have been implemented or are being discussed at urban tourism destinations. As result of the local tourism development, these three Iberian cities are experiencing different intensities of tourist pressure and are also at different stages of acknowledgement of the impacts of tourism. Not only can Oporto, Lisbon and Barcelona learn from each other, but they can also offer lessons to other European cities. Understanding to what end have the solutions been implemented or thought of as well as the influence of destinations' contexts came through as key in promoting sustainable tourism planning and management in European cities.

### **Leapfrogging urban rescaling through the claims of Europeanization and secular urbanism: An example from Turkey**

Cansu Civelek

This paper discusses the urban rescaling process of the city of Eskişehir, Turkey, in terms of its claims to secular and inclusive urbanism and Europeanization even in the face of uneven development and distribution of benefits. After long decades of industrial modernization and urban growth in the 20th century, Eskişehir could not adapt to the pressures of economic neoliberalization on cities and experienced an urban disempowerment starting in the 1980s. The local elections in 1999, however, marked a turning point for the city to recalibrate its power and move away from "being an insignificant, village-like Anatolian city", towards "[becoming] a modern and European-like city composed of artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and investors", in the words of its new mayor. Aiming to invigorate its economic and cultural industry, Eskişehir's urban rescaling process has significantly operated through the restructuring of city spaces. Similar to the accumulation regimes of many other cities that have restructured their waterfront areas, the Porsuk River that runs across the city center of Eskişehir shifted from being a natural asset to an economic asset. However, first the 1999 İzmit earthquake and the 2000-2001 economic crisis and later the victory of the right-wing Justice and Development Party (AKP) in the national parliament in 2002 left Eskişehir's center-left municipality lacking the political and financial assistance to achieve its projects. At this juncture, urban rescaling operated through multiscalar networks and strategies that mobilized the municipality to reach out and connect to multiple European finance institutions, entities, and individuals for political and financial support that bypassed traditional party channels and scalar orders of resource allocation. As a result, urban restructuring policies were facilitated. That process created the rhetoric of the "Eskişehir model" and "European city of Turkey" and claimed to inspire other cities in Turkey and beyond. Newly constructed museums, concert halls, statues, a beautified river, and new consumption and leisure zones along the river have both played aesthetic roles, offering a new urban outlook and lifestyle, and become symbolic vehicles claiming to propose a secular, inclusive, and participatory way of urbanization against the AKP's Islamic urbanism based on top-down planning. I call this process leapfrogging, which accelerated the rescaling process. The city won acclaim in public discourses, the media, and even academic circles, regardless of whether these developments were evenly distributed throughout the city, conveyed to every segment and class, or whether they contributed to the city's GDP, economic growth, and unemployment problems beyond an increase in tourism revenues. The paper investigates the aforementioned secular urbanism and becoming a European city rhetoric of a center-left municipality to understand the mechanisms of wealth distribution, empowerment, practices of exclusion, and dispossession during the process of urban rescaling.

## **S26 | The urban technopolitics of security and contested sovereignty**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Frank Müller

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS040

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Who secures this corner? Spatial analysis of street CCTV location as a tool for understanding splinter of the Moscow city**

Dmitrii Serebrennikov

Moscow as every big modern city has a great number of street CCTV-cameras. Researchers usually approach their study of the cameras using the concept of "surveillance." However, pushing away from their declared purpose and think of them as patterns of places where security must be ensured, this can lead to interesting results. Another important aspect is

evidence that the cameras in the streets do not belong to a single-center, but to disparate and sometimes conflicting actors that provide security. An analysis of the spatial context of CCTV as a result of the work of thought-collective street-level bureaucrats from the security agencies will clarify which types of urban objects are most often provided by cameras and which are not. This will allow revealing the complex spatial structure of ensuring security between various actors (in the case of Moscow is Ministry of Internal Affairs, Private Security Companies, Federal Security Service, etc.), which literally split (Graham and Marvin, 2001) the city with invisible borders. The study is based on the method of spatial nearest neighbors, according to the results of which builds a map of the overrepresentation and underrepresentation of the cameras of the Ministry of Internal Affairs near different city objects is created. For the correct interpretation, 25 interviews were conducted with informants related to the operation of such systems in Moscow and some other cities of Russia.

### **Death on the Niterói Bridge: Technopolitics and punitive populism in Brazil**

Matthew Aaron Richmond

Over recent years, punitive populism has become increasingly prominent in Brazilian politics, constituting a key dimension of the country's rightward turn. This is most clearly visible in the election of far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, but also in the success of hard-line law-and-order candidates in legislative and local elections – perhaps notoriously in the case of Rio de Janeiro's Governor, Wilson Witzel. Elected in 2018 on a platform of violently combatting crime, Witzel has pursued a highly mediated political strategy, invested heavily in military hardware, and overseen a large increase in police killings.

This presentation analyses a particular incident in August 2019 which captures key aspects of his technopolitical brand of punitive populism. When the disturbed hijacker of a city bus was executed by police snipers, Witzel sought to capitalise through the production of mediated spectacle. Theatrically celebrating the killing for the cameras, he also sought to spuriously link the incident to organised crime and to use it to justify his policy of violent incursions into the city's favelas. His claims were quickly refuted by police experts and his behaviour generated a negative backlash on social media, revealing both the potential and limits of technopolitical punitive populism and its tensions with more technocratic security governance actors and practices. However, it also revealed a deeper consensus within the state, and much of the population, in support of deadly performances of state sovereignty and regarding who can be considered a killable subject.

### **The urban technopolitics of seeing, showing and viralizing in everyday policing encounters: stories from Miami and Recife**

Thijs Jeursen, Carolina Maurity Frossard

Within recent urban studies scholarship, renewed attention to how the city is sensed has resulted in rightful critiques of the field's ocularcentric methodologies and epistemologies. In dialogue with this literature, this paper proposes a focus on the production, consumption and circulation of urban (in)security images through the embodied practices and experiences they entail. Drawing from ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Miami and Recife, this paper examines the visualities – as in practices of seeing and showing – enrolled in everyday policing encounters. In the Miami case, cameras shape the ways civilians and police officers understand policing and culpability through a 'legal gaze'. This concerns a broader mode of looking that reflects and reproduces a juridical framing of everyday policing that, ultimately, individualizes accountability. In the case of Recife, imaginaries of urban insecurity are translated into digital images, which are then visualized and viralized through messaging app groups dedicated to the policing of specific areas. The circulation of these images does not only reinforce, or upset, social and spatial imaginaries of violence: it also interferes on local security atmospheres, affectively attuning members of such groups to dominant notions of what safety looks and feels like. When woven together, our analysis of the Miami and Recife cases seeks to connect the technopolitics of seeing, showing and viralizing to the notions of political subjectivity and affective atmospheres of safety – two dimensions, we argue, that are key to unpacking everyday security governance.

## **S11 | The Politics & Aesthetics of the Urban Commons: Navigating the Gaze of the City, the State, the Market**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Louis Volont, Peer Smets

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS016

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

## **Planning common spaces in contemporary Berlin: Haus der Statistik, Holzmarkt and RAW Gelände experimenting with unusual coalitions and strategies to (re-)produce commons in the gentrified city.**

Lorenza Manfredi, Natalia Kwitkova

Berlin is perceived as a city where an emancipated diversity of citizens' initiatives can shape urban space. This idea originated through self-initiated practices, like squatting or interim-use projects, which marked the history of the city since the Fall of the Berlin Wall. They created niches in the system, where minor communities could "set rules" for both shared and greater right to manipulate urban space, allowing commons to be produced and reproduced.

More recently, the city strategy has been nurturing this image of Berlin as a diverse city, impacting different facets of its urbanism. This has supported the provision of financial and structural assistance for some self-initiated practices. However, it has also pushed the commons towards the market, assimilating them into the same logic system. As such, diversity and the existence of subcultures have become normalized through city branding.

To disclose the intention behind these activities, we deeply analyze three Berlin cases currently in phase of development and under discussion, where space commoners have confronted the task of combining different dimensions of partnerships with the city, state and market.

Haus der Statistik, Holzmarkt and RAW Gelände each investigate cooperative planning as an experiment of open process and the goal of creating or maintaining space in the city accessible to a multitude of diverse actors. These spaces share many characteristics but have occurred under different approaches. We explore the nature of these co-operations and how this has shaped their informal activities.

### **Giving Up On the Center of Emancipation: Commoning in the Suburbs**

Markus Kip

Cities have long been thought of as the central spaces of emancipation and as laboratories for anti-capitalist movements and alternative economic practices. This centrality of the cities, however, has been subjected to fundamental critique (e.g. Keil 2017). This contribution reflects critically on studies on urban commoning and their focus on city centers. The goal is to broaden our perspective on urban commons by taking a look at the commoning spaces in the suburbs and urban peripheries.

Dynamics of gentrification, in conjunction with more pervasive forms of social control have developed to such a level in several cities that these places have become unaffordable for many alternative experiments. At the same time, the alternative option illegal appropriation of alternative spaces has been faced with forceful state repression. Not rarely, urban commoning practices in the central areas have become the site of rather specific social groups. The dependency of these commons on the market and state is mitigated by the participants' socially conditioned ability to earn a living and to make legal and political claims.

In the presentation, I will present preliminary insights of new collective living and working experiments that have sprung up in the metropolitan periphery of Berlin. Groups of young, well-educated and creative people have taken to the metropolitan peripheries in areas that in previous decades have experienced substantial demographical shrinkage, an aging population, and ailing public infrastructure. Attempts are made to foster a network of alternative (ecologically and socially sustainable) economies with established residents of the area.

### **The uncommonness of urban commons development in CEE countries**

Rudina Toto, Maja Grabkowska, Vera Smirnova, Sonja Dragovic, Peter Nientied

Recent and ongoing studies on urban commons (UC) by the authors of this paper (e.g. Toto et al., 2020) and a literature search on UC in CEE show, amongst others, that 1) the development of governance of urban spatial commons is rather uncommon; and 2) local governments have been rather inconsiderate of users' groups and values (spatial-temporal factors) and impose challenges and barriers for the development of UC. The purpose of this paper is to examine dynamics behind these two facts and discuss government and governance in relation to UC.

UC is a broad category; the focus of this proposed paper is on urban open spaces for 'public' use in CEE cities (squares, streets, parks). We take urban commons as shared resources, in their relation to communities and social interaction, that can be governed through formal and informal rules - the focus is not bottom-up protest movements temporarily occupying squares or streets.

The paper will examine intertwined external and internal dynamics that may help to explain why the management of UC using principles of common goods management is rarely applied. The UC coin has two sides: external and internal. A first picture of external dynamics is the following, with diverse importance in different CEE countries:

- Modernization - transformation processes after 1990, a neo-liberal ideology dominated with capitals as prime expressions and no attention to (urban) commons. Neo-liberal ideology encompasses also embracing free-market individualism, praise of privatisation processes and the sanctity of private property.

- Top-down government – management and control rather than governance, collaboration and participation, with certain developments of hybrid states - authoritarian regime in the guise of democracy;
- Public as collective - common spaces are deemed ‘public’, which stands for ‘collective’, a concept with a negative connotation, and a social perception of ‘common’ as ‘no-one’s’ or ‘ownerless’;
- Urban (spatial) processes – of infill, legal instability, anonymity, place attachment.

The internal side is the UCs as a construct and their stakeholders, entailing for example issues of scale, ownership situation, and the often rather passive role of the public in regard to decision making and responsibility.

The paper will provide concise depictions of UCs in selected cities of Albania, Germany, Montenegro, Poland, Russia and Slovakia.

The session’s announcement suggested that space-commoning becomes complex once the commoners involved have to collaborate with partners, because it requires bridging the mindset of the commoner with that of cities, states and markets. The situation in CEE cities appears to be somewhat different – commons and especially common property have a vibrant history, which is unique for these countries. However, to date, government and markets fail to deliver adequate services, and citizens also fail to organise themselves and take up matters in UC. What citizens, students, workers are much more inclined to do in CEE cities is to protest in the streets, for general political motives or for motives concerning interests like education, housing and roads. These are shorter term actions, not based on urban space as a resource to be co-governed by commoners. This is related in the paper to the dynamics depicted.

## **S67 | Advising Cities: Consultants, Corporate Power and the Politics of Urban Development**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Chris Hurl, Anne Vogelpohl

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS098

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Financializing Practitioners: Planning Practice in Publicly-Traded Firms**

Orly Linovski

Planning practitioners often interact with the demands of capital markets in areas such as housing, infrastructure and transportation. Even more directly, many are employed by publicly traded planning and engineering ‘mega-firms’. These firms, created through aggressive strategies of merger and diversification, represent a form of professional practice that moves beyond traditional understandings of political and bureaucratic constraints. Despite significant changes in private-sector planning practice, little is known about the implications of financialization on planning professionals and the potential impacts on urban space and equity.

This research analyzes professional planning practices in publicly traded firms by examining (1) the interactions between shareholder demands and planning practices, and (2) financial perspectives on planning as a business component. Using a mixed-method approach, it draws on interviews with firm employees and financial analysts, and content analysis of investor event transcripts.

Key findings: Firstly, firms emphasize strategies such as cross-selling, diversification, and repeatable solutions to increase profit levels. While these tactics may increase share value, they present conflicts for professional practitioners and public-sector clients. Secondly, the imperative to increase shareholder value is driven down to the professional level, with changes in compensation and firm structure oriented towards this goal. This is in contrast to traditional conceptualizations of planning practice driven by professional discourses of commitment to the public interest. This research shows that the role of the planner is increasingly reconfigured by capital market demands, with implications for issues of governance, equity and the public interest.

### **Evaluating the Unknown: Real estate consultants and the conundrum of land valuation in Mumbai, India**

Anitra Baliga

This paper investigates how land development projects are evaluated, and the role real-estate consultants play in shaping land value through evaluation practices. Given the uncertainties in real estate development, particularly in contexts wherein project delays due to land acquisition and government approvals are commonplace, it is intriguing that developers commit to real estate development – an endeavor that not only requires significant upfront investment in land but is also oriented far into the future. Scholars who study land and property evaluations have tended to pin explanations to the

above puzzle on customary rules or conventions of the field (Weber, 2002), technologies of evaluation (Doganova, 2011), and the role of non-humans and instruments of evaluation (Searle, 2014). However, the assumption that evaluation practices are standardized, and evaluators well integrated within a professional world limits the scope for identifying the influence of land's many specificities on project outcomes. Drawing on Mumbai's urban land market as a case study, this paper demonstrates that the role of consultants and valuation professionals is undermined by the social expectations riding on developers to deliver on the future imagination of commodified land and the prestige that comes with being successful at it. By examining the conditions that frame evaluation practices in land development in Mumbai, the paper highlights how the (e)valuation of development projects is riddled with constraints emerging not only from the institutional structures of professional practice or the normative behavior of consultants, but also the idiosyncrasies of land and the ad hoc practices of developers.

### **Expert advice? Assessing the role of the state in promoting privatized planning**

Neha Sami, Shriya Anand

Over the last two decades, there has been a growing debate about the privatization of urban planning, particularly in the context of cities in the Global South (Hogan et al., 2012; Shatkin, 2011; Shatkin, 2008). This has also been tied to the growing role that non-state actors now play in the process of conceptualizing, making, and implementing plans. In particular, there has been work that has shown how networked experts, especially consultants, have facilitated 'fast policy transfer' (Bunnell and Das, 2010) leading to the spread of particular urban imaginations, and shaping urban policies and material realities across political and geographical contexts. Building on these debates, our argument in this paper is twofold. The first is to understand the role of national and regional governments in enabling the emergence of private actors in the planning process and to unpack the processes and policies that have made this possible. The second is to understand the graduated and nuanced functions that consultants perform at different scales and across different types of projects. Drawing on two particular types of projects in the Indian context: the development of urban master plans, and the planning of infrastructure mega-projects, this paper attempts to better understand how private and quasi-private consultants are shaping our urban regions, and its implications. This research draws on primary data collected through interviews, a review of plan documents and reports as well as a review of grey literature.

### **From expert to consultant: the organizational and political work beyond technique in French engineering and consulting firms**

Nicolas Bataille

In French urban planning, private engineering actors play an increasing role in the implementation of public policies, especially in urban projects. At times considered as "experts", these invisible elements of projects are known for assisting local authorities on technical aspects. Based on an ethnographic investigation in a middle-sized company (500 employees), this paper describes the work and market position of engineering firms and the mutations they meet. These actors argue that the world encounters a complexification that requires new methods instead of the neutral and rigid manners of an expert. As such, they promote adaptation, challenging the demand and long-term support of client instead of a punctual and bordered missions. Thus, they develop a new position of consultant to transform the executive relationship into a partnership. They promise to "complete the project" of their client, allowing them to get new missions, particularly on the urban consulting market. Consequently, consultants rather than scientific experts, they access information and give advice differently. Gathering information does not necessarily imply a rational method with measures or analysis. To be faster, they prefer finding a good representative, source of synthetic and relevant information. The final report is not the only result of the service offered. They perform an important organizational work of the project process, consisting in preparing discussion and consultation instances and finally choosing who can have a voice in the projects. Ultimately, by promoting dialogue and exchange instead of expertise, they increase their power in urban policies.

### **Who Drives India's Smart Cities?: Understanding the Relationship between Government and Consulting Firms under the Smart Cities Mission**

Uttara Purandare

India's Smart Cities Mission aims to transform 100 Indian cities into smart cities. These cities were selected based on the quality of their Smart City Proposals, or SCP. The Mission guidelines encouraged cities to 'obtain technical support' for their SCPs from consulting firms or expert organisations. Involvement of these external 'experts' did not, however, end at the proposal stage. The guidelines go on to encourage selected cities to employ the services of consulting firms in smart city governance, project implementation, and evaluation.

This paper is interested in understanding the knowledge circles that generate and govern smart city interventions in India, and the role that consulting firms play in universalising and adapting these 'smart' ideals. In other words, by looking at specific cities and firms, as well as the nodal ministry and the consulting firms it employs, this paper seeks to study the global-local and the public-private connections of the Smart Cities Mission. Is it possible to trace these connections? What impacts do these connections have on urban citizenship in India when the spread of technological interventions is increasingly rapid without adequate checks and balances? Such questions become especially important when governments and corporations are both vying for increased access to citizen data.

These questions will be discussed through data collected from in-depth interviews with smart city officials and consultants, analysis of policy documents and smart city literature from India and other parts of the world, and will be theoretically grounded in literature on knowledge production and diffusion under neoliberalism.

## **S39 | Urban Amenities, Cultural Consumption, Middle-Class Identities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Levent Soysal, Jan Rath

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS061

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Disassembling Urban Whimsy: Psychic Topographies of the Anaesthetised City**

Jeremy Williams

While much work has been undertaken on the manifestations of urban neoliberalism as a socio-economic phenomenon (gentrification, displacement, racism and exclusion), less attention has been paid to either its aesthetics or its psycho-emotional impact. This paper synthesises these strands of enquiry through formulating a critique of an aesthetic style and type of implicitly promoted urban experience and related set of middle class consumption practices: Urban Whimsy.

Urban Whimsy is an urbanity of selfies and self-consciously kooky activities (scooter-riding, cupcakes, cat cafes) in which the city's surface-level semiotics are therapeutically consumed by tourists and (certain) residents alike as a largely ageographical product, detached from the place-ness of the individual spatial context. It can be found in the 'gritty' yet 'cute' mediated view of the cityscape seen from the step of an e-scooter, the instagram-ready aesthetics employed by businesses both propagating and capitalising on this dynamic, and in the individualised set of libidinal consumption practices which both feed and are fed by this anaesthetised milieu.

This paper is a response to these developments. In understanding that these aesthetics, experiences and consumption practices are in some ways 'merely' expressions of neoliberal urbanism, it seeks also to move beyond this Urban Studies script to to critically interrogate the psychic, emotional and political resonance of these phenomena.

### **Regeneration and Cultural Transformation of Shibuya: From Teen's Playground to a Town for Grown-ups**

Asato Saito

Shibuya has been well known as a place for youth fashion and street culture for a few decades. It has become an epicenter of vibrant street culture associated with youth fashion, food, music, entertainment in the early 1970s, and attracts so many visitors include international tourists. At the same time, it played an important role as a venue for social movement, such as anti-nuclear protest after the March 2011.

Such a vibrant street culture has, however, gradually faded after hitting its peak in the late 1990s. Small theaters and arts venues disappeared one by one. The district became a teen's playground, and often left the poor impression of restlessness, uncivilized behavior, dirty pavement with litters, etc. As a result, many adults felt it "too edgy" or "went too far", which deterred them from stepping into the district. Tokyu Corporation, the main private developer of the area, started a major regeneration project in the late 2000s to revive its fortune. It introduced more "grown-up" atmosphere, distinctively different from the existing youth culture, to respond to the needs of adults who have more spending power. New retail/food and drink/entertainment outlets in line with global high-end culture are now opened. They say that cultural landscape of Shibuya will be transformed in the next 20 years. A concern is raised, however, that such regeneration project will hinder Shibuya's vibrant street culture and the "authenticity". Instead, it may create just one of those middle-class consumption place with little creative energy.

### **Gastrofication - Distinction and perception of consuming food**

Petra Lütke The study focuses on consumers of gastronomic landscapes in urban gentrification processes. How important are the kitchen and food in the everyday life of consumers, what values do they represent? The aim of the paper is to analyze the role of consumers in the gastronomic landscape of Cologne's Ehrenfeld district and to answer the question "does gastrofication leads to gentrification and what role do consumers play?". The Ehrenfeld district in Cologne serves as a case study for the empirical study. This industrial area, which was affected by downgrading processes in the past, is currently a prime example of gentrification in large German cities. After years of decline, rising vacancies, and emigration, there has been a clear upward trend in Ehrenfeld since the late 1990s. In contrast to other Cologne districts, the neighborhood is not yet fully gentrified, but is mostly described in the media as "multicultural", "hip" and "trendy" and the

diversity of local lifestyles is emphasized. In addition to a lively art, cultural and creative scene, the district is characterized by an extensive gastronomic landscape that combines a variety of different cuisines and eating cultures.

### **From a former industrial neighbourhood to a creative-class oasis: A case study of Karlín, the inner-city neighbourhood of Prague**

Adela Petrovic, Greta Kukeli

Karlín, the former working-class and industrial neighbourhood in the inner-city of Prague, has been going through a dynamic regeneration since 2002 after the big flood that severely affected the neighbourhood. Today, Karlín is characterised by massive transformation and modernisation, reflected in the creation of a “hipster centre”. New coffee shops, retro and fancy restaurants and vegan bistros, refurbished industrial buildings for hosting cultural events and chic galleries along with big dynamic international companies (e.g. Amazon-over 1000 employees), Karlín is considered as the oasis for yuppies, young clerks, creatives and tech workers with a foreign background. The research paper aims to analyse the behaviour and consumption patterns of young professionals (25-40 years) working for Amazon. The main goal of the research is to find out (i) if the big young international community is the one nurturing the new culture of consumption and contributing to “hipsterfication” of Karlín, (ii) if so, how and to what extent, and (iii) if not, who else could play that role. Methodologically the research derives primarily from semi-structured interviews, but also field research, observations and the author’s experience as an intensive user of the neighbourhood.

### **The “Roma est scene”: the artistic creation of a new sense of place in the Pigneto neighbourhood of Rome**

Antonia De Michele

Despite the fact that any universal conceptualization of gentrification is elusive (Lees, Shin, López-Morales, 2015), socio-cultural changes and restructuring processes reinforcing the middle-class status of urban areas are becoming central engines for urban development across the globe.

In view of the growing importance of new economic models based on culture and consumption, some working-class neighbourhoods become the perfect location to strengthen local economy: they are converted - often in a controversial way - into incubators for innovation or laboratories for new artistic and alternative lifestyles.

The gentrifying neighbourhood of Pigneto in the eastern periphery of Rome is an emblematic case in point, even with its specificity. The arrival of new population and the transformation of the area into a place for leisure full of bar, restaurants and night venues have determined a change of the local “scene” (Silver and Clark, 2016).

This paper analyses the imaginaries, aesthetics and spatial meanings carried out by the new population of the neighbourhood. In particular, through an ethnographic approach, the paper focuses on the creation of an original sense of place by a group of young artists and musicians that have moved to Pigneto. They recognize themselves as part of a specific “Roma est scene”. This expression not only relates to a local network of musical underground groups with their spaces in the neighbourhood, publications, sounds, labels and counter-cultural festivals, but also to a re-symbolization of the neighbourhood, based upon selected symbolic repertoires, recognizable aesthetics and interpretations of space.

## **S2 | Proximity, relationality and mediated encounters: co-constituting urban dynamics through the everyday practices of neighbouring**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Lynda Cheshire, Zheng Wang

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS003

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Risk-Driven Urban Transformation in Istanbul: A Relational Work Analysis of Changing Economic and Community Relations**

Ladin Bayurgil

With a new law enacted in 2012, Istanbul is witnessing a wave of risk-driven urban transformation, through which more than 2000 multi-story concrete residential buildings are demolished and reconstructed with the aim of earthquake proofing. I examine the changing community and economic relations in the midst of urban transformation in Istanbul, specifically overlapping community and employment relations between employer homeowners and their employee doorkeepers. Doorkeepers are minimum-wage workers and live rent-free in return of serving their upper middle-income neighbors, with whom they share the same roof, building and neighborhood, and who are also their employers. This

project asks how this rapid and vast urban transformation process is impacting community and economic relations, as doorkeepers' labor is gradually replaced by informal work, which results in both involuntary displacement and unemployment for doorkeepers. The analysis is built on an ethnographic study that includes (1) participant observation through volunteering at a doorkeepers' labor union, and (2) 108 semi-structured in-depth interviews with doorkeepers and homeowners. This research utilizes relational work literature with the aim of examining how intimate ties generated by community relations get infused into economic relations governed by employer-employee relationship. In an urban setting of intermixed realms of community relations and monetary transaction, this research also extends relational work literature by spatializing the study of labor processes and embedding economic exchange in spatial relations. Thus, this project demonstrates that economic and employment relations in the city are closely tied to community relations and are being transformed by changing socio-spatial politics.

### **Disrupting togetherness? The impacts of housing regeneration on human and non-human neighbouring in north-east London**

Katherine Stansfeld

As dynamics of urban regeneration and gentrification are increasingly re-shaping cities, scholarship has begun to highlight the ambivalences and affective dimensions of these processes (Butcher and Dickens, 2016; Jones and Evans, 2012). Yet as neighbourhood environments and inhabitants transform, more attention must be paid to how these affective dimensions unfold through practices of neighbouring. Neighbouring has been instantiated by scholars as the everyday ways we experience locality, difference, collectivity and belonging through relating to those in close proximity. This paper indicates the importance of 'neighbouring' for a sense of communal relations in a 'super-diverse' north-east London estate undergoing a large-scale housing regeneration programme. Using an ethnographic, visual and mobile methodology, the research investigates how a multicultural sense of togetherness or 'community' is disrupted and negotiated in relation to housing regeneration. It explores how neighbouring occurs through both human and non-human relations and practices involving social interactions between people, local flora and the built environment. The paper reveals how although geographic displacement occurred for a minority of residents, other residents felt a sense of collective 'symbolic displacement' (Atkinson, 2015) through the reshuffling of neighbours around the estate, the demolition of buildings and removal of local flora. The research indicates the lived ambivalences of this neighbourhood change and demonstrates the role of neighbouring to mediate experiences and opinions of regeneration. It foregrounds the importance of shared and communal space and protection of local fauna for enabling a continuity of neighbouring as well as allowing new convivial neighbourly relations to form.

### **Can tourists be good neighbours? On New Urban Tourism and the practices of temporary and permanent neighbours in Berlin**

Annika Zecher and Claudia Ba

Berlin still is "Europe's Capital of Cool", a growing city filled with potential for young entrepreneurs, media and creative industries, sciences and the arts. Berlin also offers residential neighbourhoods with distinct features and images, ranging from punk rock to bourgeois. Some of these neighbourhoods have encountered a steady influx of "New Urban Tourists" that come to get to know Berliners everyday life. These tourists increasingly rent short-term apartments in hip residential neighbourhoods, thus becoming new, temporary neighbours. Berlin's newspapers have depicted the New Urban Tourism to the city as a destructive force, harming the social fabric of residential neighbourhoods. Touristic practices in shared public and private spaces would challenge established neighbourhood structures, and confront residents with changes in their familiar environments ranging from personal encounters to neighbourhood infrastructure. This brings forward questions about which practices constitute a well-functioning neighbourhood, what we expect from those who live in close proximity. Drawing from data collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in an interdisciplinary research project on how tourism changes neighbourhoods and quality of life in Berlin, we ask what contributes to the perception of a good neighbourhood. Through media and interview analyses we show how everyday practices constitute a sense of belonging, of home and of community and how anonymity caused by high fluctuation in residential buildings (through temporary touristic tenants) may negatively affect community building.

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

Tadas Šarūnas

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 Wacquant's 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.

## **S16 | Rent-seeking: the new game in town. The legacy of Anne Haila (1953-2019)**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marisol Garcia, Barbara Pizzo, Serena Vicari Haddock

**Track** | Urban production and reproduction

**Code** | PS025

**Room 17** | The bourse of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Economic rent, inequality and public revenue – the Singapore model**

Andrew Purves

Singapore has experienced rapid economic growth and development since independence, and is now ranked in the top ten globally for GDP per capita. It is known for its low regulation, free market approach; however, beneath the surface, following systematic land acquisition since independence in 1965, the government has controlled and directed land use to ensure affordable housing, and well connected industrial and commercial space to attract multinational companies in strategic sectors. At the same time, a leasehold system of land holding for use, has generated significant public revenue streams from land values, while enabling 90% of the population to become homeowners, with 80% in public housing. Additional revenue is generated from unconventional sources to keep personal and consumption taxes low. The system is an outlier, when compared to conventional systems of taxation adopted by most developed economies, yet it accords with the theoretical perspective of Smith, Ricardo and George for economic efficiency. The paper will examine in detail the revenue streams collected, and how they are reported. It will test an hypothesis, that not only has the system ensured efficient economic development, but also delivered greater equality of wealth distribution, conforming with Piketty's measure of an ideal society.

### **Korean Media Houses, Land Monopoly, and the Property Lobby**

Bokyong Shin, Chaitawat Boonjubun

The media has its powerful role in promoting the propertized class and this needs further investigation. How land and property are treated has changed through history: from being the commons to commodities and financial assets, as argued by Haila (2016). In this, the media justifies speculation through storytelling connecting stories with growth, finance, and employment (Haila, 2016; 2017). Nevertheless, studies on this role of the media are rare. Based on the concepts of 'property lobby' (Haila, 2016) and 'property mind' (Haila, 2017), this paper analyses how the media framed the meanings of land and examines how the media understood the treatment of land through history. Drawing on 0.17 million editorials of seven Korean newspapers, particularly on the issues of land, housing and properties, over the course of 30 years (from 1990 to 2019), this study uses Latent Dirichlet Allocation in analyzing the data. The results demonstrate that the media has continued its vital role in framing land monopoly, propertized class, and private land tenure system in South Korea.

### **Living in density and the unsettled new inner-city population in the Global South: the case of Santiago, Chile**

Isabel Brain

Inner cities are changing at a fast pace everywhere across the globe. Yet, the socio-spatial effects vary significantly between cities. In the Global South, rent-seeking investors rapidly adapt to the specific socio-spatial characteristics of each city, reshaping the urban and social landscape of cities opening urban trajectories different from those seen in global cities.

In the case of Latin America, in the last decade, a new social group emerged as a consequence of the rapid decline in poverty: the vulnerable-to-poverty. This group represents the largest part of the region's population, and, although non-poor, it characterises for their high economic insecurity. This group squeezes in inner cities to find a way of living that could help them to overcome vulnerability, and the physical manifestation is high-density.

The inner-city change of Santiago, Chile, illustrates this phenomenon. Residential tower-blocks have become a common housing supply by the private sector to the urgent need to find a place/space by this new social group that move where opportunities are concentrated. Yet they struggle to settle.

This paper describes three types of private housing schemes in Santiago that target the vulnerable-to-poverty population. These schemes, enabled by weak regulations and non-existent rent control, have wholly redefined of the social and urban landscape of the inner city. The rationale behind the rent maximisation of these developments works on the basis of keeping this group unsettled; and by doing so jeopardising their prospects to settle-down, compromising their recent upward social mobility.

### **Popular classes seeking rent: Family, Work and Space Socializations to Real-Estate Investments and Practices**

Margot Delon

Private landowners in the housing sector are often associated with the wealthiest groups of society. However, since the 1980, political, social and financial transformations have led an increasing number of members of popular classes to buy houses and rent them to tenants. In this communication, I henceforth explore the diversity of the landowner class by focusing on owners of popular extraction. Who are they? Why did they invest in real-estate? How has this choice been made?

To answer these questions, I use data coming from semi-structured interviews in a small city in the West of France. Drawing on socialization theory, I explain the various forms and motives of these investments through their familial, professional and residential trajectories. First, the past and present experiences of precariousness motivate these landlords to seek rent through housing. Indeed, the decrease of protection by welfare states is for them a strong incentive to ensure financial autonomy by themselves, as they had to do it in the past. Second, local business elites have exercised a strong influence on this first generation of landowners by advising, motivating and helping them to invest in the housing sector. Third, the motivation to invest in housing instead of financial products is inspired by the supposed high reliability of the rent, as it is derived from a product they can materially grasp. As a consequence, such landlords tend to manage themselves their properties and entertain close, and often tensed, relationships with their tenants.

## **S3 | Methods for understanding place-based urban communities as embodied experience and practice**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Alasdair Jones, Zachary Neal

**Track** | Urban Methods

**Code** | PS005

**Room 18** | Entrance Road Turnhoutsebaan

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Towards a Sense of Community: Space and Citizen Participation in Peri-urban Neighbourhoods**

Francesca Ranalli

The research explores how a Sense of Community (SoC) can emerge through the process of citizen participation and space. During my PhD, I developed an analytical model based on a new definition of SoC that I designed in order to combine psychological, social and spatial dimensions. To this end, the theoretical framework includes values of place attachment, sense of place, social cohesion, human diversity, and social capital. The model is devised to organize participatory planning and urban design towards a building of SoC in peri-urban neighbourhoods. Only recently, studies and policies have pointed at the tendency of localism and marginalization of peri-urban communities. I applied my model in a pilot case study Kerckebosch Zeist, Netherlands, where I tested interactive and ethnographic methods with residents, such as walk-along discussions and interviews with the use of mental maps. Following those outcomes, I started an action-based research in Almere, Netherlands. Almere is one of the main cities in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area and amongst the fastest growing cities in Europe. In a context of a poli-nuclear city, Almere Poort represents the shift from a top-down to a participatory planning, including self-building in Homeruskwartier. The common ground of Poort's varying socio-spatial environment is that the inhabitants appear as pioneers of a new area that is working to search its sense of belonging and SoC. In this framework, I work in partnership with the municipality in order to develop interactive and multidisciplinary methods and produce tools for planning policies and urban design.

### **Class and Belonging in Deindustrialised Neighbourhoods**

Kaspar Metzkow

This study investigates how deindustrialisation shapes person-place-connections (PPC) of long-term residents of working-class neighbourhoods. The results are based on guided interviews and participant observations in the Berlin districts of Oberschöneweide and Siemensstadt in 2018 and 2020. The devaluation of class-specific practices in which workers organise their everyday life in the neighbourhood is identified as a central mechanism. Deindustrialisation entails the loss

of infrastructures necessary to realise spatial profits and practice community in customary ways. My findings suggest that this not only affects how residents use and experience the neighbourhood but also in how far they perceive change and increasing social diversity as a threat. The study proposes a systematisation of PPC into four types, each of which allows for varying intensities, characteristics, and degrees of reflexivity. The model allows for an investigation of PPC of long-term residents as multi-scalar and interacting. Variations can be better explained by differences in class- and gender-specific habitus than by social position. However, income and social contacts influence whether losses in the habitat can be compensated individually by shifting practices to private networks. There are also differences between the investigated cases. In the former socialist eastern part, the stronger devaluation of working-class practices due to the socio-spatial consequences of sudden deindustrialisation is overlaid by the devaluation of specifically East German practices in the FRG.

### **Do Neighbourhoods Have Shapes? Studying Urban Practices and the Contours of the Imagined Neighbourhood**

Robert Vief, Henrik Schultze, Daniela Krüger, Talja Blokland

Despite the fact that neighbourhoods are always shaped by authorities' administrative borders, most neighbourhood studies rely on these boundaries, at least as a starting point. Sometimes, social scientists trace an "experienced" neighbourhood to avoid such spatial determinism. But this, too, assumes that neighbourhoods are contiguous, fixed in their shape and with distinctive functions for and belongings of specific groups. Meanwhile, urban scholars generally agree that practices, social contacts, and spatial routines influence how people experience the neighbourhood. But, if this happens outside of the residents' neighbourhoods': how do we call this 'outside'? Is the neighbourhood indeed a bounded space with a shape that research subjects and researchers need to have? Are we dis-rooted without neighbourhoods? Is the notion of neighbourhood an imagination of residents alongside with urban researchers?

With data from a representative survey in four Berlin neighbourhoods, sampled by a most different case design on a) residents' self-drawn neighbourhood shapes and b) practices of social support exchange and urban infrastructure use in the city of Berlin, we aim to show that residents might define subjectively experienced neighbourhood borders in which they are active while further practices actually exceeds these limits. In this sense, some people seem to have islands of many 'neighbourhoods' city-wide (constructed by the purposeful using of certain sites in the city), while the localness of practices remains significant for a more singular symbolic neighbourhood use for others. Our paper thus discusses 'neighbourhood' as an ambivalent concept for researchers and residents.

## **S85 | Progressive cities and civil society mobilizations**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Walter Nicholls, Claire Colomb

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS123

**Room 19** | Cultural Centre De Roma

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Continuity and change of urban policies in São Paulo: resilience, latency, and reanimation**

Eduardo Cesar Leão Marques

Large metropolises of the South are usually treated as incapable of producing redistributive policy change. It is also considered that policy change may happen gradually or punctuated, but always in relatively linear and continuous ways.

Analyzing urban policies in São Paulo from the mid-80s and 2016, this article shows otherwise. It suggests that relevant policy change may occur in those cities, including not only programs that entered the agenda to stay, but also policies that swung between implementation, interruption, latency, and later reanimation. The analysis brings to the forefront elements not yet accounted for by the literature such as policy resilience, latency and reanimation. I depart from previously detailed analyses of eight urban policy sectors (Marques, 2020) that showed an incremental trajectory of redistributive policy change in the city due jointly to political competition (and the role of progressive governments) and policy processes involving multilevel politics, policy institutionalization and the embeddedness of civil society actors in policy sectors.

To describe and analyze the details of resilience and of transitions back and forth from latency and reanimation are the goals of this article. To do so, I compare four housing and transportation programs, two with each type of trajectory – a. in situ slum upgrading and b. bus integration in transportation (that gradually imposed themselves), and c. cooperative self-help housing construction and d. bus lanes/corridors (that oscillated between latency and reanimation).

### **The left against the left in Paris urban regions : on the paradoxes of left wing policies at different scales**

Patrick Le Galès

Since 2001, the socialist/green/communist coalitions governing Paris city council has developed a set of progressive policies : social services, public transport, support to refugees, creches, voluntarist new social housing, collective equipments, conflictual air pollution policies, getting rid of the private sector in water management. However, that took place within a conservative fiscal framework, close connections to private developers to build more. However, the price for these policies has often been paid by suburban municipalities where part of Paris social housing and waste is organised. The new local authority Metropole du grand paris (7 M) has been prevented to play any redistributive role because Paris city managed to protect its fiscal wealth. Progressive Paris inside the city council (2M) goes together with a conservative Paris at the urban regional scale, or even opened conflict with the long time left wing regional council. Not leaving policies "à tous les étages".

### **Beyond Preston. Struggles over progressive municipal strategy in Brexit England**

Andrew Wallace

Austerity, Brexit and COVID-19 have intensified schisms in the English state, especially in the so-called 'red wall' region - the Northern ex-industrial heartlands where electorates voted widely for Brexit and Conservative MPs at the 2019 general election, but retain Labour-controlled local governments. Within this basic governing tension, municipalities have been hamstrung by enduring funding cuts whilst trying to manage growing vulnerabilities and divisions in their communities, opening up urgent questions about financing, investment and relationships with local civil society. One progressive response has emerged in Preston – a small city in the Lancashire textile belt – where local actors have developed strategies of remunicipalisation and community wealth-building. The 'Preston model' has been linked with 'new municipalist' agendas struggling against financialised and enclosed urban horizons but represents just one mode of crisis resolution in the variegated 'red wall' region. This paper draws on an ongoing comparative project in four towns and small cities in Northern England: Wakefield, Halifax, Middlesbrough and Preston and explores the dilemmas and tensions facing local municipalities with divergent geographies and histories but a common trajectory and asks how progressive projects are faring. In so doing, it opens up normative questions regarding how contemporary municipalist strategy might combat not only the extractive, alienating crises caused by neoliberalism and fiscal austerity, but the toxic appeals to place, community and nation being pushed as responses to those crises in fractured polities like the UK.

### **Civil society mobilisation and the crisis of local governments in Hungary: forming unlikely alliances**

Luca Sára Bródy

During the past years, a number of critical organisations and movements have emerged and took on a role in tackling various forms of inequality, from addressing housing problems to seeking municipalist ideals in strengthening participatory mechanisms. The results of the October 2019 local municipal elections provided an opportunity for several of these initiatives to get more involved in public affairs and forge new alliances with local governments. The current political-economic context of Hungary suggests a peculiar timing for such cooperations. Systemic changes left civil society organisations with a gradually shrinking civic space through maintaining high political dependence, limiting their ability to influence decision-making processes. On the other hand, local governments experience a similar loss of power caused by the centralisation efforts of the 2010s that accelerated in general after the local elections and particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic outbreak in spring 2020. The present paper seeks to unfold how civil society organisations manoeuvred over this period to promote democratic and transparent mechanisms that carry the potential of larger structural changes. As oppositional forces took power in many localities of Hungary after the 2019 municipal elections, newly elected leaders promised a more progressive policy environment, rebuilding trust towards civil society organisations. Nevertheless, to avoid the tendency of dissolving in party politics, several tactics have targeted to increase recognition among residents, focusing on local embeddedness instead of relying on large donors and funds. Findings suggest that instead of an awaited civic boom, the deepening of existing alliances is occurring.

## **S65 | Matters Turn Political. Loved and Contested Materialities of Cities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Anastasiya Halauniova, Michiel Stapper

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS097

**Room 20** | Political Centre Peperfabriek

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **"It was a home; it was ours": materiality, citizenship, and the politics of home-ownership in an informal dwelling**

Petr Vašát

Homeless people are usually considered as citizens without property. The absence of ownership, especially in terms of housing, co-creates the very idea of homelessness in current societies. Despite this fact, homeless citizens negotiate and experience their property, things, or the shelter in which they dwell. This paper attempts to shed light on how this property is negotiated and experienced and how it influences political agency. It does so by drawing on long-term ethnographic research in the city of Pilsen, Czechia. Based on the intra-urban comparison of informal dwelling in two abandoned buildings – a former railway station tower and an allotment cottage – the paper argues that informal citizenship arises from the assemblage of socio-materiality, where the politics of home-ownership has a crucial position. While politics is related to power asymmetry within a common dwelling, paradoxically, it also brings about more complex citizenship and the potential for political action involving urban politics.

### **“Its like a bird's nest in here!” cables, pipes and the banal infrastructure of capital**

Sam Johnson Schlee

This paper will make an account of the banal and everyday materials of capital in the city through the cables and pipes of a covered market in south London. Through illustrations from archival and ethnographic data, I will talk about washing up, blocked sinks, and an occasion where a restaurant phone line was mixed up with the neighbouring butcher. Since the construction of the market in the 1930s the businesses repeatedly and iteratively adapted their environment in order to accommodate new uses. This iterative process of adaptation leaves a material legacy of complexity, obsolescence, and failure. The market was protected from demolition in a heritage listing in 2009 for its historical association with Afro-Caribbean communities in the neighbourhood. Subsequently the market adapted again, transforming into a bourgeois space of consumption (cf. Gonzalez 2017, Zukin 2009), which has been accused of tacitly excluding people of colour. This paper will argue that the material culture of the market is a result of generations of these banal materialities of capital accumulation. While appearing to ‘love’ a community, this market in fact only ‘loves’ the accumulation of capital – and adapts to its flows accordingly. This paper is not an affirmation of capitalist realism (Fisher 2009), instead it argues that through material failures we can reimagine our relationship to matter outside of a capitalist register; but to do so the nostalgia for materialities that apparently ‘love’ community should be critiqued.

### **“The Weight That Brings Us Together”: Spomen Dom as the Space of Community Construction, Reflection, and Change**

Sonja Dragovic

The material remains of socialist past in post-socialist cities and towns are loaded with meaning. But they do not merely stand as witnesses of the former political system from which they emerged: they live on, interpreted, used and shaped by the emerging communities while shaping these communities in return; acting as their “structuring structures” (Gieryn, 2002). This interplay between structures of the socialist past and society of the capitalist present gives an opportunity to look beyond the narratives of nostalgia and into the particularities of living through change – relying on the existing to imagine and create new. In this process, the material can become political in unexpected ways, creating interesting opportunities to study the process of post-socialist transformation in the European periphery.

By analyzing the case of the building of Spomen Dom, memorial and cultural center and town hall in Kolašin, Montenegro, this paper aims to show how urban matter gains new political meaning and significance: how a building, while being simultaneously neglected by the government and constantly activated by the community, transcends its actuality and makes space, literally and metaphorically, for the new possibilities. By examining various levels of interaction between the building and the community, the paper also explores what it means to love a building, to care for a building at a time and in a place of lasting economic hardship. The findings are based on interviews with experts, artists and community activists, and on the secondary sources: documentaries, personal and municipal archives, and newspaper coverage.

## **S27 | Contesting territorial stigma: Dynamics of civic life in stigmatized immigrant neighbourhoods**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Thomas Swerts

**Track** | Urban Diversity & Migration

**Code** | PS041

**Room 21** | Farmer's Tower

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Governing ‘inclusion’ in marginalized urban spaces: negotiating the victim stigma**

Simone van de Wetering

For many urban residents, inequality and social exclusion are a daily reality. Especially for those living in marginalized urban spaces where poverty, unemployment and crime is concentrated. Governments aim to tackle the marginalization and stigmatization of these neighborhoods with 'inclusive' governance approaches: together with urban residents. However, whereas the inclusion of citizens in the governance of the city is seen as a panacea, a profound understanding of the complexity of putting 'inclusion' into practice is lacking.

This paper illuminates one aspect of this complexity: how in 'inclusive' governance approaches power asymmetries between professionals and municipal employees on the one hand and citizens on the other complicate the negotiation of stigma. It does so by zooming in on the case of Tilburg-West in the Netherlands, a heterogeneous migrant neighborhood with increasing socio-economic problems. Here, the municipality and professionals initiated a 'break-through-initiative' to improve opportunities for youths growing up.

While the de-stigmatization of Tilburg-West and its residents appears to be central within this initiative, so is the continuous negotiation of 'who belongs': in the neighborhood, to the group of 'active residents' and at decision-making tables. Drawing on nine months of ethnographic fieldwork, this study shows that existing stigmas about residents as 'victims' are difficult to negotiate, and actually quite easily reproduced. Bringing together studies on vulnerabilities and victimization, stigmatization and the construction of marginalized spaces, this paper argues that tackling marginalization and territorial stigmatization requires the continuous challenging of existing power asymmetries by those involved in the governance of the city.

### **From distinction to pride: contesting territorial stigmatization in Brazilian urban peripheries**

Leonardo Fontes

During the 1970's and 1980's Brazilian cities received a huge amount of immigrants from poor rural areas. In that context, the opposition between "workers" and "bandits" was the basis for a moral distinction on which identities was formed among those who lived in urban peripheries. However, throughout the 1990's and 2000's there was a significant expansion on crime rates and criminal influence on youngsters behavior in these urban areas. As a consequence, the public representation of urban peripheries, notably young blacks, produced an "imaginary multiplication of criminals" (Feltran, 2011). In a context of strong inequalities and reduced social contact among different social classes, the stigmatization of these groups tends to be territorialized. Hence, urban peripheries began to be publicly presented as a "place of bandits". This paper aims to present three responses that different groups of urban peripheries' dwellers forged to deal with stigmatization of their territories. The first response that could be defined as a "normalizing" discourse seeks to oppose hegemonic narratives about their neighborhood with harmonic images of their reality. The second tends to agree with the stigmatized stereotype produced about these areas. Therefore, people seeks to distinguish themselves from their neighbors through social and cultural practices and, if possible, moving out from peripheries to central areas. Finally, a third answer has collective and identitarian characteristics and pursues to value stigmatized attributes such as local culture and way-of-life. The article is based on an ethnography carried out in two peripheral districts of São Paulo since 2015.

### **Claiming to be local**

Minke Hajer

Formal exclusion does not preclude activity by irregular migrants to become part of a (political) community or even attain citizenship. This paper looks at the day-to-day lives and struggles of irregular migrants and their supporters in two migrant social movements, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Turin, Italy. It describes how irregular migrants strive for inclusion and (political) visibility, through a wide process of constructing relations with local politics and existing activist networks, by lobbying and demonstrating, with neighbours and neighbourhoods by occupying buildings, and with the (local) cultural sector by creating art and participating in cultural activities. These processes could be understood as instances of claim-making, in which irregular migrants demonstrate their right or deservingness to be included. The paper will add a notion of 'claim-placing', to indicate the use of (urban) space in this claim-making, and show how geographical places can be turned into politically meaningful space by latching on to local political and/or historical meanings of these places. However, it will at the same time describe how the agency of irregular migrants to do so, is shaped by this local context; through an interplay of national laws and policies with regards to squatting, demonstrating, migration regulation, and the overall strength of the welfare state; as well as local strategies of policing irregular migrants and activists. In this way the context also influences if, when, where and especially how irregular migrants can become visible and make their (political) claims.

### **Can shared Experiences of Stigmatization be a Source for collective 'Place-making' in Shrinking Cities?**

Norma Schemschat

Representations of shrinking cities and of refugees are marked by strong forms of stigmatization. Depictions of urban shrinkage are generally dominated by the idea of shrinking cities as 'losing out', as "slum places" (Béal/Morel Journal/Sala Pala 2017) characterized by low life expectancies and "shockingly high unemployment" (e.g. in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 30/05/2016). We discover a discourse which severely undermines the many potentials that lie in their imagination as laboratories for post-growth planning (see for example Beal/Rousseau 2018). The discourse on refugees, in turn, is characterized by their securitization on the one and their victimization on the other hand (Fawaz et al. 2018) – especially

post 2015. Forcibly displaced people, according to this dominant narrative, are passive. This understanding neglects the many ways in which refugees prove resilience and agency in shaping their environments – even under direst conditions (see Fawaz et al. 2018).

The paper takes the stigmatization of places (Wacquant 2007) and the othering of minority groups (Said 1978) as starting point for critical reflections on how refugees can help ‘revitalize’ shrinking cities – a reoccurring idea within shrinking cities research – and how a shared experience of stigma can be a source for bottom-up forms of contestation and placemaking.

## **S70 | Research Policy Interface: Equity, Services and Economic Development for Cities in the Global South**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sukanya Krishnamurthy, Peter Gotsch, Enrico Michelutti

**Track** | Urban production and reproduction

**Code** | PS101

**Room 22** | Square Theaterplein

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Dismantling Welfare? Socio-spatial inequality in India's neoliberalizing steel towns**

Ashima Sood

The steel towns of colonial and postcolonial India were planted by state and princely fiat amid Adivasi (tribal) territories to bring urban and industrial development to backward territories (Kalia 2006; Sivaramakrishnan 1977). Master-planned cities such as Jamshedpur, India's and perhaps the world's oldest extant and privately developed company town and Bokaro, a public sector steel town set up in the heady post-colonial 1960s were built to house substantial workforces alongside steel plants. The advent of the economic reforms in the 1990s, however, and the liberalization of steel imports and decontrol of steel prices has led to ramifications that reverberate to the present. Led both by advances in automation and increase casualization of labour relations, the transformations in the labour productivity and capital intensity of steel production put paternalistic forms of industrial relations at the two sites under tremendous pressure (Sanchez 2016). This paper traces the effects of the resulting cutbacks in the regularly employed workforce on the urban fabric in these sites. The reduction in employment-related entitlements freed large swathes of well-serviced housing stock as contractual and casual workers were not eligible for housing and several other perquisites. It opened up the best-provisioned core areas to gentrifying forces even as it has increased the strain in informal housing markets in the surrounding areas. I argue that a comparative case study of these iconic sites of greenfield urban-industrial development offers a unique laboratory for how neoliberal ideologies of economic growth produce socio-spatial inequality in the Global South (Gostch 2010).

### **Who benefit more from transport improvement on the municipal level in rural China?**

Haiyan LU

In developing countries, the contribution of transport infrastructure to rural residents' household income is still under debate. Some scholars argue that transport infrastructure is likely to have the least effect on the poor in rural areas. We have investigated the impact of transport density on the municipal level on the income of rural households, especially low-income groups by adopting the China Family Panel Survey (CFPS) data in 2012, 2014 and 2016. By distinguishing urban and rural residents, we find that rural households can benefit more from express and rail density than urban residents. Within rural residents, the impact of railway and express are various for low income and other income-level groups. The express infrastructure benefit both low income and other income-level groups, while railway only benefit other income-level groups in rural China. As the agricultural production is still the main income source for low-income groups, express improves the mobility agricultural goods to markets, which benefits agricultural production. Compared with express, railway is a main transport means for rural residents to work in the other places, which cannot benefit low income group directly. Thus, policymakers should consider the different impact of transport infrastructure on agricultural production and non-agricultural activities in rural China.

### **Bringing Democratic Transparency to Karachi's Electricity Sector**

Ijlal Naqvi

Karachi's electricity sector has been transformed in the past 10 years due to the actions of KE (Karachi Electric), the privatized electrical utility in this metropolis of 15 million people on Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast. The metric which best exemplifies this transformation is that of electricity losses. Although there are also engineering reasons for losses, losses primarily signify theft by consumers who avoid billing by illegally tapping into lines. KE reduced its losses from 35.9% in 2009 to 19.1% in 2019. A key element of this campaign has been to preferentially serve those areas of the city which do pay for electricity. Additionally, KE has attempted to modify the behaviour of its consumers by offering a reduction in blackouts if an area can reduce its losses, and has initiated several engineering and social interventions aimed to achieve

this change. Ostensibly, this change brings improved service delivery to all, and specifically includes informal settlements and other low income areas. However, while the key information in this campaign concerns losses, the consumers themselves have inadequate knowledge regarding their own neighbourhood. I explore the application of principles of democratic transparency to KE's campaign to reduce losses, so as to empower individual, civic, and state actors as participants in the transformation of the city's energy landscape.

### **Interrogating urban policy and planning from a prosperity with equality perspective: the case of Havana, Cuba**

Jorge Peña Díaz, Alejandro Vallejo

Urban infrastructures are at the core of the international development agenda since they are identified as a trigger contributing to face global challenges associated with an urbanising World such as increasing inequalities. Nonetheless the benefits of infrastructural expansion resulting in higher growth are not necessarily equally shared and little is known about the ability of infrastructure to ensure a fairer distribution (Bajar 2017). The capability of cities to place the topic within urban policies responsible for tracing trajectories towards urban equality including planning remains unclear.

This paper examines how the approaches towards urban infrastructures within the Cuban urban development policies are aligned with the purpose of tracing pathways towards prosperity with urban equality. Special attention is given to the Havana case which is simultaneously an exception and an epitome of urban development trajectory for cities in the South. There the aspirations of prosperity have been often hindered by prevailing approaches by means of which equality has been overruled by sameness. But amid sound socioeconomic transformations in place since 2011 and a new Constitution the city seems to be at a turning point in its urbanisation process characterised among other factors by an increased investment capacity in infrastructures. However there is also evidence of increasing inequalities and a risk for them to widen. The paper sheds light on these contradictions and informs on the available room for manoeuvre to influence these policies in order to increase their capacity to steer the ongoing process towards a scenario of sounder urban equality.

# THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

## 15:45-17:15 CEST

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

### Plenary 3 | Sonia Arbací (IJURR)

#### **Paradoxes of segregation: housing, welfare, and the production of urban inequality in (Southern) European cities**

Thursday 15 July 2021

15:45-17:15 (CEST)

This IJURR lecture challenges reductive notions of (ethno-racial) segregation that dominate theory and policy, and view spatial concentration as an indicator of social division attached to poverty, or equate desegregation and mixing with integration and upward mobility. I argue that segregation is an embedded product of - and should be understood in relation to - the broader organisation of society, and that the debate should be recentred on the role of the state-market(-family) nexus in the production of urban inequality.

Through an international comparative research, I examine patterns, processes and causes of ethnic urban segregation in Western Europe, with a particular focus on eight Southern European cities (Lisbon; Madrid, Barcelona; Rome, Milan, Turin, Genoa; Athens) since the early 1990s. The complex links between production of inequality and segregation processes are explored in relation to welfare regimes (social-democratic, corporatist, liberal and familistic), housing systems, immigration waves, and the cities' socio-spatial structure. I found that segregation is essentially about redistribution. The redistributive arrangements of welfare regimes and their pillars – their degrees of (de/re)-commodification, especially of the housing system and respective land system - and local urban policies play a fundamental role in shaping patterns of ethnic residential segregation and socio-ethnic divisions. Urban inequality is not (necessarily) manifested through ghettoisation but through peripheralisation and dispersal; I advance a new metaphor of 'urban diaspora' to capture systemic processes of (forced) expulsion and conceptualise this (not so new) geography of inequalities.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

### **S49 | The nexus of critical, smart and digital urbanism**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Hebe Verrest, Elisabeth Peyroux, Karin Pfeffer

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS076

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

#### **Perception of the citizens' role by city authorities in the process of implementation of smart city solutions in Russia**

Anastasiya Pirotskaya

Even though there is no unified definition of a smart city, scientists have generally agreed that smart technologies are not a panacea for urban problems. Without the citizens' participation in the urban environment transformations, digital technologies will remain expensive useless gadgets. In order to implement efficient smart solutions, the city authorities have to establish a dialogue with residents.

The purpose of the research was to explore the city authorities' perceptions of the residents' role in transforming cities into smart ones and find out the main obstacles to carrying out digitalization. The research techniques are an expert survey of 84 heads of Russian municipalities and 1 in-depth interview with the Head of the Informatization Department of the Novosibirsk City Hall.

The main result of the study was the perception of citizens as an "object", not a "subject" that has the right to participate in a decision-making process. For the authorities, asking for citizens' opinions means losing their competence, the only communication strategy with citizens is avoiding conflicts and also, "there's no need in asking people about their needs because they all want the same".

Another result was the list of the main obstacles of the smart technologies implementation. The most popular reason (58% of responses) was the lack of funding, the least popular – the lack of residents' involvement or their negative attitude towards city transformations.

So, the problems of implementing and financing smart technologies remain the key issues, while the citizens' involvement in the city transformation fades into the background.

### **Assembling/deconstructing datascape: de creation of Lima's Urban Water Observatory**

Fenna Imara Hoefsloot, Javier Martínez, Christine Richter, Karin Pfeffer

In Lima, residents are fundamental co-creators of the urban water infrastructure, taking up various roles in the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the water distribution system. As Lima's potable water company presses the transition from decentralized and auto-constructed to centralized and digital, this article explores how the implementation of digital infrastructure reconfigures the role of residents in the water distribution system. Our analysis draws on an ethnographic research approach, using formal and informal interviews, and focus groups in three areas representing Lima's diversity in settlement categories and types of water consumers. By analyzing the digitalization of Lima's water infrastructure through the perspective of its residents, this research contributes to understanding how top-down, digital governance practices mediate the agency and everyday experiences of people living in Southern cities. We observe that the digitalization of the water infrastructure marginalizes the participation of the 'expert-amateur,' a crucial role in the development of urban in the Global South, while providing more space for the 'smart citizen' to engage in infrastructuring. This article concludes that to overcome the perpetual creation of the center and the periphery through digitalization, urban infrastructure management should be sensitive to residents' diverse strategies in managing resources.

## **S51 | The Paradox of Mega Urban Projects: Imaginaries, Practices and Experiences**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Mayra Mosciaro, Yunpeng Zhang

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS079

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **»This is not my neighborhood any more« – Lived experiences of large-scale urban renewal in Germany's global city Frankfurt am Main**

Johanna Betz, Tabea Latocha

Frankfurt am Main's Gallus district was for a long time considered to be 'un-gentrifiable' due to its neglected urban fabric, negative image and specific property ownership structure stemming from its century long history as a working-class district (Schipper/Wiegand 2015;

Schipper/Latocha 2018). Since the early 1990s, however, the city of Frankfurt has used a set of innovative entrepreneurial urban planning tools in order to upgrade the neighborhood and deliver one of Europe's largest urban renewal projects: the 250ha new "European Quarter". By privatizing and regenerating the publicly-owned grounds of the former central freight railway station of the area, the city has incentivized private developers to turn the Gallus into the most "Luxury lifestyle" quarter of Frankfurt (SCMP 2019), mainly addressing the needs of upper-class overseas investors (Betz/Latocha 2020). With the latest, almost citywide wave of gentrification in the aftermath of the GFC, housing prices have risen by 68%, while the rent level has increased by 4% every year (Schipper/Latocha 2018). In striking contrast to its century-long history as an affordable working-class district, the Gallus neighborhood is today under heavy gentrification pressure leading to the displacement of low-income households and to stark socio-spatial segregation. Drawing on three years of ethnographic research and community work in the neighborhood, I would like to shed light on the lived experiences of the contradictory transformations induced by Germany's largest urban renewal project. Firstly, I will trace back the processes of state-led gentrification that have change the Gallus since 1990 from a political economy perspective (Schipper/Latocha 2018).

Secondly, I report from the uneven, messy nature of political subjectifications and bodily experiences of subaltern inhabitants of the neighborhood. By uptaking a critical feminist perspective, I present insight on how those groups 'losing the game' of urban regeneration – sometimes more, sometimes less – resist the commodification and alienation of their area (Betz/Latocha 2020).

### **The Urbicide of Istanbul through Urban Megaprojects: The Example of Kanal Istanbul Project**

Aysegul Can

The idea of connecting the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea through a manmade canal has been around since the 16th century and was voiced through a couple of newspaper articles in Turkey in the early 1990s. However, it was only in 2011 that the canal idea started to be voiced seriously. This grandiose project that will effectively cut through Istanbul to create 'an alternative waterway' has been widely criticized and branded as an act of urbicide. Kanal Istanbul is the latest, biggest and most environmentally dangerous among a string of mega-projects that have been implemented since the early 2000s with irretrievable effects on the city.

The aim of this paper is to investigate the trend of implementing megaprojects in Istanbul (or Turkey for that matter), the gradual effects of this on the city and the ever-growing resistance against it through the specificity of Kanal Istanbul. To be able to do this, I first briefly discuss the emergence of urban megaprojects, reasons and risks behind it and the concept of urbicide. Following this, I analyze the case of Kanal Istanbul through semi-structured interviews conducted with prominent figures urban resistance movements and document analysis of governmental and press reports, development plans and laws enabled for this project. Finally, I conclude with reflections on what Kanal Istanbul will mean for Istanbul and its surrounding area, and the overall mobilization of urban actors to resist this project.

### **Costly, Colossal, Contested: The Mega-Project Landscape of Istanbul**

Melih Yeşilbağ

Istanbul has been subject to a persistent stream of mega projects since the beginning of the JDP (Justice and Development Party) rule in 2002. This paper scrutinizes the mega project landscape of contemporary Istanbul in conversation with the major issues and themes in the recent literature on mega urban projects and infrastructural turns. Through a case study that covers three recent projects (the Istanbul International Airport, the third bridge over Bosphorus and the Kanalistanbul), it characterizes the Turkish scene with respect to the motivations behind the mega projects, financial mechanisms, technics of governance, and discourses of legitimization. Major findings can be summarized as follows, respectively. The formulation of the projects point to a state-entrepreneurial mode where the logic of rent generation and capital accumulation are coupled with a logic of state empowerment. In this respect, the Turkish scene bears similarities with widely noted examples from Southeast Asia. In terms of finance, the concerned projects employ variants of public private partnership agreements where select contractors enjoy generous revenue guarantees along with subsidized credits from public banks. In terms of governance, the project scene witnesses various techniques that include creating project-specific agencies for fast-track arrangements and mobilizing the power of the central government to override legal disputes. Finally, in terms of discursive strategies, a peculiar blend of neoliberalism and Islamist developmentalism is mobilized. The projects, however, continue to be widely contested by the public opinion for their extravagant budgets, dubious contract arrangements and hazardous impacts on urban ecologies.

### **Spectacularization of the everyday: «stolichnaya praktika» and National Housing Renovation in Russia**

Daniela Zupan, Amanda Zadorian, Vera Smirnova

In the context of rapid economic growth in the 2000s, spectacular mega-events were popular among urban policy-makers throughout Russia to bolster local economies and reshape urban landscapes. Over the last couple of years, however, we can observe a new form of urban mega-project emerging. While earlier Russian mega-projects were generally characterized by local initiative, short time frames, and a focus on one-off events, the emerging new form is marked by an increasingly top-down character, durability, and a focus on infrastructure. These changes, however, do not represent a retreat from the spectacular; instead, what we observe is a spectacularization of the everyday.

Our example of the spectacularization of the everyday is the National Housing Renovation Program, which can be considered the most comprehensive infrastructural mega-project in contemporary Russia. First implemented in Moscow, where it will comprise the demolition of over five thousand multi-story buildings and the resettlement of about one million Muscovites into new housing, efforts are underway to expand this urban mega-project throughout Russia. We propose the concept of "stolichnaya praktika" (literally, "capital practice") to account for the ways in which a local urban initiative developed in the capital is being mobilized as a country-wide mega-project. Since 2010, Moscow has once again become the center of innovation in urban policy-making within Russia. The association of the project with the spectacular "stolitsa" enables the export of stolichnye praktiki to the regions to support a recentralization of power deploying symbolic rather than financial resources.

## S34 | The im|mobile city: methodologies, justice and right to mobility

**Session Organiser(s)** | Karol Kurnicki, Cosmin Popan, Ragnhild Dahl Wikstrøm

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS053

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **(Im)mobility: imposition or choice?**

Giovanni Lanza

The research on mobilities has extensively focused on mobility's social and political relevance, conceptualizing it as a complex set of spatial practices and a key driver for activity participation and social inclusion. Based on this interpretation, the relative absence of mobility (immobility) would assume a negative value, being the possible symptom of unfair distributions of the possibility to move. However, while this condition suggests the existence of immobilities that may be imposed over whom who suffer from such inequality, a state of chosen immobility could instead be proper to individuals who live in conditions of proximity to the activities they need for their wellbeing, pushing them to make few displacements and to live this condition positively. The research aims to develop a theoretical and operational framework to shed light on the difference between imposed and chosen immobilities. In the first case, this perspective can help design measures to enhance accessibility and social inclusion for disadvantaged populations. In contrast, in the second, it can help detect the conditions that guarantee accessibility by proximity and replicate these conditions in other contexts. Considering this background, the paper presents the progress of a research that uses a mixed-methods approach based on the analysis of mobile phone data, census data, and qualitative interviews to evaluate the relationship between accessibility and (im)mobility using mountain areas in Italy as testbeds.

### **How do 'alternative' mobilities travel? Exploring the circulation of fare-free public transport**

Wojciech Kęmbłowski

The central argument of the paper is that to fully understand the political economy of a measure that allegedly challenges the techno-managerial logic behind the production of urban infrastructure, it is relevant to study how this measure "travels" across space and time. In the particular field of urban transport and mobility, inquiries into transfer and mobility of infrastructural "fixes" and "policy solutions" usually focus on instances of urban entrepreneurialism, looking at "best practices" that form part of the political "mainstream". Much less attention has been paid to the mobility of transport policies allegedly "alternative" to the technocratic/entrepreneurial hegemony. To address this gap, I employ a theoretical framework building on Henri Lefebvre's conceptualisation of "the right to the city" to look at the mobility of fare-free public transport (FFPT). Applied in over 100 cities worldwide, FFPT allegedly challenges transport orthodoxy and highlights the political dimension of mobility by providing access to public transport infrastructure. I build on long-term research began in 2014 to explore diverse temporalities, places, actors, practices, and narratives employed in the mobility of FFPT, observed in six sites of fare abolition in Estonia, France, Poland and China. I identify two international circuits through which the knowledge about FFPT has been mobilised over time. On the one hand, formal urban actors meet within the "official" circuit geared towards the promotion of "success stories", images and narratives that emphasise the efficiency and legitimacy of fare abolition. On the other hand, the "militant" circuit gathering activist groups and NGO representatives focuses on mutual learning, building a critical perspective on FFPT, and understanding how its dependence on the local context may hinder policy transfer. As oft-simplified "official" narratives about fare abolition travel faster and wider than its more complex "militant" counterparts, my findings indicate that how FFPT may be implemented in specific geographical contexts.

## S12 | Privileged Mobilities and Urban Transformation

**Session Organiser(s)** | Christine Barwick, Eve Bantman, Hila Zaban

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS018

**Room 7** | Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

## **Mobility and the Question of Urban Citizenship: The access to social housing and the hierarchization of (im)mobility in Vienna, Austria**

Daniele Karasz

The paper discusses the case of Vienna and concentrates on how different forms of mobility challenge and redefine municipal housing policies. The focus will lie on “privileged migrants” from EU countries and discuss their standing in juxtaposition with other mobile groups, such as refugees, young women from Austrian provinces, etc. I look at these types of mobility in relation to the access to subsidized housing and to housing related subsidies. The Viennese social housing sector stands as an example for a system of interrelated municipal welfare policies.

Empirically the paper builds on housing biographical interviews that I have conducted in the last three years in the framework of various research projects on migration and housing in the Monte Laa neighborhood in Vienna. The location or non-location of social housing in the biographies will provide a common analytical lens for the different sets of material. The paper will question the social mix paradigm that characterizes housing policies in Vienna such as in many other cities; thereby, I will overlap social mix categories and the discussed mobility types. I will highlight how social mix policies, as well as newly implemented access regulations concerning social housing, privilege certain forms of (im)mobility over others. Mobility is embedded in the local housing policy framework; at the same time it redefines the policies’ modes of exclusion. The paper, finally, proposes to read processes of uneven urban development in pointing to the hierarchization among different forms of (im)mobility in relation to the access to welfare provision arrangements.

## **Declining Cities and Elective Belonging – The Case of Latin-American Immigrants in the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts**

Emil Israel, Brent D. Ryan

Suburbanization is one of the main forces that shape contemporary deindustrialized urban spaces. The process of suburbanization involves territorial differentiation of the middle class and practices of spatial distinction aimed to evade urban blight. The current study utilizes concepts of habitus, and elective belonging to investigate this process. It is hypothesized that spatial mobility reflects peoples’ ability to exit a social group that does not integrate between their habitus and community. Individuals in the middle class are expected to choose a location to live in, as they judge its suitability in terms of their social trajectory and their position in other fields of life.

The theory was tested among Latin-American immigrants who reside in the city of Lawrence Massachusetts, a deindustrialized and impoverished city, and among those immigrants, who abandoned the city in favor to some of its affluent suburbs. The study's 30 in-depth interviews provided data on the immigrants' forms of economic and cultural capital, along with descriptions of their housing characteristics, everyday life, and aspirations regarding future housing. The interviews were analyzed by MAXQDA software and revealed how choice of residential areas manifest a person's uneven embeddedness in different sets of power relations. The results also indicated that space reflects differences in senses of belonging between people belonging to the same minority group but with a different class habitus, thus encouraging spatial differentiation, class distinction and deepening suburbanization.

## **Place attachment among skilled international migrants in a peripheral city: the case of Görlitz, Germany**

Ritu George Kaliaden

Countries across the developed world, facing demographic decline and shortage of labour, regard skilled international migrants as a key target group in sustainable development strategies. However, regional imbalances abound as these migrants typically gravitate towards larger cities, causing peripheral urban locations to lose out. Research on skilled migrants is also largely focused on super-diverse metropolitan areas and overlooks this group’s experience in peripheral urban locations which are characterised by homogenous local populations and struggle with industrial decline and stigmatization.

Amongst urban planners and policy makers, there is a call for deeper insights into how skilled international migrants develop or fail to develop ties to their places of residence and how this impacts settlement decisions, especially in peripheral locations that are not typical migration destinations. This paper uses the concept of place attachment to examine place ties and settlement intentions among middle-class, skilled international migrants in the peripheral East German city of Görlitz, Germany.

The paper presents findings from qualitative empirical work, drawing on 30 in-depth semi-structured interviews with international skilled migrants in Görlitz. Drawing on Scannell and Gifford’s (2010) framework of place attachment, it investigates how physical and social characteristics of place influence place attachment and settlement intentions among this group. The role of individual characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, life stage and language skills is also examined. The results provide insights into the lived experience of skilled international migrants in peripheral locations and may contribute to local incorporation strategies in such cities.

## S30 | Life, work and play in sprawling urban regions

**Session Organiser(s)** | Clemens de Olde, Ann Pisman, Hans Leinfelder

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS046

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Public space in Kuwait: a realm of physical and social negotiations**

Alexandra Gomes

Kuwait's sprawling urbanisation patterns are leading to higher levels of motorisation with a negative impact on individual health and the environment. As a consequence, re-evaluating urban development mechanisms becomes vital. This research addresses the need for significant change in planning urban public spaces, which if addressed, would then help promote individual behaviour which is environmental, social and health conscious.

With the World Health Organization appealing for an increase in physical activity of individuals, this project will explore the impact that neighbourhood layout and urban design elements have on outdoor activities and individual behaviour. It aims to examine the variables that generate a liveable and successful public space and propose methods to integrate these results into evidence-based policymaking, for more sustainable urban development in Kuwait. Two neighbourhoods in Kuwait will be explored to define the tools that would promote the necessary change.

Specifically, knowledge gaps in the field of public space in Kuwait will be addressed. These include observation of public space descriptors and spatial practices. This social dimension of the investigation explores the micro scale of public space appropriation: as modes of resistance, submission or compliance. It also explores on the macro scale, where structural indicators might trigger more complex modes of urban negotiations.

### **Commercial polarities in the informal suburbs of Constantine (Algeria). Conflicts and synergies of stakeholders**

Maroua Yeddiou

Cities in the developing world are enrolled, with their specificity, in the general movement of metropolization engaged since the last decades of the 20th century. Their suburbs are henceforth places of major changes (Chaléard 2014). In Constantine, the third biggest city in Algeria, Capital of the East and regional metropolis, the sprawling suburbs are characterized by informal settlements which are in a gradual polarization through the development of commercial concentrations. These concentrations are initiated by the actions of private actors: commerce workers, land and property owners.

In this contribution, we focus on the synergistic and conflictual interplays, between private actors and public institutions, at stake in producing and polarizing Constantine suburbs. We want to highlight two points: the first is the share of the private actors in the spatio-functional shaping of these spaces; the second is the inconsistencies of public institutions in dealing with them and the shortcomings of the urban policies they are relying on.

For that, we analyze the city informal sprawling process, as well as the commercial polarities developed in these areas, via remote sensing and field surveys. Following this, through the results of our qualitative survey carried on the case study of the south-eastern suburb of the city, we analyze private actors' strategies to override regulations and their ability to capitalize spatial opportunities, as well as the impact of the sectorization of public urban decisions without coordination between decision-making bodies.

### **Mobile otherwise: the possibilities offered by an exploded urban realm for changes in transport behavior**

Ian Kuppens, Nadia Casabella

Interdependencies between urbanization and transport have been widely examined in urban studies and spatial planning. One of the most comprehensive summaries is the so-called transport land-use feedback cycle.<sup>1</sup> The cycle conceptualizes the reciprocity between transport infrastructure networks, accessibility, land use and travel behavior, and outlines the variety of exogenous factors which influence the cycle's performance. It also questions the strong correlation between changes in the mobility infrastructure with changes in the urbanization style. Even if the provision of transport infrastructure has indeed a stable effect on urbanisation, once a degree of 'saturation' in terms of accessibility and land uses is reached, the strength of this determinant diminishes while the significance of travel behavior increases. Not because we get nicer streets more people will jump on their bikes. We need to better understand which rationality is at play when making transport choices: What kind of mobility alternatives exist today? Which governance arrangements

sustain them? This paper will focus on the research conducted in Merelbeke, a municipality situated within the Gent Metropolitan Transport Region, whose spatial organization can be considered representative of 'the notoriously anti-urban legacy of sprawl that has shaped the Flemish region'.<sup>2</sup> The paper will point at the need to look systemically at the way we organize our mobility. It will show that there is no urban form that would be better suited to stimulate a transport shift towards more sustainable forms (among them, immobility) but rather partial arrangements that seem convenient enough to be embraced widely.

### **Co-exploring existing and emergent 'dwelling patterns' in Flemish suburbs: From communities in need of transition towards communities with potential for change.**

Teresa Palmieri, Oswald Devisch

In Flanders, low-density, suburban developments are increasingly criticized for being unsustainable. Yet, a single-family house in a green and quiet residential subdivision is still the preferred way of living for a large part of dwellers. Spatial practitioners engage with the issue by articulating strategies which regard residential subdivisions as environments in need of transition. In this situation, residents often react to upcoming transformations with a not in my backyard attitude, protesting against change (De Decker, 2008; Bervoets and Heynen 2013; Van de Weijer, 2014).

In this paper, we present our attempt to question the gap made of struggles and tensions between institutional visions on one side and inhabitants' ambitions on the other by articulating and problematizing residential subdivisions from a dwelling perspective (Ingold, 2000). In a three years action research, we have explored these environments by focussing on inhabitants' capacities of improvising with the materiality of their dwelling environments to deal with everyday contingencies and of imagining how things could be different to move forward in their lives (Ingold, 2000). We show how we have done this by collaborating with inhabitants to discover, make tangible and public existing and emergent dwelling patterns through collective prototyping (Brandt et al. 2013). We conclude by presenting how, exploring residential subdivisions from the vantage point of dwelling patterns has supported us as design researchers to challenge residential subdivisions as "hard to change" urban settings (Bervoets and Heynen 2013) and open up spaces that allowed to renegotiate these settings collectively by discovering potentials for change.

## **S19 | Housing Evictions: Hidden expressions of extreme housing precarity**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eva Swyngedouw

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS028

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Revisiting displacement and housing precarity in post-crisis Athens**

Myrto Dagkouli Kyriakoglou, Georgia Alexandri

In Greece, ten years of austerity have created grave pressures on a settled homeownership society. However, as property ownership can now hardly be maintained by indebted middle classes and lower strata, renting is better appreciated (both as investment or housing option). Nonetheless, tenancy is challenged by a rapid expansion of short-term rentals managed chiefly by the Airbnb platform thus the capture of property ownership by international investors leading to evictions and displacement. This research is based on qualitative action research aiming at capturing feelings caused by displacement and local perceptions of post crisis neighbourhood reshuffling. Participatory mapping workshops with affected by rent activists and local households in the inner city of Athens and qualitative in-depth interviews shed light on how new rounds of dispossession are identified, discussed, communicated and challenged. While touristic gentrification or touristification are considered the main causes of displacement, the need to establish housing rights is put forward by rallies and activist platforms. However, when talking to rent-affected, the right to stay put is outstripped by the rapid change in rent prices and land uses. Hence, moving on is often considered as preferable instead of living in a place that can no longer be recognised. Homes are being financialised and displacement gets naturalised, while cities come to accommodate the insatiable needs of the powerful. Whereas this poses new queries over the future forms of cities and citizenship, the need to address socio-spatial justice is of pertinent nature.

### **Evictions and displacement anxiety: logics of expulsion among London's housing precariat**

Paul Watt

This paper offers an empirically-grounded, sociological reworking of Saskia Sassen's (2014) 'logics of expulsion' with reference to the housing histories of homeless people in London. It identifies six distinctive logics of expulsion and analyses

their effects on London's growing homeless population who form a nomadic housing precariat. The paper draws upon in-depth qualitative research on evictions and displacement undertaken with residents of temporary accommodation at five locales in and around London. Three of these locales are public housing estates undergoing regeneration involving demolition. The fourth is post 2012 Olympic Games' East London, while the fifth locale is Welwyn Garden City, a town outside London and specifically a block of flats which is temporarily housing Londoners who have been displaced from the city. The paper highlights and illustrates the concept of 'displacement anxiety' which refers to the feelings of dread and ontological insecurity that potential displacees have once they have been told their home will be demolished or when they are given notice to quit. The expulsory logics have emerged and intensified under decades' long neoliberal policies coupled with short-term austerity cuts. The result is parallel processes of housing precarity to the employment precarity that Wacquant (2008) has identified. It's not only that London's urban precariat experiences insecure wage labour – its members also live nomadic lives propelled by routine evictions and displacement. As the paper shows, this housing precarity falls heaviest on the city's most marginalized populations – Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, youth, and female lone parents.

### **Generation Rent and Housing Precarity in 'Post Crisis' Ireland**

Richard Waldron

A remarkable outcome of the 2008 financial crisis has been the rapid decline in homeownership across a number of developed societies and the concomitant growth of an increasingly unaffordable and insecure private rental sector. While a burgeoning literature examines the economic, social and political conditions shaping this transformation and the growth of the rental sector as an investment class, less attention has focused on the extent and nature of the precarities experienced by households within 'Generation Rent.' This paper relates processes at work in the literature on generation rent with more recent work on housing precarity, understood here as a state of uncertainty arising from the experience of insecure, unaffordable, poor quality and inaccessible housing. The article develops and applies a Housing Precarity Index (HPI) to data on private renters in Ireland, using objective and subjective indicators from the EU-Survey on Incomes and Living Conditions. This provides a nuanced account of the extent and severity of precarities and living conditions in the Irish rental sector among differing sub-groups during a housing crash, economic recession and dubious "recovery" period (2008 - 2016). The HPI enables an assessment not only of current conditions for renters, but also identifies the key drivers of housing precarity and assesses how such precarities might contribute to further declining living standards among renters into the future.

## **SI | (Dis)Cohesion as sense of urbanity**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Peter Dirksmeier, Angelina Göb

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS001

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Sensing the city's entanglements of cohesion and (dis)cohesion**

Cara Mazetti Claassen

This paper responds to the schism in urban scholarship between readings of the city as a place of connection and cohesion, and readings of the city as a place of alienation and (dis)cohesion. On the side of cohesion, are scholars who write about the 'good city' and its capacity for belonging, integration, solidarity and sharing. These writings often reflect on practices of encounter, conviviality and cosmopolitanism. Conversely, on the side of (dis)cohesion, are scholars who write about cities' capacity for isolation, exclusion, prejudice and fear, reflecting on occurrences of gated communities, xenophobic violence, anti-migrant sentiments, gentrification and racial segregation. In response, however, this paper argues for a reading of the city as simultaneously a place of cohesion and (dis)cohesion where this co-existence of connection and alienation, hope and trouble, is sensed and written as a fluid, constantly in flux, and generative entanglement of urban experience. This is a sensing of the city which pays attention to the everyday ways in which residents negotiate the proximity of difference offered by cities and fluctuate between practices of cohesion and (dis)cohesion. In addition to reflecting on the literatures either side of the connection-alienation schism, this paper invokes the theoretical frameworks of entanglement, relationality and creolisation to think about the modern city not as a fixed container for singular experiences, but as an inherently ambivalent, and relational space, always occupied with the process of becoming. This argument is illustrated by drawing on empirical findings from fieldwork conducted with residents in Cape Town, South Africa.

### **Social (dis)cohesion?! Investigating housing solutions for homeless in Berlin**

Agnes Katharina Müller

Homelessness indicates the failure of social cohesion in society, as there are only few measures to prevent people from losing their homes or to help them out of homelessness, although the right to housing is among the laws of many constitutions. The increasing numbers of homeless people in cities all over the world, represent a global phenomenon of an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor. Homeless people in cities are diverse and have multicultural backgrounds, just like the rest of urban society. But there has not been investigated yet, how the diversity within the marginalized group requires different solutions.

Consequently, in this paper the following questions will be answered by analyzing literature, questionnaires and qualitative interviews with experts and affected persons using the city of Berlin as an example:

What needs and dreams do homeless people from different nationality/age/gender have concerning a living in the city? In what way are the different demands of the group already considered in currently existing housing projects (e.g. "housing first") and how can these be evaluated as a contribution to social cohesion within the group and the whole society?

The focus in this article is explicitly limited to investigate the question of housing, although health and work are equally important aspects in the lives of homeless. The article aims to give a deeper insight into needs and existing options of housing solutions for the homeless in respect to their diverse backgrounds and discuss its outcome within the social cohesion debate.

### **(Dis)claiming social cohesion initiatives through a multi-sited research approach?**

Malte Höfner, Rivka Saltiel

'Social cohesion' is an increasingly used term within local national and European policy-discourses. A growing range of initiatives follow this dispositive, (c)aiming to enhance social cohesion through organizing communal activities in urban open spaces. Discussing how these activities are socially and spatially embedded in the urban fabric, we draw on two different initiatives in Graz (AUT), organizing interaction and encounters among strangers (a) in a central public park and (b) in a newly privately developed neighborhood in the outskirts of the city.

While empirical research often risks being biased, reproducing 'bubbles', solely studying actors that do participate in the communal activities, this paper experiments with a multi-perspective methodological approach that seeks to explore a wider picture. We want to know how these communal activities are perceived by both: the actors who do as well as those who do not take part. Being present ourselves in these commonly shared urban spaces, we analyse (also our) encounters in 'situational places'. We further elaborate on what kind of encounters emerge between those in- and those outside the activities. Repeatedly taking up different standpoints (in positionality & locality) of inter- and trans-action with and between the multiple actors, this inside-outside-ratio will also be adopted to our research methodology through two different ways of collecting data - participatory and non-participatory.

Complementing the research with qualitative interviews (initiators and (non-)participants) we seek to understand how 'social cohesion' is contextualized, interpreted to further discuss its implications on togetherness and/or divide in the local public life.

## **S81 | Peak Conviviality? Making Trouble With/For Convivialities Research**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Mervyn Horgan

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS118

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Thrown together and pulled apart? Futures, pasts, and publics in a changing neighbourhood**

Lise Mahieus, Eugene McCann

Focusing on Jan Gehl, a Danish architect, and Gehl Architects, the international practice he co-founded, this paper explores the role of research methods in the generation of evidence but also in the production of credibility and legitimacy in the work of urban policy consultants. Gehl's clients include cities of various sizes across the world. He and his partners advise their clients on how to implement a model (or brand) of public space design based on the notion of people-centredness, represented by the motto, "first life, then space and finally buildings." Gehl's narrative of himself as a long-committed devotee of straightforward observational methods in public spaces – notetaking, counting – and the firm's self-definition as "social scientists and architects" positions what they call "architectural ethnography" at the centre of their approach. We argue, that Gehl's carefully created image as a 'method man' is a key element of the product the firm sells and an important force in its circulation among cities. The methodological orientation gives the firm a distinctiveness and gravitas.

It positions Gehl as a credentialed, experienced, and methodical expert, a serious force of change. In developing this argument, we will discuss: (a) the character, construction, and reference points of Gehl's approach to public space design; (b) Gehl's approach to measuring and evaluating 'public life' in the spaces the practice seeks to redesign; and (c) the specific persuasive and seductive roles methods and research results play in Gehl's creation of a global market for its model of public space design.

### **Deromanticising integration: On the importance of convivial disintegration**

Fran Meissner, Tilmann Heil

In light of current experiences with migration-driven diversification, is it still conducive to think about the effects of international migration by advocating for immigrant integration? How is urban diversity in tune with this idea? This article argues that there are key problems with European uses of immigrant integration logics that cannot be resolved through redefinitions or reappropriations of the term. Even highly refined notions of immigrant integration misconstrue the role and relevance of differences in urban diversity dynamics. Immigrant integration further risks concealing and perpetuating power dynamics and (colonial) hierarchies. These continue to shape the social relevance of differences. Analytically thinking about superdiversity directs us to paying more attention to disintegration, a notion that cannot be reduced and measured by way of individual or group performance. To be able to usefully engage with disintegration, we argue that it needs to be divorced from ideas about social fragmentation and social collapse. To do this, we draw on recent developments in the literature on conviviality and on empirical research working and developing the idea of conviviality to emphasise the relational practices, power asymmetries, and materialities that enter into negotiations of difference. Convivial disintegration aptly addresses continuously reconfiguring and uncertain social environments. Our article thus provides a deromanticised and enabling provocation for easing integration anxieties.

### **Conviviality scaled-up or sold out? Playful and performative invitations in contemporary London**

Conor Moloney

London may exemplify the contemporary 'superdiverse' metropolis (Vertovec 2007), but Londoners are notoriously expert in the 'rituals of civil inattention' (Goffman 1963). Perhaps it is no coincidence that much of the scholarship on urban conviviality emerges from elsewhere: the 'lived multiculturalism' of Milton Keynes (Neal et al 2013), the 'soft solidarity' of strangership in the Golden Horseshoe (Horgan 2012), or the local 'micro-cosmopolitanism' of downtown Montreal (Radice 2015). London's characteristic 'civility towards diversity' suggests a quite restrained expression of grassroots conviviality (Wessendorf 2014), but there is considerable evidence for Londoner's decidedly enthusiastic engagement in modes of conviviality that are facilitated in more formal terms, top-down. Thinking institutionally, local councils support the active 'domestication' of public spaces (Koch & Latham 2012) and galleries increasingly host relational art practices (Harvie 2011). Thinking digitally, new platforms mediate the 'stranger sharing' of dining clubs (Koch 2019) and the 'stranger intimacy' of sexual encounter (Koch & Miles, forthcoming). Thinking commercially, off-pitch real estate is rebranded by 'pop-up' gastronomy (Harvie 2013), urban games (Montola, Stenros & Waern 2009) and immersive theatre (White 2013). Yet while the ubiquity of such facilitated convivialities is evidence of their popular appeal to Londoners, one might be sceptical of their success in scaling-up the conviviality of social relations beyond their boundaries (Valentine 2008). Furthermore, the imbrication of such playful and performative invitations with the flourishing 'experience economy' (Pine & Gilmore 1999) merits more critical attention to the 'artificial hells' of play into which citizens might be sold (Bishop 2012).

### **Sociable solidarity and urban public spaces: exploring convivial affordances in two Canadian cities**

Saara Liinamaa

This paper presents systematic observations of urban public leisure spaces—skating rinks, playgrounds and parks—in two cities in Southern Ontario, Canada. Despite the 'convivial turn' (Neal et al 2014) in studies of urban life, analysis of convivial encounters between strangers in Canadian everyday urban lifeworlds is relatively underdeveloped, with some notable exceptions (Germaine 2013; Radice 2014; 2016). In line with recent research that connects convivial interactions between strangers to quality of life, place-making, and collective belonging (Neal et al 2013; Oosterlynck et al 2017; 2016; Vigneswaran 2014; Wise & Velayutham 2009; 2014), this paper examines types and characteristics of convivial public leisure settings. Drawing on the concept of 'affordances of conviviality' (Wise & Noble 2016), I develop three basic analytic categories of convivial affordance: material, interaction-based and activity-based. I will argue that while convivial encounters between strangers may be fleeting, their temporariness does not undermine their potential for producing and strengthening a generalized sense of solidarity between strangers in cities. To conclude, this paper will theorize the limits and perils of sociable solidarity in public spaces.

## S24 | Sensing Urban Violence, Conflict and Insecurity

**Session Organiser(s)** | Rivke Jaffe, Alana Osbourne

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS038

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **A reconceptualization of the relationship between residential segregation and women's safety through the use of walking interviews**

Anna Yates

This paper considers the relationship between women's fear of crime and residential segregation in Husby, Stockholm . Using multi-sensory walking interviews, I found that local women report a low fear of crime in Husby whereas women living in other neighbourhoods report a high fear of crime in Husby. These are respectively referred to as the 'insider' and 'outsider' perspective due to a marked spatial division present in their perception of safety.

Existing literatures have provided a useful insight into the context and causes of segregation that have contributed to the emergence of said insider/outsider perspective. However, their traditional conception neglects the pivotal components of the segregation process: the immaterial and symbolic aspects of residential segregation and its dynamic processes (Andersson and Mollina, 2003; Lundstrom, 2010). Instead, I use Lundstrom's (2010) alternative conceptualisation to highlight the dynamism within and between segregated spaces in the form of daily travel and transgressed borders which in this context, through the actual process of walking interviews, leads to the ongoing reproduction of the 'insider'/'outsider' perspective. Using an intersectional framework, I subsequently explore the ways in which women's fears and the social construction of the 'racial other' redraws and reproduce said boundaries. In order to do this, I will discuss the ways in which this process is shaped by a range of sensory encounters with human and non-human actors and agencies, including the media, politics, and the physical urban environment.

### **Affective Mobilizations: Policing Young Lower-Class Male Bodies in Urban Morocco**

Cristiana Strava

In the spring of 2014, a large and unprecedented wave of police raids swept every lower-class neighborhood across Morocco, summarily detaining young men supposedly associated with a growing 'gang culture' popularised via viral 'selfie'-photography, and gave them disciplinary haircuts in custody. How was it that an apparent youth fad triggered not only an intense moral panic but also a sweeping police operation? What role did the viral selfies play in mediating fears of the 'violent other'?

The paper draws on a combination of emplaced and online-ethnography gathered through sixteen months of fieldwork between 2013-2014 (& shorter visits 2016-2018) in and around Hay Mohammadi, a marginalized and criminalized area of Casablanca. I ground my analysis in the rich theoretical apparatus of the 'affective turn' (Ahmed 2004, Berlant 2011) to make sense of the intensely emotional responses elicited by the visibility of a perceived violent 'other', and the wider urban context in which both are embedded. As Brian Massumi points out, by paying attention to how a "felt reality of threat legitimates preemptive action" we can begin to elucidate how actual facts become superseded by "affective facts of fear" (2010: 54).

In Morocco, as elsewhere, the expansion and entrenchment of urban inequality has been accompanied by a proliferation of such 'affective facts' across socio-economic classes. My paper will consider the interplay between physical and online spaces, and the voices responsible for these 'affective mobilizations' around insecurity, framing the discussion against the backdrop of neoliberalization and militarization of urban space in North Africa.

### **New residential districts of Moscow: sensory ordering and hopes for safe smellscape**

Ekaterina Shishova

Moscow, as a metropolis, is growing and, as a result, here new residential districts of mass affordable housing are developed. These areas frequently have a number of problems connected to infrastructure breakings and unpleasant sensory experiences (noises, smells, visual images). As a consequence, these districts are not prepared for dwellers' life and provoke a sense of insecurity and despair.

The report will focus on the residential life of one of the new districts of Moscow (Nekrasovka) located on an environmentally disadvantaged territory. It is mass affordable housing situated far from the city center. The district suffers from bad smells because there are illegal garbage dumps and incinerator fabric.

The new residents relocate here because of low housing prices, closeness to the subway, and comfortable housing. The most part of dwellers talk about the bad smells, and concerns for their own health and a health of their children, but

nevertheless they are not going to leave this district because of advantages listed above. Instead they take different actions to change the local smellscape and to make their residence secure.

In the report, based on the concept of sensory ordering I am going to demonstrate how the residents of Nekrasovka form the satisfactory smellscape of their district and make it safe by «sensory patrolling» (practices of video and photo fixing of bad smells from garbage dumps and incinerator fabric) and «microordering» (practices of olfactory landscape control on a local level, namely monitoring, displacement and indirect forms of communications).

## **S25 | Fuzzy boundary making – from social practices to (urban) spatial practices**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Anna Steigemann, Nihad El-Kayed, Christian Haid

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS039

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Democratic participation improvised: contested moral spaces and State/society boundary work in a Brazilian slum**

Lorena Volpini

Brazilian slums are frequently depicted as ungoverned or stateless spaces. The idea of a (social) space where the state is absent underpins moral representations shaping public consensus towards law enforcement measures and even authoritarian governmental action, such as militarization through “pacification” police models. The same idea of state absence also supports right claiming practices that, by relying on notions of social contract, aim at overcoming situations of state abandonment. In both cases, the reciprocal exteriority of the state and society is implied.

In this paper, I discuss ethnographic data gathered through extensive fieldwork (2014-2016) in peripheral neighbourhoods in Salvador (Brazil). I analyse the negotiations between the state and local grassroots organizations about the implementation of a community policing unit, worked along an improvised participatory arrangement. By focusing the boundary work practiced by neighbourhood leaders in interaction with state officers, the ethnography highlights brokerage practices. While mediating between different worlds (the governmental technicians and slum dwellers world) community leaders co-produce the city by negotiating representations and by shaping moral perceptions of the neighbourhood space.

### **Urban gray space and uneven citizenship: Everyday politics of street vendors in Dhaka and Manila**

Redento Recio, Dr Lutfun Nahar Lata

Millions of urban poor in global South cities rely on street vending to earn a living. Often, these hawkers suffer from harassment and evictions resulting from hostile state policies. Some have long inhabited contested streets with high pedestrian flows through informal agreements with street-level bureaucrats. In this paper, we examine the informal vendors’ everyday politics and engagements with state players in Dhaka and Manila. Our goal is not to compare and contrast the conditions in these two cities, but, rather to undertake a cross-case analysis where the realities and relations of one context can enrich our understanding of the other. Drawing on conceptual insights from sociology and urban studies and qualitative empirical evidence, we argue that street vendor politics in both cities is embedded in how hawkers navigate urban gray space – an everyday relationship that has emerged from partial (often seasonal and selective) state recognition of vendors’ presence in contested streetscapes. When linked to the broader question of urban citizenship and governance, this politics of engagement reinforces fragmented urbanity and uneven citizenship, in which informal vendors differentially relate with state actors in their desire for political recognition and struggle for a right to dignified livelihoods in deeply unequal cities.

### **Liquid boundaries of urban living spaces – how informal practices of urban water access reshape material and symbolic configurations of citizenship and the city in Antofagasta, Chile**

Melissa Bayer

The conceptualization of cities as clearly demarcated and concrete spaces collides with the

reality of various spontaneous and porous urbanization processes. This applies in particular to the formation of modern cities in Latin America, which not only follows the logic of the market and the state, but also the logic of necessity. The latter fuels processes of individual and collective land acquisition, auto-construction and auto-urbanization, contributing to the

emergence of so-called informal settlements (Abramo 2012). This presentation takes a closer look at the informal settlements of the city of Antofagasta, Chile: While these settlements are predominantly located within the municipal boundary, they are at the same time situated on state-owned territory that is classified as uninhabitable. For the more than 16.000 habitants, this entails living in unsecured tenure situations that lack basic service provision – with water access being the residents' main concern. Borrowing concepts of Urban Political Ecology and Citizenship Studies, as well as drawing on extensive qualitative fieldwork, this contribution sheds light on how the settlements' residents employ different hydro-social practices of alternative water acquisition, and how government agencies respond to these practices. By taking into account both the material and the symbolic logics underlying these hydro-social practices of water access, this contribution aims to show (1) how the residents of Antofagasta's informal settlements disrupt existing demarcated and material boundaries by extending the water network beyond its current limits, and (2) how social representations and logics of what constitutes the city and its citizens are thereby called into question.

### **The Reaffirmation of Boundary through its Dissolution: Shinto Shrine Festivals in Contemporary Suburban Tokyo**

Fung Wan Yin Kimberly

Shinto Shrines are at the same time bound and fuzzy. They each represent a demarcated guardian district, yet their visitors often not reside at the designated areas. They acted as part of the state apparatus to mobilize people during wartime but lost its formal position when state support was terminated shortly after the end of World War II. Nonetheless, shrine festivals had revived in suburb Tokyo during the 1970s when its population surged because of internal migration. The boundaries of native residents and newcomers have been redrawn. Boundaries between formal and informal, non-religion and religion are also contested, as shrine festivals involve funding decisions and institutional support from local administration and semi-official residential associations.

This article analyses how these social and symbolic boundary work shape and being shaped by spatial boundaries, via one central research question: how are boundaries of guardian districts maintained and regenerated amid drastic demographic and political changes in contemporary suburban Tokyo?

This article ethnographically analyzes two shrine festivals in Kodaira-city. Data are also collected by semi-structured interviews and first-hand historical records, covering six shrines, three mikoshi-parade groups and one city-sponsored Hayashi performance group. Shrine festivals strengthen spatial boundaries through mikoshi-parade as well as gathering at nearby izakayas in exchange for donation. At the same time, the very success of the festivals relies on the active participation of outsiders who destabilize the boundaries. The analysis discusses the modes of spatial production involves in this paradoxical process of the making of porous boundary: its reaffirmation through its dissolution.

### **Fuzzy boundaries and clear obstacles: architecture and self-organization in Meulenberg**

Roel De Ridder

This paper looks into the neighborhood of Meulenberg, a former mining agglomeration, from an architectural theoretical point of view. Meulenberg, part of the municipality of Houthalen-Helchteren (Flanders, Belgium), has lots of (fuzzy) boundaries. It is super-diverse, and, however small, it has boundaries between religious groups, between tenants and house owners, ... The strikingly hard spatial borders – one street in particular - are in stark contrast to the trans-local networks that, on a symbolic and/or cultural level, seem to dominate local behavior.

Apart from socio-spatial isolation – but probably not unrelated - Meulenberg is being challenged by insufficient housing, unemployment and a lack of social mobility. At the same time, two schools, an interreligious center, the cultural center, organized community work and other instances are bridging social and spatial gaps.

In contemporary architecture theory, however, physical borders and obstacles (as in structures that resist the commodification of space) are being linked to democracy and autonomy – 'autonomy' in the artistic-architectural sense, as well as in the sense of self-organization.

Are borders and 'obstacles' enhancing or obstructing self-organization in Meulenberg? Is the production of space related to the many boundaries? How? This paper seeks to investigate – via interviews (many of which already were conducted) and literature - how borders, obstacles and the notions of democracy and autonomy interact. It will focus on the architectural, how this relates to the societal specificities of Meulenberg, and how architecture can be 'propelling' (or not) with regards to the challenges Meulenberg is confronted with.

## **S16 | Rent-seeking: the new game in town. The legacy of Anne Haila (1953-2019)**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marisol Garcia, Barbara Pizzo, Serena Vicari Haddock

**Track** | Urban production and reproduction

Code | PSO26

Room 17 | The bourse of Antwerp

Time slot | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Thai Buddhist Temples, Urban Land as the Commons, and the Market**

Chaitawat Boonjubun, Jani Vuolteenaho, Anne Haila

The media has its powerful role in promoting the propertized class and this needs further investigation. How land and property are treated has changed through history: from being the commons to commodities and financial assets, as argued by Haila (2016). In this, the media justifies speculation through storytelling connecting stories with growth, finance, and employment (Haila, 2016; 2017). Nevertheless, studies on this role of the media are rare. Based on the concepts of 'property lobby' (Haila, 2016) and 'property mind' (Haila, 2017), this paper analyses how the media framed the meanings of land and examines how the media understood the treatment of land through history. Drawing on 0.17 million editorials of seven Korean newspapers, particularly on the issues of land, housing and properties, over the course of 30 years (from 1990 to 2019), this study uses Latent Dirichlet Allocation in analyzing the data. The results demonstrate that the media has continued its vital role in framing land monopoly, propertized class, and private land tenure system in South Korea.

### **The role of land in urban production in the southern sector of Ribeirão Preto, Brazil**

Déborá Prado Zamboni, Rosana Denaldi, Beatriz Miotto

This research addresses a real estate production in the South Sector of the city of Ribeirão Preto, state of São Paulo, Brazil. In line with Anne Haila, evaluated in institutions, actors, in forms of land ownership and in social relations in which the land is inserted. Thus, the objective of this research was to analyze a land, a group of land and explain the processes of urban development. For analysis, three perspectives are used, constructed from bibliographic research, collection of empirical data and interviews. The first deals with the importance of local market capital in explaining the processes of appropriation of the territory; the second, influenced by the regulatory political economy, analyzes the legislation on land parceling and the transformation of rural land into urban land; and in the third, focus on the housing provision structure considering the relationships between agents, especially the founding owner, real estate developer and State. It appears that the production of closed residential spaces (subdivisions, especially) in the Southern Sector of the municipality responds, mainly, to the logic of local capitals and locations and their relationship with the State than to the processes connected to the penetration of financial capital in the expansion financial city.

### **Discussing post-crisis housing dynamics in Barcelona with Anne Haila's insights**

Georgia Alexandri, Michael Janoschka

Anne Haila structured her analysis on rent as a perpetual social problem in capitalist spatial relations. She also shrewdly demonstrated the usefulness of studying local circumstances to distinguish forms of rent. From this standpoint, this paper tackles with the post-crisis housing condition in the city of Barcelona utilising the analytical tools generously offered by Anne Haila. Deriving research from 25 interviews with housing experts, real estate agents and financial investors, the query to be chiefly addressed is related to the determinants of housing rents. Besides neoclassical arguments -repeated like mantra in most interviews- that high rents in Barcelona are due to limited offer and drastically rising demand, this research will offer a distinct reading, echoing Haila's insights. Rent, can only be monopoly rent due to exclusive ownership of assets and land. In Barcelona rents are high, not solely because land is expensive, but because rent seeking financial activities boost local greed. More precisely, rents determined by REITs as new financial actors are surpassed by rents imposed in the market by individual landlords. Such speculative attitudes that perceive housing exclusively as an asset with merely exchange uses, also relate to power relations and social control chiefly exercised in negotiations with the civil society and the local government. While financial greed harms the urban through ongoing displacements, evictions and land use changes in the city scene; it is worthy to consider rent as the key theoretical construction able to reverse the evils posed by speculative activities.

### **From "rent gap" to "commodification gap": Socializing and Spatializing ground rent in the context of gentrification**

Matthias Bernt

The "rent-gap"-thesis formulated by Neil Smith in 1979 is one of the best-known, if not the best-known theoretical argument about gentrification. It is "a synthetic conceptual tool which has been a consistent application of rent theory at the urban level" (Ward and Aalbers 2016: 17). While this application proved its value for research in multiple occasions, it also reveals the difficulties of bringing together space, society and the economy which have plagued rent theory since its beginnings. The presentation focuses on these difficulties and provides suggestions for future research. I proceed in two steps: First, I will identify three interrelated limits of the "rent-gap"-theory. I focus on the implications of a "nomothetic" conceptualization of land rent, the limitations of a one-directional understanding of property as "control", and the actual conditions for the realization of rent increases and the role of the state in this.

On this basis, I introduce the concept of a “commodification gap”. I define the “commodification-gap” as the disparity between the potential ground rent level which can be achieved for a piece of land when it is fully commodified and the actual ground rent capitalized under de-commodified or partly de-commodified conditions. I claim that this concept can be used in tandem with the “rent gap” and benefit an empirical research which embeds the operation of capital into the societal and institutional environment in which it takes place.

### **Planting housing: Urban villagers as developers in Northeast China**

Sa Haoxuan, Anne Haila

The commodification of housing is well-known, but how ‘urban villagers’ develop a ‘property mind’ is poorly understood. Yet, this question, located at the heart of property rights theory, is significant and timely because it is central not only to housing policy but also to housing theory in increasingly urbanized societies. That is evidently the riddle Chinese urbanization poses. There, to meet the increased demand for land that has been created by urbanization, local authorities have requisitioned rural land owned by villagers. Based on fieldwork from 2015 to 2017, this article seeks to answer the questions, how the villagers understood their new calling as developers, how and why the villagers were gradually driven deeper into the real estate game, and how old institutions and Chinese culture helped the villagers to embrace their new role. We find that the villagers who have managed to avoid the state-led requisition have found new uses for their land, which in urban areas can no longer be used for farming. In Northeast China, unlike in the southern cities, there was no foreign investment and the population was in decline. Nevertheless, the villagers developed housing, first for their own use and then for the market. The article shows that the commodification of housing is not natural, but naturalised, the ‘property mind’ develops as a social construct.

## **S3 | Methods for understanding place-based urban communities as embodied experience and practice**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Alasdair Jones, Zachary Neal

**Track** | Urban Methods

**Code** | PS006

**Room 18** | Entrance Road Turnhoutsebaan

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Dancewalks: A case of alternative methods in urban planning**

Anna Asplind

Dancewalks is a site-specific contemporary sound and dance performance created and performed in urban spaces. This qualitative case study investigates the outcome of one Dancewalks performed in Malmö in which 30 architects and urban planners participated. The theoretical framework is within Non Representative theory and theories about human interaction in space. The method used in this study is a triangulation of observation, focus groups and non structured interviews. Dancewalks is in itself a performance, which has an impact on the study and therefore the research process. The study concludes that Dancewalks has an influence on; the way the participants interact with space, the participants’ perception of space, their perception of spaces’ impact on them and their awareness of movement patterns. The study also concludes that Dancewalks could be used as a method for urban planning such as collaborative planning, internal and external communication and as a tool to better understand urban spaces.

### **The somatic landscape of urban multiculturalism. A participative artistic community methodology in Lisbon and Barcelona**

Ana María Moya Pellitero

This communication explores the communities’ embodied experience and performative cultural expressions in the everyday lived urban spaces of two multicultural historical neighbourhoods: Mouraria (Lisbon), and Raval (Barcelona). In both neighbourhoods exist a creative space of multicultural community participation stimulated by socio-cultural and artistic associations, and individual and collective initiatives, which have contributed, in the last ten years, to redefine the urban identity and the community sense of belonging. From 2017 to 2019, the researcher developed a community-based research in both case studies, using the methodological approach of pedagogic-artistic laboratories opened to the residents’ participation with the collaboration of public institutions and socio-cultural associations. Our four laboratories developed until now, were targeted to different generational groups. We included the fusion of artistic disciplines and languages and for that reason we counted with the collaboration of plastic, performative and audio-visual artists. Our focus was centred on the performance of the “body” in space, in a continuous weaving of behavioural patterns that speak of affections (Anderson and Harrison 2010), intensities and resonances linked to memory, with rhythmic, atmospheric, gestural qualities, of intimate isolation and collective participation (Yi-Fu Tuan 1977; Stewart 2007; Butler 2015). In our

participatory artistic activities there was a non-verbal communication defined by the sharing of sensory experiences, corporal interactions and patterns of experience, feelings and affects. As a result, we gave shape, through an artistic language, to the multicultural diversity of meaningful, perceived and experienced urban spaces which configure a universe of intangible somatic landscapes in both historical neighbourhoods.

### **Commoning an ideal future in the present: the case of Recyclart**

Jingjing LI, Ching Lin PANG

There is no easy resolution to imagine and to build alternative ways of experiencing urban life due to constraints in current neoliberal system. However, it is critical to identify and articulate credible practices in trying to actualising socially satisfying alternative modality in sensing the city. Commonism advocates values of sharing (space, time, knowledge, resources etc.), solidarity-based social cooperation, and common ownership (Dockx & Gielen 2018). Commoning foregrounds engaged actions to reshape the society. As an artistic and social center in Brussels, Recyclart's practices of commoning in underused and abandoned urban spaces is a case in experimenting an alternative future in the present. Situated at the intersection of bottom-up practices in generating sensory sociality (Hsu 2008) and top-down cultural strategies of the authority, Recyclart (re)shapes urban spaces through its various artistic and sensory practices including but not limited to live underground and pioneering music scenes; neighbourhood dancing, singing, jogging and story-reading; mixing, stirring, and kneading in making proper dough for bread and pizza baking workshop; the vibration of tattoo machine dragging across the skin; the excitement and anxiety of free open-air hair trimming. It is through these artistic and sensory activities which are liberated from market enclosure that rebuilds community life and brings people in dialogue with each other. This research is based on long-term ethnography and participant observation since 2015.

# THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

## 18:15-19:45 CEST

## ROUND TABLES

### **How does context matter? Segregation Research Revisited**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Matthias Bernt, Anne Volkmann, Agnieszka Ogradowczik

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | RT135

**Room 23** | Round Table room

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

Sonia Arbaci, Szymon Marcinczak, Javier Ruiz-Tagle, Julie Ren

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

### **S37 | Understanding refugees' home-making practices and housing pathways against the backdrop of the broader housing question of European cities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Viviana d'Auria, Luce Beeckmans

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS055

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **A more personal shelter? How citizens are hosting migrants in and around Brussels**

Robin Vandevordt

In August 2017 a rising number of migrants spent the night on the streets of Brussels, hoping to cross the Channel to England. In response, the Citizen Platform for the Support of Refugees launched a call among its volunteers to host the most vulnerable migrants into their homes, just for one night. Since then, the Platform's volunteers have hosted between 30 and 600 migrants nearly every single night. Drawing on ethnographic work, this chapter describes how the Platform has put in place a strikingly personal yet demanding form of shelter, and explores the social dynamics enabling it to survive. This is largely due, I argue, to three distinctively social dynamics: the affective encounters and personal bonds it establishes between hosts and guests; the vibrant virtual spaces through which volunteers are connected into a larger community; and the ambiguous relation it maintains with politics. Combined, these characteristics render the Platform a rather radical example of how civil humanitarians have responded to the arrival of forced migrants in Europe, either in lieu of, or in complement to the efforts of state actors and professional humanitarian actors.

### **The underestimated importance of homing for refugees.**

### **The problematic and interrupted housing pathways of refugees in Flanders (Belgium)**

Dirk Geldof, Luce Beeckmans

The paper uses a 'homing' lens to critically evaluate the housing trajectories of refugees in Flanders (Belgium) since the so-called 'refugee crisis' of 2015. It does so by reinterpreting and reintegrating four complementary research projects supervised by the authors on refugees' housing, both before and after recognition, this way uniquely combining a social and infrastructural perspective.

Housing pathways of refugees in Belgium are severely interrupted, mirroring a policy rupture. This rupture in the housing trajectories of refugees complicates the already difficult homing processes of refugees due to an (ideological) infrastructural precarity of the collective asylum centres during the procedure and the precarious housing conditions in which many refugees land after their recognition as a result of a lack of professional housing support. Additionally, the fact that both the infrastructure and the volunteer support is continually increased and decreased by the government, instead of building a permanent infrastructure for (temporary) accommodation and solidarity, contributes to the precarity.

As a conclusion the authors propose to approach the housing of refugees as part of the broader housing question of cities and close with some policy recommendations.

## **S89 | Social reproduction in hypercommodified homes**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eva Kuschinski, Leon Rosa Reichle

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS131

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **The Case of Airbnb in Berlin: Towards Anti-Social Reproduction?**

Rabea Berfelde

Critical urban scholarship about the impact of Airbnb on cities proliferates. It is researched as a prime example of how platform economies impact policymaking and urban planning (van Doorn 2019; Ferreri and Sanyal 2018) as well as how short-term rentals present novel forms to exploit the "rent gap", impact housing markets and fuel gentrification processes (Wachsmuth and Weisler 2018). My paper, however, takes a different perspective. Drawing on findings of field research around hosting through Airbnb in Berlin, in the first part I ask whether the motivation of individual people to temporarily rent out single rooms or their entire flat needs to be understood in relation to general "precarity" (Lorey 2015) accelerated by the "social reproductive contradictions" of contemporary financialized capitalism (Fraser 2017). Taking both the sphere of production and reproduction into account I advance a feminist conception of precarity. This enables me to understand insecure living conditions to follow not only from employment relations but also tenancies that become ever more insecure as a result of Berlin's contemporary housing crisis.

In the second part I interrogate the distinct meanings of "social reproduction" in cultural analysis. Althusser and Foucault theorized social reproduction - i.e. the endurance of the social relations of capitalist production - to be ensured through the subjectification of living labour (Althusser 2014; Foucault 2004). This perspective enables me to argue that Airbnb

facilitates entrepreneurial subjectification by offering an individualized and technological fix to precarity and to ask whether the platform thereby advances a model of antisocial reproduction.

### **Living in Commodified (Social) Housing: Values of Homeownership in Tension in Ciudad Verde (Soacha, Colombia)**

Adriana Hurtado-Tarazona

A growing corpus of literature analyses how the financialization of housing impacts the daily lives and subjective experiences of people in different regions. Outside the centers of global financial markets, these effects are less known, despite being sites of mass-produced, peripheral urbanization. Drawing from ethnographic fieldwork among residents of a privately developed social housing megaproject on the outskirts of Bogotá (Colombia), I show how living in commodified housing implies for residents having to negotiate contradictory values of homeownership. The tensions between house as homes and houses as a commodities permeate multiple aspects of resident's daily lives and dwelling practices, from decorating interiors in neutral styles to limiting their possibilities for sociability, consolidating infrastructures of care, and civic engagement. I conclude that residents embrace this restrictive way of living in commodified housing as one of the few alternatives for social mobility and inclusion available to urban households "growing out" of poverty and transiting from informal settlements into the middle-class, formal urbanizations of the neoliberal city.

### **Housing as infrastructure of care: Conceptualizing dwelling as critical urban infrastructure to understand the circulation of neglect in neoliberalized housing regimes from a critical-feminist perspective. The case of Frankfurt/Main Sossenheim, Germany.**

Tabea Latocha

This paper proposes the conceptualization of housing as infrastructure of care as an innovative feminist heuristic for understanding the circulation of neglect in neoliberalized welfare-regimes and for introducing an ethics of radical care into housing scholarship. In my contribution, I look at the processes leading to and articulations of precarization 'at the margins' of the city resulting from the inscription of neoliberal care ethics into the German housing system in the context of neoliberal welfare-state transformations and the marketization of (social) housing. The subject of my research are the everyday experiences of residents in a privatized post-war housing estate in the suburb Sossenheim; a neighborhood regarded as social hotspot in the periphery of Frankfurt/Main Germany. The analysis of housing 'at the margins' of the Global City shows that the 'neoliberal enclosure' of the home has restructured social relations in the neighborhood and led to increasing competition amongst residents for access to social benefits – dynamics exacerbated by COVID-19. The stigmatized estate-as-home emerges as both a place for collective resistance against the individualization of social risks, but also as place of regressive political subjectivation and social exclusion. This, I argue, leads to the spatio-temporal manifestation and everyday re-production of precariousness in the periphery of the entrepreneurial city. However, the findings point to a "broad stream of precarization" (Bourdieu 1998: 98) that flows through the housing system as a whole. It is in the often neglected suburbs of cities though, that these connections between precarization and punitive welfare reforms become tangible.

## **S58 | Selling Culture and Reshaping Urban Inequalities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Nicole Trujillo-Pagan

**Track** | Urban production & reproduction

**Code** | PS022

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **The Cooptation of Graffiti and Street Art: Introducing A Typology of Artists to the Gentrification Debates**

Shannon Morrissey

Over the past thirty years, urban scholars have identified artists as key players in gentrifying post-industrial cities like New York, Chicago, and Atlanta in the United States (e.g. Zukin 1982, Lloyd 2006). A central question left unanswered is that of the relationship between gentrification and various artist communities. How is it that public art is seen as bringing cohesion, identity, and resilience to communities, and yet the influx of artists is treated as a destabilizing force that threatens these very characteristics? This paper challenges the typical gentrification story by centering the perspective of artists. Current theories tend to reduce artists to one homogenous group and ignore the significant impact of various forms of street art on the gentrification process. This study includes archival and ethnographic research including in-depth interviews with artists, residents, and visitors to Krog Street Tunnel – a CSX underpass in Atlanta, Georgia that provides a rare confluence of artwork from graffiti writers, muralists, and sticker and poster artists alike. I argue an artists'

professional precarity and role in gentrification varies based on both: 1) the artist's type in relation to the world of public art, and 2) the artist's orientation to the broader fields of power and cultural production. What appear to be anti-gentrification campaigns targeting "gentrifying artists" may in fact be various artist communities competing for representation and the space to paint.

### **Legal Urban Images: the Analysis of Power Relations in Moscow Public Space**

Sivokhin Pavel

The current paper includes an analysis of legal urban images of Moscow and power relations in the process of their production. Using the term "power-geometry" proposed by Doreen Massey we researched the development of street image practices as a form of urban communication (Massey, 1992). The main goal of the paper was to understand how the composition of agents changed depending on the stages of development of relatively new artistic movements. The key feature of the research is its focus on the study of "legal" forms of street art, which are coordinated with the local authorities. This approach allowed us to determine how legal street images were perceived, regulated and used by the city governments in the urban beautification and aestheticization policy of urban public space. Analysis of legislative acts and semi-structured interviews with officials from the city government, cultural institutions, artists, and local residents were conducted to describe the development process of a cultural phenomenon from 2008 to 2020, identify the key agents and the ways of their interaction. The result of the study was the identification of the urban communication mechanisms through street images and the interconnection of this communication with large-scale urban processes. The influence of market processes, hosting of mega-events (FIFA World Cup 2018), the commercialization of the urban public space and the neoliberal city policies turned out to be decisive in the development of street art in Moscow.

### **Bushwick's Bohemia: Artist Networks, Race and Urban Revitalization**

Mario Hernandez

With the rise of creative industries in urban areas, bohemian art scenes have increasingly played a vital role in the revitalization of cities in the U.S. and around the globe. By concentrating in often blighted and stigmatized neighborhoods, bohemian enclaves offer the promise of a distinct form of tourism from that of more traditional travel destinations, through novelty experiences in what are often considered 'grittier' or 'authentic' areas of cities. Through a specific set of consumer tastes and lifestyle patterns, this paper examines how bohemian art scenes function as network hubs for artists and creative industries, while also fueling a global industry in tourism by providing alternative forms of orienting to and consuming the city, contributing to a neo-liberal growth machine.

## **S34 | The im|mobile city: methodologies, justice and right to mobility**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Karol Kurnicki, Cosmin Popan, Ragnhild Dahl Wikstrøm

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS054

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Narrative account of eyes on the street: stories of a traffic circle**

Alokeparna Sengupta

The paper presents findings from an ongoing study in Bulandshahr, India through the analysis of narrative accounts of those who inhabit the outer edges of a major traffic circle of the city. The peculiar oval geometry of the circle and the location of an important memorial within it, provide an opportunity for critical investigation of the interrelated production of the built and corresponding challenges in motorised traffic flows. Also visible is the condition of normative patterns of pedestrian and cyclist movement, due to absence of mode separation, as is common in many Indian cities.

Not only does the traffic circle foster intersections of paths, routes and stories of those who pause and stay along the outer edges, the rotary itself stands at an intersection of time and history. One could thus say that the outer edge of the circle is a representation of the everyday urban life in present and continuous state, while the inner edge plays a strong role in freezing time through the architecture of a memorial. The material form of the memorial and the geometry of the rotary provide interesting opportunities for the examination of the state's aspirations, anxieties and raises questions about prioritising of a particular aesthetic or safety of motorised and soft mobility flows.

The study documents and analyses what is being seen and narrated by the various people who work and pause around the traffic circle, such as traffic and civil police, shopkeepers, hawkers, pedestrians, rickshaw pullers and car users.

## **Public transport as mobile space of urban publicness**

Tauri Tuvikene

This paper explores public transport as public space. While mobile spaces are often seen as non-places, public transport has yet multiple characteristics that make it in various ways “public”. Public transport—following the different uses of the notion—is “public” as a collective or mass transport, or as urban commons. This paper explores the ways in which public transport is more than a simple tool to get people from place to place. Firstly, the paper proposes that public transport is about access characterised by different restrictions and possibilities for social groups. Secondly, the paper highlights that public transport is affective: it is dreamed for or it can be derided but its use can also generate various feelings and emotions. Thirdly, public transport is contentious, a source of politics in arguments for better services for the collective but also derided by those favouring car-mobilities, but finding also conflicts between public transport modes themselves or between the needs of buses and trams and those of pedestrians. In this paper, I build on the insights of an ongoing collaborative research project exploring public transport as public space in European cities (PUTSPACE). These insights are combined with research on imagined infrastructures in Tallinn, dealing with the case of tram line planned in a housing estate of Lasnamäe in 1970s but abandoned when the Soviet Union fell, with the intent of construction still re-emerging. This case shows narratives of access, dreams and imaginations, and contentious urban mobilities—that is, how public transport is public space.

## **(Im)mobilities within everyday mobility practices in Tehran: Dynamic process of producing mobility practices, meanings and structures through borders and boundaries**

Sara Mesgarpour Tousi

Mobility and borders are the two common notions coming together in a way that the presence of one may lead to a crisis situation for the existence of the other. They are studied in many cases as political challenges between countries and how politics of mobility may result in producing (im)mobilities in borderlands. However, mobility and borders are not fully understood in this respect. Scaling down the concept of 'border' into everyday mobility practices, the role of boundaries in the dynamic process of producing mobility-related meanings, practices, and structures is not always explicit. This paper looks into the concept of borders and bordering in everyday mobility context of Tehran. The investigation is conducted on dynamics of everyday mobility practices and analyzing data collected by field observations and qualitative interviews from individuals with different socio-economic status and at varying life cycle stages in Tehran. The aim is to understand how borders and boundaries, physical and virtual, within everyday mobility practices may produce opposing, yet related spaces on their two sides and how these act as a potential for a sense of (im)mobilities in the city. The analysis looks specifically into everyday negotiation between individuals and mobility rules and regulations to understand the role of boundaries in the dynamic process of (re)producing specific mobility practices in Tehran and how this relates to changes in relations of inequality.

## **Sexual Assault on Public Transport: Crowds, National Identity, and Violence in Everyday Urban Mobility**

Romit Chowdhury

This ethnography-led paper delves into the specificities of sexual assault on commuter trains in

Tokyo to highlight the value of bringing feminist sociologies of sexual violence into dialogue with critical accounts of the social life of public transport in cities. It asks: Through what everyday conceptual work do commuters, as gendered urban subjects, constitute sexual violence on transit systems as a persistent aspect of city life? The discussion isolates 'national identity' and 'commuter crowds' as the principal social relations through which women diagnose sexual violence on mass transit and conceive ways of recovering from it. The mediation of sexual assault on commuter trains by national identity and urban form bespeaks the need for feminist sociological analysis of transit environments to articulate itself from the interstices between city and nation. By tracing these urban relationalities on-the-move, the paper argues that social studies of public transportation ought to enlist feminist sociological insights into gender-based violence to understand how relations of gender and sexuality impinge on mobility justice in cities.

## **S54 | Exploring the hospitality of urban spaces through the eyes of newcomers**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Maxime Felder, Luca Pattaroni, Joanna Stavo-Debaugé

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS083

**Room 7** | Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

## **When the city goes soft... improvised imaginaries and hospitable impulses in the modern city**

Daryl Martin

This paper takes two accounts of becoming a newcomer in the modern city, one literary and one artistic, as starting points in understanding the imaginaries and materialities of urban experience. Jonathan Raban's 'Soft City' provides an autobiographical account of the affordances of London for its inhabitants in the early 1970s. Raban traces the affective and architectural atmospherics of the metropolis which, in his portrait, is malleable and, thus, hospitable to its newcomers. Against the inflexible qualities of small towns, Raban's London offers open, complex, and contingent spaces for newcomers to create their own ad-hoc versions of the city. A more recent portrait of the hospitable qualities of contemporary London can be found in the work of Bhajju Shyam, an artist from the Gond community in central India whose 'London Jungle Book' offers an animated vision of the city, in which its infrastructural artefacts (its buses, underground trains, restaurants, and pubs) are de-familiarised and re-enchanted. The western gaze on Indian cultures is reversed in Shyam's representation of London from the perspective of a newcomer whose articulation of the material culture of the city unsettles habitual understandings of urban etiquettes and social interactions. Using Derrida's writings on hospitality and Spuybroek's work on grace in the built environment, I read Raban alongside Shyam to sound out their resonances, and their lessons for the capacity of the modern metropolis to go just soft enough to allow moments of generosity, and infrastructures of openness, that can mediate the experience of newcomers in the city.

## **Landing. Reflecting on arrival from a different perspective**

Martina Bovo

This paper draws from theoretical and empirical research activities addressing arrival in recent Mediterranean migration processes, and it proposes the concept of landing as an alternative framework of reflection.

In the last decades, migration and urban studies have widely underlined the increasing complexity underpinning migration processes. Similarly, the arrival dimension has been further questioned; Meeus et al. (2018), for instance, discussed the diversification of directions, temporalities, and subjectivities of arrival.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Hence, recent literature claims for a more in-depth discussion on arrival, and empirical observations show that migrants' experiences are very diversified. Indeed, arrival and transit temporalities increasingly overlap, arrival places often are not fixed destinations, and the closeness to arrival is not the only, nor the necessary, cause of vulnerability for migrants. In other words, practices often "slip away" from the category of "arrival" and the related dichotomies (permanent/temporary, transit/destination, ...), and claim for more profound attention on the actual experience of use and access to the territory by newcomers.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

At this aim, the paper introduces the framework of landing to overcome certain given categories and to focus on newcomers' presence in the city. This contribution assumes two perspectives: that of newcomers who use and access the territory, and that of public and private actors programming and regulating the city's accessibility and habitability, through (also sensory) interventions. Finally, this work assumes as a learning context the city of Palermo, in Southern Italy, that, indeed, in the last years has witnessed a range of different landings.

## **Getting around social exclusion in mixed neighborhoods: A case study on neighborhood use of young Turkish newcomers in Berlin, Germany**

Ceren Kulkul

In the conference, my presentation will be based on an unpublished article. For a newcomer in a city, the process of getting familiar with urban places does not only refer to memorize the roads but to learn how to live as a local. In this article, I argue that the changing urban structure and discourse of locals may have an impact on social positionality of the newcomers in a mixed neighborhood. This study reflects on high skilled young newcomers from Turkey to Berlin with the aim of understanding transnational disparities and exclusion on the one hand, social contact and inclusion on the other. I propose to look into both ways because there is not only exclusion in a mixed neighborhood; there is also acceptance and coexistence. By focusing on Kreuzberg and Neukölln in Berlin, I search for dynamics of neighborhood use of migrant youth, (in)visibility, 'public familiarity' and daily interaction to show the connections among urban structure, practice and discourse. The sample of this qualitative research is high skilled young professionals from Turkey with high education degrees, who came to Berlin over the last five years. The data comes from thirty in-depth interviews conducted by me in the period of October 2018 to March 2019.

## **S15 | Governing Urban Marginality**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Andrew Clarke, Daniel Kudla, Lutfun Nahar Lata

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS023

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Sheltering the undocumented in Amsterdam: inclusive housing rights or policing urban informality?**

Silvia Aru, Milena Belloni

In 2014, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) found the Netherlands guilty not to provide basic housing rights for undocumented migrants. As a consequence, a new policy (LVV-Pilot) was implemented by the Dutch government (2019) to shelter them. Drawing from interviews with policy-makers, city administrators, civil society actors and undocumented migrants in Amsterdam, this paper analyses the LVV-Pilot, its implementation at city level and migrants' different tactics (ranging from compliance to squatting and invisibility) in this policy context. In particular, the study maps the territorial strategies of this new form of "government of irregularity" - places and kinds of shelters involved - and it examines its underlying rationale. Focused on finding "durable solutions", the programme distinguishes between deserving migrants, (unsafe-country nationals) included in the pilot, and those who are not (safe-country nationals), while aiming at facilitating voluntary departures from the country. The programme reproduces an exclusionary logic of "expulsions" (Sassen, 2014) or - if migrants do not consent to leave - of a mechanism of "state desertion" (Kalir, 2017). The analysis shows how the LVV-Pilot is potentially becoming, on the one hand, a mechanism in the state-deportation continuum, and, on the other hand, a policy tool to justify less tolerance towards squatting, the practice that, most of all, has insured migrants' rights to the city. As a result, urban informality - as a space for "inhabitation" and politics (Dadusc, 2019, Darling, 2018) is restricted and undocumented migrants, unless the complaint and deserving ones, deal with increasingly precarious housing conditions.

### **Two modes of governing urban marginality in Germany: Revanchism vs. diversity politics.**

Moritz Rinn

In this paper, I present debates and empirical research on the governing of spatialized social inequality in Germany. Here, two different rationalities can currently be observed:

1.), the governing of 'disadvantaged' urban spaces, in which a workfare strategy is combined with a policy of 'social mixing' (Bridge, Butler and Lees 2012). Even if policies of empowerment and participation of the 'disadvantaged' are included, this rationality represents (to a certain extent) the punitive and exclusionary dimension of urban neoliberalization (Wacquant 2009). Problematizations of 'segregation' of especially poor, unemployed or migrant inhabitants, and (racialized) spatial stigmatization are connected to middle class-oriented upgrading strategies of a 'revanchist' kind (Smith 1996).

2.), a more pragmatic and also 'entrepreneurial' urban policy has emerged more recently, which no longer speaks of urban problems but of 'potentials'. This paradigm de-problematizes migration, affirms diversity, and aims to make a 'diverse' population economically productive (Pütz/Rodatz 2013). In addition, segregation is seen less as a barrier to integration than as a resource. This rationality represents the (to a certain extent) 'progressive' dimension of neoliberalism.

Based on ethnographic fieldwork and qualitative interviews, I investigate the effects of these two conflicting rationalities on living conditions and everyday life of those inhabitants most threatened by displacement and (racialized) exclusion. I therefore compare two urban development areas in which these rationalities seem to be applied in their pure form: in Hamburg, the second largest, and 'prosperous' city in Germany, and Essen, located in the post-industrial 'Ruhrgebiet' and discursively connected to urban decline.

## **S38 | Socio-spatial fragmentation: New perspectives in urban theory and research**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Matthew A. Richmond

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS057

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Road infrastructure expansion and socio-spatial fragmentation in the peri-urban zone in Accra, Ghana**

Emmanuel Junior Adugbila, Javier A. Martinez, Karin Pfeffer

In the 21st century, the implementation of large-scale projects including road infrastructures are seen as the drivers of socio-economic growth and development of countries. Interestingly, in the global south, road infrastructures trigger

various socio-spatial impacts including fragmentations and changes in quality of life in cities. The question this paper addresses is: how does socio-spatial fragmentation triggered by road infrastructures expansion connect to different domains of peri-urban life in Accra, Ghana? The research employed a case study approach using qualitative, quantitative and spatial methods to examine how socio-spatial fragmentations triggered by road infrastructure expansion affect different domains of peri-urban quality of life in Accra city, Ghana. The study found that with the road infrastructure, gated housing types emerged, and low-income residents were displaced into the hinterlands leading to residential segregation, which negatively affected social interactions in peri-urban Accra. Moreover, though the road infrastructure improved the connectivity of physical infrastructure services which attracted more people into the studied communities, due to lack of enforcement of planning regulations, informal settlements emerged within certain parts of them, creating some fragmentation processes. The findings of the study suggest that fragmentation is not only due to policy shortcomings but also due to improvements in other domains, such as housing and services.

### **The Role of Local Governments in Production of Urban Marginality and Socio-Spatial Fragmentation: A Case from Syrian Refugees in Turkey**

Gül Tuçaltan, Ervin Sezgin

Turkey hosts approximately 3,6 million officially, and many more undocumented Syrian refugees. This dramatically increased the number of urban poor and the exceptional situation created its own dynamics of marginalization and socio-spatial fragmentation, beyond a quantitative increase. Mostly working informally in precarious conditions, Syrians oftentimes live in poor and overcrowded housing conditions in urban enclaves and are subject to exclusion and discrimination. Refugees were granted a 'temporary protection status' by the Turkish government, which, when combined with the hopes of many Syrians to return to their hometowns or move westwards, underlies the spatio-temporality that creates the leitmotif of Syrian marginalization. This paper aims to trace the interdependencies between local, national and international politics and policies to explain the Syrian (re-)production of urban marginality and fragmentation. Based on the qualitative comparative analysis of Migration Master Planning experiences in 12 Turkish municipalities and secondary sources, we argue that, both the national and international policies and politics have produced a sense of temporality and uncertainty for the Syrian presence in Turkey, which, has been translated into local governance and municipal service provision as partiality and discontinuity. Our findings show that the majority of local governments failed to develop inclusive policies and planning responses due to their enhanced dependency on national (party) politics, and NGOs and international policies in fundraising. In light of the findings, this paper concludes that municipal responses to Syrian refugee crisis –despite targeting the opposite– have played a central role in the (re-)production of Syrian urban marginality and socio-spatial fragmentation.

### **Fragmentation and Fragments in Jaffa, Israel/Palestine**

Joel R Hart

From the context of Jaffa, one of contemporary Israel's few "mixed" Jewish-Arab cities, this paper conceptualises urban fragmentation within the spatial politics of nationalism. Historically known as 'arus falastin (the bride of Palestine), 97% of Jaffa's Palestinian inhabitants were exiled in 1948. This paper observes contemporary Jaffa through the duality of socio-spatial fragmentation by the Israeli land regime, and fragments of memory traces that endure despite such spatial politics. I explore this through the lens of the biarat (orange orchards) that permeated the fringes of the city until 1948. Biarat also refers to the well-houses that irrigated the orange groves surrounding South Jaffa. These were the symbolic hearth of Arab families and labourers responsible for growing the globally renowned Shamouti oranges. Today, remnants of this practice exists only in the enclaves of two Palestinian hamulot (extended families) who remained behind after 1948. In the 1960s-70s, linear rows of standardised housing were built for Jewish immigrants on uprooted orange trees, which became increasingly juxtaposed against the biarat, now gated off by temporary steel hoarding. The families are in legal battles with the Israeli state and Tel Aviv Municipality over rights to remain on their land. This paper contrasts these processes of spatial fragmentation with the fragments that persist through the dwelling practices of family members, and the memory traces of wells and oranges. In fragmented landscapes, Palestinian national identities and symbols are repressed, but from the perspective of fragments, traces of Palestinian modernity are still emergent

### **'For the times they are a-changin': Fragmented temporalities in Southern Tel Aviv**

Nir Cohen

The resistance of long time, White residents to the settlement of ethno-racial minorities amidst their neighborhoods has been widely documented. Explanations often centered on the fragmented spaces that emerge in the aftermath of minority settlement. Yet, relatively little research explored the fragmentation of (local) time across group boundaries.

In this paper, I examine narratives by Jewish residents of Southern Tel Aviv concerning neighborhood changes following settlement of African migrants. I argue that narratives reflect a fragmented temporal discourse, whereby the time of migrants is constructed as the binary opposition of old timers'. I show that migrants' temporalities are placed along axes of disruption and acceleration. Disruption are the ways in which Black, non-Jewish migrants obstruct the rhythm of communal Jewish life in the neighborhoods (e.g., day of rest, religious holidays) and the timey/orderly flow - and functioning - of the

socio-physical infrastructure (e.g., sanitation, health services) in them. Acceleration are the ways in which their presence and participation in deviant practices (e.g., petty crime, alcohol consumption) speeds up the decline of neighborhoods. Specifically, the arrival of migrants marks an end to the neighborhoods' "golden era", and legitimizes municipal efforts to "re-start" it through urban renewal projects. Both narratives are instrumental to the construction of migrants as 'others' whose distinctly unmodern and inferior temporalities challenge old-timers' 'being in place' by exacerbating already existing socio-spatial fragmentations. The paper concludes by discussing the benefits of employing a temporal perspective to the study of fragmented and contested urban environments.

### **Fragmented urban public : Reworking of spatial binaries at waste dump site in Mumbai**

Sneha Sharma

This paper examines how socio-spatial fragmentation is shaped and contested at a waste dumping site in Mumbai. Following a massive fire in 2016, the processes of fragmentation were deepened by government policies and further facilitated by middle-class activism. The article outlines how the implications of government actions reworked the spatial categories at the site through the reconfiguration of boundaries. The contradictions arising from the politics of the dump is enacted by a nexus of middle-class activism, interpretation of the law and cultural attitudes of people give rise to reshaped spatial categories. Contested spatial categories like public-private, inside-outside increasingly fragment urban spheres.

It becomes crucial to examine the narratives through which the public and private realms of urban social space are reworked creating hierarchies of meanings and feeding into the politics of the city (Davidson & Iveson, 2015; Dikeç & Swyngedouw, 2017). As seen in Mumbai, the dominant discourse and implementation of law have been critical in how urban space is defined and practised. The paper argues that socio-spatial fragmentation rely on the creation of the 'other' and takes place through discourses of dirt and pollution when spaces and bodies are constructed as dirt(y). Such material, social and spatial fragmentation (McFarlane, 2018) reshape public spaces (or commons) into a new fragmented public (or enclosures) and should be seen as manifestation of deeper underlying social inequalities.

## **S9 | Linked urban (mis)fortunes: The social-spatial contract**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Rowland Atkinson, Emma Morales

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS012

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Enabling and Maintaining Contingency Where Urban Rich Meets Suburban Poores in Nisantep, Istanbul**

Ebru Tekin Bilbil

The Turkish government has initiated competitive investments with "crazy", "great" mega projects in Istanbul (i.e., the third bridge and third airport completed, the Canal Istanbul Project initiated, also housing projects). Due to the increasing migration, the city is populated by 16 million people and constituted one quarter of the entire country population. Despite this growth fetishism, by looking at the severance of the suburban poor, 42.3% of households can only provide one shoe for their children, 44.4% have a warming problem and 44.7% do not have adequate nutrition opportunities. This paper focuses on the Nişantepe region in Istanbul to enable to analyze the liminality (Agamben's) between life (urbanism, urbanization) and death (deprivation, poverty, temporality) and to examine how intelligent mechanisms (Dillon's) constitute and maintain the contingent (Foucault's) forms of power. Nişantepe represents a space where gated communities (private schools, one university, upcoming construction projects) surround the slum dwellers. The deprived conditions of Romany population in Nişantepe still persists. They are segregated in terms of cultural and economic means and constantly evicted and mobilized as the housing projects expand throughout the city. These people feel themselves isolated, trampled, foreclosed, outcast and marginalized. How would slum dwellers (houses without a proper roof and wall) in Nişantepe constitute "planetary urbanization"? How do these growth projects affect the vulnerable households living below the life safety net? How is social inclusion linked to ignorance towards poverty/safety and prejudice/security concerns towards different ethnic groups?

### **Inclusive in Discourse, Exclusive in Practice**

Bilge Serin

The concept of 'inclusive cities' is highlighted in mainstream urban development discourse and most of the policy frameworks in contemporary cities. Many international agencies promote creating inclusive cities to overcome inequality in urban space. While this extensive concurrence of 'inclusivity' and 'inclusive cities' creates a hegemonic discourse in urban development agendas, the actually-existing way of production of urban space in contemporary cities shows the

contrary. The various segregated urban spaces for wealthy and middle classes (e.g. condos, gated communities, private neighbourhoods or enclaves) and exclusive provision of urban services for these groups have been expanding globally. This expansion raises questions regarding the stark disparity between the 'discourse of inclusivity', and the actually-existing expansion of exclusion in urban space and discrimination against working classes for accessing urban services. This paper aims to discuss this disparity and socio-spatial exclusion and discrimination through the practice of private neighbourhoods where key urban services are enclosed and provided exclusively and privately for certain groups. It will exemplify these with the empirical findings from three case studies - Istanbul, Ankara and London – on exclusive urban developments. The paper argues that this global expansion exclusive urban spaces for wealthy and middle classes carries the risk of transforming the mainstream perception for a well-functioning urban space and threaten the universal access to key urban services in future cities.

## **S74 | Geographies of school segregation: comparing household choices and strategies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marta Cordini, Carolina Pacchi, Andrea Parma

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS130

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Factors Shaping Parents' Choice of School for Their Children: A Secondary Analysis of PISA 2018 Data**

Giancarlo Gasperoni, Debora Mantovani

The paper explores the structure of school choice strategies, as reported by parents of 15-year-old students. In the 2018 edition of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment – the main purpose of which is to estimate students' cognitive competence levels – a battery of items focuses on the importance, for parents' school choice strategies, of a set of 14 factors: residential proximity, school reputation, curricular specificity, distinctive teaching and non-teaching philosophies, attendance of other family members, expenditure levels, availability of financial aid, school climate, academic standards, safety of school environment, access to exchange programmes, foreign language instruction. The paper will ascertain the relevance of such factors and – via multivariate analysis techniques – develop a conceptual map highlighting their interplay and identify a typology of strategies. The paper will also address the influence exerted by households' socio-economic-cultural status, urban/rural context, presence of alternative schools, parental involvement in children's education, pupils' gender and migratory status and other potentially pertinent covariates. The study will accommodate a comparative dimension; the parent questionnaire was administered in a minority of PISA participant countries, including the following OECD members: Belgium (Flanders), Chile, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Portugal, South Korea. Preliminary findings point to noteworthy variations across countries: for example, at the OECD level 58% of families cite residential proximity as "important" or "very important" in their decisions; at the national level the corresponding incidence varies between 31% (Italy) and 75% (South Korea). The database was released in December 2019.

### **Analysis of school-level factors contributing to spatial inequality in academic achievement in Italy**

Patrizia Falzetti, CHIARA SACCO

The study of the territorial difference in educational achievement is a widely debated topic, in particular in Italy for the presence of the well-known regional disparities. Our aim is to investigate the extent of the spatial disparities in the relationship between the academic achievement and some school-level factors moving beyond the regional administrative confines, in order to identify new spatial patterns. We exploited the standardized test in Italian Language administered by INVALSI in 2017-18 focusing on the 8th grade. As school-level factors we use a set of socioeconomic and demographic variables. We employed two statistical models: the ordinary least square regression, to study the relationship at a global level, and the geographically weighted regression, to examine the spatially varying relationship. GWR allows to determine whether the underlying data generating process shows spatial heterogeneities estimating for each school local regression coefficients. K-means clustering method has been applied to classify schools into homogeneous regions based on local regression patterns. The spatial analysis of the relationship between academic achievement and school-level factors outlined a fragmented reality. The predictors of academic achievement are spatially non-stationary and using the k-means clustering we identified 7 school clusters that are homogeneous with respect to the factors' effect on school performance. Each cluster has been characterized geographically and in relation to the intensity of predictors statistically significant in the area. The identification of new spatial clusters allow to differentiate supports for schools on the basis of their unique specific needs.

## **School segregation in a gentrifying compact city. The case of Oslo**

Roberta Cucca, Rebecca Cavicchia

Urban densification has become a desirable development strategy in several cities. Yet, studies have shown its multiple relationships with social and spatial inequalities, in particular new forms of gentrification. This article seeks to understand the links between changing residential patterns, as a result of gentrifying densification areas in Oslo, and primary school segregation patterns. We draw on individual and household-level socio-demographic data to investigate to what extent the residential composition of different neighborhoods is reflected in the composition of the schools. We additionally explore the role played by the planning strategies, the school system and the school choice of different groups of parents to explain the found segregation patterns. We show how, despite the presence in Oslo of a school system based on catchment areas, school composition does not necessarily reflect residential composition patterns, often resulting in higher segregation. Moreover, we discuss how and why, in areas of on-going gentrification, schools appear to be more mixed.

## **S80 | Policing the City: Assembling Communities and Crowdsourced Data**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Lior Volinz, Ana Ivasiuc

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS117

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Contested Repertoires: Policing Urban Spaces through Mediated Visibility**

Daniel Trottier

In terms of informal policing of urban spaces, digital media users may draw on an expanse of tools, though any particular practice may be contested on technical, legal or cultural grounds. These practices trouble the distinction between bottom up and lateral initiatives from traditional state security actors, especially when informal modes of policing can scale up in reach and context. In doing so they become entangled with other practices, through platforms that themselves may be volatile. This typically includes a confluence between policing criminal events and other types of offences, which are rendered visible to mediated audience. Contemporary urban security often consists of temporary alignments of actors with otherwise diverging intentions. These assemblages may facilitate transferability of data, but also of practices and politics.

This paper focuses on user-led policing practices and the trajectories that they follow in relation to states, but also in relation to the press and digital broadcasting platforms. It primarily considers initiatives in the Dutch context that are mobilised against particular forms of mobility in urban spaces. In combining press coverage and other mediated accounts alongside interviews with those involved in such initiatives, it addresses emerging forms of denunciation and other kinds of claims making (including about the legitimacy of such fledgling practices) that are based on the mediated exposure of targeted individuals and communities. This highlights ongoing negotiations of who has the right to access the city, but also struggles over who is entitled to police and denounce in urban spaces.

### **Mundane Urban Surveillance: Business Improvement Districts and Policing Applications**

Debra Mackinnon

Cities have repeatedly turned toward forms of entrepreneurial urbanism and technological solutionism marketed by the private sector. From Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to smart cities, each generation of these market devices promises to revitalize cities and improve their governance. Drawing on interviews, work shadowing and digital app analysis, I trace the inclusion of city-based and private geospatial applications into existing 'clean and safe' policing programs operated by BIDs. Used to automate calls for service, schedule job tasks and log work activities, these banal surveillance practices (e.g., accounting, cleaning, maintenance, etc.) delegated to apps inscribe aesthetic values and threats onto the area. However, more than denoting the qualities of the area, these practices police, enforce and matter. Building on discussions in science and technology studies (Neyland 2006; Woolgar & Neyland 2013) critical studies of accounting (Lapsley, Miller and Panozzo 2010; Neu 2006) and surveillance studies (Aas, Gundhus, Lomell 2008, Lyon 2006, Staples 2013), this paper explores precursory forms of smart city surveillance and their implications in mundane infrastructures of "everyday life". But everyday for who and what? Beyond translating matters of concern to matters of fact, and fortifying objects, places and people – these mundane practices serve to stabilize a singular ontology and in doing so, the mundane comes to matter.

## Digital Vigilantism and the Constitutive Rhetoric of Online Mugshots

Sarah Young

The “Mugshot of the Day” (MotD) program run from 2011 to 2016 by Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) in Phoenix, AZ, USA allowed the public to daily vote on a favorite mugshot which elevated the top photos to the Office’s leaderboard and often resulted in the increased visibility of female arrestees. I argue that by doing this, MCSO used the exigency of entertainment on participatory platforms as constitutive rhetoric to call into being and temporarily coalesce a group of digital vigilantes to weaponise visibility (as described by Trottier, 2017). Making this claim is complicated, however, and requires that not only can online mugshot consumers be viewed as digital vigilantes, but it also requires the belief that entertainment can facilitate this role and that there can be a relationship between the state and digital vigilantism. Overall, this claim and discussion is beneficial for the conference because it not only identifies who digital vigilantes can target but it also contributes to discussions of police strategies and evolving definitions of who can, and how one participates, in vigilantism in a digital world.

## Policing the Ordinary: Stathood and City-Life in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Stephanie Perazzone

Police forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)’s are best known for their systematic abuse, lack of professional ethics, corruption and inappropriate salaries. In cities such as Kinshasa, Lubumbashi or Goma (where I have conducted fieldwork between 2014 and 2019), blue uniforms roam the streets, road intersections, and decayed police stations, sometimes with an old AK47 hanging off a shoulder, seeking to negotiate a fee, talking to neighbors, brutalizing young men, harass bus drivers, or monitor a neighborhood ‘hot spot’. Designed primarily to reinstate the Congolese state’s monopoly over the legitimate means of violence, internationally-funded police reforms have yielded little results across the country, in addressing issues of protracted conflict, poor public service provision, and limited infrastructure. Yet, deeply entrenched within the delicate fabric of city residents’ everyday life in both formal and informal ways, police work is poorly understood across the research-policy nexus, which largely focuses on the technical aspects and the failures of law-enforcement and of police reform in the Congo. Using a microsociology of city-life that combines the study of discursive, socio-material and spatial practices, this article thus offers to study how police-citizen interactions interact with broader processes of urban governance. The aim is to dissect empirical and theoretical linkages between practices of urban public spaces, the role of personal, intimate relations in shaping such spaces, and the (global) maintenance of state authority.

## S47 | Public Space and Social Innovation: an approach to perception and transformation in the city

**Session Organiser(s)** | Juan Andres Walliser Martinez, Clemente NAVARRO YAÑEZ

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS073

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

## Assemblages in Higher Education: a new learning-teaching approach through the prism of spaciality, sensoriality and corporality

Daniel Gutiérrez-Ujaque

This paper presents a methodological approach of university teaching capable of integrating inclusive, reflective, critical, creative learning processes and enablers of social change in the lifestyles of students and teacher within higher education. This approach is based on the concept of spatiality, sensoriality and corporality through a transdisciplinary perspective in urban space. To illustrate such an approach, we present a case study that integrates the subjects of Geography and History of the second year of the degree in Social Education and the subject of Industrial Automation of the degree in Industrial Engineering (speciality Mechanics and speciality in Electronics) at the University of Lleida (Spain). Students from both degrees carried out a joint learning project based on urban space of the city of Lleida. All students’ projects were based on the Sustainable Development Goals from Agenda 2030. Our results emphasize three aspects. Firstly, the importance of incorporating novel methodologies in teaching from an assemblage perspective through embodied practices. Secondly, the use of contemporary art as a catalyst for possibilities and a strategy that allows rhizomatic thinking, offering the freedom to create knowledge and understanding necessary to rethink education. Finally, the use of sensory, spatial and corporeal practices to develop and implement new ways of teaching within different fields of higher education such as geography and industrial engineering.

## **An experimental policy tool to deal with austerity and participation in urban planning: the case of a call for innovative urban projects in a French medium-sized metropolis**

Nicolas Bataille, Cécile Léonardi, Federica Gatta, Pierre-Olivier Garcia, Josselin Tallec

French urban public policies are recently developing new tools to enhance innovation in urban projects. These procedures are called “Calls for Innovative Urban Projects” (CIUP). First launched by the City of Paris, CIUP consist in ceding public properties to private stakeholders, organised in interdisciplinary teams, chosen for the “innovative” nature of their proposals concerning the use of this properties, their governance and their financial organization.

In Grenoble, a medium-sized metropolitan area, local authorities have launched such a call in 2018 on six public buildings. The winning projects are polyfunctional public spaces targeting a “small scale urbanism” which are presented with the keywords of the mainstream “innovative urban solutions” (coworking, coliving, food courts). Through an ethnographic ongoing research, this paper aims to show how the City used this instrument to deal with austerity pressures, but at the same time to lead a participative urban policy. The research aims to observe the connections between multiple stakeholders and to enquire about the results in terms of urban and architectural programs.

The first research results seem to prove that, in a medium-scale urban context, CIUP is really enlarging urban governance to “small” stakeholders from the social economy sectors driven by NGOs and small entrepreneurs that are usually ejected by urban projects processes. At the same time this governance seems to give Cities the possibility of governing this local “innovative ecosystem” by intervening on their spatial configuration. The control of the public space would be in this sense substituted by a control of social innovation?

## **Divided spaces, shared regeneration. The case of Esquilino neighbourhood in Rome**

Rossana Galdini, Felicitas Hillmann

Our paper investigates the role of public space for urban regeneration. On the analytical level, we start from the notion of social innovation (Moulaert XXX), which we relate to the heuristic concept of migration-led-regeneration, which focusses on the relevance of migration for top-down policies as well as for bottom-up practises, including migrant agency (Hillmann 2018). In terms of empirical exploration, we will focus on the case of Piazza Vittorio Emmanuele, a public space in Rome’s Esquilino neighbourhood, that by now is an example for all three dimensions of urban regeneration (the physical structure, the socio-economic tissue and the symbolic and cultural implications). We will outline how the setting up of bottom-linked social policies in favour of establishing security in the short-term have transformed into successful cultural activities that work well in the long term – as a side-effect of such policies. We will focus on the transformation of social-spatial relations over the past 20 years in that area which more and more appears as an interesting intercultural and multi-ethnic neighbourhood.

# **S67 | Advising Cities: Consultants, Corporate Power and the Politics of Urban Development**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Chris Hurl, Anne Vogelpohl

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS099

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

## **Planning consultants and markets of expertise**

Matthew Wargent, Gavin Parker, Emma Street

Despite intermittent recognition of the role of consultants in the UK planning system, there remains a paucity of empirical studies into their influence in contemporary practice and the nature of private expertise that seeks to shape urban space. This paper draws on interviews with both public and private planners across England to explore the role of consultancy firms in the creation of local planning policy. This examines the heterogeneity of the consultant market; the nature of the expertise being deployed; the rationales employed to justify consultant use; and the asymmetrical nature of public/private relationships. The paper suggests that the conditions of austerity urbanism are driving teleological explanations of the use of private expertise - framing consultant inputs as apolitical, techno-rational solutions to functionalist problems - precluding a deeper analysis of the ‘redisciplining’ of the English planning system through privatisation. In concluding we suggest a shift in conceptualisation of the “consultocracy” towards a Polanyian understanding of markets of expertise co-created and sustained through ongoing interactions between public and private actors.

## **Urbanism as the Discursive and Governmental Turn: Urban Experts of the New Wave in Russia**

Daria Volkova

In Russia consultancy in urban planning is relatively new type of business: small and middle-size companies who advise on planning are becoming more widespread. This business burst is accompanied by the foundation of several educational programs in urban planning and studies, and the huge discursive turn in the city politics in Moscow, which after was tried to be projected regionally. The use of the main word “urbanist”, which describes the professionals of the new type, became controversial.

The paper is focused on how does the shaping of new profession influence the system of urban planning. It reveals what are the skills needed to succeed in new profession and what are the process of creating the planning project in this new paradigm.

The study is based on qualitative discourse analysis of the media materials which mention the “urbanist”, critical discourse analysis of the 3 projects suggested by Moscow companies, in-depth interviews with the different types of “urban professionals” (bloggers, consultants and analytics), observations of the process of decision-making (made by the workers of consultant agencies).

I will show that such profession influenced the process of becoming expert in the field of many professions, which is related to the decision-making in the city, but not only planners. The other major effect is that now the policy is concerned to be declared as expertized and professionalized, which claimed to be more indisputable. However, the approach does not change a lot, and it is still between the governmental soviet-inherited planning and neoliberal and commercial ideas.

### **Cities and their Gurus: How Human Agents Canonize Urban Knowledge**

Noga Keidar

Since the earliest stages of urbanization, city-building has been an arena preserved for the authority of individual visionaries. It is also true today in an age of mounting interest in urban related challenges, when urban ideas are circulated to various geographical, political and social contexts through charismatic thought-leaders often called “urban gurus”. This rising interest in urbanism also creates new challenges in making the gurus’ knowledge relevant over time and across locations. This paper examines how highly visible actors like the urban gurus, who embody the message they carry and bring it to public life through a process of personification connect cities with ideas. I use Jefferey Alexander’s Cultural Pragmatics approach (2004) to analyze the work of experts as a form of performance within the current urban drama. I then define three main dynamics through which these actors convey ideas and mobilize collective action: First, by generating emotional energy which expands coalition and opposition building. Second, by offering both the carriers and the receivers of ideas an exchange of capital in the form of budgets, prestige and legitimacy. Third, by focusing the discussion of the idea around ad-hominem arguments related to the guru’s public persona. Using fieldwork that follows the interaction of the City of Toronto and Jerusalem with gurus, and primarily with Richard Florida, the author of the “Rise of the Creative Class” (2002), I articulate what the guru means for a city, and pinpoint the way these influential actors canonize knowledge through spatial and temporal challenges.

### **Legitimizing the urban improvements campaign by means of “an integrated transport system” discourse**

Elena Trubina

Technologies of government employ “the complex assemblage of diverse forces - legal, architectural, professional, administrative, financial, judgmental - such that aspects of the decisions and actions of individuals, groups, organisations, and populations come to be understood and regulated in relation to authoritative criteria” (Miller and Rose 1990: 183). In my paper, I’ll argue that “an integrated transport system” “walkability” and “pedestrianization” are employed as such authoritative criteria. The transformational potential of re-invented public places is seen, in the globally circulating discourses, as a tool of mitigating the continuous traffic growth and promoting alternative mobility routines. (Montero 2017; Sadik-Khan and Solomonow 2017). The focus on the transfer of the models of improving walkability based on a handful of successful cities raises a number of issues that echo wider debates about the prevalence of the neoliberal models of urban development. This paper interrogates policy transfer in course of the massive urban improvement campaign in Moscow as both the use of the ‘best practice’ and securing legitimacy and ensuring citizens’ acceptance of the results of urban rehabilitation. I consider several architecture bureaus which advocate “cities for people” (Gehl, 2010) and act as the proponents of the globally dominant narrative of “an integrated transport system” and, more broadly, sustainable urban development.

### **Method man: Measurement, persuasion, and seduction in the globalization of Gehl Architects’ model of public space design**

Eugene McCann, Lise Mahieus

Focusing on Jan Gehl, a Danish architect, and Gehl Architects, the international practice he co-founded, this paper explores the role of research methods in the generation of evidence but also in the production of credibility and legitimacy in the work of urban policy consultants. Gehl’s clients include cities of various sizes across the world. He and his partners advise their clients on how to implement a model (or brand) of public space design based on the notion of people-centredness, represented by the motto, “first life, then space and finally buildings.” Gehl’s narrative of himself as a long-committed

devotee of straightforward observational methods in public spaces – notetaking, counting – and the firm’s self-definition as “social scientists and architects” positions what they call “architectural ethnography” at the centre of their approach. We argue, that Gehl’s carefully created image as a ‘method man’ is a key element of the product the firm sells and an important force in its circulation among cities. The methodological orientation gives the firm a distinctiveness and gravitas. It positions Gehl as a credentialed, experienced, and methodical expert, a serious force of change. In developing this argument, we will discuss: (a) the character, construction, and reference points of Gehl’s approach to public space design; (b) Gehl’s approach to measuring and evaluating ‘public life’ in the spaces the practice seeks to redesign; and (c) the specific persuasive and seductive roles methods and research results play in Gehl’s creation of a global market for its model of public space design.

## **S72 | Data and digital technologies to upgrade urban neighbourhoods**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Aksel Ersoy

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS104

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **‘Urban Standard’ for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Urban Environment - a rugged development path from Sofia**

Angel Burov, Vasil Madzhirski, Mila Yolova, Irina Mutafchiiska

The process of physical improvement of the urban environment is lagging behind the citizen’s expectations and often becomes a reason for their negative reactions. The 'Urban Standard' is a tool for evaluation and monitoring the quality of the urban environment that may be applied in many ways and occasions. It provides the indicator basis for more objective prioritization of public works, as well as the input for research that can be directed towards the 'health check' of urban communities, the comparison among them and their broader performance in correlation to the quality of the environment.

The 'Urban Standard' was initially developed as a demonstration project, implemented by the 'Association of Bulgarian Urban and Regional Planners' (ABURP) in 2017. Further development of the tool has been envisaged as an inclusive process with broad stakeholders' participation contributing to its next phases and scaling up. It is considered adaptive towards the demand for information and can be partially or thoroughly applied thanks to its thematic taxonomy.

The first real-life test of the 'Urban Standard' was carried out throughout 2018 and 2019 in the case of a rapidly developing neighborhood in Sofia, Bulgaria. The paper examines the acceptance of the tool from its initial development before and after its pilot implementation and conclusions are drawn about the role of the specific actors in its practical introduction.

### **Digital Technologies & the Symbolic Trajectories of Urban Neighborhoods**

John Boy, Daniel Trottier, Ju-Sung (Jay) Lee, Esther Gonzalez Aurignac, Fadi Hirzalla

Uneven resource allocation and power imbalances in the city culminate in status differentiation: some areas are able to “upgrade” symbolically, while others remain stigmatized and marginalized. In the digital era, gentrification and stagnation are bound to digital technologies that diverging stakeholders (citizens, tourists, municipal policymakers, entrepreneurs, corporations, etc.) use strategically. Urban areas therefore rise and decline with the symbolic investments made in them through digital channels. In our ongoing three-year project, we examine the digital ecology of an economically-deprived urban neighborhood in The Hague. We focus on expanding and evolving, complementary and conflicting practices for navigating and representing the urban landscape, rather than predefined tools, skills, or “best practices.” To facilitate a comprehensive investigation of the interplay between inequalities, stigmatized urban spaces, and volatile platforms, the project employs a mixed methods approach combining long-term ethnographic research involving local community organizations; a digital study of platforms including community websites, social media, and review sites; and a geographic study mapping the material transformation of amenities, businesses, and residential areas. For our presentation, we will discuss the challenges residents encounter (and how current scholarship address these). We also consider several conceptual, methodological and ethical concerns that shape our research approach and may be of value to other scholars working on urban development.

### **Understanding requirements for a data platform to improve vitality in a city from top-down and bottom-up perspectives**

Kenji Wada, Loes van Renswouw, Günter Wallner, Steven Vos

With the rapid advances of information communication technologies, various and great amounts of data are accessible to our society through online data platforms. Despite the potential to promote people's health and vitality through these platforms, the use of them lags behind due to the lack of consideration of different users' requirements. Studies investigating socio-technical aspects (such as usability, accessibility, and data relevancy) for designing data platforms are still limited. Among the variety of socio-technical factors on data platforms, our study focuses on the relevancy of data to diverse users in the domain of vitality. In particular, we investigated the gap between top-down and bottom-up perspectives on vitality data. We conducted semi-structured interviews with government officials (N=10) and citizens (N=20) to identify which data should be provided by data platforms to improve urban vitality. Our results indicate that government officials prefer public profit and welfare related low-level data, such as development plans, public health, and air quality to address societal issues. On the other hand, citizens require more high-level data related to their personal vitality, such as advice for an active lifestyle. However, the results also indicated that certain data could satisfy both groups by viewing the data through different lenses such as abstraction of low-level data for citizens and extraction of data from a particular neighborhood for urban planners and people who live there. We suggest data needs to be presented in multiple formats on a platform upon request to enhance engagement by different groups.

### **Drivers and Challenges of Digital Citizen Participation: Experiential Evidence from Southeast Asian Cities**

Yap Yu Ming Winston, Harvey Neo

We live in a world where our lives are progressively intertwined with digital technologies. Digital technologies mediate our perceptions and interpretations of urban space. Accompanying this shift is a fundamental change in the way that citizens participate in urban processes. Where citizens once participated in charettes to voice their views, online methods of participation are now gaining precedence. Through online platforms, urban inhabitants are empowered to contribute in urban planning, design, mobility services, or optimizing air quality and emergency services. Yet, despite growing optimism over the promises of citizen science and its perceived relevance to smart governance, it is uncertain how these fit into the architecture of local urban settings. Particularly, these concerns are ubiquitous among Southeast Asian cities where smart city visions and scarce public resources, are raising tensions between communities and public administrators. Effective citizen participation is cornerstone for smart city initiatives. Through in-depth interviews with urban collaborative app developers (government and private), this research paper aims to examine and analyze drivers and challenges affecting citizen participation within the digital collaborative context. Drawing from citizen participation literature, semi-structured interview questions centered around the dimensions of user psychology, social, economic, and technical factors will be employed in interviews. Abductive thematic analysis will be applied to interview data to highlight key drivers and challenges of contemporary citizen participation. Findings will provide a better understanding of factors driving or inhibiting successful citizen collaboration and help app developers and public administrators to align resources towards the pragmatic pursuit of smart city strategies.

## **S78 | Urban spaces, working conditions and labour conflicts: political and sensory experiences of work**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Alexandre Orban

**Track** | Urban production and reproduction

**Code** | PS115

**Room 17** | The bourse of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **On gigs and gangs: the re-making of class in urban platform work**

Hannah Schilling

In 2017, delivery riders in Berlin mobilized for better working conditions in the platform economy. This paper argues that the spatiality of their work practices and its articulation with technological devices shaped this labour struggle. The analysis builds on 26 biographical interviews and participant observations with young, majorly male riders on their practices of making do in Berlin in this period.

The paper starts showing the potentials for quiet encroachment (Bayat), that is the appropriation of technological tools and urban space by riders. These make use of public space to build group identity and attachments, on which basis they connect in digital space, i.e. as „rider gang“-WhatsAppGroup, to organize political actions.

But I identify also dynamics that weaken political agency in urban platform work. The technicalities through which gigs are dispatched to the riders remain a black box for many – this uncertainty about rules and possible ways to manoeuvre these creates self discipline and competition between riders. Spatial distance from other riders became a tactic to increase gigs, which shows the importance of knowing and sensing the urban space in local gig work. Moreover, I argue that in the

differences of sensory experiences and related cultural practices, we can see the making of class (Skeggs). Experiencing the job as „sports“ or „game“ turned into a dominant perspective amongst riders. This marginalized vulnerable riders and hindered cross-class alliances. The fragmentation of work through technological devices connects but also redraws barriers to create a "common space" as workers, the paper concludes.

### **Working-class geographies of the southern city: Disposability, Informality and Urban Space in Delhi**

Debolina Majumder

This paper contributes to and draws from recent research in geographical research on labour and the city by offering empirical insight from oral histories and in-depth interviews with informally-employed construction workers living in nine tehsils around Delhi. I argue that tracing informal and informalised urban workers' experiences of (dis)settlement and (un)employment in Delhi's contemporary history, reveals living narratives of internal migration, wage theft, debt, homelessness, and eviction in the mega-city, and also speaks more broadly to the ways in which informality in living and working conditions often materially coincide to constrain and reshape the parameters of labour agency. Under the critical lens of "working class geography", Delhi's urban form emerges not only as a (passive) site of production, a place of work, and (an often contradictory and conditional) site of the societal-reproduction of labour-power, but also as the medium through which hegemonic social relations are produced and reproduced. In particular I focus on how urban space and experiences of living and working in the city cause such workers to both internalize and challenge forms of political subjectivity and subjectification which render them "disposable"/surplus (Wright 2006).

### **Material strikes; Labour Protests and Democratic Claims in Ghana's Petroleum and Gold Mining Regions**

William Otchere-Darko, Austin Ablo

Comparing Ghana's gold and petroleum extraction regions, the paper explores how and why resource materiality is inserted into labour strikes and its potential for larger democratic claims. The methods involve content analysis of newspaper archives (1990-2020) and interviews of miners, oil-workers, local chiefs and development practitioners. We show that the materiality and infrastructure of oil and gas (OG) introduce risks for protestors, including gas explosion and drowning offshore. Hence OG worker-protests focus on chokepoints through passivity and immobility in order to affect domestic energy consumption along the OG production chain. Protests by gold miners are however more active; they re-appropriate work-machinery and the spaces of extraction as the centre of their protests. The material and economic role of OG as domestic energy sources nationwide make chokepoints an effective form of protest. For gold mining, its economic role is directly felt locally, hence protestors focus on active protests, sometimes vandalism, in the local area of extraction. Secondly, we argue cautiously that rentier and repression effects are intensified in Ghana's OG extraction-regions more so than gold mining regions. The materiality of oil and gas products as domestic energy sources have granted national and parastatal agencies the legitimacy to centralised rent-seeking. Additionally, preliminary results show no evidences that these political outcomes are products of labour's protests or its lack thereof, showing no connection of labour's protests to larger un/democratic effects. This research thus contributes to unearthing how labour's claims are implicated in socio-natural production and un/democratic outcomes at the subnational level.

### **"Spatial Fix" in two Argentine cities. A reflection on the concept and its theoretical assumptions**

Gera Iraci

Extensive debates around the concept of spatial fix and the role of workers in producing them occurred since Andrew Herod's proposal for the establishment of labor geography as a subdiscipline within human geography. Herod argues against Harvey's capital-centric perspective on the production of uneven development. Instead, Herod incorporated the agency of labor to understand the production of capitalist geographies. This aspect of a boundless agency of the workers was criticized and new research directions were advanced. However, there are a number of relevant and unexplored aspects of the concept of spatial fix: its functionalism and the rationality of the agents in the production of space.

Since the 1970s, two cities in Tierra del Fuego (a southern region in Argentina) were a site where a spatial fix took place. The firms dis/articulated to the electronics production network under new conditions of competition in the world market. Throughout history, various crises have occurred and migrant workers adopted various livelihoods strategies. From this case study, I want to make a theoretical intervention around the rationality of the agents (capitalist and workers) implicit in the category of spatial fix to rethink the production of the capitalist historical geographies. I will do so by incorporating the unintended consequences of the practices of workers and capitalists and the fetishized processes that occur "behind their backs" in the production of uneven geographical development.

## S87 | How do digital platforms reshape cities and urban research?

**Session Organiser(s)** | Justus Uitermark, John D. Boy

**Track** | Urban methods

**Code** | PS127

**Room 18** | Entrance Road Turnhoutsebaan

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Curb Your Gentrification: Sovereignty of a Collaborative Hypertext**

Dicle Kizildere, Zeynep Gunay

While the long arm of urban policy has gained enormous academic attention of gentrification scholars for over a decade, the role of digital technologies in shaping gentrification has been understudied and overlooked. If gentrification is conceived as a phenomenon, which is partly forged by capital and consumers' taste, the discursive investment to gentrification is also big part of it, either by encouraging or discouraging, by digital technologies through media images, reviews and depictions of localities (users). Following the mentioned points, this study explores the links of 'discursive investment' and gentrification process of Tophane neighbourhood, Istanbul through Eksozluk, which is a collaborative hypertext 'dictionary' based on the concept of Web sites with 400.000 registered users. Tophane, which is named as the latest and 'inevitable' hotspot both for indirect and state-led gentrification, surprisingly challenged and resisted the expected urban transformation process that led to 'limited gentrification'. Examining 580 entries related to Tophane neighborhood, through text mining and framing analysis, the resistance to gentrification traced. A framing analysis of entries that mention the neighborhood indicates that the most users feel negative about the Tophane neighbourhood, which they criticize for conservative, uneducated and wild sociodemographic characteristic and an atmosphere of social pressure and danger. Our findings suggest that this 'discursive redlining' in the digital public realm, contributing to limit the gentrification processes through consolidating the negative image and branding.

### **Virtual networks and Physical links.**

Manish kumar bokdia M

In the past decade, social media and micro-blogging platform have seen a significant trend of representing built-spaces in the form of narratives and images, such that spaces are consumed visual, with their values being controlled, segregated, and surveyed by the narratives or ratings which are highly influenced by Ideologies and the design of the platform. The ease in access and the widespread reach of these platforms has paved new grounds for disseminating dissimulated data which democratizes the production of knowledge and also paving new challenges and ambiguities by creating a variety of Cultural, Political, Social, and Economical networks to emerge with a great magnitude on the physical spaces. Hence making the physical experience of the spaces the only potential proof to authenticate the networks created in the virtual world. This paper aims at critically examining the virtual discourse of two cases, one the Indian state of Rajasthan, and two the narratives of M.K.Gandhi, with the lenses of Performativity to investigate the Role Played by the virtual networks on the meanings and values of built spaces in the physical space.

## S85 | Progressive cities and civil society mobilizations

**Session Organiser(s)** | Walter Nicholls, Claire Colomb

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS124

**Room 19** | Cultural Centre De Roma

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **Claiming for a new citizenship agenda in European austerity context**

Marc Pradel-Miquel, Ana Belén Cano-Hila, Marisol García Cabeza

The economic crisis started in 2007 and austerity policies imposed later have brought the weakening of social policies at different levels and the deepening of exclusion dynamics in cities. Three main processes have been the rise of unemployment and precarious employment, the growth of poverty and the exclusion of denizens from labour market and social services. In southern Europe, a wave of mobilisation against austerity brought claims for a new citizenship agenda, with greater transparency, stronger social rights and greater citizens' participation in decision-making. At the local scale, these claims were accompanied by innovative initiatives to respond to growing deprivation based on involvement of citizens and co-production of policies. Local mobilisation aimed not only to cover needs but to foster social justice through empowering disadvantaged groups. These initiatives enlarged alternative social spaces for citizen participation in society in

some cases collaborating with the local administration In many cities led by anti-austerity political coalitions, the government has sought for new forms of collaboration with social movements and civil society groups to strengthen local social policies.

This paper analyses mobilisation and urban practices taking place in the fields of employment, provision of resources and participation in different Southern European cities, showing its relation with the role of local administration. The main conclusion is that the contribution of organized citizens and residents in cities in Southern Europe has created urban constituencies to defend and innovate local social policy.

### **Urban movements and municipalist governments in Spain: achievements and limitations**

Miguel A. Martinez

Four years after the 15M movement raised its cry for true democracy at the occupied squares across Spain, new bottom-up municipalist initiatives won the 2015 local elections in seven medium-size and large cities, although they often needed coalitions with traditional parties. New left-wing governments also incorporated former activists from grassroots organisations as mayors and councillors which sparked debates about the consequences of co-optation and state openness to social movements. This political shift rekindled a crucial question: How can social movements influence favourable local governments? In the present article we examine the relationship between a number of progressive urban movements - linked to the prior 15M uprising - and municipalist governments in four cities (Madrid, Barcelona, A Coruña, and Cádiz) during the 2015-2019 mandate. Theoretically, we build upon approaches to social movements' outcomes in order to assess the influence, responsiveness, and consequences of those relations. Above all, our analysis reveals that the performance of the municipalist governments was far from being an instrument in the hands of grassroots movements. On the contrary, we identify numerous strains and hindrances. Hence our contention that most movements' claims were not met despite the institutional alliances and the substantial change in the governance regimes away from neoliberal austerity. We thus identify the remaining gaps between movements and municipalist governments, and discuss how activists tried to achieve their goals while local authorities managed the social discontent.

### **Three modes of urban citizenship: Lessons from Berlin**

Andrej Holm, Henrik Lebuhn

This paper departs from the observation that cities have become important arenas for the restructuring of the welfare state and the negotiation of rights and resources that go hand in hand with it. On one hand, the urban realm is of strategic significance for the development of 'actually existing' variations of neo-liberalism. On the other, the scholarship on 'the right to the city' shows that urban social movements are often at the forefront of resisting contemporary capitalism. The progressive turn, which cities like Berlin, Barcelona and Madrid have recently taken, can be interpreted as a modest victory of such movements. Using Berlin, Germany, as an example, we explore how citizenship has been shaped by shifting political constellations and changing relationships between various actors over the past decades. We present three short case-studies from the fields of housing and (im)migration in order to investigate processes of resisting neo-liberalisation in more detail. For this purpose, we propose to differentiate between three modes of expanding citizenship at the urban scale: a) claiming citizenship and social rights from below, b) top-down provisions of rights through governmental and administrative action, and c) 'doing citizenship' through residents' social practices and daily routines. Specifically, we look at the relationship between civil society actors (social movements and NGOs) on the one hand and formal political actors and public administrations on the other to better understand the different ways in which new forms of urban citizenship are currently being articulated.

### **The Struggle for Anti-Gentrification Measures in Stigmatized Neighborhoods**

Defne Kadioglu

Berlin is counted among the most progressive cities in Europe when it comes to curbing gentrification and financialization of housing, a success of the impressive grassroots movement in the city. Less discussed have been the obstacles different movements in the city have been facing in their interactions with the local state. My paper engages with the question how the perceived characteristics of the neighborhood factor into the willingness of the local state to regulate rent increase and displacement. I contribute to existing debates on gentrification and territorial stigmatization by exploring how stigmatization not only serves as ground for legitimizing strategies that fuel gentrification but also shapes the political and institutional response to processes that are already underway. Departing from the case of Berlin's immigrant-dense working-class area of North Neukölln and based on field work and interviews in 2012/13 and in 2019/20, I find that gentrification was an explicit, normalized and state-led strategy for Neukölln until the mid-2010s when the district -after intense grassroots pressure- decided to intervene with a regulatory measure. The intervention came late and was insufficient since Neukölln had already advanced to the district with the highest rent increase in the city with financial actors playing an increasing role. Moreover, loopholes in the law, have further encouraged investors to keep and acquire housing stock in North Neukölln, posing a new challenge to the rental movement in the district. I argue that the relatively late intervention of the district is connected to the long-standing stigmatization of Neukölln.

## **Rage Against the Machine: The Discursive Institutionalisation of Platform-Municipalism in Vienna**

Astrid Krisch

Critical scholars dealing with platform capitalism (e.g. Srnicek 2017), platform urbanism (e.g. Barns 2020, Leszczynski 2019) and smart city developments (e.g. Hollands 2015) have emphasized manifold challenges connected to the rise of digital platforms and in particular the “Tech Titans” (The Economist 2018). Due to their economic and political power, platforms are by now often understood as new forms of infrastructures (Krisch/Plank 2018), thus making them an inherent public issue. Under the newly emerging movement of platform municipalism (Thompson 2020), cities are thought to counteract hegemonic tendencies of big platforms and develop their own strategies for digital urban infrastructures.

This paper focuses on the discursive institutionalization (Schmidt 2008, 2012) of platform municipalism in Vienna. The paper critically reflects on the role of local governments in developing digital infrastructures and carves out the direction of platform municipalism in Vienna to analyze the relationship between citizens and urban policy for a platform-based infrastructure policy in terms of infrastructures of everyday life (FEC 2018).

The paper thus contributes to embedding the new forming platform-municipalism in a wider context of scientific discourse regarding platform urbanism and smart cities and helps in understanding actor settings and rules of decision-making for developing digital infrastructures, creating in-depth knowledge on the case of Vienna.

## **S64 | ICT applications and platforms to sense and act upon the city: between affirmation and subversion of dominant urban imaginaries and centralized plan- or policymaking**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Tim Devos, Seppe De Blust, Jan Denoo, Sophie Schramm

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS096

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 18:15-19:45 CEST

### **From crowd-sensing pollution to collective action for cleaner air: citizen science, empowerment & environmental justice**

Nicola da Schio

The state monopoly over monitoring and communicating about air pollution is declining, inter alia as result of the proliferation of alternative forms of atmospheric knowledge easily accessible to a non-specialised audience. These include online platforms that aggregate and republish governmental air pollution data and provide customisable indexes at a finger snap, as well as mobile-phone based low-cost portable monitors contributing to crowd-sensed pollution maps.

AirCasting Brussels Living Lab was a project turning around one of such platforms ([www.cosmopolis.be/research/aircastingbxl](http://www.cosmopolis.be/research/aircastingbxl)). It unrolled in Brussels between 2016 and 2019 in the context of a wider mobilisation for cleaner air, and consisted of a program of cooperation between my research center, a local CBO, and various groups of citizens. Its purpose was not limited to collectively sense the urban environment and generate air pollution knowledge, but included an explicit call to “use” such knowledge to reimagine and reshape the city.

This paper focuses on whether and how the project helped to empowered those who participated, allowing them to make air pollution visible, giving voice to otherwise excluded subjects, and providing opportunities for collective action and political engagement. More so I contend that, by empowering citizens in their quality of bearers of a critical environmental burden, the living lab allowed to counter instances of procedural and epistemic justice that characterize the governance of air pollution.

### **Networked Co-Production Through Digital Participatory Platforms in Urban Planning? A Critical Reality Check.**

Reinout Kleinhans, Enzo Falco, Ian Babelon

A renewed interest has appeared in citizen co-production of public services due to financial pressures on local and national governments. Co-production is generally defined as “the public sector and citizens making better use of each other’s assets and resources to achieve better outcomes and improved efficiency” (Bovaird and Loeffler, 2012, 1121). While social media enable basic communication, many digital participatory platforms (DPPs) have been recently developed to facilitate co-production in urban planning and development. Previous studies focus on the potential of such tools to inform planning

decisions, involve large numbers of citizens, foster deliberation and crowdsource geo-located information. However, the emerging phenomenon of Internet-facilitated coproduction has not yet been systematically studied. Planning organizations usually do not evaluate the effectiveness of DPPs in terms of co-production. Hence, the question is to what extent Internet-facilitated coproduction leads to 'real' changes in decision-making and implementation of co-produced solutions. In the midst of all digital optimism, there is a need to critically challenge the assumption that by simply adopting and using DPPs, local governments and citizens are able to co-produce better ideas and decisions. The aim of the paper is to get a better understanding of the key organizational, governance, and process-related conditions for effective co-production of planning solutions, enabled by digital participatory platforms. The paper reports a qualitative study, using semi-structured interviews with key informants from local governments and platform companies from five DPPs that have been implemented some time ago by local governments in The Netherlands, Belgium, England and France.

### **Grounding smart technologies in informal urbanism: mobile applications, urban infrastructures and service delivery in Cape Town's informal settlements**

Elisabeth Peyroux, Mercy Brown-Luthango

Information and Communication Technology (ICTs) and, more recently, digital technologies, e.g. through Smart City or "smart urbanism" applications, are increasingly used to improve urban service delivery. A growing body of literature in various fields (geography, urban studies, ICT4D) has focused on the development of mobile applications in the Global South in a wide range of sectors (transport, water, energy, sanitation, health). Apart from the field of ICT4D, which has explored the development and uptake of mobile technology in remote, peripheral, informal or "under-resourced" environments, most scholars in urban studies have focused on well-connected places characterized by large-scale, centralized networked infrastructures, and on city-dwellers who can access and afford mobile technology. Few scholars have considered the use of mobile-based technology for services delivery under the social and infrastructural conditions of informal settlements. This paper addresses this gap by exploring the implementation of a mobile phone application jointly developed by an NGO and a private design firm in partnership with the City of Cape Town for monitoring and maintaining communal water taps and toilets. Drawing on infrastructure studies, it argues for a conceptualization of technology that moves away from the assumption of the centrality of the technical object and considers it as part of a complex set of social organizations, practices, hard and soft infrastructure, digital and non-digital knowledge. It shows how digital technologies is used to overcome the limitations of centralized infrastructure policies and can open the way for experimental, bottom up forms of socio-technical configurations embedded into informal urbanism.

### **Digital and Heterogeneous Infrastructures: a step towards ubiquitous access to water in small African cities?**

Susana Neves Alves

Among policymakers and practitioners in sub-Saharan Africa, digital technologies are increasingly portrayed as essential tools that can help overcome not only the technical but also the socio-political and institutional challenges related to water infrastructure (GSMA 2018). For instance, a variety of mobile-enabled solutions are being deployed to monitor the functionality and consumption patterns of water points, as well as to identify leakages, broken meters and collect users' feedback. Meanwhile, the digitisation of processes relating to meter reading, billing and payment are increasingly adopted as cost-effective solutions that can help utilities reduce non-revenue costs. Studies critically investigating the increasing adoption of digital technologies in water supply are an emerging and exciting field of research (Guma 2019). Nevertheless, the repercussions arising from the interest in and adoption of smart technologies in water infrastructures remain rather unexplored, especially in small cities. In this paper, I will explore how these emerging and still understudied trends are playing in the largely neglected context of small poor cities in Africa. Here, the use and dissemination of digital technologies is both delayed because of poverty and accelerated because of the lack of alternatives. Based on very preliminary research on Nampula and Bissau, I will discuss how the bottom-up and top-down use of digital technologies has played out in the realm of the heterogeneous water infrastructures that serve these cities, and how it is affecting the socio-political relations in the making of these infrastructures.

# THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

20:00-21:30 CEST

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Plenary 4 | Desmond D'Sa (SA) and Manu Claeys (BE) (Civil Society Plenary)**

**Contesting urban infrastructure projects: experiences from the Antwerp Oosterweel link and the Durban port expansion projects**

Thursday 15 July 2021

20:00-21:30 (CEST)

This plenary session is concerned with the multiple ways in which urban infrastructure projects are contested by civil society actors. Civil society actors, their mode of operation and embedding in urban societies vary greatly across time and space, resulting in different forms of politics. In this session we want to discuss the politics of urban civil society actors by looking at two vastly different cases of civil society contestation of urban infrastructure projects, taking place in two very different social and institutional contexts, namely Durban (SA) and Antwerp (BE). We will do this through the eyes of two key players in urban civil society in these respective cases.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

**S37 | Understanding refugees' home-making practices and housing pathways against the backdrop of the broader housing question of European cities**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Viviana d'Auria, Luce Beeckmans

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS056

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00:21:30 CEST

### **Housing for Refugee Inclusion**

Tasneem Nagi, Heleen Verheyden

### **Social integration and quality of life of refugees in Germany**

Annette Spellerberg, Lutz Eichholz, Chrisoph Giehl, Jussi Jauhainen

**Topic:** Germany hosts the highest number of refugees in Europe. The individual expectations and living conditions of refugees differ according to the kind of accommodation. In this contribution, we aim at investigating Influencing factors for quality of life during the stay in Germany. We will highlight the importance of housing, neighborhood and community on subjective well-being. Theoretically, we discuss forced migration, small-scale segregation and community life in a super-diverse society and ask for the relevance of local level, bonds and neighborhoods for integration processes.

**Methods:** In a two-years-research project, we followed a mixed-methods approach. In the state of Rhineland-Palatinate we analyzed official data and conducted

a) semi-structured qualitative interviews with refugees (and inhabitants) in three types of cities: a booming city with high pressure on the housing market (Mainz), a mid-sized town (Kaiserslautern), and a rural small town with reception center (Kusel),

b) a quantitative survey in a reception center, shared accommodations and rented apartments in Kaiserslautern and Kusel,

c) workshops with refugees and stakeholders.

Results: The longer asylum related migrants stay in Germany, the more pessimistic and dissatisfied they become. Social integration via internet and friends as well as the perception of their neighborhood are decisive for higher levels of well-being. Chances for social contacts and community life are most important influencing factors for individual well-being. Undoubtedly, systemic integration (education, labor market, legal status) is important for refugees, but not at last, stakeholders are challenged to provide infrastructures for facilitating social bonds and community life in post-migrant societies.

### **Housing for refugees: A new home in a new cultural context**

Sara Willems, Henk De Smet, Ann Heylighen

Housing is more than the material aspect of refugees' resettlement. When refugees develop an affective bond with a dwelling, it becomes a home. Focusing on how the meaning of home relates to culture, we explore to what extent Flemish bottom-up housing initiatives, intended to increase the availability of refugee housing, align with refugees' culture-related wishes and needs. For three initiative types, semi-structured interviews with initiators provided insight into their intentions. The housing experience of nine refugees, accommodated by these initiatives, was explored through semi-structured interviews and self-documentation using probes. Comparing intentions and experiences highlights how values concerning home mainly overlap, while material expressions thereof and cultural practices can differ across cultures, between refugees, and over time. Differences surface in how values concerning connectivity/privacy and ecology are manifested in social and energy related practices, and how these practices relate with building style. Refugees search a new balance between values, practices and material manifestations within the Flemish initiatives' constraints, taking into account the climate, cultural, social and financial context. They assimilate partially and apply home-making practices related to their familiar culture (eating traditional food, listening traditional music, using odor sticks with traditional smells). Within this search for a new balance the dwelling can become a home. Designing with instead of for refugees could increase the mutual understanding of how differing values and lifestyles are materialized in building style. This can enrich designs, while decreasing acculturative stress and fostering refugees' home feeling in their new dwelling.

## **S89 | Social reproduction in hypercommodified homes**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eva Kuschinski, Leon Rosa Reichle

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS132

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00:21:30 CEST

### **Spatial planning for the new suburbia – easing the burden for women or progressively transforming reproductive relations?**

Henriette Bertram

Feminist theorists have denounced suburban neighbourhoods as manifestations of unequal reproductive relations since the 1970s, pointing out that women living in suburbia were marginalised spatially and socially and campaigning for a better recognition of reproductive tasks in the design of the built environment. Suburban space was seen as an inhibitor of emancipation, forcing women to stay at home due to lack of close-by employment, childcare, and inflexible public transport. From the 1990s onwards, critics have argued that a recognition of reproductive tasks would merely ease the burden for women who by then increasingly worked outside the home, but not bring about real change in gender relations. Nowadays, gender roles are regarded as socially ascribed and gender-sensitive planning has become more common in many European cities, taking into account diverse life realities and aiming to support people with reproductive tasks. It is striking, however, that these people – regardless of class and educational/professional background – are still overwhelmingly women and that especially (heterosexual) parents are still more likely to reach an egalitarian distribution of paid and unpaid work when living in inner-city neighbourhoods. In my contribution, I would therefore like to analyse planning strategies in new suburban neighbourhoods that have the potential to actually and progressively transform reproductive relations. By means of a qualitative text analysis and using Hamburg-Oberbillwerder as a case study, I would like to find out whether 40 years of gender-related criticism are finally being integrated into the planning and design of contemporary suburban neighbourhoods.

### **Housing crisis and new relations of solidarity in Barcelona**

Martin Sarnow

The housing crisis in the Spanish state reveals a clear gender dimension. A lack of social housing and drastically rising rents meet with a highly precarious access of women to the housing market. This access is restricted by structural disadvantages

in the labour market as well as by the socially assigned role of women as providers of reproductive work. In the wake of austerity policies, the conditions of this reproductive work have drastically worsened and as a result, particularly women are threatened by impending poverty and the risk of forced evictions.

However, not only the consequences of the (housing) crisis are gendered, but also the struggles for housing are highly feminised. In many cities and districts housing syndicates have been formed, which try to stop forced evictions and fight for the right to housing. Many of these syndicates are driven by women and the question of housing and gender is included and also turned into a practice.

The contribution aims to highlight the gendered dimension of the housing crisis but also the moments of resistance, drawing on the example of Barcelona. Thus, these struggles for housing are seen as the formation of new modes of relationship (Adamczak), in which individuals lose their fear of authority through collectivity, a separation between the private and the public is overcome, and competition is overwritten by solidarity. At the same time, the example will be used to illustrate limitations in the creation and expansion of these new relations.

### **Urban social movements as extended class actors? How to use the social reproduction approach to analyse collective actions**

Sarah Uhlmann

Based on a comparative study of urban protest in New York City, Buenos Aires and Hamburg, I found that despite different contexts urban social movements have emerged first of all against the increasing valorisation of urban space, especially regarding to housing. Insofar they are a reaction to the social and spatial Landnahmen (Klaus Dörre) and the increasing exploitation in the reproductive sphere in financialized capitalism. Therefore in the presentation I would like to discuss, whether urban social movements are an economically conditioned actor and should be seen as a kind of class actors – but in the sphere of reproduction. Urban social movements have less structural power than the labour movement - obviously. But as the empirical findings show, they have a comparatively high associative power if they can rely on local organizational structures that serve to support everyday social reproduction and on a territorially anchored identity. These factors enable the formation of elementary social relationships and networks based on reciprocity, trust and continuity - on which protest is crucially dependent. In analytical terms, social reproduction should therefore not be limited to the area in which the crisis is felt. The sphere of social reproduction, which for a long time was not negotiated as a place of social change, contributes decisively to social transformation, because in this realm people establish relationships and initiate processes of collectivization in a solidary way.

## **S52 | Love in the diverse city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Lidia Manzo

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS080

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00:21:30 CEST

### **From the meeting to the marriage of Lao-Western couples**

Mimy Keomanichanh

My thesis in anthropology focuses on the Lao-Belgian and Lao-French heterosexual couples. The couples are made up of a Lao woman born and raised in Laos and a Belgian and a French man born and raised in France. Marriage mobilizes representative and distinct issues in Western (Belgium and France) and in Laos. In Laos, the cohabitation of a couple will be socially legitimate only if it is preceded by a marriage in a traditional ceremony. In Western countries, especially in Belgium and in France although marriage is a social institution central and the social and political organizations of families, concubinage is a matrimony and family configuration.

My research shows that Lao-Western marriage integrates major social, economic, political and cultural issues. This is a necessary step in the conjugal establishment of the "mixed" couples from a social and legal context. Marriage is the only way for spouses to live under the same roof. In Laos, the concubinage of a Lao women with a foreigner may give rise to fines. In the Western, it is necessary to obtain a resident permit for the Lao partner wishing to settle in the country of an origin of their western spouses.

The presentation will demonstrate the encounter of Lao-Western couples (Lao-French and Lao-Belgian couples). And how do they decide and negotiate to get married under a short period of time in building relationship (2 years maximum).

### **Gaisen. Love, longing and inter-racial (s)excapism in the city among Japanese queer men.**

Marcello Francioni

This paper explores some of the issues of intimacy, desire, race and ethnicity encapsulated by the social, romantic and sexual practices under the label of *gaisen* (attraction for foreigners) that shape the interactions between queer male foreigners in urban Japan and foreigner-attracted Japanese queer men in urban Japan. More specifically, the paper highlights the role of longing for cosmopolitan lifestyles and the prospects of living elsewhere in a progressively globally interconnected Japanese love market.

*Gaiisen* practices find circulation in the clubs, drinking joints, karaoke parlours and street corners constellating cosmopolitan areas of Tokyo, such as queer nightlife hub, Shinjuku Ni-chome, and Shibuya. Dense urban spaces like Tokyo attract both foreigners and Japanese nationals and represent perfect settings for sentiments of exotic fascination and skepticism toward foreigners to surface on an interpersonal level. Intimate association with foreigners may be seen as a urban-based corrective to life in Japan, as far as the quality of life and civil rights of (sexual) minorities go, a fantasy of (s)excapism that makes living in Japan better. The creation of social and intimate cosmopolitan bubbles becomes a substitute for life abroad, a heterotopia where individuals can integrate different discourses about being non-straight people in Japan. On a political level, *gaisen* practices (or the avoidance to engage with foreigners) may be seen as by-products of Japan's migration policies aimed at preserving a purportedly homogeneous Japanese nation even for non-heterosexual citizens; and of unresolved post-war racial tensions and discourses on the uniqueness of the Japanese.

## **S74 | Geographies of school segregation: comparing household choices and strategies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Marta Cordini, Carolina Pacchi, Andrea Parma

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS108

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00:21:30 CEST

### **Controlled choice, white flight and school segregation. The case of Barcelona.**

Xavier Bonal, ADRIÁN ZANCAJO

Frequently residential segregation is presented as one of the main factors of school segregation. However, in most countries school segregation tends to be higher than residential segregation, which underlines the role of other factors and in particular of school choice as a cause of school segregation. In this paper we assess how school choice decisions impact on school segregation in the city of Barcelona. Barcelona's admissions policy is regulated through a quasi-market system of school choice. Catchment areas are designed to maximize proximity in school enrolment. However, the existence of oversupply of school places and reforms that have expanded choice opportunities boost students' mobility within the city. This paper shows how families and students use differently the opportunities to opt out from local schools and catchment areas depending on their socioeconomic background, and the impact of these mobility patterns on school segregation. By using microdata from the Barcelona Education Consortium (the Local Education Authority), we first present basic analyses on residential and school segregation for all city's catchment areas. Second, we develop a counterfactual approach to estimate how school segregation would be reduced if all students would remain in the catchment area or would attend to their local school. Finally, we provide evidence on different patterns of mobility for three different social groups (foreign students, beneficiaries of free school meals and recipients of poverty alleviation funds). The results show different patterns of choice and unequal choice opportunities among social groups and invite to reflect on several policy implications.

### **Recently migrated students' school choice strategies in the Stockholm suburbs**

Brendan Munhall

### **Families' childcare-related networks and their impact on primary school choice**

Isabel Ramos Lobato

Within the Swedish education system, the successful inclusion of migrant students is recognized as a challenge in need of better understanding. Sweden has a unique quasi-market education system in which students choose which school they wish to attend. While emphasis is placed on the student making the choice of school in Sweden, a number of people in their life have considerable influence. As a large number of students are competing for a limited number of places within schools, migrant students' understanding of the process can place them on an academic trajectory that can determine what opportunities are available to them later in life. Therefore, the information that these students receive through formal and informal channels and the multitude of barriers that they face are of particular interest in the Swedish context. So far however, this particular set of students' experiences and perspectives are underrepresented in research, providing an opportunity for empirical study. This paper explores the upper-secondary school choice strategies of recent migrant students in the Stockholm segregated urban setting in Sweden. The students' perceptions and understandings were

collected through a qualitative approach using semi-structured interviews. Twenty-eight students were interviewed in nine different suburban neighbourhoods. Some preliminary results indicate that student isolation, misunderstandings of the choice process, the importance of learning traditions, commuting times and the social support network students have available to them are common among the group of students. Students' residential area plays an outsized role in which school selected as well, reinforcing segregation along socio-economic lines.

## **S31 | Reflections on Intersectional Power Dynamics in Urban Methodologies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Dilruba Erkan, Minke Hajer

**Track** | Urban Methods

**Code** | PS047

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **The exhaustion of 'hanging out' at the street corner: Two female researchers unpacking emotional labor required in their urban ethnographic fieldwork**

Rosa Danenberg, Ying-Tzu Lin

When 'hanging out' in your neighborhood becomes your research tool, also confusion, self-doubt and immaturity arise for young researchers to deal with. The field of urban planning and design increasingly employs ethnographic methods, while it remains a marginalized aspect in its training. Yet, traditional anthropological training typically acknowledges the implications of navigating in a foreign environment and encourages peer group discussion on what it takes to accomplish ethnography. The urban studies discipline has yet to integrate further depth of reflexivity regarding 'the researcher as a tool' in familiar urban settings.

This is a research reflection based on the experience of two female urban researchers who did their ethnographic studies on streets near their homes in the cities of Amsterdam and Stockholm. The exchange between us as female researchers helped to unpack the factors that triggered our mutually experienced exhaustion. We discovered that we both adopted various identities to navigate the field. This strategy was useful to act upon different female stereotypes when collecting data and to prevent or minimize sexual harassment in a male-dominated environment. The reflexive dialogue inspired us to understand emotional labor and image management as implicit elements of fieldwork; especially when the field overlaps with the researchers' private daily life.

Furthermore, the social capacity that is required to perform emotional labour should be raised in methodological training. Here, dialogue as a method is seen as a way to collectively acknowledge the burden, reveal tactics and implications, and encourage the normalization of this topic in the academic debate.

### **Women through the waves of rivers.**

### **Moving across the surface, midwater and deep, in various streams of planning research.**

Gloria Pessina, Marilena Prisco, Giusy Pappalardo

The relation between gender and power dynamics for planning scholars is underexplored, although there is a long list of women researchers in urban studies that, mainly using ethnographic methods, have opened up the debate (Gurney, 1985; Greed, 1994; Fainstein & Servon, 2005). The role of female scholars as embodied agents is even more complex if we move to the technicalities of infrastructures of the city, with their material and procedural aspects.

In this paper we aim to discuss the specific experiences of female bodies doing fieldwork in river basins that have been under male-made/man-made transformation for years. We use our autobiographical notes from the fieldwork across different south(s) of the world – India (in the "so-called" Global South), Naples & Sicily (south Italy and south Europe) and the State of Mississippi (south USA).

Critical reflections, focused on the movement of white female bodies following changings in water arrangements – political and material, visible and invisible –, are instrumentally used to investigate three main aspects: power imbalances doing research on conflicts as a woman; a woman as a researcher between activists and members of citizens' movements; a woman as a maieutic agent to stimulate river communities and the academic debate on the topic.

### **'It's almost the 14th of February [Valentine's day] so I thought of you': finding balance between acceptance and professionalism in police research**

Laura D. Keesman

Police work is a male-dominated profession and masculine research field. Female police researchers have frequently reflected on gendered power dynamics during fieldwork, arguing they are regarded as dangerous, a spy, or as someone who must be protected, thus treated in a paternalistic way (Hunt, 1984). At the same time, they have to deal with flirtatious behavior and being sheltered from data they seek (Gurney, 1985). Managing strategies include ignoring sexist remarks (Warren, 1988), defensive humor (Brewer, 1991), and cultivating the image of being harmless and unthreatening, proving competence and trustworthiness (Horn, 1997). To make matters more complex, being assigned a 'traditional' female role possibly overcomes initial suspicion. Prokos & Padavic (2002) for instance, experienced that acting in a stereotypically feminine way resulted in more acceptance. While this allows the researcher some measure of 'invisibility' (Warren, 1988), it undermines her capability. Unfortunately, none of these researchers discuss the implications of such experiences for the course of their research, nor how they struck a balance between mistreatment and professionalism. In my presentation, I discuss how I dealt with the dilemma of acceptance versus professionalism whilst establishing access to important gatekeepers, and certain types of data. I reflect on the concept of 'confessions of ignorance' (Shakespeare, 1993) as a tool to emphasize naivety on the role of the researcher. This can be an empowering strategy to cope with personal discomfort. Finally, I discuss how my data collection has been impacted, beneficial and harmful, by interactions loaded with gender norms and power dynamics. For example, missing out on data by avoiding respondents, gaining access to otherwise inaccessible research sites, and, interestingly, difficulty in connecting with policewomen.

### **Considerations on a 'third leg' foisted and the relevance of analyzing sexual harassment encountered during fieldwork.**

Danielle A.M. Chevalier

Though suspected to be a common experience, the issue of sexual harassment during fieldwork is marginalized in methodological and anthropological training. At the same time, anthropological fixations on ethnography encompass solitary endeavours in foreign settings, retrieving unique data through building intimate relations with the field. This frame both increases the possible exposure to harassment and constricts the academic space to discuss such experiences. Otherwise put, sexual harassment plays a role in power dynamics both in the research field and in the academic domain. This entails a dual danger of superimposing a specific regime of symbolic power onto a research setting and of ignoring a valuable source of data. This article argues that experiences of sexual harassment during fieldwork should be recognized as possible data, and treated as such without reservations whether discussing such occurrences will be deemed appropriate within a 'malestream' reference frame. The article builds on empirical field work, and connects concepts of reflexive sociology, symbolic power, intersectionality and embodied ethnography.

## **S54 | Exploring the hospitality of urban spaces through the eyes of newcomers**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Maxime Felder, Luca Pattaroni, Joanna Stavo-Debaugue

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS084

**Room 7** | Square Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Unexpected Inclusion: Migration, Mobility and the Open City. A research agenda**

Sandro Cattacin, Fiorenza Gamba

What are the conditions that improve the dynamics of belonging and peaceful coexistence between the established and newcomers in the (European) city? This is the main objective of the project UNIC (Unexpected Inclusion) funded by the Swiss and the Belgian National Science Foundations: to analyse self-organised migrant associations, independent civil society initiatives and established ritualised practices of inclusion in the city that occur outside formal migration and integration policies and that improve the dynamics of belonging, exchange, cooperation, interactions and peaceful coexistence between the established and newcomers. Our project focuses on dynamics in urban spaces that can be seen as a type of "commons" producing inclusion and/or exclusion in seven representative European cities: Brussels, Charleroi, Dresden, Geneva, Turin, Liège, Zurich.

Urban citizenship offers belonging to a place, but belonging is not only a question of formal rights, but also of everyday experiences of differences and offers of inclusion. Combining ethic and emic perspectives, we analyse how newcomers interpret inclusion offers coming from welcome groups, migrant organisations and, in general, through activities open to the all, in particular ritualised urban events, mobilising memory and values. In our paper we want to present first insights from our project.

## Hospitality, migration and mental health

Giovanni Matera

The “stranger” person who appears for the first time in an urban community can be perceived as a newcomer ready to become a member. This is a unifying conception that can help organize social support as a network to respond to the newcomer's needs. In the recent years mental health care has developed a community treatment service that facilitates the inclusion of a mentally ill person. The recent migratory crisis, coupled with the Covid19 crisis, has drawn increasing attention to the multiple layers of difficulties which migrant persons can be faced with. Asylum seekers who are victims of forced migration, have proved to be more likely to suffer from forms of mental illness. On its part, Covid19 pandemic is bringing new threats to both asylum seekers and persons suffering from mental distress. In case of an asylum seeker who suffers from mental illness, due to bureaucratic organization which tends to prioritize the attainment of a legal residency status, the overlap of community mental healthcare services and asylum support services can trigger a selection mechanism that does not actually fulfill the objective of social inclusion. Although, from the newcomer's side, receiving specific mental health support is a right that legitimates a form of positive selection, social inclusion requires the integration of social and medical services and reinforces the role of the community-building capacity of the involved actors. Drawing from previous ethnographic findings, my presentation will outline a new perspective on the overlap between asylum support and community mental health services.

## S15 | Governing Urban Marginality

**Session Organiser(s)** | Andrew Clarke, Daniel Kudla, Lutfun Nahar Lata

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS024

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Is Street Census a policy instrument to reckon with homelessness? Inquiry into a new trend of governing urban marginality.**

Lola Vives

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest on providing numbers on homeless population. Indeed, several French cities organize Street Census to enumerate homeless people since a couple of years. These surveys aim to gather informations on homelessness, the visible and urban marginalised people on streets, through a Point-In Time Count.

If this kind of surveys follows a French statistical tradition described as reckoning with homeless people as citizens, the objective is to estimate homeless population and assess (in order to plan) local and national new policies, such as Housing First.

This paper gives an account of how Street Censuses are conducted in France. Stakeholders who organized French Street Census claim the importation of methodologies from the US and assert the scientificity of the results. From a comparative study of the documentations related to several Street Censuses (questionnaires, public relations, results) and the ethnographic observations of gatherings with involved stakeholders, I critically examine Street Census as a new trend of governing homelessness.

I will focus on the arguments that support these implementations by promoting some forms of care towards this marginalized population (assessing needs, volunteers participation). However this method of survey has a number of limitations, such as not being able to reckon the “hidden homeless”. I will examine limitations and critics from a controversy perspective.

My main argument will be to highlight Street Census as a policy instrument that strengthens a technologisation of urban marginality global problem and by doing so, de-politicized the homelessness public problem.

### **Governing Delhi's Homeless Shelters**

Ashwin Parulkar, Manish

This paper is an extension of our previous working paper, presented at the 2019 RC-21 Conference, that focused on a demolition of a shelter and the eviction of a neighboring informal settlement in one Delhi locality (Parulkar, Manish & Kumar 2019). That paper identified the cause of eviction to the the nature of subordination experienced by the (1) state nodal agency (DUSIB) and (2) shelter-managing NGO to the (3) central land owning agency (DDA), (4) Resident Welfare Association and (5) Delhi High Court. It revealed the power government bodies that own land where shelters are built have over other stakeholders. This paper addresses:

(1) What are the governance dynamics of shelters across Delhi's myriad geographies?

(2) How, across the land↔shelter↔land owning agency (L-S-L) matrix can we understand how Delhi's geographies of homelessness may be vulnerable to inadequate, even injurious, government responses?

Using data on 123 of Delhi's nearly 200 shelters obtained from DUSIB through RTIs and office visits, the paper constructs a land↔shelter↔land owning agency (L-S-L) matrix to identify which central, state and municipal (MCD) government agencies own land where shelters are built.

We also analyze Supreme Court Orders that have emerged since 2015-16 (the era after the High Court closed their case in Delhi) and government documents obtained from actors in the multi-stakeholder system. Alongside the L-S-L matrix, a chronology and analysis of these documents illuminate how multiple jurisdictions and multi-stakeholder monitoring bodies in Delhi were created, how shelters are governed and potential risks they face.

### **Governing Urban Marginality in Housing: Regeneration, Resilience and Registered Providers**

Tony Manzi

This paper considers the range of strategies used to govern marginal groups within the context of urban regeneration initiatives. Situated within an analysis of London's housing, the paper examines the strategies used by social landlords to define and address contemporary urban problems. Through an examination of housing regeneration initiatives, the paper analyses the conflicts amongst interest groups and the strategies deployed by landlord agencies to promote concepts such as resilience, sustainability and wellbeing. The paper argues that whilst couched in a language of emancipation and empowerment, the concepts used are more commonly deployed as disciplinary governance mechanisms to control, classify and ultimately coerce, disadvantaged communities.

### **Proyectos comunitarios in Havana – tourism as resource for grassroots development in late socialist Cuba**

Oskar Lubinski

The aim of this paper is to consider intersections between tourism oriented economies and the politics of infrastructure and community development in a (late) socialist country. It is based on a one community project that is supposed to benefit one of the oldest informal settlements in western parts of Havana. The capital of Cuba constitutes a particularly interesting case due to history of governance of marginality and social projects in the course of the Cuban revolution of 1959 and the state's crisis in the 1990s that brought about the reintroduction of tourism as its main resource.

I argue that although tourism is usually considered a mechanism that deepens existing inequalities and creates new ones, in the context of late socialist Cuba it becomes perceived as a resource that the creation of new ideas for community development and a way to bring attention to social problems and aim at resolving them. Nonetheless, this also raises questions about redistribution of goods and in what way the aforementioned come to exist. Community projects employ various strategies of taking people out of marginality, and usually rely to a varying degree on help from tour groups etc. to organize or finance some of their activities. My research builds up on a rich body of work that considers the impact of touristic transformations in Cuba while linking it to the critical reflection on Cuban revolutionary ideology and strategies of community engagement.

## **S38 | Socio-spatial fragmentation: New perspectives in urban theory and research**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Matthew A. Richmond

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS058

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Socio-spatial fragmentation. Urban theory and historical context**

Carles Carreras Verdager

This paper analyses the concept of Socio-spatial fragmentation in relation to the urban theories. In relation to the research group of the University of Presidente Prudente (Brazil), the author try to put the concept into its geographical and historical context (Sposito, 2019; Sposito & Sposito, 2019). The main objective is to clarify the different meanings of the concept in order to have scientific arguments to choose the best method to explain the contemporary urbanization processes, at the different scales of analysis.

Geographical context implies two different aspects. For one hand, it is necessary to analyse the relationship between French and Brazilian Geography. Since the very beginning, with the foundation of the Universidade de São Paulo

(Deffontaines, 1938), until the last decades contacts (Brazilian professors in France, French postdocs in Latin America), with the important milestone of the Milton Santos work (Santos, 1996). On the other hand, the production of the urban network in the São Paulo state has the extraordinary characteristic of the implementation of the Capitalist urbanization without commercial and classical cities precedence. The historical context of this process is fundamental.

Historical context is also important in order to theoretically analyse the use of the concept of socio-spatial fragmentation into the classical Political Economy tradition, the ecological tradition of urban Sociology, the simple dualistic New Urban Age, and the lefebvrian production of the space and planetary urbanization (Brenner, 2019).

The conclusion is a conceptual proposal to understand contemporary urbanization at a global scale

### **Socio-spatial fragmentation: conceptual tools for a theoretical analysis from the Latin American experience**

Alejandro Morcuende González, Jean Legroux

Currently, the concept of "socio-spatial fragmentation" is widely used in urban literature to explain different socio-spatial processes, such as the complexification of segregation, the emergence of new urban centralities and the reinforcement of forms that highlight, in a visible way, urban fragmented spaces. That triggers off a theoretical misconception which might limit empirical work. This leads us, first, to a necessary critical review exercise of the construction of socio-spatial fragmentation as a concept. Focusing in the Latin American context, this critical review proposes a specific delimitation of the concept to a clearer understanding of the current space-society relations. Secondly, based on that review, we identify some main elements that, alone, do not explain all the phenomena linked to fragmentation processes. Finally, we suggest forgotten and hidden issues that can help grasping socio-spatial fragmentation processes. Thus, in one way, we argue that, in order to be constructed as an accurate concept, socio-spatial fragmentation needs to be put in dialogue with the dimensions differential urbanization processes and everyday life, within the framework of planetary urbanization. Moreover, as a process, socio-spatial fragmentation should be understood as an aggregation of social, economical, political and cultural processes under the last decades of capitalist restructuring. In this sense, the article approaches socio-spatial fragmentation both as a concept, which needs to be rebuilt, and as a set of processes, in opposition to an isolated and independent one.

### **Fragmentation revisited through the lens of planetary urbanization, austerity urbanism and financialisation: Insights from Latin American cities.**

Henrique Dorneles de Castro, Michael Janoschka

As an expression of strongly polarised societies, Latin American cities have been historically considered as extremely segregated. However, in a context of a new round of austerity applied to the public sector with strengthened private actors and a weakened public realm, the subsequent proliferation of new elements condensing different functions (e.g., housing, work, consumption, leisure, healthcare) and simulating public spaces in private areas and privately planned neighbourhoods may demonstrate ever increasing divisions regarding lifestyles. Regarding such structural transformation taking place, we are exploring in this paper how the resulting fragmentation process may be conceptually approached in a context of globalised ultra-liberal financial economy. In this regard, we will draw upon discussions on planetary urbanisation, austerity urbanism and financialisation to provide further insights into processes of fragmentation across Latin America. Based on our empirical work carried out in Porto Alegre (Brazil), we will also confront these discussions with the embedded reality of a city from the Global South, as well as concepts of Brazilian Geographers (Santos, 1994; Caldeira, 2000; Souza, 2011; Lencioni, 2017). Austerity urbanism will be analysed against Brazil's ultra-liberal policies, and reference to financialisation will provide us with better understanding of the transnational capital's role in reshaping cities. The paper develops conceptual underpinnings into current changes in Latin American cities, and it contributes to the debate about socio-spatial fragmentation in the current phase of capitalist urbanisation.

### **Socio-spatial fragmentation: exploring empirical perspectives from Barcelona's experience**

Lluís Frago Clols, Sergi Martínez-Rigol

The definition of the socio-spatial fragmentation concept of as a polysemic concept (Sposito & Sposito, 2019) could limit its power to explain the current world. On one hand, those limitations are based on its use by different and opposite theoretical perspectives: both from postmodern approaches, which deny any systemic conception of the world, to Marxist ones (Harvey, 1992). On the other hand, the limitations are related with the fact that some of the methodological arrangements are based on local scales and experiences, thus the methodological corpus is no longer operational when analysing places from different socio-spatial formations.

This communication aims to explore the different methodological approaches that in the frame of the planetary urbanization (Brenner, 2015) could move forward the concept of socio-spatial fragmentation. The most important variables associated to the territorial division of labour (Santos, 1996) are analysed from the location of the urban functions. Specially the residential and retail functions, as well as other public and private services. To understand the behaviour of those variables, special emphasis is placed on the historical context of each site analysed, the role of the scale, both functional and political-administrative, as well as the effects of the real estate market.

The chosen empirical analysis framework is metropolitan Barcelona. Reflections should contribute to advance in the formulation of the concept. The communication presented seeks to dialogue with other research group's contributions, specially those that are part of the PRINT project, focused on socio-spatial fragmentation and coordinated by UNESP- Presidente Prudente (Brazil).

### **Urban segregation in the metropolises of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro: in search of interpretation**

Marcelo Gomes Ribeiro, Diogo David de Matos, Felipe Camargo Raitano

During the process of intense Brazilian urbanization, which occurred between 1940 and 1980, a pattern of urban segregation marked by the center-periphery model was established in the metropolises of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, characterizing them as spaces that expressed the opposition between urban conditions (infrastructure and services) and between the social groups that were located in each space. After more than 40 years of this process, the changes occurred in the urban structure of these metropolises lead to questioning what is the most appropriate interpretation of their segregation pattern: whether it is still expressed by the center-periphery model or if it is now expressed by what has been called urban fragmentation. Therefore, the objectives of this paper are to present a better interpretation of the segregation pattern in the mentioned cities and to qualify in the best possible way the categories used to express it (center-periphery or urban fragmentation). For this purpose, we will use data from the country's demographic censuses for 1980 and 2010 to empirically operationalize the urban structure of each of the metropolises through statistical techniques and multivariate analysis, which allow for both over time and comparative analysis.

## **S9 | Linked urban (mis)fortunes: The social-spatial contract**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Rowland Atkinson, Emma Morales

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS013

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 20:00-21:30 CEST

### **Between Walls and Fences: The Impact of Gated Communities on Security in Adjacent Streets**

David Kostenwein, Samuel Lloyd

More than 3500 gated communities today house close to 40% of Bogotá's households and constitute the prevailing form of housing provision today. The dominant reason given in the literature for the rise of gated communities is insecurity, with gated communities perceived to provide elevated levels of security for their residents. While the impact of gated communities on security for those residing inside the gates is often studied and highly debated, theories from environmental criminology and urban studies suggest that gated communities may at the same time create insecurity for those in public spaces outside the gates. Reasons for this include the way gated communities reduce levels of informal social control by decreasing street activity, diminishing visual interaction between private and public space, and generating a general sentiment of mistrust.

Within this context, through the utilization of advanced spatial analysis methods we estimate the association between the presence of gated communities and the incidence of different forms of public space crime at the street segment level in Bogotá, before assessing the importance of a number of features of the built environment as mediators of this relationship. In so doing, we develop insights into the ways in which features of the urban built environment shape socio-spatial inequalities in public space crime risks, and highlight that the individual choice of living behind gates might collide with the collective interest of inclusive and safe cities for all.

### **Displacement and segregation as a result of the dismantling and regeneration of a working class neighbourhood under a market-oriented strategy. The case of Bologna's Bolognina (Italy)**

Federico Camerin

The proposal aims first to analyse the forms of expulsion of the typical features of working-class neighbourhoods in the Western European countries on the ground of a profit-driven strategy to create new areas of centrality. Second, the understanding of the consequences of these dynamics in terms of socio-economic displacement and segregation. The idea is to emphasise the role played by the management of large properties of land in such neighbourhoods in order to launch "sanitiser" actions which impact would create new urban inequalities. The analysis focuses specifically on the processes of abandonment-emptying-ruin of public-owned large properties of soil – such as industrial, military, and railway premises – to carry out urban regeneration projects.

The consequences of this strategy are exposed taking into account the case of Bologna's Bolognina neighbourhood (Italy). The analysis shows that the gradual abandonment of large industrial, military, and railway properties was the base to start the regeneration of Bolognina to increase the competitiveness of Bologna, thus materialising new segregated areas. This case can be argued to be a sample of the late 20th century- and early 21st century-capitalist city faced a new global tendency: the city marketing strategies were the "generator" of speculative economies driven by the owners of large properties of urban land, also the public ones. The typical functions of Bolognina are treated now as "ordinary" real estate 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.

### **Gated communities and residential segregation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: how elite self-sufficient residential enclaves affect everyday lives in the city.**

Rodrigo Cerqueira Agueda

As suburbs become more and more diversified, the phenomenon of gated communities has been the primary effort of middle and upper classes in the search for security, status and sameness. Those residential enclaves have shown to be the new face of residential segregation in most countries across the globe nowadays, reproducing the template of what suburbanization was earlier. That phenomenon has spread from the United States and Europe to many countries in the 'global south' exacerbating urban inequalities and changing social relations in cities. In my current research, I investigate the everyday life of residents in one of the reflects of gated communities in Brazil: the "city-condominiums". In Barra da Tijuca, a recently urbanized neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, a type of housing development that is segregated and self-sufficient has spread to be the characteristic way of life of contemporary upper-middle and upper classes. Offering an almost complete life inside its walls, those developments concentrate services, leisure and even workspaces for its residents. They are changing the way in which elites interact with and within the city and are radically transforming social relations and the face of class segregation in Rio de Janeiro.

### **New-build housing for the middle-class – a benefit for the poor? A critical analysis of current filtering policies in Hamburg, Germany**

Anne Vogelpohl, Thomas Pohl, Christoph Haferburg

A new housing crisis is apparent in many German cities: rents are increasing and affordable housing is lacking. In Hamburg, the prevailing response to this is building new homes in large development projects. New stock, however, is expensive and thus accessible primarily for wealthier households. In spite of this, according to filtering thesis, there will be benefits for lower-income groups as well: older and cheaper homes will become available, since middle class households move out when relocating to new-build apartments. While convincing in theory, there is little empirical evidence substantiating this claim. Research in urban studies has called the idea of filtering down into question, and social movements declare it as 'myth'. Still, Hamburg's housing policy is explicitly based on the assumption of a filtering effect.

In order to examine this policy with regard to a socially just housing supply, we investigate the effects of the "Mitte Altona"-project (the most recent new-build neighborhood in Hamburg) with an interview-based analysis of the socio-economic and residential situation. This survey is combined with a matching study on the new residents in the former homes. Qualitative interviews with selected residents and experts are supplementing the design.

In this paper, we will briefly reflect on the state of the art in filtering research by relating current academic claims to prevailing political reactions on the housing crisis in Germany. Against this backdrop, we will introduce our study and highlight key findings. We conclude by suggesting an alternative theoretical foundation for a socially balanced housing policy.

# FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

## 14:00-15:30 CEST

### KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Plenary 5 | Edgar Pieterse, Saheed Aderinto, Nadine Machikou, Kingsley Madueke, Vanessa Watson, Lisa Weinstein & Nik Theodore**

**Presencing and publishing Urban Studies from Africa**

Friday 16 July 2021

14:00-15:30 (CEST)

With Jennifer Robinson (University College London, UK), Laurent Fourchard (Sciences Po, Paris), Julie-Anne Boudreau (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Walter Nicholls (University of California, Irvine)

While in "international" northern-based journals publishing the work of African based scholars seems to remain a challenge for editors, African scholars have organised many dynamic venues for publishing urban and African studies research. We have invited African-based scholars who have been involved in leading these initiatives to share their experiences; and editors working on Western-based journals to respond.

We will hear from 4 African based urban scholars for 10-15 minutes each, and then from 3 editors of urban studies journals to make short responses.

### WALKSHOP

**Infrastructural Explorations: Embodied encounters with urban infrastructure**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Laura Henneke, Louise Rondel

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | W100

**Room 23** | Round Table room

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

This interactive and participatory session builds on a series of Infrastructural Explorations which we have been co-curating since June 2018. During these workshops, we invite participants to consider their embodied and sensorial contact with the infrastructure we encounter in order to cultivate an 'infrastructural literacy' (Mattern 2013). In this, we want to problematise the notion that infrastructure in the global north is hidden until it fails (Graham 2010, Star 1999). We also want to ask how (and, indeed, if) embodied encounters with infrastructure can engage with questions of power and distributional (in)justice, with the politics of the siting of infrastructure, with its unequal socio-spatial impacts, and with forms of structural violence (Amin 2014, Graham and McFarlane 2015, Latour and Hermant 1998, Star 1999, Tonkiss 2015).

During the Explorations, as we open our sociological imaginations to the city, an emphasis is placed on collective experiences, on unexpected encounters, and on happenstance conversations. We consider the methodological potential offered by an open-ended, corporeal, multisensory, and collective attention to infrastructure and its impacts on the urban landscape. We also critically interrogate the ethics of the detached 'explorer' asking, alongside Mattern (2013), 'but then what?'. Having attuned to the visual, aural, olfactory, and haptic effects on the landscape and the human and more-than-human lives lived there, we further reflect on what these bodily engagements may enable.

As we are unable to meet in person, we have devised a participatory and playful online-offline session inviting delegates to join us in exploring the infrastructure on our doorstep. With the bodily, sensory, and socio-spatial impacts of urban infrastructure in mind, we will send you on a multi-sited scavenger hunt. Working in teams and within your national Covid-19 guidelines, you can explore your neighbourhood, the street outside your window, or your home to find infrastructure, exchanging reflections on its impacts on urban landscapes as well as on the methodological possibilities and limitations offered by such encounters. Finally in your teams, you will curate an online exhibition to share with the rest of the session.

## ROUND TABLES

### What Difference Does a Year Make: Indian Urban Worlds

**Session Organiser(s)** | Michele Lancione, AbdouMaliq Simone

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | RT142

**Room 2** | Market Square (COVID-19 round tables)

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

Gautam Bhan, Rupali Gupte, Ratoola Kundu, Anant Maringanti, Prasad Shetty

Since the RC 21 meetings in Delhi in 2019, urban worlds have experienced radically disjunctive conditions--ones that deepen existent disjunctures, as well as rearrange livelihood practices, social reproduction, tacit social compacts, and the compositions and operations of urban territories. The panel considers the sensibilities and experiences of re-arranging during the so-called Covid-19 period with a group of eminent Indian urbanists, whose work and thinking during the past year have made significant contributions to global knowledge about changing urban landscapes. The panel attempts to exemplify a process of collective thinking, deployed to consider the enduring and changing terrains of urban life in India. From the configuration of new provisioning systems, the extension of the home to encompass the street, the provisionality and circulation of migrant bodies, and the mobilization of improvised arrangements and infrastructures of care, this free-wheeling discussion will look closely at the intersections of registers, cities and ways of life.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

### S8 | Discrimination and exclusion on the housing market: patterns, mechanisms and counter-strategies

**Session Organiser(s)** | Jana Verstraete, Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe, Marjan Moris

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS009

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

#### How does ethnic discrimination on the housing market differ between neighbourhoods and real estate agencies?

Abel Ghekiere, Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe

Ethnic discrimination proves to be a persistent problem on the private rental market. Correspondence studies have shown that there is more discriminatory behaviour by realtors in both lower-priced segments where competition for housing is fierce and neighbourhoods with few ethnic minorities. This phenomenon results in spatial segregation and new housing patterns in cities and rural areas. Following these theories, we aim to investigate whether the types of discriminatory behaviour vary and/or are moderated by three types of contextual factors: (1) market indicators, such as tightness and price category; (2) neighbourhood indicators, such as socio-economic and ethnic composition of the neighbourhood; and (3) real estate agency indicators, such as the structure and size of the agency. For this purpose, we will make use of data from 1150 matched correspondence tests on ethnic discrimination among 495 real estate agencies in Brussels Capital Region in Belgium, collected between January and June 2019.

Correspondence tests are a field experimental technique in which two similar, but ethnically different candidates apply for the same rental dwelling. Afterwards, the answers of realtors on these applications are analysed by means of multilevel analyses on the invitation rates. The results of these quantitative analyses will subsequently be elaborated with real estate agents in a focus group. In this respect, this study will be the first to relate these contextual factors of discrimination empirically and theoretically.

### **Geography of Discrimination: A Nationwide Field Experiment on the Swiss Housing Market**

Daniel Auer, Julie Lacroix, Didier Ruedin, Eva Zschirnt

Ethnic discrimination in different market places has been well-documented across (mostly Western) societies. Here we examine how patterns of ethnic discrimination in the rental housing market vary depending on local context. We conducted a nation-wide field experiment that is representative for all types of communities in Switzerland, where we asked for a viewing of advertised property using fictitious senders. More than 5,700 landlords received 11'400 inquiries for an apartment within a paired correspondence test. We find that senders with foreign names receive fewer invitations to view properties, thereby following an ethnic hierarchy that has been shown in related studies. However, geography also plays an important role. Particularly, the level of discrimination substantially decreases if either the demand side for rental housing is weak, that is, landlords compete for renters, or if the share of foreign residents in the municipality is large, thus, providing support for contact as a mitigating factor. Based on this large heterogeneity of discrimination levels across municipalities, we further stress the importance of context when investigating ethnic disadvantages.

### **Tenant Selection in the Private Rental Sector of Paris and Geneva**

Francois Bonnet, Julie Pollard

The article documents mechanisms of exclusion in tenant selection by real estate agents in the private rental sector. It is based on 51 in-depth interviews with real estate agents in Paris (France) and Geneva (Switzerland). Tenant selection is a process whereby landlords and their agents primarily assess whether prospective tenants can be a stable source of income. First, real estate agents use the income criterion as a category to organize the worthiness of a rental applicant. Initial financial risk assessment establishes whether tenant applicants are a stable income source. Our comparative design shows that financial risk assessment is not just an objective income check, and that what constitutes financial risk assessment depends on particular institutional features of national tenancy regulations. Second, a "good tenant" is more than just a financially-solvent one. Stable work contracts are not enough for landlords. A good tenant habitually pays rent regularly, stays in the apartment, maintains it in good condition, and does not cause any trouble. We show that real estate agents use many different categorical stereotypes related to these unobservable characteristics to dismiss applicants. As many of these stereotypes are ethnic or racial, the tenant selection process produces the exclusion of marginalized groups.

### **Prove yourself! How the introduction of permanent conditionality in social housing leads to stigmatisation, discrimination and exclusion**

Carla Huisman

Discrimination and exclusion on the housing market are usually associated with private landlords, whose propensity to reproduce social-spatial inequality by choosing the least vulnerable people as tenants is augmented by the ongoing scarcity of housing. However, the increasing pressure on rental markets in European cities also allows providers of social housing to tighten their grip on (prospective) tenants. Access to the affordable housing they provide, as well as continuation of the lease, is becoming more conditional on the personal characteristics and the behaviour of the tenant. In England, time-limited leases for social housing have been introduced, where the tenants' earnings, occupation, household size and conduct continually assessed. Tenants that do not confirm to the norms are punished with a shorter renewal period of their tenancy, or even termination, while 'good' behaviour is rewarded with longer lease periods. In the Netherlands, social housing providers are lobbying for the introduction of similar contracts. At the same time, and somewhat contradictory, access conditions are tightened. This accelerates the ongoing residualisation of the stock, so that regulated housing over time becomes occupied solely by the most disadvantaged households, concentrated in segregated areas. In this article, I compare these latest developments in England and the Netherlands through policy and political documents and accounts of experiences of tenants. I conclude that the introduction of this permanent conditionality in social housing, where people constantly have to prove themselves as worthy tenants, results in further stigmatisation, discrimination and exclusion of the most vulnerable members of the urban population.

### **Migrants' access to the rental housing market in Germany: The role of institutional housing providers and their allocation policies in shaping socio-spatial segregation and integration**

Heike Hanhoerster, Isabel Ramos Lobato

Not only in light of the recent immigration of refugees, the provision of housing is increasingly challenging for housing providers and municipalities. Since the housing market and its allocation mechanisms significantly impact the spatial distribution of residents and their social cohabitation, they play a key role for migrants' socio-spatial integration. However, as research studies illustrate having a migration background exacerbates the access to the housing market significantly.

So far, there are only few studies analysing housing providers' reaction to immigration and increasing diversity. This paper thus tries to fill this gap. Based on expert interviews, it scrutinizes selection strategies and allocation policies of different institutional housing providers (municipal, cooperative and private). It investigates the role these strategies play in structuring migrants' access to the rental housing market and, subsequently, in shaping socio-spatial segregation and integration in urban neighbourhoods. By focusing on three German cities with a very tense housing market (Berlin, Dusseldorf and Hamburg), the paper seeks to identify both locally specific challenges and examples of good practice.

The results illustrate how the predominant principle of (social and ethnic) mix leads to exclusionary mechanisms and limits migrants' access to the rental housing market. As regards the allocation management, both non-transparent regularities that grant frontline officers with a wide scope of discretion and a limited knowledge about the antidiscrimination law contradict to fair letting practices. Thus, to improve migrants' access to the rental housing market, institutional changes and a stronger focus on diversity management within housing companies seem to be indispensable.

## **S40 | Rethinking the urban housing shortage in the global South: incremental housing as a node for intersecting flows of city-making**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Griet Steel, Femke van Noorloos, Abigail Friendly

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS062

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Longitudinal insights on a sites and services resettlement project. The case of Ambedkar Nagar in Chennai, India**

Maartje van Eerd, David Schelkshorn

Self-help housing approaches such as sites and services (S&S) were popular in resettlement schemes in the Global South, especially between the 1970s and 1990s (Wakely 2014). Towards the end of the 20th century these housing programs were declared as unsuccessful and abandoned by governments and international aid agencies. Therefore, resettlement policies in India amongst others follow big scale housing production on the fringes of cities, which tend to (re-) produce poverty, social segregation, and crime and stigmatisation of vulnerable groups (Coelho & Raman, 2010; HLRN & IRCUDC, 2017; Diwaker & Peter, 2016).

This exemplifies that the severe housing shortage is often only understood quantitatively, lacking understanding and responsiveness to beneficiaries' real housing needs and the characteristics of the housing demand. In fact, the abandoning of S&S was based on premature evaluations and narrow indicators, with little understanding of the real timeframes of incremental development processes (Owens et al., 2018). Yet, literature on the long-term developments of S&S is scarce.

We will give insights on a sites and services resettlement project in Chennai implemented between 1989 and 1993. The case study draws on surveys with 158 households conducted in 1998-2000 and 2017, an in-depth case study on the local rental housing market and longitudinal case studies on female allottees.

The paper suggests ways to understand the incremental housing processes that have taken place by exploring, local saving schemes, internal migration, the growing demand for cheap rental spaces and the related financial flows that trigger incremental housing. The paper assesses the urban systems and internal and external factors shaping the incremental development of the neighbourhood beyond domestic household needs and challenges.

### **Concrete housing: cement flows and city-making in Africa**

Armelle Choplin

Along the West African urban corridor (linking Abidjan, Accra, Lomé, Cotonou, and Lagos), Africa's largest urban metropolis is taking shape: over 30 million people live, travel, consume and build incrementally with concrete. This paper offers to unpack the various roles that concrete and the cement industry play in composing African cities. Cement is a binder: it literally binds sand, water and clinker, becoming concrete; metaphorically, it also binds politics, environment, economy and the everyday practices of urban dwellers across Africa.

By tracing out the political, economic and social lives of concrete, the paper aims i) to understand the production, circulation and consumption of cement and see how West African city-making is embedded in a global economy ii) to analyse the actors involved in the value chain and the "construction boom" (Di Nunzio, 2018), such as governments and developers promoting "affordable housing programs", and the diasporas importing building materials but also new

practices, and iii) to examine imaginaries of city dwellers/builders and the relationships that are built around concrete in the buildings sites.

Drawing from extensive fieldwork conducted between 2016 and 2018, the paper adopts a “follow-the-thing,” multi-scale approach, documenting the itineraries of cement bags from the producing plants to the construction sites and analysing the actors involved in the cement chain, from major companies to bricklayers.

Finally, crossing building and dwelling perspectives (Ingold, 2013), this paper aims to contribute to the debate on the production of the urban/housing in the Global South.

### **Negotiating the '(in)formality': The case of housing finance sector in urban India**

Manav Khaire, Shishir Kumar Jha

In a country like India with high rate of home-ownership (86.6 %), a well-developed housing finance system is critical to the development of the housing sector. Generally, the structural and operational mechanisms employed by the formal private/public financing institutions are tailored as per the credit profiles of the higher-income segments of the society and are exclusionary. This creates a considerable gap between the formal structural prerequisites and the informal nature of the credit profile of the low-income borrowers. In the case of the home loan industry in urban India, one of the private players is Direct Sales Agents (DSAs), which act as a bridge between 'informal' customers and 'formal' institutions and act as brokers. Using qualitative modes of enquiry, this paper gives an account of barriers to access to housing finance as experienced and negotiated by low-income households. The primary aim of the study is to explore the mechanisms adopted by customers and DSAs to overcome the challenges of informality. We employed the grounded theory approach to analyze the interview responses of fifteen low-income households and fifteen DSAs located in one of the Mumbai suburbs. Three broad themes emerged from the analysis. First, co-production of informal income profile; second, leveraging the social capital; and third, alignment of economic interests. The findings of the study throw light on the different ways through which informality is negotiated by different actors such as banks, DSAs, and customers.

## **S53 | Transport, mobility and critical urban studies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Wojciech Kębłowski, Tauri Tuvikene, Silja Laine

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS081

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Smart mobility as a tool for just urban transition?**

Julia Affolderbach, Cyrille Médard de Chardon

Digital technologies have become a central part of urban development strategies at various spatial scales. They have been associated with helping to overcome geographic and social inequalities through digital connectivity and by increasing economic and environmental efficiencies. However, the actual social implications of these shifts towards smart technologies are often poorly understood while there are growing concerns over possible inequalities linked to the introduction of smart technologies and systems. Scholars have criticised smart urbanism as the latest expression of urban entrepreneurialism driven by urban growth coalitions. We critically analyse the role of transportation sharing economies' contribution to more inclusive, socially equitable and spatially just urban transitions. Many transport sharing initiatives, such as car and bike sharing initiatives, rely on digital platforms to facilitate open exchange and participation and access to goods and services. Additionally, alternative transportation initiatives and apps seek to connect individuals to support low-carbon transportation. The potential of these initiatives is often seen in the reduction of material consumption and carbon emissions but also in building community cohesion, resilience and integration across citizens. Conceptually, this paper brings together literature on sharing economies, smart urbanism and just transitions to assess how “smart” mobility sharing initiatives facilitate social inclusion and generate social interactions across space beyond the narrowly defined initiative. Further, it seeks to establish different forms of civic participation both as preconditions and outcomes of these initiatives. In respect to transport sharing, we propose a first typology of digitally supported sharing initiatives from a just transition perspective.

### **The City of a Thousand Apps: Moto-mobility, Labor, and the Making of the Unsustainable City**

Abdellatif Qamhaieh

Dubai, similar to most cities in the Arabian Gulf, is a city planned around the automobile. Cheap gasoline and an arid climate have made the car the centerpiece of urban life and the symbol of modernity – at least for those who can afford it. This notion manifests itself in the city's fragmented urban environment centered around 'spectacular' automobile

dominant infrastructure. The impacts of this automobile dominance are evident in the large highways and fly-overs cutting through neighborhoods and in the extreme traffic congestions and parking shortages.

This urban configuration has led to the rise of a rather new form of mobility - namely 'moto-mobility' (Pinch and Reimer, 2012). Though motorcycle transport is common in South-Asian countries, it is not well-rooted in the Gulf region due to the unsuitable harsh climate for the majority of the year. As car drivers find it harder to drive and park, the motorcycle has become the critical element in a booming delivery industry. Motorcycle-based deliveries of food, groceries, electronics, mail, and multiple other items are widespread and taken for granted. The onslaught of smartphone-based delivery apps as of lately has made this phenomenon even more prevalent.

This paper attempts to examine how this form of moto-mobility is impacting urban life. Also, how this relates to migrant-worker rights and conditions within the city as they represent the majority of delivery drivers? The paper argues that this moto-mobility conducted through the cheap labor force and technology is enabling further automobile dependence.

### **Moving Beyond Technocentrism? Identification and Confrontation of The Contemporary Hong Kong "World-Class Walkable City" Policy Narratives**

Caterina Villani

The recent critical urban transport scholarship is increasingly showing that it is productive to use critical lenses to analyse urban transport policy allegedly proposed as endorsing a "Sustainable", "Healthy" and "Liveable" inter-urban mobility agenda. This entails examining the process in which these transport policies are conceptualised, while problematising the political and economic choices excluded from it, posing questions as "Healthy for whom?" "Sustainably planned by whom?". While most of the critical urban studies engage with a western geographical area, this article offers a critical view of the most recent transport policy in Hong Kong, an Asian global neoliberal city characterised by high socio-spatial inequality. This article proposes a multi-perspective framework comprising concepts adopted from New mobilities paradigm, Transnational Flow of Planning Ideas and the Right to the City recent approaches to analyse the "Study on Enhancing Walkability in Hong Kong". Through documentary analysis, workshops participant observations and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders the findings suggest that the present approach might: (1) reinforce a technocratic car-oriented pedestrianisation planning, (2) aim at importing "global best practices" without adapting to the local context (3) introduce a participative approach that is informative and consensus-seeking in nature (4) exclude established activities and groups in need for space from pedestrianisation process. The findings highlight the need to reconnect transport policies with broader urban dynamics.

### **"Why do marshrutkas exist in one city and are not present in others?" - Towards a political economy of route, in Russian urban public transportation.**

Egor Muleev

Urban public transportation in Russia has changed significantly since the USSR broke down. In many cities, marshrutka has substituted classical public transport modes completely. Other cities try to balance electrical transport with marshrutka. Some cities have trams and articulated buses on their streets with a complete absence of minibuses. Reasons for such huge differences are not obvious. There are plenty of different approaches to marshrutka phenomenon which actually fails to answer the question: "Why does the marshrutka exist on streets in one city and is absent in others?" The hypothesis here is that routes were privatized by marshrutka operating companies. A conceptual framework is based on works of Karl Polanyi, Vadim Volkov and Michael Burawoy. 19 in-depth interviews were conducted in the autumn of 2016. 8 interviews were conducted in Moscow, 1 in St-Petersburg and 10 in province cities such as Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan, Ulyanovsk, Dimitrovgrad and Cherepovetz. Research shows that the fundamental problem for marshrutka operators, is the danger of the reconsideration of property rights for route owners. The difference between cities with marshrutka and without, is described not only in terms of continuance of property rights, but also through spatial characteristics of industrial background. This view on urban public transport calls for a fresh discussion on regulation issues in transportations studies, commodification of mobility and political economy of transport.

### **From Citizen's right to consumers choice: political economy of urban transport in Delhi**

Pritpal Randhawa

Delhi's transport system has undergone several changes since the inception of neoliberal economic policy in India in 1991. Among others, the most prominent changes were numerous attempts of reforming public buses, emergence of the metro rail as a mass transit system of the city, construction of flyovers to improve the speed of cars and motorbikes. Exception apart, most of the studies on these changes, have techno-planning approach focusing mainly on the problems that can be resolved through technical and managerial solutions. In contrast to the techno-planning approach, this paper analyses the changes in Delhi's transport system within the rubric of neo-liberal transformation of the city. It argues that transport changes in Delhi in the neo-liberal era were systematically carried out through several policy and planning interventions aimed to commercialise public transport, utilise urban transport for gentrification and encourage private mobility to boost finance capital. Overall, the transport changes in Delhi have been intended to contribute to the process of capital

accumulation, thereby transforming the transport system into a profit making enterprise, which is altering the citizen's right of cheap and affordable public transport into a consumer choice.

## **S57 | On cities as tourist commodities: real estate and economic transformations in the digital platform era**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Guido Anselmi, Veronica Conte, Federico Prestileo

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS087

**Room 6** | RI Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Measuring touristification of shopping spaces: Density, displacement and standardization in Amsterdam's consumption landscape**

Iris Hagemans, Bas Spierings, Jesse Weltevreden, Oedzge Atzema

Touristification of shopping spaces forms a major cause of increasing resistance to tourism in cities. Nevertheless, shopping spaces are relatively understudied in urban tourism literature. Moreover, studies that focus on shopping landscapes tend to research the lived experience of residents in the direct vicinity of popular destinations. Such studies are extremely valuable in explaining why touristification matters in particular cases, but do not provide clear tools to measure where it occurs or how it evolves in the city at large. Local governments that aim to address touristification also struggle to find the right indicators to motivate policy interventions and measure their effects. We address this research and policy gap by providing a framework to measure touristification of shopping spaces in a city-wide, longitudinal context. Combining concepts from gentrification and tourism literature, the framework measures density, displacement of businesses and standardization of the retail and hospitality offer. Theoretically, these concepts are both self-reinforcing and interdependent, resulting in a vicious circle. The framework is applied to shopping spaces in Amsterdam, where touristification has stirred up policy debates in the past few years. It finds that between 2005 and 2017, density has had self-reinforcing effects and increasingly concentrates in a small number of Amsterdam's central shopping spaces. Although this did not coincide with higher displacement of businesses, it did result to some extent in standardization. However, standardization occurs in different forms and intensities. Future research could shed more light on the factors that mediate standardization and prevent the occurrence of a vicious circle.

### **The Naples of Platform-rents and Touristification**

Marta Tonetta

Under the contemporary expansive phase of the global tourism industry, private homes are increasingly being converted into tourist accommodations and rented out online through digital platforms. The most powerful actor of this recent online market, Airbnb, has set in Italy its third largest market, generating a growing significant pressure on long-term rentals. This process is highly problematic also in the southern city of Naples, Italy which is facing a pervasive mass tourism now for the first time in its history.

Until the mid-2000s, in fact, the city's role in the international tourism geographies was to be a bridge between the world and the nearest, renowned destinations of its gulf. Nevertheless, since several decades, the Neapolitan urban context has had to tackle scarce economic resources, depressed labor market, and a set of stemming problems. Unlike the other main Italian cities, Naples eccentricity is due to the highest rate of tenants and a relevant housing property concentration, especially in the inner city. With the tourist boom, and the Airbnb outbreak between 2015 and 2016, the stagnant real estate market constitutes the best possible condition for the rent-gap process to be bootstrapped and entrenched. On the other hand, the low rate of home-ownership is making evictions related to the conversion of dwellings into temporary homes more likely to happen.

Relying on data analysis, maps, and qualitative research techniques, the study tries to take account of the ongoing dynamics of touristification triggered by the STRs pressures in the historic centre.

## **S42 | Emerging Bordering Practices in Urban Space**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Martin Lundsteen

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code |** PS065

**Room 7 |** Square Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot |** Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Local associations and the policing of incivility in Parisian public space**

Carrie Ann Benjamin

**Room 7 |** De Coninckplein

For years, neighbourhood associations and city officials in Paris have attempted to police behaviour to reduce discourteous uses of public spaces, with a particular focus on visual, olfactory, and sonic disturbances. Among these sensory nuisances, litter, dog waste, public urination, fly-tipping, loud groups of young people, and ‘abusive’ occupations of public spaces are deemed to be ‘incivilities’ that contribute to a sense of insecurity among residents. City officials have reacted to these incivilities with securitised responses—even creating uniformed ‘incivility brigades’ who are overseen by the Directorate of Prevention, Security, and Protection and have the power to issue citations for public infractions. However, not all residents are content with the efficacy of this approach. In particular, local residents’ associations that seek to ‘defend’ their neighbourhood against a perceived neglect from the city argue that these measures do not go far enough, preferring instead to ‘educate’ their neighbours about proper behaviour while also lobbying for increased police intervention. Drawing on interviews and participant observation with local activists, and archival research in the Paris city and police archives, I analyse the discourse that surrounds ‘incivility’ and depicts it as a security issue. I argue that by using the discourse of incivility to combat the ‘degradation’ of their neighbourhoods and challenge ‘bad’ behaviour, local associations attempt to restore a perceived pre-existing moral hierarchy based on respect in public space.

### **Policing race and class in the “smart city”**

Corina Tulbure

“Nobody talks to me, only the police. There are times when they check up with me five times a day.” These are the words of a minor living on the streets in Barcelona, without documents. Bordering practices in urban space, in my case in the city of Barcelona, are less visible than the political and physical border of the nation-state, but not less violent and productive.

Parallel to the securitization of the nation-state borders, prevention becomes an internal bordering strategy in order to govern poor racialized people at a local level. The aim of this paper is to show what type of subjectivities and relationship with the urban space prevention produces and how prevention contributes to the creation of a racial map and the detention of the ones considered non-citizens.

In Barcelona, in the name of *convivencia* (a tortuous concept that means togetherness/conviviality/public order), various public services have created teams to patrol the city. There are considered a “proximity” service based on “civic patrol” and “proximity police corps”, working as “prevention” teams whose aim is to survey specific areas in Barcelona in which poor people move, work and live.

Based on ethnographic observations and interviews with members of the patrol teams, I focus on the invisibility and intensity of this policing method that imposes a *departheid* (Kalir, 2019) at a local level which shapes a racialized and gentrified city.

### **The de-territorialization of the borders through police practices: the case of Athens**

Ismini - Nikoleta Mathioudaki

The ongoing refugee crisis has led to a dispersion of the borders and to the extension of the discretionary freedom enjoyed by the police, rendering policemen policymakers, through decision-making involving interpretatory and classificatory processes. This has led to extensive police presence in urban centers, with the aim of creating a protective “grid” that further demarcates the “citizen” from the “Other”. Two crucial factors: have led to a de facto institutionalization of a “banopticon”: constant police documentation checks on the grounds of what is often labeled as “inappropriate behavior”, and extensive presence of police officers in urban areas resided by third-country nationals. This state policy subordinates fundamental human rights to the principal goal of migration control, under the veil of “inappropriate behavior” of immigrants, which is usually linked with their nationality rather than with their actions. Hence, the question remains: what is the aim of this “banopticon”? Is it to merely discipline such behaviors, or to keep immigrants constantly excluded, transforming themselves into the borders? The aim of this research is double: the first part seeks to unravel such practices through the experiences of third-country citizens residing in Athens and through interviews with police officers, and the second seeks to explain the reasoning behind the de-territorialization of the borders and their embodiment by the migrants themselves, even in the framework of a densely populated urban center, as well as the human rights implications that it encompasses.

## S56 | Sensing and shaping urban marginality: multimodal and engaged research with children and young people

**Session Organiser(s)** | Kitti Baracsi, Stefano Piemontese

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS085

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Drawing (im)mobility: potential and limitations of a child-centred technique**

Miquel Martorell Faus

Considering the scarce methodological literature on child migration and mobilities, as well as the incomplete approaches to the phenomenon, this article analyses the potential and limitations of a child-centred technique used in a study on child mobility in economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Barcelona. This interactive, visual, and projective technique consists of drawings made by children (10-12 years old) which represent their (im)mobility trajectories in the form of maps. The output depicts the various experiences of the research participants: from migration processes at the international level to small-scale residential mobility caused by evictions and other forms of housing emergency; as well as trips to the place of origin and the so-called 'pupil mobility'.

Situating the drawings in the debates on how to conduct research with children, and stressing the methodological challenges of studying mobility, four types of reaction to the technique are presented: from confusion to narrative fluidity; the technique as a school exercise; resistances to the technique; and enhancing the creativity, expressivity and reflexivity. These reactions are contextualised in the 9-month fieldwork carried out in two schools, showing the influence of the school environment in the resulting visual productions and comments about them. A reflection on the 'school-centric' character of the technique is presented, touching upon ethical debates about power relations and social inequalities. Finally, the articulation between verbal narratives (oral accounts) and visual narratives (drawings) is examined, delving into the performativity of the technique in its ethnographic and relational dimension.

### **Children's collective mapping: a tool to enhance children's participation in urban development**

Klara-Marie Brandenburger

The paper „Children's collective mapping: a tool to enhance children's participation in urban development“ aims to explore the potentials of collective mapping with children as participatory research and how this can enhance children's understanding of spaces and their rights to participate in urban development. Access to urban planning and decision-making processes highly depends on children's knowledge and awareness of their urban surroundings. However, in times of neoliberal city development, urban development mostly follows market or state interests and as such fails to include children, among other groups. The research interest was to use cartography, traditionally a tool for spatial fixation and domination, in a collective process with children in the 6th and 7th grades. As a collective creation process that is based on knowledge and daily experiences, collective mapping fosters exchange to create diverse realities and narratives and as such counters hegemonial world views. Drawing on the principles of (participatory) action research, three successive collective workshops enabled the participating children to visualize knowledge about their individual spatial perception and the different needs and perceptions of space. By mapping collectively, the children were able to create resources, bundle, and share knowledge. The knowledge they produced was about the spaces the children frequently use and which they can or cannot claim and use. Moreover, throughout the process of mapping collectively, the children showed a more confident behaviour and were able to take a stance and clearly communicate their needs and wishes towards a more just urban development.

### **Picture this: Exploring photovoice as a method to understand lived experiences in marginal neighbourhoods.**

Juliet Carpenter

Scholars in the social sciences are increasingly turning to research questions that explore everyday lived experiences, using participatory visual methodologies to promote critical reflections on urban challenges (Mitchell et al, 2017). In contrast with traditional research approaches, participatory visual methods engage directly with participants, foregrounding their daily realities, and working towards collaborative knowledge production of participants' situated experiences. This participatory turn in research intersects with growing interests in urban planning around children and young people's participation in collaborative planning and effective ways of engaging 'unheard voices', particularly in marginalized neighbourhoods, using arts-based methods.

This paper aims to critically examine the potential of participatory visual methodologies, exploring how the method of photovoice (Wang and Burris, 1997) can reveal otherwise obscured perspectives from communities in marginalised

neighbourhoods. Based on a case study in the Downtown Eastside, Vancouver, the research considers whether and how creative participatory approaches can contribute to giving a voice to young people, and if so, to what degree these methods can impact on a city's ability to build more socially-sustainable futures.

The research shows that photovoice can potentially provide a means of communicating different perspectives, reimagining place within the framework of participatory planning processes to those who make decisions on the future of the neighbourhood. However, the research also demonstrates that there are limitations to the approach, bringing into sharp focus the ethical dimensions and challenges of participatory visual methodologies as a tool for engaging with local communities, including children and young people, in an urban planning context.

## **S41 | Racial capitalism, everyday life and the city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Claudia Fonseca Alfaro, Defne Kadioğlu

**Track** | Urban Inequalities & Exclusion

**Code** | PS063

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Racialisation of space in the 21st century postcolony: a comparative study on planning practices in Brazil and South Africa**

Lorena Melgaço, Luana Xavier Pinto Coelho

To understand the naturalisation of inequality in the production of urban space, planners need to address the complex interrelation between race and class, especially in the postcolony. Racism, as a mechanism that structures capitalist exploitation and domination since colonial times, is still prevalent in the different scales of institutional power, be it the state or in urban policies. As such, it overlays the juridical and spatial dialectics of the formal and informal, revealing itself in the framing of 'development' and creating an absolute otherness within the city boundaries. The modern city is the other side of the colonial city; the planned city where the scientific logic is applied to guarantee 'quality of life' creates its opposition as the 'non-planned', the 'disorderly', in need of intervention and control; a discourse and practice that reinforces the experience of dispossession and deterritorialization that racializes people's experience. We need to question universalized assumptions of 'development' and 'quality of life', built while colonized territories were declared empty (*terra nullius*), erasing narratives encapsulated as 'underdevelopment' or 'uncivilization', which still inform practice and underpin 'public good'.

This paper addresses this challenge by proposing a comparative urban approach at planning practices in Brazil and South Africa to understand the planning mechanisms in place, in two contexts where racism continues to shape socio-spatial organisation to reflect on the urgency of alternative critical approaches to the Eurocentric hegemony which silences colonialities and contribute to the spatialisation of institutional racism.

### **Coloniality and the persisting racial capitalism of central Johannesburg, South Africa**

Khanyile Mlotshwa

The Johannesburg that local and African labour migrants come to is a place aspiring to be a global city (Acuto and Steele, 2013; Sassen, 1991). The city regarded as South Africa's commercial capital is still caught up in coloniality and the racial capitalism of its colonial and apartheid years. The racialised spatial arrangements introduced in the colonial period and got entrenched under apartheid. Black elites have joined white people in low density suburbs like Sandton while poor black people remain huddled in townships and inner city suburbs. In this paper, I critically analyse two cases involving black labour migrant communities in central Johannesburg. First, I focus on the spatial coloniality of spaces they occupy focusing on the naming of buildings and streets, and public art around the suburbs. Second, I focus on the racial capitalism persisting in these suburbs; the way the migrant labourers are tied to the capitalist economy through precarious employment, their subjectivation as consumers, and the commercialisation of their lives. The data that I analyse is material that I collected through an ethnographic design where I spent six months in central Johannesburg where I kept a diary, took pictures and conducted in-depth interviews.

### **Racial capitalism and Difference: Examining caste, gender, and labor in India Railways**

Pallavi Gupta

Drawing connections between racial capitalism and caste in the context of urban public infrastructure, I examine the workings of racial capitalism in the city. Through an inquiry into labor within a key urban public infrastructure, namely the railway station, I highlight how the intersection of labor, gender, and caste create hierarchies among people, across a range of spaces and scales. Centering the experiences of workers, I aim to highlight racial capitalism through the material conditions of caste. This can provide insight into the ways in which difference and dispossession become operationalized,

within urban spaces, thus creating hierarchies. In doing so, I focus on how capitalism thrives on differences based on caste, to accumulate value on a global scale.

Further, racial capitalism as a technology of anti-relationality (Melamed 2015) underscores the breaking down of collective struggles and furthers the neoliberal project. In doing so, I ask how racial capitalism reproduces urban inequalities. Overall, I extend the geographies of racial capitalism to the space of the station and by examining racial capitalism in relation to caste.

## **S43 | Regulating the body in public space**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Danielle Chevalier, Mischa Dekker

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS067

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Body-street-residence: (Self)regulating drug consumption through masculinity in Mexico City**

Julie-Anne Boudreau, Adriana Ávila Farfán, Laura Andrea Ferro Higuera, Aitana Villamar

Based on an artistic-ethnographic intervention in two self-managed drug addiction treatment centers in Mexico City, this paper explores various regulations. First, that of the drug consuming body on the street, then that of the imprisoned body in treatment centers, and finally, that of the gendered body in a masculinist city. We worked with young men and women in non-mixed art workshops and through biographic mapping and interviews. Focusing on their daily practices, these young men and women described how they regulate their bodies, inhabit the various (often institutional) places where they live, and how they transit in the city. Although their trajectories are filled with various forms of violence they suffered or perpetrated, these materials emphasize that they do not live on the basis of clear antagonisms such as victimizer/victim or male/female. Instead, the study shows how youth respond to multiscalar and multitemporal regulation with bodily performances. Working through five analytical scales (the body, the street, the living space, the institution, and the city), we argue that norms are not merely external impositions (from the government, or from structural forces such as patriarchy). Instead, they are offered to subjects as possibilities for performing autonomy amidst regulatory institutions. In these margins lies the possibility of urban social transformation.

### **Female body and contested cities: an analysis of public space from a gender perspective**

Ana Laura Souza Vargas, Isis Detomi Teixeira, Rachel de Castro Almeida

Historically, the organization of urban space is influenced by practices of male domination that disregard female perspectives, reproducing, consequently, spaces of insecurity and vulnerability. This situation impacts on the way that women experience public spaces and in the logic of appropriation of global cities. This study proposes a reflection about the female body that, as an individual, craves for the free movement and occupation of public spaces, aiming for the full exercise of the right to the city. This right represents a key concept regarding urban conflicts in concern to invisible and unequal urbanities and consolidated disparities. This context motivates the production of a documental research, with the purpose of understanding in which way urban planning and urban management practices directed to the public space, summed to the actions of urban feminist movements and new urban commons of the great Brazilian capitals on the last two decades (from the Estatuto da Cidade, 2001) motivates a critic vision about the normative orders currently in force. For this purpose, it was accomplished a documentary survey of policies and guidelines - by reading meetings minutes of councils - that reveals the influences and actions of feminist movements and new urban commons. Therefore, it is noticeable a bounding urban context concerning women as political bodies and, in the course of the space shaped and reduced, ultimately, to the female body.

### **Disappearing Spaces and Betraying Allies: Urban Transition and Street-based Sex Work in Bangalore**

Neethi P, Anant Kamath

Neoliberal urban transition in Bangalore city over the last two decades has unleashed forces of gentrification and revanchism. Street-based sex workers in the city, as an informal workforce, have been systematically losing their tracts of life and livelihood due to this urban transition, which has aggravated their vulnerability and dispossession, denying even the existence of a narrative of urban transition experience from their viewpoint. An entire ecology around street-based sex work has disintegrated, pushing many workers into further invisibility, and gradual melting away their grasp on their city. It is critically important to reveal these experiences, by drawing out the sexual counter-geographies of Bangalore, since dominant urban imaginaries that fuel urban transition deny the very existence of alternative or subaltern spatial and social cartographies of the city. Relying on oral histories and narrative analysis, this paper constructs those alternative

cartographies as defined by these sex workers themselves, charting out the spatial and social contours of Bangalore's 'sex-scape,' consequently bringing out the ordeals of Bangalore's overwhelming transition through textured accounts of these workers. In this process, we bring out the dismal intersections that undergrid their life and work, and threats to their very existence in the process of envisioning and unravelling the realisation of a city. This paper reinforces sex work as a theme in Indian urban studies, and urban space as a theme in Indian sex work scholarship.

### **Defining the acceptable gay body. Public space in “gay-friendly” neighborhoods of Paris and New York.**

Sylvie Tissot

One criteria of a “gay-friendly” city is the possibility to be visible as gay or lesbian. In gay neighborhoods or formerly gay neighborhoods that are now gentrified, same sex couples – even same sex parents - are present in public space. Not only is this accepted, but sometimes even valorized by straight residents, who express progressive values that include rejection of discriminations toward LGBT people. Does this accepted visibility reveal an equal “right to the city” and the end of heteronormative spaces?

I argue that gay visibility is still constraint, and that straight residents play a crucial role in both valorizing and shaping how, when and where gay and lesbian bodies may appear.

In order to account for this ambivalent situation, I use data from fieldwork in two neighborhoods – Le Marais in Paris and Park Slope in New York- where I interviewed 95 self-identified straight and gay residents. First, I describe the lenses through which heterosexuals distinguish between an acceptable homosexuality and a suspicious one. The bodily appearance (through the sexual connotation of homosexuality and gender norms) proves to be a crucial element for these upper-middle-class residents.

I then use interviews with lesbian and gay people to analyze how they experience access to public space. On the one hand, their high socioeconomic status allows them to mingle with their “gay-friendly” neighbors in public space. On the other hand, they are aware of strict (although rarely explicit) rules that force them to have a “gay” but “not to gay” body.

## **S73 | Urban practices: changes in policy, institutions and governance**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Camila Nastari Fernandes, Marcela Alonso Ferreira, Luciana Royer

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS106

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Mapping the connections between local urban democratic institutions**

Veikko Eranti, Tuomas Niska, Juulia Heikkinen

Who governs the city in which we live in? How are decisions regarding land-use and urban governance made? Should we look at them from the point of view of institutions, of inter-linked institutions, or through individuals in these institutions and how they in turn are interlinked? Drawing inspiration both from the tradition of institutionalist research on local governance and from the burgeoning research on interlocking corporate directorates, this paper maps the local democratic elite and institutional interlinkages in Helsinki metropolitan area, Finland. Finnish society is characterized by highly organized institutions, both within and outside formal governmental and municipal administration. We take advantage of this fact and look at what we term parademocratic non-governmental institutions that contain elaborate democratic structures, representative elections, and memberships that are either mandatory for certain groups of people, or so pervasive that their membership is in the hundreds of thousands (in an area with one million inhabitants). In this paper we ask, how to map sectoral connections between these institutions of local urban governance, and whether we can find traces of a local democratic elite, a dense group of participatory super-actors who have been elected to positions across the sectors. These help us reframe the question of local urban democratic governance to include the parademocratic system of non-governmental democratic institutions.

### **Evolution of Governance Structures: A case study of Tumkur, Karnataka**

Tanvi Bhatikar

In the last two decades, there has been a significant push from the Government of India towards mega-infrastructure projects, particularly in the form of industrial corridors. As part of this strategy, particular nodes have been identified along these corridors for accelerated industrial development with the mandate to drive economic growth. These nodes are often

situated at the periphery of urban regions and governed by institutions created categorically to oversee the development of the node.

This paper uses the case of the industrial town of Tumkur in Karnataka, an identified node on the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), to illustrate the transformation in the governance structures in recent years. Tumkur, 70 kms from Bengaluru, offers the opportunity to study governance transitions across multiple parameters: spatial (across urban and rural), and economic (from agricultural to industrial). It begins by mapping existing urban and local governance structures in Tumkur. Second, it examines the role of new institutions and actors created to govern the nodal development of Tumkur under the CBIC. Third, the paper attempts to investigate the jurisdiction of the existing governance structures and new institutions in the nodal development of Tumkur, mapping the overlaps and complexities.

The paper argues that the new institutions have subverted existing governance structures and led to the emergence of new forms of governance that function independently and do not leverage the existing governance structures. The study draws on institutional and stakeholder mapping, semi-structured interviews with key government officials, and an analysis of documents and plans.

### **Towards localized contingent decision-making in uncertainty during unexpected floods in Wayanad, India**

Mrudhula Koshy

Uncertainty is inherent and characteristic of the world due to climate change, environmental hazards, economic crisis, unstable political regimes, rising inequalities, forced migration and armed conflict. In such complex environments, planning institutions, local governments and civil society actors, are obliged to make decisions without fully comprehending the uncertainties that they are expected to deal with.

This article investigates decision-making under uncertainty by contextualizing Wayanad, a peri urban hill district in India which experienced unexpected heavy monsoon floods in 2018 and 2019. While the floods in 2018 had no precedence for almost a century and was reported as a rare event, the occurrence of the floods again in 2019 questioned this assumption and places emphasis on the capacity of decision-makers in Wayanad to handle unexpected events.

The article uses empirical findings derived from semi structured interviews of key decision makers from various levels of governance, practitioners from local and national NGOs involved in disaster relief operations and project coordinators from UN organizations. In addition, participatory and non-participatory observations, and primary and secondary reports were also used to understand the nature of decisions and practices adopted before, during and after the floods. The article discusses how a localized contingent way of decision making may positively influence planning mechanisms in Wayanad and subsequent organizational transformation of institutional structures to deal with various types of uncertainty.

The article concludes by reflecting on possible implications that could enable urban governance in dealing with uncertainty during unexpected events in contexts with weak institutions and resource scarcity.

### **Between norms and interests: the influences in the construction permits of Curitiba**

Matheus Mafra

The urban space is marked by a confluence of interests and conflicts, being reflected in the state's structures and its decisions. It is a movement present both in the production of norms and institutions as in its execution. Therefore, this research analyses how the interests of different sections of society are reflected in the proceeding of expedition of construction permits by the Curitiba's Prefecture, identifying possible flavorings by the state structure. For such work, this research utilized qualitative analyze of the proceeding of expedition of construction permit of the last four malls opened in the city (Shopping Barigui, Shopping Palladium, Shopping Pátio Batel and Shopping Jockey Plaza), being adopted as analyze categories: the time for the expedition, the sections of public administration who manifested during the proceeding, the compatibility of the mall with the urban planning in vigor at the time and what compensatory measures which have been established in relation to their impact. From this analyze, its being possible to conclude that the management of the urban space its fragmented inside the various local public administration sections, with specific sectors of society (mainly those related to the productive sector) having a greater incidence on state decisions issued in the procedures now analysed. Still, it was noticed that the compensatory measures tend to be used as bargains for the approval of the projects, with constant determinations that do not deal directly with the impacts, focusing exclusively on benefits to the state structure.

### **Collective action and urban planning strategies in the informal housing co-production: learning from peripheral urbanization in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan area**

Francesca Ferlicca

In Latin American cities informal settlements and insecure land are the result of an exclusionary planning and urban management system which fails to provide legal and secure housing for low income groups. Against this backdrop, the State implemented land-title and urban regulatory policies, in order to improve the housing conditions of this neighborhoods

and integrate their resident into the legal regime. This paper propose to address the conflicts implied in the process of urbanization and regulation of villas of the city of Buenos Aires during the first government of Rodriguez Larretta (2015-2019). In the official discourse the urbanization of informal settlements is considered one of the main axes of local management. Within this framework, institutional changes are being carried out, such the creation of the Ministry of Social and Urban Integration. This regularization processes have raised many conflicts in the interaction between government decision making and the needs of inhabitants of informal settlements. This conflicts are linked to the democratic participation of the informal dwellers in the decision-making process at all stages, land management policies and tenure security, the modalities and logic of relocation of inhabitants, the provision and access to infrastructure and public spaces, the treatments of tenants and other vulnerable groups. The paper will address the network of actors linked to the urbanization process, the discrepancy between the official governments discourse and the actions implemented.

## **S83 | New territorial divides, reactionary politics and the populist backlash**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eduardo Marques, Patrick Le Galès

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS119

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **The rise of neo-illiberalism**

Reijer Hendrikse

This paper expands on the notion neo-illiberalism, signifying the symbiosis between a mutant-yet-ongoing neoliberal economic globalism and the rise of illiberal political nationalisms, by offering deeper reflections on its geopolitical significance, its key political-economic drivers, and its conceptual puzzles. It is argued that the west has entered an age of political illiberalization, progressively replicating the operating logics of variegated non-western illiberal(izing) regimes, resulting in the decay of domestic liberal democracies and the international liberal order, constituting a geopolitical shift of historic significance. Crucially, although political coalitions of the neoliberal extreme center are variably making way for the illiberal far right, the rise of neo-illiberal governments worldwide has merely radicalized the neoliberal encasement of global capitalism, seeing illiberal political fortifications built up and over neoliberal(izing) domestic economies. In fact, these political developments have been realized amidst the murky intersections of rampant financial offshoring and societal digitization defining contemporary capitalism, allowing trillion-dollar tech companies and factions of the world's billionaire class to 'hack' political operating systems, thereby creating the conditions to deepen the reach of surveillance capitalism, as it both enables and depends upon political illiberalization i.e. forsaking liberal freedoms, principles, and rights. By anchoring surveillance capitalism in far-right nationalist projects, global capitalist development is steadily escaping even the narrowest definitions of liberalism, including authoritarian neoliberalism, instead heralding the rise of neo-illiberalism.

### **Comparative Dimensions of the 'Heartland': Spatializing Digital Authoritarians**

Jason Luger

The proliferation of the new right-wing authoritarianism, giving rise to leaders from Jair Bolsonaro to Donald Trump, is significantly anchored in and emanating from 'heartland' geographies. This can be observed from the mega-churches of Singapore's periphery to 'Brexit's 'leave' towns, to Trump's exurban campaign rallies. What these movements share is a certain anti-urban sentiment; a demarcation of cosmopolitan against heartland. However, even anchored in place and nationalistic in nature, these movements are inherently trans-national – mediated by and through the digital, thereby becoming hybridized. Obsessed with borders, they are rendered borderless in cyberspace.

Movements have gained large 'viral' followings via social media and platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Men, in particular, are often driving these movements. Though significant research has been undertaken since 2016's (US) election on authoritarian, right-wing, masculine digital spaces (Graff et al., 2019; Dignam and Rohlinger, 2019), the digital geographies of the heartland authoritarian have not been theoretically or empirically anchored to place, nor situated comparatively in global, transnationally-networked frame.

This paper thereby follows Banks (2019) in looking specifically at the suburban heartland and the way it forms, and is formed by, digital authoritarian encounters and networks and thus situates within the renewed focus on the urban hinterland (Brenner and Katsikis, 2020) in urban geography. Substantively, the paper bridges political geography, digital geography, urban planning, and gender studies by posing the questions: what is it about the heartland (density, design, economy, culture) that drives men toward digital authoritarianism, and how do transnational connections and combinations re-spatialize, making place?

## **Northern Exposure: Fear, Loathing and Hope in the North of England after Brexit**

Adrian Favell

'Key cities' — a range of 'overshadowed' large towns and small cities with proud industrial heritages, many in the North of England — have come centre stage with Brexit, and the seismic shift in British politics it heralded. These hitherto Labour Party stronghold constituencies were the key to the recent UK general election. The romancing of their disaffected 'left behind' populations who delivered Brexit — the alleged 'losers of globalisation', and bitter 'cultural backlash' of the 'neo-liberal' New Labour and Coalition years — now dominates British politics. The North of England is also viewed as a place of simmering racism and xenophobia: pitting White British, older British minority groups, and newer incomers such as asylum seekers or East European workers against each other in deprived and depressed post-industrial locations — particularly away from the more cosmopolitan "core cities" such as Manchester and Leeds. While places such as Wakefield and Middlesbrough have struggled to come to terms with new European migrations and refugee settlement amidst widespread deprivation and political alienation, other locations such as Halifax and Preston offer examples of renewed multiculturalism and social intervention pioneering a more hopeful future for multi-ethnic Britain. With a view to broader European comparisons, the multi methods of the Northern Exposure project challenges simplistic assumptions about 'Workington man' and the politics of Brexit, pursuing a multi-scalar, localised lens: considering effects of long term post-industrial change, non-voting by the most disadvantaged, and the weight of the petit-bourgeois suburban vote in the rise of this new right.

## **S48 | Power in the loopholes: Sensing and shaping the city through law**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Francesco Chiodelli, Hanna Hilbrandt, Joanna Kusiak

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS074

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Law as a shared feature: Examining loopholes through judicial processes in two different contexts of state-led urban regeneration.**

Ayşe Gümeç Karamuk

In parallel to the growing research on exceptional channels and loopholes utilised by the state and/or developers to enable lucrative spatial practices (Le Galès 2011), the assumption of a global judicialisation of politics is increasingly shared, which involves the intensifying recourse to judicial remedies undertaken by those who are excluded from spatial decision-making processes (Bhan 2016). This paper examines urban regeneration projects contested by neighbourhood communities in London (litigations brought by '35% Campaign' and 'Save Latin Village') and by professional occupational chambers in Istanbul (the regeneration of Mecidiyeköy) in the courts of law. In London, existing democratic and quasi-legal ways to express opinion and concern on social and affordable housing have lately become less effective for communities, as seen in the case of developers who circumvent existing regulations by relying on the confidentiality of viability assessments and communities who subsequently apply for a judicial review. On the other hand, in Istanbul, professional chambers of city planners and architects have been fighting spatial arrangements that violate planning regulations in the court for decades. Their challenge has become even more difficult as a result of increasing centralisation of planning that enables top-down, fast-track and arbitrary decisions on regeneration. By focusing on judicial moments, this paper argues that law provides a significant analytical terrain to understand how processes of capitalist accumulation and neoliberal restructuring unfold peremptory moments in different local contexts and urges that legal geography could benefit from insights from urban regime theory, studies in planning culture and historical institutionalism.

### **"Yes, it is totally legal!"- How the municipalities Athens and Leipzig use pitfalls in European multi-level-regulations**

Katharina Kullmann

Investigating how municipalities in Europe implement policies from different governmental levels brings a rich assortment of juridical contradictions to light. At local level authorities are obliged to deal with regulations and evince a lot of creative energy interpreting them in legal ways. However, since Europe's member states, political systems and path depended developments are so unique also adaptation to law differs from place to place and contributes in a specific way to how law is shaping the city.

This paper introduces into the world of urban policy makers and administration workers in the municipalities of Athens (Greece) and Leipzig (Germany). In both cities authorities are busy implementing regulations and handling juridical

loopholes. Qualitative interviews inform about creative strategies in interpreting European public procurement law, rules of application from different levels of government and other regulative schemes. For instance, the paper illustrates how to successfully take a private donation of 10 Million Dollar into the public household while bypassing public procurement law. Or tells us how to provide permanent public services for urban development by using time-limited funding schemes and still proclaiming to employ new and innovative project designs.

In both cities single, one-time policy actions of handling loopholes turned into to long lasting strategies and routinised habits. The paper concludes on coercive settings in Europe's multi-level governance landscape, the role (informed) agents at all levels of decision making play and to what extend loopholes can be seen as drivers to cope creatively with austerity conditions and a neo-liberal economic doctrine.

### **Law, space and seismic risk management: understanding loopholes in the enacting process of a new law in İzmir, Turkey**

Irem Ince Keller, Jean Ruegg

Urban areas face multiple risks due to the rapid and unplanned expansion of cities. To identify, assess, and manage risks, governments implement laws, regulations or plans. These legal actions have an immense impact on the social, cultural, and political structure of cities. Within this process, different actors such as the central government, the community, and various chambers find loopholes within the legal settings to realise their own aims. In order to investigate the relation between law, space and people in terms of risk management, this study focuses on a new law for managing seismic risks in Turkey, "Law No. 6306 on transformation of areas under disaster risk". Specifically, the study investigates the constitution of multiple loopholes in the enacting process of the law in the city of İzmir. The law, which empowers the central government with a capacity to appropriate all property, prepare plans and build projects for transforming risky areas, creates legal loopholes which are exploited by different actors in the conflict-ridden urban transformation process in İzmir. From a theoretical perspective, these loopholes are identified via actor network theory and its proposal to "follow the actors". This approach contributes in tracking the heterogeneous network of relations among human and non-human actors during the implementation process of this law. The data is presented using the techniques of document analysis, poster analysis, observation and key informant interviews in the case study. Hence, this study examines the complex web of legal, social and environmental relationships within the urban transformation process in İzmir.

### **Loopholes in the Making: Opportunities, Challenges and Implications in Mumbai's Development Planning Process**

Richa Bhardwaj, Salome Houllier Binder, Tobias Baitsch

The release of Mumbai's draft Development Plan (DP) 2014-2034 for public consultation in February 2015 unleashed an escalating controversy on the city's urban future. An unprecedented public outcry, both by experts and civil society, forced Maharashtra's Chief Minister to withdraw the plan and order for a revised version, following a converse approach, particularly regarding building regulations. The controversies turned the revision of Mumbai's DP into a stage for public negotiation on how to deal with urban development and loopholes associated with its regulative framework.

While much has been written about the (mis)use and socio-spatial effects of development control regulations such as Floor Space Index, the complex process through which planning frameworks come into being remains largely unexamined. Thus, this paper investigates regulations and linked loopholes as they are made, highlighting how they become zones of contestation. Based on an interdisciplinary research mapping of the ongoing controversies, the authors identify two types of loopholes: procedural- located in the laws and acts that steer the plan-making process and regulatory- found within development control regulations themselves.

The process of making of the Mumbai DP provides an interesting case to deliberate about the governance and approaches of conceptualizing and theorizing loopholes. Drawing on concepts such as 'gray spaces' and 'informality' the paper argues that loopholes must be considered as an intrinsic part of urban regulatory frameworks. As such they strongly contribute to the creation and perpetuation of inequalities in the post-colonial neoliberal context of cities of the Global South.

## **S33 | Aesthetics: Making Sense of the City**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Amy Barron, Joe Blakey

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS050

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Simply more beautiful? Aesthetics in urban reconstruction projects**

Leonie Plänkers

This research explores the multi-faceted role of aesthetics in urban reconstruction projects, which are observed since the 1990s as part of Germany's 'post-post-war reconstruction wave' (Bertram/Fischer 2014). After many prominent reconstructions of single buildings the wish for historical cityscapes extended to the urban scale. While reconstructions of single buildings predominantly negotiate symbolic values, the city center reconstructions in Frankfurt, Potsdam and Dresden demonstrate that aesthetics are at the center of the debate when reconstruction concerns 'everyday aesthetics' on the urban scale – and thus, the image of the city. Focusing on the case of Frankfurt's "New Old Town", the paper outlines the many different notions of and associations with the specific aesthetics in such projects. It illustrates, how they are discussed both implicitly and explicitly, and how they inflict on the identity-building of stakeholders in the debate. The talk further sheds light on the power of aesthetics in the decision-making process, especially when aided by tempting images circulated in the media or when contrasted with 'anti-aesthetics' of (supposedly) less desirable city images. Here I will discuss the strong but hardly graspable forces of affect and desire that such illustrations evoke and how they could be made accessible to urban research. Then, the reconstruction projects' recourse to historical aesthetics also bears political dimensions, insofar as it is highly controversial which narratives of the past such aesthetics may convey. Lastly, the paper draws a connection to current German discourse on urban design and discuss new notions of 'the aesthetic city' therein.

### **The Walls of Berlin & Cairo: A Spatial Mnemonic Model**

Taher Abdel-Ghani, Yara Mohamed Mamdoh Ewida, Amr Ibrahim

The term 'Mnemonic' has expanded its scope from the simple learning technique aiding information retrieval in the human memory to encompass the urban scale, i.e. embedded within texts, rites, monuments, objects, and celebrations embodying cultural memory. The modern era – sought to pave way for urban renewal projects to appeal to the social and psychological needs of the inhabitants – has penetrated the time-space framework of memory sites, transforming them into memory sights. Objects of memory have gone through processes of de-temporalization and re-temporalization within spatial narratives to vivid historical significance to the masses. In this paper, I would like to shed light on two sites: The East Side Gallery in Berlin and the Mohamed Mahmoud Wall in Cairo, proximate to Tahrir Square. Though they differ in context, both sites nevertheless connect the modern city to its political past via street graffiti installation. Adopting Deleuze's approach to the concept of the 'haptic' – where the eye encompasses a similar function to the hand – the paper aims to theoretically analyze these graffiti sites as the haptic evoking of mnemonic cultural memory. Both the East Side Gallery and the Mohamed Mahmoud wall, despite lacking historical distinction prior to the 1989 unification and the 2011 uprising respectively, have become socio-political sights that bear traces of once-, and most cases on-going, struggling societies.

### **Fascism—Urbanism | Aesthetics**

Günter Gassner

In this speculative paper, I explore relationships between urbanism and fascism through aesthetics. With the rise of the populist far-right as well as the extreme-right in many countries around the globe, 'fascism' and 'neo-fascism' have become key concepts in urban political debates today. Examining our political realities as destructions of democratic urban politics, my theoretical starting points include Hannah Arendt's account of aesthetic and political judgment and Jacques Rancière's democratic conceptualisation of aesthetics. Another starting point is Walter Benjamin's 'aestheticisation of politics' thesis, according to which fascism has to be understood as an aesthetic re-framing of capitalism in racial and racist terms with 'aesthetic pleasure' being a key element for mobilising the masses. I briefly introduce these conceptualisations in order to suggest that an exploration of fascist aesthetics in contemporary cities has to address at least three different aspects: 1) fascism—urbanism as an ideology; 2) fascism—urbanism as mass-mobilisation; 3) fascism—urbanism as a regime of power. What we can learn from classical fascism in the first half of the twentieth century is that these aspects are in tension with each other. Only by unpacking these tensions, I suggest, can we understand the real threat of living that today's political realities entail when they successfully reduce antagonistic practices of sensing and making sense of the city to a unified imagination of what the city is and what it ought to be.

## **S20 | The role of sound in the construction of boundaries, identities and senses of belonging in the city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ana Aceska, Karolina Doughty

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS029

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **'My Mom is Shanghainese Too!': Linguistic discrimination, symbolic ownership, and the ambiguity of Shanghainese identity**

Fang Xu

The sound on Shanghai streets in the early twentieth century was predominantly Shanghai dialect, among the cacophony of various regional dialects and foreign languages spoken by Shanghailanders. A migrant city by birth, the inhabitants' diverse origins result in Shanghai identity having little to do with indigeneity, relying instead on shared lived experience and the tongue spoken. Unintelligible to Mandarin Chinese speakers, Shanghai dialect has long been widely acknowledged as the most significant marker of Shanghainese identity. However, a rapid language shift has taken place since the early 2000s. In the current global Shanghai, one rarely hears the Shanghai dialect in public, but Mandarin Chinese, as a result of changes to the urban demography and nationalist language policies. Against this background, how can one define what Shanghainese means without the dialect? Based on participant observations in public spaces and in-depth interviews with native Shanghainese in 2013 and 2017, this paper investigates linguistic discrimination among Shanghainese, the symbolic power granted through Shanghai dialect speaking in public, and a spectrum of opinions on the association between Shanghai dialect competence and the fluidity of Shanghainese identity. The collective response to this loss of linguistic right to the city is not in the form of widespread organized protest but in more subtle expressions of frustration, grievance, and resistance in boundary making and linguistic policing in the hope of reclaiming a sense of belonging and insider membership in a global metropolis of more than 24 million.

### **“Guide Invisibili - Sound walks created by the new citizens”. A storytelling project to narrate the city of Rome from the perspective of the young migrants hosted in the local reception centers**

Marco Stefanelli

For years now, old Europe has witnessed unstoppable flows of migrants from countries near and far. Yet to European countries these people are unwelcome guests. Fleeing their original suffering, they find themselves in crowded, antagonistic reception centers, the brunt of discrimination, racism, and social exclusion.

Our project begins here: how can sound affect the public opinion surrounding migration? How can sound increase migrants' self-esteem, create empowerment, contributing to spread their points of view about the city?

Since 2016, we conducted nine-month audio storytelling workshops with 15 asylum seekers and refugees hosted in the reception centers of Rome developing six sound walks in six different Roman neighborhoods.

The group, composed of people from a wide array of countries (West Africa, Pakistan, Siria) and socio-economic as well as educational backgrounds, participates weekly in an urban exploration, creating their own narratives about the spaces.

Elements in these narratives include their own aesthetic perceptions, personal stories linked to the areas, historical observations culled from interviews of older residents, and comparisons made to their countries of origin.

Stories and sounds are combined into the “Guide Invisibili” sound walks: a new Roman narrative in which migrants are not simply “guests” of the city, but full-blown citizens with the power to recount the place they now call home.

The result is a complex emotional mosaic, an integral whole that challenges the listener to reevaluate their perspective, not just on migration but on the city itself.

### **Imagining the Neighbourhood through Past and Present Sounds of the Street Market**

Muhammet Esat Tiryaki

Urban environments are places where ever-shifting sonic experiences steadily accumulate regarding everyday practices. Since the sounds of urban life are continuously in a state of flux, they reshape the perception of social and material worlds. As significant public spaces, street markets produce sounds in the form of voices and noises that impact urban experiences. Therefore, the sounds of street markets are one of the essential parts of urban life that contribute to the sociability of the city on the one hand. On the other, they are the inevitable outcomes of everyday practices that create contestations and conflicts for both vendors and people living around markets. This study analyses how sounds in the Maybachufer Market in Berlin contribute to imagining the neighbourhood. Utilizing the ethnographic method, I will shed light on how the shouts of the vendors which are continuously managed by ambiguous shifts in regulations impact the interpretation of the actual neighbourhood. I will also reveal how these shouts can be a critical part of understanding the past and present urban experiences which cause signs of dis-belonging concerning the market, the neighbourhood and the city.

Key Words: imagining, neighbourhood, sounds, Maybachufer Market, street vendors

### **Young Germans' voices: discordant, vivacious, 'improved'?**

Katherine Robinson

In a recent Zeit Online comment piece, BÜSRA DELİKAYA used the example of young Germans of so-called ‘migration background’ code switching on public transport to assert that using slang and playfully adapting language can be understood as a sign of integration. The article attracted over 500 comments - many removed by the website’s moderators - with some claiming that switching between languages is a sign ‘of lacking vocabulary’, rather than linguistic capacity, and others expressing embodied disquiet: ‘my ears don’t like it at all’. This visceral response to linguistic

malleability as discordant, reflects Zaimoğlu's foundational intervention with respect to Germany's linguistic 'others' (1995), and is emblematic of German debates around multilingualism that are linked to fraught questions of ethnic and racial heritage, cultural identity and national belonging. My paper engages with these shifting articulations of social and linguistic identity that take place in public space, speaking to Lisiak et al's concern, 'to foster a different kind of urban aesthetics that sees urban multilingualism as a resource and opportunity' (2019: 12). Through an ethnographic exploration of creative writing projects working with young Germans 'of migration background' which culminated in poetic texts on billboards in underground stations in Berlin-Wedding, I argue that these representations of young people's words demonstrate creative linguistic vivacity and celebrate their presence in places where they also routinely experience everyday racism. I then discuss the problematic links between the writing project's intention to signify educational improvement in Wedding's stigmatised schools and the area's burgeoning and contested gentrification.

## **S2 | Proximity, relationality and mediated encounters: co-constituting urban dynamics through the everyday practices of neighbouring**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Lynda Cheshire, Zheng Wang

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS004

**Room 16** | MAS Museum

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Homing social housing: the case of Héliport in Brussels Northern Quarter**

Claire Bosmans, Jingjing Li

In Brussels, social housing and by extension high-rise modernist estates have been frequently associated with a negative and problematic image, mostly derived from the stigmatization of its precarious inhabitants. Their management by public housing companies is tailored to control tenant's behaviors and 'teach' them 'good practices of inhabitation'. Framed by restrictions, shared spaces in social housing are rather defined by what cannot, leaving the residents' spatial contributions largely unnoticed and unrecorded. Grounded on ethnographic fieldwork exploring interstitial and leftover spaces dispersed in and around Héliport collective housing in Brussels, this article explores the disconnections between how social housing management and residents' everyday spatial practices transform the existing living environment from within. We borrow and rework the concept of homing, a home-making process where re-signification practices are tactically performed, to put forward inhabitants' (un)conscious acts of resistance including parking, socializing, doing sport, playing, gardening or chilling out. Ranging from the volatile passage to the occupation, (mis)appropriation, maintenance or transformation, these activities report as various reiterated agendas for the underdefined – modernist – yet overdesigned and multilayered public space. This research situates itself on divergent layers of in-between. In-between disciplines, it minds the gap between anthropology and urbanism, investigating the mutual relationship between users and space. In-between formats, it combines graphic visualizations with academic writing, drawing with text. In-between perspectives, it confronts top-down social housing strategies and residents' bottom-up everyday life tactics.

### **To be or not to be mahalleli? Contestations of urban kin in Istanbul**

Urszula Ewa Wozniak

In the context of current Turkish urbanism in Istanbul, being a 'mahalleli', namely the one of or from the neighbourhood, is not merely rooted in the continuous physical presence of a well-defined urban territory nor in the – either voluntary social or inevitable spatial – proximity to one's neighbours. Referring to a certain longevity within the boundaries of the neighbourhood (mahalle) and physical presence there, this paper scrutinises the mahalleli-ness as a form of negotiating urban kinship. Rooted in an ethnographic analysis of practices of neighbourliness in the two historical neighbourhoods Kurtuluş and Tophane in Istanbul, the paper sheds light on the de-facto ambiguity of lifestyles and moral order both within and across urban boundaries. In post-coup attempt Turkey, the question of belonging to a group of mahalleli and the supposed 'neighbourhood culture' they embody, have become increasingly politicised. These negotiations of belonging echo anxieties over the loss of moral values, economic positions, and political legitimacy alike. Rather than being merely reflective of either 'good' or 'bad' neighbourly relations, negotiations of mahalleli-ness are tied to questions of belonging to the nation. As the paper shows, the mahalleli is constructed as the rightful and deserving resident of the mahalle – in moral, socio-economic as well as in political terms. The paper thereby proposes a critical analysis of the notion of mahalleli which reflects upon modes of belonging vis-à-vis the state in present-day Istanbul, and more specifically, in post-coup attempt Turkey.

## **Spatial and social proximity between neighbors: What fosters weak versus invisible ties?**

Maxime Felder, Marina TULIN

This paper mixes methods - social network analysis and ethnography - to analyze contemporary forms of neighbor relations in urban contexts. While most quantitative studies of neighbor relations focus on “manifest neighborliness” (observable social interactions and exchanges), qualitative studies tend to emphasize the relevance of “latent neighborliness” (Mann 1954), stating that a “good neighbor” maintains a friendly distance. Our paper intends to bridge these seemingly conflicting perspectives of manifest versus latent neighborliness.

Based on systematic interviews with tenants of four residential buildings in Switzerland, we used a novel method of coding relations between neighbors (Felder 2020): We distinguished between strong, weak and invisible ties. The latter are ties with familiar strangers, and ethnographic work shows that invisible ties play a key role in the creation of familiarity (Felder 2020). Our study extends the common dichotomy of weak versus strong ties in quantitative research by explicitly highlighting the relevance of invisible ties in neighbor relations.

Our interest lies in the roles of social versus physical proximity within residential buildings for the creation of weak, strong and invisible ties. Using Exponential random graph models (ERGMs), we first test the hypothesis that spatial proximity (e.g., living on the same floor) fosters familiarity. As such, we expect that spatial proximity is more strongly associated with the development of invisible ties than with the development of weak or strong ties. Secondly, we test the hypothesis that weak and strong ties are more strongly associated with social than spatial proximity (Tulin et al. 2019).

## **Urban pioneers: establishing neighbourly relations in new urban areas**

Oksana Zaporozhets

Intensive growth of new urban districts, mostly peripheral, in the big cities is both a new global and Russian trend. Thousands of newcomers are simultaneously settling in and have to develop relations with their neighbours, to produce the meanings of new social and physical environment.

The presentation focuses on novelty as a special regime of temporal, spatial, material, and social organization of new urban districts. It relies on the field research conducted in large housing estates in three new areas of Moscow in 2019. Novelty was rarely problematized in urban studies as a special regime of urban life being considered as a step on the way to “normal”, “completed” state of affairs. However, the field research demonstrates that novelty is a special regime constituted by (a) an intensive meaning-making by all parties involved (residents, local activists, local authorities, state legislation, etc.); (b) a lack of infrastructure or the limited access to an existing one; (c) a “management of novelty” – special skills of newcomers associated with moving in and creating new environment (including social) or adjusting it to their needs.

The presentation demonstrates how novelty is produced through and affects neighbourly relations fostering intensive communication and collective mobilization (both for and against something) and thus denies the idea of the alienation and isolation as characteristics of urban life. The questions to be addressed in the presentation: could neighbourly relations started as a collective mobilization transform into citizens ones, transgress the locality and produce new forms of solidarities or social movements?

## **S62 | The Sensing and Shaping of Time in Urban Gardens: Affect, Design, Governance, and Labour**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sofia Cele, Jan van Duppen

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS092

**Room 17** | The bourse of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Garden time and the post-work imaginary**

Abigail Schoneboom

This presentation draws on sensory ethnography to explore aspects of temporality in urban gardens. First, it describes the juxtaposition of time spent at the allotment or urban garden with that spent in paid employment or caregiving. Highlighting the recent surge in allotment demand among “busy” professionals such as nurses and educators, it examines the seeming contradiction of adding a very time-consuming responsibility onto an already tight schedule. It reflects on the sense of obligation that allotment gardening creates, helping busy professionals make the time to explore what most pleases them. Second, it contemplates an urban garden setting that is more focused on relatively “time-rich” yet marginalised stakeholders, considering how the garden creates a sense of “fullness” of time where contemplation and

sociality become possible. Here, “slow” photography is used to reveal the texture of time in participants’ favourite places in the garden.

The presentation will draw together some ideas from these two contexts, proposing a set of dimensions for thinking about “garden time” in relation to urban living. It is thus informed by the idea that paid work continually extends its reach and that urban leisure is caught up in either the dynamics of intensification or marginalisation. Conceptually, it urges closer attention to the allotment as fertile soil for the post-work

Imaginary and the use of innovative ethnography methods to research this in more depth.

### **The Red Bed: Slowness and dialogue in a community artist residency**

Claire Wellesley-Smith

The paper will focus on the story of a raised bed in a community polytunnel containing madder (*Rubia tinctorum*) plants. These were grown by participants and later used in textile projects during a 4-year artist residency by the author in East Lancashire. Madder was the source of a strong red dye used for Turkey red dyeing and calico printing processes in the local area during the nineteenth century. The washable printed cotton produced was very popular and became the most profitable of the cotton finishing sectors in the nineteenth-century UK textile industry (Nenadic and Tucket, 2013). The project used a slow methodology to explore historical connections to the area using ‘whole process’ working: seed-to-fabric projects where participants engaged in activities that have a localised approach. The rhizome-like roots of the madder plant – tangled, slow growing, embedded in the place, were the starting point. Slowness is imbued in this plant, which historically would have been grown for at least two seasons before harvesting could begin. Harrison (2013) describes a dialogic relationship to heritage, an ‘entanglement of materiality and human engagement that when combined create heritage and are part of a process of production of the past in the present’. In the context of this residency the creative processes of talking and making, or conversations through making and growing, were used to explore the site and its environs: how it was, how it is now, how it might be in the future.

### **Assembling the Natureculture Garden: A Diffractive Ethnography of the Utrecht Oude Hortus**

Amy Pekal

This paper questions the dominant western narratives towards nature through a situated, diffractive ethnography of the Utrecht Oude Hortus. It examines limitations of the framing the former botanic garden as a record of European cultural hegemony. Moreover, it uses assemblages, naturecultures and heterotopia as a conceptual framework to specifically ask: How do assemblages within naturecultures become visible in the Oude Hortus and how does temporality and care play a critical role in making a possible natureculture garden? In doing so, this body of work recognizes the garden as a capitalist-patriarchal-formation, questions the potential qualities of temporality and of care as dynamic and intra-active forces and proposes an alternative narrative for the garden as one of naturecultures. It is a result of theory, methodological experimentation and scholarly analysis combined with the artworks to create a textured portrait the Utrecht Oude Hortus that imagines the garden as one of naturecultures.

### **Daily gestures of garden making throughout time**

Arba Bektashi

This presentation focuses on the daily, small gestures of garden making in Tirana as an outcome of practices that persist today since the inception of the city. Thinking with the garden, its cultural embeddedness across time is investigated via the notion of thick present as employed by both Augustine and Paul Ricoeur and Donna Haraway. On the one hand, the concept as advanced by the first two authors “offers an alternative way of exploring non-linear perception and the narrative of architectural spaces (Varvanina 2007, 5).” On the other, the case is made for recognizing and placing the right value on these gardening gestures as Haraway makes the case for thinking with the garden, in this case and equates thick time with environmental justice (2016).

Departing from issues of phenomenology in anthropology (Katz and Csordas, 2003; Desjarlais and Throop, 2011; Pink, 2011; Ram and Houston, 2015) and photography (Cheung, 2009), the proposed essay focuses on the phenomenology of the Tirana garden, as landscape and space (Tilley, 1994; Vergunst, 2018), while it also speculates that the city does have a single garden typology that embodies the needs of its caretakers. Referencing Gilles Clément’s work on the history of the garden and third landscapes, this study also takes into account the physical characteristics and affordances (Ingold, 2000) of the Tirana garden. The essay also raises the questions of the garden’s sustainability and future endurance.

## **S87 | How do digital platforms reshape cities and urban research?**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Justus Uitermark, John D. Boy

**Track** | Urban methods

**Code** | PS128

**Room 18** | Entrance Road Turnhoutsebaan  
**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Urban mediatization and planetary gentrification: The rise and fall of Rio's favela Vidigal in newspapers, Youtube, Airbnb and Flickr**

Petter Törnberg

As we are increasingly experiencing and complementing geographic spaces through georeferenced interfaces, digital media are becoming an inseparable part of the urban experience. This paper examines the relationship between the mediatization of the city and gentrification in the Global South, by tracing the shifting media representation of Rio de Janeiro's centrally located favela Vidigal. Vidigal experienced rapid gentrification following its pacification in 2011, attracting significant foreign investment as well as both public and academic interest in its ongoing gentrification process. Following 2016, the favela's gentrification stalled, together with Brazil's economy at large.

In one of the most extensive media analyses of gentrification to date, the paper looks at how Vidigal is represented year-by-year on Youtube, Airbnb, Flickr and in traditional newspapers, asking: what does increasing mediatization mean for the process of gentrification?

The paper finds that the role played by media platforms is more nuanced than the urban studies literature has suggested, as the interest of contemporary media platforms lies not simply in driving urban growth, but rather in maximizing user engagement. This implies an emphasis of conflicts and even critique, rather than just pro-gentrification narratives.

However, by reconstituting the city to be experienced through representations that circulate beyond local settings, platforms become homes to discursive processes that romanticize and draw upon alterity to stage authenticity for cosmopolitan experiences. Mediatization plays into the globalizing and transnational tendencies of flows of both capital and consumer demand, thereby contributing to tourism-driven transnational gentrification.

### **Download to upgrade? The Digital Ecology of an Urban Neighborhood Facing Symbolic Challenges**

Ju-Sung (Jay) Lee, Daniel Trottier, Esther Gonzalez Aurignac

We present findings from an ongoing, three-year mixed-methods project that examines the digital ecology of a stigmatized urban neighborhood and the symbolic trajectories they characterize. This project is motivated by the understanding that urban development in the actually-existing smart city is bound up with digital technologies, particularly geo-locative and visual digital platforms. Various affordances for rating, recommending, mapping and visualizing places in the city serve to shape the city's symbolic geography. These may also point to various interrelated disparities – status, resources, power – that manifest throughout urban growth. Given these conditions, marginalized, stigmatized, or otherwise undesirable neighborhoods may seek digital outlets to voice their concerns, complaints, but also their identity. For our investigation, we ask: How do local residents, civil servants and visitors understand and use digital technologies in relation to the symbolic trajectories of urban neighborhoods?

While the project includes direct interpersonal inquiry through interviews and ethnographies, this presentation focuses on our investigation into the digital representations of an economically-struggling neighborhood in The Hague. These representations occur through a variety of platforms, including community websites, social media – namely Instagram and Twitter, as well as local business review sites such as TripAdvisor and Yelp. We attend to their user-generated content and geo-locative information through text, network, and geospatial analytics, bearing ethical considerations. This joint methodological approach tentatively reveals specific areas of integration - in which businesses and community organizations are jointly portrayed by stakeholders - and dis-integration that could indicate isolated pockets of gentrification.

### **Where are digital neighborhood platforms used? The uneven landscape of digital neighborhood support in Cologne, Germany**

Jan Üblacker

With the increasing penetration of digital technologies into everyday life, digital spaces have emerged alongside local ones, in which people network and interact with each other. An example of this are online platforms such as Facebook, Twitter or Nebenan.de, which, depending on their functionality, have explicit references to the corresponding local social spaces (e.g. via location-based communication, georeferencing or neighborhood groups). Through this local reference, the technologies offer new opportunities to become involved in a local community. Very little is known about where neighborhood platforms are used, what forms of support are offered and how the quantity and quality of support vary across different socio-economic neighborhood contexts. Using a unique dataset of approx. 33.000 profiles of a digital neighborhood platform nested in 252 neighborhoods across the city of Cologne (Germany) this research seeks to explore the socio-spatial patterns of the digital divide.

The preliminary ecological analysis shows that the proportion of users is higher in neighborhoods with medium to low poverty rates. Additionally, high population turnover, smaller household sizes, and a rather young population seem to correspond with higher usage rates among local populations, indicating a relation to gentrification. It seems that digital neighborhood platforms are a fast-track opportunity to local integration, but only in some neighborhoods and only for distinct subgroups. The results call for further investigation into usage patterns on the individual level and potentials of digitally enabled support across different socio-economic groups in mixed neighborhoods.

### **The geography of sharing economy: the case of Airbnb in London and San Francisco**

Daria Shubina

The global question for researchers is whether sharing economy is really reshaping our cities (make them more equal) or just intensify existing economic and social dichotomies. This paper presents an attempt to explain the digital platforms' phenomenon using spatial laws: the presence of an independent geographical component will prove the uniqueness of the sharing economy. The main goal is to study the factors that determine the spatial distribution of Airbnb service in London and San Francisco.

- 1) Airbnb listings tend to cluster in the space of a city. This means that in the process of developing a service, the proximity of market participants to each other is important. Such concentration of service in particular neighborhoods may potentially lead to increasing the gentrification process.
- 2) Proximity to the city center is important. We can observe what is commonly called distance decay: with increasing distance between two points, the strength of the connection between them decreases. In online market we can see that there is much more listings in the city center. Thus, there is spatial discrimination in the distribution of the service: the one who is closer to the city center with a better transit service is still more competitive in the sharing economy.
- 3) We can talk about social and economic discrimination in online platforms. Thus, in London, the areas with younger population appear to have more Airbnb listings, while in San Francisco, the Airbnb activity area is clearly distinguished by high incomes and the share of the white population.

## **S75 | Sensing space agonistically: urban spaces as collective mobilisation frames**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Enrico Gualini

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS109

**Room 19** | Cultural Centre De Roma

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Contesting Evictions: Local Movement Cultures and Path-Dependent Activism in Urban India**

Liza Weinstein

Since the early 2000s, local governments across India have carried out large-scale demolitions in informal settlements and "slum" communities, often justified as part of efforts to make these cities "world class." Despite this common discourse, and other similarities, anti-eviction activism has taken very different forms across India's major metros. Based on interviews, ethnography, and historical research in the Indian cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, this paper uses the case of anti-eviction activism to ask why distinct movement forms emerge in different places. It identifies four ideal-typical models of anti-eviction contestations that have become prevalent across urban India: legal activism, protest politics, political party advocacy, and civil society influence in local administration. In order to explain the city-specific character of these contestations, this paper draws on theories of urban social movements and "place distinction" to develop a framework for explain how locally-specific movement forms emerge in different places. These earlier approaches have underscored the importance of history and contingent historical events to explain movement formation and place distinction, but they offer more limited explanations of precisely how history matters. This paper draws in key ideas from historical sociology and reflects more deeply on how historic events influence the place specific character of urban social movements by restructuring state action and civil society response.

### **"City Walk" as Collective Storytelling Battleground: Reconfiguring Place Imaginary in Shanghai**

Ben Weilun Zhang

How do urban collectives in non-democratic societies mediate and mobilize their action and meanings? Jonathan Wynn identifies urban tours as a new form of placemaking that's shaping the urban landscape and its place-based experience through multilayered storytelling strategies (Wynn, 2010; 2012). "City Walk" in China, similar to western context, has as well become a legitimized practice in the urban identity building. However, current research pays much attention to microscopic "cultural intermediaries" yet ignores the larger sociopolitical agencies of urban guiding. Guiding practices such

as City Walks are embedded with political goals, thus city, through these walks, becomes an agonistic ground for diverging forms of representation making. Presenting three case studies from Shanghai through in-depth interviews and autoethnographic reflections working in one of the urban guiding organizations, this paper exemplifies urban guiding agents' mobilized desires and discursive actions in producing place images and "key messages". Tour groups' difference in initiative goals and diverging strategies in practice shape the way they present a place to the city's public. Against China's complex urban social and political backdrop, guided tour is not only treated as a spatial storytelling practice to achieve public engagement and diverse hidden agendas, but also reflects how organized actors desire to be positioned within urban development and fostered by legitimate powers. In line with the session's theme, the paper argues for new understanding of urban tours as organized and contested reconfigurations of place imaginary; it also calls for attention to place emerging Asian metropolises onto the map of urban socio-spatial analysis.

### **The Politics of Street Renaming in Gauteng Province: Johannesburg and Pretoria/Tshwane**

Thembanani Mkhize

Although commonly regarded as mundane points of reference, street names are narrative text on city space that transmit/communicate powerful messages about cities. In South African cities, most notably those within Gauteng Province, the battle over the renaming of streets since the democratic dispensation in 1994 reflects their importance as symbols of identity, political history, power and socio-cultural relations. The street renaming project has mostly seen the substitution of apartheid-affiliated names with political struggle heroes' names. Yet, on the ground, the renaming of streets, especially after struggle icons, has been met with fierce resistance by various stakeholders. Whereas proponents have motivated for it on the grounds that street names have to represent everybody's past, opponents have largely dismissed the project as a retributive, egotistical, unnecessary move that is tantamount to erasure of history by the ruling party. Nowhere has the resistance been more pronounced than in Pretoria, where the city's name was also slated to be changed but has been halted for years following extensive picketing, petitioning and court action by various parties. Interestingly, street renaming in other parts of Gauteng such as Johannesburg has gone smoothly and without contestation. Using the two cases/cities, the study unpacks the dynamics and politics of street renaming – the arguments for and against it, why it is opposed in certain areas and not in others, the forms of contestation to it, the degree to which it is liable to being held hostage by party politics, and how city governments can mitigate conflicts associated with renaming.

## **S84 | Bottom-up Urbanism: Growing Social Policy from the Grassroots Upward and Across Scales**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Hilary Silver, Yuri Kazepov, Lorenzo De Vidovich, Benedetta Marani

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS121

**Room 20** | Political Centre Peperfabriek

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Homeless Movements in the Context of Neighborhood Change: Welfare and Protest in Osaka's Day Laborer District Kamagasaki**

Johannes Kiener

This presentation is concerned with the role of homeless movements in the process of urban change. By examining the way they position themselves in this process, it highlights the forces behind urban change that go beyond the working of neoliberalism, the usual suspect.

The topic is discussed on the example of Kamagasaki, the former day laborer district in Osaka. During the economic crisis, Japan faced in the 1990s, many day laborers became unemployed, which subsequently forced them into homelessness. Out of this situation several homeless movements emerged. They mainly formed around three different ideas about how to improve their situation. These were the demanding of employment opportunities, the demanding of welfare solutions, and the demanding of stronger rights for rough sleepers. The movements forming around the two former ideas were able to negotiate their aims on the local and national scale. Employment opportunities for aged day laborers and job-hunt support for homeless people was introduced, and the public assistance framework expanded in order to serve also homeless people. But movements forming around the latter idea positioned themselves in opposition to the state. Their demands were eroded by the achievements of the other movements, that led to the decrease of homelessness. The subsequent change of Kamagasaki was accompanied by the closer of former social infrastructure, against which they also protested fiercely.

## **Open cities vs. closed towns? The multi-scale local governance of migration in Brandenburg towns**

Felicitas Hillmann

While the concept of open cities (Sennett 2018) with its recently discovered dividing line between a sedentary population and cosmopolitan fly-overs (Goodhart 2017) is discussed intensively, the situation of the smaller and somewhat peripheral cities has remained in the shadow. My paper starts from the observation that the „migration and refugee crisis“ in Germany (2015-2017) has spurred manifold bottom-linked activities precisely also in smaller towns that before hardly had been in contact with migration and migrants. The empirical focus is thus on selected cities Brandenburg, the county surrounding cosmopolitan Berlin.

Starting from the concept of social innovation (Moulaert 2009) I will focus on the bottom-linked activities that have developed in the context of the migration crisis in such towns with formerly rudimentary migration-related diversity. On an analytical level I will connect this approach with the heuristic concept of migration-led-regeneration, which focusses on the relevance of migration for top-down policies as well as for bottom-up practises, including migrant agency. In terms of empirical exploration I will present the case of smaller towns, in which civil society took over many of the state-duties that could not be delivered at that time. I will show that pro-diversity initiatives, born out of local conflict, have worked as an antidote against populism. My empirical studies further reveal that the top-down policies coordinated by the mayors were decisive only in an initial phase of the crisis, while the bottom-linked practises of civil society were crucial when it came to long-term inclusion and participation.

## **The Platform of People Affected by Mortgage – PAH of Barcelona: empowerment and housing struggles against the increase of evictions**

Eduard Sala, Gabriele D'Adda, Aritz Tutor

More than a decade has passed since the beginning of the housing crisis in Spain (2007-2008) and the creation of the Platform of People Affected by Mortgages (hereinafter “PAH”), in Barcelona (2009). However, the housing crisis is far from being over. The massive dispossession caused by mortgage repossessions and evictions continues and overlaps now with an increasing presence of international real estate funds investing in the rental market, which has caused a dramatic increase in rents. In this new scenario, the PAH of Barcelona had to face 234 eviction orders in just one year, in 2019, the highest number in the movement's history. More than 95% of these evictions were stopped or suspended. This paper explores how PAH developed and adapted its campaigns in order to stop evictions in a context of a great variety of housing-related (mortgage, rent, squatting) and tenure problems (mortgage loans, social rents from banks, investment funds and small homeowners). Combining an ethnographic approach, in-depth interviews, and the collection of data by the PAH about the different situations of the people affected, it delves into the causes of evictions and the struggles for the right to housing. The paper analyses (a) the Stop eviction campaign of PAH Barcelona, and (b) its 'Obra Social' campaign to rehouse evicted families in occupied empty apartments belonging to banks and real-estate investment funds. The development, results, and limits of these campaigns are considered.

## **S32 | Perceiving a shrinking city – the local perspective**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Maria Gunko, Elena Batunova

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS048

**Room 21** | Farmer's Tower

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 14:00-15:30 CEST

### **Urban shrinkage: challenge or chance for the 'European City'?**

Marco Bontje, Anna Badyina, Silvia Avila de Sousa, Emmanuèle Cunningham-Sabot, Bogdan Nadolu

While contemporary urban debates are about managing increasing growth pressures, and most national and urban policy strategies focus on encouraging growth, many European cities face a different reality. Europe's population is ageing and slower growth and shrinkage will spread across the continent. Especially in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, but also in the Northern and Western parts of the (sub)continent, many cities are facing shrinkage in the coming decades. As demographic and economic growth are increasingly becoming concentrated in city-regions in the top layers of the 'world city network', many cities will have to adapt to lower levels of population, jobs, amenities and infrastructure. This paper delves into the connections and disconnections between urban shrinkage and the historic and contemporary representations and strategies of the 'European City'. Shrinkage may be a serious challenge to the ideal-typical 'European City', but it may also offer chances to return to that urban model, or to create a different European City. The argument will be supported by several empirical examples from shrinking cities across Europe, based on the results of the JPI Urban Europe project 3S RECIPE - Smart Shrinkage Solutions.

## **How shrinking cities are deprived of their dignity**

Katrin Grossmann

While an abundance of literature discusses the relation between justice and urban development, the concept of dignity has hardly been applied to urban settings or development (exceptions in Davy 2019, xxx). While justice literature draws insights from attention to unjust developments, dignity research could profit from looking at stigmatized, disrespected even humiliated places.

The paper will first draw from philosophical literature on dignity to provide a framework to better understand how dignity can be applied in urban research. This endeavor leads to three dimensions relevant for a dignity analysis: 1) to experience the respect of others, 2) to be able to respect yourself and 3) to be able to self-determine your own goals and the means to achieve them. I will then argue that shrinking cities can experience deprivation of all three dimensions of dignity: they are stigmatized from outside as undesirable, unsuccessful places lacking vibrancy and attractiveness. The negative image also impacts on self-respect, when both residents and decision-makers either agree to these images or find themselves fighting them from an inferior discursive position. Further, the lack of local resources leads to a dependence on external resources. This dependence hinders self-determination as external funds for urban development tend to come with built-in agendas, goals, and means. All this is embedded in hegemonic discourse and power structures that hinder independent local response and action.

## **Negotiating change: competing narratives and imaginaries shaping the future of old-industrial towns**

Franziska Görmar

During the last decades, old-industrial places have experienced major economic restructuring. Deindustrialisation and economic decline has led to peripheralisation and shrinkage. Responding to these complex economic, social, and demographic changes involves developing a new vision and solving various policy dilemmas.

Place's industrial past often is still a major reference point for individual and collective narratives which are temporally layered, multiple and, at times, controversial. While different agents (economic, political, social and cultural) stick to (post-)industrial narratives, new narratives of the future may also emerge. Hence, old-industrial places contain a multiplicity of competing narratives and discourses which may provoke a "crisis of definition" of a specific place (Cruickshank et al., 2016) requiring an intense debate about its future development including economic but also social and cultural aspects.

The contribution departs from the concept of agency which is understood as distributed and evolving along multiple networks of actors and events. Old-industrial places form specific institutionalised nodes within these networks and contain very specific meanings for those located in them. These meanings are diffused through multiple, often competing spatial narratives which have a strong legitimizing power and potentially inform decisions of political and economic agents in policy arenas at multiple scales. This contribution will examine the interrelationship between spatial imaginaries, narratives, and agency and will illustrate these theoretical reflections by empirical insights from Eastern German case studies.

## **Perception of and reaction to urban shrinkage as the Japanese population ages**

Tomoko Kubo

Japanese cities have suffered from population aging over the past decade, and many are also experiencing population shrinkage. There are three categories of urban population shrinkage: 1) post-socialist transformation (Grobmann et al. 2015, Hoekstra et al. 2018); 2) economic decline as an additional trigger for out-migration from old industrial areas (Immergluch 2011, Keenan et al. 1999, Sadler and Lafreniere 2017, Hoekstra et al. 2018); and 3) rapid demographic changes, such as low fertility and longevity-led aging of the society (Nordvik and Gulbrandsen 2009, Yui et al. 2017, Kubo and Yui 2019).

Although numerous studies have examined the causes of the third category of urban shrinkage, regional differences in perception and reaction to urban shrinkage by municipalities and residents remain unclear. Exceptionally, Kubo et al. (2013) studied the reactions of Tokyo's suburban municipalities to the increase in vacant housing that accompanied the rapidly growing aging population. They observed a pessimistic reaction in the outer suburbs and optimism in the inner suburbs. These attitudes reflect institutional, historical, and geographical backgrounds that caused the high growth rate of vacant housing and fewer possibilities for attracting younger generations to the outer suburbs. Similarly, middle-sized cities have experienced this problem (Kubo 2016). Regarding these findings, this paper examines the perception of and reaction to the rise in vacant housing along with the progression of population aging through a comparison among several Japanese municipalities. Our final goal is to propose a perception and reaction model of urban shrinkage in Japanese cities.

## **S79 | Urban Greenery and spaces of nature: protection, commodification and contestation**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Safa Ashoub, Salma Khamis, Mohamed Abotera

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PST16

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Thursday 15 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Parks that make cities: space, governance and the definitions of the public in Mexico City**

Marisol Romero Magallan

Modern public parks have become an institutionalized form of urban public space strongly related to urban development and placemaking in the cities. They also have a long history of private sector involvement for their creation and maintenance. The main objective of this research is to analyze the uses and definitions of the public that have shaped the creation and governance of metropolitan parks in Mexico City. It is proposed to examine three moments of management: 1) the creation and improvement of parks, 2) the design of repertoires of governance and 3) the practice of deliberation within decision making. First, using documentary research, it reviews the constitution of parks as public spaces in the Mexican capital since late 19th century. Then, it examines to the current modalities of governance of three metropolitan parks –Chapultepec, Bicentenario, La Mexicana- by looking at contracts, agreements and interviews with key actors. Finally, it analyses how the notions of the public are mobilized observing practices of deliberation of the Citizen Governing Council of Chapultepec. It is argued that the effects of public-private management of parks do not translate into the privatization of space or government, but rather in the emergence of a neoliberal common sense that is expressed in ambiguous and contradictory ways.

### **Questions on the Water and City Relationship: Water-based Social Inequalities in the City**

Meric Kirmizi

How shall we define water? Is it solely a natural resource, a social value, an economic value or a political matter? Is water a right or a need? Who does water belong to? Who does it belong to in case it is across borders? Are there social conflicts on water, water-related inequalities or a possibility of water wars in the future? This descriptive work from a critical urban sociological perspective aims to bring up these questions on water in relation to the city in history and today for discussion. The focus is on the water inequalities that have begun to intensify following the passage from an understanding of public water or water as commons, such was partially the case in ancient Rome to private water or the water as commodity, and moreover, with the growing impact of the climate change. This work provides first the background of this transition from public to private water by giving references to the neoliberalization of water, including issues of privatization, commodification, decentralized management, and even digitalization. Next, it studies the cases of the Istanbul Canal and Galataport Istanbul as two current examples of contemporary urban change that engender water inequalities or aqua-gentrification. These examples signify that urban mega-projects are not limited to the scope of urban land, but they also concern city waters in a way to create further social inequalities in the city, in addition to their wider ecological harms.

### **Egyptian Gated Communities and their Excessive Water Consumption**

Ahmed Amr, Undine Giseke

Though having a variety of water resources, Egypt suffers from water scarcity, depending mainly on the Nile River for supply. The problem keeps expanding with the fast growing population rate, the urbanization and misuse of water. The urbanization process in the new cities surrounding Cairo and the Western North Coast is mainly based on gated communities. The research examines the situation of different water resources in Egypt, the urbanization in the desert cities around Cairo and the Western North Coast and the linkage to excessive provision of green spaces. The cases of new cities around Cairo and the Western North Coast are different in terms of the seasonality of residence, the availability of water, but share the extensive privatized lush green spaces. According to the current statistics, the new cities (The majority are gated communities) consume around 18% of the fresh water produced in Egypt, which is humongous compared to the served population. In many cases the water used for irrigation is still mainly potable grid water. The situation in the Western North Coast has a different complexity as the limited expansion of infrastructure controls the supply and force the direction towards the private desalination. The methodology of the research is based on comparative analyses for consumption, and collecting data regarding water from authorities and management teams in different gated residential projects. The aim of the paper is to frame the problematic water situation in several cases, comparing between their consumption and suggesting preliminary points of intervention for the cases.

### **Urban Agroecology in Bogotá: Between the Postcolonial Production of Urban Nature and Spaces of Resistance**

Birgit Hoinle

City-space in Latin America is shaped by deep colonial power relations. Historically, this is reflected in the way rural, natural, and indigenous elements were marginalized by city planning. In Bogotá (Colombia), since the beginning of the 20th century, efforts were made to displace the traditional peasant farmer markets from the center of the city to the urban peripheries. This can also be observed in the invisibilization of urban nature in historic maps (Gallini 2015). In this presentation, I will analyze from a perspective of urban political ecology (Alimonda 2011, Porto-Gonçalves 2009) the coloniality of urban nature and urban-rural-relations by focussing on its material and symbolic-epistemic dimensions.

In the second part, I show how the movement of agroecology tries to find answers to the historic constitution of unequal socioecological relationships within city-space. The analysis is based on an 18-months field research in Bogotá during which focal-group interviews and workshops of participatory mapping were conducted with agroecological initiatives. The urban gardens conform spaces for encounters for migrants and displaced people by the civil war who arrived from different parts of the country-side of Colombia. By sharing the means of production (e.g. land, seeds) and traditional knowledge in community gardens, the agroecological movement builds up commons – shared spaces of alternative economies. In which way can these agroecological movements contribute to a decolonization of city-space? In the final part I will reflect on the potentials and challenges that these initiatives confront and what this could mean for future urban governance frameworks.

### **Evidence of Community Urban- Farming Activism in Natural Spaces and its Impact in the Health and Well-Being of Medellín informal Communities**

Diana Benjumea

Medellin informal settlements have been recognised as highly resourceful and dynamic communities capable of initiating resilience processes after extreme events (i.e., evictions, war, natural disasters). These processes often take shape in the build environment through bottom-up initiatives, which show different levels of networks and leadership within the communities. Some of these initiatives are reflected in green spaces/garden projects which are used as part of the coping strategies of the communities to overcome violence, strengthen their economic status, and create community development. This study was designed to investigate the interactions and interventions that occur in the natural environment in two informal settlements in Medellín: Villatina (commune 8) and Eduardo Santos (commune 13) in order to understand: How these bottom-up actions emerge; what actors are involved; and what place-base strategies are implemented as alternative ways of empowerment during the project's development. A quasi-longitudinal mix-methods study was conducted from 2016 until January 2020. Ethnographic field work, interviews, focus groups and surveys were collected with residents of the two neighborhoods. The results of this study have suggested that bottom-up actions in the form of community gardens are mediating strategies that help the communities to cope with the internal and external tensions caused by extreme violence and lack of economic resources. Furthermore, findings of this study suggest that active engagement in bottom-up garden projects could have positive impacts on the mental and physical well-being of the communities and could help them to reduce stress, strengthen the sense of community and attachment, and promote nature connection.

# FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

## 15:45-17:15 CEST

### KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Plenary 6 | Hillary Angelo, Christopher Otter and Jens Lachmund**

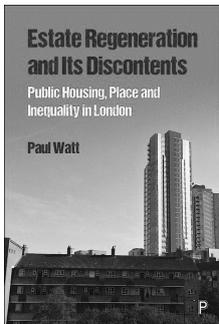
**Urban History and Urban Theory: A Boundless Dialogue?**

Friday 16 July 2021

15:45-17:15 (CEST)

In sustained attempts to describe and capture the socio-spatial processes that make and unmake cities, urban theorists are tirelessly generating new concepts. The problem arising now is that the connection between conceptual advancement and urbanization as an empirical process becomes ever more difficult to assess and that, as a consequence, the political and societal relevance of urban theory is ever more difficult to justify. If we aim to take the urban seriously as a privileged site to foster answers to the extensive societal challenges of our times, we should avoid urban theory becoming a free-zone where everything goes and re-embed it in solid and sustained empirical analyses of concrete socio-spatial practices and contexts. This Round Table will therefore address the relationship between urban theory and empirical research in a discussion between urban theorists and historians. With the aim of critically examining the value added of urban theory to urban history, and vice versa, discussants will explore and question the need for more theoretically engaged empirical research and empirically informed theory-making to extend the scope, and even more so the societal relevance, of both urban history and urban theory.

### AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS SESSION



**Estate Regeneration and its Discontents - Public Housing, Place & Inequality in London**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Paul Watt

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | AMC102

**Room 24** | Author Meets Critics room

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CE

With Rowland Atkinson, Martine August, Mervyn Horgan

### PAPER PRESENTATIONS

**S8 | Discrimination and exclusion on the housing market: patterns, mechanisms and counter-strategies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Jana Verstraete, Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe, Marjan Moris

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS010

**Room 3** | Social Housing Units, Braem Towers

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

## **Unaffordable housing and avoidable mortality: Why protective social policies matter.**

Gum-Ryeong Park

Studies have long acknowledged that housing cost burden can be detrimental to people's health but scholars have yet to investigate its impacts on health in aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). We examined the association of unaffordable housing and avoidable mortality and tested whether alternative housing policies have protected people from unaffordable housing. Housing expenses, housing policy measures, and avoidable mortality (including amenable and preventable rates) were obtained from the OECD database. Fixed effects panel models estimated how rising housing costs related to changes in avoidable mortality and the role of housing policies in modifying the observed effects since 2011. Each 1 percentage point rise in housing cost to income ratio was strongly associated with 1.32% rise in amenable mortality rate (95% CI: 0.110 to 2.528) and 3.47% rise in preventable mortality rate (95% CI: 1.048 to 5.890) after the onset of the crisis (2009-2018), but the association was not examined before the crisis (2000-2008). Between 2009 and 2018, alternative housing policies, such as housing allowance (-2.85%), tax reliefs for renters (-5.21% to -3.67%), widely accessible social housing (-4.24% to -2.62%), and regulations for minimum dwelling quality (-5.11% to 1.96%), mitigated these risks. At high levels of these housing policies implemented together, the association could be prevented by -5.88% to 3.97%. However, there no interaction of fiscal measures for homeowners and rent control. Unaffordable housing is a significant risk factor of variation in avoidable mortality among in aftermath of the GFC. Protective housing measures appeared to mitigate mortality risks.

## **Housing Inequalities and the New Housing Precariat in Sweden**

Carina Listerborn

In 1990s the Swedish housing market turned increasingly market-oriented and previous ambitious social housing politics were abandoned. This induced a shortage of affordable rental housing and increased rental costs in all major cities. At the same time, beneficial economic circumstances for house owners has led to an increased wealth gap between tenures of rent and ownership. This paper presents the results from interviews with individuals about their experiences of the unequal housing market in the city of Malmö, Sweden. Their experiences of not being able to enter the 'regular' housing market, leaves them in a precarious situation and they are bound to live in sublet apartments on short temporary contracts, legal or illegal, or just sleeping on friends' sofas. The new housing precariat is diverse – young people, migrants, newly divorced, unemployed, elderly - but reflects the shift from welfare to workfare policies, the new gig economy, and the growing gaps in income and wealth in Sweden. This paper focuses on strategies of survival and the discrimination and sexism that people encounter in the 'invisible' part of the new housing market.

## **Qualitative, longitudinal research into the impact of antisocial behaviour interventions on social housing tenants allegedly engaged in antisocial behaviour**

Kirsty Cameron

The term antisocial behaviour (ASB) was introduced into policy in the 1990s by the New Labour government who reported there was an enforcement gap, leading to residents on some estates suffering from abuse, disorder and intimidation. Defined as behaviour causing nuisance, annoyance, alarm or distress New Labour and the subsequent Coalition and Conservative administrations introduced numerous measures to control antisocial behaviour; with responses ranging from a warning letter or mediation to legal action and eviction, resulting in exclusion from future social housing tenancies.

Whilst ASB is apparently tenure-neutral, it is arguably easier to enforce ASB legislation on the marginalised population found within social housing than those living as private occupiers. It is therefore social landlords who are repeatedly used to roll-out punitive ASB interventions and providers are consequently heavily involved in ASB management.

Despite much previous research on antisocial behaviour from the point of view of victims or services responding to it, research from the perspective of alleged perpetrators has been limited. Utilising a multi-method toolkit approach, including visual methods, diaries and longitudinal qualitative interviews with twenty social housing tenants who are allegedly engaged in ASB and qualitative interviews with five key informants, sector experts on ASB, this paper presents emerging analysis from ongoing doctoral research to explore three key research questions:

How do social housing tenants subject to antisocial behaviour interventions define and perceive antisocial behaviour, in relation to themselves and others? How are ASB interventions perceived by alleged perpetrators? What impacts do ASB interventions have on alleged perpetrators?

## **Real Estate Mobbing in the Urban Regeneration Process: The Case of Istanbul**

Tugba Tuncer Tiryaki, ICLAL DINCER

The main purpose of this study is to explain the mobbing mechanism experienced in urban regeneration projects and to discuss the strategies that residents produce against it. Within the scope of the study, in-depth interviews were made with various actors (residents, neighborhood organizations, activists, etc.) in a neighborhood that was declared an regeneration area in Istanbul.

The main common feature of the places selected as urban regeneration area in Istanbul is the settlements where low income group/disadvantaged groups are concentrated. According to the current legal system, the condition for regeneration projects to start is that 2/3 majority of the residents accept the regeneration. In this case, investors try to

achieve this majority first. The current legal ground is forcing investors to persuade residents, rather than forcing investors to offer transparent and fair rights to everyone in the project area. When the settlers continue to resist the transformation, these persuasion studies extend to mobbing. In addition, mobbers doesn't consist of only investors; neighbors and local/central government are also involved. As a result of mobbing activities, it is aimed to achieve implicit goals such as getting people's homes cheaper and making their residents uninhabitable in the area.

Study is basically intended as a response to the following three questions:

- What are the reasons for the resistance of the residents who do not accept the agreement in urban regeneration?
- What are the mobbing policies implemented by different actors?
- How have the residents developed strategies against these mobbing policies?

### **Old and new exclusion mechanisms on the liberal housing market: residential trajectories in Russia**

Varvara Kobyshcha

The paper broadens the perspective on exclusion mechanisms in the housing sphere, by comparing two sources of housing deprivation: the one that results from someone's generally vulnerable position in the society, and the one that is produced by various fails a person may experience on the liberal housing market.

It explores these two phenomena using an example of Russian housing situation from early 1990s till today. The privatization of the socialist housing stock initially provided an absolute majority of the citizens with a certain amount of housing capital (85% of the socialist residential estates are privatized). However, the rapid neo-liberalization of the housing market dramatically increased the risks related to a housing purchase or transaction. It has also led to the growing inequality in housing and economic capital distribution within the younger generations of the people who did not acquire their own housing from the state during the soviet period.

The empirical material for the paper is collected within the ongoing research project of the Laboratory of Urban Sociology (Higher School of Economics) devoted to the residential mobility of Russian citizens. The research includes 80 in-depth biographical interviews and a quantitative survey in Moscow and Ekaterinburg. The paper compares residential trajectories and coping strategies among the two groups of citizens who are excluded from the housing market or have limited resources for residential mobility: 1) due to their general belonging to socially vulnerable and marginalized groups; 2) due to the loss of housing capital in the last decades.

## **S40 | Rethinking the urban housing shortage in the global South: incremental housing as a node for intersecting flows of city-making**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Griet Steel, Femke van Noorloos, Abigail Friendly

**Track** | Housing & the built environment

**Code** | PS011

**Room 4** | Port of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Property contradictions in collective incremental housing. A critical assessment of the MCMV-Entidades programme in São Paulo**

Daan Bossuyt, Camila D'Ottaviano

Incremental housing production allows people to appropriate urban space for their own use. In Brazil, Minha Casa Minha Vida-Entidades (MCMV-Entidades) programme has sought to reconcile self-management with mass housing. A subset of a large anti-cyclical economic policy that subsidizes housing purchase. The programme finances collective incremental housing by entidades. These are organizations affiliated with popular housing movements. Building occurs through a tripod structure in which entidades cooperate with technical advisories and social workers. The scheme has allowed lower-income residents to renovate and construct housing in central São Paulo, challenging the center-periphery dichotomy.

Conventional (Anglophone) readings of incremental housing depart from generalized political economy frameworks or celebrate their transformative capacity with respect to political subjectivities. Such readings obscure the property relations and conditions that contribute to the performance of collective housing organizations on the long-term.

Drawing on combined methodology of action research and semi-structured interviews, the paper offers a more critical and nuanced reading. The paper maps different property regimes in collective self-managed housing projects within the scope of the MCMV-E in the context of São Paulo. It departs from a social constructionist perspective of property as both an embodied experience and legal rules to understand how these impinge upon the capacity of collective incremental housing to realize affordable housing. The paper hypothesizes that the interaction between individual embodied property norms

and the conditions presupposed by a cooperative housing framework undermines the long-term transformative capacity of collective housing struggles. This is exacerbated by a regulatory set-up which engenders fragmentation and competition.

### **Incremental urbanism in the making: How Mumbai's contractors make construction possible**

Tobias Baitsch

While incremental housing is neither (anymore) foreseen as a valid housing option in Mumbai nor accommodated for in its development control regulations, the city's majority nevertheless consolidates their homes and neighbourhoods incrementally. Building on fieldwork in a 'self-built' resettlement colony forty years after it was established, this paper examines how incrementally developing settlements are made, maintained, and transformed through everyday practices of local actors. Such user driven urbanism under contemporary conditions is to a large extent not self-built, but rests by and large upon a professionalised local construction industry, which, at times is closely linked to and at times distinctly different from more formalized building practices. Operating at the crossroads of the market, the political, and the social the so-called contractors are key figures engaged in the processes of construction and house making.

Adopting a relational perspective on city making, this paper focuses on the embodied experience of contractors as mediators in and of incremental urbanism. Channelling flows of material, labour, finance, and knowledge, contractors make construction possible under often restrictive conditions. Their expertise hinges upon their ability to keep the myriad actors and materials at bay or at hand, and to assemble, mediate, and coordinate actions and flows of information and materials. Their practices do neither easily fit with the often too simple planning narratives nor comply with its tools of transformation.

### **It Is Easier To Demolish A House Than To Build One: Informal Settlement Upgrading and Redevelopment, Displacement and Inequality in sub-Saharan African Cities**

Afua Wilcox, Marja Elsinga, Marietta Haffner, Nelson Mota

How does incremental housing strategy in informal settlement upgrading /slum upgrading generate solutions to the inequality and displacement sub-Saharan African cities? What are the existing implementation strategies in the related countries, and how can informal settlement redevelopment design approaches be improved by aligning goals with incremental housing approaches?

Fifty five percent of the African continent live in informal settlements/ slums. Informal Settlement Upgrading (ISU) in the context of this study refers to an improvement of physical environment in informal settlements as well as the economic and social improvement of that area (Abbott, 2001; The World Bank, 1999). ISU aims not to eradicate informality, but instead to work with communities based in informal settlements so they can progressively improve their own livelihoods and housing environments. (Madonsela 2012 and Housing Development Agency, 2015). This upgrading process can also take the form of informal settlement redevelopment/ slum redevelopment which includes the demolition and displacement of inhabitants.

These upgrading projects deal with thousands of inhabitants at a time, and the incremental housing approach has been utilized in a number of instances, both in upgrading and redevelopment. This paper will be a review of the history of informal settlement/ slum upgrading and redevelopment in sub-Saharan Africa. It will review strategies such as incremental housing and other development and design approaches that have taken place in sub-Saharan African cities and in doing this analyse how the various approaches has addresses displacement and inequality in these spaces.

## **S53 | Transport, mobility and critical urban studies**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Wojciech Kębłowski, Tauri Tuvikene, Silja Laine

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS082

**Room 5** | Antwerp Central Station

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Rio 2016: Games for the city or a city for the Games? The social impact of Rio's "transport revolution"**

Isabelle de Kersauson, Hannah Hasenberger

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro were seen not only as an opportunity to strengthen its global city status, but equally as a way to address the city's need for infrastructure development. Promising a "transport revolution", the Games would be as a lever for the extension of Rio's subway, a new tramway and the creation of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, including the city's first circular mass transit line. Through participant observation and over 50 semi-structured interviews with BRT users, public and transport sector representatives and activists, we investigate the social impact of the new BRT system. Given Rio's marked socio-spatial and functional segregation, the city's low-income residents were expected to particularly benefit from improved opportunities for social and economic inclusion. Yet, a changing political and financial

context and an entrepreneurial mode of urban governance interfered with the implementation of these plans. While metro and tramway are operating as planned, the BRT, especially in the poorer parts of the city, lacks maintenance and has ceased to operate in some areas. One out of four BRT lines has not been implemented, yet previous bus routes have been eliminated, creating new forms of immobility for residents. Based on theoretical and empirical analysis, we found that the new transport system mirrors Rio's socio-spatial segregation, only just connecting the worker's city to the leisure city. Instead of a revolution, Rio 2016 has thus contributed to reproducing and reinforcing the city's historical spatial inequalities and (im)mobilities.

### **Social outbreaks transforming transport politics: insights from a rebel city**

Giovanni Vecchio

Stability prevails when urban mobility issues are considered. Transport policy is usually incremental, while transport politics tend to remain stable over time. Nonetheless, disruptions can provide opportunities for policy change towards more radical directions. Drawing on this, the paper aims to examine if social outbreaks can contribute to transform transport policy and politics towards more fair outcomes and processes. Examining Chile's social outbreak in October 2019, the analysis considers if the prolonged social turmoil provided windows of opportunity to enhance substantial and procedural justice in transport policy. To do so, the paper proposes an analytical framework and reconstructs three examples of transport policy in the capital city of Santiago: the suspension of the public transport fare increase that had started the social outbreak; the reduction of highway tolls demanded by an emerging group of protesters; and new measures for sustainable mobility advocated by activists and scholars. In a context characterised by structural inequality, reflected also in everyday urban mobility, the social outbreak transformed partially the transport politics of Santiago. While new actors and issues entered the transport policy arena, the achievements in terms of substantial justice were limited. These provisional results show the need to critically consider the political dimension of transport planning and how it can affect fair mobility, even in the context of widespread social mobilisations.

### **The meaning of everyday mobility in the socio-economic strategies of Belgian wage workers during a period of modal shift in the 1950s and 1960s**

Ingrid Schepers

In contemporary society mobility is ubiquitous and seen as a self-evident aspect of everyday life. Obviously, geographical mobility is highly influenced by the presence of transport infrastructures since these restrict or facilitate movement. Equally important is the impact transport networks have on the sociotechnical production of society and space. Historical research highlighted the manners in which governments used transport infrastructures as instrumental tools to amplify their economies while steering urbanisation processes. For example, during the second half of the nineteenth century, Belgium, like other industrialising countries, experienced an unwanted explosive growth of cities due to the migration of villagers in search for work. To curbe this rural outmigration, the Belgian government unlocked the countryside by introducing cheap worker's tickets (1870) and strengthening the development of a dense public railway network, thus giving wage workers the choice between migration or commuting. Most wage workers preferred to live in their ancestral village, resulting in commuting as a societal phenomenon in Belgium as early as the dawn of the twentieth century. To compare, in the Netherlands this kind of mobility only became an integral part of the socio-economic strategies of Dutch wage workers from the 1950s onwards. My paper will explore this intertwining of mobility, transport policies and urbanization processes by inquiring how the socio-economic group of Belgian wage workers, living in small municipalities and depending on commuting to have an income, coped with a changed transport policy during the 1950s and 1960s that drastically reduced their access to the public network.

### **Public transport as public space: Toward an approach to examining urban (in)equalities through everyday mobilities**

Louise Sträuli

The research examines public transport (PT) in different European cities as everyday mobility that not merely enables a movement between various localities, but is imbued with meaning, practiced, embodied and experienced. Conceptualized as a public space that is situated and lived, PT raises questions of accessibility, mobility patterns and political participation. By understanding the variety of experiences, as well as the dominant narratives and contestations around PT, the different levels of mobility within the urban environment can be linked together. On the micro-level, users' perceptions are shaped by sensory experiences, such as noise, stress or anxiety, as well as through the encounter with others or the built environment. On the meso-level, urban transport networks link different districts, connect or segregate population groups and, hence, reflect political interests and planning paradigms. The question arises as to how transport networks promote or restrict the (im)mobility of different people and hence favor certain lifestyles or population groups.

The argument is brought forward that by linking theoretical approaches from the literature on mobility, public space, and justice, a valuable contribution can be made to understanding the production and experience of socio-spatial inequalities in the urban sphere. Through an extensive literature review and with reference to preliminary ethnographic and newspaper article analyses on the cities of Tallinn and Brussels, the paper aims to develop a conceptual and epistemological framework to understand how various actors, be it users, planners or activists are involved in shaping, countering or reproducing urban (in)equalities related to public transport.

## **Embodied Encounters with Muslim Other in Amsterdam Public Transport**

Reza Shaker

Public transport is a part of everyday urban living with difference. It brings together a wide range of bodies and unacquainted Others with diverse backgrounds where they have to coordinate their behaviour within a physically restricted space and often crowded conditions. Public transport is an important site of everyday intercultural encounter where tacit negotiations and intense encounters with or spectatorship of Others is impossible to avoid.

Taking 'the Muslim Other/question' into consideration, the everyday encounters in public transport that entangle bodies with different histories and geographies have received little attention by scholars on Islamophobic racism. Surprisingly, there is a clear lack of research in understanding the interface between Othering and transport regarding Muslims in the West. How is the Muslim Other (re)produced within the spaces of public transportation? What are the modes of Othering encounters in the everyday practice of public transport?

Focusing on affect, emotion, and encounter, I propose an embodied understanding of Othering practices and travelling with difference in public transport. Employing (auto)ethnography, I present public transport as a cross-cultural meeting place with spatial negotiation of difference to investigate Muslims' everyday experiences of public transit. The study sheds light on their everyday life and struggles to be mobile and participate in Amsterdam. It bridges the gap in the empirical evidence on the role of public transport, race, and religion in the Othering of Muslims.

## **S57 | On cities as tourist commodities: real estate and economic transformations in the digital platform era**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Guido Anselmi, Veronica Conte, Federico Prestileo

**Track** | Urban development & mobilities

**Code** | PS105

**Room 6** | R1 Ring Road around Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Touristification, rent-gap and the local political economy in a hypertourist city**

Christian Smigiel

Cities all over the world are experiencing growing tension that derives from interlinked processes such as touristification, gentrification and the financialization of housing. This paper shows how short-term rentals (esp. Airbnb) are an accelerator to all these processes which pull in or redirect different forms of capital and short-term visitors on the one hand and push out long-term residents on the other. Moreover, it illustrates that a new platform real estate market has emerged which, in the case of Salzburg (Austria), is dominated by local, commercial providers. By taking one of the most touristified cities in Europe I argue that regular (long-term) apartments are transformed into short-term rentals primarily since a new short-term rent gap has emerged. Moreover, this paper is tracing urban political settings and networks that have provided a framework for a long-standing touristification consisting of local business groups and a municipality which supports festivalization and lacks a proper urban vision beyond urban tourism.

### **The rise of short-term rental management companies and the hotelization of Airbnb**

Cocola-Gant Agustin, Jover Jaime

The lines between hotels and short-term rentals are blurring. Marriott International has become the first global hotel chain to launch a home-rental business while Airbnb itself is expanding its services by building boutique hotels. In this paper we explore the professionalisation of short-term rentals and show how they are becoming a new hotel-like product in the hospitality industry that are provided by commercial operators. Based on 30 in-depth interviews with short-term rental management companies and other real estate actors in the cities of Lisbon and Porto, we found that these companies essentially are the product of the convergence of the real estate and hospitality industries. On the one hand, they offer services to landlords and real estate investors to make the management of their portfolio more efficient and profitable. On the other hand, they offer to visitors a hotel-like product and tailored hospitality services. As the motto of one of these company states: 'book an apartment, be treated like a hotel guest'. Indeed, our findings suggest that tourists demand a professionalised service. In the current era of digital reputation, the result is that for individual landlords will be increasingly difficult to compete against these companies and survive in the market. Landlords have increased incentives to give the management of their properties to these commercial operators, leading to increased professionalisation and the consolidation of a new product in the hospitality industry that has little to do with home-sharing practices.

### **"Horizontal" Airbnb's issues and "vertical" urban policies. (Possible) tools for enhancing dialogues on the "diagonal" between private and public interests in the city**

Flavia Giallorenzo, Camilla Perrone, Claudio Saragosa

Cities are greatly involved in the social, economic, spatial effects linked to short-term renting accommodations. The aim of the contribution is to frame a possible knowledge-based space that may enhance a conscious dialogue between public institutions and the Airbnb company. This 'dialogue zone' constitutes an interface between private interests, that often generate horizontal negative externalities within different urban realms, and public interests, that are often supported by vertical, top-down governance visions.

We argue that current challenges, as gentrification processes, urban spaces reshaping, inhabitants living and tourist consumption patterns remaking, need to be addressed by public institutions at different scales.

Indeed, the complex system - made of software/hardware/spaces/times/stakeholders/people interactions - enabled by short-term renting is multifaceted and produce unpredictable effects. Therefore, we assume categories, like emergence, non-linearity, in-becoming processes of change, from complexity sciences. In this multi-layered context, the research question is: what space can be set for enhancing dialogue between public and private actors for fostering an effective policy design?

The contribution explores the feasibility study of a possible new machine-learning supported tool, to be tested, that may produce deeper knowledge-frames on the Airbnb phenomenon. The tool is aimed at building and nurturing awareness for policy design through a bias-free perspective on the ongoing urban dynamics and on platforms interests, which are influencing drivers of the market.

Finally, this knowledge-support tool could prepare 'spaces' for boosting public/private dialogue on the 'diagonal', overcoming vertical governance models and dealing with horizontal issues brought by Airbnb social, economic, spatial dynamics in cities.

### **Platform capitalism and urban governance. The political consequences of short-term rentals on European cities**

Francesca Artioli, Claire Colomb, Thomas Aguilera

The exponential development of platform-mediated short-term rental accommodation (PM-STR) around the world is part of a larger process of transformation associated with 'platform capitalism'. PM-STR have been accused of producing harmful effects on urban communities and markets (e.g. nuisances, increases in housing prices and rents leading to gentrification, unfair competition with the hotel industry...). In the European context, city governments have, over the past 5 years, developed multiple forms of regulation whose scope, stringency and fields of action differ sharply from city to city. We will present the results of a comparative project which analysed the politicisation and regulation of PM-STR in 12 large European cities (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna). We first map the various stakeholders which have been advocating, or opposing, the regulation of PM-STR, to show how social and economic interests have been reconfigured through new coalitions, conflicts and relationships between public authorities, corporate platforms, professional STR organizations, associations of hosts, the hotel industry, residents' associations and social movements. Second, we comparatively analyse the regulations put in place to manage and/or control PM-STR, and briefly reflect on their difficult implementation and enforcement. Finally, we reflect on the lobbying and political activities of digital platforms as "new urban actors", and on the response of city governments to those activities in a multi-level governance system where multiple actors seeks to influence regional, national and European regulations. Moreover, we will study the effects of the COVID19 global crisis on PMSTR markets and regulation.

## **S42 | Emerging Bordering Practices in Urban Space**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Martin Lundsteen

**Track** | Urban diversity & migration

**Code** | PS066

**Room 7** | Square Square De Coninckplein

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **An Urban Landscape of Displacement: Bordering, Homemaking and Displaceability within the Neighbourhood of Mjølnerparken, Copenhagen, under the Implementation of the Danish "Ghetto-Legislation".**

Marie Northrup Christensen

Residents of the housing estate Mjølnerparken, located in central Copenhagen, are currently, as residents in more than twenty other neighbourhoods all over Denmark, facing mass evictions and displacement due to the implementation of the so-called "ghetto-legislation." Legislation formally designed to target racialized low-income neighbourhoods, while enabling the privatisation of the cooperatively owned and uniquely powerful danish social-housing sector. Where Mezzadra and Nielson (2013) have developed a thorough theory of the commodification of labour as the primary capital

force of bordering, I here suggest an understanding of the intensified commodification of housing, as yet another economic dimension of urban border processes. In the same vein, I shift the focus from the otherwise central theme within border studies, of the freedom and regulations of movement and mobility, to the bordering of dwelling. Through my position as a long-term engaged neighbour-resident and one year of ethnography fieldwork around kitchen-tables and within residents' social activities, I will illustrate how this bordering of the very intimate sphere of the home plays out as processes of sneaking displacement and unhoming. Further, by drawing on Nicholas De Genova's (2002) concept of deportability, as the state of subjectivities grossed by border processes, I argue that the experience of residents can be understood as a precarious state of displaceability. For residents with past experience of forced displacement, the announcement of the potential eviction from their home becomes an event that constitutes the state of displaceability, as well as the struggle for home, as a historical continuity of everyday life.

### **Fearing difference: the impact of ethnic composition on safety perception in the Milanese urban context**

Nancy Holman, Alan Mace, Pablo Navarrete, Davide Alberto Zorloni

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 (Ricotta 2013). This process started in the Nineties and flourished in the last decade, when, at both the national and local scale, "security packages" and 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 (Pitch 2013).

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').

### **Reframing cities and citizenship through state-led urban regeneration**

Oznur Yardimci

This paper introduces 'citizenship' as a useful concept in understanding the struggles over city. Although spatiality of citizenship has been addressed in human and political geography, there has been little effort to consider what it might offer in understanding the state-sponsored urban regeneration. In bringing citizenship into conversation with current urban transformations, I dwell on a conceptualization of citizenship as a struggle zone whereby conditions of being an insider are constantly remade (Isin, 2009), and argue that citizenship provides a useful basis for linking the material transformations of property structures to symbolic struggles over who can 'properly' live in the city. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in a municipal-led squatter transformation project area in Ankara (Turkey), I demonstrate how different claims over housing offer a representation of broader political understandings framed through the language of citizenship. The ethnographic fieldwork material documents how mobilization of right to shelter struggle by some squatter communities paved for enacting an activist notion of citizenship, and how these were deemed 'illegal' by the state and 'uncivil' by most of the middle class urban dwellers. These representations of right to shelter struggles rather drew on a notion of citizenship defined on the basis of allegiance to the state authority and policies, which was in line with the growing authoritarianism in the country. Using a framework of citizenship, the paper provides new insights into the connections between the contested remaking of cities and citizenship.

## **S56 | Sensing and shaping urban marginality: multimodal and engaged research with children and young people**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Kitti Baracsi, Stefano Piemontese

**Track** | Urban inequalities & exclusion

**Code** | PS086

**Room 8** | Cathedral of our Lady

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Participatory Methods for Youth Engagement in Public Space Decision-Making Schemes**

Cigdem Aksu Cam, Ilke Sanlier Yuksel

This study engages in the politics of agency for an urban action which took place in the city of Adana in Turkey from April 2019 to December 2019, called "Youth Urban Action Lab". The action aims to make an urban spatial intervention through an inclusive methodology by ensuring equal opportunities, representation, and participation of disadvantaged youth in the

decision-making process at the local level. To offer tangible results, the action is executed in participatory decision-making processes to decide on a space to be intervened and the kind of intervention to be made; a participatory creative design and collective implementation of the designed "urban garden". An idle open public space is thus made accessible for the larger public, with direct participation of the local community members, including disadvantaged and marginalized youth.

Through participatory observation of this civil action, we studied what kind of challenges faced with regards to youth inclusion, especially when youth from different social strata and groups are concerned. We discuss how this action methodology worked for different actors and in which sense it fell short with regards to inclusiveness. We observe existing power-structured relations may still influence the outcome even intended to overcome such relations via introducing a collective-creative method. We analyze which power mechanisms are reproduced even in a participatory and engaged method and what possible solution would be suggested to overcome these embedded power relations from a relational approach.

### **More playgrounds, police officers or other kids to play with? Children's reflections on how to improve their leisure in a suburb of Curitiba, Brazil**

Fernanda Pismel Clatot

"If you could change anything, what would you do to make your neighborhood and your city cooler for kids"? This is one of the questions I asked fifty children who live in a suburb of Curitiba. My interviewees did not see Curitiba as a "model for Latin America", less its "ecological capital" or the "most intelligent and connected city in Brazil". However, their suggestions varied. Children who belong to the working classes argued that structural changes - such as investment in security, improvements in traffic and solving problems related to drug trafficking and public cleaning - could make their childhood more pleasurable. Poorer children, however, proposed changes that directly affect their daily lives, such as a greater diversity of spaces and activities like leisure, sports and culture. In addition, the roots of the family in the neighborhood and their lives in their dwellings have structuring effects on the representations and daily practices of the children (Authier, 2007, p. 213). Despite living in the same neighborhood and studying at the same school, these children do not share the same world (Lahire, 2019). The parental strategies of poorer children brought up in a 'natural growth' (Lareau, 2003) setting have a more precise vision of what the state could do to improve their urban experiences (Qvortrup, 1995).

### **Intostreet: Spatial Autonomy and the Generation of Habitus of Underclass Children in the Streets of Naples and Palermo**

Filippo Oncini, Mario Trifuoggi

The past decades have assisted to the synergic connubium between childhood studies and urban ethnography. On the one side, the recognition of children's strategic agency – a mantra legitimately revoiced by childhood scholars for years – has eventually found in the ethnographic method a productive tool to gain empirical consistency. On the other side, urban ethnography – for long adult-centred – has found new research lymph in the problematization of how street children befit the city and navigate its opportunity structure. Against this background, Bourdieu's conceptual vocabulary – particularly habitus, capital, and symbolic power – provided a shared semantic fabric to discuss how underprivileged children and youths experience urban space, whether in the street scene of Oslo (Sandberg, 2008) or Glasgow (Fraser, 2013). Building on this literature, the paper revolves around the everyday life of underclass children from two deprived neighbourhoods located in the city centres of Naples and Palermo, to shed light on how their street habitus in fieri is shaped, constrained and enacted by the environment they live in. However, differently from studies focusing on street children's gang behaviour or socialization to violent conducts, our contribution chiefly focuses on their capacity to enjoy and actively interpret the neighbourhood's street despite their limited spatial autonomy. In the conclusion, we discuss the methodological potentials of adopting a two-lane comparative fieldwork and discuss the ethical dilemmas that raise from studying children's urban marginality in vivo.

## **S41 | Racial capitalism, everyday life and the city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Claudia Fonseca Alfaro, Defne Kadioğlu

**Track** | Urban Inequalities & Exclusion

**Code** | PS064

**Room 9** | Auditorium Patrice and Pauline Lumumba, Campus Middelheim

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Racialised property-mindedness and the 'property state-housing nation' of Singapore**

Nurhidayah Binte Mohammad Miharja

In the bid to explore the race-capitalism-urban matrix, I seek to build on existing political economy theories on Singapore's housing achievements. Using Anne Haila's 'the property state' (2015) and Chua Beng Huat's 'social democracy' (2017) which I will jointly refer to as the 'property state-housing nation' framework, I review the ways in which this framework explains Singapore's much vaunted housing success. The 'property state-housing nation' refers to a nation-state which has monopoly of land and exercises heavy state intervention in land use and real estate to achieve national objectives

characterised as both socially democratic and anti-liberal. Nevertheless, as I will show, the framework formed does not sufficiently account for the question of the minority Malay relocation and the racialised housing hierarchy.

A proper investigation of this question requires a re-assessment of the role of housing policies as instruments of multiracial nation-building from the founding of Singapore in 1965 to the present. Capitalist development including urban redevelopment has to be examined within Singapore's form of multiracial-meritocracy (Moore 2000). One of the dimensions of 'property state-housing nation' is the culture of 'property-mindedness' (Haila 2017). Here, I find evidence of racialised versions of 'property-mindedness' among Malays that not only encourages relocation and redevelopment but also, conceals the racialised disparate effects of relocation. I thus extend the concept to include its class and racial dimensions. This serves to deepen an understanding of the relationship between the capitalist statebuilding and multiracial nation-building. One cannot be understood without the other, especially in contexts of urban diversity.

### **Theorizing Hamburg from the South: Racial Capitalism and the Development of Wilhelmsburg**

Julie Chamberlain

In this paper, I offer an empirical example of the application and indeed the necessity of a "racial capitalism" lens for understanding the development of a stigmatized neighbourhood in a German city. The dominant urban planning narrative about Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg traces the island's stigmatization back to an unfortunate but apparently natural process. According to the narrative, the island emerged as a 'problem neighbourhood' after a period of planning indecision and missteps, in which Hamburg treated it as the city's "backyard" and "dump." This narrative has justified recent major planning and development interventions by the city-state as a corrective to its past mistakes, with social mixing framed as the remedy for the neighbourhood's 'downward spiral.' I theorize Wilhelmsburg's development 'from the South' after Ananya Roy (2018) in contrast, where the South is a "structural relation of space, power and knowledge, produced and maintained in the crucible of racial capitalism on a global scale." From this theoretical perspective, I denaturalize the island's stigmatization. I draw on ethnographic interviews with racialized long-time residents and on historical and government archives to demonstrate that Wilhelmsburg has a long history as a devalued space shaped by the logics of colonialism and the racialized labour systems and environmental racism that are integral to racial capitalism. This challenges the dominant narrative, but also engages with aspects of the neighbourhood's history that are not pinpointed in race-evasive German urban theory. With a racial capitalism lens it is possible to name and grapple with some deafening silences in urban research.

### **Gentrifying through restaurants**

Jiyoung KIM

Although gentrification has become more than an ordinary research subject, a racial dimension of Parisian gentrification remains to be studied. Focusing on the restaurants which started coming up since the end of 1990s in Canal Saint-Martin neighbourhood in Paris, I would like to shed a light on how this urban and commercial phenomenon articulates with racial dimension through representation of "diversity" as well as the division of labour. First, the gentrification through restaurants relies upon erasing contemporary histories of working class minority groups, especially coming from ancient French Empire, who lived and worked in this neighbourhood. For example, several pioneering gentrifiers, who participated actively in the gentrification, affirm that "there was nothing here, it was filthy and dangerous because of drug trafficking". Second, I suggest three groups of restaurant entrepreneurs according to their career in order to show the complexity of "diversity": gentrified entrepreneurs, gentrifying entrepreneurs and gentrifying investors. Looking up their culinary offers and professional trajectories reveals also the racial relations of power. Finally, this "diversity" will be examined to understand from whose point of view it has been constructed and how it operates for the commercial purpose, revealing, disguising or euphemising racial relations of power. Although they don't appear systematically on the surface of urban reality, these protruding moments need to be captured, scrutinized and made visible, surging especially at the intersection of race and class of entrepreneurs, hall serving and kitchen workers. A prism of "Racial capitalism" help seizing this overlooked historical dimension of Parisian gentrification.

## **S43 | Regulating the body in public space**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Danielle Chevalier, Mischa Dekker

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS068

**Room 10** | Mosque El Fath En Nassr

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Parades and Demonstrations in Public Space – About Bodily Presence and (In-)security**

Ute Neumann

Public space in the European City is a place of political publicity, open exchange of opinions and expression of individual lifestyles. Social movements use this space to create visibility and to express political, social, or ideological views and

demands. Thus, urban parades and demonstrations serve as examples for high presences and visibility of bodies in public space. These bodies are partly presented in a special, stylized and disguised way. Especially parades can be seen as visualisations of diversity, identity, party and protest, often linked to political messages. Feelings of belonging are conveyed through joint celebration. This paper discusses parades and demonstrations especially with regard to perceived (in-) securities, e.g. through clashes of strangers, conflicting political views and the presence and density of many people in the tightest of spaces. Regulations have to be made in advance, e.g. through approval procedures and the definition of routes. On site, police and security forces accompany, control and secure the event. Based on the empirical results of quantitative surveys three cases are contrasted: 1) a conflicting political demonstration march 2) a rather small, more cheerful gay pride parade and 3) a traditional carnival parade with a larger number of participants. The results show differences (and similarities) in visitors' structure, individual perception of the situation on site and perception of security and presence of police. Overall, framework conditions of parades affect public space: If they implicate security risks or misuse the purposes of specific groups, considerable impacts on its accessibility, usability, and political quality arise.

### **Walking, dancing, prostrating – Structuring bodily movements in urban Tibet**

Anne Kukuczka

### **Private-Public Polarization in the Streets of Tehran; Reclaiming the Social Space through Car Cruising.**

Vafa Dianati, Sadaf Tabatabaei, Roohid Novinrooz

This research investigates a unique mode of claiming the city space through car cruising in Tehran, Iran. 'Dor Dor' refers to an aimless and furtive car cruising by which young men and women drive around a particular area to exchange numbers, socialize and flirt anonymously. 'Dor Dor' is a spatial response to the ideological and normative orders that restrain social and gender relations in the public domain; the orders which after decades of targeting individual bodies have now shifted towards controlling material objects.

What makes 'Dor Dor' distinguishable is the unique means of social presence, the automobile. The body encircled in a car represents a private bubble traversing urban space while interweaving private and public spheres. The strategies to regulate this bodily movement take various forms including temporary road closures, traffic stops, and fining. Particularly, road closures and diversions could be seen as temporary modifications of spatial arrangement of the city in order to assert authority over the populace.

Through an ethnographic approach, this research critically examines 'Dor Dor' and its control mechanisms as socio-political dynamics across class and gender boundaries. Car cruising in Tehran is a political practice of bringing the private into the public and claiming the street as a gendered non-place. It is also an instance of challenging the Foucauldian notion of bio-power, exercised over social bodies retreated to the enclosed space of cars as their last refuge. More importantly, the practice of car cruising is an act towards reproducing the over-regulated social place in contemporary Iran.

### **Everyday Interactions in Public Transport During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Experience of Moscow Metro Passengers**

Ksenia Shepetina

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in Russia in March, has led to the noticeable changes in citizens' everyday life. The present paper investigates how Moscow government's measures aimed against virus spreading effected the daily public transport mobility.

These new rules were not connected exclusively with the availability of public transport in general, but they were also aimed at regulating the body there, which included wearing masks, gloves and maintaining the "safe" distance. However, the research I conducted during the pandemic shows that the bodily practices of passengers are not that flexible as the policy-makers wanted them to be, as the relationships between practices, experiences and official rules found out to be ambiguous and not predetermined. Furthermore, the situation in Moscow during pandemic was constantly changing while the regulations for a long time remained the same, so they had to be reinterpreted and reconstructed by the users themselves. In my research I was focusing on all of these as I hope that it may shed light on more general questions of everyday mobility and body politics in the urban environment.

The paper is based on semi-structured interviews with Moscow metro users who did not stop taking their trips even after restrictions implementation in March. Apart from that, video recordings of interactions inside the metro were made in order to capture the situational order of (non)following the official regulations. This data was collected by me with support of the group of researchers from the Laboratory of Urban Sociology (HSE, Moscow).

## **S73 | Urban practices: changes in policy, institutions and governance**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Camila Nastari Fernandes, Marcela Alonso Ferreira, Luciana Royer

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS107

**Room 11** | Park Spoor Noord

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Urban governance and social innovation in the 'post-welfare city' facing Covid-19; a comparison between Napoli and Milano**

Lavinia Bifulco, Davide Caselli, Maria Dodaro, Carlotta Mozzana, Enrica Morlicchio, Marcello Anselmo

The paper aims also at investigating the existence of an unsatisfied social demand in the 'post-welfare city' and its capacity to foster social innovation.

The research is based on qualitative methods: i. mapping of the main initiatives and ii. interviews with activists and volunteers, some recipients and institutional actors.

As for Milan, several initiatives are considered, such as those of the Voluntary Emergency Brigades and the Neighborhood Laboratories, and the relationship they develop with the Municipality, which has created a network / platform called "Milano Aiuta". Therefore, the dynamics of institutionalization but also resistance and tension arising in the coordination of solidarity initiatives will be highlighted.

As for the Neapolitan context, different solidarity and mutual aid initiatives are examined in three urban areas with strong popular features. The specificity of the Neapolitan context is, undoubtedly, the autonomous and self-managed nature of the solidarity practices that arose during the lockdown, facing a chaotic and improvised institutional activity of Municipality.

In the conclusions, the paper discusses the results of the research regarding innovative implications of urban solidarity practices in the context of urban governance.

### **Changes in the Israeli Planning World: The impact of the Current Crisis Discourse on the Local Planning Policy and the shaping of Space**

Rani Mandelbaum, Talia Margalit, Barbara Pizzo

In the last decade noticeable changes occurred in Israeli planning discourse that became more engaged with crisis and fear motifs. At the same time, we can also recognize changes in the local planning world that are characterized by the strengthening of neoliberal economic forces and the significant rescaling of planning powers.

Crises episodes are associated with modern times and even more so with neoliberal times. A 'Crisis' is a call for immediate action, without which the situation will devolve into a disaster. Jessop describes how power-owners select 'Imagined Recoveries', that fit their goals, from a collection of possible solutions. Thus, the crisis discourse is used as a tool for policy change by the power-owners.

The lecture will offer findings from an ongoing research that examines the impact of crisis and fear discourses on urban planning systems and their influence on the designing of space. It will focus on how the current crisis and fear discourses of the Israeli planning world appear in media, professional and governmental discourses, how it is changing local planning policy and how it is shaping the physical and social space of Israel.

### **Changing urban politics from below or from aside: Real-world labs as an innovative governance practice?**

Annegret Haase, Mareike Kapels, Anika Schmidt

Since recently, urban governance is organized in more horizontal modes and new partnerships between governmental and non-governmental actors lead to the transformation of urban political institutions. In this paper, we comparatively discuss real-world labs as one mode of transdisciplinary cooperation and an innovative governance practice that aims at strengthening participatory and democratic urban policy arrangements. Real-world labs have become important research infrastructures, particularly in the context of urban studies. They pursue the ideal of transformative science, meaning that potential solutions to 'real-world problems' are developed and tested collaboratively: The different partners from academia, civil society, urban planning and municipalities should work together 'at eye level'.

The article is based on the real-world lab project "KoopLab: Participation through cooperative open space development in arrival neighbourhoods" which experiments with innovative methods of cooperative open space development since 2018 ([www.kooplab.de](http://www.kooplab.de)). Based on this real-world lab project as a tool to foster social cohesion in super-diverse neighbourhoods in the German cities Dortmund, Leipzig and Hanover, the paper addresses three aspects: First, it examines the interrelations between processes of urban governance and the real-world lab project, i.e., its structural embeddedness

within the network of stakeholders and planning policy context. Second, it analyses in what respect and under what conditions the real-world labs really influence local governance arrangements to become more participatory and democratic. Third, the paper asks if and in what regard the different local settings influence the potential of real-world labs to effectively contribute to a transformation of local governance.

### **Real-World Laboratories as a tool to structure institutional change in participatory urban development**

Robert Barbarino

After the "experimental turn" the social sciences, several research infrastructures like Urban Transition Labs (Nevens et al. 2013), Urban Living Labs (Marvin et al. 2018) or Real-World Laboratories (Wanner et al. 2018) have been developed to support participatory ways of urban governance and to foster institutional change. Especially the Real-World Laboratory (RWL) focuses on transformative change of urban practices in a transdisciplinary way, which is characterized by the co-creation of knowledge between academia, civil society actors (e.g. Urban Social Movements) administrations and local authorities. The RWL evolved from Participatory Action Research and allows a more structured collaborative knowledge production; facilitates agenda setting within administrations and political authorities and intervenes normatively in social relations to highlight contradictions in power relations (like race, class and gender).

Using the example of participatory urban development in Berlin's inner city neighborhood of Moabit, I want to show how the RWL helps to transform institutional barriers in local administrations that maintain structural racism and the dominance of institutional whiteness. Facilitating transformative change by weakening institutional barriers makes participation in urban development easier accessible for marginalized groups of people. Experimental settings provided by an RWL can help to reformulate actor relationships between civil society, administrations and local authorities in participatory urban governance. In this sense, the RWL can work as a tool for interventionist urban development that claims to support a more just and collaborative urban governance with civil society actors.

## **S83 | New territorial divides, reactionary politics and the populist backlash**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Eduardo Marques, Patrick Le Galès

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS120

**Room 12** | Diamond District

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Giving in or standing up to the reactionary threat? The urban governance of far-right contestations in Cottbus, Germany**

Gala Nettelblatt

In light of the current far-right moment, recent discussions have emphasised the role of cities as bulwarks against the rise of the populist radical right, where local governments and civil society actors often take a more progressive stance towards issues such as migration or climate change in contrast to their reactionary national governments. However, less attention is paid to cities dominated by 'anti-pluralist alliances', increasingly pursuing far-right policies. Taking the mid-sized city of Cottbus in eastern Germany as an example, where voter turnout for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has continuously been around 30% and anti-asylum demonstration have attracted thousands of protestors, this presentation explores the threats of such dominance to the local negotiation of democratic inclusion and minority rights. Based on my ongoing PhD research, I will first discuss policies implemented under such conditions, including an 'immigration ban' on refugees and state-initiated participatory discussion forums that have become dominated by populist actors. Second, I will explore the possibilities of resistance within such shrinking spaces of solidarity. In a situation where the municipality not only fails to adequately confront far-right contestations, but at times seems complicit, progressive actors are pushed to manoeuvre outside and beyond the formal channels of local government. I end with some reflections on the implications for civil society actors, including immigrant rights activist, local cultural institutions and social workers, mobilising against the far-right dynamics in the city.

### **Space polarization and political identifications: beyond the city-periphery dichotomy in the Netherlands**

Yannis Tzaninis, Michael Merry, Willem Boterman, Manolis Pratsinakis

Academic and public debates reproduce an alleged geographical dichotomy between cities and periphery, based on cultural and political polarization: the city is supposed to represent diversity and tolerance, while the periphery is portrayed as homogeneous and prone to xenophobia. In this paper we address and problematize such representations that tend to reify space as a mono-dimensional container of political identification. We investigate Dutch media frames

regarding spatial polarization discourses. We demonstrate, on the one hand, how the liberal Dutch media outlets tend to reproduce the dichotomy in a stigmatizing way by commonly describing the inhabitants of the periphery as unsophisticated and conservative. On the other hand, we show how conservative media tend to adopt anxiety-generating, globalization-blaming discourses and target liberal, highly-educated elites in urban centers. This spatial polarization of political discourse alludes to a reification and 'weaponization' of space to explain away both the messiness of the relationship between political identities and space, as well as the long-lasting culpability of (liberal and not) elites for fostering xenophobia throughout Europe.

### **The Impact of the Rise of the Extreme-right on National Urban Policy: The case of the 2002 French Presidential election**

Joaquín de Santos Barbosa

There is a large body of academic work on 'Politique de la Ville', the French national urban policy targeted towards disadvantaged neighbourhoods. However, one aspect that has been less examined by the literature is the impact the progress of far-right's candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen to the second round of the 2002 French presidential election had on the policy.

This contribution thus seeks to identify whether this political occurrence played a role in creating the political conditions that gave rise to a major reform of 'Politique de la Ville', which occurred in 2003. It seeks to investigate both semiotic and extra-semiotic factors, dwelling on insights from both critical discourse analysis as developed by Fairclough and the cultural political economy approach developed by Jessop. This is part of an endeavour to undertake comparative research on the effect of the rise of the extreme-right on national urban policies in France and the Netherlands.

This contribution thus argues that Le Pen's electoral performance was problematised by political actors and commentators as a result of 'insécurité' – a French term referring to the lack of safety – which was linked in political discourse to disadvantaged neighbourhoods and described as posing an existential threat to the French Republic. This problematisation gave an enterprising political actor – Jean-Louis Borloo, who became Deputy-Minister for the City – the support base to undertake the 2003 reform by positing the policy as a 'battle for France' to save the Republic.

## **S48 | Power in the loopholes: Sensing and shaping the city through law**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Francesco Chiodelli, Hanna Hilbrandt, Joanna Kusiak

**Track** | Urban governance & politics

**Code** | PS075

**Room 13** | International Arts Centre deSingel

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Rethink governing urban porosity: a case of well-organized street market produced by collective practice on loopholes**

Ying-Tzu Lin

In Taipei, street markets are vital for neighborhood life. Their spatiality presents the most porosity and conviviality images of everyday public spaces at an urban scale. Two types of market can be found in the city. Well-organized-clean, semi-legal street markets; low business development legal marketplaces in public buildings with cleaning problems. The previous are treated as a permanently temporary existence, and get placed as minor tasks in every municipal bureau, which is reflected in the dispersive and peripheral position in urban governance.

The research focuses on the governance regime, dealing with contestation in street markets in Taipei. It analyzes how different bureaus within the municipality take their responsibilities to govern different parts of street spaces which host street markets.

Main results show that what caused these contrasts of different types of markets and conviviality of street markets, is the consequence of collective practice on loopholes among bureaus that have stakes to streets and markets. By giving temporary legal status to vendors' self-organization and separate responsibilities on various parts of markets to different bureaus, street markets became public spaces that none of institutions had complete power to govern.

Living at the limbo between semi-legal and illegal, street entrepreneurs paid more efforts to maintain the quality of public spaces, to avoid any institution to open their closed eyes on their duty. The inversely proportional development between legality and quality of public spaces on street markets subtly shed lights on how law is made to govern urban porosity.

### **Spatializing laws and legalizing spatial practices: performing il/legality in Naples' new social centers**

Andrea Varriale

By looking at current examples of occupied - and later legalized - social centers in Naples, Italy, this contribution looks at the scalar mismatch between national and local regulation levels concerning the legality of the occupation of public property. The focus lies on negotiations undertaken by social movements, the local administration, and national organs to assert the il/legal nature of the spatial practices entailed in these cultural and social centers.

In the context of the Italian penal code (art. 663) punishing any unauthorized “invasion” of third-party property with fines and incarceration, this paper shows the variety of legal and extra-legal tools that have been mobilized by social movements, and the city administration itself, in order to preserve and secure the spaces. These include a mutual co-optation between social movements and the city administration based their ideological convergence on “the commons”; and the city administration’s proactive purchase of a state-owned occupied property in order to gain jurisdiction over it.

The research finds that, in addition to being strategic moves to overcome imminent and concrete threats to the survival of these spaces, negotiations through existing laws, the production of new ones, and the creation of informal internal regulations helped create new forms of social practices and gave substance to previously abstract legal categories. At the same time, it argues that their liminal position across the legal-illegal divide, and more specifically their positioning as both insurgent and legalization-oriented movements, has constituted a strength for social movements in their negotiations with the city authorities.

### **Vacant houses stuck in the law: Legal struggles and failures inhibiting commodification in Cairo**

Ibrahim Abdou

Housing vacancy is typically understood as a result of housing financialization under the smooth, abstract and inescapable forces of neoliberalism. In operation, however, housing financialization is unintentionally disrupted through the conflict-ridden interface of the law. Using the case of Cairo, where 30% of all housing units are vacant, I trace two legal phenomena to develop a nuanced understanding of vacancy not as a symptom of commodification, but rather a testament of its failure. First, ambiguous legality inhibits large scale financialization and expropriation. In most of the city’s dense improvised housing that is self-constructed and de facto operating outside the law, residents negotiate recognition and access to resources through extra-legal loopholes. Newly constructed apartment buildings and additional floors initially remain vacant because of their ‘illegality’ and the uncertainty that comes with the threat of demolition. This is mistaken for pure speculation. In parallel, the state, creates legal loopholes of exception, amnesty laws, as an exploitative mechanism to offer legality in exchange for extracting taxes from real estate beyond its control. In such struggles, the process of securing housing as usable commodity, far from being abstract or straightforward, is disrupted and mutates as the law is being circumvented and rewritten. Second, I show how the legal system occasionally malfunctions and inhibits commodification altogether. As a result of unresolved legal feuds between different actors, some housing units are stuck in legal standstills for decades, never making it into the cycle of usable commodities, but instead remain vacant.

### **C+C04’s Casa DC: Loopholes in architectural practice**

Davide Pisu

Normative loopholes are often found in architectural design processes, and their effects are frequently made apparent by way of peculiar formal arrangements. In the various juridical and geographical context in which these loopholes operate, practitioners study and exploit their functioning to the point that the specific solutions, once experimented and applied along the design process, are communicated amongst professionals to overcome potential normative restraints. This essay offers, as a case study, an operative account of the exploitation of a normative loophole in architectural regulation in Italy, consisting of a project for the extension of a private apartment, ‘Casa DC’, developed by architectural firm C+C04 between 2015 and 2018 in Cagliari, Sardinia. The loophole is originated by the ‘Piano Casa’ Regional Law, which allows for the expansion of residential buildings, permitting to subvert the rules established for non-compliant buildings. These are in fact subject to the so-called ‘sanatoria’—an amnesty for buildings made in non-conformity—which entails the impossibility to vary the building envelope, openings and roofing typologies. The case study is presented and debated through a detailed overview of the design process, vis-à-vis the local regulatory schemes.

By dealing exclusively with parametric and numerical indexes, regulations have the power on one side to stifle and inhibit the creative processes inherent in the design acts, and on the other to promote law-oriented behaviours (i.e. nomotropic acts). As this case study shows, an important part of the work of research carried on in an architectural firm entails the exploitation of normative loopholes.

### **The Grey Area of Property Development: How Organised Crime Exploits the Loopholes of Urban Governance**

Massimo Bertolin

The study deals with issues of mafia infiltration in property development within non-traditional contexts. It offers an overview on three major judicial investigations that have emerged in Northern Italy to develop a typology of the modes of interaction, the interests at stake and the actors involved throughout the stages of the property development process. To do so, it considers how the institutional incentives to corruption provided by the property market and urban planning regulation can create a grey area of governance – i.e. a space that lies in-between legal and illegal where relations of collusion materialise. As a result, the study discusses two general hypotheses. First, there is a direct correlation between

the odds of criminal infiltration and the backlog of corruption produced by the regulative weaknesses of urban governance. Second, the odds of criminal infiltration are inversely related with the complexity of the local property market and the development project at stake.

## S33 | Aesthetics: Making Sense of the City

**Session Organiser(s)** | Amy Barron, Joe Blakey

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS051

**Room 14** | Square Dageraadplaats

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Bicycle Couriers and the Aesthetic Project of Navigating the Urban Fabric**

Josh Widera

Keywords: bicycle messenger, labour, urban experience, space/place

Bicycle couriers frame their work, weaving through traffic in the world's biggest cities, as an achievement of ultimate freedom, unshackled from capitalist dynamics of value production, circulation, and extraction. Yet their renegade performances in, with, and against the surrounding infrastructure are a fundamental part of a city's blood flow. Their experience in urban space is simultaneously opposed to and symptomatic of the rhythms around them. What politics, aesthetics, and phenomenologies materialise in the intersection of body and city?

It is a movement practice that does not share the inherent privilege of other urban aesthetic sense-making projects such as *dérive* or *flaneurism*: Messengers have a unique experience of the city that is affective, anecdotal, embodied, and performative—and symptomatic of larger trends of the present, such as globalisation, digitisation, and contemporary precarisation. A messenger's "making sense" of the urban flesh grows over time, through daily performances of repetition and variation, which continue to weave into deep-maps of the urban environment.

This paper argues that couriers present a unique practice of "reading the city": They engage with the city aesthetically, bringing forward renegade and playful approaches to the city's rhythms and flows while simultaneously becoming a materialisation of the city's invisible economic networks and the embodied realities of a precarious workforce that resorts to glorification and competition to compensate for extreme self-exploitation. At this nexus, the bike messenger can challenge how we view contemporary cities, their infrastructures, politics, and economics.

### **Framing Smithfield: senses of place and aesthetics in the era of Instagram**

Monica Degen

The City of London is in the process of undergoing one of its largest cultural regeneration projects, the 'Culture Mile'. As part of this project the Museum of London is moving into the derelict West Smithfield Market area in 2024 which involves a drastic redesign its surrounding public spaces as fresh investment, new publics and novel everyday practices are formulated. While it is well known that aesthetics have become key ingredients in the development of contemporary cities and market economies (Ranciere 2004, Thrift 2008, Böhme 1993), less has been written on the various and different ways in which aesthetics are produced and experienced differently as part and processes of urban redevelopment. My research examines what this reconfiguration of experiences, a new urban aesthetics, consist of and how it is brought into being through newly emerging interactions between digital technologies, urban change and sensate bodies. By focusing on this new urban aesthetics I analyse the re-organising of sensory and temporal experiences as modes of senses of place across different spatial layers. Hence, in my presentation will compare and contrast:

- a) the urban planning strategies that emphasize aesthetic parameters (i.e Look & Feel Strategy);
- b) the ways the neighbourhood is experienced by different social groups in everyday life;
- c) how the neighbourhood and its regeneration is mediated through digital platforms such as Instagram to produce new senses of place.

Ultimately this research will add to understand the uneven power relations that are emerging in the 'aesthetic economy' (Böhme 2014) of cities.

### **Sensing and shaping the "public" in public art: Street aesthetics in Bangalore**

Salila Vanka

This paper inquires into the role of street art in shaping public space and civic life in Bangalore, an Indian metropolis experiencing rapid transformations in space, society and governance. In normative terms, public art is democratic, as it makes the artwork and the space it inhabits, accessible to the users of the space. In recent years in Bangalore (as in other Indian cities), there has been a significant emergence of public artworks at the venues of public transit stations and

flyovers, sidewalks and building walls, reflecting an intent “of ‘humanizing’ or ‘beautifying’ the city” (Deutsche, 1991: 49). These aesthetic (and often political) commentaries on contemporary urban life are collaborative efforts between different actors including artist groups, social organizations, governments and local communities. These projects raise important questions regarding the intent, inclusivity and the “instrumentality of public art” (Lum 2014) in supporting public life in Bangalore. For instance, street art invites passersby to participate in the aesthetics of public life, but the same street shuns informal vendors as a public nuisance. Thus urban public art has the potential to problematize notions of public space and democratic life. This paper argues that in making public art, the artists, local communities and state actors have the opportunity to define the public realm too. Drawing largely on secondary data related to the initiatives of local art schools, artist collectives and government agencies, this research examines the role of public aesthetics in shaping spatial and social practices in the public realm in Bangalore.

## **S20 | The role of sound in the construction of boundaries, identities and senses of belonging in the city**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Ana Aceska, Karolina Doughty

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS030

**Room 15** | The Port Authority Building

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Acoustic Critical Spatial Practice: Sonic Thinking and the Disembodied Female Voice**

Eva Tisnikar

The soundscape of a metropolitan city is filled with traffic and human noise; the citizens are constantly exposed to ambulance sirens, transportation announcements, various warnings and other public sonic information regarding political advertisement or consumption. In London, most of this information is presented in a female voice; reassuring and sometimes even subservient — the underground, buses and train stations, even the supermarket self-checkout machines, or the default setting of a GPS device — this disembodied voice continuously guides, warns and informs people in their everyday. That same soft, ‘nurturing’ voice also calmly notifies the crowd that the security personnel tour the station 24 hours a day, and that any bag left unattended will be removed immediately. The ‘soft coercion’ of this voice, as Nina Powers calls it, often goes unnoticed and is quickly accepted as part of the everyday. (Everyday here being a constant state of emergency.) This paper proposes to engage in the act of listening in order to surface and critique the mechanisms of control present in the late capitalist city. By drawing on sound studies — specifically sonic thinking and politics of affect — combined with feminist theory, I will be engaging in ‘critical spatial practice’ (Rendell, 2003). Operating between public and private, theory and practice, art and architecture; this paper will employ sound as an inherently spatial and political tool.

### **Sonic Intimacy: Reggae Sound Systems, Jungle Pirate Radio and Grime YouTube Music Videos**

Malcolm James

This presentation explores the cultural politics of popular music as it transitions from the 1970s and 1980s reggae dancehall, through 1990s pirate radio and 2000s YouTube music videos. To do this it develops the notion of “sonic intimacy,” which refers to the ways in which sound conveys notions of presence, relation and shared understanding at odds with the visual and rational regimes of racial capitalism.

The sonic intimacies of the reggae sound system were important. The presence of people in the dancehall, shared understandings of racial and class oppression, the penetration of bass through the collective body, combined with the wisdom of reggae, produced a demand that exceeded the imagination of the racist state at that moment.

But what happened to those sonic intimacies and cultural politics as music tastes and sound technologies changed emphasis? Little is said about this. While the intimacies of sound cultures — the atmospheres, feelings, vibes, hypes, and energies — are widely known and indeed discussed, they less often the focus of analysis, and this is not inconsequential for our understanding of alternative cultural politics today.

Moving sonic intimacies from the margins to the center of the debate, this presentation will address 1) what happened to the demand of the reggae sound system as it transformed into the fractured fervor of jungle pirate radio in the 1990s, and then into the hyperlinked screen intensities and immediacies of grime YouTube music videos from 2010 onwards 2) why hearing sonic intimacy as alternative cultural politics matters today.

### **The Sounds of Urban Regeneration: Peddlers, Planners and Developers Voice objections to the Planning Committee**

Naama Meishar, Talia Margalit

The paper analyzes the lingual and oral soundscapes of objection' hearing in the Tel Aviv District Planning Committee. We focus on the voices of peddlers, who operated for decades near the former central bus station. We show how they vocally interrupted, and politicized, a customary neoliberal planning discourse on a grand regeneration project pushing them out.

The committee is situated in a mid-city glassy high-rise. The old central bus station is not far, in the city's long time underserved poor part. Municipal planners tailored the plan with two major landowners-developers, and they suggested the construction of several expensive towers, fashionable dance center and some open spaces. In the hearings, these actors and the committees' head corresponded with many lawyers who mostly represented the objections of smaller asset holders on site. The peddlers refused to play ahead: their interferences was intentionally obnoxious, they loudly claimed a right to speech, and they qualify the styles of speech they used for stating that the plan is an act of "looting". They used tones and straightforwardness of market merchants' speech to mock the developers and to ridicule the elitist planning jargon. They also unfolded personal and family's histories to present their rights, and to criticize the unequal urban structure. Eventually, the committee listened. However, this daring, sonic political moment was soon hushed and the head re-tighten the boundaries of the dominant planning soundscape.

### **Present and Future of Urban FRONTIER ZONES in TUNIS: The power of documentary filmmaking and (sound-) fieldrecording**

Rolf Grossmann, Alia Ben Ayed, Martin Kohler, Ursula Kirschner, Imen Landoulsi

This paper aims to report a Spring School conducted at an "urban frontier zone" in the western part of Tunis (Manouba) and reflects on the outcomes as analytical and esthetic method to describe contemporary urban spaces. The purpose of this experiment was to test the heuristic power of the documentary practice and collaborative production with audio-visual media to provide new insights and readings of the contemporary city. During two weeks German and Tunisian students, researchers and young Tunisian music students collaborated in the field and in the studio. The work aimed to show the specifics of this border area and its dynamics of changes, especially since the Revolution 2010/2011 which marked the beginning of a profound change in politics and in the society of Tunisia.

Manouba is a suburb at the western edge of Tunis with a high proportion of disadvantaged social groups in the population. Whereas the urban reading shows a clear dichotomic conflict between the previously dominant rural structure and the emergent urbanizing powers, the collaborative media production and music making with local youths was less clear. In rhythms, sounds and spoken narratives the dissolution of the rural appeared as disappearing identity frame, but also as field of personal opportunities. Global sounds and music cultures blend with local traditions. These hidden dynamics became visually and acoustically perceivable and exploreable by collaborative video and sound production.

In addition to research and archiving aspects, the results offer a critical potential for established visualizing methods and dealing with current urban developments.

## **S62 | The Sensing and Shaping of Time in Urban Gardens: Affect, Design, Governance, and Labour**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Sofia Cele, Jan van Duppen

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS093

**Room 17** | The bourse of Antwerp

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Time evolution of street gardens in French cities: neglect, transfer or growth**

Amélie Deschamps

In 2020, more than seventy French cities have a policy allowing public space participatory greening (often named "greening licence"). They aim at motivating city dwellers to vegetate micro-spaces (as feet of trees or holes in the sidewalk) in order to increase the amount of vegetal in dense cities. Under conditions of austerity, these programs reveal a political will to promote urban greenery at lower costs. This communication will reflect on the temporal dimensions of street gardening in French cities. Data were collected through ethnographic investigations in Lille, Lyon and Paris (France) combining semi-structured interviews with inhabitants and municipalities, and a series of photographs of greening licences taken at the same locations at different times between February 2019 and October 2020. Contrary to illicit activities like Guerrilla Gardening groups, inhabitants are legally gardening their streets. However, with this right comes a responsibility to maintain it through time (contracts are signed for several years). Nonetheless, inhabitants meet problems: deterioration, theft, criticisms, time consuming activity, house move... All of this explain divergent temporal evolutions of street gardens, between neglect, responsibility transfer or success and growth. As we are talking about material change of the urban street landscape, these evolutions have direct consequences on inhabitants living environment but also on their relationships to urban nature. While maintained street gardens seem to recreate a link between city dwellers and urban nature, neglected ones tend to increase the gap between city dwellers and natural elements as they are the target of criticisms.

### **Strategies of endurance: a study of an urban collective garden initiative in Stockholm**

Nikolina Oreskovic

This paper explores endurance strategies applied by an urban collective garden initiative in Stockholm. The material (participatory observations on the ground as well as online, in depth-interviews and informal conversations with gardeners) is approached from a transition movements perspective using a conceptual framework based on the following mechanisms: upscaling, replicating, partnering, instrumentalizing and embedding. An additional analytical layer rooted in political discourse theory (the concept of fantasmatic logics) is applied, demonstrating how the initiative constructs identity and positions itself in sustainability discourse, and how this relates to endurance. The initiative was established in 2016 in a public park in Stockholm, and has since increased in number of members and new locales in other parts of the city. Preliminary results indicate that strategies for endurance include upscaling through replicating as well as partnering. It could also be argued that embedding has taken place, as the initiative is used as an example on the city's official website, and urban gardening has become more common in the city of Stockholm since 2016. District administrations today encourage the practice and provide material. The initiative's identity construction is rooted in principles of permaculture with emphasis on small gestures and solutions, sharing and diversity. The initiative constructs itself as a soft solution to horrific scenarios of food shortage, and planetary and human malaise. In addition, constructing the garden as open for everyone has proved strategic for establishment in a public park and to obtain certain tools and materials from the district administration.

### **Walking in Urban Gardens: Attending to the Methodological Implications of Spacetime Relationalities**

Esther do Lago e Pretti

Attending to the temporalities related to the cultivation of gardens in urban areas, this proposal focuses on a methodological experiment of conducting qualitative research exploring the temporal dimensions of research in urban gardening projects. How does conducting research with the garden, attending to the spacetime relationalities (Barad, 2014) that occur in these multi-species worlds matter?

This project proposes to use Springgay and Truman (2018) walking methodologies inviting humans to think-in-movement (Springgay and Truman, 2018) in collaborative, speculative walking practices that focus on sensory, ethical, and place-making relationships. Walking favors thinking critically about place, movement, rhythm and engagement with urban environments. It favors place-based research that disrupts humancentrism by attuning to the curiosity of events and epistemologies coming from other bodies and prior presences (Plumwood, 2009) that are brought by all of the senses (Springgay & Truman, 2018).

This methodological experiment is inspired by Stengers's (2005) 'slowness', a 'process of unlearning and unsettling what has come before', 'ecological loitering' (Gandy 2020, p. 165), thinking 'in the presence of others' (Stengers, 2005) and Braidotti's (2013) 'becoming with'.

This exploration of walking methodologies in urban gardens counters anthropocentrism by having human bodies move in and with the contours of the landscape (Springgay & Truman, 2018), enabling emerging curiosities aroused by an attention to the sensuous experiences (Abram, 1996) and to multi-modal sensorial explorations of naturecultures (Haraway 2016). This type of walking, or 'drifting', favors intimacy, gained by the frictional proximity (Springgay, 2008) with the more-than-human beings in urban gardens.

## **S87 | How do digital platforms reshape cities and urban research?**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Justus Uitermark, John D. Boy

**Track** | Urban methods

**Code** | PSI29

**Room 18** | Entrance Road Turnhoutsebaan

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Digital platforms as urban infrastructure: towards a critical research agenda on Mobility as a Service**

Karol Kurnicki

As platforms become more prominent in the organisation of social life and assume roles of infrastructures, looking at how they are structured and how they operate gains importance. Mobility as a Service (MaaS) systems are an offshoot of smart cities that purport to make effective use of existing services. Their implementation involves integration of multiple elements: algorithms, maps, existing transportation networks, public policies, pricing and payment systems, digital devices and their functionalities as well as practices of users. MaaS is an infrastructuring platform, i.e. it is designed to disrupt and reconfigure existing relations in a comprehensive and durable way.

In my presentation I want to talk about an integrative framework of analysis that can be used for understanding MaaS. This includes three areas of investigation: digital platforms, urban im|mobility and infrastructure. In this context, I propose to understand MaaS as a connective digital technology. Critically important are issues that relate to the transformative

potential of MaaS systems in cities, especially in light of necessary sustainable mobility transitions. What kind of users are designed into a platform? How are preferences built into the digital operations of transportation systems? What is the level of civic control over access and provision of services?

To understand MaaS, we need to look at interactions it makes with existing transportation infrastructures in particular urban settings as well as configurations that happen between the platform and end users through their devices. I will argue for the infrastructural perspective on MaaS platforms and highlight its potential for research.

### **Platform Urbanism 'glitches': Minor theory for researching platforms in Latin American cities.**

Luis Hernando Lozano-Paredes

With this article I propose an alternative way to research platform impacts in the urban 'south'. There has been recent traction in urban studies with relation to 'platform urbanism' as a designator for analyzing platform effects in cities worldwide. This emerging debate has been divided between those embedded in platform determinism, predicting a utopian urban environment mediated by the digital, and those critics who see platforms as the portrayals of dystopian urban futures with extraction and dispossession. However, apart from these discourses, there are those who recognize 'glitches' in platforms as opportunities for re-conceptions and corrections, opening the debate for flexible, negotiable, and open futures of platforms in cities. This 'glitchiness' of platform urbanism is particularly evident of digital platforms' evolution in cities from the global south. There, regulatory stagnation, and fragile governance structures put platforms in a space of marginality, requiring a minor theory of 'glitchy' platform urbanism to understand their impacts. Therefore, through narration of the interface between ride-hailing platforms and three cities in Latin America, I propose to recognize the ways in which platform glitch theory better inform how southern digital actors reshape cities in their real-world contexts. Furthermore, I explain how a perspective on the everyday bottom-up practices and interventions on platform mediated realities talks to us about an alternative way to research platform urbanism and the new digital denizens. Ultimately, this can allow for building new possibilities in which southern urban policy, theory and futures can be engaged in their relationship with digital technology.

### **Where platforms meet infrastructures: digital platforms, urban resistance and the ambivalence of the city in Bologna, Italy.**

Marco Marrone, Gianmarco Peterlongo

The paper focuses on the central and ambivalent role that cities play in the context of platform capitalism. While on the one hand, urban spaces have become an advanced ground for the operations of capital, on the other they have also become the main stage for resistance movements. The city is thus emerging as a decisive political and socio-economic dimension for understanding the impact of digital platforms on workers and on society. By presenting two Italian case studies from the city of Bologna, we aim to shed light on how cities not only provide the necessary resources and infrastructures for platforms to rise and operate, but also give rise to movements to organise and resist these developments.

### **Exploring the new forms of the digital divide in the city: digital urban voids and un/shadowed geographies**

Daniela Ferreira, Mário Vale

This paper aims to reveal the production of urban digital divides by volunteered geographic information (VGI) platforms in the context of platform economy. Our conceptual approach departs from a discussion of the geographical consequences of the different levels of the digital divide, focusing on their application to the study of VGI platforms, especially those are working under the logic of the platform economy. We draw on a multi-scalar case study of the geographies of TripAdvisor and the geographies of restaurants or similar establishments in Lisbon, which comprised collection and analysis of data from this platform, to explore these issues. We argue that VGI platforms are not only producing different levels of territorial coverage, but also different levels of usage intensity which are also unevenly distributed in the urban space, revealing a complexity of different types of areas in the city including data-shadowed areas, non-shadowed areas and digital urban voids. Furthermore, it is our contention that urban digital divides affect the urban economy in the context of platform economy, not only because the uneven coverage has positive and negative effects for firms, but also because the differentiated usage of platforms by firms is also geographically rooted. We conclude the paper by reflecting more widely on the consequences of the digital divide that stem from VGI platforms and pointing new directions for research on this topic.

## **S75 | Sensing space agonistically: urban spaces as collective mobilisation frames**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Enrico Gualini

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS110

### **The urban as a space for civic learning**

Ronald Cruzé

Civic education has become an essential part of school curriculums in many countries as a response to an alleged crisis of democracy and is usually formalized as active citizenship. Active citizenship as the acquisition of skills and attitudes required to be a full participating political member of society. Although being important initiatives, this approach reduces civic learning to socialization, the reproduction of a certain (democratic) order and creates the idea of the 'good participating citizen'. Political activity is limited to interactions with formal institutions and civil society. This fails to recognize other meaningful spaces in young people's lives that shape their political identity. This theoretical contribution wishes to explore the consequences of a postfoundational understanding of politics for civic education of young people in an urban context. The urban is approached as a political space of meaning and conflict, as well as a specific learning environment for young people. We turn from civic education as an instrument for the production of good citizens, to civic learning as those experiences and practices where young people engage with the ongoing experiment of democracy. Important here is to broaden the scope of spaces where citizenship takes place. By focusing on informal and non-formal moment of civic learning in the urban context, we gain insight on the how the political identity of young people is influenced by their environment.

### **Place-making and resistance through cultural and creative activities. The case of the historical centre of Taranto, Italy**

Marianna d'Ovidio

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.

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.

### **Spatializing the Politics of Public Art – Agonistic Place-Making in Vancouver's Chinatown**

Friederike Landau

Within Vancouver's spatial crises of affordability, homelessness and displacement of cultural organizations, tensions around urban space are increasing. Who is it for, who is being displaced at what cost? More specifically, Chinatown, couched between the commercialized downtown core and Downtown Eastside, known for drug consumption, struggles with its own futures. In times of uncertainty for historic buildings, businesses and residents, various inter-generational Chinese-led activist groups have mobilized to fight against spatial displacement and racialized exclusion.

Parallel to Vancouver's formal apology concerning the "historical wrongdoings committed against Chinese people" in April 2018, the City released Chinatown Artist Call to commission public artworks. The paper tackles the politics of public space by investigating the role of art in collective meaning- and place-making in a two-fold way: Firstly, by examining the contours of institutionalized 'politics' of creative city strategies, including policy document and empirical data analysis. Secondly, by unpacking the multiply-layered, socio-spatial and affective dimensions of 'the political' in and of public art. Situated in theories of political difference (Marchart 2010), I set out to understand how contestations around urban public space foster senses of political belonging and representation. Within the continuum of the politics of public art, I discuss both the potential normalization and pacification of urban public space through art (Guinard/Margier 2018) and its transformative potential to disrupt hegemonic sedimentations of power and meaning (Dikeç 2005). In line with a post-foundational understanding of the production of space (Landau et al. 2021), my investigation shall advance agonistic understandings of (urban) public space.

## **S84 | Bottom-up Urbanism: Growing Social Policy from the Grassroots Upward and Across Scales**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Hilary Silver, Yuri Kazepov, Lorenzo De Vidovich, Benedetta Marani

**Track** | Urban social movements and citizen initiatives

**Code** | PS122

**Room 20** | Political Centre Peperfabriek

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **The self-understandings of citizen initiatives for the public good: Bottom-up projects in Amsterdam, Berlin, and Vienna**

Karin Christof, Jan-Willem Duyvendak

Socially mixed and lively neighborhoods are increasingly under threat in the capitals of the global North. While thriving economic conditions have encouraged investors to develop vacant spaces and build or renew housing stock for predominantly higher-income groups, less profitable social neighborhood places in competitive urban markets are losing out. Increasingly, dominant interests in the global market economy have aggravated the effects of social welfare cutbacks and privatizations in the public sector.

Within these neoliberal conditions of withdrawing welfare states, ethnographically inspired fieldwork looks into the way citizens can and cannot (do and do not) influence and determine urban development. Cases of bottom-up citizen participation (citizen initiatives) in Amsterdam and Berlin illustrate that, despite similarities across the cases, local governance structures produce differences in how citizens understand how to shape their cities.

The interrelationship between participatory policies and the self-understanding of citizens that create communal spaces for themselves and the neighborhood will be elucidated with documents of city-branding within urban planning, interviews with citizen initiatives and urban planning officials and experts, as well as other (literature) sources. Although the structure of the planning system is not the only decisive factor in how citizen initiatives act in the different cities, the research stresses that cities' roots and cultures are equally important, drawing upon Löw's cultural concept of intrinsic logic, concepts of embeddedness, and path-dependency mechanisms.

### **Alliances and solidarities of Russian city-managers and urbanites in urban space contestations**

Anna Zhelnina, Elena Tykanova

"Neoliberal urbanism" is currently the main framework for the analysis of Russian cities. This implies that urban power-holders, urban political and economic elites (authorities, developers and financiers) aim for profitable exploitation of urban territories and build informal coalitions to promote growth. The projects these coalitions put forward often stimulate protest mobilizations of urbanites who were left out of the initial decision-making processes. They actively engage in resistance to the undesirable urban and local development at later stages. The antagonism between the political elites (at city, regional and national levels), on one side, and the ordinary urbanites and civic organizations, on the other, inevitably becomes the main analytical framework in such cases.

In our presentation, we would like to focus on rather rare but notable cases of urbanites' fight for their right to the city when city-managers become allies to the bottom-up initiatives. In our talk, we will demonstrate how such partnerships between top-ranked bureaucrats and activists become possible, which features of the urban contestations and what social and political circumstances foster such alliances. One of the factors we will explore is the emotional and imaginative aspect of such alliances: the images of the "good" city and emotions of belonging and care for the city's legacy.

This paper is based on a comparative study of urban contestations in 15 Russian cities in 2012-2017, combining the quantitative analysis of media accounts of over 650 urban conflicts and in-depth interviews with participants of the selected cases (activists, authorities, and business players).

### **A Place to Go: How Neighborhood Organizations Structure the Lives of the Urban Poor**

Gijs Custers, Godfried Engbersen

Neighborhood organizations are believed to be important in alleviating the plight of the urban poor. This study examines how different types of neighborhood organizations affect the lives of various groups in low-income neighborhoods in Rotterdam, a large city in the Netherlands. Qualitative field work was conducted in a faith-based organization, a professional welfare organization, and a volunteer-based organization. Our findings indicate the ways in which these organizations foster social relations between local residents, provide daily structure to non-working individuals, and connect participants to other organizations and systemic bodies such as the labor market or local government. In addition, the relation between the organizations and social policy is considered with special attention to policy processes of decentralization, responsabilization, and social innovation. A central aim of this study is thus to analyze how neighborhood organizations mediate between social processes on the micro-level and macro-level systemic forces.

## **Figurations of Social Innovation and Knowledge Sharing: An exploration of Urban Initiative Networks in Kassel, Stuttgart, and Berlin**

Nada Bretfeld, Helena Cermeño

For ordinary people to engage with and effectively address pressing issues of the neoliberal city, such as the commodification of housing and public space and the progressive loss of social diversity and sense of belonging in increasingly segregated neighborhoods, urban initiative networks represent a potential tool for social innovation and knowledge sharing. Urban residents are embedded in multiple social settings and networks of collaboration but also interdependence, what we refer to as 'figurations' in which multiple transactions such as resources, ideas and information take place. Drawing on Norbert Elias figurational sociology and related authors in relation to power, structures, practices, habitus and field (Bourdieu 1984, Bourdieu and Wacquant 1992) in this paper we explore the figurations of social innovation and knowledge sharing among selected urban initiative networks in three Germany cities. In doing so, we look at strategies implemented and encountered difficulties of urban initiatives when sharing and transferring their knowledge a) to each other (spin-offs), b) to other institutions (e.g. administration and political arenas) and c) within their own initiative (inter-generational). This entails looking at the formats and practices by means of which knowledge (of action and networking) is passed on and (re-)produced. The analysis is based on empirical data (i.e. in-depth interviews) conducted with several urban initiatives in Kassel, Stuttgart and Berlin within the framework of the StadtTeilen research project.

## **S32 | Perceiving a shrinking city – the local perspective**

**Session Organiser(s)** | Maria Gunko, Elena Batunova

**Track** | Urban social practices & experience

**Code** | PS049

**Room 21** | Farmer's Tower

**Time slot** | Friday 16 July, 15:45-17:15 CEST

### **Social capital and place attachment in shrinking cities: exploring the resident's capacity to cope with urban shrinkage**

Solène Le Borgne

Structural out-migration is a major challenge for shrinking cities. While the literature emphasized that reversing the trends was an unrealistic prospect, the main goal then, becomes to retain the population that has not migrated. Besides, despite the negative trends these cities encounter, their stigmatization, and decrease in symbolic value, the absence of growth at the local or regional level can actually be positively experienced by inhabitants, as have shown several studies about residents' satisfaction. Negative perceptions and experiences such as mistrust between actors and disempowerment, can be found simultaneously with positive accounts, such as feelings of comfort and belonging. Therefore, this paper argues that it is necessary to look at residents' trajectories and perceptions, to understand the social transformations at work.

Our research investigates the role of place attachment and integration to social networks on the perception of urban shrinkage and the capacity to cope with it. Based on an ethnographic approach, we analyse qualitative data from in-depth semi structured interviews, conducted in French medium-sized shrinking cities. The results show that social networks constitute an alternative resource for residents, thanks to which they are better equipped to face the consequences of shrinkage. This leads to an improvement of their objective situations and perception of it, and overall life satisfaction. Understanding the social consequences of shrinkage cannot be done without considering, at the local level, the residents' need for social cohesion and integration as alternative resources, when economic ones disappear or stop increasing.

### **Governance in accommodating shrinkage and uncertainties in decision-making**

Agnes Matoga

Scholars emphasize that the process of shrinkage is "complex". Hospers (2014: 1514) adds, that it is a "complex urban governance process" and Rocak et al. (2016) stress that in order to ensure a sustainable future in shrinking cities, collaborative efforts of civil society and public institutions are necessary. Notions of complexity theories, such as a large amount of elements, interactions between elements, non-linear behavior, unpredictability and so on (cf. Cilliers, 2002), have been translated to the local or neighborhood level (e.g. Wagenaar, 2007; Rauws, 2017), arguing that relying on experts to understand emergent properties is limited because "expert knowledge is primarily aimed at the understanding (and alleged control) of the separate parts of the system" (idem). Questions arise to explore the actors involved in governance for accommodating shrinkage and more specifically ask what the roles of the involved actors in decision-making processes are. Further, as complexity and uncertainty about future developments characterize today's planning and decision making processes, shrinkage is a prime example of unexpected and non-linear trajectories. The growing body of literature on uncertainties differentiates between deep, inherent uncertainties of society (Abbott, 2005); and on the other hand, when confronted with decision-making and the involvement of different stakeholders and actors, differences in the perception of uncertainties play a role. Using Karen Christensen's (1985) classification of uncertainties over means

and ends, the decision-making process in the case of Heerlen, Netherlands will be analyzed in order to explore how uncertainties shape the decision-making process for accommodating shrinkage.

# FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

## 17:30-19:00 CEST

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Plenary 7 | Ayona Datta and Rob Kitchin**

Friday 16 July 2021

17:30-19:00 (CEST)

### **“Our stories, our voices”: A feminist toolkit for decolonising the digital and urban margins (Ayona Datta)**

Despite a ‘decolonial turn’ in critical geography, much remains to be understood about the praxis of decolonising the digital and urban margins. Drawing upon a series of activist and archival digital tools used by young millennial women living in urban peripheries, this lecture will present a toolkit for decolonial storytelling that develops the capacity for speaking without fear and creating safe spaces in a digital public sphere. Decolonial praxis involves breaking away from the limits of digital space as subjects of state patronage, to develop the capacity to ‘compose-with’ as well as ‘learn-with’ the realities and constraints of space, technology and power. It highlights new forms of literary ‘innovation’ in the digital-analogue margins, by underlining the affective and resistant potential of data through the anger, joy, freedom and despair that emerges therein. The lecture will argue that in the digital information age, self-authorship in online spaces can transform everyday stories of urban marginality into political artefacts, thus profoundly changing the social nature of digital space and its potential to shape feminist urban futures.

### **The Right to the Smart City (Rob Kitchin)**

This talk provides a critical reflection on the idea and ideals of the smart city. It considers a number of political and normative questions relating to ethics, governmentality, citizenship, sovereignty and social justice, and how these are conceived and operationalized within smart cities, illuminated through a number of empirical cases. The final part of the talk explores the notion of ‘the right to the smart city’ and how this might be used to recast the smart city for citizens in emancipatory and empowering ways.

