



between
THE HOME &
THE SQUARE

bridging the boundaries of public space

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



international meeting | thessaloniki 22-23 october 2021



between THE HOME & THE SQUARE

bridging the boundaries of public space

Organisers



research unit for
**South European
Cities**



AESOP
THE MATIC GROUP
Public Spaces and Urban Cultures

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Abstracts: Authors

Book of Abstracts: Research Unit for South European Cities

The meeting was held online due to public health restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic

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(Local host)

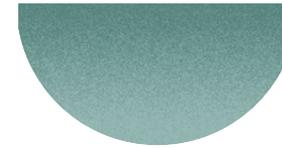
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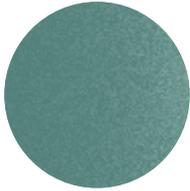
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MEETING PROGRAMME

All times in CET+1

The international meeting will be held only online due to COVID-19 restrictions

FRIDAY 22 / 10

8:45 - 9:00 Doors open and technical check

9:00 - 9:30

Welcome Greetings

STRATOS STYLIANIDIS
Vice Rector for Research and Lifelong Learning

KYROS YAKINTHOS
Dean of Faculty of Engineering

ALKMINI PAKA
Head of the School of Architecture

STEFANIA RAGOZINO
Coordinator AESOP TG-PSUC

EVANGELIA ATHANASSIOU
Coordinator Research Unit for South European Cities

room A

9:30-9:40 Doors open and technical check

9:40 - 10:40

Session A1:
Pandemic spaces: Negotiating boundaries in times of crisis

Chair: **Evangelia Athanassiou**

APHRODITE BOUIKIDIS
Social-purpose spaces as sites for community resilience: A case study of a Vancouver Neighborhood House during the pandemic crisis

ROULA EL-KHOURY, RACHELLE SALIBA
Towards a new paradigm of public spaces: From the abstract to the produced nature of space

DESPOINA ZAVRAKA, IOANNA ZACHARAKI, CHRISTINA MILTO MAROUDIS
De-colonising public space: Observing boundaries in leisure places through COVID times in the city of Volos

MARIA EL HELOU
Urban Disasters, Private Spaces Destruction, and Public Spaces Functions During The COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Beirut Post-Blast



Discussion

9:40 - 10:40

Session B1:
Claiming space - Producing democratic spaces

Chair: **Maria Karagianni**

MARIA KAIKA, DEBRA SOLOMON, CAROLINE NEVEJAN
Atmosphere vs. Buen Vivir in urban green infrastructure planning and design: from eco-system services to Multi-Species Urbanism

POLINA PRENTOU
The role of urban movements on the protection of open and green spaces in Athens (2000-2010)

MARTINA SOI GUNELAS
Αγορές σκουπιδιών | Agoras of waste. Urban space appropriation in the context of Eleonas' wastepicker markets

SOKRATIS SEITANIDIS, GIORGOS GRITZAS
The process of commoning as a guardian of publicness

Discussion

10:40 - 11:00 Doors open and technical check

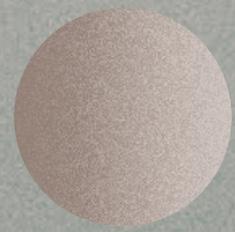
11:00 - 11:45

Keynote Lecture 1

ANASTASIA - SASA LADA
Architect, Professor Emerita, School of Architecture, AUTh

After the Pandemic: An Intersectional feminist response to reflect and reimagine our cities, our communities and everyday life

room A



11:45 - 12:00

Doors open and technical check

12:00 - 13:00

Session A2:
Architecture of intermediate spaces I

Chair:
Konstantinos Sakantamis

APOSTOLOS KALFOPOULOS,
YANNIS KARABABAS,
MARIA KRIARA,
KONSTANTINOS STEFANIDIS
Terrains Vivants

EVANTHIA DOVA
The suburban garden as a personal and collective space in the cinematic construction of dwelling in the Greek urban periphery

ANGELIKI PILIGKOU, SPIROS PAPANIMITRIOU
Extended Flesh & the blurring of public and private boundaries: A study into the body-space interaction in information technology era through selected works of Diller and Scofidio

ELEFThERIA DISLI, ANASTASIA PAPAPOPOULOU, VENETIA TSAKALIDOU
Designing a hybrid 'Hortus Conclusus' for an Urban Block

12:00 - 13:00

Session B2:
Urban planning across boundaries

Chair:
Athena Yiannakou

EFSTATHIOS BOUKOURAS, HELENE HANIOTOU
Health as a determinant of Urban Planning. Tracing the links in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic

GEORGIA GEMENETZI, NICOLAOS BOGIAZIDES
Public space in times of Covid-19: A South European perspective

ELISAVET THOIDOU
Public space of the metropolis beyond the competitiveness rhetoric: Recent trends and some evidence from the regeneration project of the Thessaloniki International Fair

MILORAD OBRADOVIĆ, JUGOSLAV JOKOVIC
ICT as a tool for revitalization of neighborhood space in residential blocks based on experience in development of City Chain platform

ELEFThERIA GAVRIILIDOU
From divided to inclusive urban landscapes: Spatial investigations between the home and the square in the "newcomers" ethnoscapes of Prinzenallee Str., Berlin, the Tours Aillaud, Paris and the Michael Voda Str. Athens

13:00 - 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 - 13:40

Doors open and technical check

13:40 - 14:40

Session A3:
Architecture of intermediate spaces II

Chair:
Venetia Tsakalidou

MYRTO KARAMEPELA-MAKRYGIANNI, NIKOLAOS-FANOURIOS TSOLAKOS, ALCESTIS RODI
Hyperblock: blending the neighborhood's public and private space

LEFTERIS THEODOSIS, KONSTANTINA KALFA
From the worldwide city to the polykatoikia: Constantinos Doxiadis and the 'Zygos Technical Company'

ALIKI METALLINO, SOFIA TSITSELLI, SPIROS PAPANIMITRIOU
Minimum dwelling: Re-imagining the domestic space

VERONICA CHING LEE, STAVROS KOUSOULAS, GERHARD BRUYNS
The Public is the Private; The Private is the Public: The Complex Public-Private Negotiations in Conditions of Urban Hyperdensity Under the COVID-19 Pandemic

13:40 - 14:40

Session B3:
Neighbourhoods of care and connection: Reconceptualizing urban planning

Chair:
Charis Christodoulou

CRISTINA TEMENOS
Public health in crisis: Rethinking spaces of health and care amidst ongoing urban crises

STEFANIA RAGOZINO, SONIA BORSATO, STEFANIA OPPIDO, ALESSANDRA CASU, GABRIELLA ESPOSITO DE VITA
Women claiming public realm in the Mediterranean basin

CHIARA BELINGARDI, DANIELA POLI, GABRIELLA ESPOSITO DE VITA
Planning with care/ planning for care

TIHOMIR VIDERMAN, KAROLINA HETTCHEN
The City and the House: Experiences and Representations of Everyday Life

ANGELIKA GABAUER, OLIVIA KAFKA
'Activated' Neighbourhoods - Bridging the Boundaries of Public and Private Life in Cities?

Discussion

Discussion

Discussion

Discussion

14:40 - 14:50

Doors open and technical check

14:50 - 16:10

Session A4:
Participation and co-creation in public space appropriation strategies

Chair:
 Gabriella Esposito de Vita

ANGELIKI IOANNA (JULIANA) KONTINI
 A critical analysis of temporary and tactical urbanism interventions

PARINA VASILOPOULOU, IANNIS KANDYLIARIS
 Between general public and strictly private; the case of Neighborhood Rooms project

MARTA SERRA-PERMANER
 The socio-spatial configuration of tactical urbanism: re-visiting the Superblock programme in Barcelona's public space

SAANCHI SAXENA
 "Unplanning" the Public Space: The curious case of an accidentally pedestrianised road in Mumba

AMITIS FOULADI, BARNE HAFERKAMP, MARIE MIDDENDORF, KARL SANDMAN, MARCO ADELFO, EMILIO DA CRUZ BRANDAO, LIANE THUVANDER
 ParticiPLAY - a participatory designed playing area in the public spaces of Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon

EMMY KARIMALI, GIOULI ATHOUSAKI, ELENI MOUGIAKOU, SOFIA TSADARI, ANASTASIA CHRISTAKI
 Participatory design with school students for the improvement of public space during the COVID-19 era

Discussion

14:50 - 16:10

Session B4:
Urban informality, marginalisation and homelessness: Reclaiming urban spaces

Chair:
 Garyfallia Katsavounidou

ANTONELLO SCIALDONE
 Survival practices for invisible bodies. Reconsidering unorthodox research about homelessness

KUNDANI MAKAKAVHULE, KARINA LANDMAN
 Shifting perspectives: A conceptual democratic (re) reading of the uses and experiences of the homeless in public space

NATALIA MARTINI
 Mooring in the Homeless City. A Practice Theoretical Account of Homeless Urban Dwelling and Emplacement

NIKOLAOS ORFANOS
 Geometry of power, informal governance in the region of Elaionas in Attica

RAHUL BHANDARE
 A Lockdown effect in an Informal Housing market of Mumbai: A conflict between a lack of space inside a home and cut off from public spaces outside in a community

NIKOLAOS VRANTSIS
 Home precarization and the emergence of vigilant violence in Thessaloniki's West End

Discussion

16:10 - 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 - 16:40

Doors open and technical check

16:40 - 17:30

Keynote Lecture 2

ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI
 Director of the Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Greening public spaces: From renaturing cities to equity-based urban nature.

room A

17:30 - 17:40

Doors open and technical check

17:40 - 19:00

Roundtable 1:
Bridging the boundaries of public space in Thessaloniki

Moderator:
 Athina Vitopoulou
 Assistant Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture AUTH

Contributors:

GIORGOS CHATZINAKOS
 Dr Urban geographer, Senior Lecturer ACT (American College of Thessaloniki)

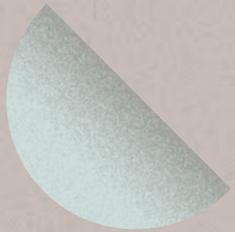
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ATHENA YIANNAKOU
 Professor of Urban Planning and Development, School of Spatial Planning and Development AUTH

MARIA ZOURNA
 Architect, Msc in Technical Project Management, Director of Development - Thessaloniki Metro Projects, Attiko Metro S.A. Organization

room A



S A T U R D A Y 2 3 / 1

9:00 - 9:10

Doors open and technical check

9:10 - 10:20

Session A5:
Exploring the
relationship between
housing and
neighbourhood public
space

room A
Chair:
Burcu Yigit Turan

JOÃO PEDRO NUNES, BERNARDO BAPTISTA FERNANDES, MARTA MARTINS
Exploring residential surroundings as proximity public spaces in Arroios (Lisbon)

JELENA MARIC, ALEKSANDRA DJUKIC, BRANISLAV ANTONIC
Between public and private: the transformation of open space usage in housing mega blocks in New Belgrade

ANDREAS L. SAVVIDES, FROSO CHARALAMBOUS, PAVLOS SOFOKLEOUS
Revisiting communal spaces in social housing production; learning from the old applying to the new

LAURA BERGER, PANU SAVOLAINEN, KRISTO VESIKANSA
The forest and the square – changing ideals of Finnish suburbs

GARYFALLIA KATSAVOUNIDOU
Beyond the fenced playground: Urban space as the "fourth environment" for children in the context of the post-pandemic city

9:10 - 10:20

Session B5:
Permeable
boundaries:
thresholds and edges

room B
Chair:
Apostolos Kalfopoulos

AGATA WOŹNICZKA, MAGDALENA BELOF, BARBARA WIDERA
Potential regained: A building's facade as a vertical public space and a functional ornamentation

MELIKE ORHAN
New Spaces Used in the Relationship Between Humans and Spaces During the Pandemic: Entrances of Buildings

NATALIA CHRYSIKOU, KONSTANTINOS SAKANTAMIS
From plazas to balconies: counterbalancing the lack of space, contact, action, entertainment

SPIROS PAPANITRIU
Fly jacket inside out. Revisiting the Greek "polykatoikia" through different versions of the commons

DESPOINA ZAVRAKA
The Public, the Rural and the Beautiful: A 'displaced' home between the urban, the countryside and the post-industrial

10:20 - 10:30

Doors open and technical check

10:30 - 11:30

**Presentation
AESOP TG PSUC
now and then?**

room A

Chair:
Burcu Yigit Turan
members of thematic group

This roundtable intends to create a reflexive conversation among AESOP TG PSUC Members about current approaches to the subject of the TG from different perspectives, what can be the future roles of TG, or possibilities TG might generate.

SARA SANTOS CRUZ

The thematic group is presented elaborating its organization, activities, team, working themes, past and forthcoming events and different ways of collaboration. The AESOP Thematic Group on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures has been initiated after the Annual Meeting of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in Liverpool (UK) in 2009. In April 2010 the initiative has been recognized as a new thematic group Public Space and Urban Cultures by AESOP. The aim of the group is to settle the research and design focus on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures in planning-related disciplines.

Discussion

Discussion

11:30 - 11:40

Doors open and technical check

11:40 - 12:50

Session A6:
Neighbourhood communities: complexity and diversity

room A
Chair:
Athina Vitopoulou

ASEEM DEUSKAR
The crisis of being a citizen: India, citizenship, and a desire of separation

HANNAH WIDMER
Diverse patterns of co-presence? Everyday use of public squares in Zurich

NADIA CHARALAMBOUS
The role of everyday public spaces in residential neighbourhoods

CHRISTOPHER GIAMARINO, ANDRES RAMIREZ, CLAIRE NELISCHER
The square as a home for play, sustenance, and survival: An urban humanities approach to spatial and temporal tactics of resistance in Los Angeles, CA

KOSTAS MOURATIDIS, ATHENA YIANNAKOU
The neighborhood as a bridging space between home and the city: A comparative study of neighborhood satisfaction in the cities of Oslo and Thessaloniki

11:40 - 12:50

Session B6:
Urban politics and governance of public spaces

room B
Chair:
Stefania Ragozino

MARIA KALANTZOPOULOU, GIORGOS PATRIKIOS, DIMITRA SIATITSA
Rethinking public space for everyday life: lessons from Athens' "Grand Promenade" experiment

DIMITRIS CHALASTANIS
Public space under lockdown: Expanding police/suspending politics in Athens, Greece

MATINA KAPSALI
"Adopt you city": the post-politicisation of public space and its contestation in crisis-stricken Athens

KARINA LANDMAN, KUNDANI MAKAKAVHULE
Recreating new boundaries: negotiating ownership and control of public space in South Africa

12:50 - 13:20

Lunch break

13:20 - 13:30

Doors open and technical check

13:30 - 14:40

Session A7:
Spaces of migration I: emancipatory practices

room A
Chair:
Matina Kapsali

OLGA LAFAZANI, ELENI KYRAMARGIOU, CHRISTOS CHRYSANTHOPOULOS
100 memories: cities of multiple arrivals and departures

CHARALAMPOS TSAVDAROGLOU
Our house in Omonia square. Urban renewal design vs. the refugees' right to the central square of Athens

EMMY KARIMALI, FILYRA VLASTOU DIMOPOULOU, EIRINI AVRAMOPOULOU, PENNY KOUTROLIKOU
Socio-spatial negotiations of home and belonging of Turkish nationals settled in Athens after 2016

ÖMER MELIKOĞLU, ZEYNEP GUNAY
Between Oppression and Freedom: Imagining the Nexus in Home-making for Queer Syrian Refugees

VASILIKI MAKRYGIANNI
Migrant's digital space: mobile populations, space and digital resistance in the Greek territory

13:30 - 14:40

Session B7:
Collective housing? Negotiations between the public and the private

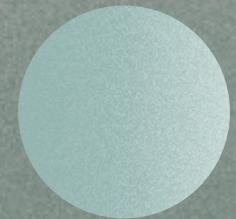
room B
Chair:
Dimitra Siatitsa

FILIPA SERPA
Urban Ethic on Housing and Habitat – on the path of New European Bauhaus

SÍLVIA JORGE
'First Right': from housing to the city for all. The role of the public space in this paradigmatic transition

MARIA ANITA PALUMBO, BERNARDO ROBLES HIDALGO
A neighbourhood livingroom: or how to play with thresholds between private and public space

BASAK TANULKU
Gated Communities: Construction and Reconstruction of New Public and Private Realms



Discussion

Discussion

Discussion

Discussion

14:40-16:10

Doors open and technical check

14:50 - 16:10

Session A8:
Spaces of migration II:
Borders and camps

Chair:
Penny Koutrolikou

OLGA LAFAZANI
The significance of the insignificant: Borders, migration, urban space

FILYRA VLASTOU - DIMOPOULOU
Relation between camps and urban space: the case of the camp of Lavrio

DAPHNE FOTEINI VALLIANATOU
Mapping borders: Lived experiences and migration policies on the island of Lesbos

THEMIS HATZIGIANNOPOULOS, DAFNI PAPAEMMANOUIL
The perception of communal spaces in facilities created in Northern Greece as a response to the refugee crisis

MARIANNE SKJULHAUG
Elsewhere and Otherness: A study of peri-urban local communities and asylum reception centers related to everyday, spatial practices and policies in Norway

14:50 - 16:10

Session B8:
Performing on the interstices: cultural praxis of the everyday

Chair:
Sabine Knierbein

MARA ZACHARAKI
Creative forms of festivity in Greece in times of pandemic

NATALIA BURSIEWICZ
Reinventing public space. The revitalization of Wrocław's urban backyards through art and community engagement

FANI KOSTOUROU
Hearing in-between

ILIAS PIKASIS
Tango sessions in Athens during the pandemic: negotiations of safe spaces and intimacy in the metropolis

KALLIA FYSARAKI, ERNESTINA KARISTINEOU, EFTHYMIATOU, EIRINI KOUMPAROULI, KSIROPITA VERA, FOIVOS NTE BRITO-KARAGIORGAS, SERGIOS STRIGKLOGIANNIS
Hide and Seek in Athens. (Re)Inhabiting the city via playful encounters

ORSALIA DIMITRIOU
Performing the Space: negotiations of publicness through situated practice

16:10 - 16:20

Coffee break

16:20 - 16:30

Doors open and technical check

16:30 - 17:15

Keynote Lecture 3

CLAUDIO DE MAGALHÃES
Professor in Urban Regeneration and Management, Head of the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London

Creating the public realm in the contemporary city: London and Hong Kong and the public use of public and private space

room A

17:15 - 17:30

Doors open and technical check

17:30 - 19:00

Roundtable 2:
Post-pandemic pedagogies in the urban. Paths to transformative change?

Moderator:
Charis Christodoulou
Associate Professor of Urban Design and Planning, School of Architecture AUTH, Thessaloniki-Greece

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ALI MADANIPOUR
Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, Newcastle-U.K.

SOCRATES STRATIS
Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus, Nicosia-Cyprus

room A



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Anastasia-Sasa Lada



Professor Emerita, School of Architecture, AUTH

Anastasia-Sasa Lada studied architecture in the School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and postgraduate studies in London in the field of Health Facility Planning and Design. She was professor of Architectural Design and now she is Professor Emerita, School of Architecture, AUTH. She has an extended, published and awarded architectural, teaching and research work, which is in a constant dialogue with the conceptual and social dimensions of architecture and the urban space. Her main teaching and research interests, since 1985, focused on the multiple shifts that appear in the intersection of gender, sexuality, architecture and urban space. She has published a number of books and many articles in scientific magazines in the topics of habitation, the urban space, restoration of listed buildings, gender and sexuality.

She published mainly in the topics mentioned above. She is the editor of the following collective volumes: (1) «Scientist in the picture Greece, 1900-1980: situated identities - identities of sites », Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, 2007, (2) «Teaching Gender, Diversity and Urban Space : An Intersectional Approach between Gender Studies and Spatial Disciplines» Zuidam Uithof Drukkerijen, Utrecht 2009, (3) "Shifts: Gender, Difference and Urban Space" (in Greek), Futura, 2009, (4) "Habitation: Design, construct, think. On the teaching and design of home".(in Greek) , University Studio Press, 2015. Finally co-editor with Hastaoglou - Martinides Vilma of the project " The Theological School of Halki, The building and its restoration" (In Greek) Theological School of Halki, 2016.

After the Pandemic: An Intersectional feminist response to reflect and reimagine our cities, our communities and everyday life

In the light of the repeated crises which appear to be engulfing us since 2008, namely the climate change, the politically imposed austerity and the Covid-19 pandemic, it is crucial to develop a critical understanding of these global phenomena and to develop simultaneously, if possible, new radical and innovative methods to deal with them. It is urgent to develop new understandings of the ways that we perceive concepts, such as "Nature/Civilization" "Human/ Non-Human" , "Man/Woman", to move beyond the stereotypic binary way in which they have been perceived so far. These successive crises had unequal and uneven effects on the poorest and most vulnerable people and communities, with severe impacts on gender relations and equality issues.

All these crises have transformed in many ways the boundaries, as well as the content, of the relations between the Public and the Private realm. Focusing on these transformations, the talk will go back to "older" approaches that offered conceptualizations of the "Public" and the "Private" in order to explore their validity now.

First, we will reflect on Hannah Arendt's major contribution to key concepts of political theory, such as freedom, political action, and the public space. Emphasis will be given to the concepts of "Nativity" and "Plurality" which are fundamental in her understanding of the Public realm.

Then, Dolores Hayden's remarkable paper from 1980, will be presented, which asked "What would a non-sexist city be like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work," She discussed the development of a new paradigm of the home, the neighborhood and the city which will alter the spatial confinement of women in the suburbs and their subsequent exclusion from the public realm and distant workplaces.

Finally, four different criteria regarding feminist theories of female agency in the public space will be discussed. These are the following: a. Subjects of "visibility", b. Revelation of identity, c. The capacity to interact and communicate, and d. Freedom.

\ Arendt, H. (1998) *The Human Condition* , University of Chicago Press.

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Isabelle is the director of BCNUEJ, an ICREA Research Professor, a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at ICTA and former coordinator of the research group Healthy Cities and Environmental Justice at IMIM. She obtained a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from MIT before returning to Europe in 2011 with a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship. Situated at the intersection of urban planning and policy, social inequality and development studies, her research examines the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighborhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies. Since 2016, she is the PI of a five-year ERC-funded project called GreenLULUs which examines green inequalities in 40 cities in Europe, the US, and Canada.

Greening public spaces: From renaturing cities to equity-based urban nature

Large cities worldwide are increasingly deploying urban greening interventions in public space to address socio-environmental and health challenges and harness widespread benefits for citizens, industries, and investors. While new parks, green adaptation infrastructure, or urban greenways (among others) promote city efforts to replicate green infrastructure through a city and create new accessible public spaces, I argue that few of them begin with an equity lens and include concrete towards for ensuring that greening solutions

benefit residents and communities who are historically vulnerable to environmental racism and/or displacement. For the most part, there is an implicit assumption of "green" trickle-down effects spreading to benefit all. I illustrate this argument by examining – in North America and Europe – the extent to which urban greening creates equity in accessing the benefits of urban nature projects or, in contrast, perpetuates or produces urban inequities through processes of green privilege and green gentrification.

Claudio de Magalhães

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Claudio de Magalhães is Professor in Urban Regeneration and Management and currently Head of the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, with a background in architecture and urban planning. In the early stages of his career, he worked for 12 years as a planner in local and regional government in Brazil, acquiring considerable experience in urban governance and in the management of urban investment programmes for urban and regional development. From the mid-1990s he has worked as an academic in the UK, first at Newcastle University and since 1999 at UCL. His interests have been in planning and the governance of the built environment at various levels, looking at property development processes and urban regeneration policy, the management of urban quarters, and the provision and governance of public space. Claudio has conducted research for Research Councils, professional bodies such as the RICS, CABI, UK government departments and local authorities and published widely on property markets and globalisation, capacity building for urban governance, the relationship between urban governance, the built environment and property markets, business improvement districts and the provision and management of public spaces. His most recent research looks at the relationship between planning policies and perceptions of risk in the housebuilding industry. His books include: *Design Governance*, *The CABI Experiment*, *Planning, Risk and Property Development: Urban Regeneration in England, France and the Netherlands* and *Public Space: The Management Dimension*. He is currently working in a new book comparing the governance and management regimes for public spaces in London and Hong Kong.

Creating the public realm in the contemporary city: London and Hong Kong and the public use of public and private space

Recent debate about public spaces has highlighted the shift from what is often seen as the 'natural' form of provision and management by elected local government to one that involves actors outside the public sector. This happens either in forms of partnership between these different actors or under different kinds of arrangement of a contractual nature, which specify the conditions for provision and/or long-term management. This presentation presents ongoing work to be published as a book in 2022, which looks at two global cities – London and Hong Kong – to understand how they tackle the challenges of providing and maintaining an increasingly diverse array of public spaces and of securing acceptable levels of publicness in the face of limited resources and conflicting aspirations. The discussion is based on an understanding of

public spaces and publicness inspired by the work of Elinor Ostrom and others. It defines those concepts as a function of operational and collective choice rights over the various attributes of public space and of how these are allocated to various stakeholders through governance regimes and contractual arrangements. The focus is on how public space provision and management arrangements determine the nature of the spaces they produce, especially those attributes that define publicness, and how this affects public space services. Both Hong Kong and London have a history of third-party engagement in the provision and management of public spaces, both top-down and bottom-up, albeit within different urban governance regimes and public space cultures. In both cities public spaces and their functions have recently become prominent topics in local government agendas, concerned with the impacts of those forms of provision and management on publicness and the nature of their public realm. The presentation explores the challenges and issues that emerge in the ways both cities have increasingly adopted to provide and manage public spaces, draw comparisons between them and try to extract lessons that can be applied to both and to the challenging topic of public space provision and management more generally in diverse and complex urban environments.

ROUNDTABLES



Bridging the boundaries of public space in Thessaloniki

Historically rooted weaknesses of the urban production framework prevented the development and implementation of a coherent policy for public space planning, design, and production in contemporary Greek cities. Thus, urban space presents significant inadequacies of public space in terms of size, location, overall quality, and function, as it resulted of mostly un-coordinated decisions and actions. This roundtable aims to stimulate a discussion between researchers and practitioners, representatives of public bodies and/or local authorities, and the civil society on the complex relationship between theory and practice of public space production in Greek cities with a focus on Thessaloniki. We invite them to reflect on the following issues and questions:

\ Despite improvements in the public space production and implementation process during the last three decades, it remains in many ways problematic as there is a general lack of governance and dialogue culture in the field of planning, beyond the formal consultation procedures provided by the institutional framework. What are the main limitations in decision making and urban governance

within the national and/or local context? How effective are available consultation tools and to what extent do they support democratic participation and citizen-led initiatives?

\ A significant number of urban scale architectural competitions have been realised during the last two decades concerning the design or redesign of public spaces. How are architectural competitions handled by the authorities but also by politicians? Can they act as a tool for bridging theory/research and practice and/or for raising public awareness on public space design issues? Have they contributed to the development of a dialogue and the diffusion of new approaches to public space planning and design, such as climate change adaptation, the need to increase urban greenery and create green and blue infrastructure, the use of environmentally friendly materials?

\ Despite the deficiencies of the institutional framework regarding citizens participation in the official planning and design process, and the general lack of participation culture in local communities, there are several interesting examples of collective reclaiming of public

space and common goods by grassroots movements, citizens' initiatives or solidarity actions, at the neighborhood and city level, which were multiplied during the period of the socio-economic crisis. They mainly occur as a reaction to the ever-increasing trend of public space commercialization and privatization, confirming the concept of the "right to the city". What role have these bottom-up initiatives played or can they play in raising public awareness on environmental issues, quality of life, collective values and common goods, and public space design issues? What are their boundaries and what are the main problems they face? Which are the most appropriate participation methods and tools in the Greek context? How do we plan/design and for who?

These questions are particularly timely and crucial in the framework of large-scale urban interventions being or planned to be implemented in Thessaloniki Urban Agglomeration (e.g. the metro construction, the redevelopment of Thessaloniki International Fair, the conversion of the ex-military camp Pavlos Melas to a metropolitan park, the development plans for the waterfront or the area around the stadium of football team PAOK).

ROUNDTABLE 1

Contributors:

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Moderator:

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Post-pandemic pedagogies in the urban. Paths to transformative change?

Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions along the public-private boundaries has caused unprecedented experiences in the way we live in cities, our homes and public space. During the imposed lockdowns there was a series of new concepts popping up in digital academic classes as well as in impromptu peer meetings to theorize and manage these urban conditions. New interpretations of everyday life, architecture, urban design and planning, and urban governance have arisen to reflect anew on physical, dynamic, and representational dimensions of the urban and democracy. Could these be sparks of a transformative change in the city?

As we reset our pedagogies in the post-pandemic 'new normal' rhythm a whole cloud of questions arise that we don't have the time

to ponder on while in the pressure to perform in class and still disciplined/policed in the city.

How have lockdowns and quarantines been distilled into our practices and methods in the class? Have we rearranged the priorities of topics and field methodologies in the course curricula responding to the world health crisis? How do we care for the expression of agency and subjectivities in the pandemic experience? What are the themes that need to be negotiated to bring forward changed viewpoints of hermeneutics and bridge disciplinary knowledge? What do we grasp from the past and in what ways do we pave paths to the new?

This round table invites us to stop and think now on our academic teaching practice paths in post-pandemic courses in urban studies, urban design and planning.

ROUNDTABLE 2

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ABSTRACTS BY SESSION

Social-purpose spaces as sites for community resilience: A case study of a Vancouver Neighborhood House during the pandemic crisis

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Social infrastructure
Social-purpose space
Community capabilities
Community resilience
Urban resilience
Pandemic
COVID19
Vancouver

KEYWORDS

This research focuses on the role of a social-mission organization in bridging public and private life and shaping the space between those two realms during the pandemic crisis. In particular, I explore how spatial arrangements – indoor facilities and outdoor spaces – impact the ability of this organization to adapt its services and support community capabilities and resilience outcomes during an emergency. I am conducting an exploratory case study of a Neighbourhood House in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and will reflect on the lessons that are relevant for Thessaloniki and other cities.

This research is situated at the intersection and interconnectedness of the fields of urban studies and disaster risk and recovery. Globally, there is a growing focus on urban resilience, along with increasing investment and financing for resilience strategies and infrastructure or development projects as the intensity and cost of disasters increases. At the same time, owners and operators of social-purpose facilities and properties in Vancouver and other cities increasingly face affordability pressures and displacement. Social-purpose spaces are not a primary focus of disaster risk reduction and recovery investments because they are not included as critical infrastructure (CI) in disaster management policy (aside from hospitals and schools).

There is growing research on the role of social capital and social networks in disaster response and recovery, but there is yet little research on the intersection between physical infrastructure (land, facilities, infrastructure systems) and social networks or the work of social-purpose organizations, and how this contributes to community resilience in times of crisis. (Koliou et al, 2018, p. 2, Latham and Layton, 2019, p. 2) Case studies of the role of community- and faith-based groups are not extensive in the literature, beyond some catastrophic events like Hurricane Katrina. (Atkinson, 2014, p. 167)

The COVID-19 pandemic reveals how social-purpose spaces function as 'critical' spaces through their role in enabling service delivery and collective action during emergencies, even as many spaces were forced to close. This function occurs at the intersection of public and private life, or in the parochial realm, as Lofland describes. (Lofland, 1998) Pandemic safety measures created barriers or tensions between our public and private lives in various ways, while also amplifying the importance of organizations that manage or activate facilities, relationships

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with other organizations and social networks for building community.

My research explores how spatial arrangements (indoor facilities, outdoor space, equipment) affected the ability of South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) to adapt its services and contribute to community capabilities and resilience outcomes during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a time of emergency response. The conceptual framework for this study will utilize the following concepts: capabilities in the context of community resilience (adapted from the human development framework), and the function of social-purpose spaces as social infrastructure or 'critical infrastructure' in crises and disasters.

This research aims to help further our understanding of the role of physical spaces for community and social purposes during emergencies and how these spaces bridge public and private life in neighbourhoods. I hope to identify insights and recommendations that will be useful for organizations that own, manage and design social-purpose or community spaces, and those that invest in and support these spaces and organizations.

Towards a new paradigm of public spaces: From the abstract to the produced nature of space

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Beirut
produced nature of Spaces
social contract
urban change

KEYWORDS

This research examines cases of urban engagement that recently emerged in the deserted urban places of Beirut during the corona virus pandemic and post Beirut port explosion. The objective of the study is to understand the different dynamics of spaces that are isolated and rather disparate and yet can represent a new pattern of collective engagement in a particular place/city. The research draws on the idea of the produced nature of space rather than on the abstractness of it, which involves a political and socio-economic analysis of the surveyed sites and an engagement with the people and the processes that are producing the place.

By investigating the relationship between the public and the private,

the legal and the informal, the man-made and the natural, this paper will discuss the ability of communities in despair to transform these binaries into productive opportunities to be together. It will also argue that by conforming to different paradigms of collective social contracts, negotiations and shifting boundaries, a new typology of "Public Spaces" emerges – liberating itself from dominant typologies defined by land ownership, formal representations and the involvement of typical urban agents. Each produced public space surveyed in Beirut will reveal a unique, organic and non-replicable character, that will reflect a certain level of freedom and liberty away from the set of rules and regulations, cameras and endless patterns of information through

which traditional public spaces operate, control the community and shapes its future city.

Finally, this exploration does not claim to identify a pattern that has emerged as a result of the pandemic or the explosion in Beirut, it rather identifies common challenges of today's exclusive cities and highlights different opportunities to create alternatives for the traditional and more abstract notion of public spaces. Raising awareness about the produced nature of space to build capacity and activate urban change aims at mobilizing more of these practices as a unified response to adopt a more progressive urban agenda and at shedding the light on the collective identity of the city that matters the most: citizenship!

Reclaiming public space: Observing boundaries in leisure places through COVID times in the city of Volos

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boundaries
public – private space
reclaiming public space
COVID-19

KEYWORDS

In urban spaces, public and private spheres are defined and distinct, but the boundaries between them are not always clear. Public space reflects the society that shapes it (Lefebvre, 1991), therefore the permeation of private functions in it reveals a tendency to privatise everyday life. But what happens when private functions cease to exist as a pandemic emerges? In this context, the present paper focuses on the research of the boundaries between public spaces and food & beverage outlets, as well as the way in which these are disrupted during the pandemic by the reclamation of the public space by users themselves.

During lockdown due to COVID-19, with the F&B outlets closed, people adapted to the new status quo in an attempt to maintain their social activity. As a result, public spaces inevitably received a larger load of users, which affected their function (Geng et al., 2021).

In order to determine the impact of the pandemic on the public-private boundaries, three characteristic points were studied in the city of Volos: the “Pezoulia”, the intersection of Koumoundourou and Kodaratou streets and the district of Palaia.

Pezoulia is a linear public space that develops along the coastal front and acts as a resting and gathering place. During the pandemic its function did not change, but was intensified as the place received heavier flows of users. In this case, an intensification of the previous boundary is observed, with the site being massively used.

In the intersection of Koumoundourou - Kodaratou streets, there are multiple cafes and restaurants that use the sidewalk to place tables and chairs. During the pandemic, with stores exclusively functioning as take-away, multiple customers after buying their drinks, gathered at the intersection of the two streets, turning the designed walking area into a resting point. In this case, a placebo effect of the former boundary is observed, with users attempting to recreate the previous condition set by the F&B outlets.

Finally, Palaia is the historic district of the city, where F&B outlets are currently operating using part of the space created for pedestrian movement. In Palaia, a phenomenon of diffusion of the boundaries between public and private space is observed, as shops place their tables along the pedestrian road.

During the pandemic, people attempted to restore social space, with spontaneous assemblies taking place along the sidewalk. However, in the post lockdown era, there is a tendency towards the reinstatement of the original situation, with the imposed distances legitimising the intensive spread of private functions in public space.

The choice of the aforementioned places is based on the fact that all three are different and characteristic districts of the city which became points of interest during the pandemic. The study of the initial boundary between public spaces and privately owned cafes and restaurants, as well as the identification of the different aspects of the transformation of this boundary in the examined cases, defines the keystone of the present paper. This phenomenon is inspected spatially and anthropologically through a criticism of daily life in the public sphere of the city.

Through this survey, a momentous and spontaneous de-colonisation of public spaces is observed, laying the foundation of redefining the way we think of and design places that host everyday life.

Urban Disasters, Private Spaces Destruction, and Public Spaces Functions During The COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Beirut Post-Blast

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Post-Blast Urban Planning
COVID-19
Economic Crisis
Trauma
Identity

KEYWORDS

On the 4th of August 2020, at 06:07 PM, a blast shook the capital city Beirut,

the capital of a country undergoing an unprecedented economic crisis and food security situation since October 2019. COVID-19 had posed to Beirut's traumatic event a further burden. Cases increased significantly because many rescue workers responding to the explosion, as well as the inhabitants affected, and the post-blast protesters have not observed social distancing or worn masks.

Beirut has already a contradictive spectrum of physical and symbolic interpretations circulating in its heritage and the urban planning adopted after the Lebanese war (1975-1990). Remarkably, many inhabitants and experts complain about the way public access and public spaces were converted into private and investment spaces or into open spaces that erased the city's identity and memories, notably in the Beirut downtown and the access to the beach.

The article underscores relevant factors and originates insights for areas where future research will be critically needed, through key areas: a) Beirut is witnessing parallel disasters that generally are difficult to manage as they have a cumulative impact; b) The inhabitants of Beirut have to manage a massive urban and psychological adaptive change with an uncontrollable environment that includes a worldwide public health crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, the strongest non-nuclear blast in history and an unprecedented local economic crisis; c) Experts should redefine Beirut's exiting and new public spaces through which the inhabitants can be supported physically, emotionally and psychologically to strengthen the resilience of the population and thus decrease the post-traumatic impacts; d) A workplan should be conducted to manage the contradictive point of views between communities in Beirut when it comes to public spaces functions and the differences

discontinuities between perceptions from one generation to the next; and e) Neuro-urbanistic research and deliberation about new public environments would add a significant new approach to restoring the architectural and urban damages in post-blast Beirut to accommodate innovative and adaptive private and public living styles related to the multiple identities in the city.

Methodologically, the discussion is based on related literature analysis and indepth online interviews of 45 minutes each with 30 Beirut inhabitants from different generations and different socio-economic backgrounds, directly and indirectly affected by the blast.

The conclusion is underpinned by a review of culturally diverse literature and represents the groundwork for future considerations of post-blast architecture and urban planning while managing the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic crisis, and the search for a self-identity and a community identity in a city.

Atmosphere vs. Buen Vivir in urban green infrastructure planning and design: from eco- system services to Multi-Species Urbanism

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Atmosphere
Multispecies urbanism
intangible
tangible
social exclusion
eco-system services

KEYWORDS

The 'atmosphere' of public green infrastructures (e.g. parks, urban forests, riversides, waterfronts, etc.) is often attributed to a set of intangible qualities that are difficult to quantify: design details and manicured outlines, the quality of light and air, the texture of street furniture and paving, the set of sounds or silences, the ways in which the space allows or impedes human interaction and interaction with the non-human world. These intangible qualities are the direct result of a set of very tangible and historically-geographically embedded planning and design traditions regulations and institutions, but also of current social power relations, and economic interests and processes.

But what happens when, what planners and urban designers perceive to be positive 'atmospheric' qualities of green public spaces actually have negative effects on local human and animal communities? When a perfectly manicured and managed lawn threatens the physical health of local residents with pesticides and allergy inducing species of

plants? When a beautiful lush urban forest destroys the pre-existing spatially embedded relations of local communities, or local animal species? When in place, urban green infrastructures create new and often irrevocable socio-spatial dynamics that pose a new set of challenges to the health and well-being of human and non-human livelihoods: disruption or destruction of existing social and animal networks, reduction of biodiversity, new forms of allergies, and the emergence of zoonosis are common challenges when urban green infrastructures become entangled with human and non-human bodies. Such challenges can erode the functioning of public green spaces, reduce their efficiency and ultimately jeopardize their contribution to a better socio-environmental relations. A better understanding of interactions between infrastructures and bodies is key to develop effective strategies to achieve better green infrastructure maintenance and healthier urban environments

Drawing upon the first results of the Multispecies Urbanism Project,

in Amsterdam south, led by artist Debra Solomon and supervised academically by Maria Kaika and Caroline Nevejan, we propose experimenting with designing, co-producing and maintaining new types of urban green infrastructures that are co-produced not only by local residents, but also by more-than human residents of urban spaces. These new types of green infrastructures, linked to the Latin American concept of 'buen vivir' can function as eco-system services providers not just for humans, but for all multi-species urban inhabitants.

The project acts as a pilot for rethinking the roles and rights of both human and more than human urban species. This can lead to the production of more democratically landscaped public green spaces in cities that are not only providing diverse eco-system services to humans but also to the non-human world: woodlands soil organisms, and requisite, plant, animal and microbial life that is also part of urban life.

The role of urban movements on the protection of open and green spaces in Athens (2000-2010)

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urban social movements
public spaces
open spaces
commons
Athens

KEYWORDS

The natural environment inside the Greek city, the open and green spaces are considered an asset for the city and need to be protected, according to the legal framework. Despite that, open public spaces in Athens are on a constant threat since the late 1990s. With the period of Athens Olympics 2004 as a starting point, open and green spaces are used as a field for investments and business proposals, in exception to the existing legal framework.

Facing that, activists and group initiatives have formed an active social movement for the defence and protection of open and green

public spaces in Athens against their development. The movements have had a stable series of actions (protests, scientific meetings, press articles, coalitions) over the last almost 20 years. It has been proved that the movement for open spaces in Athens is a considerable factor for the defence and protection of "common goods" and of the public character of open spaces. Also, part of their claims has reached the public discourse and politics, mainly at the local and regional level.

The paper deals with the footprint, the resume of the movements' actions and protests during this period (2000-2010). It records

the results of the movements' cases, what they have achieved in terms of the protection of different open and green spaces. It seeks, also, their results in a broader context, the way they have influenced and altered the public discourse about the commons, the open and green spaces and their importance. The paper is based in the analysis of secondary sources (like the movements' press releases and announcements). Data from interviews with active participants at the movement enrich the findings and enlighten the internal procedures of decision and action making.

Αγορές σκουπιδιών / Agoras of waste. Urban space appropriation in the context of Eleonas' wastepicker markets

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Athens
Eleonas
wastepicker markets
wastepickers
commoning
space appropriation

KEYWORDS

By developing the case study of the wastepicker markets of Eleonas in Athens, this contribution aims at investigating the ways in which urban space appropriation is manifested through trading practices against the background of urban restructuring processes and phenomena of displacement and marginalization. Eviction from principal downtown squares and streets has greatly influenced everyday realities of Athens' wastepickers, while their main trading sites have gradually been moved off-center. The former industrial core of Athens has been subjected in recent decades to urban restructuring processes, marked by investment in large

scale urban redevelopment projects. Narratives of failure and decline, while missing to grasp the living and working realities of Eleonas' users, have supported this transformation. Yet, Eleonas has remained the productive heart of the city, and informalized business activities have become central to the area's functioning. The wastepicker markets that grew and rooted in Eleonas facilitate various expressions of urban space appropriation, with market actors claiming resources such as public space and solid waste to support their livelihoods. I argue that, in the context of Eleonas' urban regeneration projects, these expressions of space appropriation

constitute acts of commoning. This happens as a contestation of imposed plans that are defined by hegemonic understandings of the residual in the city. Wastepickers, as main actors of Eleonas' urban spaces, resist being treated as passive subjects through their actions. In order to elaborate on this topic, extensive on-site empirical research was carried out, while interviews with wastepicker union representatives and informal interactions with Eleonas' actors provide depth to the findings. By highlighting this topic, I aim to amplify the acting subjects' perspectives and realities.

The process of commoning as a guardian of publicness

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commoning
commons
publicness
thresholds

KEYWORDS

“Without common land no social system can survive” (Christofer Alexander)

In the spring of 2020, we witnessed the most rapid change in the intensity of public space use in modern history. We saw images of empty squares and streets worldwide, as hundreds of cities followed the SARS-CoV-2 stay-at-home guidance or rules. In several cases, the use of public space was criminalized, erecting an imaginary wall between public and private. As a result, the society was temporarily deprived of one of its integral features, which is the use of public space. On the other hand, in the context of SARS-CoV-2 restrictions, the mere existence on a square has become an act of activism and an emancipatory experience, highlighting the political aspect of public space. Planning literature critically indicates that the deprivation of public space is a pre-pandemic trend. It was present on top of the “transformation of public space” within neoliberal policies, which was expressed by several keywords like privatisation/

marketization of public space, loss of publicness and of connection to the public sphere/realm, exclusion of users and enclosure of commons. The simple answer to deprivation, i.e. that the state or local authorities ensure the provision and management of public spaces, cannot be taken for granted. In times of austerity measures and limited welfare state power, the level of government control of public resources significantly declines (Foster, 2011). Research on politics for public space, in a broad range of European cities, concludes that inclusive governance for the public space “is a possibility, but apparently only after resorting to resistance, protest and conflict, which has forced the others to listen and take into account the voices that had remained unheard.” (Madanipour et al., 2014, p.134). In other words, public space is contested and needs to be fought for. In this paper, we argue that emerging practices of “commoning” (Gibson-Graham et al., 2016) can offer a response to the deprivation of public space and

to the loss of publicness. Drawing on heterogeneous approaches of commons literature, we highlight the differences between “public” and “common”, the potential of commons as a third path for the provision and management of public space, beyond the old dilemma of public sector vs private initiative, and the transforming potential of commons during the pandemic, through the concept of “threshold spatiality” (Stavrvides, 2016). We conduct an action research (focus groups, events, interviews, questionnaires, participant observation) for the involvement of commons in the planning process of former military camp Karatasiou in Thessaloniki, picking up the torch from previous research (Athanasidou, 2017) which showed how citizen initiatives produced a hybrid landscape that transcends the public-private binary and creates publicness on the site. We conclude on the potential and the limits of commons in protecting and enhancing publicness, as “informal stakeholders” in the planning process.

Terrains Vivants

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public spaces
communal spaces
commons

KEYWORDS

- How do we design public spaces in a condition where the relationship between private and public is not fully resolved and where, to put it schematically, any individual or interpersonal spatial formation seems to thrive, while any spatial formation that should respond to supra-individual frames, usually faces a series of challenges?

- How do we design public spaces, which ease encounters, encourage multiple behaviors, and lead to a reflection on the use and conditioning of the commons?

- How do we design proposals that activate events, that facilitate sharing and exchange, that turn local initiatives into sustainable activities, that highlight an area's identity, and develop and promote its new image?

- What practices and procedures can we use to design and formulate creative proposals and solutions for innovative public spaces and experiences that radically change the ways they address specific categories of users, the ways they "respond" to their needs and desires and to the multiple behaviors associated with them?

- How do we design in such a way that our proposals include both what has already been conceived as well as what has not yet found the channel of its expression, taking into account that human behavior always transcends easy categorizations and representations?

- How do we formulate critical propositions that destabilize the dominant system of hypotheses, assumptions and representations,

related to the production of public space, in which design becomes more relevant to the "here" and the "now"?

We argue that in order to answer these questions, as well as to respond to the multiple and urgent challenges associated with building a new prosperous edifice, architectural thinking and its ability to deal with complex and multi-level problems is the best tool that society has in its hands.

At the conference "Between the Home and the Square - Bridging the Boundaries of Public Space" we will present a series of research proposals which concentrate on the design of "terrains vivants", in which we are seeking alternative ways of shifting from the personal to the collective, from private to public, and from the individual to the communal.

The suburban garden as a personal and collective space in the cinematic construction of dwelling in the Greek urban periphery

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Greek residential suburb
suburban home
cinema

KEYWORDS

When discussing the architecture of the Greek urban periphery, our attention seldom turns to the space literally located between the interior spaces of the home and the public space of the street: the suburban house garden, or, rather, the set of outdoor spaces of the suburban home. Although we call it 'the garden', it is in fact not one, but many, a multiplicity that contains both the personal and the collective, the bordered and the borderless, the familiar and the heavenly. This paper concentrates on the suburban garden in the Greek urban periphery, trying to understand it firstly through its cinematic representations, and the way they have evolved, from the first depictions of the suburbs in the 1950's to more contemporary versions in the 2000's. It offers a composite reading of the cinematic iconography of suburban gardens and the objects, actions and characters associated with them, in order to understand their

imaginary content and highlight the social and cultural relationships that shape these depictions.

In the cinematic construction of dwelling in the Greek urban periphery, the suburban garden stands as the 'other' of interior space. The two set a binary within which the key relations of a home are woven: the inside and the outside, the man-made and the natural, the protected and the exposed, the controlled and the unexpected, the free and the confined, the typical and the atypical, the constant and the variable, the still and the mobile, the collective and the personal, the central and the marginal. The suburban garden may express the economic prowess and social standing of its occupants or the wildness that lurks behind manicured lawns and lion statues. It may be strongly separated from the interior, or its seamless continuation. Initially a mediator between the privacy of the

domestic and the openness of the public, in time the garden is integrated with the private and the protective zone is pushed further out, consolidated onto the vertical surface of the fence. This perimeter border becomes, in turn, a thin film with a materiality that reflects, as a barometer, the relationship of the suburban home with its immediate environment, and the changing position of the suburban garden as a collective and personal space.

These explorations of the suburban garden attempt to relocate the public/ private debate to the scale of the residence, as a discussion on the personal and collective spaces of the home. As the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions –and concerns about similar crises in the future– have brought to the fore the importance of domestic spatial arrangements, urban densities and neighborhood relationships, this discussion offers a new reading of the home in the Greek residential suburb.

Extended Flesh & the blurring of public and private boundaries: A study into the body-space interaction in information technology era through selected works of Diller and Scofidio

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body
privacy
information technology
surveillance
physical/virtual

KEYWORDS

In today's panoptic society, the human body is subjected to constant scrutiny, not only in the public space, but also inside the private sphere of the home. The aim of this paper is to study the interrelation between human body and architectural space in the technological era and the culture of vision. Contrary to Modernism's view of a body-machine, (1) the architects Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio consider the body as a surface susceptible to an excess of meanings. Their purpose is to uncover the social and political connections between body and space and to deal with the situation of the bodies amid change from the machine era to the information era. (2) For the study of the body/space relation, four works of Diller and Scofidio are selected and analyzed, including installations, performance and architectural projects. These works refer to the invasion of the media, such as the television and the camera, into the '80s domestic

space and everyday life, matters of security and control, the culture of gender and the power of image. The emerging issues deal with spatial conventions of the private home, the sociopolitical codes imprinted upon the body regulating its behavior, as well as the surveillance and control politics exerted upon the bodies. By placing the body into a space occupied by those technologies, Diller and Scofidio reveal the increasing presence of the technological impact on the contemporary society. (3) Gradually, the boundaries between public/private, natural/artificial, real/virtual begin to blur. Alongside this analysis, a phenomenological and psychoanalytical approach contributes to the understanding

of the bodily experience and perception of the architectural space. Through the analysis of the projects, the tendency of Diller and Scofidio to push the limits of the established architectural practice is standing out. They prove that architecture has not only to do with buildings, but, mainly, with spatial relations. (4) For Diller and Scofidio, architecture serves as a means of cultural dissection that subverts the spatial ecology of a site for the purposes of revealing wider issues of technology and society. (5) They argue that architecture contributes to the perpetuation of the sociopolitical conventions and the manipulation of the bodies, yet it has the ability to dispute them.

\ (1) E. Diller, R. Scofidio and G. Teyssot, *Flesh: Architectural Probes*, New York, Princeton Architectural Press, 1994, p. 24.

\ (2) A. Marotta, *Diller + Scofidio: Blurred Theater*, 2nd ed., Rome, Edilstampa, 2011, pp. 10-18. Available from: Google Books, (accessed 7 April 2021)

\ (3) R. Hann, 'Blurred Architecture: Duration and performance in the work of Diller Scofidio + Renfro', *Performance Research*, vol. 17, no. 5, 2012, p. 17. Available from: Taylor and Francis Online, (accessed 7 April 2021)

\ (4) Marotta, *Diller + Scofidio*, p. 10.

\ (5) R. Hann, 'Blurred Architecture', p. 15.

Designing a Hybrid 'Hortus Conclusus' for an Urban Block

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hortus conclusus
courtyard
social bonding
cherish nature

KEYWORDS

The present study redefines the 'courtyard' of a home into a 'hybrid hortus conclusus' of an urban block, which is intended to host public and private functions. It refers to the first approach and the second theme addressed by the conference.

In our proposal for the Building Complex of Public Services (former Papafi stables), this courtyard becomes the starting point of urban life. It is a meeting place for the users and the inhabitants of the surrounding blocks, where their experiences and their ages are mixed. It is not simply proposed as a garden for the enjoyment of nature, but as an incubator of daily life and a field for the empowerment of social bonds. It is thus designed as an open 'flexible' neighbourhood, through its integration with the

city's green infrastructure and the combination of social services for all ages, aiming at the quality of public life. The intervention area is proposed as the center of a network of free spaces, that will function as an ecosystem, through which the district Papafi may 'breathe'. The new building is organized around this centre which will gather, accept and diffuse towards different directions.

The program is treated as a linear mass of varying width that evolves around the 'courtyard' for the neighbourhood, while allowing standardization and differentiation, as well as flexibility in adapting to potential requirements. The building mass, which surrounds this hortus conclusus, incorporates the element of surprise and versatility. It combines the traditional

atrium with Jeremy Bentham's panopticon in a perimetrical layout around a reference point with multiple viewing possibilities.

With a unified gesture on the outer boundary, a porous dynamic front is created towards the city, keeping visual continuity and making the building recognizable from different points of approach. The inner boundary of the building, however, tells its own story. It embraces the need to cherish the natural elements, which has become more and more urgent after the COVID-19 pandemic. It welcomes the 'green' and turns into a vibrant versatile facade with extensive transparency directed towards the courtyard, combining multiple functions with the gaze and perception of the "other", as well as with the experience of nature.

Health as a determinant of Urban Planning. Tracing the links in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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urban planning
public health
resilience
information age
"new normal"

KEYWORDS

Urban Planning and Public Health disciplines both trace their roots in the formation of modern western cities and are since, intricately linked. Even though the communication between the fields gradually weakened during the 20th century the Covid-19 pandemic experience highlights the need to re-establish the link. Moreover, it calls for a refocus of spatial design to one of its key historical roles: ensuring and enhancing health levels for the city residents in a broad sense.

This research paper traces and reviews the links between health and urban planning focusing on the post-industrial/information-age city of the developed world. It provides a historical context regarding their relationship and then focuses its

interest in two directions: a) health emergencies that require the development of new knowledge, methods, and design tools towards resilience and b) emerging public health challenges for the long term (such as Cardiovascular Diseases, Hypertension, Diabetes or Obesity-Prevalence) that emerge from gradual shifts in the lifestyle and the habits of the city residents and are related to, and reflected in, the form of the urban environment in a more complex way. Finally, it explores how the health aspect contributes to the making and unmaking of physical or social boundaries within the urban fabric at a human-body, neighborhood, or city level and proposes a research framework regarding those issues from a spatial perspective.

Public space in times of Covid-19: A South European perspective

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public space
Mediterranean cities
Covid-19
spatial practices
planning in a 'state of exception'

KEYWORDS

The impetuous expansion of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020 led to the imposition of draconian restrictions in the use of public space. Giving rise to a complex private-public space dialectic: the home - private space - being both a haven of safety from contracting the disease and the confining prison of imposed isolation; and open urban - public - space reflecting both the salutary moment of (physical) emancipation from the constraints of home incarceration and enemy territory, the lair of a highly aggressive virus. The above is exacerbated in Mediterranean cities of the European South, where, for the clemency of climate and an enhanced communal 'habitus', public urban space is more widely used, the cherished domain of Lefebvrian 'social practices'. The paper aims to identify the specificities of Southern European cities regarding their response to the pandemic,

in terms of spatiotemporal uses of public space, development of ad hoc infrastructures, adoption of novel institutional initiatives and made-to-fit policies. To assess their efficacy, order of success, shortcomings and failures, and compare them with corresponding reactions in other European cities. Given the conditions of unpredictability pertaining to the pandemic's denouement, a rather speculative exercise will be attempted to identify the ways in which Covid-19 experiences and behaviours may have changed perceptions of public space, and by extension planning practices. It would then be possible to surmise the legacy of the pandemic on Mediterranean South European public space, the material and symbolic marks it may have left on it, these, no doubt, also dependent on the different socio-political materialities characterizing various Mediterranean urbanscapes.

Public space of the metropolis beyond the competitiveness rhetoric: Recent trends and some evidence from the regeneration project of the Thessaloniki International Fair

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metropolitan areas
Thessaloniki
public space regeneration
alternative public spaces

KEYWORDS

In a world of rapid urbanization, metropolitan areas constitute arenas of dynamic transformations reflected on the built environment and its interaction with nature's elements in the city. Public space constitutes a key component of the structure and function of these areas that operates at multiple levels, from metropolitan to the neighborhood level. At the same time, the way public space is addressed is being transformed, according to changes in the perception of the role of the city and its built environment. Public space is part of contemporary urban policy that has extended its scope beyond its key task that is to secure quality of life, to promoting urban economic development through enhancing urban competitiveness.

Since the 1990s, following the entrepreneurial turn of urban policy, the pursuit of competitiveness came to be emphasized. Large regeneration projects were carried out in old waterfronts, vacant land, and other types of underutilized public space with the aim of increasing cities' attractiveness

to people and investments. Looking beyond success stories, it is important to recognize that this type of intervention was not without problems, especially regarding public space accessibility and utilization by residents. Since the late 2000s the effects of the economic crisis as well as awareness about environmental degradation and climate change have highlighted the importance of socially and environmentally friendly solutions. The competitiveness approach to public space has been contested and the need for a new paradigm is evident as demonstrated by new terms and trends, such as resilient planning, nature-based solutions, and the initiative of the new European Bauhaus. In some cases, these trends are also criticized in that they might promote elite interests instead of those of the public.

This paper examines the above issues with a focus on the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki and especially the regeneration of the facilities of the city's International Fair. For more than a decade now, remarkable expectations for the creation of a green and cultural metropolitan park in this part of the city center as well as the improvement of residents' access to green open space have been created. On the other hand, the recently approved regeneration project is based on new constructions and new uses that are said to promote economic performance and competitiveness of the International Fair. Thus, questions arise as to the limitations of this type of public space planning as well as the characteristics and prerequisites of an alternative approach to public space.

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ICT as a tool for revitalization of neighborhood space in residential blocks based on experience in development of City Chain platform

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Neighborhood
local initiative
ICT
City Chain

KEYWORDS

In recent years, public space has become more of a communication tool between users. Instead of blank sheets of paper (Lefebvre, 1991), public space has been redesigned in conceptual meaning – communication instead of recreation. The need of the residents led the new concept with a big endeavor of how the planners are going to get everybody involved. If we inspect a neighborhood as a communication platform, we would rather see people's urge to connectivity than a mere physical space waiting to be filled with concrete, greenery and people. One of the goals of this paper is to indicate the possibilities of a renewal of the neighborhood as a result of joint action among the residents. The area of the unknown starts to become when the realization (or maintenance) of the joint initiative is asked for. The methodology of this research is based on a case study of developing a pilot project

– City Chain, a digital platform that aims to connect residents with common goals. The aim is to look at our database and try to see a deficiency in the development of a platform with the hope of better understanding the residents' needs and habits when using an ICT tool. In addition, the platform provides knowledge of useful experience based on how to transform a simple idea into a living concept with a high expected rate of realization. Thus far there have been numerous local initiatives that provided us with valuable knowledge about the importance of involving the users in the process of planning and implementation. The downside of local action is recognized as a lack of consistency with an idea and know-how instruments on how to achieve it. By this means the platform City Chain offers a proof of concept of how ICT could help out in later stages of initiatives through joint action of the residents.

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From divided to inclusive urban landscapes: Spatial investigations between the home and the square in the "newcomers'" ethnoscapes of Prinzenallee Str., Berlin, the Tours Aillaud, Paris and the Michael Voda Str. Athens

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urban resilience
inclusive cities
territorial stigma
landscape democracy
urban integration policies
ethnoscapes
landscape infrastructure

KEYWORDS

Recent decades have brought about an increased focus on spatial interventions as well as urban policies as part of building more inclusive neighborhoods to face multicultural blending in metropolitan regions. Immigration fluxes and the emerging ethnoscapes set the challenge of integration in European metropolises as an important goal for achieving urban resilience. The diverse landscapes and communities from the scale of district to that of public space and even housing, are highlighted as important in the Sustainable Development Goals and in the European Urban Agenda, being the focus of formal urban policy-making, planning and design as well as of informal movements such as tactical urbanism and narrative practices. This contribution investigates three different urban contexts, time snapshots but also approaches of planning inclusiveness, that of the Wedding neighborhood in Berlin, La Defense area in Paris and Agios Panteleimon area in Athens,

based on bibliographical research, empirical recordings and critique on applied strategies. The selected case studies reflect three totally different procedures of dealing with the integration challenge and through their contrasts they reflect the emergence of different ways of forming inclusiveness. Examined upon specific criteria as that of scale, context, land uses and facilities, relation between private and public as well as the spatial connections between the new and old residents, the case studies present a panorama of multiple multicultural districts' evolution in European north and south. The story of the satellite district Tours Aillaud in La Defense deliberates the discourses, the success and failure of visionary social urbanism of late seventies to create a sense of place and belonging for the incoming populations from Maghreb. From the other side, the story of Michael Voda street in Athens articulates the lack of integration policies and urban strategies to manage immigration and refugees' fluxes. It moreover

consists an evidence about the way urban transformations in land values, land uses, urban structures but also new equilibriums arise through the spontaneous intrusion of the new residents. In an in-between case, that of Prinzenallee street in Wedding, Berlin, the emphasis on building the "commons" and shared experiences upon urban space between the locals and the "newcomers", was treated as a social and cultural policy to redefine urbanity. Along with the selected case studies, an amplitude of contemporary questions are commented including the material and immaterial dimensions of urban design, the hidden qualities of inclusive neighborhoods, the power of shared and common spaces, the landscape elements and infrastructure that enforce social co-existence and reinvent the goal of resilient communities, the scope of urban policies in different scales that actually deal with heterogeneity and invest in diversity instead of spatial discriminations and divisions.

Hyperblock: blending the neighborhood's public and private space



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Neighborhood regeneration
Urban resilience
Urban greening
City block
Neighborhood community

KEYWORDS

The beginning of the 21st century is marked by a global rise of socio-economic segregation and environmental challenges in urban centers, which is expected to intensify in the coming decades, affecting urban sustainability and resilience. The widespread phenomena of social exclusion and degradation of the quality of life in the built environment urge to redefine the concept of neighborhood and its morphology removing the long established separation of public and private urban space and blurring the boundaries of interior and exterior space. Especially in the post-pandemic era, the request for well-connected, flexible, inclusive and sufficient public space rises. Urban public space is a key element in the pursuit of resilient, healthy, inclusive, sustainable and just cities. However, there is lack of strategies that can bridge the fragmentation between public and private space and effectively transform the existing urban space.

Responding to this challenge, the present study aims to regenerate urban neighborhood and to enhance the role of public space in the city. Exarcheia district in

Athens is chosen as a case study, since it is a typical example of the Athenian center's different conditions with social diversity, mix of uses and 'soft' boundaries, combining different housing typologies. First, the study examines the concept of community in relation to urban morphology. Then, different urban scales are investigated – from the building and city block to the neighborhood and city scale – so as to identify and transform typical Athenian urban elements: the 'Polykatoikia', the city block and its inner courtyard, the street, the square and the neighborhood. In the scale of the latter, the study refers to the walled city-castle, as opposed to nowadays open and diffused city, and 'merges' the above urban elements into a Hyperblock. Among them, the boundary takes the form of the new hortus conclusus, an enclosed urban vertical garden that acts as a green, thick facade-filter which improves the microclimate, while, at the same time, providing outdoor space in different levels and perimeter aerial route allowing the movement from the ground to the buildings' terraces. The ground level creates a network

\ Lefebvre Henri, *The urban revolution*, University of Minnesota Press, London, 1970

\ Leontidou Lila, *The Mediterranean City in Transition: social change and urban development*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2002

\ Talen Emily, *Neighborhood*, Oxford University press, Chicago, 2018

of public spaces consisting of the interior routes of the Hyperblock, the central square, the interior portico and the inner courtyards of the existing city blocks. Finally, the terrace level is activated with a wide range of uses and activities that promote social ties and provide for the various needs of the neighborhood's community.

As a result, the unification of city blocks into Hyperblock-Neighborhoods not only environmentally upcycles existing urban elements rearranging and repurposing the private and public space of the city but also creates a social unit. In this new city unit, new types and programs of collective housing, housing coops, cohesive communities and new forms of ownership are explored, blending the boundaries of neighborhood's indoors and outdoors and reinventing the local environment's characteristics. Overall, the proposal provides an intervention strategy that can be used by academicians, practitioners and policy makers to regenerate urban environments in order to create climate change resilient, inclusive and just cities.

From the worldwide city to the polykatoikia: Constantinos Doxiadis and the 'Zygos Technical Company'



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antiparochi
polykatoikia
Constantinos A. Doxiadis
world systems
global urbanization

KEYWORDS

In 1962, the internationally renowned planner Constantinos A. Doxiadis (1913-1975) established the real estate development company Zygos S.A with a view to profit from the rapidly growing construction sector. For about a decade, Zygos mostly pursued the construction of polykatoikies in the broader Athens area based on the antiparochi system. Zygos worked in parallel and sometimes in partnership with Doxiadis Associates (DA), an engineering and consulting company with an extraordinary record in housing construction, master planning and large-scale development programs. It was also contemporary with ekistics, the holistic and systemic approach Doxiadis promoted as the science of human settlements and as the means to plan the "inevitable" worldwide city he called Ecumenopolis. This technoscientific vision for world management was based on the

redefinition of the traditional boundaries in the urban continuum however bypassing local differences let alone geopolitical rivalries.

On the other hand, the polykatoikia is a par excellence local "artifact" whose omnipresence transformed radically the Greek city: it established new rules and boundaries in cohabitation, it redefined the relationships between the private and the public. The production, form, functions and way of living of the polykatoikia are intrinsically connected to the socio-political mechanisms that promoted, facilitated, or enabled private housing construction. These were decentralised, informal and self-organised even as it complied with a supportive legislative and fiscal framework in force throughout the first post-war decades. Ironically enough, a set of legislative measures that boosted the use of antiparochi was promoted by Doxiadis himself acting in the

capacity of the Undersecretary and Director-General of Reconstruction (1945-1948) and the Coordinator of the Recovery Program (1948-1950).

This essay looks into a broadly unknown and to date unexplored episode of Constantinos Doxiadis's involvement in housing in this case as an entrepreneur-contractor that differed significantly from the DA development programs. His eventual failure to establish a competitive business model in a market dominated by small scale investments is the starting point to reflect on the complex interactions of architecture and planning with informality and bottom-up urban development models. The clash of Doxiadis's ideas with the idiosyncrasies of the housing construction in Greece open up new perspectives for discussing the adaptability, integration capacity and tolerance of theoretical or actual models of production of space.

MINIMUM DWELLING: RE-IMAGINING THE DOMESTIC SPACE



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New Housing Typologies
Minimum Dwelling
Domestic Space
Public - Private Correlation
Alternative Housing Scenarios

KEYWORDS

The topic of this paper is the various manifestations of the concept of minimum dwelling, as an alternative inhabitation of the contemporary urban landscape.

Financial insecurity, changes in the traditional idea of the family, the new ways of working and the dissemination of immaterial information are only a few of the transformations taking place in the modern era. These transformations lead to a different perception of the domestic space and the requirements of the Home.

The paper explores a selection of radical models of domesticity. The point of departure is the modernist typological example of the minimum dwelling: a reduced version of a family apartment.

Starting with the redefinition of the room as the primary housing unit, through examples like the Co-op interieur (Hannes Meyer, 1962), a housing scenario arises. The proposed scenario is dictated

by the reduction of the personal living space and the shift of all other domestic functions in the collective realm. The research is focusing on the new role of the extended bed (Aristide Antonas, 2019) as a site of action. It is placed at the core of habitation, leading to a radical reinvention of spaces around it. The next scenario revolves around an instant architecture, like the cuschicle (Archigramm, 1964). In this case the dwelling is defined as a flexible protection zone around the neo-nomad, capable of providing a sense of intimacy. Finally, dwelling is reduced to the objects and dispersed in the city. Especially for the Tokyo Nomad Woman (Toyo Ito, 1985), all urban spaces can be actually lived in.

The architectural approach of the proposed dwelling typologies, is not limited to the mere reduction of space. On the contrary, it is a reinvention of our very way of living, in conjunction with the

public space. The key elements of dwelling scenarios and the notion of the minimum are pointed out in each case. Ultimately, these radical examples attempt to redefine the concept of the minimum, in order to imagine an alternative narrative for the domestic space.

Eventually, while the domestic space is constantly "shrinking", (through the lens of the minimum dwelling), it is, at the same time "expanding". This is made possible by renegotiating habitation itself and its relation to the private, the public and the collective sphere. Domesticity is introduced in the public realm and vice versa. The typical dualities of the city; private-public, interior-exterior, home-work, material-immaterial, are being subdued to an interchanging process that weakens them, forming new spaces and relations. These transformations make evident the need for new housing typologies, thus constituting the talk about minimum dwellings relevant again.

The Public is the Private; The Private is the Public: The Complex Public-Private Negotiations in Conditions of Urban Hyperdensity Under the COVID-19 Pandemic



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Hyperdensity
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Hong Kong

KEYWORDS

In Hong Kong, the second densest city in the world, profitability is prioritised over the liveability of its inhabitants (United Nations, 2019). In correspondence to the immense maximisation of profits in the property market, 'space' is considered as economic commodity that exists as an intensive proliferation of limited size and hybrids for collective habitations. Focusing on the Sham Shui Po district, a low-income neighbourhood of Hong Kong, the hyperdense condition accommodates the heterogeneous potentialities of the neighbourhood, while at the same time situates a diversity of compact typologies such as subdivided units and 'cage home'. In this context, the notion of 'home' has been reduced to a compact room or even an individual 'bed space'. Linked to the notion of home, this setting provides affordable dwelling options with

shared facilities, minimising the capacities of practices associated with conventional 'home'. The problem expands as individual and collective practices are dispositioned and externalised in urban public spaces, which remains as a tactical response for spatial compression. Moreover, coupled to the COVID-19 pandemic, this calls for a critical reflection of new types of emergent actions operating between the boundaries of the public and the private, that contradict both the externalisation of use and the internalisation of the city in one single spatial entity.

This paper will examine how the series of temporal privatisations constitutes the 'public' in hyperdense condition that negotiates the spaces of the city and home. As such, we aim to suggest an approach wherein the public and private is read beyond an issue of physical accessibility

and as such explicate a tactical approach in understanding 'private-public' as a merged condition that exists as ceaseless negotiations. Utilising findings from an empirical and mapped study in the Sham Shui Po district of Hong Kong, the paper will highlight the negotiated process, wherein the 'private sphere' has been reduced to the individual scale of both hyperdensity and the COVID-19 pandemic. Methodologically, a comparison of tactical responses will annotate spatial compression, demonstrating pre and post adoption required by COVID-19's distancing measures and the delineation of new boundaries as complex folds of a public-private landscape. Conclusions will be drawn on the novelty of public-private tactics, moving beyond the dichotomous understandings of the public continuously set against the private and other forms of privatisation.

Public health in crisis: Rethinking spaces of health and care amidst ongoing urban crises



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Urban Crisis
Public Health
austerity
care

KEYWORDS

Scholarship on urban crisis isn't new. Often framed in economic terms and focusing on social inequality and environment, studies on urban crisis tend to leave out other crisis forms, particularly health crises. While the global Covid 19 Pandemic has brought this gap in into stark clarity, critical urban scholars have focused on the politics of public health and past pandemic urbanisms and there is much to learn by considering the rich, though often unconnected scholarship in this vein (Pierce et al 2011, Brown 2009, Ali & Keil 2011). Drawing on research in Athens, Budapest, and Manchester, I analyze how urban public health programs in European cities have been affected by austerity crisis and the ways in which communities have shown resistance to changes in care. In doing so, I seek to bring a critical spatial perspective to

the politics of public health policy making. Bringing together work on austerity urbanism, and policy mobilities, this paper seeks to understand how landscapes of urban public health are important public sites for 'everyday proper politics' to unfold (Temenos 2017). Conceptualizing the city through spaces of urban public health brings into focus alternative forms of resistance and understandings of the political within urban politics. And the emphasis on relational urbanism within policy mobilities seeks to balance both the global and local, as well as structural and social processes that effect and are affected by

the negotiation of tensions within mobile and local urban policies, bringing a study of local politics into conversation with broader political economic analysis to draw out the nuances, mediations, and resistance to, neoliberal logics. In doing so, I propose that there is a need to rethink the concept of urban crisis through the lens of public health. Such a turn will allow a focus on the public nature of health crises, the details of which are often considered private (and therefore individualized at the scale of the home or family), in order to trouble traditional binaries of health policy as public and spaces if care as private.

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Women claiming public realm in the Mediterranean basin



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public realm
social inclusion
Mediterranean areas
activists
urban design

KEYWORDS

Public space is changing, according to the public life change: the transition of both the city's material (stones) and immaterial (life experiences) dimensions is affecting the cultural expectations and requirements of the public realm (Madanipour, 2003; Watson, 2006). In this framework, the paper aims at discussing the urban design thinking for more inclusive and cohesive public realms from the women activists' perspectives, highlighting the bilateral knowledge transfer between research and practice.

In Mediterranean Italy, currently interested by relevant immigration flows, especially from sub-Saharan Africa, a new public realm is emerging. Made of intercultural and intergenerational contexts,

contacts, and conflicts, it claims for spaces of interaction and new forms of public life: more inclusive, caring, safer and focused on the coexistence of (social, cultural, generational) diversity in space.

Moreover, some of these contexts have been compromised by criminal organizations affecting the public realm by illegally seizing commons and public goods. Recently, some initiatives of reappropriation of these goods have taken place, almost promoted by women, in a new form of 'social protagonism' (as it is called in the Global South: Cox, 2018). These actions reclaim common goods as places of social inclusion, local empowerment, civic activation, also through cultural initiatives and performative arts,

that 'expand the public space in the city in both the physical and the political sense' (Hambleton, 2015: 109). These experiences, situated on the borderline between the social and the spatial city, have in common narratives of a marked reaction to urban decay addressed towards the reappropriation of the urban space and characterized by expressions of the physical sphere.

Under this viewpoint of 'peaceful guerrilla', the paper presents fieldworks in which social protagonism initially promoted by women offers a multifaceted and complex public realm interpretation in urban contexts of the Mediterranean basin, by invading and reclaiming public spaces with their performances.

Planning with care/ planning for care



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gender planning
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KEYWORDS

We are living in times of crisis: the environmental – climatic one, and the pandemic one. These crises are linked to one another but are perceived in a different way. In particular the pandemic one affected the daily lives of almost the totality of mankind. The climatic one appears to be more dangerous than the COVID 19 because its effects are expected to last for a longer time and to be more irreversible.

For these reason new paradigms of planning are needed: figuratively and physically cities should be built around new spaces for everyday lives, for relationships, for communities. This kind of themes have been marginalized as “minors” by most of the plans and urban project mainstream (conceived as technical, a-political and neutral), even if a there is an important tradition of theories and fruitful practices (De Carlo, 2013; Geddes, 1915; Sandercock, 1998; among others). These are projects and plans interactive, relational, that create spaces that

can be changed, adapted, handled for the needs and desires of the different urban populations.

A recover and innovation of these kind of methods, tools and practices appears a key point to win the contemporary challenges.

More in detail, public spaces in transformative terms are to be designed: they have to be safe, welcoming and well distributed to foster relationships of proximity (Care Collective, 2021). Spaces where to put in common the care activities (Federici, 2018) are to be studied and carefully designed. In this framework houses and housing policies are to be debated, both in terms of means of fighting against violence against women (Belingardi, 2019) and in terms of different ways of inhabiting (Co-housing as the first example). Also, we have to plan the city as a whole in a different way: it has to be a welcoming, enabling city.

For achieving this, we need to develop or re-discover new tools and methods. These methods

have to be based on care, on the awareness of local context and conditions, on the importance of relationships and the practices of listening and on “starting from one’s own”. These are borrowed from feminist practices, but are expected to improve the quality of urban life in general.

Methods and tools should be learned during the university years. For this reason, the paper aims to describe a specialization course (with the long term objective of incorporate it as a curricular discipline in the normal graduation courses).

The paper is structured as follow: the first part starts from the framework of the actuality of cities to show how they are no more useful, especially in the light of the crisis delineated. The second part describes the new paradigms and which city could emerge. The third part delineates the principal contents and methods of the course. The conclusions describe the next steps that have to be taken.

'Activated' Neighborhoods – Bridging the Boundaries of Public and Private Life in Cities?



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neighborhood
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community-based policy program
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social innovation

KEYWORDS

The neighborhood as socio-spatial entity is increasingly used by city authorities and policy makers as a strategic instrument to address issues of coexistence, interaction, and exchange among different social groups. On a conceptual level, the neighborhood can be understood as social realm that embraces the private and public spheres, hence unravels the public–private dichotomy (Lofland 1998). Such spaces of everyday life in the immediate living environment, where publicness and privacy intertwine, indeed challenge the dualistic notion of private and public life in cities. In particular feminist activists and scholars have pointed to the powerful separation of the public and the private, and addressed the hierarchical dualism that accompanies it. From a feminist perspective, this means to not only problematize the binary, but to understand it as a political construct, which includes the reflection on why something is made 'private' in the first place (Bargetz 2016: 84).

The concept of neighborhood has been incorporated into community-based policy programs in many European cities with the aim of 'activating' communities at the local level and engaging them in decision- and place-making

processes (Reutlinger et al. 2015: 11). Such programs are expected to tackle complex social challenges: from segregation, marginalization, poverty, social isolation to the lack or uneven quality of life of urban dwellers (ibid.). Associated with this is a predominantly positive connotation of the neighborhood, understanding neighborhoods as essential spaces for social integration, participation, caring relations, learning, and exchange. Such idealized and romanticized assumptions, however, tend to neglect conflictual issues. The neighborhood is also often a space of exclusion, conflict, shame, and societal division. Furthermore, critics have pointed to neoliberal forms of instrumentalizing neighborhood communities through 'the activation' of local resources, often driven by the financial aim of substituting state-provided resources and public services with voluntary work (van Dyk 2018).

By drawing on empirical research conducted in Vienna in 2020, we seek to critically address the 'public–private boundaries' of

neighborhoods. We analyze the community-based social policy program Soziale Innovationen Wien, which has funded a selection of projects that aim to create 'real' spaces of encounter and mitigate inequality and conflict at the local level. The conducted study of a selection of projects reveals that for many urban dwellers, the neighborhood is the socio-spatial reference point for a variety of social problems as well as hopes for societal transformation. Our analysis illustrates how local actors receive the opportunity to promote their ideals of coexistence, and shows the challenges and limitations that arise. In our conference contribution, we ask what practices typically considered private have been collectivized in the public realm of the neighborhood, and what perceptions of certain 'private' activities are thus made 'public.' We are interested in how 'activated' neighborhoods are translated into urban planning schemes, how they relate to public space, and to what extent they bear transformative potential for the social fabric of the neighborhood and beyond.

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The City and the House: Experiences and Representations of Everyday Life

The City and the House: Experiences and Representations of Everyday Life



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public-private
boundary
architectural ethnography
pedagogy
experience
representation of space

KEYWORDS

The functionalist antinomy between public and private has been a major principle of not only embedding socio-spatial boundaries in urban fabric, but also constructing different domains of everyday life.

While allowing for urban space to be commodified, it has also instituted the modernist order of power relations and social hierarchies. Giambattista Nolli's influential mid-18th-century plan of Rome clearly displays a distinction between the light shade of spaces, which can be publicly perceived, accessed and scrutinized; and dark shaded blocks of private enclosed spaces, which are kept out of the public eye. The properties of the public-private boundaries have thus become a reference point of political, social and economic contestations and daily negotiations. The transgression of these boundaries has been one of the main preoccupation of the feminist thought and praxis, bringing to light invisible and seemingly particular struggles within the private domain and articulating them as a matter of public concern. Our contribution shifts the focus to the pedagogical dimension of experiencing and

drawing boundaries between public and private spaces in the city. Our position is that education in the field of architecture and planning rarely empirically engages with the nature and permeability of these boundaries, beyond theoretical considerations as regards the shaping of political subjects. Within the module "The City and the House" we invited Master's students to join us in an explorative research of selected urban areas, challenging them to direct their research towards the structures and spaces which generally allow for little insight. Taking Momoyo Kaijima, Laurent Stalder and Yu Iseki's architectural ethnography as a point of departure, within the course we gradually introduced selected ethnographic methods, including *derivé*, observation, mapping with visual representation and interview.

Students applied these methods to carry out micro-studies at selected locations. By drawing on affect theories we raised students' awareness about own position within the research field, as well as ethical dimensions of documenting and analysing experiences and events. The goal of these micro-

studies was to reflect on both, those dimensions of space that are - and can be - made visible through either (visual) representations or embodied experiences; and those dimensions that are and remain invisible. Some of the questions that have been touched upon were: What did present itself immediately in a certain space?

What spaces were easily accessible for research, and what could be researched with effort? What mental and physical boundaries did students encounter and what boundaries did they decide to go across?

How did they translate their experiences and insights into representations of space? Based on the students' work, we will reconceptualise the relationship between the house and the city, by discussing the extent to which the students were prepared to, could and achieved to research the nature and permeability of boundaries in space, thus either replicating or challenging a general perception that the visible and presented dimensions constitute the city, while the invisible and unrepresented make the house.

A critical analysis of temporary and tactical urbanism interventions

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temporary uses
tactical urbanism
neoliberalism
city governance
urban austerity
urban development and revitalization
urban planning
public space
appropriation governance

KEYWORDS

This paper aims to reflect on “temporarism” as a notion introduced to the urban planning and urban development practices during the past two decades, as well as try to respond to the question already set in 2014 by Neil Brenner “Is “Tactical Urbanism” an alternative to Neoliberal Urbanism?”.

Informed by the temporary use and urban austerity literature alongside with the analysis of tactical urbanism practices the paper aims to develop an understanding on how the phenomenon has developed, progressed and how has been transformed into a tool of urban revitalization and urban innovation in the time of neoliberal urban austerity in the hands of many city planners, urban policy makers and city leaders.

Initially, introduced as a counter-culture gesture of reappropriation of urban landscapes, “tactical urbanism interventions” aimed to challenge the official planning and stretch the boundaries between the private and the public sphere. Such interventions developed in neighbourhoods and spaces of the everyday, mostly in the USA, by hybrid teams constituted

by inhabitants, urban activists, artists, and urban experts, who were promoting the informal, quick, cost-effective, inclusive revitalization of the neglected urban neighbourhood spaces “from below”.

Eventually, “tactical urbanism” and many of its practices were integrated in the urban policies across the globe, transforming the tactic into a less inclusive and of a less radical interpretation of the right to the city (Alisandri, 2014) promoting the “extraordinary” on the other side of the “ordinary” forms of temporary uses in the core centers of the cities (Martin, M.et al., 2020) bringing up more dichotomies in the appropriation of the public space by celebrating the spectacular place-making and lifting up the consumption-based appropriation of the common space.

The critical analysis revealed a tendency of appropriation of the language and the tactics of the “Commons” and other urban thinkers and urban movements such as Situationists, the “Reclaim the Streets” and “Occupy”, movements. While, during the COVID-19, while emerging practices such as “Open Streets” and “Play Streets” were

silenced across the globe, temporary interventions the so-called COVID alleys were introduced out of sudden changing the cityscapes.

Finally, the paper by focusing on the case of Athens (Greece) “The big walk” as well as other interventions through the programme ‘Adopt your city’ were introduced while the gathering in public spaces was strictly monitored or even prohibited tries to put into discussion new typologies of emerging practices as well as present its counter actions which occurred targeting to bridge the boundaries, negotiate the ownership and lift up the limits of the public space production.

The contribution of the paper lies in the adoption of a critical analysis of the phenomenon based on a research of the practices, their counter forces and its interrelation with other disciplines and dynamics such as urban austerity policies and urban governance and planning, that goes beyond the approach of examining only the practices as one dimensional emerging act, but put them under the lens as an ecosystem of competing forces that fuel the urban space production and the everyday living.

Between general public and strictly private; the case of Neighborhood Rooms project

“Neighborhood Rooms” is a network of three, operationally interconnected, public community spaces for creativity in various neighborhoods of Thessaloniki. The project aims to bring people in various neighborhoods together for Do-It-Together activities, enhancing community building, life-long learning, “making literacy” and building of trust to the public domain.

Neighborhood Rooms is a joint effort by the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the non-profit organization PERA that is responsible for the project design and implementation, and the Centre for Business and Cultural Development. The exclusive donor is Stavros Niarchos Foundation through a donation to the municipality.

According to the data gathered by the Resilient Thessaloniki project, Thessaloniki citizens felt that there is lack of public infrastructure on a local, neighborhood level. Interestingly, there are a lot of public spaces that remain underutilized, and many public buildings that are unused.

Approaching such a challenging and complex condition the project goal has been to shape new dynamics by

creating the space and conditions for existing system elements to interact; thus creating emergence to optimize the whole system of the city to be more resilient.

There is a spectrum between general public and private spaces. “Neighborhood rooms”, as the name implies, is a hybrid space, operating at a local neighborhood level, acting as a mediator between private space and general public space.

Neighborhood rooms are located inside previously underutilized or unutilized public buildings, and are designed through a user-centric ever-changing approach; embracing the idea that there is no generic public, but rather very specific sum of publics (plural) that occupies them. This way overdesign has been avoided, allowing for its users to customize both space use and program operation as needed.

Since 2018 when the project started, the program counts thousands Neighborhood Room member visits from various social, economic and cultural backgrounds, that gained trust with their neighbors through familiarizing themselves with both low- tech and high – tech activities empowering their communities.

A lot of the users feel free to leave their personal belongings (including sewing machines, various tools, personal cups etc) in the space both for their personal use next time they visit, and for the use of others. The urban garden in Toumpa, where neighbors have adopted their own plants and have been growing vegetables, has been a marvelous example as well; vegetables are usually shared among users.

The same attitude shapes the operational schedule of the spaces; more than half of the activities, workshops, events and discussions are organized by the neighborhood for the neighborhood. These characteristics of intimacy and appropriation, usually found in private spaces, are apparent in the public space of Neighborhood Rooms.

Paraphrasing Denise Scott Brown *, design cannot make people meet, but it can remove the barriers to meeting. Neighborhood Rooms is an example of how less intrusive design may create intimacy, build trust and create a sense of ownership of public space.

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social innovation
bridging public and private
neighborhood

KEYWORDS

The socio-spatial configuration of tactical urbanism: re-visiting the Superblock programme in Barcelona's public space

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Tactical urbanism
public space
situated knowledge
community inclusion
Barcelona Superblock

KEYWORDS

Since 2015 the municipal Superblock programme has been implemented in Barcelona's public space with the aim to find strategies to combat the climate change emergency and to give priority to pedestrians against the high traffic density of private vehicles. The recent pandemic measures in the use of public space have quickly motivated a progressive increase in temporary and informal interventions to recover green hubs, streets and squares at city crossroads. As a consequence, a controversial debate has arisen to review and rethink the spatial appropriateness of the so-called tactical urbanism promoted by Barcelona City Council, where the majority of the media have given voice to

urban designers and theoretical academicians of the city. Within this context, the paper broadens the scope of the debate to the social sphere as a main protagonist to make room for a more diverse and inclusive way of shaping the city.

The purpose is three-fold: first, to facilitate the emergence of situated knowledge. Second, to connect emerging social processes with the spatial configuration of tactical urbanism to explore to what extent they can influence and impact each other. Third, to analyse the potential of tactical urbanism as an opportunity for community inclusion and social transformation.

Methodologically, the paper examines the positioning and

contributions of a series of Barcelona's civic organizations involved in the right to the city. They are selected regarding an intersectional perspective and their level of experience in spatial justice, place-making and the humanisation of the use of streets in specific neighborhoods where tactical urbanism has been implemented. Through guided interviews the diagnosis is complemented by the conceptual constructs of vulnerability, resistance and ephemeral condition. As a result the paper sets out a comparative discussion to summarise and assess emerging and dominant themes, paradoxes and challenges to inform future public urban policies.

“Unplanning” the Public Space: The curious case of an accidentally pedestrianised road in Mumbai

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public space
right to the city
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urban commons
planning
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COVID-19

KEYWORDS

In a space-starved city like Mumbai, it took an extraordinary natural calamity for people to be able to reclaim urban space. A landslide during the torrential rains of August 2020 damaged an arterial road and destroyed a retaining wall in the residential neighbourhood of Malabar Hill. What it also did was transform a road choked with traffic into a vibrant, car-free, pedestrianised public space full of new and reimagined possibilities of recreation, leisure, and community. This paper explores these new possibilities on two fronts: an ethnographic analysis of the social relations unfolding over class and gender lines produced by and reflected in this organically-created public space, as well as a spatio-temporal analysis of the factors that bolster this reimagination in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The paper begins with investigating the stratification of class and gender in the usage, access to, and navigation of the public space. These findings are rooted in the temporal before-after of the road's usage, specifically in the context of the COVID-19 lockdown which has restricted access to other public spaces such as parks and promenades. Finally, the novel

potential of “unplanning” in this spontaneous public space is unpacked by comparing it with other planned pedestrianisation initiatives and “car-free” roads in Mumbai.

The paper approaches these questions anthropologically by thinking through the rich scholarship on social relations and public spaces in urban studies—the research is based on the conceptualisation of space as a social product that masks the contradictions of its production (Lefebvre, 1991); as well as space as contingent on who inhabits it, offering the possibility of social and political relationships among a multiplicity of people (Massey, 2005). Space in Mumbai, in a trait unique to Global South cities, is in a state of constant tension with the formal logics of property, plan, and law (Caldeira, 2017). Thus, through its findings, the paper brings out the “spectacle” and precarity of Mumbai's contested urban public spaces (Anjaria, 2012; Appadurai, 2002; Harris, 2012).

Drawing on de Certeau's (1984) theory of lived space where the act of walking creates and represents public space rather than being subject to it, this paper employs a semi-autoethnographic methodology that incorporates the practice of walking as and into research. This framework includes traditional fieldwork methods of ethnographic observations, interviews, photography, and secondary research combined with documenting my personal experience of walking in the field.

Thus, this paper interrogates access to and usage of urban public spaces through an intimate lens that is firmly embedded in the context of right to the city in the Global South. It concludes with policy recommendations for the realisation of these intangible public goods by reflecting on how spaces of leisure, recreation, and community can be created by “unplanning” and proposing that similar “unplanned” spots in the city are identified, supported, and preserved.

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ParticiPLAY - a participatory designed playing area in the public spaces of Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon

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participation
public space
children
socially deprived municipality
Lebanon

KEYWORDS

In 2020 the most powerful non-nuclear explosion in human history devastated Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. Adding to the Covid-19 pandemic and the socio-economic and political tensions, the country is nowadays immersed in a complex and multi-faceted emergency situation. Therefore, most non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Lebanon are working with the reconstruction of the built environment after the blast. In this process, the voices of children are often overheard, their needs and dreams are not taken into consideration by ongoing development programs. Neighbouring municipalities of Beirut are independently facing a disastrous situation.

One of the most socially deprived municipalities, is Bourj Hammoud, densely built with a lack of public and open spaces, where cars are valued higher than pedestrian access.

To grasp the context in times of a global pandemic we conducted interviews with a multitude of stakeholders. Starting with a broad perspective through our direct student environment at Chalmers University of Technology

and international educational partners. Then expanding to worldwide working professionals and finally reaching contextual entities. We understood that children were underrepresented in the development of the outdoor environment. Furthermore, local collaborators have expressed difficulties with determining the ownership of land and reaching out to municipal -and governmental representatives to pursue a change. Despite this, social life still takes place on the streets; people are bringing out chairs to the sidewalks to have a coffee and children are playing in the narrow backstreets. This is the informal public space of Bourj Hammoud.

The aim of the study is to give the children a voice in urban development processes and to bring safe public spaces to the children who do not have the means to get themselves to public spaces. By taking away one car parking spot and replacing it with an area where children can play outdoors with no fear of traffic, we explored what impact it does for the community and the quality of urban space.

Throughout a participatory design process 38 children from the

Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut, in the ages 5-11, were involved in collaborative workshops. Together, a small-scale intervention was developed to be implemented anywhere along the streets of Bourj Hammoud. The children's needs and wishes for their outdoor environment were communicated through drawings and interviews. With the help of experts in child perspectives and working with children in disaster, the drawings were analysed, and a design proposal for the prototype project "ParticiPLAY" was developed within the boundaries of a parking spot. The proposal was revised by the children and finalised in planning using local materials. The built outcome is a full-scale prototype constructed and implemented during the summer of 2021, in collaboration with the children and the community. Leading to a reformulation of the proposal, with the ambition to create further public, safe spaces accessible for children close to their home. The project is meant to become a catalyst for future initiatives dealing with outdoor environment and streetscapes, by showing the possibilities of "sacrificing" one parking spot for the greater good.

Participatory design with school students for the improvement of public space during the COVID-19 era

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Participatory design workshops
Regeneration
Schoolyards
Community Building
Digital tools

KEYWORDS

Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. is a project of local and supra-local significance, through which water becomes the means of cultural heritage, aiming for the re-utilization of water in the city. An innovative project funded by UIA employs Hadrian Aqueduct as a vehicle to reveal the local cultural capital, tangible and intangible heritage of Halandri through water networks. At the same time, the revitalization of communities through participatory processes operates as an innovative way to re-introduce a novel monument of high cultural and natural significance. Community Building familiarizes inhabitants with co-governance and decision-making processes, promotes solidarity economy, and boosts endogenous growth in the local economy.

This paper seeks to contribute to the methodology and toolkit used to re-design public spaces through engaging practices shared with school students. Participatory design workshops are based on a democratic logic of citizen participation in the design of public space and decision-making that concerns their lives. It is a method that aims at the actual contribution of the school students of Halandri in the configuration

of the space intended for them, with multiple benefits for the members of the school community and the broader neighborhood. Commonsapce Co-op invented new ways of involving students in public space design through workshops while they re-approach the public space regarding the daily uses and propose designs that meet their needs.

Participatory design workshops with students include the following methodological steps:

- Communication, coordination, and data collection (capacity building)
- Spatial analysis
- Formation of ideas/proposals
- Formulation of a final proposal

Following all protection measures against COVID-19, most meetings with students take place through the Webex platform. The team of Commonsapce Co-op adapted the methodology of participatory processes in remote workshops. It included some digital collaboration tools (padlet, google forms, miro, jam board), through which participants have the opportunity to collaborate and co-design through their computer or mobile.

At the same time, in each school, the process is formulated to keep pace with the age, the number of participants, and the school's location concerning the intervention areas.

Indicatively, the 4th High School of Halandri participated in a "game" of identifying the area, co-designed an online questionnaire, and did their personal "autopsy" in the area, revealing points of interest and favorite habits. They contributed fruitfully to the regeneration of Kodrou Street, the configuration of living areas and plantings inside the courtyard of their school, irrigated in the future by the water of Hadrian's Aqueduct.

Through an online questionnaire and "tree of ideas", the students of 6th Middle school exchanged their knowledge and experiences about Hadrian and recorded positive, negative comments and ideas for improving the yard and the neighboring Gyftopoulou Street. In May 2021, we conducted face-to-face Participatory Design workshops at 12th Primary school to create a plan and a model for a tank that will be placed in the school's neighborhood and water the plants with water from Hadrian's Aqueduct.

Survival practices for invisible bodies. Reconsidering unorthodox research about homelessness

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During last years homeless' situation worsened in all EU Member States except Finland. Due attention to this issue isn't effectively paid by public institutions, because it's still considered as a problem for society (instead of a social problem to be managed and solved). Third sector organizations like charities or voluntary associations often try to face with emergencies, but this is not enough at all to contrast a phenomenon that is rapidly growing especially in metropolitan areas. 'People in the streets', which aren't a homogeneous group and don't want to be seen in that way, are usually described by medical/pathological approaches and considered as a threat for public order. Epidemiological lenses have emphasized risk factors, especially identifying constellations of problematic attitudes of the individuals but neglecting spatial practices and mechanisms of reproduction of urban marginalities (due also to 'hostile' architecture). On the other side, combining ethnographic way of research and geographic pattern, unorthodox literature is showing relevant aspects of the phenomenon, widely perceived as a

sudden rupture of the order of the city (Langegger-Koester 2016). A huge contradiction emerges from analyses that do not use parsimony in representations of space linked to homeless' conditions. Public sphere should be (and is) the real and only place in which they can (and want at last) live, but continuously they are removed or even cancelled trying to leave those spaces in the pristine way. This happens because streets and public spaces must be devoted to different purposes (urban decorum, homogeneous sociality, commercial consumptions) that do not appear compatible with the status of deprived people without means and affordable housing resources. Public spaces aren't made for exhibition of vulnerable and defiant persons, which looks like a sort of explanation of the 'unheimlich' concept (McCarthy 2018). So homeless people (traditionally

coming from abroad: which means cumulative stigma) are really forced into constant motion, even if they have nowhere to go: they don't own a home, but dramatically seem not to have any right to space. This has led to paradoxical outcomes in the middle of pandemic emergency: in the period of hardest explosion of Covid-19, meanwhile public authorities declared a total lockdown and welfare schemes were unreasonably challenged by medical needs, some Italian NGOs launched a campaign called *Vorrei restare a casa* ("I would like to stay at home") to raise public awareness about homelessness.

The paper attempts to link problematic evidence of this phenomenon with unusual approaches of international scientific literature, trying by this way to suggest new ways of intervention in this domain.

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Homelessness
Public sphere
Urban spaces

KEYWORDS

Shifting perspectives: A conceptual democratic (re)reading of the uses and experiences of the homeless in public space

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Public space
Homelessness
spatial practices
relational experiences
democracy

KEYWORDS

Homelessness in its various forms presents a complex phenomenon studied by different scholars in different disciplines, some of who focus on the different causes of homelessness, the different state and civil responses to homelessness, and the different ways of conceptualising and defining the concept in different contexts. Unsurprisingly, what remains common in these different studies is the attention to the exclusion, disempowerment and marginalisation of these groups of people. This is particularly witnessed in the use of defensive and exclusionary architecture, by-laws, surveillance, privatisation and in some instances, criminalisation of homelessness. However, relatively little attention is paid to the different practices and relational experiences of homeless people in public spaces and the conceptual meaning of these for broader democratic discourses.

Drawing on Henri Lefebvre's theory of space production and his concepts of space (1991), the paper explores everyday lived experiences and activities of homeless people in public spaces in the City of Tshwane, South Africa, and the conceptual meaning of these for broader democratic discourses. Through observations, semi structured interviews and focus group sessions with municipal officials and homeless people, the paper reveals the different ways in which the homeless (re) produce and (re)member public space through their practices and experiences in space, sometimes in direct conflict and contestation with municipal planning conceptions. Accordingly, this paper seeks to humanise the activities, uses and interactions by homeless people observed in public space, thus introducing the conceptual meaning behind their practices and relational experiences. Following Lefebvre,

the concept of public space is thus addressed in its physical, mental and symbolic capacity, thereby focusing attention on (1) the physical presence and actions of the homeless, (2) the mental conceptions of space carried by municipal officials and the homeless, and (3) the symbolic meanings of these as crucial elements in understanding broader societal democratic actions that define, humanise, and (re)member public space. The overall argument in this paper is that public spaces are not secure and unwavering geographies, but rather, they are places where conceptual democratic meanings and actions are constantly (re) produced through spatial practices and psychological appropriation of space, even by the homeless.

Mooring in the Homeless City. A Practice Theoretical Account of Homeless Urban Dwelling and Emplacement

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homelessness
mooring
public space
exclusion
theories of practice

KEYWORDS

Taking a practice theoretical approach and building on the research conducted with a group of people who live their lives on the streets of two Polish cities, this paper provides an account of the homeless city dwellers' mode of emplacement. It offers the terms 'licensed', 'invisible', 'motile', 'material', 'relational', 'affective', and 'ad hoc mooring' to describe the ways in which homeless people establish a place of and for various activities that make up their everyday practices of inhabiting the city, despite various attempts to eradicate, or at

least control, their spatiality. While highlighting the accomplishments of homeless places, the paper also underscores their tentativeness and instability. It situates homeless mode of emplacement within wider landscape of normative geographies of shared, nominally public, spaces, against which the ways homeless people establish themselves in place are often judged out-of-place. It attends to the role that this transgressive potential plays in limiting homeless dwellers' capabilities for mooring and considers how they might be enhanced.

Geometry of power, informal governance in the region of Elaionas in Attica

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Elaionas, informality
power geometries
street vendors
infrastructures

KEYWORDS

The temporary use of privately-owned, empty ex-industrial spaces and their co-related public streets by the street vendors in Elaionas region, reveals a non-obvious negotiation fields where access to space is provided to those who are otherwise unable to obtain it. This paper critically examine the making use of unproductive and empty spaces from below, during shifting urban redevelopment policies, from above.

The character of the broader area of Elaionas region seems to be indeterminate and trapped between its agricultural and industrial past and its present as a place of deposit of various and often undesirable functions of the city. The refugee camp, residential enclave and temporary activities coexist and are intertwined, shaping the face of the area.

Agias Annis Street together with its intersections, in the Elaionas region in Attica, is a noisy passage for the trucks that cross it every day and serves trans-local transportation. However, every weekend a transformation occurs. The usually vacant metro

station of Elaionas becomes fully crowded by people from all over Attica that come to visit the so-called "scavenger flea market". Essential supplies, vegetables and collectible items are sold and bought at bargain prices. The road and the sidewalks of Agias Annis street, as well as fenced private areas of former transportation companies, are opened and occupied by street vendors that exhibit their merchandise on rags. In recent years, this activity has been interrupted a few times by targeted police operations as a response to trafficking of non taxed goods. The last serious blow was the Covid-19 pandemic since the bazaar ceased its operation during the quarantine period as it was considered as a "public health threat".

On behalf of the state authorities, the same area of Agias Annis street and Polykarpou section was subjected to a planning process that never paid off. Contradictory narratives such as the "backyard of the city" or "opportunity of the city" referring to the center of Athens represent the formal intentions of urban design to address potential interest of the stakeholders.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and amid the second curfew, local governor officially announced that the area will be the center of a "double regeneration" of pharaonic proportions that will occur simultaneously in two areas of the city. The peculiarity of this urban design lies in the process of transportation and rebuild of a football field, that is now based in Alexandras avenue, in the flea market area.

In this landscape, indications of competition in a non-direct field of conflict in the public space between street vendors and the authorities implies that the study of this example serves a dual purpose.

The main purpose of this study is to explore the diverse roles of informal negotiations in different situations, as well as the possibility or not to co-shape space and policymaking, through empirical observations. Furthermore, it will be presented how power relations are interconnected with material and informal infrastructures that constitute a form of resistance from below.

A Lockdown effect in Informal Housing market of Mumbai: A conflict between a lack of space inside a home and cut off from public spaces outside in community

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This paper delineates the spatiality inside houses of the informal housing market of Mumbai. It draws a relationship between a space inside a house and outside. It talks about how due to an insufficient space within a house family member of the informal housing of Mumbai seek space outside a house to socialize. These spaces outside a house of an informal housing spin a web of relations for its occupants to socialize and it binds them together in it. That's why an informal housing is a different world itself, a city within the city. These spaces like local tea stalls, betel quid selling shops, small eateries, indoor sports rooms like carrom rooms or play grounds etc are spaces for occupants (mostly boys and men) of the informal housing to hang out and socialize.

Whereas, women occupants of the informal housing are forced to manage household and domestic chores, hence, they usually get little time to socialize outside their homes. However, spaces like local vegetables, fish markets are the

public spaces where women seen buying grocery and vegetables. Moreover, the women also access the limited spaces created over period of time outside their houses for an instance, an area outside a house meant to wash clothes, utensils, vegetables and fish etc. such spaces are important for the women to interact with other women and people of a community. These smaller spaces play an important role for the women occupants to survive the stress of living in poverty and living in small houses.

During the lockdown, the access to such public spaces created by informal housing has been cut off. Its due to a dual fear, first of catching the infection and second of the police – people are forced to remain inside a house. Staying at home in informal housing of Mumbai is a challenge because the occupants have learnt to spend more time outside their homes. The state failed to provide appropriate housing to urban poor, hence they were deprived of a right to live a

healthy and happy life. Therefore, the occupants of the informal housing were prepared in such a manner that they learned to be dependent on these spaces outside their homes. Moreover, in the lockdown when their access to public spaces is forcefully cut down, they had to relearn to use an available limited space within their homes. However, in this process of unlearning and relearning to use space inside a house a home becomes an internment camp. Since, these occupants stuck between space crunch inside a house and cut off from public spaces available outside and consequently failed to manage their emotions due to forced lockdown imposed on them by the state. Consequently, it affected them severely and differently, like number of domestic violence cases increased in informal housing in Mumbai city. This paper discusses the repercussions of lockdown and the pandemic, especially when access to public spaces is cut off how it affects the occupants of the informal housing of Mumbai city.

Lockdown
Covid-19 Pandemic
Informal Housing
Public space

KEYWORDS

Home precarization and the emergence of vigilant violence in Thessaloniki's West End

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Housing System
Property Regime
Precarization
Thessaloniki
Ksiladika
Vigilant violence
Neoliberalism

KEYWORDS

Encompassing data from a year long ethnographic work and participant observation in the neighborhood of Ksiladika in Thessaloniki's West End, the paper unravels a campaign of evictions of undocumented migrant squatters on behalf of local property holders. It inquires the entanglement between the emergence of vigilant violence and the unsettlement of the Greek model of social reproduction that heavily relies on self-regulated property ownership. It probes the extent to which

incidents of vigilant violence can be used as indicators of the structural deficiencies in the Greek housing system and property paradigm. I suggest that this vigilant campaign is linked with the unsettlement of the Greek model of social reproduction, home precarization and the scarcity of outright homeownership as a resource of symbolic and material value and the particularity of Ksiladika, that is at once a stigmatized neighborhood and a land of promise.

Exploring residential surroundings as proximity public spaces in Arroios (Lisbon)



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Proximity
Publicness
Lisbon

KEYWORDS

Neighboring practices and contexts are one way of exploring the making of public spaces' boundaries and experiences. This paper explores the idea that contemporary neighboring practices assume different and contrasting forms and meanings, and that they bridge and oppose publicness and privacy, familiarity and strangeness, proximity and distance. These are significant dimensions along which sociation forms take shape and contrasting and plural public spaces' experiences and meanings are (re)created. In this paper we present preliminary results from

an ongoing qualitative research on neighboring practices that seeks to unpack different and constating ways by which residents engage their residential surroundings. The research setting is the Arroios district (Lisbon), a context where significant processes unfold: migrant urbanisms, urban activism and gentrification. Focusing on the resident's practices, sociability and meanings, we examine a plural set of uses and appropriations of 'proximity public spaces' to explore the ways divisions are negotiated and complexity and cohesion are lived and possible.

Between public and private: the transformation of open space usage in housing mega blocks in New Belgrade



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open public space
housing areas
New Belgrade
quality of user experience

KEYWORDS

Open space usage has always been a crucial part of everyday urban life. There are many different typologies of open public spaces, which directly influence their patterns of usage. In this research, we focus on housing areas, with the aim of determining specific factors that could influence open space usage in residential neighbourhoods. For the case study, a modern city of New Belgrade was selected. As a major residential area, it has undergone a transformation from strictly housing to multifunctional neighbourhoods, which led to changes in open public spaces and usage. There are two different types of mega housing blocks in New Belgrade according to functionality and appearance. The first type – “the open one,” is located between major traffic infrastructure and has various functions. The second type – “the closed one,” is strictly for housing and is located further from main city corridors and commercial uses. Comparison between these two exemplary types of housing

blocks was developed based on two criteria: (1) spatial and functional characteristics and (2) open space usage. The first criterium includes indicators such as location and functions, accessibility, natural and built characteristics of open public space, while the second criterium included categories of users; frequency and duration of usage, and activities in which they engage. Two main methods for the comparison of the aforementioned criteria were expert observation and the survey via interview among users. The results showed how spatial and functional characteristics of housing blocks could influence the overall usage of open public space. For example, in the first type of block, no clear boundaries between public and private open spaces were detected since the majority of users are non-residents. Because of the central location, and the additional uses, such as education and business, there is a high frequency of users. Still, these users are almost always

just passing through the open spaces. On the other hand, in the block where housing is the only use, residents are spending more time in open space, and they engage in communication and recreation more. Additionally, according to on the user preferences, spatial characteristics such as accessibility and natural characteristics, greenery and landscape of the open space influence the frequency of usage as well as the satisfaction of users. Based on this research, we can conclude that multifunctional, open, residential areas have more “quantity” of open space usage. In contrast, strictly housing, closed neighbourhoods have more “quality” of open space usage. Furthermore, there are significant differences in open space usage between different housing typologies. This paper could help identify how specific housing characteristics could contribute to the transformation of patterns of open space usage and the overall quality of user experience.

Revisiting communal spaces in social housing production; learning from the old applying to the new



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public square
public and private
social boundaries
spatial bridging

KEYWORDS

This paper will attempt to evaluate the positive and not so positive aspects in the design of collective spaces in the gathering areas planned in association with social housing in Cyprus. Lessons will be extracted from existing complexes that were erected in the post '74 period of troubles and were intended as social amplifiers for social strengthening and community cohesion in an era of internal displacement of refugees. These will then be compared and contrasted to strategies that have been used in the regeneration of such spaces

and the creation of new such spatial and social circumstances in both existing settlements and in the production of new and socially minded housing. This is especially important at a time of immigrational flux in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean and the need to apply lessons and invest in such areas that may act as integrators for immigrant populations and the local communities within which they find themselves.

The forest and the square – changing ideals of Finnish suburbs



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This paper reflects the relationship between public and private space in suburban Helsinki, Finland. Finland is known for its 'forest suburbs', a term used to refer to the modernist housing estates of the 1950s and 1960s. By definition, instead of clearing a vast construction site in order to create a new housing area from scratch, in these areas buildings were constructed into the existing landscape, among old trees. Still today, these areas are characterised by lack of fences or other clear indications where one plot ends and another begins. The green spaces reach across the entire area, where meandering paths lead to the buildings. As follows, in these older suburbs the public spaces are not particularly urban: the shared spaces are literally made of trees, shrubs and grass.

While the forest suburbs received international recognition and even admiration, in Finland these housing areas were also highly criticised. The critical views mark a change of paradigm toward planning more urban and effective land use in the Finnish suburbs. Subsequently dozens of new suburbs were built

between the 1970s and 1990s, which drew inspirations from international trends. In the Finnish context, the strong presence of green spaces still dominates, but in the later suburbs the focal point is a square, inspired by South European urban squares. In both cases, these non-commercial public spaces hold a vital role as an extension of the home.

As in so many other countries, in the present day large percentage of the inhabitants in the newer suburbs are immigrants, while the older 'forest suburbs' have attracted a new generation of well-educated middle-class residents, most of whom are native Finns. Therefore, in the suburbs before and after the paradigm change, the understanding and use of green spaces is inherently different. Furthermore, in the present day it is becoming acute to make decisions concerning how to regenerate the suburban building stock. As the population of Helsinki is continuously growing, both older and newer suburbs are under pressure of in-fill buildings, turning the areas on the whole more densely built. In sum, it is evident

that comparing the early post-war suburbs and those built in the later decades, the relationship between the home and the common type public space, namely the green space or the square, is different. Yet, in the Finnish context the role of squares in suburban environments has remained under-researched.

The questions to be posed are how does the relationship between the home and the public space change depending if it is a green space or a square? How are the shared green spaces used in contrast to the squares? What could be learned from comparing and contrasting the original ideals of the forest suburbs that were to offer healthier and higher living standards, to the notion of the square as an inherently social public space? The research project introduces selected examples of housing estates in the greater Helsinki region, telling of the two housing paradigms. The changing paradigm is explored through fieldwork focusing on the socio-spatial characteristics and everyday use of the public spaces.

Forest suburb
suburban square
public space
Helsinki region

KEYWORDS

Beyond the fenced playground: Urban space as the “fourth environment” for children in the context of the post-pandemic city



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children's play
children's use of open spaces
playgrounds as ghettos
post-pandemic city
“fourth environment”

KEYWORDS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children around the world were faced with an extreme shrinking of their life-worlds: not only schools were closed, but they were also prohibited from using public playgrounds. The closing-down of play-spaces acutely showed the unsuitability of urban public space for children as users, in terms of both their independent mobility – freedom to roam about in the vicinity of their homes – and affordances for play and gathering with peers, in open spaces outside the perimeter of the typical playground. As Tim Gill (2021) points out, lockdown has seen an acceleration in the erosion of everyday freedoms of children, which has been occurring in the context of cities during the last 50 years. But even before the pandemic, research on urban childhoods has been showing the very limited benefit and the marginalizing effect of

“token” spaces for children such as conventional playgrounds. The fenced playground, equipped with industrially produced structures and safety floor, is a physical symbol of the sociospatial marginalization (Matthews and Limb 1999) and ghettoization of children (Pollowy 1977). This typical model of artificial and “sterile” play space, only pertinent to children of very small age, disregards the multiple facets of children's play, as well as their need to have access to nature. Its failure becomes more evident, when, upon reaching the age threshold of independent mobility, a child's world gradually expands to “the fourth environment” (Van Vliet 1983), i.e. the spaces outside the home, school, and playground.

Field studies in many different countries and cultures show that children around the world prefer unofficial spaces, easily accessible and in the vicinity of their homes,

that provide opportunities for them to have some type of control over the environment and to decide what kind of play they want to get involved in. The pandemic has made visible, therefore, the importance of designing urban neighborhoods, in their entirety, with children in mind, and not only spaces specifically designed for children. The paper presents cases of strategies in the municipal level that address the equal right of children as citizens and users of the city users and urban design practices that show care for the physical design of the city as the “fourth environment” for kids growing up. The quest for a truly “childhood city” (Karsten 2002) is still quite elusive, but of extreme urgency, if we are to escape the present-day domestication of play, children's growing addiction to screens, and the resulting impact on children's physical and mental health as well as the alarming disconnection of children from nature.

Potential regained: A building's facade as a vertical public space and a functional ornamentation



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public façade
public space
vertical recreation
new typology
urban diversity
user comfort

KEYWORDS

Contemporary city, densely built with private plots and accompanying infrastructure, leaves hardly any space for public functions. The apartments' sizes are shrinking due to limited purchasing power of a regular city-dweller, making public domain more important than ever. What is more, COVID-19 pandemic disclosed a common need for regeneration, demanding new layouts of leisure spaces. This spatial and programmatic shortage requires new formats of the city's common spaces. Searching for solutions, this paper's goal is to examine the potential of utilizing building façade as a vertical public domain. Furthermore, it opts for defining it as a new public space typology located at the building's exterior. Besides effectively managing the urban tissue, exploring such a perspective can break the one-dimensional reading of elevations, usually seen as barriers between the interior and the exterior, the public and the private, the home and the square.

Reviewed examples map façade's pro-public features through the ages and cultural landscapes: waiting benches built into the facade order of Italian palazzos, balconies, stoops, Polish „przyzba”

benches, entry galleries in multi-family housing or external evacuation staircases of American blocks. These singular architectural elements are compared with contemporary approaches to façade's public spaces, characterized by application's complexity or activity's intensity. Although there are already commonly known recreational functions utilizing elevations - climbing walls, art galleries or vertical farms - new typologies are needed to meet the demand of higher intensity of public domain. Those innovative typologies of vertical public spaces are being tested, as seen on the example of Miami Art Garage, where designers experimented with applying new functions to the parking's blind walls, enriching the surrounding environment. Furthermore, the works of the Hundred Architects, MVRDV or WORK AC examine the possibilities of treating exterior walls as public, where created thickness composes new narratives. As proven by examples, facades with communal activities could introduce a new type of functional porosity into the city. The contemporary facades could launch vertical public life in a conscious way: providing

various functional niches, galleries or paths; zones dedicated to communal activities or a semi-private life. They could play with different levels of accessibility, privacy and transparency - from the street level and from inside the building - contemplating the comfort and ownership of individual inhabitants and local communities. They could enrich polykatoikia typology or revitalize microraions, all with the means catalogued in this paper. Furthermore, the paper argues if the public facade defines a new type of architectural ornament: the functional one, which affects the urban tissue and elucidates the architecture matter. The new programmatic ornament has a potential of establishing the contemporary vernacular detail, emphasizing local identities, aspirations or even battling the local spatial challenges. The public façade would not only manifest status, but carry a socially important function of integrating the local community.

Comparative analysis of historic and contemporary examples of public spaces' transposition onto facades can map the development of public domain and navigate the drive towards innovation in this area.

New Spaces Used in the Relationship Between Humans and Spaces During the Pandemic: Entrances of Buildings



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Covid-19 Pandemic
Public Spaces
Semi-public spaces
Socializing Spaces
Building Entrances

KEYWORDS

Pandemics have directly affected the lives of urban-dwellers in all periods. The importance of public spaces in terms of continuation of life has resurfaced with the COVID-19 pandemic that has had a significant impact in the world since 2020. Public spaces, which constitute the most important component of cities, have started not to be used due to lockdown and people's wishes to stay in secure areas. In periods of full lockdown that has resulted in distance living, people have started to spend time in their houses or in immediate surroundings. Since the most important measure to be taken is to keep safe social distance, daily practices have undergone a change.

This condition has brought about questions and problems as to where and how daily needs of the urban dwellers would be met, which used

to be provided for in public spaces. Expectations and definitions of public spaces of the individuals in need of socializing have altered, and pursuit of new spaces has begun. As a result, spaces that have never been used by urban dwellers before have started to be noticed and used. Particularly in cities with dense structuring, entrances of buildings perceived as transition spaces between private and public spaces have transformed into semi-public/public spaces used intensively. In fact, people in desperate need of socializing have always used spaces like entrances of buildings and sidewalks by stepping out of the buildings since life between walls has emerged. In many traditional and small cities, the entrance of buildings and even doorsteps are spaces of socializing used by the household

and neighbors at different hours of the day. These spaces have been noticed and begun to be used during the pandemic.

These situations, in which public and private spaces are intertwined, intersected and integrated, are examples of spatial use that has changed during the pandemic. In this study, this situation enforced over entrances of buildings in the context of Human-House-Street relationship. The aim of this study is to demonstrate how entrances of buildings used in the pandemic meet the public space needs of the individuals and provide for safe urban space use. Within this scope, how architectural formation, urban space and street characteristic affect this use will be put forth by different examples.

From plazas to balconies: counterbalancing the lack of space, contact, action, entertainment



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duality
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KEYWORDS

Urban landscapes are constantly evolving through interactions of people, time and space. Global environmental and social changes, climate change and demographic shifts have great impact to cities development. Such changes usually happen gradually over lengthy periods of time; however, the COVID-19 pandemic caused extreme changes worldwide in a very short period of time.

In the name of reducing the spread of the virus for the safety of the citizens, restrictions of free access with temporal and geographical constraints (within each municipality) and a range of permissible behaviors, distances and relationships between individuals further narrow the accessibility of public spaces. Hence, pandemic restrictions created a deserted urban landscape worldwide, constituting the canvas for new urban interpretations.

People acknowledge the new condition and enact a set of interactional familiar and unfamiliar practices in the transformation of the international urban landscape. The production of neighborhood and city space through the actions of the users co-shaped the boundaries and the functional values of the designed spaces (balconies, pilotis, rooftops, parks, etc). Seeking to counterbalance the lack of space, contact, action, entertainment, performative/ artistic/cultural events and to enhance the urban experience, impromptu relief mechanisms were invented creating ephemeral heterotopic events (musicians performing on balconies, street performers, etc). The global health emergency showed that access to open, vibrant and social public spaces is a crucial factor for safeguarding citizens' mental and emotional stability.

The aim of this paper is to provide insight into how these user-generated adaptations and temporary transformations (that take place in different places worldwide) impact on the functional values of urban spaces, while supporting connections, stimulating contact and social exchanges and blurring the limits of public/private, permanent/ temporal, legal/illegal, just/ unjust. The paper also highlights the significance of spontaneous "tactical urbanism" as a bottom-up action that can lead to top-down policies that acknowledge the existence of the flexible dynamics that can allow the renegotiation of existing urban spaces in the context of future crises.

Fly jacket inside out. Revisiting the Greek "polykatoikia" through different versions of the commons



From the parallel presentation of four design research projects and through versions of the concept of the commons, the paper revisits the Greek multi apartment building – "polykatoikia". In the proposed paper two main questions emerge. One concerns the concept of the commons and what each time is "shared", or offered as a possibility of sharing, and the second question concerns how this version of the commons affects and reformulates its well-known model of Greek apartments building – "polykatoikia".

The project "Architecture Machine, The design of housing units in the platform era" proposes the creation of a digital platform for the construction of housing units or the development of a housing complex under the logic of DIY and the use of an open-source software. The digital platform offers to the future user the possibility to build the desired housing unit himself or to modify the original plans by adapting them to his needs.

The project "Jigsaw houses, "The repetition of the module as a composition of dwellings in an adaptable frame" offers the possibility of personalizing small houses through combinations of minimal prefabricated units, with predefined uses which are embedded in a customizable

three-dimensional metal frame in scaffolding logic. It offers the possibility to choose a combination of units in size and location, relative ease of assembly and construction, possibility of expansion, flexibility, and adaptation to the urban fabric, customized selection of window openings, exterior cover material and color.

The project "Minimum personal dwelling, reimagining the greek polykatoikia" reformulates, in terms of manifesto, the concept of minimal housing, by proposing the redesign of an existing typical apartment building. Through the re-examination of concepts such as personal space, "needless" space and commons, a different description of minimum dwelling is presented. The public space is defined as an extension of the interior, and the minimum personal space is functionally dependent on an external structure of common space. The yard, the hearth, the laundry, the playground, the workplace, the amphitheater, the square, the neighborhood revisited and redesigned.

The project "Unitopia: an erasmus student housing community" focuses on the reuse of the empty building spaces in ground floor stores in central areas of the city, and their conversion into ground

floor houses. Through the minimal intervention of the existing shells, the creation of sustainable small houses is offered through the combination of personalized furniture-equipment units. In each intervened "neighborhood", 4-5 houses are proposed, and one common space with laundry, kitchen and dining facilities for student meeting place promoting at the same place possible interaction with the residents of the district.

In the design projects the commons are presented as something with a tangible or intangible substance. Are offered as a digital platform, as an open-source code, as furniture-equipment compositions for personalization, as prefabricated adaptable housing units, as functional possibilities in new typologies of spaces. Also, as an extension of the personal space of the minimum dwelling to an enlarged corridor of the building apartment – "polykatoikia" and finally as the public small road that became a courtyard of the re-inhabited ground floor store. The formal division of the private public is abolished and through the various narratives of the commons, the model of housing and the Greek multi-apartment – "polykatoikia" is evolved to new typological structures and forms.

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multi apartment building
"polykatoikia"
dwelling
commons

KEYWORDS

The Public, the Rural and the Beautiful: A 'displaced' home between the urban, the countryside and the post-industrial

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public space
rural space
home

KEYWORDS



In urban spaces, public and private spheres are defined and distinct, but the boundaries between them are not always clear. Public space reflects the society that shapes it (Lefebvre, 1991), therefore the permeation of private functions in it reveals a tendency to privatise everyday life. But what happens when private functions cease to exist as a pandemic emerges? In this context, the present paper focuses on the research of the boundaries between public spaces and food & beverage outlets, as well as the way in which these are disrupted during the pandemic by the reclamation of the public space by users themselves. During lockdown due to COVID-19, with the F&B outlets closed, people adapted to the new status quo in an attempt to maintain their social activity. As a result, public spaces inevitably received a larger load of users, which affected their function (Geng et al., 2021). In order to determine the impact of the pandemic on the public-private boundaries, three characteristic points were studied in the city of Volos: "Pezoulia", the intersection of Koumoundourou and Kodaratou streets and the district of Palaia. Pezoulia is a linear public space that develops along the coastal front and acts as a resting and gathering place. During the pandemic its

function did not change, but was intensified as the place received heavier flows of users. In this case, an intensification of the previous boundary is observed, with the site being massively used. In the intersection of Koumoundourou - Kodaratou streets, there are multiple cafes and restaurants that use the sidewalk to place tables and chairs. During the pandemic, with F&B outlets exclusively functioning as take-away, multiple customers after buying their drinks, gathered at the intersection of the two streets, turning the designed walking area into a resting point. In this case, a placebo effect of the former boundary is observed, with users attempting to recreate the previous condition set by cafes and restaurants. Finally, Palaia is the historic district of the city, where F&B outlets are currently operating using part of the space created for pedestrian movement. In Palaia, a phenomenon of diffusion of the boundaries between public and private space is observed, as shops place their tables along the pedestrian road. During the pandemic, people attempted to restore social space, with spontaneous assemblies taking place along the sidewalk. However, in the post lockdown era, there is a tendency towards the reinstatement of the original

situation, with the imposed social distancing policies legitimising the intensive spread of private functions in public space. The choice of the aforementioned places is based on the fact that all three are different and characteristic districts of the city which became points of interest during the pandemic. The study of the initial boundary between public spaces and privately owned cafes and restaurants, as well as the identification of the different aspects of the transformation of this boundary in the examined cases, defines the keystone of the present paper. This phenomenon is inspected through a criticism of daily life in the public sphere of the city. The paper attempts to support a number of considerations related to the functional, anthropological, social and aesthetic effects of the pandemic on public space. The pandemic and its consequences so far are examined, as an occasion to challenge the regime of sovereignty over public space. The question that arises is related to the rupture of previous systems of enforced boundaries in plazas and sidewalks of Greek cities. In this context, could the current pandemic trigger a critical response to the way we view the city's public space?

The crisis of being a citizen: India, citizenship, and a desire of separation



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citizenship
nation
claim
separation

KEYWORDS

B R Ambedkar made three proposals which might seem contrary to his role as the chairman of the drafting committee to write the constitution of independent India. The demand for Separate electorates, separate settlements, and the call to abandon Hinduism were contradictory to the project of the Indian National Congress. Independence from the colonial rule ought to have produced Indian citizens but Ambedkar recognised that the new nation will not grant equal citizenship to those upon whom it will lay a claim. India had multiple citizenships embedded within it.

The state of Maharashtra was formed in the year 1960. The creation of the state was preceded by a movement that had the characteristics of a nationalist agitation although it aimed to create not a nation. Maharashtra is now made of parts that belonged to different nations and thus has separationist movements embedded in it still. As with India,

various minoritizations were created in the formation of this state.

The introduction of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 brought back the question of citizenship into public discussion, it also produced various claims regarding what or who was the target of the police regime, the implementation the act will produce. The paper will present an overview of the various claims to citizenship implicitly made during these protests, which, it must be inferred, were denied. To locate these claims, the paper will establish in history the source of these claims, with respect to the state of Maharashtra. A comparison of the various sites of protest that were occupied in major cities in the state of Maharashtra,

who they were occupied by, and the State response at different sites.

Along with these claims an overview of Ambedkar's own notion of citizenship that evolved through his three demands mentioned previously will represent a historical comparison to contemporary India. Finally in comparing these claims, the paper will propose questions regarding what citizenship is, and how it is applicable, considering the various identities that have claimed it and been denied it. Historical and contemporary literature pertinent to the subject, along with geographical documents produced by these movements will be used to illustrate contested citizenships.

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Diverse patterns of co-presence? Everyday use of public squares in Zurich



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Derived from concepts of social justice, the ideal public space is accessible for everyone and favours a wide range of social activities. Diversity of uses and of users should foster encounters between strangers and promises civic virtue, community and tolerance. In the same vein, housing policies often aim at increasing the diversity of residents in order to boost social cohesion, contribute to conviviality and ease the undesirable effects of residentially segregated neighbourhoods.

Yet, even when leaving aside the perpetual ambivalence of diversity, we dispose of little knowledge about how diversity plays out in public spaces. Do the much-cited encounters between strangers actually take place or do exclusionary processes prevent interactions? The fact that places of residence, places of work, leisure activities and mobility behaviours differ considerably according to socioeconomic status, gender, age, etc. may hinder certain population groups from encountering each other in their everyday lives even if they live close. Recent research has therefore shifted its focus from a static concept of residential segregation towards more fluid and interaction-based forms such

as activity-space segregation or mobility patterns (Boterman and Musterd 2016). However, according to Amin (2008), the 'collective promise' of public space cannot be reduced to social interaction alone. Rather, public spaces need to be conceptualized as sites of 'throwntogetherness' (Massey 2005), of intermingling human and non-human bodies and materialities that contribute to a general openness and 'territorial complexity' (Kärholm 2007).

Since public space is caught between the promise of exciting diversity and the uncanny presence of strangers, it is of great importance to consider not only diversity of uses, but also those of users. Therefore, to better understand diversity in public space, this paper analyses the temporal dimensions and the geographical scales of diversity in inconspicuous public squares in the city of Zurich, Switzerland. The diversity of users in public squares

is then compared to the equivalent measure on the neighbourhood level, thereby contrasting the resident population with the one using the public squares.

Patterns of co-presence are traced by means of quantitative methods such as counting, mapping and an intercept survey, supplemented by participant observation. Lefebvre's (1991) theory of the production of space is combined with a territorial approach to shed light on the making and unmaking of boundaries and their impact on the accessibility of the squares. Reflecting on fieldwork, and in line with Qian (2020), we suggest a reading of diversity in public space as a procedural, performative and fluid outcome of the dialectical interplay between exclusion and inclusion. By exploring subtle forms of exclusion stemming from a square's ambience and materiality, it provides valuable insights for the scientific discourse on diversity and for the planning and designing public spaces.

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public squares
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residential segregation

KEYWORDS

The role of everyday public spaces in residential neighbourhoods



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everyday public space
neighbourhood public space
relational theories

KEYWORDS

Central public spaces in cities have always played an important role in urban experience, and continue to have a city-wide significance, often described as the meeting spaces of cultures, politics, social and individual trajectories. Peripheral and/or neighborhood public spaces, where the everyday life of citizens unfolds, rarely enjoy any of this significance and may not receive the attention needed from the main stakeholders involved. Many researchers have highlighted the significance of these public spaces in cities, pointing out that the patterns of everyday life in residential neighbourhoods – whether it is the chance encounters in the local market or conversations in the local square – are the essential material of society and may well

have integrative social functions, of an individual or collective initiative. The understanding of the synthesizing mechanisms, which shape public spaces in cities' neighborhoods is therefore vital.

Drawing on the theoretical framework of relational theories, this paper sets out to explore the links between the physical sphere and the social sphere of three different residential public spaces in the city of Limassol critically exploring the ways in which the boundaries of public space are challenged. Both spatial analysis and social sciences methods are thus employed to unveil the essential role residential public spaces play, in bringing together what society divides in contemporary, multicultural cities, where multiplicities of

identities, languages, religions and cultures may naturally give rise to tensions and even hostilities.

The potential for interaction and meetings between people from different areas, ages, social and ethnic backgrounds in the public realm is shown to be a crucial prerequisite for shaping encounters within and between the different ethnic and social groups during their everyday life, encouraging tolerance and a feeling of belonging. Neighbourhood public space is suggested to be an important and necessary platform for the groups socialization through social and economic 'exchanges', building of group identity and negotiations of relations among the groups themselves as well as between them.

The square as a home for play, sustenance, and survival: An urban humanities approach expanding public space in Los Angeles, CA



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public space
right to the city
autogestion
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Los Angeles

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The oppositional binary of the private realm of the home and the public realm of the square demand new interpretations. Ongoing tensions between appropriate uses and users of public space came to the fore during COVID-19 as life-sustaining, domestic, and subversive activities became the target of increased regulation and often criminalization. Given these conflicts, there is a need to reinterpret public space as a versatile forum that accommodates private activities and diverse lived experiences. To explore the blurring of the home and the square, we focus on Westlake, Los Angeles, a dense, multicultural neighborhood whose public spaces are also home to skateboarding youth, immigrant street vendors, and a growing unhoused population. Westlake's parks, sidewalks, and plazas are the subject of municipal regulations that dramatically privatize them, constricting the

range of acceptable uses and users. Facing increased surveillance, security, privatization, and policing under a neoliberal urban policy agenda, these populations contest these processes and proffer new interpretations of the home and the square. The study addresses two research questions: 1) How do marginalized public space users disrupt, expand, and blur meanings of the home and square? 2) How can critical humanist methods help planners, urban designers, and urbanists to better understand and accommodate these tactics at multiple scales (i.e., neighborhood, public space, and person)? Undertaken in connection with UCLA's Urban Humanities Initiative, we employed interdisciplinary methods to investigate the public environments of Westlake, with particular emphasis on spatial justice. Specifically, we used thick mapping, filmic sensing, and digital storytelling to examine

the production of expanding and contracting public space. From our findings, we produced speculative public space typologies, designs, and actions that problematize the public/private dichotomy and imagine an expanded definition of public space. We argue that these creative, life-sustaining tactics of resistance contest exclusive urban planning and design controls. Our key contribution is an expanding-contracting public space dialectic that disrupts and blurs the boundaries of the home and square. Through this dialectic, we identified three interrelated themes: temporality; performance and representation; and do-it-yourself design. In Westlake, this materializes in the construction of do-it-yourself skating plazas, vending food and goods, and erecting tents that transform sidewalks, plazas, and parks into homes for play, work, and survival.

The neighborhood as a bridging space between home and the city: A comparative study of neighborhood satisfaction in the cities of Oslo and Thessaloniki



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The neighborhood is one of the favorite concepts and topics amongst various academic fields and schools of thought. Neighborhood spaces are conceived as distinctive spaces specific to residential life experience (Garde, 2011). A neighborhood within a city is rarely perceived as a “city space” per se. It is rather an intermediate space that mediates between home and the city, therein becoming a narrative place between the private and the public realm. It is in this respect that it is the most widely accepted construct of urban planning, a template for good planning and design (Rohe, 2009). It is widely accepted that urban planning and design at this scale could affect the sense of community, in fact reducing the city scale and bringing the urban environment closer to home.

What determines urban livability and satisfaction at a neighborhood scale is an open and empirical question that has attracted the interest of various researchers. Measurement of urban livability at a neighborhood scale can be performed with cognitive (neighborhood satisfaction) and affective (neighborhood happiness) evaluations of the neighborhood (Mouratidis, 2020). The local context may influence how the

determinants of urban livability are shaped (Yang, 2008) but there is a lack of comparative analyses between different contexts, especially contexts representing different cultures. This paper presents a comparative study on the determinants of urban livability in two cities of the South and North European context respectively, the cities of Thessaloniki and Oslo. These cities can offer valuable comparisons due to their contextual similarities (population size, waterfront, port) and differences (in terms of built environment as well as socioeconomic and cultural characteristics). Based on findings from geospatial and survey data from both cities, the paper investigates the critical differences and similarities in the determinants of urban livability at the neighborhood scale between the two cities. Moreover, focusing on the case of Thessaloniki, the paper reflects on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on neighborhood satisfaction.

The findings of these surveys show that there are certain

determinants such as safety, lack of noise and place attachment that are recorded to positively contribute to urban livability independently of the context. At the same time, the particularities of the local context in terms of the built environment, culture and attitudes can also determine whether certain neighborhood characteristics are experienced and perceived as positive, negative, or indifferent. We argue that, as the neighborhood scale within a city is an interactive space which combines the residential experience with the socio-spatial environment, the determinants of urban livability at the neighborhood scale are shaped not only by different cultures but also by different urban configurations and environmental characteristics that affect this interactive nature of the neighborhood space. The COVID-19 pandemic influenced livability perceptions of neighborhood satisfaction considerably, and further revealed this interactive and bridging nature of the neighborhood space.

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neighborhood space
urban livability
South and North European cities

KEYWORDS

Rethinking public space for everyday life: lessons from Athens' "Grand Promenade" experiment



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Spaces of everyday life
Proximity and accessibility
Sustainable mobility
Urban politics
Athens

KEYWORDS

During the covid pandemic, confinement and mobility restriction measures limited many people's activity in their homes and neighbourhoods. Local public spaces, local markets and local social networks were rediscovered and appreciated, as they gained vital importance in everyday life, especially for those living in overcrowded and inadequate conditions. This recent collective experience puts under question the priorities and values embedded in urban politics and policies, and calls for greater attention on the spaces of everyday life and of social encounters. In this direction, many cities' experimented with neighbourhood interventions in order to enhance accessibility and quality of public spaces. Contrary to that trend, in Athens the covid pandemic was seen as

an opportunity to advance with plans for the regeneration of the commercial and touristic city centre through a scheme of some questionable "sustainable mobility" interventions (a project called "Gran Promenade" in the pre-electoral programme of the recently elected right-wing mayor), absorbing resources and administrative efforts, away from the multiple needs of inhabitants in the densely built districts of the municipality. While, at the same time, it has been a missed opportunity for the activation and participation of local communities in envisioning the city's future. This contribution seeks to reflect on this experience and to highlight the potentials for a different kind of urban politics for public spaces, based on proximity, accessibility, coexistence and care.

Public space under lockdown: Expanding police/ suspending politics in Athens, Greece



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Covid-19
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policing
Athens

KEYWORDS

This paper is about the governance of public space during Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on the case of Athens, Greece. Following Ranciere's theoretical distinction between police and politics, it interprets how public space has become the ground where practices of policing and politics are activated. It is argued that the implementation of lockdown policies have contributed to the expansion of policing practices and suppression of political processes. Though, many struggles have occurred in/for public space designating that policing will never be completed, since politics will always emerge. As a result, public space has been converted to a space of chasing political activists, criminalizing social interaction, and promoting individualization, social

distancing and surveillance, but the same time has been the space where these practices have been questioned and resisted. Policing practices have also contributed the borders between private and public space to be blurred, since "doing politics" and using public space have been individualized, showing the limits of such processes. Consequently, it is believed that evacuating and restricting the political and social role of public space, have left extra space for the state apparatus to conquer, making it easier for the government's neoliberal plans to be legislated without significant disputes and challenges. In order to justify such an argument, participant observation and semi-structured interviews are used, by activists who participated in such struggles.

"Adopt your city": the post-politicisation of public space and its contestation in crisis-stricken Athens



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post-politicisation
public space
privatisation
Athens

KEYWORDS

This presentation contributes to contemporary geographical and planning debates on the post-politicisation of public space and the end of public space by focusing on public space governance during austerity. While "the end of public space" and the "privatisation of public space" have been well-documented in North European and US cities (De Magalhães and Freire Trigo, 2017; Németh and Schmidt, 2011; Madden, 2010; Mitchell, 2017), there is a dearth of research on the privatisation of public space governance in the midst of austerity in Southern-European cities. Aiming to fill this gap, this presentation draws on an ongoing research on collaborative structures based on public-private partnerships for

the management of public space in Athens, Greece in the period 2010-2020. Specifically, it focuses on the programme "Adopt your city" implemented by the municipality of Athens and Athens Partnership, a non-governmental organisation created to promote public-private partnerships in Athens. In doing so, the presentation argues that the increased involvement of private actors (companies, philanthropic institutions, etc) in public space governance results in the reduction of policy-making to a techno-managerial process stripped of its political dimensions, something that is centrally linked to the privatisation of public space. Yet at the same time, the paper draws on grassroots practices that challenge

the policies promoted by the "Adopt your city" programme and reclaim public space as an egalitarian space of everyday life. Overall, rather than presenting post-politicisation as a complete process, the presentation argues that post-politicisation and re-politicisation of public space, as they unfold in austerity Athens, are intertwined processes (Swyngedouw, 2011). While governance structures based on public-private partnerships seek to transform public space into a technical issue by surpassing, at the same time, planning processes of control and accountability, grassroots communities re-appropriate public space as a common democratic space.

Recreating new boundaries: negotiating ownership and control of public space in South Africa



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Public space
soft governance tools
ownership & control
South Africa

KEYWORDS

Public spaces in South Africa are severely contested. Recent statistics have revealed that one is more likely to be murdered in the street or at a park than you are in your home. This escalates the fear of crime in public space and growing anxieties about losing control of public spaces. In response, people resort to different ways of recreating boundaries in public space through desperate efforts to modify the built environment through stronger management practices and the privatisation of public space. Examples include stronger enforcement of by-laws and the establishment of entrance fees to parks, pseudo-public spaces linked to shopping centres, closed-off streets and parks in enclosed

neighbourhoods and common open spaces in luxury estates. At the same time, residents in informal settlements are creating gathering spaces for their own use. This raises several questions about access to and management of different types of public spaces in these cities.

Working within a framework of soft governance tools, this paper focusses on the negotiation of ownership and control in public spaces through both visible and invisible negotiations, as well as through soft and hard measures of control. The paper juxtaposes top down measures with bottom up measures of control in various attempts to recreate new boundaries in space between the public and private realms. It also

questions the different ways in which diverse groups appropriate various spaces and take ownership in ways that blurs the boundaries between legal and illegal responses or between formal and informal approaches. The paper argues that the result is not just a simple case of exclusion and inclusion but that these happen interchangeably at different levels and in various forms. These different levels of intervention moreover create various layers of power, which also exposes the darker side of soft urban governance. This has implications for planning and design related to notions of social and environmental justice and meeting the complexity related to evolving public space.

100 memories: cities of multiple arrivals and departures



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memories
cities
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refugees

KEYWORDS

The research project “100 Memories” started a few months ago and will be completed in January 2023. An interdisciplinary research group -comprised of historians, geographers, architects and IT engineers- will attempt to re-compose and narrate the history of four port cities of Greece: Chania, Piraeus, Volos and Thessaloniki. Through collaborative research processes and by deploying already existing research and innovative technologies, the uniqueness of these cities will be emphasized; a uniqueness that does not derive from some long, internalized history, but emerges as the product of layer upon layer of different sets of social relations and linkages, both local and to the wider world (D.Massey). The starting point will be one century ago when, as a result of the defeat of the Greek army in Asia Minor, the Lausanne treaty was signed and an exchange of populations between the two countries took place. Around 400,000 Muslims left Greece while

almost 1,200,000 Christians arrived, changing the urban tissue of all four cities in our research. Since then, several mass migrations to and from Greece have manufactured the urban space. Migrants have departed to the States, Australia and Northern Europe, internal migrants have arrived in the cities, migrants from the ex-Soviet Block settled there en masse in the '90s, while others from the Global North have been arriving until today. How have these mobilities shaped the urban settings and how were they, in turn, shaped within them?

Presenting the preliminary findings of the research, we will narrate the story of the port of Piraeus as a place of arrival and first informal settlement for the refugees of 1922 and 2015, but also as a place of departure and farewell for thousands of migrants traveling to the States and Australia in the '50s. We will tell the story of a house in Nikaia, Piraeus, built by Greek Refugee Settlement Commission in 1932 and initially inhabited by

refugees from Asia minor who, when their children eventually migrated to Germany, used the money from the remittances to buy an apartment in a newer block of flats, while renting their old house to a family from Pakistan. We will tell the stories of two small barber shops that were self-built as extensions of a house and a container -the first one in Nikaia the second in Skaramagas camp. We will tell the stories of women working as informal seamstresses from their house or as domestic workers in other houses, the stories of peddlers selling newspapers and shining shoes in 1922, while today they clean windshields and sell gadgets made in China. In other words, we will narrate the entangled stories of cities and migrations, the ways the boundaries between local and global, public and private, legal and illegal, formal and informal, belonging and not belonging are challenged by the everyday struggles of people who try to recreate their livelihoods and make ends meet.

Our house in Omonia square. Urban renewal design vs. the refugees' right to the central square of Athens



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Athens
homeless
commoning
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KEYWORDS

During the current refugee crisis, Athens became a major hub for thousands of refugees from the Middle East and Africa. Most of the refugees are accommodated in state-run camps on the outskirts of the city. However, several newcomers are being excluded from the refugee status, evicted from accommodation facilities and become homeless. It is estimated that in Athens more than 10,000 newcomers face homelessness without access to social services. The majority live in the streets, parks and abandoned buildings at the city center. Responding to the needs of homeless people, a refugee group called "Our House" self-organized for two years a collective kitchen in the

city's central square of Omonia. The group served almost 200 meals per day, provided clothes, blankets and sleeping bags to homeless refugees and sometimes organized music concerts and set up a little street library. These activities describe commoning practices amongst refugees that express their claims for visibility and the right to the city center.

At the same time and in the context of a controversial renewal project of Omonia square planned by the municipality of Athens, "Our House" activities have been prohibited. The opening of the new Omonia square in May 2020, revealed its new iconic fountain and the lack of urban furniture for rest. The redesign project did not follow

public participation processes and several civil society organizations criticized the project for illegal construction, non-transparency and enforcement of gentrification in the wider area. Yet, refugees continue to claim their presence in the square while police operations implement a cleaning up agenda.

The paper draws on the Lefebvrian right to the city, literature on homeless' and refugees' commoning practices and critical approaches on urban renewal plans. Based on participatory research and spatial analysis, it shows that the conflict around the Omonia renovation project is an ongoing process of claiming the right to the city center.

Socio-spatial negotiations of home and belonging of Turkish nationals settled in Athens after 2016



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Turkish nationals
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The refugee movement towards Europe that escalated in 2015 and 2016 significantly impacted European politics and policies as well as perceptions of migrants. Responses to the arriving refugees differed, ranging from practiced solidarity to border closures and deterrence. Greece and Turkey have been at the forefront of this “refugee crisis” both as places of transition and as places of permanent or temporary settlement and entangled in a border regime that is shaped by both national and international politics. While Greece was still affected by the financial/political crisis, Turkey faced a failed coup-d’état that subsequently triggered the migration of Turkish nationals to other countries. This paper focuses on this migration movement from Turkey to Greece after the 2016 failed coup and on the negotiations of belonging of Turkish nationals living in Athens.

Considering the broader socio-political context of the historically

loaded Greek- Turkish relations that continues to oscillate between national stereotypes of ‘friends’ and/or ‘enemies’, this paper explores the imprint of these stereotypes upon the lives of newly settled Turkish nationals living in Athens, at the conjuncture of the failed coup-d’état in Turkey in 2016, the economic and political atmosphere affected by the Greek economic crisis and covid-19 pandemic. Turning the “geopolitical gaze” to the scale of the municipality of Athens, we explore the localization of international relations upon peoples’ lives within a context that enhances the circulation of historically-defined nationalist stereotypes about the Other. Such stereotypes are reproduced in spheres and spaces of private and public life and affect (to a larger or lesser extent) peoples’ everyday lives. Through fieldwork we examine meaning-making practices of Turkish nationals living

in Athens concerning home and belonging in the city of Athens. Beyond the home, creating familiar and supportive places in their new city entails diverse notions and experiences of community and community spaces in specific neighbourhoods of the city centre. Furthermore, we explore the ‘border-crossing’ practices that take place at the level of everyday life and politics that may transgress national(ist) constructions of borders, both symbolic and material. In this context, multiple and ambivalent new arrangements of belonging and conviviality are formed, which come to unsettle pre-established norms of spatial coexistence and perceptions of enmity and/or proximity. Among them, specific meeting places emerge as significant nodes both for community building and for facilitating interactions and relationships among the new migrants and locals.

Between Oppression and Freedom: Imagining the Nexus in Home- making for Queer Syrian Refugees



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Although increasing political conflicts and social movements in the world are presently forcing countless populations to leave their countries of birth, current political discourse encounters immigration almost exclusively through heterosexual normativeness, ignoring the queer refugee experience. Increasing xenophobic and racist tensions as well as homophobic and transphobic attitudes, and decreasing levels of tolerance, especially in cities of asylum, hinder not only the everyday lived experiences and bodily encounters of queer refugees, but also challenge the nexus in public and private spaces. The unprecedented refugee surge in Turkey mainly due to Syrian civil war since 2011, which has led to a tremendous increase in

the queer refugee population of Istanbul, presents a unique case study to shed light on such queer lives between oppression and freedom in the making of home. Even though this development indicates a pressing urgency to understand the various challenges and boundaries that queer refugees face particularly in Istanbul urban space, far too little attention has been paid to this subject in the existing planning literature.

By concentrating on the home-making process, which has become a part of the everyday life of Istanbul's queer refugees, this research attempts to explore the relationship between queer and refugee identity, the sense of belonging and Istanbul urban space through publicness. In order

to do so, we employ the qualitative method of narrative, which has been widely recognized as an alternative method in the queer feminist approach, to illuminate this type of a relationship as well as the experiences of queer individuals. Focusing on the story of a 27-year-old Syrian queer refugee, this research unfolds the home-making process through intersectionality, temporality, and placelessness. Our narrative research ultimately reveals that queer refugees are unable to exist within neither queer space nor urban space welcoming refugee communities. And in the context of the ever increasing limits of the publicness due to the present Covid-19 pandemic, they nevertheless manage to unmake the boundaries of urban space through digital contestations.

Migrant's digital space: mobile populations, space and digital resistance in the Greek territory



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digital space
migration
urban space
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KEYWORDS

The recent intensifying securitization of border controls, the restrictive migration policies and the consequent racialization of space have been producing an ongoing nexus of death-scapes in the Greek territory (Andersen et al 2012, Broeders 2012, Rumford 2008). Nevertheless, migratory populations, apart from being in a 'state of exception' (Agamben 2005), act as deregulators of physical borders and vividly question institutionalized limits and power mechanisms (Casas-Cortes et al 2015, Mezzandra 2010). While being in a state of "subversive mobility" (Cohen et. al. 2017), migrants develop multiple strategies and practices of survival, resistance and counter-movement. In this context, migrants' engagement with Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) reveals a wide spectrum of unbordering practices that creates ruptures in the sovereignty scapes and generate new spaces of autonomy and resistance both in physical and digital realm.

This presentation is based on the outcomes of the research project 'DIGINAUTS' (2018-2020)* which examined migrants' digital practices in and of the European border regime. Sources of empirical material coming from research in the Greek territory (Athens, Thessaloniki and the Greek Turkish borderland) are used, like interviews

with people on the move, migrants' narrations and published articles as well as digital data coming from a quantitative researched based in Social Media platforms.

The presentation highlights the ways social media, smartphones with multiple apps, computers and other digital technologies subvert dominant national and international mobility regimes and enact patterns of use in terms of navigation, information, contact and care, among others. It examines the ways these digital technologies interact with the analog sphere and reconfigure boundaries and limits between the personal and public sphere. Furthermore, the presentation examines the intersections between the digital and physical space in multiple scales starting from the human body and reaching various transnational territories and highlights the formation of migrant's digital space. Following a relational approach to space migrant's digital space is considered an outcome of social relations and praxes with material and intangible characteristics. Within this perspective these spaces are also formed by a) digital subjects (accounts, pages, hashtags, channels), b) migrant-related topics (like discussions on migration routes; language lessons; job seeking; care practices) through conversations across c) various digital platforms. In this respect we

ask how existing digital platforms are configured for navigation, for spreading information and other purposes, how they interact with physical space and how does access/non-access to these resources and infrastructures impact upon migrants' possibilities and trajectories in urban space and transnational territories?

In the beginning the presentation situates the case theoretically within the areas of science & technology studies, critical theories of space and migration studies. Then follows a description of the methodology and source material focusing on feminist methodologies and the theory of intersectionality. Thereafter an empirical background of the multiple uses of the ICTs in relation to the different unbordering practices and emancipatory spacialities that arise in the Greek territory is provided, followed by an analytical description of migrants' practices and spaces when producing such heterotopias. The presentation concludes with a discussion on the role of ICTs in forming contemporary heterotopias of autonomy and resistance that result in the reconfiguration of the urban space and the migratory experience, the reconfiguration of boundaries between the digital and analog realm and the personal and common/public sphere.

*<https://www.en.culture.aau.dk/research/projects/diginauts/>

Urban Ethic on Housing and Habitat, on the path of New European Bauhaus



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New European Bauhaus
Urban Ethic, Habitat
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Research-by-Design

KEYWORDS

The research intends to approach “Urban Ethic” as a necessary design approach to Social & Affordable Housing & Habitat (S&A-H&H), on the path of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) culture.

Existing S&A-H&H areas (and projects) commonly face social prejudice that weighs on individuals and society. Urban and architectural design and policy can play a significant role in contributing to a fluid relationship between S&A-H&H areas and surrounding urban environment.

In addition, the COVID pandemic crises drew renewed attention to old urban and architectural aspirations. The #stayhome challenge brought global attention to the need for more convenient neighbourhoods, where adequate open space and services are available and accessible. It also recalled for liveability conditions and new housing requirements and ways of living, considering the #homeoffice, #homeschooling or basic need for a domestic outer space. Along with such needs, current societal challenges related to family diversity and dynamics or

personal evolution over time, deny a static life & house, calling for design resources on flexibility, new services or the discussion on “minimum housing standards” opposing to the need of extra space.

NEB’s ideals on “Beautiful, Sustainable and Together” have in S&A-H&H an important vehicle of implementation, considering its impacts on: a) social inclusiveness, for diverse concepts as social mix and accessibility to spaces and experiences; b) in environmental sustainability, namely building materials, operation and maintenance, urban mobility and public space energetic impacts; c) new societal challenges and requirements on housing spaces, i.e. the need for flexible spaces, new services or domestic outer space.

The paper argues for the translation of the above themes in an underlying concept of “Urban Ethic” as urban aesth[etics] - being the adequacy, convenience and dignity of the built environment, that will contribute to dissipate the prejudice associated with S&A-H&H, with special emphasis in south European cities.

Understand which urban and architectural design approaches and criteria need to be readdressed through the scope of Urban Ethic in order to update S&A-H&H’s role and reconciling it with the city, impacting society is one of the main goals of the research. To address this question, the paper explores how S&A-H&H design conceptualization and planning, under a scope of Urban Ethic, can respond to national and European aims but also attending to new societal challenges and requirements on housing spaces and contributing to establish new trends on urban and architectural policy and design features and criteria, contributing to review the relationship between the city and S&A-H&H.

The research articulates different qualitative methods but relies fundamentally in a design-oriented approach and reassesses global questions addressed by the Venice Biennale of Architecture on the role of urban and architectural design, now focussing on S&A-H&H and questioning the opposition on “aesthetics” and “ethics”, posed in 2000 by Fukas and looking to 2021 motto “How will we live together?”.

'First Right': from housing to the city for all. The role of the public space in this paradigmatic transition



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The precarious housing is, nowadays, a growing European phenomenon (Clair et al., 2018). The 'stay at home' decreed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted pre-existing challenges resulting from shortcomings on housing policies and practices, and the difficulty to guarantee, on the one hand, an adequate and affordable housing for all, and, on the other hand, basic services and a dignified urban life (Faragau and Heras, 2020). In Portugal, the higher incidence of COVID-19 cases was observed in urban spaces marked by a greater housing precarity and unqualified public space, occupied by vulnerable groups, namely poor, immigrants, refugees, afro-descendants and Roma people, already target by urban exclusion processes (Lages and Jorge, 2020). In addition to the systemic vulnerability of the housing sector and of current urban models (Jorge, 2020), the pandemic emphasised the urgency to implement inclusive and integrated approaches, (un)making new boundaries between the public and private spheres of urban life.

At this juncture, the Portuguese government promises an unparalleled public and social investment in housing sector

KEYWORDS

housing policies
intersectoral and inclusive
intervention
public space

through the Recovery and Resilience Plan (2021–2026) submitted to the European Commission. This investment is supported by the New Generation of Housing Policies, launched in 2018, with the main mission of guarantee everyone's access to adequate housing. Among the programs proposed, the 'First Right' – Housing Access Support Program occupies the ambitious role of solving precarious housing, preconising an intersectoral and inclusive approach, and presenting decentralisation and urban rehabilitation as key answers. The implementation of this program requires the elaboration of Local Housing Strategies, which are based on a territorial diagnostic, a broad sense of habitat and, consequently, a new socio-spatial perspective for intervening. At the same time, it has to be aligned with a new conceptual vision of the public space, understanding as a crucial element of this paradigm shift.

In the framework of the research project 'Housing as a FIRST RIGHT: Addressing housing precarity in contemporary Europe', ongoing in

the Centre for Innovation, Territory, Urbanism and Architecture of the Instituto Superior Técnico of the University of Lisbon (CiTUA/IST-UL), this paper proposes a critical and reflexive analysis of the interventions developed inside the scope of the 'First Right' program, focusing on the public space dimension. What is the role of the public space in the intersectoral and inclusive approach associated to the access to adequate housing preconised? The possibilities and obstacles of this intervention approach are read through the case study of Évora, a city and municipality of the Portuguese region of Alentejo, ahead of the New Generation of Housing Policies. Crossing the theory and the practise, the analysis of the intervention process takes into account the interrelation between the agents involved, the expectations and power relations of each one, as well as the socio-spatial transformation and appropriation of public space, in a Lefebvrian perspective of the production of space (2000 [1974]).

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A neighbourhood livingroom: or how to play with thresholds between private and public space



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KEYWORDS

This paper will address the question of blurring boundaries of public and private spaces through the analysis of an experiment of alternative housing and semi-public space taking place in Bruxelles. This initiative emanates from the collective of inhabitants who settled in April 2019 on the floors of the former Bosch hardware store of the Huymans family at 116 rue des Tanneurs (Central Bruxelles). We live in a kind of extended family on a daily basis (5 adults, 3 children) and we decided to open our 170m² ground floor to the neighborhood, in order to create a space that is a middle ground between the rhythm of domestic life and the social turmoil of the Marolles district. Our on going experience, at the upper floors as much as at the ground level, is a very rich experiment helping us to

go beyond the traditional analytical categories, such as home and public space, public and private, domestic and social life. Our case-study will particularly question the link between alternative and experimental housing and the production of public space; The limits of publicness and the power of how domesticity is the grain to produce alternative common/ neighbourhood spaces; the potential of private landlord for sustain housing and public space production 'from below'

Furthermore, our own double back ground as architecte/ anthropologist and as militant in the squats movement will be object of analysis as a manner to bridge the boundaries between research, policy and practice.

Gated Communities: Construction and Reconstruction of New Public and Private Realms



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gated communities
public and private
boundaries
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KEYWORDS

Public spaces create various debates in urban studies. They are regarded as essential urban actors that bring together people from diverse backgrounds and provide open and green space. It is argued that their design becomes crucial in promoting cities in the global economy (Madanipour, 2005). Thus, shaping cities through public spaces becomes an important ambition to create inclusive public spaces through design or socio-cultural initiatives such as festivals targeting local communities (Carmona, 2014). At the same time, public spaces are also regarded as sites of encounter or protest (Carmona, 2015).

However, public spaces have also declined and privatised due to the neoliberal urban transformation, creating problems of access while increasing socio-spatial fragmentation, dispossession, evictions and inequality (Harvey, 2008; Smith, 2002). There are radical ways such as squats, urban gardening, or occupations to defend, protect and shape public spaces (Vasudevan, 2014).

What about private and exclusive spaces such as “gated communities”, the epitome of exclusion and privacy? What kind of public and private realms are produced and reproduced in these spaces?

“Gated communities” refer to various housing forms in different parts of the world, characterised by symbolic and physical borders that create dualities between the insiders and the outsiders, public

and private realms, us against them and safety and danger. They are exceptions in a world regarded to be global, connected, and diverse. In the literature, gated communities are usually regarded as the consequences of socio-cultural and economic polarisation, increase in crimes and fear of crime, and a general urban decline, leading upper and middle classes to search for safer sites (Roitman and Phelps, 2011).

Instead, this paper adopts a relational approach to reconsider gated communities by going beyond their borders and gates (Tanulku, 2012; 2013; 2016; 2018). The paper argues that gated communities are not static realms that create a simple duality between inside and outside. Instead, they reflect diverse identities and have complex designs that blur the boundaries between owners and users, inside and outside, public and private, and safe and unsafe realms.

The paper contributes to the literature on gated communities by demonstrating how they create new public and private realms.

The data of the paper is based on fieldwork conducted in two gated communities in the outskirts of Istanbul for the PhD research study of the author, which adopted a relational approach to space. The research compared the two cases regarding their designs, safety mechanisms, and relations established inside and outside. The data consists of desk research and participant observation in the case studies and semi-structured interviews with their residents, staff members, local people and several experts (academic and non-academic) on the subject. In addition, as an independent scholar and an expert on the subject, the author has collected additional information in different ways in the last decade.

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The significance of the insignificant: Borders, migration, urban space



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gender
everyday life

KEYWORDS

The aim of the paper is to reflect on how borders proliferate in everyday life, not only through laws, institutions or policing practices, but also through deeds, words, and feelings. Rather than analyse migration and borders by focusing only on the borderzones, this paper attempts to capture the multiple relations that connect the camp to the city square, the deportation regime to the train carriage, the newspaper headlines to the housing tenements in an attempt to work towards framing a broader theory of borders in geographical terms.

By using fragments of narrations of everyday encounters between migrants and locals in the city, light will be shed on different moments, places, people, and encounters: brought together they create a map of the multiple and complicated ways borders operate as technologies of power within everyday life in the city. The city is Athens between 2009-2013, a time that saw the beginnings of the "economic crisis" in Greece. During those years, migrants

were being increasingly illegalised and racialized by dominant policies and media discourses compared to the previous decade of "economic growth".

It is well established in the critical literature that borders have a polysemic nature, as they do not hold the same meaning for everyone. As Caton and Zacka write: "A border is not a line, but a space with depth. And this space changes, morphologically, on the basis of the identity of the one who enters it." (Caton and Zacka, 2010: 209). Taking a step further, this paper will discuss not only how meanings, experiences, and spaces change in relation to the identity of the people who cross the borders, but how identities, bodies, and spaces are themselves produced through bordering practices.

Everyday life, as described by H. Lefebvre is defined by conflicts and contradictions which become particularly apparent when we approach borders ethnographically, starting from

the everyday life experiences of migrants: moments and spaces of exclusion, powerlessness, and subordination but also of inclusion, emancipation, and subversion. In this sense, the focus is on these microbe-like, clandestine, and insignificant acts of everyday life, in which borders are renegotiated between the ones who belong and the ones who do not, when belonging is not conceived as a sense but as a socially constructed position that manufactures bodies, acts, and feelings.

Drawing from critical geography, border and migration studies, as well as from feminist and postcolonial critique, and by focusing on everyday encounters an attempt is made to generate more complicated and nuanced understandings of subjectivity and power, and to bring to the fore the multiple borders that are simultaneously embodied and transcended, performed and challenged, established and subverted.

Relation between camps and urban space: the case of the camp of Lavrio



Since 2015, the proliferation of camps and other camp-like spaces, such as hotspots and open or closed accommodation sites, has been the cornerstone of migration management in Greece. A significant number of camps has emerged in the country, in order to receive, accommodate and govern the newcomers. The majority of these facilities are not just segregated but also isolated and far away from inhabited areas and basic services. In most cases, the lack of adequate transportation connecting them to nearby towns and villages reduce the visibility of displaced people and prevent meaningful contacts. Camps, thus, constitute a mechanism of displacement, producing spatially isolated and socially marginalized living spaces (Kandylis 2019), aiming to keep strangers at a distance (Pallister-Wilkins, 2018).

There are few cases of camps located within the urban centers in Greece. One such example is the 70-year-old camp of Lavrio - a squatted and self-organized space of residence - located in the very center of the town of Lavrio. Founded in 1947 by state authorities, it has been accommodating by migrants ever since, consisting mostly of Kurdish and Turkish political exile members. Since 2016, with a capacity to

host approximately 400 people, the camp became self-organized, and since then it is managed by its residents, with the support of local, national and international solidarity organizations.

On the one hand, the central location of the camp of Lavrio increases the visibility of its residents, creating opportunities for co-presence and for spontaneous interactions that unfold on a daily basis. In this way, it allows many daily micro-economies and transactions between the camp and the city to unfold. Every day, many residents wait outside the camp's main entrance to be picked up by locals for casual employment in the area. On the other hand, the camp's privileged location is a cause of tension. This is because the camps are seen by local authorities as a hindrance to turning the town of Lavrio into a hub for "upstream" high added value economic activities. Moreover, migration management and the ensuing legal and socio-economic insecurity and marginalization of migrants affect

the ways in which camp inhabitants connect with the surrounding area. Many camp inhabitants do not have legal documents, which prevents them from visiting the city and reduces their possibilities for meaningful contacts.

Building on the growing literature on camps that emphasizes the ways camps exceed and overflow their own boundaries (Martin, 2019), and exploring possible connections with recent work about the emancipatory power of migrant "visibility" in urban space (Tazzioli, 2016), this contribution presents empirical ethnographic evidence, inquiring into the practices and discourses of camp residents and inhabitants of Lavrio that signify the multiple connections between the campsite and the town. In so doing, this contribution seeks to firstly offer a more situated understanding and a more relational gaze of the connections of camp facilities with the urban surroundings. Secondly, then, this contribution discusses the role that (in)visibility plays in these connections.

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Urban migration
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(in)visibility

KEYWORDS

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Mapping borders: lived experiences and migration policies on the island of Lesbos



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KEYWORDS

«After crossing many, like at least 2 or 3 borders, for me the “border” doesn’t exist, it has no meaning. It’s just like a fence, the border is simply a fence. The border is like our thought...» Z.

This paper explores the spatial and social aspects, as well as the lived experiences of European border control policies, building upon the narratives of the people on the move who are spatially and temporally trapped on the island of Lesbos. Border is the primary field where migration control is practiced. The concept of border includes both material and invisible boundaries, where the EU’s eastern frontiers are spatialised – such as, particularly, the border area of the Aegean Sea island of Lesbos and the “embodiment” of border in asylum seekers at the city of Mytilene, capital of Lesbos.

The changes that occurred from the 2015 refugee “crisis” onwards (Hotspot Approach and Joint Statement of Greece and Turkey) turned the island into a border. My research takes into account the EU asylum and migration policies, centring around the strengthening

of the EU’s external borders’ control and the recent proposals for closed detention centres in border hubs/ corridors. During the last couple of years (from summer of 2019 until spring of 2021), border crossings continue to take place, while asylum procedures are continuously amended and the practice of illegal ‘push-backs’ is becoming widespread; in parallel, xenophobic rhetoric has been increasingly used both from local and institutional actors. During the last year, restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic added another dimension to the ‘humanitarian structures’ of the Greek state: detention in terms of health exclusion. The pandemic has acted as a ‘tool’ for enhancing the ‘bordering’ of refugees.

The lived experience in the Reception and Identification Centres (RIC) (so-called “hotspots” in EU policy jargon) on the Greek islands is described as spatial entrapment, endless waiting, daily inactivity, and misery. Beyond the material border of the detention centre, the practices of exclusion, racist behaviour, categorization and othering narrated by those people,

express how the border spreads across many different times and spaces of their daily life. These practices reproduce the invisible symbolic borders of “belonging”, exclusion, and danger. The borders are re-engraved and extend into the urban area, the port of Mytilene, the public services and transport, the shops of the city, the look of the locals. The ways bodies meet and interpret each other in the public places of the city involve multiple demarcations of who is a “foreigner”. And while these people are experiencing exclusion and confinement – amplified because of the pandemic - in the island’s detention centres, it also seems that the border is internalized.

At the same time these people negotiate their position as active subjects who challenge and redefine the boundary within this fluid reality they experience. As highlighted by their crossing of multiple borders to reach Europe; their journeys are not linear; they are determined by multiple factors, but also from their own decisions whilst claiming their presence in various spaces.

The perception of communal spaces in facilities created in Northern Greece as a response to the refugee crisis



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Humanitarian crisis
refugee camps
communal spaces

KEYWORDS

The past decade an unprecedented number of people were displaced due to humanitarian crises that were mainly caused by natural disasters or human conflict. The various stakeholders involved in the effort to tackle these increasing refugee and migrant flows -whether they are national, international or non governmental organizations, government officials etc. - work under a more or less set framework, following certain guidelines and protocols.

The temporary and/or permanent settlements that are designed and constructed as part of the response to these flows also follow set norms and regulations, which reflect the current perception regarding the reception and accommodation of the victims of these crises. The

settlements operating in Greece, created in this context during the past few years, consist of enclosed and open spaces, both private and communal, as the relevant regulations impose.

The objective of this paper is to identify, record and interpret the ways which the tenants of such settlements perceive, reshape and use the enclosed and open air spaces that are intended for "public" - communal use. The aim of the study is to evaluate the initial design of the settlement, to assess the regulations and guidelines under which they were designed and to disseminate the conditions under which these populations live and coexist.

Throughout the research visits to various accommodation sites

located in Northern Greece and meetings with the organizations that operate them were made. In addition to the review of archival material, both published and unpublished, regarding the design of the settlements, interviews with the initial designers, as well as a survey of the crucial points of the existing national and international regulations and guidelines for the design and operation of such settlements were conducted.

The outcome of the research could inform the existing regulations and guidelines, help to raise awareness, offer a re-comprehension of the notions of public - private and reveal the different perceptions and cultures concerning "public" space.

Elsewhere and Otherness: A study of peri-urban local communities and asylum reception centers related to everyday, spatial practices and policies in Norway



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Peri-urban
asylum reception centers
localization practice

KEYWORDS

The implications of the Norwegian practice of frequently locating asylum reception centers in the peri-urban landscapes are ignored in policies and research. The peri-urban landscapes are, in theory, described as being far from urban centers, cities, and towns, and as a landscape where access to a local community, social networks, services, and facilities is often fragmentary (Sieverts 2008; Qvistrom 2016, 2019). The peri-urban landscapes are not homogenous but stretch from urban fringes dominated by highway infrastructure, uncoordinated land uses to pockets in rural areas and require a range of approaches. What constitutes the public realm and community is unclear, in particular to a newcomer. In many countries, asylum reception centers (ARCs) are a peri-urban topic (Mierswa 2018, Simonsen & Skjulhaug 2019). However, Norwegian policies for operating ARCs include

the ambition “to achieve good interaction with their adjacent local community” (UDI 2008-054).

Since the public realm is less evident within the peri-urban landscapes, the Norwegian peri-urban localization practices of ARCs give rise to a specific exploration of the interrelation between the local community and the notion of the peri-urban. How can acute societal spatial needs of locating asylum reception centers enhance sense of place and community, specifically within peri-urban landscapes?

Starting from relational place theory (Massey 1994), I elucidate the under-specified role of local community as a valid dimension of the peri-urban through the lens of Norwegian asylum policies and practices concerning ARCs. What does it mean to live temporarily in a peri-urban community concerning welfare, well-being, belonging, and a feeling of safety? This paper

aims to start an opening of the boundaries between research, policy, and practice focusing on how these three can inform and transform each other. The paper draws on research material and methodologies from media studies, social anthropology but is anchored in architecture and urbanism. Interdisciplinarity is chosen as a way to arrive at new approaches that may fruitfully explore how notions of “local community” can be conceptualized in new and constructive manners within the peri-urban landscapes.

The paper contributes to an academic conversation on 1) How impermanent living in peri-urban conditions can be conceptualized; 2) What forms a sense of place and community takes within peri-urban conditions explored through the lens of displaced people living on the margins.

Creative forms of festivity in Greece in times of pandemic



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festivity in public space
pandemic
everyday life
political dimension of art

KEYWORDS

The appearance of the pandemic in December 2019 has brought multiple changes worldwide. The management of the health crisis has resulted in a new reality where human presence in the public space has been rapidly reduced due to restrictive measures. The result of these new conditions is the socio-spatial exclusion from the public space, social distancing and the avoidance of gatherings. In this context, public festivities were banned. In this announcement we will deal with festivity in the public space, the relation it has with the space in which it takes place, the effect of the pandemic on festivity but also the new emerging forms of festivity in public space that appeared due to the pandemic.

One of the integral features of a festivity, regardless its type, is music which has historically proven to allow the expression of the

people when the margins of public expression is narrowed either due to authoritarian regimes, or censorship laws, etc. (eg tangos, blues, rebetiko, etc.). The presentation is based on the theoretical search that began with Bakhtins' (1984) thesis on the subversive dimension of festivity in order to highlight how in a time of constraint due to the health crisis, festivity can be manifested in new places within the public sphere. In fact, in times of pandemic, where the alienation of everyday life is a reality, it turns out that the Right to the City (Lefebvre 1968) is more than the individual's freedom of access to urban resources. The imposition of a quarantine -in the Greek context- that applies only to the free time of citizens creates a new alienation in everyday life as a person is called to face a routine where all non-essential and extracurricular activities are prohibited.

The spatial exclusion of festivity from the public sphere under the pretext of the pandemic is highlighted through state measures taken to deal with the pandemic. In this paper we argue that festivity is a social need of man which cannot disappear from public life but finds instead new ways and places of expression. From this point of view we will analyse the new creative forms of festivity that are found in the period from the outbreak of the pandemic until today, and arise initially as a spontaneous and, eventually, organised actions (Petropoulou 2014). We are also aiming to highlight in these festive contexts the political dimension of art (Eyerman & Jamison 1998), the tradition of insurgency (Damianakos 2003) and the rebellious traditional culture that accompanies artistic activities.

Reinventing public space. The revitalization of Wrocław's urban backyards through art and community engagement



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urban renewal
backyards regeneration
artistic interventions in cities
urban regeneration through art

KEYWORDS

The principal goal of the paper is to demonstrate the effects of the revitalization of Wrocław's urban backyards realized through the engagement process and artistic interventions. Urban backyards constitute an important space within the city's physiognomy. They have a great influence on the inhabitants' wellbeing and their attitude to their district and town. Being a space of transition between the private and the public, they help to build the identity of a neighborhood. The adequate appearance and functionality of backyards enhance creativity, integration, as well as stimulate different activities. Therefore the cases were chosen to demonstrate the process of change within the local community toward public-common space as well as toward art. The paper presents diverse solutions that can be applied in the revitalization process and design not only of the urban backyards but

also other types of public space. The case studies showed that art in the revitalization process shouldn't be limited to the aesthetic side only, but it should be inclusive and inviting. Undeniably, art can make an urban environment more liveable by stimulating community involvement and afterward local integration. The research emphasized that inhabitants are willing to reinterpret and reshape their surroundings if only there is a sufficient impulse of motivation, creativity, and vision. There are however some shortcomings of such art engagement in urban backyards. The main would be inadequate artistic intervention and implementation of the project that do not fully meet local needs thus it leads to criticism or ignorance.

The methodology used in the research included multidisciplinary literature studies. Special emphasis was given to the analysis of diverse reports from polish

and international regeneration programmes. Other methods incorporated a detailed case study of several urban backyards in Wrocław, a comparative analysis of some selected examples of other European revitalization projects of this type, and interviews with the present inhabitants of the analyzed districts.

The outcomes of the research could be used by local administration and different institutions responsible for urban regeneration. It provides new perspective on artistic interventions and local involvement in the renewal process that enlivens neighbourhoods and spark economic development. Therefore the examples gathered in the article together with the in-depth analysis can be a source of inspiration and knowledge that could be helpful in planning and implementation of the renewal projects in historical cities.

HEARING IN-BETWEEN



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balconies
sonic ethnography
listening
sonic acculturation
field recording
domesticity
publicness

KEYWORDS

This essay reflects on sonic acts of hearing between domestic and public spaces using Athenian balconies as the physical in-between spaces where placemaking and collective listening takes place. Building on the potential of the sonic 'as a means for enabling new conceptualizations of the public sphere and expressions of emancipatory practices' (LaBelle, 2018), the essay reflects on 'Ακούς την Αθήνα; I Do you hear Athens?', a 24hour audio piece compiled from 101 sound recordings made from balconies in different neighbourhoods of Athens in May and June 2020 during the first COVID-19 lockdown in Greece. The piece compiled by Fani Kostourou and Eleanna Santorinaïou was broadcasted online in October 2020 as part of 'The City Talks Back', a creative research programme led by Onassis Stegi and Theatrum Mundi, which brought together architects, urbanists, activists, artists and anthropologists to explore the voicings of contemporary Athens.

The work employs sound recordings

and composition as ethnographic tools for careful listening as a practice that draws attention to forms of publicness, domesticity and the often antagonistic relations between the two realms. Balconies are considered as the threshold spaces and where the two spheres meet, clash and overlap. In the compositional piece, the listener is exposed to liminal acoustic conditions as they hear the city waking, the sounds of birds, animals, alarms, tv and radio shows, church bells, street musicians, passing trains, cars, children playing, people having conversations, and παλιατζήδες (junk collectors) driving through the city. Sounds from both the outside and the inside are blended together in non-predictable and non-scripted ways, without knowing where some end and others begin.

Ακούς την Αθήνα; attempts to convey the familiar, everyday and mundane sounds of the city of Athens, which, as Brandon LaBelle says, form its "acoustic territory", "unfolding its unique auditory experience" during an entire day and night. I argue that this territory has repeatedly and over the years sonically acculturated Athenians in subtle yet ritual ways, shaping how they use or project their own voices. It has limited what they recognise as the acoustic norm and trained them in acts of listening in both attentive and inattentive ways. By internalising the sounds of their homes and streets, people have developed performative responses to different acoustic stimuli in their everyday life; performances which are inherently social as well as political.

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Tango sessions in Athens during the pandemic - Negotiations of safe spaces and intimacy in the metropolis



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tango
bodies
pandemic
collective
squat

KEYWORDS

The research examines the spatial transformation of a libertarian, tango-dancers' Collective in Athens, during the pandemic. The main issue arises when the physical contact and the social encounters, which are set as the Collective's goal and precondition, are associated with the risk and uncertainty of pandemic transmission and people avoid them. For the current study, ethnographic observation methods were used, examining the first year of the pandemic. The theoretical framework is focused on the concepts of body, collective physical practices and corporeality and the way they produce Groups and, finally, Space. The aim of this research is to present the social dynamics that construct the Pandemic Space in Athens, through the unique case of the Tango Collective.

Firstly, the group is transformed to its molecular scale in space: the contact between the bodies. Aiming at physical communication and pleasure through dance, the Collective always builds safe spaces, in order to provide individuals the ability to negotiate

closeness and interaction between their bodies, with the main negotiation place being the embrace. At the same time, the group promotes the closeness and experimentation of bodies, by creating spaces more protected from external interventions, both in material and immaterial level. The pandemic fear reversed the practices of the Collective, as social codes of sanitation were revised. During the pandemic, the group processes contactless forms of connection and communication, which can not replace the previous conditions. The concept of safe space is being totally revised.

Secondly, the team faced challenges to exist as a wholeness. A key feature of the group is its formation as a community through the physical meetings of its members, such as assemblies, dance nights and other activities. When gatherings turn to be insecure, the digital space is first tested to accommodate the community, which quickly seem to have narrow and insufficient boundaries. Later, natural encounters are attempted to take place in the only safe space in

the city for them: the squat that houses the Collective, which proves to be an empowerment space. However, its members are aware of exclusions and are looking for alternative spatial forms to achieve inclusion. The only realistic solution seems to be the open public spaces in the center of the city.

Finally, the group's interaction with the city is challenged. Group actions of intervention art in the urban area are unable to develop, due to the fear of police repression that takes place in squares and parks. Unexpectedly, the Collective is under full-blown attack when state repression evacuates its squat and turns the team invisible. Eventually, the group remains inactive, as it withdraws to private spaces and the members can only meet within the network of interpersonal relationships as friends – not as a collective anymore, which cannot function as a place of empowerment and development, but as an extreme preservation of a remaining core.

The pandemic city comes into complete conflict with the world of physical contact and communication they wish to build.

Hide and Seek in Athens. (Re)Inhabiting the city via playful encounters



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This study aims to highlight the value of playing as part of the ongoing conflict between the spatial restrictions imposed due to the current health crisis, and the practices inhabitants have adopted to reclaim the city. In particular, the relation between home and square is questioned by focusing on the dynamics of the suspended spatialities and the production of potential liminalities of playful encounters. In particular, the relation between home and square is questioned by focusing on the dynamics of the suspended spatialities (Stavrides, 2010) and the production of potential liminalities of playful encounters.

The COVID-19 pandemic has so far had a great impact on the production of public space and has challenged multifariously the boundaries between public and private spheres. Despite the enforced spatial restrictions, collective actions emerged as a dynamic and claiming reappropriation of the public space. Simultaneously, individuals within this context experiment

and produce new forms of living, relate and communicate in a transformative fashion. Therefore, new identities are produced in both private and public space attempting to calm the emerged tension in that dynamic relationship. A crucial form of reclaiming the city as a dynamic synthesis of private and public spatialities is playing.

Playing bridges one's personal experiences and sentiments with the other and the outside world creatively, effectively, and fruitfully suggesting new forms of social relations (Winnicott, 1971). In this context of new unfolding enclosures, areas of the city vital to everyday life are reclaimed through their reappropriation as spaces of play creating a series of "magic circles" in the city (Huizinga, 1970).

Recently, various gestures of claiming the city through game mechanisms have been observed

such as: the spontaneous volleyball game between students and professors in the courtyard of the National Technical University, the imaginative games for children and adults in squares and parks (e.g. Merkouri Square, Pedio tou Areos Park) occasionally organized locally by neighborhood collectives, as well as the informal playing areas children have produced while formal playgrounds were closed. In a broader perspective, these everyday practices could be perceived as part of a game of 'hide and seek' with the state policies and the clearly defined indications of movement (Ingold, 2016) regarding the use of public space during the pandemic. Hence, playful encounters of different social groups contain the element of collective ingenuity that is necessary for the city to be inhabited as a field of emancipation possibilities.

Playful encounters
Liminal spatialities
Athens
COVID-19

KEYWORDS

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Performing the Space: negotiations of publicness through situated practice



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Performance Architecture
Public Space
Commons
Situated Practice

KEYWORDS

This paper draws from the results of a series of Schools on Performance Architecture (Dimitriou, Kylika, & Soroga, 2021) led during the pandemic to discuss the porosity of the boundaries between private and public space. The schools initially designed for Athens, took place online on July 2020 and February 2021 and engaged a group of international students with a series of investigation on body, movement and space. Performance Architecture is an innovative direction of the architectural discipline originating as a term since 2006 (Anastasiadi, 2014). It focuses on the sensorial and experiential elements of space and applies the interaction of space and bodies as a methodology for designing.

This pathway of architecture engages emotionally as well as cognitively with a participatory, dynamic improvisation between

active individuals with the surrounding environment, spatially and socially. The role of the architect is that of the storyteller, using the vocabulary of people's actions; and the human body is seen as a drawing, thinking, making, sculpting and cognitive tool, producing notational sketches in the duration of space. Equally space is considered as bodily extension and the Bodies an extension of space.

The urban space is a vast terrain for inspiration and action. The school introduced the compositional approach 'Site-Specific Outdoor' where the space constitutes the prima material of the work and the concept derives from an interactive dialogue with the site, allowing it to form its content, research and evolution. Engaging with the city and performance, the students expanded their thinking bodies in

the urban landscape. Nevertheless, these engagements took place during the pandemic challenging thus the spatial boundaries of the original exercises and the dichotomy between public and private. Taking place online, with students socially distancing at their homes, and performing the exercises on a shared screen space, their private space and solitarily at their city's public space (with diverse locations such as Melbourne, Lviv, San Huan, Hong Kong, Athens, the Hague, etc) brought forth exiting negotiations between the diverse spheres. This paper will consider notions of public (Lefebvre), engagement with public and every day (De Certau, 1988) and the commons (Stavridis, 2016; Dimitriou and Koutrolikou, 2011) and will use the example of Performance Architecture school as a call for new theoretical tools for those emerging in-between territories.



PSUC Thematic Group

The Aesop Thematic Group Public Spaces and Urban Cultures has been initiated after the Annual Meeting of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in Liverpool (UK) in 2009, and has been founded upon an initiative of Sabine Knierbein, Ceren Sezer and Chiara Tornaghi in 2010. It aims at settling the research and design focus on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures in planning-related disciplines and nurturing a critical and constructive inquiry into the nature of urban cultures and public spaces – intended as lived spaces – and their potentials for the planning community. The Thematic Group Public Spaces and Urban Cultures works together with AESOP Planning Community, other scientific communities related to the topics, European research networks, policy makers, local communities, urban activists, and others.

The members of the AESOP Thematic Group on Public Spaces and Urban Cultures meet annually to discuss and develop approaches proposed under the group's working topic (Conviviality 2011/2013; Becoming Local 2013/2015; Unstable Geographies – Dislocated Publics 2016/2019; Public Space: Knowledge Transition between Research, Policy and Practice 2020-2022). These meetings mostly take the form of workshops/seminars/conferences accompanied by a fieldtrip in duration of two days, and also provide an environment for engaging in a peer-to-peer discussion on the participants' research and design projects. The meetings are organized by various types of institutions, which submit their declaration of interest for hosting an event based on the call's theme, in close collaboration with at least two TG representatives.

The Thematic Group after its first 10 years of activity (2010-2020) includes more than 100 members from different disciplinary fields and geopolitical contexts. Its internal structure is updated each two years and currently is composed by:

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2023-2021 Stefania Ragozino (CNR-IRISS National Research Council of Italy) and Tihomir Viderman (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)

2025-2023 Tihomir Viderman (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg) and secondary volunteer is to be elected

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research
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European
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Urbanization in the wider geographical area of the European South has had its own trajectory during the whole of the 20th century. In the contemporary "urban age", newly arising socio-environmental challenges, population flows, planetary environmental problems and technological developments interweave with the contextual specificities of social, environmental, cultural, institutional and political frameworks and their transformations. New conditions of urbanization are continuously produced in every place. In every city everyday spaces are produced anew. Thus, a wide and dynamic research field opens up: the documentation and analysis of urban space as well as the empirical investigation of social, political, cultural and environmental phenomena as produced and reproduced in the different urban environments of Southern Europe in their dialectical encounter with trends in other cities and developments in regional, national or global context. The Research Unit aims at a systematic study and documentation of the specificities of the cities of the European South in the European and the global context and its dialectic encounter with the global discussion. Beyond the critical adaptation of hegemonic discourses about the city, the aim is to produce new contextualized theoretical perspectives, concepts and hermeneutics.

The Research Unit pursues research with regard to the contemporary planning and socio-environmental challenges of cities in the European South and in the South-Eastern Mediterranean in the framework of regional and global urbanization processes. Hence, the Unit supports education and research in the knowledge fields of urban studies (contemporary urban trends, cultures and phenomena), and planning (urban design, urban planning and urban development policies) with the necessary data osmoses between them.

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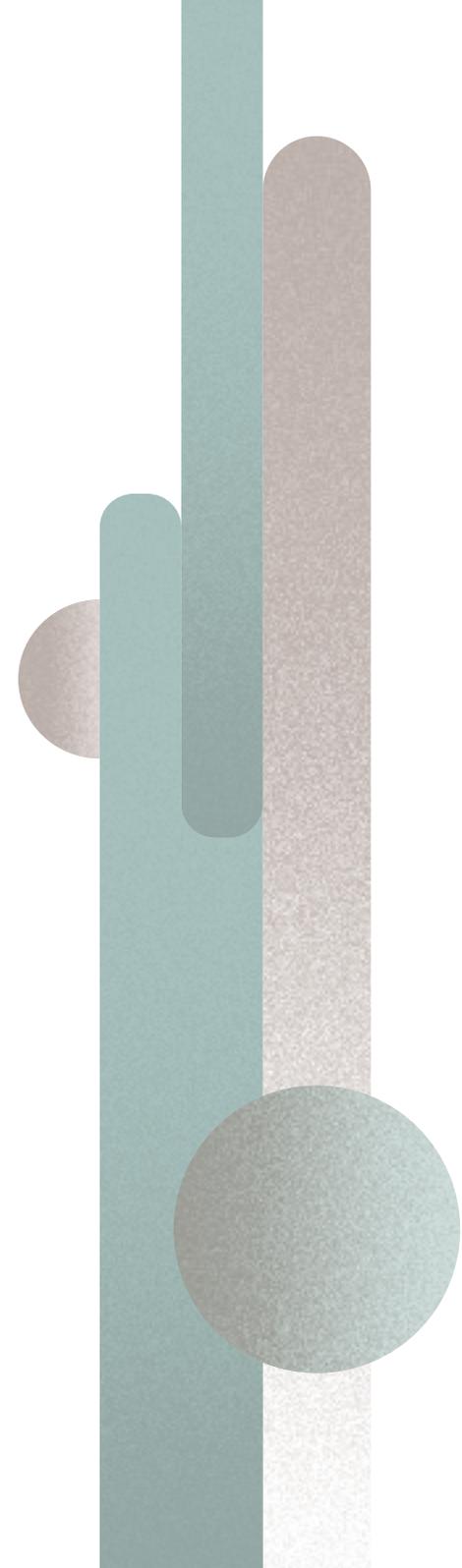
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