

Abstract Book

24-26.08.2022

Harokopio University
ATHENS GREECE

Ordinary **Cities** in Exceptional **Times**

ATHENS
2022

RC21
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CONVIN S.A.
29 Kosta Varnali St., 15233, Chalandri
Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 6833600
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Congress Correspondence & Updates
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 www.RC21athens2022.com



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We argue how a social green amenity that served as a unifying project across polarized political fractions turned into an economic cultural asset for local profitmaking.

Keywrrurban green branding, urban (re)development, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Green Belt, sustainability fix

Urban Transformations of Former Industrial Neighborhoods: Scrutinising urban networks – a comparison of Savamala (Belgrade) and NDSM Wharf (Amsterdam)

Ms. Kostica Dragana¹

¹*Hafencity University Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany*

Research examines the transformation of Savamala and NDSM Wharf, former industrial neighborhoods located on the riverfronts. The research is a comparative case study and aims at exploring urban networks. By employing social network theory, this research examines power geometry in the process of creativity-led urban regeneration. It explores the mechanisms of policy-making and decision-making processes and explains the transformations of the networks of the stakeholders. Likewise, it provides an explanation of the individual and collective social actions and the cultural and socio-psychological context in which the actors act (Emirbayer and Goodwin, 1996), and how those actions have led to the creation of the particular outcomes of the regeneration process. The results suggest that Amsterdam has a more comprehensive policy towards urban regeneration in contrast to Belgrade's case. The NDSM Wharf is an integral part of the development of the northern part of the city. For instance, the foundations for the urban policy can be found in the Breeding ground (BG) policy and the establishment of the BG burro by the city council. Furthermore, it can be observed that the policy network in Amsterdam's case has included more diverse network participants in the policy-making process, and knowledge is more widely distributed in contrast to the former case. Nevertheless, similarities in policy goals can be observed in both compared cases respectively. However, the results in Amsterdam's case indicate a policy network with a particular agenda i.e. a mixed-use development, and with policy goals that are to a large extent held in the following years. On the other hand, Belgrade's case indicates structurally different policy networks with different agendas and goals which are not coherent. This has negatively affected the effectiveness on the community level, in contrast to the positive externalities that can be observed in the former case.

Ways of intertwining city and literature: iconic urban symbols from the field of literature

Ms. Milica Resanovic¹

¹*University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade, Serbia*

The presentation analyzes the relationship between literature and city, focusing on the question of how elements of the literary field contribute to the city identity. Starting from the understanding of the literary field as a space that includes literary works, writers, literary events, and institutions, it is discussed how these different components of the field contribute to the sense of the cities' specificity and uniqueness. The analysis is inspired by the work of Peter Nas and his associates (Nas, 1993, Nas, 1998, Nas, De Groot, Schut, 2011) and more particularly the concept of "urban symbolism". The notion of "urban symbolism" helps us understand symbolic and ritual structures which reflect the history of the urban community and shape the identity of a city. Following the typology of "urban symbol bearers" proposed by Peter Nas and his associates, we identified key identity markers of the city which are related to the literary sphere which

are related to the literary sphere, such as monuments dedicated to writers and literary characters, literary institutions (literary museums and libraries), depictions of cities in literary works, literary events, and other related phenomena. The importance of identification of such identity markers, “urban literary symbols”, lies in providing deeper understanding of interconnection between city identity and literary field, as well as, in considering the possibility of using them as a cultural resource for local development. Urban literary symbols connected with the globally most famous authors and books are promotional icons abundantly used in city branding strategies as a tool to raise tourist attractiveness of the city. However, urban literary symbols connected with authors and literary works that did not gain global recognition are unsustainable means to promote the culture of the city, and therefore have been largely overlooked in urban cultural policies.

PANEL No.04: Decolonising urban knowledge(s): an ordinary imperative in extraordinary times

Conveners | Catalina Ortiz, *University College London, London, United Kingdom*; Penny Travlou, *ESALA, Edinburgh College of Art/University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK*; Elizabeth Sweet, *University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, United States*; Giulia Testori, *Joint Research Centre - European Commission*; Raksha Vasudevan, *Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, United States*, Marina Toneli Siqueira, *Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil*

Activist infrastructures and commoning "from below" The case of Cheetah Camp, Mumbai

Dr. Lalitha Kamath¹, Ms Purva Dewoolkar²

¹*School Of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute Of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India,* ²*University of Manchester, Manchester, UK*

This paper builds life histories of figures that are linked through shared housing struggles for creating and consolidating an informal settlement in Mumbai against tremendous odds. It argues that this interwoven mesh of living activist knowledges, practices and affective relations acts like an infrastructure (Simone 2004) that sustains and nurtures many poor, informal settlements to exert presence in the city and negotiate citizenship claims counter to the dominant pattern of housing and habitation. We draw upon Simone's work to talk about one type of people- infrastructure – community activists – of crucial importance in inspiring new forms of solidarity, shared caring, creative adjustments and common life. These living infrastructures, we argue, symbolize the engine of agency that can transform informal places from below through the process and collective labour of commoning. They make a variety of things possible – from schools to creating refuge, from greater mobility for members to greater ability to remain rooted in the place they hold dear.

We develop our argument using the case of one informal settlement, Cheetah Camp, to illustrate how living infrastructures initiate three different counter projects and the ensuing trajectory of place-in-process over a 50- year period. Thinking from Cheetah Camp as a place from where theory can be made, we argue that activist infrastructures constitute alternate forms of knowing, inhabiting and transforming the city. By understanding the work that goes into creating and maintaining these living infrastructures, along with their possibilities and limits for transformation of settlement and city, we take the project of decolonizing urban knowledges on (informal) housing and city building seriously.