

IV EUGEO Congress

Rome, 5-7 September 2013



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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city is globally dominated by real estate speculation (Harvey 2012, Petrillo 2012 Berdini, 2008) by infringement of local building regulations. The Teatro Valle experience shows the need of artist to re-appropriate of physical and political places and to put the cultural question and condition of immaterial work (Negri, Hardt 2000) in the middle of the political scenario.

Moreover these occupations have drawn a different meaning for these squatted places. Not only the place of the deep activism as the '90s squat, but cultural spaces crossing different political and generation biographies. The new subjects revolving round the creation of commons are giving rise experimental forms of citizenship reaching beyond the concept of territorial community (Balibar, 2012). They practice a kind of community as a network entering into relation with local as well as with each other on a national and European level.

Referring to the relational nature of goods (Ostrom 1990, Mattei 2011, Marella 2012), practices of common good achieve the idea of citizenship as the subject whose shared aim is to create a collective city -“project” centred on its use value, opposed to a “product”- city (Lefevre 1968).

Keywords: Re-appropriation, commons, urban practices, resilience, action research

Presentation 3

Author(s): Valeria Pecorelli, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Italy

Title: Wondering while wandering: *from the ivory tower to the real world*.

Abstract: This paper presents methodological insights about solidarity action research. It outlines a number of critical reflections on academic, political and personal dilemmas that were encountered in doing solidarity action research while working with Ya Basta-Milano in the context of a social centre Casaloca. The aim is to highlight the complex reality of conducting research as an activist academic and trying to discuss possible definitions and guidelines for doing militant research.

Presentation 4

Author(s): Ana Esteve, Leandro Gabriell, André, CEG-IGOT-University of Lisbon, Portugal

Title: Occupying Lisbon: the paths and places of political demonstrations

Abstract: The Portuguese population is portrayed often as quiet and obedient, accepting adversities without public protest. However, this picture does not correspond to the reality. When we examine the pathway of socio-political movements in Portugal, and particularly on the beginning of the 20th century (Republican movements), the Revolution of the 25th April 1974 and the present protests, we find another perspective of events. That apparent order is surrounded by force, coercion or imposition of fear. But even so, the contestation and the protest (institutionalized or not) earn their space and make it feel a bit all over the urban spaces. Currently, resistance and protests are made to hear again. In Lisbon, some of the spaces appropriated by major events at the end of the 19th century in the past seem to regain meaning with the latest protests against austerity policies. Does the symbolic power of urban spaces remain during long periods even if they were significantly transformed in physical terms? Or today's most important contesting spaces are others and/or more dispersed? Political demonstrations follow the same routes or open new paths associated to new symbolic meanings?

This paper - part of a research project on urban conflicts and socio-territorial innovation - aims to analyse the routes and places of the recent protests in Lisbon and to comprehend how much past spatial patterns survive in the present. The analysis is based on documentary sources in order to mapping the routes and places of the demonstrations. Multilayer cartography will be produced to compare the critical contesting spaces of the different historical periods.

Presentation 5

Author(s): Efthimios Bakogiannis, Maria Siti, National Technical University of Athens; Greece

Title: The contribution of activist groups in sustainable mobility and urban life

Abstract: What is the significance of activism in mobilizing civic groups, in participatory planning and finally in democracy as generated in modern cities? What are the mechanisms they activate and in which way it could be considered that they lead some growth?

How can activism raise awareness on issues that urban planning is trying to control, define or even enact? How can innovative approaches go together with academic research in order to promote issues regarding urban qualities?

Many activist groups promote and most importantly reclaim the reinvention of urban public spaces, which redirects planning from being implemented by centralized policies into new more participatory approaches.

This paper examines, apart from the above queries, the case of an over-ambitious cycling-plan in Athens as well as the action of various groups trying to intervene more or less in Greek cities. Metropolitan Cycling Network project started and developed by a group of cyclists (Podilates) in order to create a 226km network of fast cycle lanes spread around Attica region (Athens). Other groups have intervened more radically in public spaces by actually developing cycle lanes in central streets in Athens as politicians ignored them, while others challenge drivers by putting stickers for illegal parking saying; “I am a donkey! I park wherever it pleases me!”.

Recent urban planning policies in Greece are slowly starting to incorporate such attempts in local governance procedures, which is a vital step for their actual contribution.

SLOT 2 (Parallel Session 5)

Chair: Network Geografi-A

Presentation 1

Author(s): Margherita Ciervo, University of Foggia, Italy

Title: The Italian Movement for Water: processes, practices and tactics of reappropriation of a vital resource

Abstract: The water is the vital resource per excellence, and the privatization of water services comes from the individualist culture, the competition's dogma, the free market's ideology and the neoliberal policy. So, water has become the symbol of population-resource relation and the struggle for its remunicipalisation has become the paradigm of the fight for common goods. This struggle for water, rejecting the equivalence between economics and market, finance and speculation, policy and influence peddling, raises the democracy issue and involves territories through active movements of citizens.

In this context, the analysis of the Italian Movement for Water can result particularly significant because of the processes, practices and tactics performed by it for the reappropriation of the vital resource, inalienable human right and common good, as well as for the results achieved. In Italy, the Movement for water is the outcome of the cultural path launched by the Water Manifesto for a World Water Contract redacted by Riccardo Petrella in 1998 that, for the first time, moves the attention from the water to the *right* for water, and that has been the base for the creation, in 2006, of a permanent national forum. This last, among the other things, has used two constitutional institutions to reach its aims: the Law by Citizens for remunicipalisation of water services entered to the national Parliament in 2007 but never discussed; and the Referendum that, in June 2011, has reached the historical result of more than 27.000.000 of voters and 95% of these to support of public water.

So, this paper is the result of my scientific and social commitment, and it comes from a privileged observation's point, both internal to the Movement and to the frontier between reality and its representation. The proposition is to analyze by a critical key the following issues referring to the Italian Movement for water:

- articulation, distribution and territorial rooting;
- transcalar and territorial organization's way: tools, tactics and actions performed on each level of spatial scale;
- participative democracy's practices (internal and external to the Movement) and democratic territorialization of the power's spaces;
- relational network and methods with public institutions, parties, labour unions and religious organisations, environmental and consumers' associations, inhabitants;
- representation of the Movement by political and media powers (referring particularly to use of the words and language as tools for mystification and choices' orientation);
- results on cultural, analytical and political points of view: transformation of the collective imaginary, study of the innovative forms of water government, experiences of public management with social participation, etc.
- limits and contradictions.

Finally, it is presented a reflection focused on the geographer's role, the spatial competences and methods (e.g. action research) to support the social analysis and objectives, as well as the practices of active citizenry.

Presentation 2

Author(s): Arturo Di Bella, University of Catania, Italy

Title: Occupy Borders of Extra-Territoriality: the case of MUOS

Abstract: This paper presents the case study of MUOS (Mobile User Objective System), a US Navy telecommunication facility, under construction in the base of Niscemi (Sicily), analysing the socio-spatial relations that transform the extraterritorial borders in space of resistance and active citizenship. Protest practices of territorialisation act as tools for social re-appropriation of boundary and territory's control.

Where Sack (1980) has analysed territoriality mainly as a strategy deployed by the state and other sources of authority, I look to analyse the way in which it can be made to work for protestor and for oppositional forces to the construction of military facility in an effort to challenge authorities.

For this purpose, I adopt and adapt multidimensional model of socio-spatial relations theorized by Jessop, Brenner and Jones (2008), considering territoriality as structuring principle of mobilization's other spatial dimensions (place, network and scale). In particular, territoriality is used as theoretical tool to analyse the relations between territory and power, and to question strategies and practices of oppositional territorialisation. The geographies of protest communicate the intention of converting the formal borders of extra-territoriality imposed by military enclave in spaces and practices of social interaction and political resistance, which oppose the militarization of territory and the institutionalization of external sovereignty.



The contribution of activist groups in sustainable mobility and urban life

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Outline

introduction & purpose

case studies

discussion & conclusions

Introduction & Purpose

- Is there a **connection** between contemporary activism/activist actions and planning practice?
- How can **activism raise awareness** on issues that urban planning is trying to control?
- What are the **mechanisms that activism can activate** regarding urban development schemes?
- What are the **forms of engaging** in 'planning activism'?
- How can **alternative approaches in planning go together with academic research** in order to promote issues regarding urban qualities?

Case Studies

" During the last decade, Greece is witnessing a revival of collectives" (Stafylakis K., 2013- art theorist)

- a) Hellenikon Metropolitan Park in Athens**
- b) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network**
- c) Parking- Parko in Athens**

a₁) Hellenikon Metropolitan Park?- situation



Hellenikon site :International Airport of Athens until 2001

- **L**argest, publicly-owned, urban, coastal area in Attica
- **a**rea: 6.204.000 sqm (1533 ac)
- **O**ne of very few such areas left across the European urban coasts
- **t**he only remaining large-scale open space of Athens – active waterfront
- **U**nique assets (infrastructure, location)
- **p**rivatisation programme

a₂) Hellenikon - privatisation



Hellenikon site : National Technical University of Athens proposal

- **Law 2338/1995:** indicated the conversion into Metropolitan Green Park (largest in Europe)
- **2004 Olympic games**
- **2010 call for Qatar** investment funds
- **2011 Hellenikon SA** is founded
- **2010-2013 flexible laws**, de-regulation & re-regulation
- **no** masterplan, strategic plan, business plan

a₃) Hellenikon- actions

Table 2: Resistance movements against privatization (2007-2012)

Resistance movements, coalitions and initiatives	
2007 June	City of Hellenikon in collaboration with a variety of civil society organizations re-appropriate the illegally occupied Agios Cosmas beach by nightclubs, by dismantling the fences, restoring public access, and initiating a program of maintenance and cleaning, including ADA infrastructure for the first time on public beaches of Greece. Mayor Christos Kortsidis on a 24-day hunger strike supporting the re-appropriation of the illegally occupied beach.
2008 January	Coalition "Common action" established by the four mayors of the cities that include the airport area in their administrative boundaries. Coalition "Common action" organise three-day forum "Three days for a life" 10,000 trees planted by local and regional authorities, schools and institutions from across Athens
2010 June	City of Hellenikon, organizations and residents demonstrate against the illegal occupation of the beach and illegal operation of nightclubs and other uses.
2011 January	Autonomous Urban Farm established in 0.3 Ha lot, with residents and organizations starting planting of local vegetables and fruits, courses and networking with related initiatives in Greece and abroad
2011 March	Initiative for the Hellenikon Metropolitan Park established. 76 local and regional initiatives sign the "Open letter to the greek government, to the troika [DMF-EU-ECB], to the emirs, and to whom it may concern: Hellenikon is not for sale!" declaring their opposition and mobilizations against the privatization of the Hellenikon area.
2011 April	Former employees of state Olympic Airways create the Aviation Museum with Olympic Airways historic items at the former West Terminal.
2011 May-September	1st Annual Festival of Resistance and Creativity for the Metropolitan Park of Hellenikon: Concert by 20 Greek artists against the privatization plans of the area. Forum "Picnic for de-growth" with the participation of social initiative "Iliosporoi". Visit and talk by Serge Latouche "Full moon freedom beach party: Reclaim the beach 2 stages festival against the sell-out of ex-airport of Athens" by the Void Network, with more than 2,500 participants. 300 artists create visual and multi-media works of art for the protection of Hellenikon. One-month free exhibition in former Olympic Basketball building. Concert by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis against the privatization of Hellenikon and for the creation of a Metropolitan Green Park. Four discussions and roundtables on the privatization of state assets and



a₄) Hellenikon– key initiative

“Open letter to the Greek gov., to the troika [IMF-EU-ECB], to the emirs, and to whom it may concern:

Hellinikon is not for sale!"

declaring their opposition and mobilizations
against the privatization of the Hellinikon
area...



a₅) Hellenikon— counter proposal

Green, Culture & Recreation Park



- **r**esearch project by NTUA Urban Environment Lab (2009-10)
- **C**ommissioned by the Local Union of Municipalities & Communities of Attica
- **m**eetings with the Initiative

a₆) Hellenikon— outcomes

the main output of the reactions:

- **C**ease of the procedure & the start of new plans for a metropolitan park
- **b**ecame the symbol of fighting for environmental issues and against privatization processes, in Greece nowadays

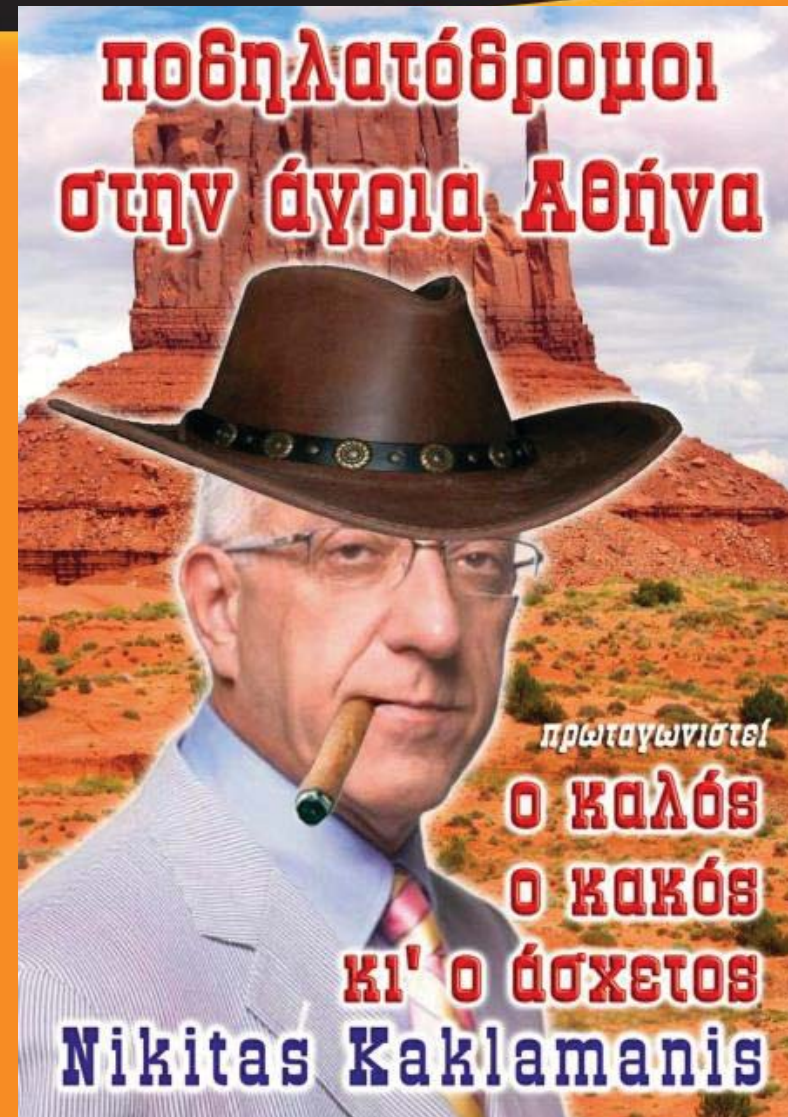
b₁) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network- people

Podilates Group (Cyclists);

- **C**ycle lanes
- **C**arrying Bikes in PT
- **U**pdates on Road Traffic Regulation
- **T**ax cuts
- **S**ecurity



b₂) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network



b₃) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network

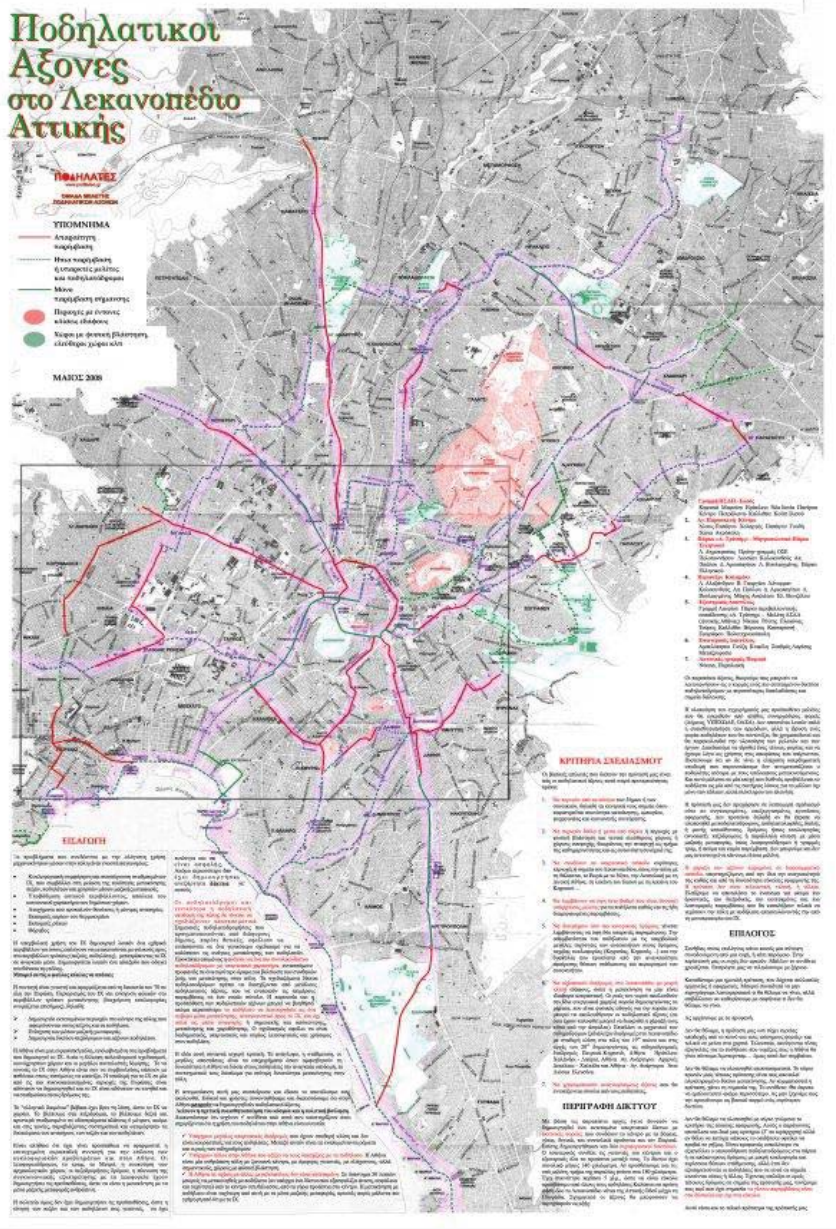


b₄) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network- proposal

Podilates proposal for Cycling Network

- **I**dentified disadvantages
- **S**et principles for urban environment reg. bicycles
- **S**et criteria for design standards

Ministry of Environment and Regional Planning



b₅) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network- collaboration

Ministry of Environment and Reg. Planning
(& Climate Change) assigned

Sustainable Mobility Unit of NTUA to

- **B**uild up &
 - **M**eliorate
- Podilates' Proposal.



b₆) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network- collaboration



SMU Called for :
evaluating/
weighting **criteria**
to select
alternative
scenarios

b7) Athens Metropolitan Cycling Network- outcome

Crucial Contribution:

Final proposal was incorporated in the
Strategic Plan of Athens/ Attica 2021 (SPA
2021)

c₁) 'Parking- Parko' in Athens



History

- ❑ Private Medical Clinic (1907-1972)
- ❑ 1972 property of Technical Chamber
- ❑ 1990- 2008

Parking

- ❑ 2008- today
autonomous/ self-managed park

c₂) Parking- Parko in Athens

- end of lease in 2008- activists occupied the abandoned land
- Residents Committee Initiative
- target audience specialities (political, scientific etc.)



c₃) Parking- Parko in Athens



discussions

assemblies

squatting

teams for management- planning- planting

creativity – art – culture - politics

c4) Parking- Parko in Athens

The fact that it is a political/ radical space brings on police interventions regularly..



c₅) Parking- Parko in Athens- outcomes

- **R**eappropriation of space – not centered around landscaping
- **B**ottom- Up approach in management

A widely collective squatted urban block...

Other examples 1/2



Other examples 2/2



Petralona, Athens

Discussion - Conclusions

Activist groups & social movements

- Illustrate the mechanisms of degradation of urban spaces
- Coordinate and collaborate with organizations and public bodies
- Define new and immediate cooperative ways to active engagement
- Develop dynamics that can influence change
- Reveal value of regeneration plans
- Expose cases of gentrification plans

Discussion - Conclusions

...more specifically:

- Created new places with identity
- Saved parks, social housing estates
- Demonstrated illegalities in mega-infrastructure projects
- Exposed environmental damages in 'protected zones'

Discussion - Conclusions

But,

- intervention scale ?
- ownership ?
- experimentation ?
- an act of violation ?
- defence mechanisms ?

Discussion - Conclusion

- People
- Typical issues
- Motivation
- Contribution

- Activism and Academia

Discussion - Conclusion

Public participation and engagement procedures remain administrative processes without substantial contribution of participants in the shaping of cities, in most of the South- European societies...

Social Movements and Activist groups prove that negotiation and resistance can radically change development processes, projects and plans.

Discussion - Conclusion

Show in - an experimental and symbolic-way .. **how it would be like to have the society shaping and designing its own urban space....**

Thank you all!