



Space, citizenship and identity: the EU-mega region

Co-chairs

Nurham Nurham (Zuyd University – The Netherlands)

Alessandra Gola (KU Leuven – Belgium)

Marco Chitti (Université de Montréal – Canada)

The panel builds its discussion upon the dialectic between the positions represented by Hardt & Negri (Commonwealth, 2009, pp. vii-xiv) and Miessen & Mouffe (The nightmare of Participation, 2014, pp.105-136) about the ideas and exercise of democracy, inclusiveness and community (or the negation of those) by means of the spatial design and urban planning.

We propose a provocative panel that invites scholars and practitioners to bring together and confront the perspective on the matter of a just and inclusive living environment.

We push for a focus on the experience of very different and sometimes conflicting agencies embedded in, transforming and adapting the built space: the grassroots in refugee camps and squatting movement, local governments, international agencies, but also neo-liberal structures such as real estate companies.

What do these and other actors mean by community and inclusiveness?

How do they embed such ideas in their approach to the shaping of the living space? What space has left for the community and its action in the neo-liberal paradigm?

Which of the spaces developed by different agencies find a way to eventually become "place"?

How and for whom? What future trends and scenarios can we envision?

The panel wishes in particular to put in dialogue the experience of the MENA and that of the European continent, two regions that are usually treated as historically, socially, culturally and spatially very distant.

However, actual deep and long-run relations of encounter-clash, interdependency and antagonism are emerging now with increasing force, revealing how closely they are actually intertwined and affecting each others.