

Solidarity and the Making of Lived Heritage: Networks, Places and Practices

In light of the growing attention given to the meaning of the political, economic and social tensions for planning and designing the city, as well as their effects on the city's public space, this project invokes heritage and solidarity as contested fields of action which are inextricably intertwined with these struggles. The workshop is aimed at motivated students from different disciplines as an introduction into the fields of urban studies and critical heritage studies. As regards urban studies the focus is placed on the politics and processes of solidarity which entail tactics and strategies of negotiating belonging (solidarity practices, which tend to be locally embedded in public space). At the same time a decrease in solidarity expressions reflects processes of de-solidarization which are particularly visible in the relation of the urban middle classes to urban public space. As regards critical heritage studies the project seeks to investigate heritage-making, on the one hand, as a practice field embedded in power relations (such as imperialism, colonialism, national identity reinforcement, city branding, cultural elitism, social exclusion or the fetishizing of expert knowledge), on the other, as a political act contesting these power relations. The project considers heritage not only in a material way but also as encompassing shared rituals, routines and practices of everyday life, towards developing a nuanced multifaceted view of performative acts of heritage-making through which difference in public space of European cities, in light of their distinct particularities, has been encouraged or curbed.

The workshop will engage in the themes of lived heritage and solidarity-spaces in a broader sense than urban morphology and spatial representations. It will interrogate the concept of 'heritage' from a critical point of view. According to this, heritage is not an intrinsic quality possessed by objects, buildings or places. Instead we would like to conceptualize heritage as a complex social process, as a societal relationship in which various, and often competing, social groups undertake a 'valuation' of certain aspects of the past, e.g. of certain identities and traditions, to give meaning to their lives in the present and future. With regard to solidarity, the discussion will draw on different approaches to conceiving 'solidarity' as an inclusive or exclusive agency supporting the emergence of collective identities, as well as current processes of de-solidarization in Europe characterized by growing populisms and nationalisms.

Together the participant students from Thessaloniki and Vienna will embark upon research into and reflection on both practices and spatiality of heritage making, seen through the prism of solidarity in the historic centre as well as inner city's peripheries. The workshop will work on the ways heritage-making and -unmaking shapes places of everyday life, intertwines

with practices of inclusion and exclusion, and stimulates people to conceive of and develop new approaches to “change” through solidarity. In so doing we ask how much conceptions of solidarity and conceptions of heritage are intertwined or mutually reinforcing one another. In this workshop theoretical approaches to studying public life, methodologies for researching public space and heritage-making and practice-oriented learning will be combined for both a broad understanding of and a conscious engagement in multiple urban publics of the city. Action-based pedagogies combining theoretical approaches to studying public life, methodologies for researching public space (e.g. participatory mapping, action research) and practice-oriented learning. Goal is to further enhance students’ skills of urban analysis and action as well as creative lateral thinking. Based upon theoretical debates in the format of lectures, seminars and workshops, students will explore specific methods, research practices and possibilities in order to address self-determined goals of a group’s project.

The workshop is organized in cooperation between the School of Architecture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (**Charis Christodoulou**, Assistant Professor of Urban Design and Urban Planning and **Evie Athanassiou**, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and the Environment) and Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space (SKuOR) of the School of Architecture and Planning – Vienna University of Technology (**Sabine Knierbein**, Assistant Professor of Urban Culture and Public Space, **Sybille Frank**, Professor of Urban and Regional Sociology at Technische Universität Berlin, appointed to 2016 City of Vienna Visiting professorship for Urban Culture and Public Space).

The workshop will emphasize the value of working collaboratively. The projects will be carried out in groups, and may also include partnering with community organisations and other actors. The course language is English.