

Art, culture and the city. Re-thinking European edge urban territories

Keywords

Art, culture, city, edge territories, public space, heritage, multiculturalism

Main Research Objective

At a time of deep social change, necessary ecological transitions and digital challenges, how can we think about the “making” of urban territories through art and culture. The “making” of urban territories, a term used to conceptualize the city as a continuous, multi-actor process, and more specifically the one driven and experienced by art and culture, is an established phenomenon. However, its social, artistic, political and economic dimensions continue to provoke even more reflection and questioning than before. Particularly in edge cities, situated between two different realities: multicultural strength and social weakness, attractive territories but pressured by immigration, experimental urban laboratories and the heritage dimension. What role do art and the increasing cultural and artistic operations play?

For example, how urban places where multiculturalism play a key role could enhance ways of making societies through art and culture? How can cultural projects led by local players and artists alike produce new ways of involving local residents? Are these processes just about changing the image of so-called “sensitive” areas, or can in-depth transformations lead to real democratic advances? To what extent can they bring about a new kind of urban society? And if so, how can we help inform this phenomenon?

Main Research Outcome

The processes related to the “making” of urban territories are both historical and emerging in peripheral and transitional territories. They are empirically observable and offer a sustainable framework for cooperation among researchers, early-career scholars, and students from ERUA universities.

The project aims to:

Empirically document the transformation of these territories, examining how art and culture unfold in spaces at the margins of urban centers.

Establish collaborative research practices that bridge disciplines, engaging both senior and early-career researchers in fieldwork and analysis.

Create sustainable and dynamic learning environments where students actively participate in empirical studies, contributing to the ongoing understanding and interpretation of urban development projects.

Develop long-term partnerships between universities and local stakeholders, including city planners, cultural organizations, artists, architects and community groups.

Ensure that the outcomes of these collaborations are disseminated through academic publications, public workshops and scientific events, reinforcing the links between research and community engagement.

Advantages in term of research's results:

Comparing urban spaces: a European continuum of territories on the edge?

Comparing the players and the stakeholders in contemporary city production: traditional and new players and stakeholders?

Comparing artistic and cultural projects: a specifically urban art form?

Creating a database of good practice examples - case studies.

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