

RT18 | TOWARDS A POLITICS OF SPACE

Chairs

- Ester Limonad, Fluminense Federal University.

Speakers

- Rainer Randolph, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro;
- Geraldo Magela Costa, Minas Gerais Federal University;
- Roberto Luis Monte-Mór, Minas Gerais Federal University;

Description

Lefebvre's ideas have contributed to the understanding of the social production of space and have been widely discussed. And many times, misinterpretations of his ideas and propositions go against his conceptions. Whether seeing the Right to the City as a mere legal right, whether expelling any references to capitalism, social conflict, exploitation, etc. Such inaccuracies reduce Lefebvre's ideas to formal - and/or reformist propositions, deprived of their original purpose and political character.

Therefore, this roundtable proposal intends to go beyond the banal appropriation of his ideas, since many authors overlook his major concern that was the production of a differential space and of another society. Thus, his work has an undeniable and explicit political meaning that founded his criticism on the real socialism failure in creating another society, another space. So, this roundtable has as main orientation to debate Lefebvre's critical approach on space and its relationship with the political, with the reflection on the space, social contradictions and transformation, to rescue the possibilities of a praxis, as a space-time mediation between man-nature, as a political practice that nurtures theory and the instruments of social action, that helps transform the general conditions and people towards another society.

On one hand, this drives us to Lefebvre's critic to urbanism ideology and idealism. On the other hand, it takes us to his reflection on utopia, conceived as an utopian thought, as a concrete utopia that transforms permanently at each step ahead, as the Galeano's horizon that makes us think and walk forward. Lefebvre's concrete utopia has a kinship with Ernst Bloch *noch-nicht* (not-yet) and his utopian perspective, and not with the frozen timeless utopic ideas of an idealized society that nourished, and still nourishes, authoritarian political regimes of a fascist kind.

This walking forward happens through the gradual accumulation of different steps and social actions a long time that interact with the spatial practices, hegemonic and subordinated, which

inform and form little by little the social production of space, producing here and there spaces that may be characterized as manifestations of differential spaces.

Hence, this roundtable proposal intends to deal with the relation between space and politics, either in terms of the concrete possibilities of action concerning a transforming praxis, or in terms of the reflection on the current planning and spatial processes. Thus, we understand this space-politics relation has different developments concerning, on one hand, the concreteness of Lefebvre's categories and, on the other hand, the relevance of the production of space in relation to the possible and mutable utopian thinking (Bloch, 2007; Lefebvre, 2009) embracing what has come to be here and now, but also what has come to be changing potential, in constant mutation.

References

- BLOCH, Ernst. *El Principio Esperanza*. Madrid: Editorial Trotta. 3vs, 2007.
- GALEANO, Eduardo. *Las palabras andantes*. Buenos Aires: Catálogos, 1993.
- LEFEBVRE, Henri. *State, Space, World. Selected Essays*. Minneapolis; University of Minnesota Press, 2009.
- LEFEBVRE, Henri. *The Production of Space*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.