

RT22 | CITY UNSILENCED - PUBLIC SPACE AND URBAN DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL

Chairs

- Sabine Knierbein, TU Wien

Speakers

- Elina Kränzle, TU Wien
- Marcus Owens, University of Berkeley

Description

The paper-based roundtable discussion will evolve around a series of case studies on urban resistance and the role of planning for and designing public spaces in cities in Asia, Latin America, Europe and Northern America which will be published in May 2017 as a book under the title "City Unsilenced. Public Space and Urban Resistance in the Age of Shrinking Democracy" edited by Jeff Hou (University of Washington, Seattle) and Sabine Knierbein (TU Wien). We aim at sharing, updating and further discussing the role of urban resistance in contemporary times of unsettled political conditions. The book features case studies from San Francisco, Oakland, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Taipei, HongKong, Athens, Madrid, Vienna, Berlin, Istanbul, Barcelona, New York and Mexico City.

What do the recent urban resistance tactics around the world have in common? What are the roles of public space in these movements? What are the implications of urban resistance for the remaking of public space in the "age of shrinking democracy"? To what extent do these resistances move from anti- to alter-politics?

City Unsilenced brings together a cross-disciplinary group of scholars and scholar-activists to examine the spaces, conditions and processes in which neoliberal practices have profoundly impacted the everyday social, economic, and political life of citizens and communities around the globe. They examine the commonalities and specificities of urban resistance movements that respond to those impacts. They focus on how such movements make use of and transform the meanings and capacity of public space. They investigate their ramifications in the continued practices of renewing democracies. A broad collection of cases is presented and analysed, including Movimento Passe Livre (Brazil), Google Bus Blockades San Francisco (USA), the Platform for Mortgage Affected People (PAH) (Spain), the Piqueteros Movement (Argentina), Umbrella Movement (Hong Kong), post-Occupy Gezi Park (Turkey), Sunflower Movement (Taiwan), Occupy Oakland (USA), Syntagma Square (Greece), 1DMX (Mexico), Miyashita Park Tokyo (Japan), 15-M Movement (Spain), and Train of Hope Vienna (Austria).

By better understanding the processes and implications of the recent urban resistances, City Unsilenced contributes to the ongoing debates concerning the role and significance of public space in the practice of lived democracy and lived space. The roundtable during the AESOP Conference in Lisbon “Spaces of Dialog for Places of Dignity” will focus on the relevance of public space research for the planning community and will emphasise the role(s) of planning, architecture, landscape architecture and urban design schools during crisis of democracy, thereby establishing a dialogue between planners and urban activists supporting those most affected to live a life in dignity.