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Refugees Welcome…Terrorists Welcome

The visual dialogues about refugees in the urban space

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The Humanification of the City
The Urban Innovation Nexus across Planning, Governance and the Commons

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Abstracts

The Role of Conflict in a Humane City

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Conflict is perhaps not the first thing that comes to mind when we think about a humane city. If, however, we think of moves toward a more humane city as expressing commitments to recognition and dignity, to respect and inclusion, then conflict may seem less far afield. If we acknowledge that citizens and residents experience these qualities not as abstractions, but as concrete experiences in which recognition and respect get extended or withheld in the everyday practices of governance, then the relevance of conflict may become a bit more clear. If the notion of a practice is itself extended to include the actions and settings in which these qualities of a humane city get contested and renegotiated, conflict may begin to seem not only relevant for, but central in the pursuit of a humane city. This talk will examine the humane city from this perspective, as shaped in important ways by conflict. The analysis will focus on conflict and controversy in the front-line practices through which urban governance takes shape in cities in the Netherlands. It will trace and comment on the ways in policies and practices become controversial, practical deficits get dramatized, and political commitments get renegotiated as public officials and citizens, street-level bureaucrats and residents struggle to cope with the unpredictable flux of urban life.

Bio:
David Laws is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Director and co-founder (with M. Kuitenbrouwer and A. Rinnooy Kan) of the Public Mediation Program at the UvA. Dr. Laws' research focuses on policy conflict and front-line practice in a range of domains including urban development, environmental protection, social affairs, and water management. This research includes the analysis of framing and of practices for organizing dialogue and negotiation in response to policy controversy. He is the author (with J. Forester) of Conflict, Improvisation, Governance: Street Level Practices for Urban Democracy (Routledge, 2015).

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The Co-City and Internet of Humans: co-governance, pooling, enabling State, urban experimentalism and tech justice

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Internet of Things, Internet of Everything and Internet of People are concepts suggesting that objects, devices and people will be increasingly interconnected through digital infrastructure that will generate a growing gathering of data. Parallel to this is the celebration of the smart city and sharing city as urban policy visions that by relying heavily on new technologies bear the promise of a efficient and thriving cities. Law and policy scholarship has either focused on questions related to privacy, discrimination, security or issues related to the production and use of big data, digital public services. Little or no attention in the literature has been paid to the disruptive impact of technological development on urban governance and city inhabitants' rights of equal access, participation, management and even ownership, in order to understand whether and how technology can also enhance the protection of human rights and social justice in the city.

This article advances the proposal of complementing the technological and digital infrastructure with a legal and institutional infrastructure, the Internet of Humans, by construing and injecting in the legal and policy framework of the city the principle of Tech Justice. Building on the literature review on and from the analysis of selected case studies this article stresses the dichotomy existing between the market-based and the society-based applications of technology, the first likely to increase the digital divide and the challenges to human rights in the city, the latter bearing the promise to promote equal access to technology in the city. The main argument advanced by this paper is indeed that Tech Justice is an empirical dimension that can steer the developments of smart city and sharing city policies toward a more just and democratic city.

Bio:
Christian Iaione is associate professor of urban law and policy, land use and regulatory innovation at LUISS Guido Carli and faculty director of LabGov – LABoratory for the GOVernance of the Commons (www.labgov.it). He has been the expert of the EU Committee of the Regions who drafted the opinion on the "Local and regional dimension of the sharing economy". He is member of the Sharing Economy International Advisory Board of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and e advisor of several Italian local governments and institutions (Tuscany Region, City of Rome, City of Bologna, City of Reggio Emilia). He is UIA – Urban Innovative Actions expert appointed by European Commission for the Co-City project of the City of Turin, ad-hoc expert of the EU Urbact program, member of the Urban Partnership on Innovative and Responsible Procurement within the Urban Agenda for the EU. Christian is affiliated fellow of the Urban Law Center at Fordham University and co-director of LabGov Georgetown.

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Urban Human-ness neighbourhoods in South Africa

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The challenges facing our cities around the world today are compounding. In addition, like many other such neighbourhoods in South Africa, these communities continue to also bear the added scar tissue of Apartheid separatist planning which has left the large majority of our population the furthest away from opportunity. With a poor mobility infrastructure the resultant social, economic and environmental impacts on these communities are unsustainable and unjust. Johannesburg Development Agency seeks to build a more welcoming and competitive Johannesburg that is a better city to live, work and play in – but more distinctly, one that is more equitable, sustainable and resilient. Noordgesig formed part of an area-based development programme centred around TOD principles to create a plan that would guide spatial transformation of the precinct. But beyond urban development, infrastructure capacitation and economic investment, the challenge we really needed to address is to start with a different layer of capacitation – In order to regenerate this important neighbourhood, we needed to amplify its most valuable asset – the people of Noordgesig. In addressing spatial inequities and lost communities, Noordgesig has taught us invaluable lessons. It has taught us that in order to support and strengthen communities in need we need to create places of meaning, places that are culturally reflective and user centric. We do this by listening to the stories, and extracting a narrative from the core of the community within which it is situated and amplifying that.

A process of designed, unique and intensive co-production engagement sessions with this community led to the development of the precinct plan, identification of priority projects and the current construction and near completion of two phases which has transformed the way we engage with communities and build cities for and WITH citizens.

Bio:
Shaakira is a Professional Architect and Urbanist who uses her qualifications and experience to bring excellence in design back to city and local government projects. Through her work at the Johannesburg Development Agency, she has changed the way the City interacts and engages with its communities. By introducing new participatory processes and co-producing solutions with the communities that she works in, she has committed her work toward bringing City and Citizen planning together. Shaakira is passionate about responsive and co-productive design. She has dedicated using her skills to transform the City's approach to design and the manner in which it services its citizens. She has introduced new practices to ensure that communities are empowered through their direct contribution and participation in their spaces.
Based on her leadership within her field, Shaakira is a 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow as part of the Young African Leaders Initiative and TEDx speaker. She has also been nominated for the Pioneer in Innovation for Women in Construction Award and the Standard Bank Rising Star Award.

The Humanification of the urban economy: circular practices towards human evolution

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All winning transition processes include a human cognition evolution. Opportunities are in the individual primary capacities that are expressed "on" a line of evolution where time and space are reloaded. In this era, transition is the translation of complexity through its reduction on a linear process. This mechanism is the same as well as the cognition evolution. That is the reason why the self-governance is so important. The "self" is the space where complexity could be downsized as line of a semantic economy. On this line, time unfurls some important passages; a) the "detachment" from an unsustainable process, b) the "inversion" between the subject and the object of transition process, 3) the "indistinct perception" among two trials and finally 4) the "self-adjustment". Focusing on second and third passage, an experimental project carried out in Centocelle District of Rome, shows that citizens better govern sustainability issues if, at the same time, perceives to govern the self. In Centocelle district, waste are conceived as resources, spaces are regenerated and garbage management can become funny because induced by a binary economy that mimes cognition evolution pathway. Instead of abandoned places, flowerbeds and community gardens are growing. Against underused products and empty rooms, sharing economy practices as coworking are emerging. New community rules are overcoming the unsustainability of purchases towards local shops, zero-kilometre restaurants and purchasing groups. Finally, thanks to second-hands markets and special collection, waste are not to be disposed, but they are re-introduced in a new economic cycle. Circularity is binary: as for waste transformation as for human evolution. The synthesis of this project marks the convergence of many steps in one and demonstrated that the transition is a de-complexity process through a capacity empowerment. As for the waste as for people.

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Conflict, knowledge use and politics – implications for multilevel urban governance. The case of planning for temporary housing for immigrants in Gothenburg, Sweden

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Planning is sometimes conceptualized as a "practice of knowing" (Davoudi 2015). Planners/civil servants have to handle multiple and often conflicting knowledges from different actors which can represent the public, professionals, politicians, civil servants, among other. Conflict is intertwined with planning and belongs to planning routines. However, despite the acknowledgement of the centrality of conflict in planning, little attention is paid to the role that knowledge and its use have in conflict development and resolution and what implications it might have for multilevel urban governance and reaching the goals of sustainable urban development. Drawing on a case study of planning for temporary housing for immigrants in Gothenburg, Sweden, this study sets off to answer the following questions: what knowledges do different actors operate with in their rhetoric and argumentation? what role do different knowledges play in conflict development and resolution? What implications might such patterns of knowledge use have for multilevel urban governance and reaching the sustainability goals in the future? The main finding is that the core issue of the conflict was formed by the fact that the "process" knowledge of building professionals was poorly integrated into political decisions that set the development goals in early stages of planning. This contributed to the development of a complex and multi-layered conflict. Overall, more attention to and flexible ways for integration of different knowledges of actors (including politicians) in early stages of planning seem necessary in order to create better preconditions for more informed decision making and political goal setting and conflict prevention in complex planning situations.

Stakeholder engagement to improve capacity building and knowledge transfer: the experience of the Interreg Med PrioritEE project

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Stakeholder engagement is widely recognised as a privileged tool to facilitate the dialogue between public authorities, citizens and businesses, supporting the implementation of policies and measures. In fact, stakeholders are involved as drivers of innovation in co-creation processes and shared learning initiatives that promote community awareness and valorise community knowledge assets. Encouraging public participation in decision-making processes is also recognised as a key driver to build a long lasting cooperation in the planning process based on equity, transparency, integrity and trust.

The PrioritEE project aims at improving the political and strategic planning capacities of local public authorities in the energy management of public buildings in five Mediterranean countries. Here, the involvement of stakeholders is essential to support decision-making through a participatory governance that promotes energy awareness and sustainable lifestyles. In this project, key target groups have been identified, and customised capacity building and knowledge transfer activities have been defined by country to raise energy awareness and facilitate their active involvement in the implementation of energy efficiency measures. To this end, two main approaches have been followed: Local Living Labs (LLLs), mainly addressed to citizens, and Technical Workshops (TWS), involving technicians and public employees. LLLs are increasingly popular to stimulate and accelerate industrial and social innovation through direct participation of end-users, whereas TWS offer the opportunity to share data and technical information to train on the use of e.g. Decision Support Tools (DSTs) (also developed within the project) and to make explicit energy needs. The LLLs have been mainly addressed to support the implementation of good practices and awareness raising measures by involving selected stakeholders (energy managers, municipal staff, employees, headmasters, teachers, students and citizens) in training activities. Meanwhile, the TWS, organised in close cooperation with Local Authorities, aimed at collecting the needs and requirements of energy managers and at presenting the PrioritEE approach and DST through practical training, performing a preliminary energy analysis of buildings to highlight potential energy savings for prioritizing technical interventions. The combined use of different methods for stakeholder engagement empower local authorities by enabling a bottom-up vision of the community, in which citizens are not "external" and passive users/performers, but are integrated in the governance process, sharing common energy efficiency goals and cooperating for their achievement.

Rationality-affect. Robustness change, Co-Governance-Democracy. Exploring the tensions in the design of urban communing.

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This contribution highlights three peculiar tensions in urban commoning and, by reflecting on three cases of urban commoning in the city of Malmö, it discusses how the co-design approach of "infrastructuring" paired with social learning can be used to deal with these tensions. The dilemmas are the following.

In defining design principles for the commons, Ostrom focused on rational elements, like the definition of clear rules and the importance of robust organizational arrangements (Ostrom 1999). However, lately, it has been highlighted how affective aspects and subjectivity play also a key role in commoning (Nightingale 2011). Thus, it is key to consider which design approaches allow to address both the rational and affective dimensions of common(ing). Ostrom highlighted how robust organizational arrangements ensure stability to the commons (Ostrom 1999). However, when it comes to urban commons, it has been highlighted how robust arrangements can hinder possibilities to include new participants or deal with transformations of the context over-time (Daniels 2007, Foster 2011). This raises the question of which arrangements can provide stability over-time without hindering possibilities for transformation.

Urban commons are often framed as matter of democratizing the city. They are seen as a way to enhance citizens' right to shape the context they live in (Harvey 2008). Yet, it has been highlighted how urban commons can also enhance exclusion (Foster 2011) and how they do not necessarily imply broader participation nor inclusion (Rodotá 2013). Thus it becomes important to consider under which circumstances do urban commons foster democratization.

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Refugees Welcome… Terrorists Welcome: The visual dialogues about refugees in the urban space.

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Our city spaces are filled with images in the forms of advertisements, political campaign billboards, graffiti, posters, and street art. Those images communicate messages in our every day life about the space we live in, who is represented and who is excluded, what is tolerated and what is censored. Those messages along side language form and respond to the wider public discourse about different contested topics and produce different urban spaces of inclusion and exclusion.

We look specifically at urban images relating to the topic of refugees in the city center of Aalborg city in Denmark over the period from 2015 to 2018. The focus is on how the urban images were used in the political dialogue about refugees in Denmark.

Urban images are conceptualized through the theoretical framework of cultural psychology as material artifacts and tools that individuals use to act and respond to their environment within a specific social and historical context. Urban images are analytically approached as having transformative social life as they get interpreted, refuted, and destructed in dialogue.

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Fighting Spatial Segregation by Transforming Governance

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With rising inequalities all over Europe, this article aims at finding a potential solution to reduce the spatial segregation these inequalities entail. It will thus aim at answering the following research question: How can an alternative form of governance from the neoliberal paradigm, reduce spatial segregation in the metropolis? First a literature review is conducted in order to understand the origin of spatial segregation and how governance affects this segregation. It is found that spatial segregation can be described using four theories, Natural Forces, the Global City Thesis, the Welfare State and Context Dependence, and that Governance directly impacts those four theories and therefore spatial segregation. A Case study of Madrid is developed, being one of the most segregated cities in Europe, in order to understand in which ways a neoliberal mode of governance influences the four theories composing spatial segregation. This case study resulted in finding that governance was a core element to the pronounced spatial segregation found in Madrid between North and South, through its financial system it weakened the welfare system and using exceptionality measures it avoided possible debates on alternative modes of actions thus perpetuating the existing power structures. On the other hand, a framework has been established for an alternative mode of governance, placemaking, to provide a more just city and reduce spatial segregation by planning at a more local scale and incorporating social development to urban development.

Understanding the human factor in cities - how streets and public spaces influence people's emotions – and how to measure the effect

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The urban environment influences the emotions of those who walking and stay in the public urban realm. The effect of urban surroundings on peoples' emotional state is often considered as qualitative and unmeasurable. On the background of psychological knowledge, I developed a method to quantify the environmental effect on emotions of people who walk though urban surroundings. Where walking is unpleasant, any stationary activity will neither be attractive. Understanding how urban environments influences peoples' emotions provides fundamental clues on what constitutes a human urban environment.

Psychologist define emotions by the so called *circumplex model of emotions*. The model uses two factors to define emotions, (1) the amount of stimulation that the brain receives, and (2) if the received stimuli are experienced pleasant or unpleasant. How much stimuli receive people from the urban surrounding? Eighty percent of all sensory stimuli received by our brain is visual information. We collect visual stimuli by frequent eye and head movements that can be counted through observational methods. To understand which environmental stimuli are perceived as pleasant, we interviewed 600 tram passengers on their walk to the stop.

Plotting the quantified results in a coordinate system with two axes (X = pleasantness, Y = stimulation) showed how environmental characteristics influence people's emotions. Results are not surprising. Car traffic stresses, pedestrian precincts with people cafes and shops are exciting, parks are relaxing, and monotonous large scale buildings are boring.

Redirecting Cultural Capital Through Art – The Reconfigured Artist's Platform as Generative Model Between Publics and Problematics in Urban Spaces

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In contemporary cities where there is increasingly unequal access and over-legislation of public spaces through expanding privatization and gentrification, what is the role of artistic practice in the context of building a better commons? Often art is utilized by financiers and governments as an instrument in promoting uneven urban development, while cultural offerings to the public are watered down, and the labor politics of artistic production remain more precarious than ever. Given the complexity of these conditions, what solutions are there that can address this interrelated nexus of problems from spectacularized cultural programming, to the unequal production of space, to the problematic political economy of artistic practice? Are there more sustainable models of (re)producing the commons?

What is the role of art in the process of the Humanification of the City?

I will argue for expanded formats of the artist-organized platform as a generative site of production in rethinking, reframing, and reconfiguring the relationship between visual culture and the creation of more inclusive commons. Through expanding upon my involvement as a practitioner in the development of a concept-based artist-run platform in Aalborg called f.eks. – along with my artistic academic research – I will detail experimental and speculative approaches aimed at addressing these cultural and spatial issues. In doing so, ideas from the Right to the City, combined with left-accelerationist theory and post-capitalist practices (among others) will be further elucidated to produce dialogue for more sustainable socio-economic, spatial, and organizational models between art and the urban commons.

Creative Tourism and Digital Technologies in Chinese Museums

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Recently, 'innovation-oriented nation' have been an officially recognized national strategy in China, and it has been a belief that only innovation will afford the nation a leading role in existing and emerging areas of development (Jing & Osborne, 2017). As one of key element of innovation, creativity has been a new strategic choice to combine with technology and market demand to develop high-value-added cultural and creative industries. Cultural creativity and technological innovation have been linked to the 'wheels of a cart and wings of a bird' for economic growth in China (Li, 2011). Accordingly, to build a creative society has been one part of a new vision and development strategy in China. As The World Bank (2013) described, by 2030, if managed well, China could become a modern, harmonious, creative, and high-income society. Among a series of key factors of supporting the new strategy, 'creativity' and 'new technology' have been addressed as two key enablers to build a creative society. Under such a background, 'creative tourism' has been drawn much attention in China. Aa suggested Li (2011), creativity is changing China, while creative tourism is considered as a new development of tourism by involving the tourists themselves and the locals in the creation of the tourist products, which also means a way of co-creation development. It is well known that museum is one of the important locations for creative tourism development because it can provide contexts which are different from people's daily life and at the same time these contexts are so significant in human history that ordinary people need to know. Visiting museum is often regarded as a learning process which demands intensive interacting with the exhibition. The traditional way of exhibition, in which people can only be in the museum and watching exhibits, is not enough. However, the development of digital technologies makes it possible for museums to interact more with their visitors, and visitors have more options to experience the exhibition, for example, using Yunguanbo APP. The new vision of developing a creative society in China shapes a context for creative tourism development by digital technologies in Chinese museums. It also brings opportunities as well as challenges. This research has important significances that brings a discussion on potential strategies of improving digitalization, creative industry, museum management, and creative tourism in China. This will further imply how to improve creative economy in other cultures around the world.

Co-production through technologies? Lessons from Mobility Urban Values (MUV 2020)

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The paper elaborates from a vision and a method developed in the context of MUV (Mobility Urban Values), an EU Horizon 2020 project (2017-2020) that intends to foster more sustainable mobility lifestyles, enhance local development and improve urban planning policies. MUV activities are co-designed to enable spatial and virtual social interaction in six different European neighborhoods in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Fundao, Ghent, Helsinki, and Palermo. In this paper, a framework of multiple lenses grounding on the theories about change – behavior change, social practice, and systemic perspectives – is combined for a new progressive transitional perspective to understanding how people space and technologies shape a potential relational change agency. A critical scholarship angle allows elaborating on the transformative capacity of societal discourses within contextualized neighborhoods and their effects through participative methods of interpretation in six EU cities. The idea of change is here operationalized through an interpretation of the multi-level perspective (MLP) as an urban ecosystem which frames the macro-and-micro levels that intertwine and co-evolve together through the flow of societal 'desired values', the dynamic of stabilization of urban practice and potential urban governance strategies. The first part of this paper focuses on the MUV vision about change and the agency within this urban ecosystem. The framework points to the efforts to value change envisioned within co-creation activities with individuals, local communities, informal groups of citizens against the discursive landscape of societal desired values (sustainability, resilience, safety, inclusiveness). The conclusion presents the results of this process with a critical consideration of discursive re-scaling. Lessons from MUV draw on what planning for transitions require in terms of capacities: first a practical way to interpret values with local communities in view of regenerating a positive culture that reflect the identity of places; second the opportunities to integrate scale-linking perspectives from individuals to system-thinking to generate new capacities for action.