Reframing Spatial Practices in processes of Social Inclusion of Migrants and Local Communities in the reactivation of historic urban landscapes

Dr. Federico Wulff Barreiro, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University
Oscar Brito González, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London

In recent years, there has been an unprecedented exodus of persons displaced from conflict torn regions to Europe. In the third quarter of 2016, about 183,000 people were granted protection status by the European Union member states (Eurostat, 2017) that allowed them to become refugees. This is by far the most significant influx of people the European continent has experienced since WWII. So far, current European public urban management, planning models, urban and architectural design methodologies have proven to be unable to give creative, dynamic and sustainable responses to this complex and rapidly evolving crisis. In this context, it is crucial to reframe the role of architecture and spatial practices, as agents of social and spatial inclusion and regeneration at different scales. We are interested in analysing how participatory design strategies might facilitate a collective engagement of diverse communities in the reactivation of historic urban landscapes and how this foster the production of local social capital (Gaunlett 2011), nurturing empathetic communities and delivering ‘collaborative inclusion’ (Manzini, 2015) as a mean to assert their civic identity.

This paper explores the potential that tactical urbanism and tactical placemaking have in articulating inclusive processes of spatial production in the public realm that might enable migrants, refugees and locals in risk of social and spatial exclusion, to participate in the (re)definition and (co)production of social space, fostering their active participation as an agent of their own resilient empowerment.
Dr. Federico Wulff Barreiro (WulffF@cardiff.ac.uk)

Federico is a Lecturer of Architecture and Urban Design at the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA), a European Senior researcher and an award-winning design practitioner. Rome Prize in Architecture of the Royal Spanish Academy of Rome 2007. His European research project EMUVE (Euro-Mediterranean Urban Voids Ecology), funded by the European Commission, focuses on the search for innovative design methodologies for the re-activation of dilapidated urban landscapes of crisis.

Oscar Brito-Gonzalez (o.brito@cs.m.arts.ac.uk)

Stage 3 leader BA Architecture, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts. Researcher on the role of collaborative architecture and spatial practices as agents of social and political empowerment through tactical urbanism and placemaking.