

# writinG urban places

## **Minutes for of the Writing Urban Places WG3 and WG4 meeting** ***Methods for Case Studies***

### **November 21, 2019 - Casa da Cerca, Almada**

**9.30-10.00:** Participants reception, signing attendance list, with the presence of:

Ana Isabel Queiroz, Angela Mensing de Jong, Brikena Smajli, Carlos Machado e Moura, Dace Bula, Daniel Alves, Edeltraud Haselsteiner, Emilio J. Gallardo-Saborido, Esteban Restrepo Restrepo, Eva Schwab, Isabella Indolfi, Kinga Kimic, Klaske Havik, Konstantinos Ioannidis, Lamila Simisic Pasic, Ljiljana Rogac Mijatovic, Lorin Niculae, Luciana Oliveira, Luis Santiago Baptista, Łukasz Wróblewski, Marija Mano Velevska, Mark Proosten, Roido Mitoula, Slobodan Veleviski, Susana Oliveira, Tatjana Jovovic, Viktorija Bogdanova, Zvi Weinstein, and assistance of Maria Andrade, Lua Bittencourt e Pablo Costa.

It started with some delay, at **10.30**, with welcome by Prof. Carlos Dias Coelho, President of Faculty of Architecture - Lisbon University.

Followed by a summary of network development and activities by Klaske Havik: past meetings, key themes and state of affairs.

**11.00-11.30:** Presentation of the ongoing work of WG2 to WG3 and WG4, by Klaske Havik.

Working Group 2 is concerned with how theoretical reflections can stimulate the thinking and praxis of narrating urban places of medium-sized European cities.

Previous and current publications.

WG2 is a diverse group of people (and it changes all the time who is actively there at our meetings).

From different fields: literature theory, cultural studies and architecture/urbanism/landscape architecture, sociology

From distinct theoretical positions and interests of people in the group are also related to everyone's different urban experiences as citizens, but also of the empirical work that we are doing in various projects, etc.

*(Report/attach ppt presentation by Klaske Havik)*

**11.30-12.00:** Coffee-break

**12.00-13.30:** Relay of the ongoing work of WG3 to WG4

**12.10** - Luis Santiago Baptista brief introduction to the discussion.

Lorin Niculae presented WG3 functioning and participants' work:

The idea and goal of a Repository of Methods, useful for researchers, a multidisciplinary toolbox.

What disciplines are involved in these methods of urban analysis? We need analytic methods and projective methods.

Articulation with WG4, how may that collaboration work, where and by whom they will be applied. A map of methods across Europe, a visual display of a taxonomy for methods.

How a place may indicate or ask for a particular method, we'll insist on strategies and tactics. The way people suggest these tactics is relevant for this methodological approach. Focus on the 3 keywords of the MoU, we are going to intervene on the sites and its local communities, always bearing in mind the bias of the researchers.

Methodological layer of the research: internal organization of the WG3 and Lorin proposed that this is the most important topic to discuss today.

Subgroups of WG3:

Visual Narratives

Mapping

Narratives

Then Lorin presented his own project of 3 weeks with a group of 2nd year undergraduate students on site analysis, a side proposal to regular university studies, using the method of poetic representation of place in order to understand the core cognitive elements that form its poetic (affective and remembered) visual representation. The information collected through the analysis has been organized in the form of an affective map, using Viktorija Bogdanova's technique.

(Report/attach ppt presentation by Lorin)

After this, Viktorija presented her approach and PhD research on poem-drawings.  
(report to her own ppt presentation)

Klaske made a summary, stating this is only but the presentation of one method, as there are many others. Many perceptions are here (in Viktorija method) put in place, based on sensitive and emotion, and with an anti-utilitarian attitude.

Angela de Jong asked a question about Lorin's presentation, noting that the scholar experiment is based on 31 students. How many researchers/ students would be needed in order to apply the method in the best case scenario? The answer is that the best number is the maximum available.

*cadavre-exquis\_a similitude (but not resemblance) with the method described by Lorin. word and image*

**13.30-14.30:** Lunch, Casa da Cerca

Resumed after lunch at **14.30:** Presentation and discussion of pool of projects by WG4 participants with WG3. Short presentations and collective discussion (up to 10 min. per case study with comments) by WG4 participants of case-studies projects to approach the scope of fieldwork possibilities.

Luis and Slobodan Veleviski presented the call for case studies, 13 projects from 11 participants

1 - Luciana Oliveira, ISCAP, Porto.

*StreetArtCEI:*

Cultural Tourism in Porto, routes of street art by area and by graffitiers illustrated by photographs, also a research MA and PhD. Mediatic attention. Is it a collection or also a deeper analysis of the graffiti and its locations? Klaske about the stories' readings, subtextual on urban context. Mark Proosten referred the work of Thomas Norhaogf from WG3 on graffiti. Kinga Kimic asked about comparisons and value of this project in terms of urban narratives. Are there common trends between different places/countries, different or site-specific aspects? (tagging, keywords, and relations)

2 - Isabella Indolfi, Formias, Italy.

Presentation of 2 projects:

*Lighting Flowers:*

Project on abandoned underdeveloped areas. Video-mapping, video documenting and a final film making. Presentation of teaser for the movie on Light Flowers .  
(report to pdf)

*Biennale Festival SEMINARIA:*

Public art biennial festival. Residency program, low cost. An periodical context based event on spatial and relational practices. Forms of engagement with communities, participatory practices, and interaction between artists and community.

3 – Lamila Simisic Pasic, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovinia.

*City Caverns*

Ruins and abandoned areas and buildings in the city center, consequence of war. Proposal of nature growing inside of these spaces, garden projects in the walls of a gallery. Relation of the lived city with spaces of exhibition.

4 - Dace Bula, Univ. Riga, Latvia

*Living Next to the Port*

4 neighborhoods in Riga, along the harbour as river splits Riga in 2 parts. Decline of fish industry/ expansion of the port, deprived of private propriety, symbolic appropriation of this port in neglected areas. Artistic/critical intervention using the port fences. Multidisciplinary team and analytic and projective narrative strategies.

5 - Roído Mitoula, Greece.

*City branding as a tool for sustainable development of cities (paper)*

Research on city Hermopoulis, Syrus island in Aegeu sea. City branding design. Marketing for cultural tourism purposes? Urban policies of brand places.

6 - Angela Mensing de Jong, Dresden, Germany.

*Unified by the Border?*

1/3 of the European population lives in border areas. Selb, urban design project + workshop of 4 different universities, what to with it? Funding opportunities for infrastructures: 1 non-conventional proposal, using social network and 3 languages survey. Objective to build a network of border sites, digital platform, gaming tool app with favorite places on each side of the city. Challenges of Cross-Border-Cooperation.

7 - Eva Shawb, Graz, Austria.

*Mehr als Wohnen 4.0*

Case study on alpine area, Upper Styria East. Activating contextual narratives for the improvement of quality of life. Ongoing project starting to engage with universities and stakeholders.

8 - Marija, Skopje, Skopje, North Macedonia.

*Tracing Urban Narratives*

MArq students workshop in collaboration with TUDelft, 3 days of field work, mixed teams

Skopje as a palimpsest of different times and aspects. Urban experience of space narrative.

Experimentation with forms of representation. Issues of time needed to engage with context, and the fundamental previous work of research and preparation.

9 - Edeltraud Haselsteiner

*Male Order – Female Chaos:*

Gender reading of the opposing cities of Vienna and Chicago. The Great modern plans of expansion of the metropolis. Middle-sized cities?

10 - Tatjana Jovovic, Montenegro

*Hypnos' dream - Tent over the Mouth of the Ribnica*

*Let's go to the Moracha*

Presentation arrived later. 2 Ephemeral interventions in the margins of the river to activate community life.

11 - Zvi Weinstein, Telavive, Israel.

No answer to the call. Presented the case of a virtual path to remembrance places of Telavive. (no pdf)

12. Anna Ryan

*Where Land Meets Sea*

Answer to the call, but not presented in the meeting.

*(Report to attached pdf presentations)*

**16.30-17.00:** Coffee-break

**17.10:** Resume discussion and conclusions.

Luis made some conclusive remarks, underpinning we should gather info on ongoing projects as Cost network is not funding research itself.

Klaske, underlining that social aspects play a strong hold on many case studies, different ongoing projects, how they can contribute to network but also vice-versa?

Next steps within the network, WG4 should meet again soon.

Slobodan - those seeing this meeting for the 1st time, with fresh eyes, how can we continuing discussing within group and network? What format of meeting would be more convenient?

Luis, articulate with WG3?

3 steps: classification, testing, loop

Maybe a draft version of a methods' toolbox.

Dace Bula questions if prescriptive results were to be expected?

Klaske reply that no, but for now we need to map all experiences and expertises that populate this network.

Back to main question: What is a mid-size city and what is its relation to Writing Urban Places?

Viktorija commented on Eva Schwab presentation and also the Skopje workshop graphic outcome. Some sort of visual database? Or project repository?

Carlos Machado Moura suggested the idea of writing urban placelessness.

Kinga observed that many cases concern mapping, physical or mental inventories, thus we need to understand what methods we have and how to apply them to local contexts.

Lorin thinks it would be easy a google doc using WUP platform.

Kinga called attention to the mixed-methodological approach of some projects here presented.

Angela thinks the 'openness' of the network and cross methods here presented gave her ideas to go on with her own project.

Carlos recalled the discussion in Belgrade, on organizing the group of Visual Narratives in types, for example, Readings, Visions, etc. What changed since Belgrade is the issue of site-specificity and connection to local.

Zvi Weinstein suggested the references could be organized and compressed into the 3 existing lines (Narratives, Visual Narratives, Mapping)

Lorin seems to agree.

Eva Schwab shows interest in learning about new methods and methodologies.

Yet how to organize all these methodologies?

Tatjana refers the need to create not only a map but also a chronology of the cities (case-studies).

Klaske - sensory perception, but also temporality, it all matches the interested in phenomenology present in WG2 and 3.

Konstantinos - Friction between local and global; face the weaknesses of the project, make more pools of ideas

We closed at 18h00.

## **November 22, 2019 - Casa da Cerca, Almada**

**9.30-10.00:** Participants reception, signing attendance list, with the presence of:

Ana Isabel Queiroz, Angela Mensing de Jong, Brikena Smajli, Carlos Machado e Moura, Dace Bula, Daniel Alves, Edeltraud Haselsteiner, Esteban Restrepo Restrepo, Eva Schwab, Klaske Havik, Konstantinos Ioannidis, Lamila Simisic Pasic, Ljiljana Rogac Mijatovic, Lorin Niculae, Luis Santiago Baptista, Łukasz Wróblewski, Marija Mano Velevska, Mark Proosten, Natália

Constâncio, Slobodan Veleviski, Susana Oliveira, Tatjana Jovovic, Viktorija Bogdanova, Zvi Weinstein, and assistance of Maria Andrade e Pablo Costa.

**10:30:** Presentation of exhibition project *Almada, a territory in 6 ecologies* by Luis Santiago Baptista (WG4).

*(Report to attach ppt presentation by Luis Santiago Baptista)*

**11.15-11.45:** Coffee-break

**11:45-12:10:** Presentation of the *Atlas of Literary Landscapes* project by Natália Constâncio (WG3).

*(report to pdf attached)*

**12h10-13.00:** *Crossing close and distant reading: the Atlas project methodology*, by Daniel Alves (WG3).

*(report to pdf attached)*

**12:30-14:00:** Lunch, Casa da Cerca

**14:00-16:00:** *Writing and reading places: a literary trail through Cais do Ginjal, from Casa da Cerca to Cacilhas* with Ana Isabel Queiroz (WG3): short presentation of local context and author Romeu Correia, and walk from Casa da Cerca to Cacilhas by foot, via Cais do Ginjal, using literary excerpts on location, either on printed text or mobile app.

*(report to pdf here attached)*

### **Literature, memory and territory: an Atlas of Literary Landscapes of mainland Portugal workshop description:**

The *Atlas of Literary Landscapes* is a collaborative project, the work of nearly 50 readers / researchers; interdisciplinary, crossing knowledge of the Humanities, the Environmental Sciences and the Computer Sciences; digital, using tools and methodologies from the digital humanities for data collection, analysis and dissemination. It is based at NOVA-FCSH, having been created and coordinated by Ana Isabel Queiroz until 2018 and from that date by Natália Constâncio (IELT) and Daniel Alves (IHC).

Its objectives are to link literature to the territory, valuing the literary works and the landscapes represented in them; contribute to the knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage; study the ecological and historical patterns and processes associated with current landscapes; and contribute for environmental literacy and tourism.

The workshop aims to present the project and its results, demonstrating the application of its methodology. In order to build its corpus, the research begins by analyzing literary works from the 19th century to the present day, searching their descriptions of landscapes of mainland Portugal, referring them to a territorial unit or a place and classifying the descriptions according to a matrix of categories and themes of interpretation on relief, land use, natural heritage, cultural heritage and human activities. All information is compiled in a shared database that serves as the basis for mapping by literary works, writers, themes and geographical areas.

The workshop also leads those attending the meeting to explore how the Portuguese novelist Romeu Correia (1917-1996) depicted the area near Casa da Cerca, going back to its industrial past in the 20th century. The ruins of that time are still visible in the area. As the place has been

part of a rehabilitating project that will take place in the next few years, the participants of the literary trail will be invited to think on its memory and identity, as part of an economic, social and environmental vision for reinventing Tagus' Southbank.