

Minutes - WG2 meeting in COST building, Brussels, May 20th 2019, started 14.00 ended 17.20

Present:

Nevena Dakovic, Mirza Emirhafizovic, Juan A. Garcia-Esparza, Klaske Havik, Hanna Musiol, Susana Oliveira, Kris Pint, Svava Riesto, Eliana Sousa Santos.

Intro

Presentation by Klaske M.Havik

Short personal presentation of the people present (according to attendance list here attached)

Svava Riesto, WG2 co-leader, presented WG2 in the context of the other WGs goals and tasks, as stated in the action MoU and notes from the group's initial meeting..

Goals and tasks

Svava and Klaske specifically proposed the production in the coming year of a:

- Roundtable discussion at an international conference, ending with a position paper.
- A special issue of the journal Writing Place (the editorial board will be composed out of Writingplace journal editors Klaske Havik / Susana Oliveira / Jorge Mejia, and members of WG2)

Discussion and approval of these goals. Klaske, Svava and Henriette will make proposals and share, so that people from the group can choose to participate.

Further, the group agreed to co-produce

- a 'Critical Dictionary' of concepts that can feed into the Cost action and potentially also published. This will be a dynamic, co-produced document that will evolve over the coming months, and presented for the first time at the Cost management committee meeting in Delft in October. Everyone is invited to contribute with one concept. More information will be shared in the webinar and a separate mail.

Admission of new participants?

Our working group is the largest in the action and may grow over time. In principle, everyone is welcome, but WG leaders are allowed to say that some disciplines are too distant from the main

interests and objectives of the Action. On the other hand, we may all also keep on proposing people, who bring in valuable perspectives.

Discussion, sharing theories

The discussion then went on to key concepts / keywords / definitions, already expressed in the action title. Topics were discussed in a carousel, where everyone around the table brought in concepts of special relevance to the Cost Action's theoretical reflection.

Especially, we discussed the key notions that are central to this cost action: urban places, narratives, appropriation, integration and meaningfulness.

We had a vivid discussion in which it became clear that many group members were engaged in questions about the contemporary challenges of their cities and questions about financialization, ecological crisis, gentrification, marginalization of certain groups and the superficial stories that drive many mainstream urban projects. This empirical grounding and engagement seemed to be the starting point for the theoretical considerations that many of us brought to the table. Some quick notes:

- history, memory, fiction and document - ex. Sebald work, based on the place but, simultaneously, transforming and impacting the place (Eliana)
- drama, film narratives and contaminations, ex. Pamuk and *Museum of Innocence* (Nevena)
- segregated cities, Lefebvre, activism and text, digital cities...performative? Inclusiveness, access, meaningfulness as empowerment / embodied experience/ the search for a new tradition (women, minorities, etc), search for inclusivity (Hanna)
- de Certeau, tactics of appropriation; how to give meaning to premises? (Kris)
- New constructions in Belgrade, Skopje, Lisbon, etc (Mirza)
- the 'financialization' of the city, the invisible city, Saskia Sassen (Eliana)
- literature and history of heritage; the future of the place, the city as habitat (Juan)
- Contemporary uses of narrative, of history, in urban practices and developments;
- “right to the city”
publicness - site-specificity

-Commons. Alternative forms of organisation, focus on collectivity. Economic issues (economic theory) may be important in our Action but not the main focus.

-Critical urban theory /midsized cities are specially subjected to the financial/development/predatory practices and forces

What next?

Online Critical Dictionary - organic neural structure, keywords (short and long definitions) - tags - internal concepts links - and links to further reading

Susana will send an example and template, Kris Pint begins the production of the Critical Dictionary. It will be shared with the group in June and everyone is welcome to contribute.

June-September Everybody (who wants) contributes to the Critical Dictionary.

19th June 13:00 Webinar for our working group. Plan for the meeting: status and development of the Critical Dictionary as well as preparation for roundtable and position paper

September: Synopsis for a Writingplace journal issue, composition of the editorial board, call for papers within the network.

17th October 2019 Meeting for the management committee of COST, where the Critical Dictionary and other activities of WG2 are presented to the other groups.

12th – 13th December 2019 Conference Unjust Cities in Limerick and our next Working group meeting.

Minutes by Susana Oliveira , Svava Riesto and Klaske Havik