

LECTURE INVITATION

Dr. Nadia Charalambous

Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus
will give a lecture presentation entitled:

Emerging Perspectives on the Study of Urban Form: Researching and Learning through multiple practices

Monday, May 21st 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Department of Architecture, Room 105, 68 Ledra Street, Nicosia Walled City

The presentation is part of the evaluation procedure for advancement to the rank of Associate Professor

ABSTRACT

Cities around the world have become radically altered in their scale, scope and complexity as a result of increased mobility, massive internal movements of labor and refugees, technological developments and economic fluctuations. Such changes have led to the creation of increasingly diverse forms of socio-spatial patterns which intensify or challenge key spatial elements of the urban fabric as well as patterns of coexistence between urban communities. Discussions on urban segregation, spatial justice and the right to the city as well as a strong critique of unfair development patterns have become prominent, fueling debates over the importance of urban form in connection with the many dimensions underpinning our lives in cities. Urban municipal authorities, policy makers, urban designers and scholars among others, are called to respond to such challenges and a variety of approaches on understanding urban form and the agents and processes of urban transformation have developed. Yet, despite extensive investigation to date, these are characterized by specific national, institutional and disciplinary trends and have seen the emergence of separate “schools of thought”, often applied in relative isolation. This has direct implications on both the research and the teaching of urban form analysis in higher education institutions, which often address cities’ issues from isolated perspectives either reflecting specific national educational trends or opting for a globalized approach cutting the knots with local specificities. This presentation aims firstly at identifying the range of different phenomena that are the object of urban form enquiry and secondly, at exploring the possibility to combine and coordinate these approaches in order to improve our ability to describe, explain and prescribe urban form, encompassing all the factors which condition contemporary cities. It does so by reflecting on recent attempts to bridge across disciplinary, research and institutional boundaries. It then advances the argument that a multifaceted research in urban form, channeled into innovative pedagogical approaches, can potentially foster fresh hermeneutic possibilities and a more nuanced understanding of human settlements.

PROFILE OF THE SPEAKER

Nadia Charalambous is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture at UCY. She studied Architecture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, University of London, where she received the B.Sc. in Architecture and Environmental Studies, the M.Sc. in Advanced Architectural Studies and the Diploma in Architecture. She subsequently completed her Ph.D. studies at the NTUA, in Greece. Her research interests aim to address the inherently complex relationship between urban form and social phenomena, both methodologically and theoretically. Past and planned research activities acknowledge the need for a multifaceted research approach to take account of both the spatial, social and other aspects of the built environment in both research and pedagogy. She participates as principal investigator and/or project coordinator in several research programs funded by the European Commission, Erasmus+, COST, Erasmus Multilateral Network Lifelong Learning Program. She has been active as a reviewer of international scientific journals, as member of international conferences’ scientific and organizing committees and professional boards. Her work has been published in books, refereed journals and conference proceedings.