

GLYKERIA ANAXAGOROU

LECTURE

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EVERYDAY PUBLIC SPACES IN URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS: THE CASE OF LIMASSOL



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Cities across the world differ in terms of their social and spatial structures. However, it is acknowledged that their public spaces, often described as the meeting spaces of cultures, politics, social and individual trajectories, have always played a significant role in the public life of the city and consequently, in the everyday life of the citizens. The nature and conceptualization of public space and public life have often been associated with collective participation and socialization - in other words, the capacity to live together among strangers. Today, these associations seem to be challenged, often questioning whether public space still matters for contemporary public life, which is faced with issues of alienation, segregation, privatization and unequal distribution of power and resources, among others. Furthermore, although central public spaces in cities continue to play an important role in urban experience, and to have a city-wide significance, peripheral and neighborhood public spaces, where the everyday life of citizens unfolds, rarely enjoy any of this significance.

This thesis aims at contributing to a better understanding of the nature of public spaces in general and in cities' neighbourhoods in particular, by addressing the variety of factors involved and their relations; to support studies on evolving urban cultures and renewed intellectual and practical challenges that these practices pose to the way public spaces are used, interpreted, and designed; to highlight the need for manifold perspectives on the localized 'meaning' of places, constructed and shaped by local practices and behaviours.

It is argued that what is needed in investigating, as well as making, neighbourhood public space, is its understanding as a multidimensional, a multi-agency and a dynamic process that can accommodate time and change. To this end, the thesis proposes a relational perspective to investigate the synthesizing mechanisms which shape public spaces in Limassol's neighborhoods; a port-city in Cyprus, which has experienced a period of rapid urbanization and social transformation that had an impact on its social and spatial urban form. Understanding the mechanisms influencing the production and use of such spaces, will potentially facilitate their improvement and thus, the improvement of public life in the urban neighborhoods.

GLYKERIA ANAXAGOROU



Ms. Glykeria Anaxagorou received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, in 2012, and in 2013 a Diploma of Architect Engineer from the University of Cyprus. She was awarded with the first prize for the best design thesis by the University of Cyprus. During her studies, she participated in a number of extracurricular activities, summer workshops, organization of seminars and researches, Biennale (2010, 2012, and 2014). She has exhibited her works in several exhibitions and worked as a research assistant at the University of Cyprus.

At present, she is working as an architect at the architectural office of Marinos Marinou architects in Limassol and as a teaching assistant at the University of Cyprus. Ms. Anaxagorou has attended numerous scientific conferences and has published in several international conferences and has articles published in international journals.

