

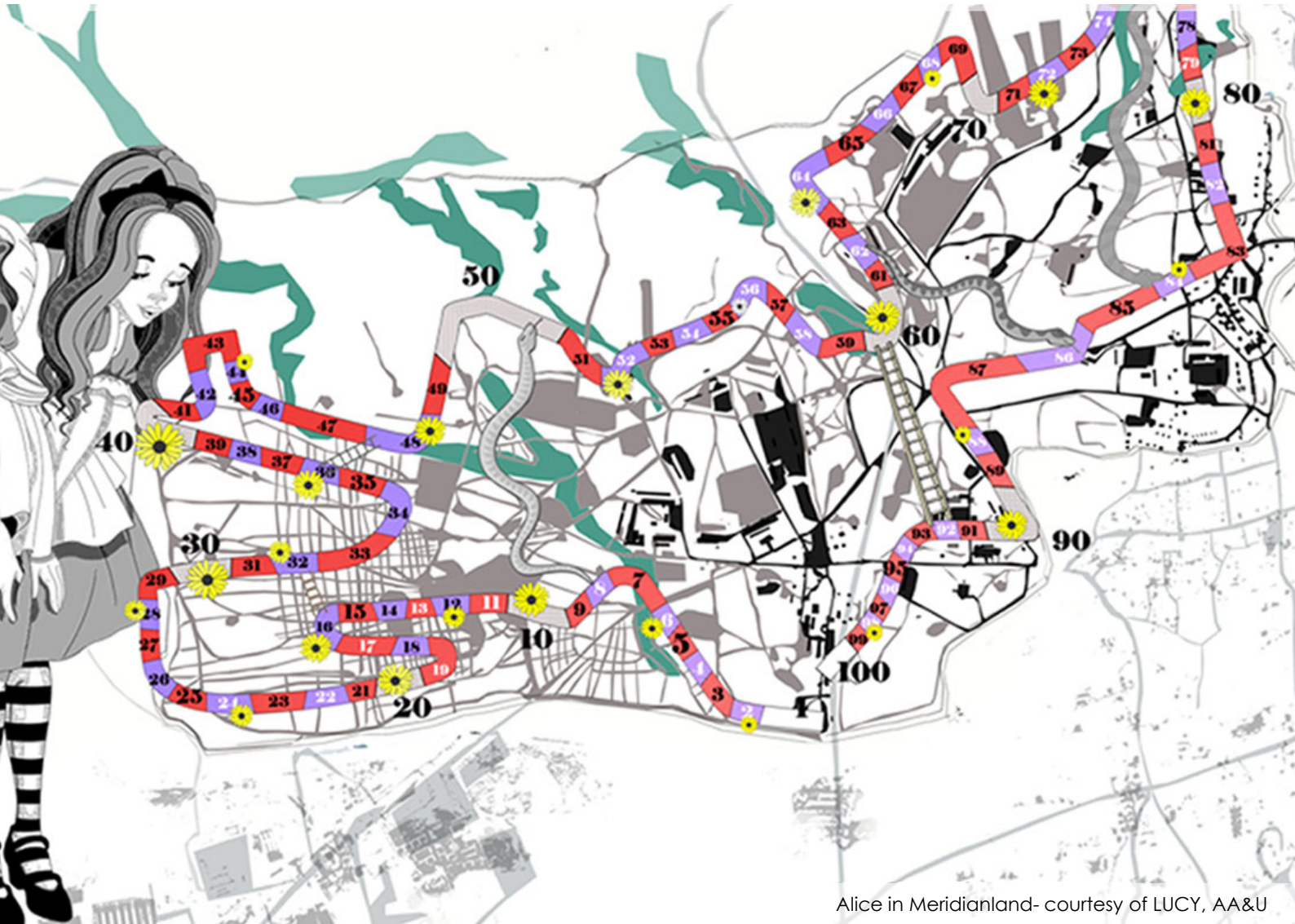
Friday, March 15, 2024, 15.30.

Place: BACKSTAGE of the Main Amphitheatre, Academia Campus,
Kallipoleos Avenue 75, Nicosia



LECTURE INVITATION

Part of the evaluation procedure
for advancement to the rank of Professor.



Alice in Meridianland- courtesy of LUCY, AA&U

Transformative Urban Practice supporting the commons in spaces of conflict*

Socrates Stratis



After the end of the lecture, you are welcome to play the board game:

“Explore The Trail: Narrations Across Palestine”, (Aaron Gatt and Giorgos Louka, students at the seminar of Architecture’s Spatial Agencies and Their Political Dimensions, Department of Architecture, UCY).

about the lecture

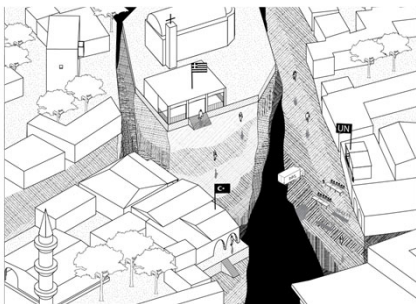
How to co-imagine shared urban futurities for Cyprus, trapped for more than half a century in a frozen conflict?

Socrates Stratis employs practice-turn research to unpack the critical and diffractive approaches of his work with a pedagogical and activist take. He argues that architecture as a transformative urban practice may support collective actions of unlearning, translating, dreaming and subverting.

Such collective actions should be at the heart of any democratic emancipatory process to claim the Commons of a reunified island under a federal regime. More specifically, Socrates shows how practice-turn research methods bring to the foreground the relevance of transformative urban practices in restoring the interrelations and dependability of the humans and other-than-humans concerning the fractured Cypriot territories.

He shows the process of co-creating imaginaries that envision the Commons as a constitutive agent for constructively transforming the conflictual territories under study. The urban imaginaries offer alternatives to the island's neoliberal urban futures. New urban subjectivities emerge, facilitated by the entanglement of commoning practices with architecture's material and immaterial agents - such as drawings, models, manuals, games, workshops and open-source digital archives. Urban subjectivities whose constitutional force is difference instead of ethnonational identity.

Socrates argues that such political and spatial agencies of transformative urban practice may support democratic urban institutions in facing the challenges of a continuum of climatic, social, and political crises. An approach that may help transform contestation, controversy and conflict into constitutive elements of democratic urban practice.



Pyla Cyprus - courtesy of LUCY, AA&U

Socrates Stratis

Socrates is an urbanist, architect, and activist for the urban commons. He is Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus. He is co-founder of the critical urban practice agency AA & U, Cyprus and member of the Scientific Committee of European Europe (a European biennial urban design competition for young practitioners). His research focuses on the social and political agencies of architecture and urban design, and on the strategic and territorial value of urban design. He is member of the coordination team for the Space X Rise Research Project on Spatial Practices for Empathetic Exchange in the City. In October 2022, he co-organized with TU Delft in Cyprus, the international undisciplined conference entitled the Entangled Milieus: Co-Constituting a Shared Futurity. He is the author of the upcoming book "Urban Design on the Move: Five Stories About Implementing a Winning European Project", Berlin: jovis, 2024.