

LIVING URBAN RENEWAL : VULNERABILITIES, TENSIONS, AND MOBILIZATION

Local Experiences, Global Comparisons



International conference
January 25th & 26th, 2013

Organized by :



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PRESENTATION

Recent processes of urban renewal are inscribed within contemporary logics of internationalization and influenced by major urban and socio-economic changes. By “urban renewal,” we are pointing to the myriad of public land redevelopment projects that involve building demolition and reconstruction, but also interventions designed to preserve the built heritage and involving dwellers’ eviction. In France, these projects have become common since the establishment of ANRU policies (National Agency for Urban Renewal). It is possible to distinguish between two sets of arguments and operational approaches to urban renewal. The first refers to the massive wave of urban redevelopment conducted in/around the 1970s, which aimed to eradicate insalubrious housing and slums (H. Coing, 1966). This type of intervention was generally justified in the name of the “common good” and “modernization”. The second wave of urban renewal, mostly conducted as of the late 1990s, maintains the paradigm of modernization. It often involves a process of population change and makes references to social mixity (C. Lelévrier, 2010). Its main mode of operation are so-called “megaprojects” (U. Lehrer, 2008) in cities aiming to compete internationally and attract large scale, potentially transnational capital. In most global cities, precarious housing and deteriorated housing are priority targets for urban redevelopment or slums removal schemes in central or peri-central areas (JF Pérouse, 2007). Within the scope of these operations, new operating modes emerge through the diversification of available investments (S. Benjamin, 2011).

Urban renewal projects often induce new forms of social and identity claims that are triggered by the fear of material and cultural loss as well as housing uncertainty. The brutal changes they engender indeed threaten the base of social networks, local solidarities and communal/social representations of living together. It will therefore be important to complement the direct observation of urban renewal projects with the forms in which such projects are legitimized, especially when they are unpopular (F. Navez-Bouchanine, I. Berry-Chikhaoui, 2005). The renewal of forms of social mobilization that hence respond to urban renewal projects re-instigates the question of social movements in relation to the bivalent issue: enrooting versus eviction (Y. Cabannes et al, 2010). It also triggers the need for identifying the modalities according to which local governments and civil society groups challenge a democratic approach to urban planning, to urban projects, and to the local political management of social vulnerabilities. Such renewal of citizen claims also engenders the necessity to define the contours of social groups, communities and associations and their interaction between each others as well with the professionals of the city (A. Deboulet, 2010).

Recent research findings indicate changes in the forms of mobilization as well as the development of new forms of mediation. It also reports the emergence of new types of claims that require alternatives to the current mode of doing, new perspectives and counter-projects which challenge the present logics of urban renewal. In this context, cities witness the emergence of new forms of public action and mobilization, counter-projects, or collaborative participatory projects, which bring together professionals such as town and country planners and architects, as well as researchers and residents.

This conference aims to investigate the complex and changing models of public intervention, given historically and geographically situated contexts where the definition of an “acceptable” norm or form of public interventions is changing (G.Pinson, 2010, P. Watt 2009). It seeks to understand the continuities and changes in the models of urban renewal and the impacts these projects trigger on the social and economic fabric of urban agglomerations.

- What is new about contemporary urban renewal projects and where are the continuities with previous models of urban interventions?

- Do recent developments in the global cities of the South usher the necessity to reconsider the grammar structuring the motivations of actors involved in urban renewal, whether they endorse or resist them?

- Knowing that urban renewal projects are often inscribed in ongoing processes of globalization and privatization, how do we investigate the ensuing tensions and the public and civic responses to those uncertainties?

- How do we envision new practices that can bring together city dwellers and the professionals of the city in formulation new ways of producing the city?

FOCUS POINTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Focus 1

Policies and actors of urban renewal within a global time : a comparative approach

In an effort to establish themselves as the competitive political and economic actors, cities and metropolises multiply large scale infrastructure projects and urban renewal interventions in their historic cores and popular quarters. What are the typical modes of operation of urban renewal projects? (i.e. steps, configurations, roles ascribed to dwellers, types of targeted neighborhoods, etc.) Is it possible to sketch global models and tendencies in urban renewal? Do “soft interventions” actually happen today? Who are the actors driving urban renewal in the cities of the North and South? When/how do they intervene? What types of know-how do these mobilized? How can we compare experiences across national contexts? And how do these intersections favor the formation of forms of practices of city-making?

Focus 2

Stakeholders coalitions and urban renewal aims: a critical review

Urban renewal is often the outcome of an intersection of forces: funding systems, operating modes, and financial interests often lead local authorities to comply with the strict rules of urban renewal (e.g. France, United States, Turkey...). Local project leaders have nonetheless frequently tried to resist these incentives.

Within those constraints, how can current practices be changed? If we think about a project's objectives and justification, it is therefore important to distinguish between official discourses and communication tools and the often hidden motives for action. What are the discursive frameworks and registers relating to urban renewal and its expectations? Local, international, formal or informal banks («thugs», house wreck contractors, land sellers, traders, agreement sellers, etc..) play a key role in these operations. What are the relations between the private and public sectors, considering that in researches to this date the private sector has been neglected?

More generally, we will attempt to identify the real and reachable aims of both public and private actors involved in urban renewal and to study the effects of these interventions on urban landscape, on territorial economies, and on their residents.

Focus 3

Crossed commitments for «inhabitants», professionals and researchers: how are protest, cooperation and mediation forms renewed?

Renovation projects create tensions and uncertainties which lead citizens to mobilize, to organize collectively and to invent new forms of protest, resistance and cooperation. Practitioners and researchers are at the heart of these developments, and seem to be increasingly numerous in promoting a collaborative approach to urban projects, beyond the traditional institutional frameworks. They therefore contribute to improve the stakeholders' capacities and willingness to cooperate, and representations. Through these crossed commitments, new forms of mediation are experimented and new skills are formalized. They also tend to modify the legal and institutional frameworks.

Who are the actors involved in a collaborative and citizen urban renewal? How will citizens get support and resources to strengthen their mobilization? How do researchers and practitioners involved in onfield projects interact? What do both the “civil society” and the local authorities claim and expect from these professionals? What are the modalities of access to and appropriation of these new collaborative forms of commitment? What knowledge, which skills are exchanged through these experiences? What are the consequences of these commitments, both for professional and political practices? Finally, do the aforementioned changes help to renew the field of urban development?

PROGRAMME

Friday January 25th 2013: URBAN RENEWAL TOOLS AND DISCOURSES

8h30 : Registration and coffee

9h00 : **Welcoming remarks** by **Panos Mantziaras** (Head of BRAUP)
Conference addresses: Région Ile de France and Ville de Paris

9h30: **Introduction :**
Agnès Deboulet (Paris 8 University, CRH-LAVUE)
Mona Fawaz (American University of Beyrouth) « Critical understanding of property/planning »

10h00-13h00 : POLICIES AND ACTORS OF URBAN RENEWAL WITHIN A GLOBAL SCOPE: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH

Chair: **Rafaël Soares Gonçalves** (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro)
Moderator: **Isabelle Berry-Chikhaoui** (University Montpellier III, Arc-dev)

10h00-10h30 : Keynote Speaker: **Yves Cabannes** (University College of London) « Urban renewal: crossed discourses between local government, the United Nations and social movements. Prospective remarks for Habitat III »

10h30-12h30 : **Olivier Toutain** (consultant) « Casablanca to become a metropole: removal of slums, urban and social renewal »(Morocco)
Thomas Kirszbaum (ENS Cachan) « Is it possible to reform urban renewal? » (USA)
Marieke Krijnen (Ghent University) « Urban transformation in Beirut: implications of two case studies for the research on urban renewal in the Global South » (Lebanon)
Judith Audin (Sciences Po Paris - CERI) « Appropriation and expropriation: urban renewal in Beijing at the dawn of the 21st century » (China)

12h30 – 13h00 : Wrap up and debate

Lunch on the premises

14h00-18h30 : STAKEHOLDERS COALITION AND URBAN RENEWAL AIMS: A CRITICAL REVIEW

Welcoming remarks by **Jean-Pierre Lévy** (Head of CRH-LAVUE)

Chair: **Rainier Hoddé** (ENSA-Lyon, CRH-LAVUE)
Moderator: **Christine Lelévrier** (Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris, Lab'urba)

14h00-14h30 Keynote Speaker: **Paul Watt** (Birbeck University) « Official and Critical Discourses on Urban Renewal: the 2012 Olympics Mega-project and the Perspective of Low-income East Londoners »

14h30-16h00: Session 1. Stakeholders' strategies, mobilisation and contradictions in space and social issues
Two parallel sessions

Moderator: **Renaud Epstein** (Université de Nantes)

Luna Glucksberg (Goldsmiths College, University of London) « Reading regeneration: wasting, recycling, renewing and gentrification »(Peckam, London)

Camille François (CSU-Cresppe) « Rehousing: a tough job. Why are those in charge out of the spotlight, and how do they work? »

Raphael Frégnon (IEP de Lyon, Triangle) « Political economy in urban renewal: the French Deposits and Consignments Fund and its role in large-scale projects »

Livia Fioravanti (University of São Paulo) « Urban renewal projects in São Paulo, Brasil: strategies and conflicts within a City Planning Project »

Session 2. Consequences on space organisation and social vulnerabilities

Moderator: **Muriel Girard** (ENSA-Marseille, INAMA)

Emilie Balteau (University of Evry, CPN) « Urban renewal and appropriation » (Auxerre)

Pauline Gaullier (Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris) « Creating separate housing spaces for plural families» (Paris)

Paul Gaudric (ARISTAT) & **Emilie Saint Macary** (Lab'Urba, Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris) « The impact of architecture interventions »

Gizem Aksumer (Mimar Sinan University) « Social effects of urban changes for 'gecekondu' inhabitants »

16h00-16h45: Wrap up and debate

Break

17h00-18h45: Protests, participation and conflicts
Plenary session

Chair: **Olivier Boucheron** (ENSA Paris-La Villette, LAA-LAVUE)

Moderator: **Mona Fawaz** (American University of Beyrouth)

Katia Attuyer (Institut Français d'Urbanisme, LATTs) « Exerting influence through protest and participation: an attempt to contest neoliberal urbanism in Dublin inner-city »

Simone Gatti (FAU-USP) « The 'Nova Luz' Project: corporate logic and possibilities of resistance » (Sao Paulo)

Maria Palumbo (EHESS-LAA) « Public space/conflicts of «public»: a migrant centrality in Paris and its 'renovation »

Pierre Gilbert (University Lyon II, ENS-Lyon) « No mobilisation in urban renewal projects: choices are increasingly individual, activist groups are weakening » (Vénissieux)

18h15-18h45 : Wrap up and debate

Cocktail

Saturday January 26th 2013: CAN URBAN RENEWAL BE COOPERATIVE?

9h00 : Premises open

9h30-12h30 : CITIZEN MOBILISATION: PROTEST AND COOPERATION

Chair: **Amélie Flamand** (CRH-LAVUE)

Moderator: Pierre-Arnaud Barthel (Institut Français d'Urbanisme, LATTS)

9h30-10h15 : Keynote Speakers: **Murat C. Yalçintan & Erbatur Çavusoglu** (Mimar Sinan University, Solidarity Studio, Istanbul) « Professionals and local activists facing the neoliberal transformation of the cities »

10h15-11h45 : Session 1. Professional mediation practices:
Two parrallel sessions

Moderator: **Valérie Clerc** (Reseach Institute for Development, UMR 201 Développement et Sociétés)

Amandine Martor (Lille 1 University, SESA) « Citizens' associations in urban renewal projects: a space for mediation between inhabitants and authorities? » (Lille)
Yassamine Tayab (Paris 8 University, Mosaïque-LAVUE) « Inhabitants' groups and urban renewal in planned towns: example of Val-Maubuée » (Marne la Vallée)

Isabel Raposo & Silvia Jorge (Lisboa Technical University, Architecture Faculty) « Urban qualification and renewal: public intervention in two pericentral unplanned urban areas in Lisbon and in Maputo »

Irene Salenson (independent researcher) & Nili Baruch (Bimkom) « Protest, cooperation and mediation »

Session 2. Action research

Moderator: **Rainier Hoddé** (ENSA-Lyon, CRH-LAVUE)

Caterine Reginensi, Clara Sandrini & Thomas Lequoy (ENSA-Toulouse, LRA) « Ethnographic engagement and forms of mediation. Perspectives on North and South metropolises: Rio de Janeiro and Toulouse, undergoing a continuous renewal process »

Claudia Woywood (Université Paris Est, VTT) « Action research, participative research, or collaborative research? A case study of Bellavista neighborhood in Santiago de Chile »

Barbara Morovitch (ENSA-Strasbourg, LAA-LAVUE) « Urban renewal and engagement: mediation through associations and new interdisciplinary tools » (Strasbourg)

Elisabeth Auclair (Université de Cergy-Pontoise, MRTE) « Re-appropriation of public space towards a creative and shared city: examples of projects by the Cochenko group »

11h45-12h30 : Wrap up and debate

Lunch on the premises

13h30-16h00 : COOPERATION BETWEEN 'INHABITANTS', PRACTICIONERS AND RESEARCHERS: TOWARDS A CIVIC APPROACH TO THE CITY

Chair: **Christiane Droste** (UrbanPlus)

Moderator: **Matthieu Giroud** (University Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée, EA ACP, CRH-LAVUE)

13h30-14h00 : Keynote Speaker: **Rafaël Soares Gonçalves** (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro) « Urban renewal and the new forms of citizen mobilization in Rio de Janeiro »

14h00-15h30 : Roundtable n°1

Nili Baruch (Bimkom, Jerusalem) - **Kareem Ibrahim** (Takween, Cairo) - **Mohamed Ragoubi** (Inhabitants Association of la Coudraie-Poissy Neighbourhood) - **Monte Laster** (Association Face, La Courneuve) - **Mina Saïdi** (IFRI et Mosaïques, Téhéran-Paris) - **Murat C. Yalçintan** (Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul)

15h30-16h00 : 15.30-16.00: Wrap up and debate

Break

16h15-18h45 : PRACTICIONERS AND RESEARCHERS' ENGAGEMENT

Chair: **Tommaso Vitale** (Sciences Po Paris)

Moderator: **Yves Cabannes** (University College of London)

16h15-16h45 : Keynote Speaker: **Kareem Ibrahim** (Takween Integrated Community Development, Cairo) « Is Urban Renewal the Answer? The Case of Cairo »

16h45-18h15 : Roundtable 2

Mona Fawaz (American University of Beyrouth) - **Gülçin Lelandais** (CITERES, University of Tours) « Space and identity in resistance against neo-liberal public planning in Turkey Case of Sulukule and 1 Mayıs Neighbourhoods » - **Khedidja Mamou** (CRH-LAVUE) « Researchers Practitioners in Action Research: a New Perspective on Urban Renewal Orders » Ile de France)- **Adilson Guaiati** (CRH-LAVUE) « Observatory of evictions, Sao Paulo » - **Centre SUD** «La Coudraie/Sarıyer»

18h15-18h45 : Wrap up and debate

Further changes could appear in the programme. Please find the final version available on the website by January, the 10th.

ORGANISATION

Scientific Committee:

Isabelle Berry-Chikhaoui, *Senior lecturer*,
Université de Montpellier, ARC-DEV

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Registration

The conference will take place at the ENSA - Paris Val de Seine **January 25th and 26th, 2013.**

To participate, please full fill the on-line registration form on the website colloqueru.wordpress.com by **January 17th, 2013.** The registration will be finalized when you will pay the fees on the CNRS website « colloque azur » dr01.azur-colloque.cnrs.fr.

Registration fees

Researcher and professional : 50€ TTC

Student / special fare : 15€ TTC

The participation fee includes entry to all Symposium sessions, lunches and refreshments. You can pay either by credit card (Visa and MasterCard), bank transfer or cheque.

Contact

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Conference location and access

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Website : www.paris-valdeseine.archi.fr

