

WWTF International Summer School 2014 Designing Places of Emancipation?

Learning field A

Beyond participatory discourse and process

Keynote: Burcu Yigit Turan

Landscape Architect and Urban Planner, Ozyegin University Istanbul, Turkey

Abstract:

Beyond participatory discourse and process: thinking over the possibilities of the spaces of dissensus through dichotomies

Cities are becoming complex assemblages of semiotic topographies of fragmented neoliberal urban landscapes. Hegemony is infiltrating into different channels of communication and it controls the meaning of the public space and urban culture. Public spaces are privatised, hygenised and developed. Social groups are divided from each other. There is a communication war about what should be the ideal public space and urban culture for everyday life. The states and municipalities do not consider the local conditions, practices and envisions. Meanwhile, in most cases, participatory discourse has been used to cover the real critical problems and issues. What is the nature of participatory projects? How do people articulate to different messages in the clashes of meaning? What is beyond participatory design discourse and process in today's cities in the cities of social fragmentation? What are the ruptures in neoliberal and authoritarian urbanism in different neighborhoods belonged to different social groups? Is it possible to intervene into the war over controlling the meaning of public space and urban culture with the means of design research and practice? This presentation will attempt to elaborate these issues looking at the dichotomies between the social practices and meanings of public space at the periphery and the centre of Istanbul.