SESSION 033 Cultural Heritage Initiatives for Social Inclusion/Against Social Exclusion

Reframing the Reactivation of Historic Urban Landscapes with Processes of Social Inclusion of Migrants and Local Communities: The case of Palermo (Sicily, Italy)

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We are interested in analysing how participatory design strategies, focusing on social values of heritage related to identity and memory, might facilitate a collective engagement of diverse communities in the regeneration of their historical built environment.
EMUVE
Euro Mediterranean Urban Voids Ecology

Design-led research Project funded by the European Commission, focused on the development of innovative multi-scalar design strategies for the reactivation of degraded Euro-Mediterranean urban landscapes in crisis.

We work in collaborative design partnerships with City Councils (Barcelona, Marseille, Palermo), communities, NGOs, social activists and local universities.
EMUVE
Euro Mediterranean Urban Voids Ecology

Previous case studies
Barcelona: local empowerment / grassroots governance for urban regeneration of post-industrial urban landscapes
Marseille: multicultural social inclusion strategies in processes of architectural recycling and urban regeneration
Palermo:
multi-scalar interventions of tactical placemaking and design strategies for intercultural centres as agents of intercultural social inclusion and urban reactivation of the dilapidated heritage of a UNESCO listed historic city centre
Why Sicily?

Why Palermo?
Sicily, as most of the South of Italy, has been the **gateway to an important influx of immigration to Italy and Europe**, arriving mainly from Lybia; more than 330,000 migrants arrived to Italy between 2015 and 2016.
• Together the civil society and the local government of Palermo have adopted a welcoming approach towards the economic migrants and refugees arriving to the city.

• Palermo, the Sicilian capital, is a unique scenario to explore how migration and urban degradation issues could be turned into opportunities to re-think innovative strategies for the regeneration of this historic city and the reactivation of underused/degraded heritage that could become new nodes for social integration and civic engagement.
Mr. Leoluca Orlando, 6 times re-elected Mayor of Palermo, has conceived the “Charter of Palermo” at the core of his political agenda. A Political Manifesto which frames migration as an inalienable human right, affirming the right to work, health care, social assistance, and housing to all refugees and migrants arriving to the city, on an equal basis with the locals.
Albergheria District (Albergheria = hosting area)

- The most deprived area of Palermo historic city centre
- Hosts a growing number of migrants and refugees
- Complex multi-layered and multicultural nature
- Its dilapidated heritage urban fabric is in the process of being reactivated through participatory design strategies: syncretic memory and identity play a crucial role
Albergheria: Ballaro Historic Market

- Economic drive of the district
- Social inclusion exchanges between locals and migrants
- Cultural tourists attractor to the district
Albergheria: San Saverio second hand-Market (at Ballaro's doorstep)

- Informal processes of exchange but also violent occupation of selling space
- Issues of criminality, stolen goods selling, drug dealing
- Implementation of a collaborative semi-formalized project, including sellers and local residents
The Albergheria is immersed in a unique process of multi-scalar reactivation through the current synergy reached between SOS Ballaro citizenship assembly and the social entities devoted to social integration of migrants, refugees and locals, together with the political agenda of Palermo City Council.
**Albergheria**: Unique context of **bottom-up and top-down synergies**

**SOS Ballaro assembly** as a key element of this process is the space for the citizenship agreement and decision-making, where the majority of stakeholders, entities and other realities of the district are integrated, participate and are coordinated.
Sicily, Palermo, Albergheria

Unique context of bottom-up and top-down synergies

**EMUVE is contributing to this process:**

Fostering participative practices aimed for the production of spaces for intercultural social-inclusion;

Exploring alternative models of social governance, citizenship empowerment and urban resilience;

Providing our research outcomes at an European level on the analysis of related best practices that could inform those processes;
The EMUVE Research aim in Palermo could be defined as:

The exploration of the potential that social values of heritage have in informing inclusive processes of spatial production in the historical public realm.

This might enable migrants, refugees and locals in risk of social and spatial exclusion, to participate in the (re)definition and (co)production of social space in these deprived heritage contexts.
This research aim has been analysed in the Albergheria district in three design-led research scales:

At the **strategic urban scale** as a contribution for a future Urban Regeneration Masterplan, starting from Ballaro 3.0. framework agreement between SOS Ballaro and Palermo City Council.
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At the scale of its public spaces in relation to previous and future tactical urbanism catalysts practices, contributing to trigger sustainable urban and social regeneration changes over the long term and at a wider level.
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At the **architectural scale**, through the exploration of **socially-inclusive and intercultural spatial production practices in heritage sites** and the study of its urban and socio-economic impact over time
Bottom-up / top-down Synergy between SOS Ballarò citizen assembly and Palermo City Council:

1. Accumulation of Social Capital through tactical Urbanism actions, empowerment
2. Political (ideological) alignment
3. Councilor of Historic City Centre background as an activist (founder SOS Ballaro)
4. Understanding of Research as a key resource: EMUVE EU project+PhD Manchester Univ. (Urban Ethn.)
Tangible consequences of this Synergy:

- **Ballaro 3.0**: A formal agreement defined as a framework for strategic actions aimed for the socio-economic and urban regeneration of the district, recently approved by the City Council in March 2018;

- **Formal Agreement for the formalisation of San Saverio’s Market**, close to Piazza Colajanni, as one of the actions defined in Ballaro 3.0, as well approved in April 2018.
PROPOSTA DI SVILUPPO PARTECIPATIVO DEL QUARTIERE ALBERGERIA

Rinascita del Mercato Storico Ballarò

Mobilità, accessibilità e spazio pubblico all’Albergheria

Valorizzazione del patrimonio storico-sociale e sviluppo sostenibile

Contrasto alla povertà e al disagio sociale
Ballaro 3.0 + EMUVE

EMUVE research was included in Ballaro 3.0. formal agreement framework and defined as follows:

‘Table 1. Interventions of Urban Regeneration and Civil Protection.
Section Buildings with serious structural issues and highly degraded
Ballaro 3.0 + EMUVE

Within this requested collaboration at the architectural scale for Ballaro 3.0, EMUVE explores the spatial and programmatic reactivation of three key dilapidated heritage buildings:

Santa Maria del Soccorso ruined church as a second generation of Intercultural Centres, based on a critical analysis on the Italian government’s programme of Intercultural Centres, implemented since the 90’s.

Santa Chiara Centre: Development of preliminary studies for a future Master Plan of the Centre, which is one of the most important entities of the district aimed for migrants and refugees social integration, that forms an active and engaged part of SOS Ballaro assembly

Palazzo Giallongo di Fiumetorto: as an apprentice school for locals and migrants on building restoration: Heritage social empowerment
Santa Maria del Soccorso: 1. Stakeholders network / 2. collective memory

3. Layers of Sharing / 4. Social values in tangible/intangible heritage
Ballaro 3.0 + EMUVE
Santa Chiara Centre

- The most important support centre for migrants and persons in need for a century
- Preliminary studies for a future Master Plan of the Centre: coherence existing + future uses
- The basis for future funding application
- Urban re-connection to the surrounding urban fabric: cultural visitors-social engagement (7th B.C. Phoenician wall), semi-public spaces
Ballaro 3.0 + EMUVE
Palazzo Giallongo di Fiumetorto

1. Contemporary crafts intervention in Heritage: social empowerment
(Ref. Cooperation agencies programmes in developing countries)
2. Phasing the design according to funding
3. Governance of the centre: stakeholders’ involvement
4. Interactions throughout time, Gradient of exchanges between students and locals
Ongoing collaboration strategies between EMUVE and Palermo Stakeholders

1. EMUVE consultant role has been integrated within the Urban regeneration strategies of Ballaro 3.0 at the Urban, architectural and public space scales.

2. EMUVE design-led research proposals at the architectural scale discussed at a collaborative workshop with the citizenship, SOS Ballaro and Palermo City Council in November 2018.

3. Currently, a volunteering activity of EMUVE Architects together with SOS Ballaro members is taking place in Palermo to prepare the November workshop: participative analysis of EMUVE proposals, European funding bids search.

4. An Exhibition will be organised by Palermo City Council in November 2018 about the outcomes of this collaborative workshop.

5. The collaborative design-led research proposals then will be submitted for European funding applications in 2019 (FEDER funding, UIA Funding).
San Benedetto il Moro, Saint Patron of Palermo together with Santa Rosalia... was African. Painted 2 months ago by Igor Scalisi Palminteri (Ballaro Tale), integrated in SOS Ballaro. In one of our intervention sites in the Albergheria.