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Analytical Tools

Semi-Public Space Conflicts and Alliances in primary Metropolitan Centres: Sylvia Park,
Mt Wellington, Auckland

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION – SEMI-PUBLIC SPACE AND THE EMERGING SPATIALISATIONS OF RESILIENT URBAN COMMONS.

Re-Thinking Associative Networks in the Age of Advanced Translocalism, Transduction and Meta-Publicness

Manfredo Manfredini

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1. Abstract

Engaging with the discourse on the challenge to resilience building posed by the crisis of inclusionary urban commons, this paper submits that the translocalisation and digitally augmented networking of contemporary urban communities have created a novel form of associative engagement that eventuates in transformative and metastable spatialisation patterns. These patterns institute a novel type of commons with a highly redundant, persistent, robust and supple socio-spatial relationality. This type is analysed to understand strengths of and challenges to its agency in reassembling the fabric of urban communities by contrasting the commons' colonisation, financialisation and displacement processes enacted by opposing dominant hegemonic forces. Elaborating upon the critical urbanism tradition, this paper analyses the spatial implications of the "right to the city" question, consistently concentrating on the dynamics of the relationship between power relations and spatial production that have enabled the new commons to produce counterspaces within the most segmented and commodified public realms. The proposed interpretation highlights the spatial conflicts emerging from changing relationships between two antagonist forces: the abstractive spectacle of exclusionary domination and the differential commoning of inclusionary reappropriation. The paper also proposes a typological articulation of the new

commons, discussing evidence found by the author in recent empirical research on semi-public space of representative Asian and Australasian metropolitan centres dominated by advanced shopping and lifestyle enclosures. Findings validate our hypothesis showing the relevant presence of strongly networked, place-based, self-determined and metastable common apparatuses. Concluding notes claim that, given the detected structural vulnerability of the new inclusionary commons, there is urgent need to reframe the question of the commons through a better understanding of their recent transformation. Specifically, more research on the radical changes in their spatial production is necessary to enable projective spatial disciplines, such as architecture and urbanism, to efficaciously contribute to the affirmation of a universal “right to difference” towards a democratic, resilient, and autonomous development of cohesive urban communities.

Keywords: Public Space, Resilience, Translocalism, Urban Commons, Urban Mobility.