

Session 2A - Architecture of participation - symbiotic practices and theories for an inclusive public space

09:30 - 11:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 2. Innovating Public Space for Inclusive Cities

Presentation type Oral

Chair Gonçalo Canto Moniz, Luís Miguel Correia, Vítor Leite, Nanna Østergaard

Architecture of participation is a powerful line of thought that is normally defined and used in relation to spatial practices and theories to work towards more democratic and collective habitats. In this field of thinking, reflective actions established in top-down planning are normally seen as a reductor of the freedom that is stated, and reflexive actions or theories of bottom-up approaches are keen to be seen as processes that lead to more precise and transformative architectural works. The conflict between reflective and reflexive planning actions has always been present in the quotidian regeneration of our built environment. It can be an important phenomenon in the understanding of how we can rethink our own models and how we can organize an urban space that comprehends heterogenous identities and promotes inclusive lifestyles and healthy communities. So, this session will focus on the revaluation of the concept of citizen participation on the transformation of public space, from the perspective of the spatial planner or thinker.

URBiNAT is encouraging a co-creation process of nature-based solutions in the urban projects that it is implementing in social housing neighbourhoods. In this sense, rather than seeing people's engagement in the processes and the existing realities as a screen or a resource, researchers and practitioners are seeing them as an important part of the architectural operation, bound to it in a transparent, dynamic and symbiotic process. The creation of these apparently new dialogues, and new knowledge on this theme, always brings along the old debates about the authorship, tools, methods, and regulations for effective co-creation. In fact, old questions arise when it comes to participation such as: Who chooses? Who decides? Who creates?

This session aims to bring together both new and old matters, inviting architects, urban planners, landscape architects, social scientists and all thinkers on spatial matters to debate about the contribution that participation can have on architectural processes on three levels - strategy, process and design - and to share practices and theories that are using proximity procedures and open methodologies to achieve more objective, inclusive and emancipatory transformations.