Mikhail ILCHENKO, Ural Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation, The Russian protest movements in the dynamics of urban development: regional experience

The Russian protest movements held in 2011-2013 can be considered as the first political event in the country’s post-Soviet period which put the urban issues into the forefront of public debates and political discourse. These movements were often called as “urban”, their participants – as “angry urbanities” while one of their main slogans sounded like “This is our city!” Nevertheless it still remains unclear what exactly made those protests “urban”. Was there anything special in urban dynamics that influenced the development of the protest movement? And did the protest activity itself have any effect on the development of the urban environment in the Russian cities? And if it had, how strong and stable that effect proved to be?

In this sense, the mass protests may be used as a “lens” through which new tendencies in the development of the urban area in Russian cities can be clearly manifested and better analysed. For this purpose it is especially significant to pay attention on the protest movements taken place in the Russian regions. If the protest activity in Moscow or Saint-Petersburg was mostly dispersed and built up around a huge number of events, then the rallies held in the regional centres were usually focused on the current local political agenda, organized by the stable team of civil activists and, therefore, became closely tied to the urban context. Thus, relying on the empirical data on the protest movement in the major regional centres, It would be useful to trace how the protest movements in Russia affected the changes in urban environment relatively an emergence of a) the new agendas and groups of civil activists (actors); b) the new modes of interaction and coordinating networks (institutional practices); c) the new symbolical contours in the public urban space (place).

Krisztina KERESZTELY, Comparative Research Network, Hungary, Tünde VIRÁG, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, James W. SCOTT, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, Bordering and rights to the city: the case of a multiethnic neighborhood in Budapest

The paper is concerned with Roma rights to the city and how socio-ethnic issues have been framed in conjunction with urban development. We will analyse the way in which local urban renewal policies have dealt with the challenge of multi-ethnicity in central Budapest, through among others, practises of border-making. How these urban development practises can be evaluated in the context of European tendencies? How local policies vis-à-vis Roma minorities circumvent European objectives concerning the empowerment of Roma communities?

Our research is based on an empirical study conducted in a traditionally multi-ethnic area in the 8th District of Budapest. Magdolna neighbourhood became the focus of Budapest’s first socially integrative urban renewal programme, financed since 2007, by EU structural funds. This is the poorest part of Budapest’s inner city, often represented as the ‘Roma ghetto of capital’ although ‘ghettoization’ is limited to some streets. The neighbourhood is becoming more multicultural and
first signs of gentrification can be discerned.

The most important results of our work indicate that the visible effects of the integrated urban renewal programme cannot hide the political intention of local government to change the neighbourhood’s character and with it its present population. The aim is clearly to gradually push out visibly ‘problematic’ groups, poor Roma families in particular, by redrawing social and spatial borders between the different ethnic and social groups that live in the neighbourhood.

Valeria MONNO, Polytechnic University of Bari, Bari, Italy, Changing the neoliberal city: the role of dissent displacement narratives

In this paper I debate the politics of urban concentration promoted by the neoliberal economy in relation to citizens’ protests opposing the risk of disappearance of small towns and rural villages in Italy. In an era of efficient flows and sustainable urban politics, people displacement is considered a normal, necessary, and why not, fascinating trend even in Europe. However, the disappearances of small towns is associated to process of dispossession of land and local resources, self-sustaining economies, and the raise of a new class of urban poor which are necessary to the reproduction of the neoliberal city.

The politics of displacement, the complementary side of the politics of urban concentration, are not new in the world. They are played out at different multiple, political levels and enacted through direct and indirect actions such as the reorganisation of infrastructural networks and infrastructural megaprojects. These projects and politics usually trigger protests of local communities, which, more often than not, are classified as environmental NIMBYISM or irresponsible egoism.

On the contrary, I argue that these protests are relevant not only to oppose people displacement but also to change the order on which the neoliberal city flourish. I analyses three cases of displacement carried out through under the banner of infrastructural policies. These are: the NO TAV protest in northern Italy, the NO TAP protest in southern Italy, and the protest of a small town in northern Italy opposing the dismissal on the local railway. While many debates highlight the disappearance of social movements and declare he end of urban revolution, these contestation at the margins of growth of the neoliberal city tell about the sense of belonging to a place, on the value of land and environmental ethics beyond the exchange. These protests create a web of dissonant narratives on the city which are the necessary base for a new generation of just urban policies.

Maria Joao MORAIS ARAUJO, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, Giving a New Opportunity to Portuguese Social Housing: residents as an intervention tool in urban space - Lagarteiro’s case

A reflection about the public social housing programs in Portugal, as well as their way of interaction with society, the construction and urban options. The result and the several studies from diverse areas of expertise lead this reflection in the sense of trying to understand why some social and urban problems still remain an issue in the intervention areas. From the studies to the field, this reflection will try to present some hypothesis of answer to this issues. Producing a new program will not be the