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International Symposium

# **THE FUTURE OF PLACEMAKING: MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD FOR A BETTER SOCIETY**

*Ljubljana, 8th of May 2023*

Venue: Museum of Architecture and Design, MAO, Rusjanov trg 7, Ljubljana

Placemaking refers to the inclusive process of creating and improving public spaces to promote health, happiness, and well-being for individuals and communities. Creating vibrant, accessible, and inclusive public spaces is crucial for building a sense of community and fostering social cohesion. Placemaking can help to create attractive, safe and welcoming spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can come together, interact, and build relationships. If properly designed, such places can also mitigate the challenges of contemporary societies, such as social alienation, mobility issues, impacts of climate change etc. Placemaking can also be an economic driver by attracting new visitors, supporting small businesses, and increasing property values.

This symposium aims to address various aspects of contemporary placemaking through the lectures of the invited speakers and by providing the podium for the exchange of thoughts and ideas on the ways forward for placemaking. The official language of the international event in English.

Due to the limited number of places at the venue please register at [placemaking@uirsi.si](mailto:placemaking@uirsi.si) and write "REGISTRATION" in the subject of your email.

Alternatively, you can join online at (registration not needed in this case):

[https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_OTUyMzk5NjQtYmQzZS00OTeZLWE3MGYtMmQ0ZGZlZGZhMGE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2263c8f900-3e28-43e0-809f-46bf41e6add5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22273bf30-3a91-4d59-990f-35194459b0ea%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_OTUyMzk5NjQtYmQzZS00OTeZLWE3MGYtMmQ0ZGZlZGZhMGE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2263c8f900-3e28-43e0-809f-46bf41e6add5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22273bf30-3a91-4d59-990f-35194459b0ea%22%7d)

We are looking forward to welcoming you!

Matej Nikšič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia  
Neža Čebren Lipovec, University of Primorska  
Tim Mavrič, InnoRenew CoE  
Zsuzsanna Varga, University of Glasgow  
Pekka Tuominen, University of Helsinki

*This symposium is organised as part of the COST Action CA18204 - Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18204/>) training school "METHODOLOGIES FOR RESEARCHING PLACE-MAKING PROCESSES IN CONTESTED HISTORIC SPACES" taking place in Ljubljana and Koper, Slovenia, from May 8 to May 12 2023, co-organised by the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, University of Primorska and InnoRenew CoE. Contact the above-mentioned e-address for more information on the programme of the symposium (May 8) and the workshop activities (May 9-12).*

## Programme

8:30 Registration opens

9:00 – 9:10 Welcome to Ljubljana

**Matej Nikšič**, representative of the local hosts, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia and Human Cities network - Smoties

**Zsuzsanna Varga and Pekka Tuominen**, representatives of COST Action CA18204 Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities

**Barbara Žižić Baumgartner**, Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Directorate

9:10 – 9:50 **Janez Koželj: Pedestrianization, a catalyst for urban regeneration**

9:50 – 10:30 **Leandro Madrazo: A-Place - Linking places through networked artistic practices**

10:30 – 11:00 *break*

11:00 – 11:40 **Neža Čebren Lipovec: Group memory-talk: a new ethnographic method in built heritage conservation between heritagisation and place-making**

11:40 – 12:20 **Zala Velkavrh: Urban Interventions**

12:20 – 13:00 **Branka Cvijetičanin: Pedestrian viewpoint or how space forms life narrative**

13:00 – 13:30 Final discussion

*Programme continues in the afternoon and in the period of the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May for COST Action CA18204 members and speakers, others can join upon a prior request sent to the registration email stated above.*

13:30 – 14:30 *lunch at MAO*

14:30 – 15:30 **UNIVERSUM PLEČNIK: Between Workshop and Myth – guided tour of the MAO exhibition by Miloš Kosec and Natalija Lapajne, co-curators /**

<https://mao.si/en/exhibition/universum-plecnik-between-workshop-and-myth/>

15:30 – 17:00 Ljubljana bicycling tour guided by prof. Janez Koželj  
(the bicycles will be kindly provided by BicikeLJ)

approx. from 17:00 on – Wrapping-up the day and getting ready for the training school workshops  
(venue: Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Trnovski pristan 2, Ljubljana – if you get lost along the bicycling tour please return the bike to this location)

## The Speakers' Corner



**Janez Koželj**

*Janez Koželj was born 18.8.1945 in Ljubljana. Having taught Urban design at the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana, he has been the protagonist of the contextual approach to town planning and architecture. Since 1995 his interest has been shifted to the strategic issues of contemporary urban design. Focusing his research on the contemporary city, he relates analytical results to his built projects. His urban studies and outlines of architecture were published in several books; he received many national and international awards for architecture. Between 2006-22 he held the position of Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana Municipality, responsible for urban planning, urban design, and environmental protection. The main task of his office was to introduce policies for the city's sustainable development.*

### **Pedestrianization, a catalyst for urban regeneration**

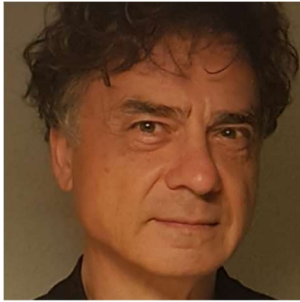
*A systematic pedestrianization of Ljubljana city core was announced in the Sustainable Mobility Plan in 2012 when 35 streets, squares, embankments, and other public spaces were designated as pedestrian areas. The process started with the modernization of the underground infrastructure, after which the floor surface was paved and equipped anew. Traffic regulation of closing or restricting motor traffic regimes always followed the construction phase. The re-arrangement of river banks connected with new (foot)bridges covers more than three kilometres of promenade where new floating piers were added to serve users and future public navigation. When renovation of embankments was finished, the rearrangements of parallel streets and squares continued, thus widening car-free area in a network of shared space.*

*As expected, the improved quality of open-air life fosters sociability and stimulates the economic and cultural revival of the place. The renovation of historic buildings along newly shaped streets and squares is co-financed by public tenders for private owners giving a new image of the place, where the architecture is exposed, and evokes a sense of belonging. The future continuation of pedestrianization offers new opportunities for greening the streets on the reallocated traffic surfaces in order to improve environmental conditions even more.*



Kongresni trg in Ljubljana – before and after, photos: Dunja Wedam and Doris Kodrić

## The Speakers' Corner



**Leandro Madrazo**

### A-Place: Linking places through networked artistic practices

[Leandro Madrazo](#) is A-Place project coordinator, full professor and director of the research group ARC Engineering and Architecture La Salle since its creation in 1999. He graduated with a degree in architecture from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (1984) and later studied as Fulbright scholar in the master of architecture programmes at Harvard University and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) where he obtained a master's degree (1988). From 1990 to 1999 he carried out his teaching and research work in the Department of Architecture and CAAD at ETH Zürich, where he obtained his PhD (1995). His teaching focuses on the integration of [architecture theory and representation, art and media](#), as well as on housing studies and design methodology. Among other research projects, he has coordinated [HOUSING@21.EU](#) (2003–06), [OIKODOMOS](#) (2007–09, 2010–11), and [OIKONET](#) (2013–16) projects all of them funded by EACEA. He has been co-coordinator of the [PROHABIT](#) (2015–18) and has led the [UMVA](#) programme, carried out in conjunction with the Loop Festival, from 2012 to 2017.

*The A-Place project aims to tackle the problem of placelessness in our multicultural and interconnected societies through a multidisciplinary and participatory approach. Artists and creators, educators and students of art and architecture, and cultural agents collaborate with communities in the design and implementation of placemaking activities with the purpose of reinforcing the bonds between people and the places they live in. These activities take place in six European cities (Barcelona, Bologna, Brussels, Lisbon, Ljubljana, Nicosia), as well as in digital platforms, and contribute to creating a network of places that exploit the multiple dimensions of public space as a stage for educational and creative activities using a variety of art forms. The ultimate goal of A-Place is to create a network of places that transcends disciplinary, territorial, and geographic boundaries. It provides an open space for interaction and exchange of experiences and knowledge and weaves a fabric that results from the actions undertaken by the protagonists of the place experience: people in their inhabited spaces.*

*The A-Place project is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme 2019-2023, more information at <https://www.a-place.eu/>.*



A Happy Place : Dardaar, Alive Architecture, Brussels, 2022

## The Speakers' Corner



**Neža Čebtron Lipovec**

### Group memory-talk: a new ethnographic method in built heritage conservation between heritagisation and place-making

*Neža Čebtron Lipovec, PhD, is an art and architectural historian, specialized in the field of conservation of monuments and sites (RLICC K.U. Leuven). She works as researcher and assist. prof. at the Department and Institute for archaeology and heritage at Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska (Slovenia) since 2009. Over the last years she has been focusing on heritage studies, particularly on anthropologic and ethnologic perspectives in conservation, heritage discourses, and participatory methods in heritage conservation. She collaborated in several international and cross-border projects, as well as bilateral research projects. Currently she holds a two-year postdoctoral grant of the Slovene research agency. She is vice-chair of the Institute for archaeology and heritage as well as vice-chair of the UNESCO Chair on interpretation and education for enhancing integrated heritage approaches, at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska.*

*Contemporary trends in heritage studies theories, namely on heritage discourses and the related role of affect and emotion, have opened also debate in the built heritage conservation practice. The most relevant insight in this relation refers to place attachment, within the significance assessment processes first, and community-led management in the end. The aspect is particularly relevant, and challenging, in historically contested border and/or multicultural areas. Such is the case of the northern Istria cities, set on the border between Slovenia and Italy. Here an initiative of collaborative research on place attachment in relation to contested historic sites, called "I'm telling the story of the town", was carried out already 10 years ago (2012-2014). Currently, it is being revised and upgraded within the project "Potential of ethnographic methods in the conservation of built heritage in contested sites, the case of northern Istria", so as to develop a potential new method, called (in the working process) "group memory-talk". This developing method merges different classical ethnographic methods, as well as heritage significance assessment tools, with particular attention to place-attachment elements and place-making processes. The lecture will pinpoint the background to this research, the main characteristics of the method, as well as its challenges.*



*Pripovedujem zgodbo mesta – I'm telling the story of the town: an impression from the gathering at the Slovenian coast*

## The Speakers' Corner



**Zala Velkavrh**

*Zala Velkavrh is a project manager, researcher and editor. She holds a master degree in sociology and is a member of Prostorož collective since 2012. Since then, she has authored awarded project in the fields of urbanism and design. Her articles on sustainable urban development and civic engagement have been published in Slovenian newspapers, magazines and international journals.*

### Urban interventions

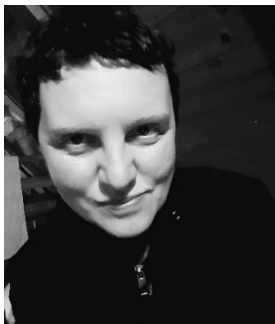
*Prostorož is a non-profit urban design studio based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The studio was formed in 2004 out of a desire to explore and understand open public space. Today, the team consists of architects, social scientists and technical assistants who approach the challenges of urban space in an interdisciplinary manner. Prostorož addresses the environmental and social challenges faced by cities in Slovenia by turning roads into squares, reviving construction sites and forgotten green areas, promoting participation in urban planning and searching for new value in old buildings. Interventions and temporary projects are among the tools used to accelerate spatial dynamics and create opportunities for new uses of public space. The goal: flexible and playful public spaces, created in dialogue with the residents and the environment.*

<https://www.prostoroz.org/enq>



*Teren, Ljubljana*

## The Speakers' Corner



**Branka Cvjetičanin**

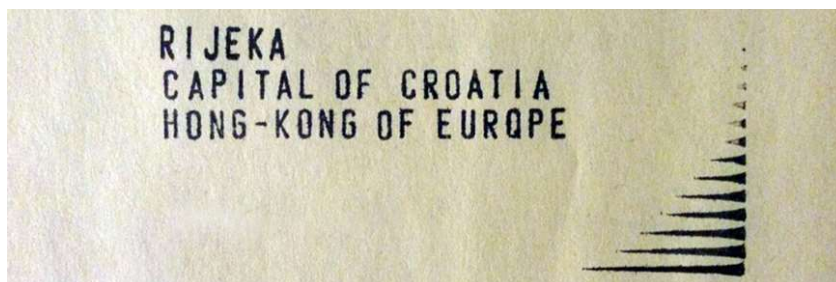
*Artist, curator, and cultural worker, operates in the sphere of contemporary artistic and cultural practices. PhD graduated Bauhaus Kollege. Recently, Chief Artistic Director within Rijeka 2020 ECoC flagship 27 Neighborhoods. Awarded - Erhard Busek Award 2022 by UNIRI for engaged art practice.*

### PEDESTRIAN VIEWPOINT or how space forms life narrative

*#abracadabra #pedestrian #community #participatoryarts #spacenarration  
#atmosphere #agrofobia #thecloud*

*Affective urbanism or how to build the atmosphere into a positive change? On formation of space narratives reflecting on Rijeka 2020 ECoC and one of the biggest experiments in the sphere of community participation arts programs – the Flagship 27 neighbourhoods. The impulse for shared space, distant but similar challenges of Europe neighbourhoods, and their efforts of integration. How we are dealing with different cultures, traditions, and habits, empowering communities, and developing the assumed European identity has turned out to be more complex than it seemed.*

*Can neighbourhoods, as basic social units of urban and rural areas, overcome these limitations and establish a network of relationships and cultural gatherings with one another and with effort and cooperation build a new identity based on local and regional initiatives? Neighbourhoods are where cultural cooperation and participation are achieved to their maximum. The lecture will pinpoint recent community art practices questioning the formation of urban/rural space narratives, but also tickle the minds on trans-humanism - the body that we no longer need and how to maintain it in the Cloud?*





Training school

**COST ACTION DYNAMICS OF PLACEMAKING AND DIGITALIZATION IN EUROPE'S CITIES**  
**METHODOLOGIES FOR RESEARCHING PLACE-MAKING**  
**PROCESSES IN CONTESTED HISTORIC SPACES**

*Koper/Capodistria, 9th - 12th of May 2023*



visitkoper.si

## Programme

TUESDAY, 9.5.

8:30 (sharp) organised transfer from Ljubljana to Koper (the pick-up point confirmed on Monday at registration)

9:00 - 9:30 Welcome coffee at Faculty of Humanities (Titov trg 5, Koper), Greeting's by the Municipality

*Venue for the rest of morning programme: Faculty of Management – Lecture room 4, Izolska vrata 2, Koper*

10:00 – 13:00 **Aleksandra Djukić - Sensing the Place** (lecture & fieldwork)

13:00 – 14:30 *lunch*

*Venue for the afternoon programme: Faculty of Management – InoLab, Izolska vrata 2, Koper*

14:30 – 17:30 **Cristina Palmese & Jose Luis Carles – Augmented Soundwalk** (lecture & fieldwork)

WEDNESDAY, 10.5.

9:00 – 10:30 Visit of Koper Regional Museum & 3D/4D reconstruction of Koper

*Venue for the rest of morning programme: Faculty of Management – InoLab, Izolska vrata 2, Koper*

10:30 – 12:30 **John Samuel & Gilles Gesquiere – Modelling The City** (lecture)

12:30 – 14:00 *lunch*

*Venue for the afternoon programme: Faculty of Management – Lecture room 10, Izolska vrata 2, Koper*

14:00 – 15:30 **Isabel Lousada & Igor Nedelkovski - Street names** (lecture & exercise)

15:30 – 16:00 *break*

16:00 – 17:00 **Onorina Botezat – Reading the City** (lecture)

17:00 – 18:30 **Jasna Čebren (Kulturni klub) & Tim Mavrič - Literature tour of Koper/Capodistria - Through Tomizza's eyes**

*Optional evening programme: visiting Izola/Piran & group dinner*

THURSDAY, 11.5.

*Venue for the whole day: Faculty of Humanities – hall Maestral 1, Titov trg 5, Koper*

9:00 – 10:00 **Edmond Manahasa - Urban Happiness** (lecture)

10:00 – 13:00 **Tahir Albayrak - Residents' Satisfaction with Historical Places** (lecture & exercise)

13:00 – 14:30 *lunch*

14:30-18:00 **Ayse Erek & Katalin Krasznahorkai - Informal placemaking** (lecture & fieldwork - meeting with local DIY groups (Libertas, PandaBanda, Radio NOR, Pina) at Libertas warehouse

FRIDAY, 12.5. (KS Koper-Center/Community Board Office of Koper-Center)

*Venue for the whole day: Faculty of Humanities – hall Maestral 1, Titov trg 5, Koper*

9:00 – 11:00 **Insights from the workshop; critical analysis of methods (SWOT)**

11:00 – 12:30 **Wrap-up; discussion with local stakeholders**

12:30 – 15:00 *lunch*

15:00 *end of the programme*

## Sensing the place: Mood Map and Lotus Blossom Methods

*Aleksandra Djukić (University of Belgrade, Serbia)*

Koper is one of the cities that has a strong link with its past and traditional identity, while at the same time cherishes its natural environment. Its heritage and landscape represent significant elements in the sensing and experiencing of the city especially its open public spaces.

The workshop will consist of short lecture, fieldtrip, and analyses of the results. The lecture will cover the overall quality of open public space on predefined set of criteria: accessibility, safety, liveability, legibility, and attractiveness and explanation of the methods which will be used during the workshop related with Sensing the Place - the *Mood Map* typology of the site (using the method *Sensing the place, with App Mood Matter*), the questionnaire based on the Kevin Lynch methodology and the *Lotus blossom method* for the resolving of the detected problems. The expecting results are new and interesting conceptual proposals of urban design for upgrading the overall quality of space.

## Augmented Soundwalk: Movement, Emergence, and Meaning

*Cristina Palmese (Paisaje Sensorial Office-Lab, Spain)*

*José Luis Carles (Paisaje Sensorial Office-Lab, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain)*

This workshop aims to work with the everyday environment from a soundscape perspective. The relationships lived in a place are unique, abundant and require complex knowledge, both in terms of sensory interaction as well as in a spatial, social, and cultural experience.

We propose to experiment, through multiple modes of listening, a re-appropriation of space, of our environment, of the recognition of the other, and of the place from the rediscovery and expansion of our own sensory possibilities activated by listening and sound.

The first part of the workshop will be in the classroom to share the theoretical approach with hearing, seeing, and experimentation. The second part will be a tour through the city to experience the public space. The third part will consist of a discussion of the experience of all participants, sharing the materials obtained in various media and settings (interviews, drawings, verbalizations, recordings, etc). Each of the parts will require about one hour to be completed.

## Modelling The City: Past and Future Imaginations with 3D Urban Models

*John Samuel (CPE Lyon, France)*

*Gilles Gesquiere (Université de Lyon 2, France)*

Europe is undergoing rapid transformation in social, economic, and political landscapes. In this workshop, we propose to demonstrate how 3D urban models (or digital twins) play an important role in the placemaking of European urban spaces to record past, present, and future projects, stories, and events. We will present how historians and urban planners can manage multiple hypotheses and future imagined versions of the cities using these solutions to share and visualize their propositions to wider audiences. We will also discuss our experiences working with multidisciplinary teams including historians, urban planners, city administration, computer science researchers, and other non-IT persons.

### Street names

*Isabel Lousada (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal)*

*Igor Nedelkovski (University St. Kliment Ohridski Bitola, North Macedonia)*

*Neža Čebren Lipovec (University of Primorska, Slovenia)*

*Matej Nikšič (Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia)*

The session addresses the invisibility of women in (naming) public spaces through a case study method. Examples from the literature will be presented, followed by the presentation on the usage of GIS technology in analysing the presence of female names in naming public spaces for the selected cases. The aim and motivation of the workshop is to try to understand how the combination of our WG's expertise on placemaking on the one hand and digitisation, on the other hand, might turn into interesting approaches to address the issue of the still existing prejudices/stereotypes in naming public places and how they can be proved by facts – numbers. Making more visible the huge disparity between the number of city streets and public places named after women and those named after men might be beneficial towards identity and placemaking since the sense of belonging – being part of the cities - is important to those inhabiting or visiting it. The session includes the report of the pre-workshop on the same topic with primary school children that took place in springtime in Koper and Ljubljana, as well as a walking tour around Koper with the aim to perceive the absence of women represented along the places not only shown in the disproportionality between names but also in other forms of artistic representation or urban design repertoire (monuments, public facilities etc.).

## Reading the City: Shaping Literary and Urban Images in the Digital World

*Onorina Botezat (Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University Bucharest, Romania)*

*Jasna Čebren (Kulturni klub, Slovenia)*

*Tim Mavrič (InnoRenew CoE, Slovenia)*

From the early days of humankind's history, from the caves' drawings to nowadays memes, people told their stories and shared their experiences. Though the city becomes an important input for urban studies later, writers have described the cities as early as the Ancient Greek literature. Those depictions evolved along with the literary genres and techniques as much as transforming the city into a pivotal character in its own right within the text's structure, plot, conflict, engaging details. Thus literature and architecture, as two forms of art, represent the society in which they are rooted and tell the same story, one through vision and another through agency. Our presentation is meant to show how they came together in the digital world through apps that walk you through the city through dedicated excerpts of narration of its both iconic and hidden gems. Our practical part shall be dedicated to the creation of personal literary maps, based on the examples provided. At the end, we will experience an example of trying to explain an urban reality through literature by taking part in a literature-walk through Koper, following the steps of the writer Fulvio Tomizza.

## Urban Happiness: A Tool for Placemaking in Transforming Neighbourhoods

*Edmond Manahasa (Epoka University, Albania)*

This lecture aims to utilize the concept of urban happiness in placemaking with a focus on historical neighborhoods, which are the subject of urban transformation. Obviously, urban happiness can be described as a positive perception of a certain place that impacts the livability and wellbeing of its dwellers.

From the beginning, we must say that to understand this concept, it cannot be comprehended without its three components: people, place, and the perception or evaluation of the first by the second. Regarding people, the increasing mobility reveals the role of not only locals, but also of newcomers in a historical neighborhood. As for the place, not only its tangible elements, like physical structures or facilities, but also its intangible elements, like activities, generate urban happiness.

As such, in a historical neighborhood subject to transformation, the role of historical buildings/public spaces and the role of contemporary ones (buildings/public spaces) in the neighborhood in making people feel happy will be explored/studied. Similarly, the changing activities (intangible) from before to after the transformation will be explored.

## Residents' Satisfaction with Historical Places: The Application of The Kano Model

*Tahir Albayrak (Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey)*

Historic places consist of attributes (e.g., accessibility, comfort, safety/security) that shape residents/visitors' place satisfaction. The basic assumption of previous studies that examine their relationship is that there is a linear relationship between the space attributes' performance and overall satisfaction. However, starting from Kano et al. (1984), researchers provided evidence that the relationship between attributes and overall satisfaction can be asymmetric rather than symmetric. The aim of this workshop is to teach how the Kano method can be applied to the place-making context.

## Informal placemaking: Practices of Art and Culture

*Ayşe Erek (Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey)*

*Katalin Krasznahorkai (Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Kultur und Geschichte, Potsdam, Germany)*

In an input lecture and discussion with local DIY practitioners and civil society activists, we aim to develop and facilitate discussions on the practices of 'informal placemaking' in the special context of Koper. We understand 'informal placemaking' as a concept referring to the practices and strategies undertaken by citizen participation and by artists, activists, and designers. Informal placemaking practices contribute to an attitude of sustainability of new urban concepts, as well as to sociable and collective practices of sharing. Here we would like to suggest the significance of the term and the practices related to 'informal placemaking' through which social, cultural, or ethnic groups shape their environment and landscape. The practices of informal placemaking include DIY practices and interventions. However, we would also target the relevance and significance of the practices that are defined as neither DIY practices, nor interventions, and emerge from daily life. We organize fieldwork where we meet with local DIY groups/individuals such as Panda Banda, Radio NOR, PINA (local NGO's). The workshop will expand on the broader context reflected in the planned Special Issue on Informal Placemaking, for the Journal of Urbanism edited by Ayse Erek and Katalin Krasznahorkai.