



Public space is the place for assembly of people, empowerment of persons. It is the hub of democracy as well as the manifestation of state power. PublicDemoS Project explores the ways in which new forms of public agency extends politics to everyday life experiences, opening up avenues of artistic expressions and aesthetic forms. The core aim of this project is to renew democratic agendas by politics of performative citizenship and public making in multicultural settings.

PROJECT DIRECTED BY  
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## INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP ON SPATIAL DIMENSIONS OF PUBLIC MEMORY

22 FEBRUARY 2019  
EHESS  
ROOM 13  
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# PROGRAM

Public Space Democracy International Study Group on  
Spatial Dimensions of Public Memory

EHESS-Nomis Foundation

The public space is not an empty neutral place, nor it is devoid of power relations. It is deeply imbued with regulation of social space, layers of memory, offering a scene for present day politics, but also an historical archive with different temporalities, inhabitants, monuments and events. Can physical space contribute to creating commonalities and linkage points between different publics? Or does the space, as a marker of identity and power politics become an obstacle for cultural sharing and society making? The claims over meaning and ownership of public space opening up a battlefield over its competing interpretations and contested memories will be discussed as part of global democratic agendas.

9:00 **Welcoming coffee**

9:30 **Nilüfer Göle**, Introductory remarks

10:00-11:30 **Session 1 Chair: Ali Akay**

10:00 **Mechtild Widrich**, National Holocaust Commemoration, Transnationality and the Age of Social Media

10:30 **Erdağ Aksel**, Art for Demos: Who's Choice?

11:00 Questions and discussion

11:30 **Jing Wang**, Tian'anmen Square and Palimpsest of Collective Memories

12:00 **Parand Danesh**, Public memorialization and grieving obstruction in post-war Iran

12:30 Questions and discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:00-16:30 **Session 2 Chair: Barbara Carnevali**

14:00 **Eriñç Aslanboğa**, Transformation of Space as an Individual and Collective Experience

14:30 **Gilles Bataillon**, Contesting Public Space in Nicaragua

15:00 Questions and discussion

15:30 Coffee break

16:00-16:30 **Session 3 Chair: Barbara Carnevali**

16:00 **Nadia Fadil and Maryam Kolly**, Da'wa through conviviality and arts in Molenbeek. Beer, coffee and the frictions of the public

16:30 **Elisabeth Bucar**, The Politics of Islamic Aesthetics in Performative Citizenship

17:00 Questions and discussion

17:30 **Nilüfer Göle**, Concluding remarks