



**AgorAkademi** aims to question the emancipatory potential of public space. In this age of globalization – migration patterns, the circulation of ideas, and the borrowing of objects create intercultural permeation and confrontation. Occupation movements, the destruction of monuments, and controversial images challenge commonly-held narratives and norms of living together in a society. Public space is the site where differences manifest themselves and minorities become visible, the site of intercultural encounters and clashes around religious-secular norms and affects. The representation of images becomes a subject of debate between the values of the sacred and the freedom of expression. The (re)conversion of monuments and the destruction of statues, shape politics of memory and the historical legacy in the present.

To understand the foundations of the Agora – public space – **AgorAkademi** proposes to study it around three axes: agencies and imaginaries; contested monuments; statues, controversial images, and objects. An interdisciplinary approach is adopted to relate the topographic, aesthetic, and physical features of the public space with its more abstract, philosophical, and sociological dimensions.

Project directed by Nilüfer Göle  
EHESS – NOMIS – Columbia Global Centers | Paris



## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

### MONUMENTS & PUBLIC SPACE IN MUTUAL TRANSFORMATION

November 12, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Columbia Global Centers | Paris

Reid Hall – Salle de Conférence

4 rue de Chevreuse 75006 Paris



## AgorAkademi – International Seminar

### Monuments and Public Space in Mutual Transformation

November 12, 2021

The AgorAkademi seminar on Monuments and Public Space will investigate the cultural dissent and political stakes as they relate to monuments – with topics ranging from colonial heritage to the communist past to the conversion of religious monuments.

We will engage in a cross-disciplinary discussion organized around selected case studies: how is the past of a monument questioned? How are - sometimes conflicting - narratives constructed? And how is their function, usage, and architecture transformed by political or artistic interventions?

Our aim is to explore such questions from variety of disciplinary approaches, bringing together the perspective of philosophers, art historians, sociologists and other humanists and social scientists, to further the examination of public space in multicultural settings.

09:00 a.m. Welcome Coffee

09:30 a.m. Nilüfer Göle, *How to Make Monuments Speak Back to Us?*

10:00 a.m. Vladimir Yavachev, *l'Arc de Triomphe Wrapped, Christo and Jeanne-Claude Artwork*

Discussion with Carol Gluck

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Boyan Znepolski, *Preserving or Destroying Monuments: The Case of “1300 years Bulgaria”*

Ina Belcheva, *Heritage, Memory, and Art Politics in Postsocialist Bulgaria: Platform “Mausoleum”*

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

02:00 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.

Maté Csanda, *Reactionary Remodeling Public Space: the Kossuth Square in Budapest*

Nazli Temir, *Renovation of Armenian Monuments and Multiple Identities*

03:30 p.m. Coffee Break

04:00 p.m. – 05:30 p.m.

Nilüfer Göle, *Reconversion of Hagia Sophia and Compromised Legacies*

Niko Angell-Gargiulo, *Aesthetic Transformations of Hagia Sophia*

Daniel Gamper *Monuments, Absence, and Memory in Contemporary Barcelona*

05:30 p.m.–06:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks

Loren Wolfe, Mechtild Widrich, Pablo Ouziel, Cosima Crawford