

AgoraSeminar
organized by Nilüfer Göle

Public Space



Creating Solidarities and Aesthetic
Accommodations in Unsettling Times

Friday, November 3, 2023
9h30 to 18h30

Salle de Conférence
Columbia Global Centers | Paris
Reid Hall, 4 rue de Chevreuse, 75006 Paris

Access subject to prior registration with kk3621@columbia.edu

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Public Space

Creating Solidarities and Aesthetic Accommodations in Unsettling Times

Public space emerges as a vital arena where people assemble, create solidarities, and transform life spaces. In unsettling times, namely natural catastrophes, wars, and forced migrations, the conditions of human life are endangered in many places. The war in Ukraine, the earthquakes in Turkey and in Syria, the oppressive regime of the Taliban in Afghanistan - each destroyed the very fabric of daily life, including infrastructure, natural environment, historic heritage, and public liberties.

In this workshop, we will discuss the thematic of an alternative public space drawing from micro-level practices, case studies, and first-hand experiences. We will explore how people experiment with innovative approaches to reshape their surroundings, and cultivate new forms of collectivity in intercultural settings. Our aim is to emphasize the interplay between agency and artistic expressivity, the connections across borders, and the creation of lateral publics and solidarities. Beyond the destructive forces of politics and loss of hope for the future, we will explore the emancipatory potential of public space.

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Program

9h45 **Welcome Coffee**

10h-12h **Creating Forms**

Nilüfer Göle (Professor EHESS, AgorAkademi Project)

Displaced Artists and Transnational Publics: The Case of ArtLords

Cathy Bouvard (Director, Ateliers Médicis)

Du rêve d'un public à l'accueil des communautés

Rada Akbar (Conceptual artist)

Voices of Resilience: Art and Activism in Exile

12h-13h **Lunch Break**

13h-15h **Building Solidarities**

Nikita Grigorov (Ukrainian journalist)

A Brief History of Self-Organization of Ukrainian Society

Savaş Zafer Şahin (Professor, Hacı Bayram Veli University-Ankara)

The New Power of the Civil Initiatives vs. State Interventions in Shaping the Post-Earthquake Urban Planning in Türkiye

Eugénie Ndiaye (Social entrepreneur, les Bâtisseuses)

Justice sociale et environnementale par le biais d'un acte de bâtir au service de la perpétuation du Vivant

15h-15h30 **Coffee Break**

15h30-18h **Inhabiting Public Space**

Rafik Arfaoui (Postdoctoral Researcher, Pompeu Fabra University-Barcelona)

Local Solidarities with Migrants and Public Spaces on the Move Outside Metropolises

François de Gasperi (PhD candidate, ENS Lyon)

Caring for the City in Common: The Role of Community Networks in the Anthropocene Era

David Bravo (Architect, Barcelona)

Home, Green Home: Housing Policies as the Main Solution to Tackle Current Urban Threats

Judit Carrera (Director, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona)

Making a Cultural Institution a Public Space

18h-18h30 **General Discussion**

With the participation of Cédric Duroux and Nancy Moreno (October-Octopus)