

Internship report of Giulia Adelfio

The content of the work has been developed in vision of two phenomena increasingly diffused in cities all over the world, gentrification and place-consumption. The related consequences acquire an even graver tone when they come to influence open public spaces. In fact, in such cases, space fulfills a particularly crucial role not only in providing opportunities for people's encounter and empowerment, but also in generating positive spatial spill-overs over the entire urban environment. Therefore, a theoretical effort was undertaken in order to design a radical principle, which could deeply challenge structural injustice and elitism in the process of space-making. In such concern, especially interesting resulted Lefebvre's, Harvey's and Marx' contributes. Afterwards, the "right to contest the space against elitism", and the related dimensions, were applied to the case study of the largest urban park in Berlin, the former ex-airport Tempelhof. Different data were employed during the research. In particular, the analysis of the field maps revealed the most relevant spatial developments and land-use changes over time. Moreover, the document related to a public-competition held for the park planning was deeply scrutinized, in addition to other plans and projects sustained by the local government. Besides, quantitative secondary data proved to be relevant in order to comprehend demographic and green space-related dynamics that effected the local environment in the last years. Furthermore, a work of observation during public-meetings and different demonstrations contributed to integrate the overall understanding of citizens' perspectives on the theme. Finally, in-depth interviews were conducted with the activists engaged in the debate over land-use in the park.

Indeed, the internship represented a unique opportunity for me to enhance my skills in conducting research on the field, as well as in engaging with real contexts effected by social and environmental injustice. My coordinator's experience in related topics and in the Berlin ambience has definitely inspired my current interests and my curiosity for new challenges.