

**Workshop program**  
**18 November 2017 @ L'Asilo**

1) **h. 9,30-11,15 (Ita-Eng-Esp)**

**Commons in the age of crisis: mutualism and culture**

#mutualism #self-production #culture #participation #cooperation

Why do emerging Commons appear, and what do people produce in them?" How do mutualism and cultural self-production represent resistance processes against crisis?

The political management of the current crisis has deepened social inequality like never before in modern Western society, placing profit first and work last, income first and life last, speculation first and community rights last. On the one hand, the Welfare State has become an empty container and the management of public services has been overwhelmed by the market logics, turning human rights into valuable economic transactions or compensations for "behaving well". On the other hand, the latest dynamics of financial extractivism have brought the marginalising of the job market to an end, subsuming cooperation and creativity. In light of this, exceptional resistance processes have been noticed in the cities, all focused on the reconstruction of social bonds, mutualistic experiments revolving around some of the main social needs (housing, employment, income, health, education) and the pooling and sharing of production means, as well as experiments of self-production and autonomy in terms of culture and work management. In many different ways, these processes rely on the use of the Commons and seem to show a rewriting of the current economic and social relations, beyond the dichotomic framework of the State and the Market.

In this workshop, we are going to analyse the complex of social processes occurring behind and inside the recovery, the management and the use of urban Commons, examining several experiments of mutualism and cultural self-production, the needs they meet, the contexts where they appear and the connection they establish with the urban emptiness.

**Speaker:** Federic Sultan, University of Bruxelles; Jesica Pellegrini, Ciudad Futura-Rosario; Christos Giovanopoulos, University of Salonicco.

**Participate:** Labas-Bologna; Mondeggi fattoria senza padroni; Corrado Gemini CTRL.

**Introduction and chairing:** Salvatore Cosentino, Giulia Follo.

1) **H.11,30-13,30 (Ita-Eng- Esp)**

**Emerging Commons: self-government and new institutions**

#autonomy #newinstitutions #self-management #urbancommons #communities

What are the urban Commons? What is the role of the communities defending and taking care of them?

Even though the international debate about the Commons has always relied on primary Commons, such as water or other natural resources, the situation is changing nowadays. There are more and more abandoned and underused places which have become ‘incubators’ for a new generation of activities: from the sharing of artistic, handcraft and cultural means to the creation of information desks, canteens and clinics. Heterogeneous processes where cooperation and self-government expand into a new form of horizontal and mutualistic governance, based on public and non-identity centred agorae, which are accessible and inclusive, and linked to the social struggles and the needs expressed by the inhabitants of certain territories. In these emerging Commons accessibility is not subject to a binding economic performance and those who take care of them have the right of direct governance. This experimental common-pool resource management – which is beyond the dichotomic framework of the State and the Market – is giving birth to new non-governmental institutions. Collective and civic use is a tool appeared with the aim of including this form of governance in the administrative law as well, which represents a sort of State ownership strengthened by people’s control, currently including 40.000 m2 of public property only in the city of Naples and important experiments of self-standardisation and administrative acknowledgement in several Italian and European cities. Hence, this tool reveals not only the aim of an innovative form of acknowledgement but also the ambition to develop a critical view of the idea of traditional ownership and to build pathways leading to a political reflection, in order to question difficulties, aporias and current affairs concerning the challenge of self-government.

In this workshop we are going to analyse the participative tools supposedly characterising the juridical category of the Commons, the acknowledgement of the role played by the main communities looking after them and the political meaningfulness of the driving force pushing from below to create new institutions.

**Speakers:** Gala Pin, Ayuntamiento de Barcelona; Giulia Druetta, La Cavallerizza-Torino; Ana Mèndez, M129-AhoraMadrid; Luigi de Magistris, Sindaco di Napoli.

**Participate:** Alfonso Raus, Cittadinanza attiva Onlus – Campagna disponibile; Reggio Emilia Casa bettola; La Ingovernable-Madrid; Casematte 3 e 32 l’Aquila.

**Introduction and chairing:** Giuseppe Micciarelli, Maria Francesca De Tullio

## Parallel sessions

### 3a) H.15,30-17,30 (Ita-Eng)

#### Commons vs Rental Economy

#gentrification #platformcapitalism #job #socialrights #organization

How do touristification, gentrification and platform capitalism impact employment and quality of life? What kinds of strategies are possible in order to redistribute wealth?

Cities – with their real estate, facilities, networks, capital and trade flows, movements of people – represent more and more clearly the main capitalistic production centres, but they are also places of historical significance and social bonds. Along these phenomena of urban transformation, the private ownership and accumulation deriving from private income collide with the resistance processes establishing new community bonds arising from collective use. Touristification and gentrification live together and become intertwined with some forms of reinvention of the public space and establishment of the emerging Commons. Mongrelisation, social coexistence and urban life practices constitute a step forward against more and more aggressive forms of ethnic and social segregation, as well as forms of segmentation of the urban space. The development of platform capitalism, the growth in global mobility and the consumption of/in the urban space as main form of social interaction with the city are increasing the precariousness of working and life conditions, resulting in new types of exploitation against which new solidarity and resistance strategies, strike practices and organisational forms of strikes by lower social classes stand. Inside these processes, also local institutions play an important role, even though they basically find it hard to rule such contradictions. The clash between the life of the majority of the (non-owning) people on earth and the private income of the few is one of the main themes around which the most problematic challenges of the Western cities take place.

This workshop is aimed at understanding the trend elements of these transformations, confronting and sharing strategies of political organisation, taking up suggestions for rebalancing the relationship between value (profit and revenue) extraction and social rights, and servicing preserving the public space.

**Speakers:** Paul Carillion, "Conséquences"- Parigi; Macao- Milano; Ayuntamiento de Barcelona

**Participate:** Clap-Roma; Clap-Padova;

**Introduction and chairing:** Luca Recano, Valentina Dell'Aversana

3b)H.15,30-17,30 (Ita- Esp)

## Commons vs Austerity

#Europe #debt #privatisation #self-government #disobedience

What kind of political and social autonomy is left to the cities in a European system based on debt and austerity? Is it possible to renew the bonds between social struggles, experiments of radical democracy and community management of urban spaces, creating a common front against austerity?

The 'monstrification' of public debt and the austerity measures have been ruling the political neo-liberal matter for a decade now, as well as the functioning of local, national and supranational institutions. As far as the EU is concerned, a carefully planned social and democratic aggression has been carried out through the addition to the national legislation - if not to the constitutional papers - of a top-down system, limiting and binding the decision-making capacity of the territories. The impact of this mechanism results, indeed, in phenomena such as reduced expenditure, the transformation of social policies, the privatisation of public services, the precarisation of those in charge of them, the selling off of the cities and their real estate, and so on. Social and economic production of the territories, as well as the political challenge represented by the on-going processes of self-government/radical democracy/institutional assault, has been strongly attacked by the austerity measures.

This workshop is aimed at confronting several different European experiences facing the mentioned themes by sharing their views on problems, social resistance and institutional disobedience mechanisms used up to now, with the ambition of building a common path leading to defence, counterattack and liberation.

**Speakers:** Loukia Kotronoki, Diktyo-Atene; Andrea Fumagalli, Università di Pavia; Silvia Cameán Calvete, Marea Atlantica- A Coruna; Decide Roma.

**Participate:** Oficina de Urbanismo Social-La Ingovernable-Madrid; Tutta mia la città, Taranto; Nedavimo Beograd; C.S. La Invisible-Malaga; Labas-Bologna.

**Introduction and chairing:** Fabrizio Greco, Giorgia Fiore

#### 4a) H.17,45-19,45 (Ita-Eng)

### Right to the City

#radicaldemocracy #rights #publicspace #education #immigrationpolicies #equality

How do cities change as the processes of gentrification and urban, environmental and social speculation move forward? How can access to social rights be re-built and re-earned? How can resistance and new urban practices of public space appropriation be enhanced against social marginalisation?

Cities, the way they transform and the way space and social relationships are reorganised within them, represent the paradigm of mature neoliberal capitalism, and the tangles of its development. But cities are also the place where struggles for social rights, tactics of resistance and organisational practices, solidarity and mutualism experiences see the light of day and multiply. Access to public services and new social rights (from housing to mobility, ecology, health, education, development, public spaces and facilities) are to be claimed and realised in there. The right to the City focuses on an idea and a practice of citizenship that go beyond any formality and connect needs, wishes, practices with a planning concerning urban transformation and lifestyles. These intertwined and conflicting forces make the City the possible place where one would be able to experiment a new municipal government and a new idea of democratic autonomy capable of calling the centralist order of the nation state into question.

In this workshop, we are going to discuss the different practices and struggles carried on in the City, considered their organisational space and their political and institutional reference point, in order to find a common principle on the basis of which it would be possible to create a system of rights for a new substantial equality, against the privatisation process hitting public spaces and segregation and exclusion processes involving lower social classes.

**Speakers:** Lubja Slavkovic, Nedavimo Beograd; Ugo Rossi, Università di Torino; Kike Espana, C.S. La Invisible-Malaga; Oficina de Urbanismo Social-La Ingovernable-Madrid.

**Participate:** Terranostra-Casoria; Casematte 3 e 32 l'Aquila; Case del Popolo-Napoli.

**Introduction and chairing:** Michela Antonucci, Dario Oropallo

## 4b) H.17,45-19,45 (Ita-Eng)

### Cities, walls and freedom of movement

#racism #competition #war #genderinequality #food #ecology

How do all the different struggles intertwine, aiming at a dignified existence in the cities? Is it possible to turn the selective and conditional systems of law regulating immigration policies and citizenship into a discussion focussing on equality and redistribution of resources, access to culture, respect for identity?

The absolutisation of the neo-liberal paradigm in the crisis management not only has strengthened the elements of injustice, violence and environmental degradation belonging to a social order based on war and the supremacy of the State and the Market, but is also attacking the foundations of social life. Cultural and institutional racism, competitiveness, social relationships based on violence, new forms of slavery and colonialism have become the indicators of the gangrene of agonising capitalism. For millions of people the current political and social system has resulted in a real denial of the right to life. Indeed, it has undermined the essential conditions for civil liberties, democracy and often dignity and survival of those who are recognisable as participating in low social classes, who are oppressed because of their geographical origin, their gender identity, their social class or their ethnic group. In the cities, resistance and struggles have intertwined and have raised challenging issues about social change and its desirable interaction with ecology, a revolution in gender relations, refusal of racism and borders: health, freedom of movement, self-determination, access to fundamental rights such as water, food and culture, don't merely represent items of resistance itself, but rather embody the universal paradigm of a possible different social order.

In this workshop, we are going to focus on some of these issues, confronting projects, experiences and ideas, suggestions on organisational aspects, linguistic forms of expression, cultural and social perspectives needed in order to build any kind of social alternative.

**Speakers:** Kali Akuno, Cooperation Jackson-Mississippi; Funky Tomato; Coalizione Sans Papier; Adrien Sofian Monjour, Action Antifasciste Banlieu-Parigi.

**Participate:** Cs Ex Canapificio-Caserta.

**Introduction and chairing:** Ermanna Visone, Lucia Borneo

## Program

19 November 2017 @ L'Asilo

5) 09,45 -11,45 (Ita-Eng-Esp)

### Roundtable

#### Commons: construction for use

#Commonfare      #welfare      #crisis      #commongoods      #mutualism

“the crisis of capitalism shows its brutality: war, xenophobia, fascism, fear death, social and environmental devastation, selfish individualism and poverty” (from the international appeal of Commons and cities). Assuming this awareness as starting basis, we believe it necessary to begin a discussion about fundamental concepts, as “common goods”, “Common” and “in-common”, positive drivers upon which another economic and social organisation can be built. Can common goods be understood as a mere “defensive reaction” to the new enclosures of knowledge and living reality? Can the institutions of common become a real offensive movement, which thematises and builds the basis for another social and economic organization? How can the Common be thought as a possible transformation acquiring “from the bottom” its transformative potential in relation to the capitalistic society as a whole?

Can the transformative force, which this process can acquire in times of dismantling of state-centered welfare state institutions, show a transformation of the forms of government, establishing mechanisms of direct democracy and cooperation to allow a transition from a state-centered welfare state towards a post-bureaucratic model of commonfare?

These are the questions raised along this working table, where we invited, among others, Carlo Vercellone and Francesco Brancaccio (co-authors of the volume "Il Comune come modo di produzione" ["Common as a mode of production"]), Tiziana Terranova (Università Orientale) and Alexandros Kioupiolis (Heterpolitics research project)

**Participate:** Tiziana Terranova, Carlo Vercellone, Francesco Brancaccio, Alexandros Kioupiolis

**Chairing:** Pierluigi Vattimo