

SUMMER SCHOOL | July 2019

8-14 July, Paris

Europaeum Summer School, at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

The Globalized Metropolis: Politics, Protestations and Participation in Modern Urban Spaces

The Europaeum (<https://europaeum.org/>) hosted a Summer School that took place in Paris from the 7th to the 13th July, bringing together 16 prestigious European universities.

The interdisciplinary summer school, entitled 'The Globalized Metropolis: Politics, Protestation and Participation in Modern Urban Spaces', was organised by Maria Gravari-Barbas to address some of the great urban contemporary challenges. The summer school brought together a number of researchers and lecturer-researchers from Paris 1: Linda Boukhris (IREST), Nadine Cattan and Eric Denis (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and Nicolas Vaicbourdt (History)]. It also saw academics from other universities in the European network, including: Jan Wouters, (KU Leuven) ; Antoni Luna, (Pompeu Fabra University) ; and Jesus Léal, (Complutense University of Madrid). The sessions were moderated by the Director of The Europaeum, Hartmut Mayer. Around 30 masters and doctoral students, from a range of universities within the Europaeum network took part. Coming from Oxford, Bologna, Krakow, Leiden, Barcelona, St Andrews, KU Leuven, Madrid, Prague, Lisbon and Paris, the students came together for a week of lectures, discussions, debates, visits and workshops.

The week kicked off with a wide ranging historical and anthropological foray into tourism studies but also micro branding and architecture with Antonio Luna's talk: *"From the Barcelona Model, to the Barcelona Brand. Global Challenges and Local Struggle in contemporary Barcelona"*. He summarises this into four main ideas: Catalan Identity and Tradition; Economic Development; History/Preservation of the past and International Projection. He spoke about how sometimes these things work against each other. For example, the needs of economic development sometimes go against the preservation of the past. One of the group questions was on the increasing of prices of housing in neighbourhoods close to tourist areas. Is driving locals out one of the big problems of Barcelona and how can we tackle that? Luna responded that one of the big failures of democratic governments is not contemplating this. It makes it expensive not only close to the tourist attractions, but all over the city. Houses are not affordable for anyone. It is really only in the last few years that it has finally been on the political agenda.

Next we moved to Maria Delaplace giving us an engaging and stimulating insight into the challenges and opportunities of hosting the Olympic Games in Paris. She spoke about the Olympic Games as a mega event which can be linked to a global urban project aiming to transform the city or the district. With the Olympic Games, of course there is innovation. But a key question that was raised was regarding Seine St Denis. It is the poorest place in Paris. One cannot just bring the Games there without helping those who live there. But, the risk of gentrification is perennially high. It can lead to displacement, and after that people who originally lived there cannot come back as the rent costs are higher.

A fascinating talk the following day was given by Linda Boukhris regarding the Black Paris project: *"The production and reception of a counter-hegemonic tourism narrative in postcolonial Paris."* Based on a paper published in 2007 as part of a special project on tourism and violence, this project was intended to raise the issue of symbolic violence. However, it became more like a tourism project in itself. Black Paris offers an off the beaten track tour of Paris (not so much geographically, but

more in terms of re-appropriating the major Parisian sights.) In moving away from the narrative beaten track, these places of power and culture and free speech are reanalysed, seeking out characters and stories that had become invisible. The discussion centred around how this could be a new way of looking at counter resistance, creating another narrative in the city that hasn't been considered before. Another extremely interesting point was how the racism debate changes over time and in context with the people you're talking to - can you even say Black Paris in certain groups? Ultimately, the Black Paris Project opens up a new space, transforming this image of Paris as a place made up of stripy shirts, red wine, the Champs-Élysées and white people!

Next was an excellent and interactive lecture from Jan Wouters on *Cities and Global Governance*. He spoke about the changing statistics: in 1950 751 million people lived in cities; now the figure is 4.2 million. Further, the UN expects 2/3 of the world population to live in cities by 2050. Using the example of The Peace of Westphalia, founded on an organising principle of peace, Wouters spoke to the group about exclusive territorial jurisdiction, stating that peaceful coexistence was key. This links closely to making sure that there would be no traffic between hermetically close sovereignties. An interesting thought raised was that cities can drive change too, for example in Italy the first same sex marriage was celebrated in Rome and then the laws changed nationally.

We then moved on to "*Understanding Spatial Segregation in European Cities, Barcelona and Madrid cases*" by Jesus Léal. He shared some interesting and challenging thoughts: that segregation is not the opposite of integration. There are integrated and non-integrated segregated groups. Furthermore, he invited the group to think about the structuring principle: living in close proximity does not necessarily mean integration. It is not a natural or spontaneous process. The impact of economic social and political variables will always be felt, and there are various inequality indicators in globalised cities which must be considered: social class, occupation, socioeconomic status, and race or ethnicity.

Another engaging talk was from Valentina Montaldo: "*Culture counts: An empirical approach to measure the cultural and creative vitality of European cities*". She spoke about culture, why it matters, how it matters and how it shapes European cities. It is indisputable that culture is now understood as a resource for development. But she invited the group to start at the beginning by asking exactly what is culture. This was the starting point for her work; needing to create and develop a framework through which to measure culture. She started with a review of existing works on the topic and went on to create an impressive methodological study on the relationship between culture and city performance.

In particular, the students appreciated that this summer school integrated lectures with on-site visits. The students would learn about something in the morning, and then experience it for themselves in the afternoon. After the first morning discussing gentrification, the students spent the afternoon on a walking tour of the Marais. This invited them to really consider the changing face of one of the most prestigious and historical areas of Paris, from its humble beginnings to what it is now - a truly gentrified neighbourhood, unaffordable for most. After the lectures on Black Paris, the students visited Château Rouge, a guided tour by the organisation 'Migrantour' (a play on Migrant Tour). This allowed the students to discuss ways of life, of culture and the lasting legacy that immigration leaves. After the morning learning about the Barcelona model and the challenges and opportunities of hosting the Olympic Games, the students visited the urban development zone (ZAC) on the Left Bank. This enabled a discovery of one of the most important construction projects in Paris, which was then further enhanced by a visit to 'Grands Voisins'. This is a project which began its life in an old Parisian hospital, and is currently in the midst of being transformed into a residential area. As it started as a temporary project, this called for the students to familiarise themselves with exactly how transitional urban planning operates. Learning about World Museums and the new

“star-architectural” cultural landscape in Paris was followed by a visit to the Louis Vuitton Foundation. This in itself is an astounding architectural feat, and invited students to discuss the purpose of these major “starchitecture” projects.

The week drew to a close with student presentations where the students worked together in groups to reflect upon the events of the week and share their comparative perspectives of modern cities. They presented in groups on four cross-cutting themes in front of their peers on Friday, July 12, before the closing of the Summer School.

Students were extremely grateful for the experience, one stating: “I would like to say thank you so much for organising such an interesting and thought-provoking summer school in Paris last week. I really enjoyed it and everyone I spoke to agreed that it was such a fulfilling experience. Thank you.” The combination of lectures and discussions, with visits informed by the nature of the academic discussion was unique, bringing academia to life in a particularly resonant way.

Written by Ms. Catherine White, Programme Officer, The Europaeum. July, 2019.