



Seminar at ESF, Malmö:

RECLAIMING THE CITY: Resisting evictions, demolitions, gentrification, privatisation, speculation...

Thursday, Sept. 18 2008, 9:30-12:30
Rosengård Värner Rydénskolan

Neo-liberal policies, financial globalisation and global city competition heavily affect urban life and struggles. Millions of people from lower classes get pushed out of their neighbourhoods and houses. Based on an exchange of recent experiences with struggles against neo-liberal urban transformations in Istanbul, Germany, and Russia we want to discuss options for internationalised resistance.

Speakers and Co-organizers:

- SUKRU PÜNDÜK, Sulukule platform, Istanbul. A leader of the local Roma community and organizer of cultural events.
- PELIN TAN, Sulukule platform, Istanbul is an urban researcher and activist supporting the survival struggle of Sulukule.
- ERDOGAN YILDIZ from Gülen neighborhood in Istanbul is a neighbourhood organizer and activist.
- TAN MORGUL is a critical journalist and activist from Istanbul.
- ULUS ATAYURT is a critical journalist and activist from Istanbul.
- KNUT UNGER, Habitat Netz - Witten Tenants Association, is a tenants organizer and journalist from the Ruhr district in Germany.
- KARIN BAUMERT, Initiative Bethanien Berlin and others, is an urban sociologist and activist in autonomous urban struggles with roots in eastern Berlin.
- CARINE CLEMENT from the "Soviets Regional Co-ordination Union of Russia" (SKS) lives in Moscow
- EVGENY KOZLOV, Movement of citizens' initiatives, Saint-Peterburg
- ANDREY KONOVAL, Coordinating soviet of citizens' actions, Izhevsk
- VESNA TOMSE is a sociologist, journalist and urban activist from Zurich, partly working in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- SEBASTIAN MÜLLER, INURA Rhine-Ruhr, is a retired professor for urban sociology and theory of planning from Dortmund, Germany. Currently mainly working on international financial investment in the housing market he is even an activist in close relations to the tenants associations in the Ruhr District.
- CESARE OTTOLINI, Italy, is the coordinator of the International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)

Babel translations from/to: English, French, Turkish. From: Russian, German.

Join the ASSEMBLY OF URBAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Saturday, Sept. 20 2008, 9:30-12:30
Enskifteshagen, Tält 2

This ASSEMBLY, open to all activists for urban/housing/land rights, will discuss concrete steps for improved international cooperation on urgent action, campaigns and reflection. It should try to fix the implementation of agreements built during ESF meetings. Let's develop effective, targeted and transparent international networking! Let's build a roadmap for unity of urban social movements !

Collaborating organizations on this program activity.:

- International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI) and organizations from that network incl. the Russian Union of Coordinating Soviet
 - No Vox Network
 - RECLAIMING SPACES and local organizations / networks
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Some more related events:

- **Resistance to Ilisu Dam, Stockholm motorway and other unsustainable infrastructure**
Sep 18, 2008 from 14:00 to 17:00, Mazettihuset, Lagret
 - **What future we choose: the neoliberal metropolis or a common living place of solidarity?**
Sep 19, 2008, from 18:00 to 21:00 Chokladfabriken, Ölhallen and
Sep 21, 2008, from 09:30 to 12:30 Studieförbundet, Sal 204
 - **Fighting privatisation of public services! Struggles and alternatives (part 2)**
Sep 19, 2008, from 09:30 to 12:30, Chokladfabriken, Ölhallen
 - **Financial crisis : Causes, specificities, consequences, alternatives.**
Sep 19, 2008 from 09:30 to 12:30, Enskifteshagen, Tält 1
 - **Count against capitalist globalisation by Global Social Rights**
Sep 19, 2008 from 14:00 to 17:00, Värner Rydénskolan
 - **Making housing a right for all throughout Europe**
Sep 19, 2008 , from 18:00 to 21:00 KFUK-KFUM
 - **Grassroots movements of have nots (right, job, house, undocumented people) assembly**
Sep 21, 2008 , from 09:30 to 12:30 Värner Rydénskolan
 - **Struggles to defend urban public spaces and open cities in Europe - Against speculation**
Sep 21, 2008 from 09:30 to 12:30, Rosengårds folkets hus, Festsalen
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RECLAIMING-SPACES is an informal initiative, dedicated to struggles which react to the process of dispossession and expropriation of inhabitants from their land, housing, infrastructure and/or public spaces. Struggles in most cases start at local levels by organizing the social and/or political defense of commons and public goods against privatization, financial speculation or corruption. We want to build spaces and tools for exchanging some of these experiences with a focus on those factors which are transnational or global: global financial investors and markets in real estates, the international institutions and arrangements backing them etc. We want to contribute to a better common understanding of global forces behind the transformation of the human habitats. We want to support the development of improved international networking, practice orientated reflection and interventions. We are asking, if we can consider forms of appropriations, struggles, claims, methods and organizations which allow social actors to proceed from local defence struggles to trans-local pro-active offensives. How can we reclaim our cities and land ?

www.reclaiming-spaces.org