

23th INURA Annual Conference – 2013

Urban (ir)rationalities: Between global dynamics and local collective actions

CONFERENCE	RETREAT
23-26 June 2013	27-30 June 2013
Lisbon, Portugal	Coimbra and Curia, Portugal

Organized by the Centre for Social Studies (Centro de Estudos Sociais, CES),
University of Coimbra, Portugal

MAIN GUIDELINES: *INURA events are traditionally organized as a space for INURA members (and others) to discover the hosting country, through roundtables and visits, and then exchange perspectives on what they have seen, especially in the more relaxed days of the retreat. This proposal respects the normal length of INURA sessions (around 1.5 to 2 hours maximum, with panelist presentations of maximum 20 minutes, and much time for larger discussions). The host country and its problems/solutions has always been imagined as a “metaphor” that can provide interesting perspectives on the world, so that INURA members in the audience could create dialogues (by similarity or opposition) with the contexts where they live and work.*

OUTLINE:

Global capitalism, due to its priority of profit maximization, generates a set of irrationalities, especially if considered from the perspective of citizen well-being, which affects both the global macroeconomic context as well as local urban systems.

Portugal is being affected by a crisis that is actually an interlacing of a set of crises of various natures and spatio-temporal frameworks. The short-term financial crisis and the medium-term global economic crisis join a political crisis and a long-term cultural and identity crisis, which call into question Portugal's place in the world and the very structure of governance and (re)production of society.

This event intends to reflect on Portugal as a metaphor. Taking as its starting point a small, semi-peripheral country and former colonial power in a crisis situation, we will reflect on the need to reinvent relations between communities, countries and institutions, which implies new forms of governance to conceive and implement policies and to (re)build society and the city. The territory for this reflection is the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, as a laboratory of experimentation for an emerging set of practices that illustrate this metaphor.

In this framework, there are a number of issues that have arisen, which we will address through conference sessions and site visits:



1. Urban (ir)rationalities

1.1. How does global capitalism generate irrational urban dynamics (e.g., dynamics of abandoned and hyper-valorized areas in the same territory, accompanied by dynamics of *ex novo* expansion in 'unqualified' territories)?

1.2. In a context where Portugal feels compelled to join networks and supranational institutions to survive, what are the implications arising from constraints and imperatives imposed by outside which are visible in the urban system? How do these constraints and imperatives contribute to generating greater efficiency and effectiveness aspirations (rationality) or, conversely, to creating new urban irrationalities?

2. Portugal as a metaphor

2.1. In a time of crisis, in which the capacity of public policies to direct action is reduced, will policies become more flexible and permeable to absorb proposals originating in society?

2.2. In the context of the current crisis, are new forms of governance emerging that are more open to accepting and living with conflict, instead of thinking of citizen participation as an instrument of social pacification?

2.3. In what way, and to what extent, is the collective construction of the city/society responding to the void left by public policy?

2.4. In the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, what are the visible aspects of the urban fabric, the invariants and transformations of the relations between Portugal and the former colonized countries, and between the Portuguese people and the communities of these migrants?

Overall schedule - LISBON

	23 June	24 June	25 June	26 June
		Facing multiple crises: Portugal as a metaphor	City cultures in a post- colonial context	Micro-actions building the city
Morning		9.00-9.20 - Opening Table 9.20-11.00 – <u>Inaugural Debate</u> : The <i>Fado</i> of Being Portuguese	9.30-11.00 - <u>Roundtable</u> <u>3</u> : Disseminating the Portuguese Urban Model	9.00-12.00 - <u>Roundtable</u> <u>5</u> : Activating Institutions and Institutionalizing Civic Actions
		Break (11.00-11.30)	Break (11.00-11.30)	
		11.30-13.00 - <u>Roundtable 1</u> : The Cost of Transnational Bonds	11.30-13.00 - <u>Roundtable 4</u> : Building the City from the Outside	
Lunch (13.00- 14.30)			(Some lunches may be included in Visits – TBC at conference)	
Afternoon		14.30-17.00 – <u>Roundtable 2</u> : The (Ir)rationalities of the Market and Everyday Life	14.30-18.30 - Visits to areas that illustrate themes of the roundtables: <u>Visit A</u> : City at the Edge: Between Survival and Resistance <u>Visit B</u> : Critical Neighborhoods Initiative in Vale da Amoreira	14.00-18.00 – <u>Visit A</u> : Mouraria <u>Visit B</u> : Cascais
Evening	19.00 - Informal welcome dinner - Espaço RDA	18.00-20.00 – Two guided “promenades” through the city: <u>Visit A</u> : Graça and Castelo neighborhoods <u>Visit B</u> : Neighborhoods of Rossio-Baixa and S. Paulo-Cais do Sodré 20.00 - Welcome dinner at Amigos do Minho, with Fado	21.00-24.00 – Dinner + film <i>Lisboetas</i> + film <i>Era uma vez um arrastão</i> + episode of film <i>Finding Our Way</i> + Discussion with the Directors at the Cinemateca Portuguesa	FREE NIGHT TO EXPLORE LISBON!

DETAILED PROGRAM

23 June / Welcome dinner in evening

Location: Espaço RDA, Rua Regueirão dos Anjos, nº 69, Lisboa. Metro stop: Anjos (green line)

Schedule: 19.00

Welcome dinner at RDA, a social centre located in a neighborhood of Lisbon in transformation. Dinner will be served by the popular canteen of the collective. After dinner (which is paid directly by every single participant at very low prices), we will briefly illustrate the next days' program of INURA 2013, and we will stimulate a conversation about resistance movements against austerity in Lisbon followed by the state-of-the-art in other locations, such as Turkey and Greece. The discussion of the Lisbon situation will be hosted by Luhuna Carvalho, an anthropologist, publisher and film director.

24 June / Day 1 - Facing multiple crises: Portugal as a metaphor

Location: Auditório of CIUL - Centro de Informação Urbana de Lisboa - Picoas Plaza - Rua do Viriato, 13, Núcleo 6 - E 1º (near CES-Lisboa). Metro stop: Picoas (yellow line).

Morning (9.00-13.00)

Opening Table (9.00-9.20 in the Maquette Room of CIUL): Invited Guests

Graça Fonseca	Lisbon Municipality
Boaventura Sousa Santos	Director, Centre for Social Studies
Phillipp Klaus	INURA Common Office

Inaugural Debate (9.20-11.00): The *Fado* of Being Portuguese

The session aims to discuss how some cultural elements of Portuguese people could be affecting the development and reaction to the present crises.

Boaventura Sousa Santos	Sociologist / Director, Centre for Social Studies
Barry Hatton	English-language journalist in Portugal
Maria João Freitas, moderator	LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering)

Structure of the session: A debate with 20 minutes for each panelist and 30 minutes open discussion.

Roundtable 1 (11.30-13.00): The Cost of Transnational Bonds

Vítor Campos	LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering)
Maria João Freitas	LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering)
Vítor Escária	CIRIUS (Research Center on Regional and Urban Economics), at the School of Economics and Management, Technical University of Lisbon (ISEG-UTL)
Ana Pinho, moderator	Portuguese Catholic University - Beiras Regional Centre (UCP-CRB)

The session will debate question 1.1 - In a context where Portugal feels compelled to join networks and supranational institutions to survive, what are the implications arising from constraints and imperatives imposed by outside which are visible in the urban system? How do these constraints and imperatives contribute to generating greater efficiency and effectiveness aspirations (rationality) or, conversely, to creating new urban irrationalities?

Structure of the session: Rounds of questions posed by the moderator, followed by a 30-minute debate with the audience.

Lunch Break

Afternoon (14.30-17.00)

Roundtable 2: The (Ir)rationalities of the Market and Everyday Life

Pedro Bingre	IPC (Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)
Ana Amendoeira	ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
Nuno Caleia Rodrigues	Lisbon Municipality
Michael Edwards, moderator	UCL, London; INURA UK

The session will debate question 1.2 - How does global capitalism generate irrational urban dynamics (e.g., dynamics of abandoned and hyper-valorized areas in the same territory, accompanied by dynamics of ex novo expansion in 'unqualified' territories)?

Structure of the session: Short presentations, followed by a 30-minute debate with the audience.

Evening (18.00-20.00)

TWO PROMENADES THROUGH THE CITY

VISIT A (Organized by Antonio Guterres): On the top of the highest hill of Lisbon's city center stands the Graça Neighborhood, where different realities live alongside one another: workers' villages, gated

communities, trendy areas, sightseeing and tourists, social housing and urban farming. During the promenade, we will discuss local issues associated with these 'mixed uses' with the help of local collectives: Assembleia Popular da Graça, Gaia, Horta do Monte, Habita and Chão de Gente.

VISIT B (Organized by Ana Pinho): We will discover the Baixa Pombalina, the area reconstructed by anti-seismic criteria by Marques de Pombal after the huge earthquake of 1755, and from there we will visit the "transgressive" neighborhood of S. Paulo-Cais do Sodré, whose transgression is being "domesticated" by a new gentrifying wave of urban changes.

20.00

Dinner at the Amigos do Minho Association in Mouraria (Rua Benfornoso 244, 1º, Lisboa), with live Fado music and story of Fado (we have translated into English in the Bulletin some Fado texts that had been censored during the Salazar period).

(Selected texts relate to the themes of the conference.)

25 June / Day 2: City Cultures in a Post-colonial Context

Location: Auditório of CIUL - Centro de Informação Urbana de Lisboa - Picoas Plaza - Rua do Viriato, 13, Núcleo 6 - E 1º (near CES-Lisboa). Metro stop: Picoas (yellow line).

Morning (9.00-13.00)

Two sessions will debate the invariants and transformations of the relations between Portugal and the former colonized countries and between the Portuguese people and the communities of these migrants, in two ways:

- The dissemination of the Portuguese urban model in history and at present through law-making and different forms of cooperation that obliged these measures to dialogue and negotiate within very different and rich local contexts (focusing mainly on territorial transformations, governance, institutional framework);
- The changes in the urban fabric of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area arising from contemporary relationships with the communities of residents from former Portuguese colonies.

Roundtable 3 (9.00-11.00): Disseminating the Portuguese Urban Model

Walter Rossa	Centre for Social Studies (CES)/University of Coimbra
Maria Paula Meneses	Centre for Social Studies and CES-Africa
Sara Araújo	Centre for Social Studies / Alice Project
António Augusto Russo Dias	Diplomat, former-permanent representative of CPLP
Diana Andringa, moderator	Angolan Journalist

Roundtable 4 (11.30-13.00): Building the City from the Outside

Jorge Malheiros	Institute of Geography and Territorial Planning, University of Lisbon
Isabel Raposo	UTL (Technical University of Lisbon)
Sandra Almeida	Aga Khan Foundation / Programa Kcidade
Thomas Walgrave	Alcantara
Flávio Almada	Plataforma Gueto
Silvia Rodrigues Maeso, moderator	Centre for Social Studies

Structure of the session: Brief presentations answering to questions posed by the moderator, followed by a 30-minute debate with the audience.

Lunch Break

Afternoon

Visit A (by train/metro):

City at the Edge: Between Survival and Resistance

Organizer and guide: Rita Silva (Habitar)

This visit reflects the peripheral city, where poor families of migrant origins live, in which democracy, participation and investment were forgotten. The arrogance and prejudice of political-administrative entities are manifested by on-site police interventions and by unilateral decisions taken without consultation or discussion by administration offices.

However, these populations develop mechanisms of appropriation of territory and city building: houses, gardens, associative spaces, and sociocultural interventions. Acts of survival are now acts of resistance, as the territory formerly devalued and abandoned now generates new speculative interests sponsored by the local City Council.

The visit starts in the neighborhood of Santa Filomena, self-built, in the process of demolition, where residents fight for the right to housing and to be heard in the process of imposed relocation. Beside this, a new neighborhood for the middle class progresses but does not live well with the initial one. Then, we will visit a neighborhood of social resettlement with non-market rents, where we fight for the dignity of the neighborhood and, again, the possibility of participation in its destination. Next follows another self-built area, surprised very recently with a process of destruction of tens of hectares of gardens, some with over 20 years of existence, which were an important contribution to the livelihoods of hundreds of families. Visitors will have the opportunity to speak with residents.

There is the possibility of having lunch at the neighbourhood of Santa Filomena - *cachupa* (regular and vegetarian), which is a typical dish from Cape Verde. The price is 5 euros per person plus drinks.

The plan (TBC) is:

- Visit to the neighborhood of Santa Filomena (45 minutes)

- Lunch (1h30)
- Casal da Boba (45 minutes)
- Quinta da Laje (45 minutes).

With discounts and delays, I think the visit will take 4h30 with Lunch included.

Visit B (by private bus):

Critical Neighborhoods Initiative in Vale da Amoreira

Organizer and guide: António Guterres

The Critical Urban Areas Initiative was an experimental program established in the territories of Vale da Amoreira (Moita), Lagarteiro (Porto) and Cova da Moura (Amadora). In Vale da Amoreira, following from the initial diagnosis, artistic experimentation and the building of an Arts and Performance Centre were the main axis for the program considered by local partners. We will discuss the first achievements of the plan, the governance model and future possibilities for Vale da Amoreira as a potential hub for cultural and artistic activities in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. The visit will be hosted by local stakeholders and lunch is organized by the Cape Verdean Association. Taking the bus back to Lisbon, we will visit the railway workers' neighborhood in Barreiro, which is in risk of eviction.

Evening (21.00-24.00)

Dinner and presentation of the films *Lisboetas*; *Era uma vez um arrastão*; one episode of “*Finding Our Way*”, and discussion with the directors:

Sérgio Trefaut	Film Director
Diana Andringa	Journalist and Film Director
Leonie Sandercock and Giovanni Attili	Film Directors

Location: Cinemateca Portuguesa, Rua Barata Salgueiro, nº 39, Lisboa

26 June / Day 3 – Micro-actions Building the City

Location: Auditório of CIUL - Centro de Informação Urbana de Lisboa - Picoas Plaza - Rua do Viriato, 13, Núcleo 6 - E 1º (near CES-Lisboa). Metro stop: Picoas (yellow line).

Morning (9.00-12.00)

Roundtable 5: Activating Institutions and Institutionalizing Civic Actions

João Seixas	Institute of Social Sciences (ICS)
Pedro Hespanha	Centre for Social Studies/University of Coimbra
Miguel Brito	BIP/ZIP, Lisbon Municipality / Kcidade
Graça Fonseca	Councilor of Lisbon Municipality, Agenda Local 21
João Queirós	Aga Khan Foundation / Programa Kcidade
Jorge Cancela	AVAAL (Association for Environmental Improvement of the Alta Neighbourhood of Lisbon)
Madalena Hibon	Social Lab/Linhas sobre rodas (Sewing on Wheels)
José Manuel Henriques , moderator and conclusions	ISCTE-IUL (Lisbon University Institute)

This session will present to the international participants some Portuguese cases to promote a dialogue between (a) more "structured" initiatives led by the public sector aimed at different types of citizen involvement and (b) grassroots initiatives not connected to government agencies but also directed at the city and participation, and which aim to address gaps left by public policy.

Structure of the session: Rounds of questions and short presentations, followed by a 30-minute debate with the audience.

Lunch Break

Afternoon (14.00-18.00)

Visit A (by bus/metro): Mouraria

(Organized by Antonio Guterres and Roberto Falanga)

Mouraria is the newest goal for the Lisbon Municipality. In times of austerity, a major public intervention is trying to transform the image of the neighborhood. Located in the city center, Mouraria (meaning "Land of the Moors") is known as the birthplace of modern Fado and for the diversity of its inhabitants. The promenade will address the latest changes in urban policy towards gentrification. During the visit, we will meet CEM, "Centro em Movimento", an artistic platform that has been working in some Lisbon Neighborhoods.

Visit B (by private bus): Cascais

(Organized by João Dinis, Municipality of Cascais, and Juliana Torquato)

A visit to some of the results of participatory programmes promoted by the Municipality of Cascais, with a nice trip by BIKE along the seaside.

Cascais is a coastal town, located on the Estoril Coast, almost 30 kilometres west of Lisbon. It counts about 180,000 residents spread out in one of the biggest municipal territories in Portugal. The former fishing village gained fame as a resort for Portugal's royal family in the late 19th century and early 20th century, and is nowadays a very popular vacation spot for both Portuguese and foreign tourists. Today it is a contradictory town: it is one of the richest municipalities in the country, but also hosts some neighborhoods of spontaneous origin inhabited by poor communities. At present, it is ruled by the Social-Democratic party, and the mayor has one of the highest rate of approval in the country, having a very dialogic style of government.

Participants of the field trip to Cascais will have the opportunity to visit projects and infrastructures built to increase the quality of life for local communities and, simultaneously, promote values of sustainability and civic participation. Respecting the values of the Local Agenda 21, Cascais created in 2006 an integrated multidisciplinary and trans-departmental team of municipal officers that coordinates and facilitates several different participatory policies. Here, local sustainable development is in a tight relationship with a better use of local resources (both natural and financial) and with strong interaction with organized stakeholder and common unorganized citizens. In 2010 the Local Agenda 21 cabinet started a project of Participatory Budgeting through which the citizens can decide about more than 2.5 million Euros per year. Co-work among different departments is highly efficient, and employees are trained every year through special courses that always include sensibilization on participatory techniques. At different levels, Cascais Municipality has developed methodologies to assure that in the majority of projects, local communities are heard and can follow processes until their implementation. Among the most interesting projects carried on by the integrated Local Agenda 21, there is one dedicated to a large series of urban allotment gardens that are not only regarded as green spaces, but are also used to promote public space management by local communities.

One of the most interesting successes of the Participatory Budgeting process (which grew up and was quickly modified during its first 3 years of life) has been to allow the Local Agenda 21 to support projects oriented to sustainability, generating new trust in local authorities while broadening the vision of communities in a mid- to long-term perspective.

Evening

Free night to explore Lisbon!

27 June – Coimbra

Departure at 9.00 by bus from CES-Lisbon, for ‘Critical Visit’ of Coimbra and Retreat, designed and organized by **Claudia Pato Carvalho and Gonalo Canto Moniz (CES)**. Coimbra visit modeled on the Alternate Coimbra Tour designed by Gonalo Canto Moniz for the *Rethinking Urban Inclusion: Spaces, Mobilizations, Interventions* conference (2012).

Because of the National Strike, it is possible that some details will change during the day.

General Outline:

9.00	Bus departs from Lisbon (CES-Lisboa)
11.30 or 12.00	Arrival in Coimbra – Guided (postcolonial) tour of Portugal dos Pequenitos (Little Ones’ Portugal) or to Norton de Matos neighbourhood (if Portugal dos Pequenitos is closed for the National Strike). Guide: Paula Meneses (CES)
13.00	Lunch (at own cost) – <i>space in Alfredo’s restaurant is reserved</i>
14.30	Bus to Ingote and Relvinha (self-built) neighbourhoods and guided tour
16.00	Guided visit to Rep�blica Bota Abaixo, Rua S�o Salvador 6
	<i>Time to explore Coimbra’s historic university and city centre</i>
19.00	Vegetarian Dinner in Parque verde do Mondego, prepared by the Coimbra Cities in Transition Group
22.00	Departure by bus to Curia – Night in Curia Spa

28-30 June – Retreat (Curia)

	Friday, June 28	Saturday, June 29	Sunday, June 30
MORNING 9.00-13.00	Discussions, insights, and reflections on key themes of the Lisbon conference (1 hour) 10 am. INURA AGM (2 hours)	7 Presentations/discussions. Themes: Urban irrationalities; Micro-actions building the city (including 20 minutes of break) (all discussions in the end)	Discussions re NMM project (2) Discussions re next steps
LUNCH 13.00-14.30	At hotel	At hotel	At hotel
AFTERNOON 14.30-18.00	7 Presentations/discussions. Themes: City cultures in a post-colonial context; Research; and Links between research and action (including 20 minutes of break) (all discussions in the end)	Discussions re New Metropolitan Mainstream (NMM) project (1)	Departure for beach (Praia da Barra) – <i>Bring your bathing suits!</i>
DINNER 18.00	At hotel	At hotel	Dinner in Aveiro (own cost) – <i>O Mercantel</i> Restaurant (great fish and seafood – about 15€/meal)
EVENING	Films (from participants)	<i>Optional activities *</i>	Bus brings all back to Curia

* Options of events for each evening: free walking in nature; free meetings (themes choose by participants; pool or spa visit... And a wine festival occurring in the town at this time!

1 July (morning)

Departure by train to Coimbra, and onward to Lisbon or Porto (depending on individual travel arrangements)

POST-EVENTS (for those interested...)

3-5 July: Open seminar of the OIDP (International Observatory of Participatory Democracy) in Cascais

6-7 July: Seminar of the Common Project with Leonardo Avritzer in CES-LX