Struggle among metropolitan populations and participatory democracy. A possible answer to the crisis of “Mediterranean” acceptance in the inner city of Genoa

Valerio Lastrico
Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali e Politiche
Università degli Studi di Milano
valerio.lastrico@virgilio.it
The historic centre of Genoa and the crisis of Mediterranean public space

- **Problem**: struggle among metropolitan population read as a loss of Mediterranean specificity

- **Possible solution**: inclusive decision-making in space use policies, read as a recovery of Mediterranean specificity
Genoa between urban structure and public space

- Industrial city $\rightarrow$ decay of centre
- Mediterranean city $\rightarrow$ decay of suburbs

- Genoa double identity: industrial/Mediterranean
  $\rightarrow$ Decay of suburbs and historic centre left abandoned

  BUT
  - In suburbs attempts of participatory regeneration
  - In the centre spontaneity of regeneration
1) Public intervention in historic center

- Pru (Programmi di Riqualificazione Urbana);
- Prusst (Programmi di Riqualificazione Urbana e di Sviluppo Sostenibile del Territorio);
- programma Urban II;
- POI (Programmi Organici di Intervento);
- Contratti di quartiere;
- CIV (Centri Integrati di Via);
- Accordo di Programma Quadro per Pré;
- Piano di Sviluppo Locale per la Maddalena.
2) Spontaneous regeneration

- Settlement of night time activities
- Leisure function overcomes residential function

- Struggle among metropolitan population on the intended use of the centre (residency/movida)
Metropolitan populations

- Residents
- Commuters (Pendolari)
- City-users
- Metropolitan businessmen
- Tourists
- Migrants
Interactions among city centre populations

- Decay $\rightarrow$ MIGRANTS settlement $\rightarrow$ mixité
- Young CITY USERS in search of mixité $\rightarrow$ leisure regeneration without housing upgrading (marginal gentrification and social mix)
- (Aged) RESIDENTS vs Decay (migrants)
  - Intended use of regenerated areas (city users)
Struggle among:

- Metropolitan populations
- Generations
- Different cultures

Struggle based on place “possession” and legitimate citizenship:

Departure from Mediterranean
Urban policies

- Strategy of the administration:
  - Attempts to give a sop to all, displeasing all

- Possible solution:
  - To take advantage of social mix brought by marginal gentrification
  - Residents without activities → dead historic centre
  - Activities without residents → dead historic centre
Recovery of the Mediterranean "living together in diversity"

- Stop claiming in isolation vs administration (mugugno)
- “Mediterranean” living together through stakeholders joint involvement in decision-making
- Achieving a power balance between metropolitan populations in order to reconcile the demands
- Safeguarding bottom-up regeneration without overriding residents’ needs