
Urban dynamics and uses of the built environment: a Brazilian look at the Ancient Mediterranean

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Résumé

This panel, promoted by professors, researchers and students from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, aims to present new reflections on the issues that connect urbanism, archaeology, architecture, landscape and the built environment in the Ancient Mediterranean, considering the academic practices and experiences of a group of scholars who share, in addition to theoretical reflections, experiences of living on the periphery of the world.

Based on the considerations of Landscape Archaeology, in the sense of searching for the meanings of environments through people's experiences, their universe and their relationship with nature (Anschuetz, Wilshusen and Scheick, 2001), we seek to present our approaches to studies on the Archaeology of inhabited spaces, seeking to understand urbanism and social interactions in the Mediterranean, in the light of understanding urbanization processes and possible local, regional, interregional and global relations (Hodos, 2017). Also, of the functionality of the city as 'urbanity', whose multiform potential produces the regrouping of large numbers of inhabitants in the same place, re-signifying their religious, social, political and cultural values in the glocal sphere (Ascher, 2004).

Amos Rapoport's (1982) reflections from the 1980s, although already distant in time, help us in our considerations of the so-called " ". In them, the analysis of the built environment needs to offer a dialectical reflection of time-space in the historical process of urbanization of cities, as an inseparable and polysemic set of socio-material entanglements, which are fixed and fluid, contradictory and supportive, in the context in which local history takes place.

In this sense, Milton Santos (2002) developed the concept of "roughness of space", as a figure of speech in representing the need to analyze the past materialized in the forms of appropriation of the built environment in the present, in which the various occupations and spatial appropriations have occurred in a successive, overlapping and concomitant manner. Thus, for the author, space is the "living body of time".

This revives the idea that social processes need to go beyond the plastered readings of periodizations of the urbanization of cities, in an analytical approach that takes into account the association of spatial roughness with the notion of territoriality, in order to understand built space as physical-territorial, socio-cultural legacies, and representations of identity.

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In the midst of all these concepts, considering the Mediterranean universe, our proposal is to rethink the terms territory, connectivity, identity, monumentality and urbanism. Since the 1990s, archaeological studies have shown that consolidated concepts no longer respond to the processes of interaction, which have evidently marked the multilaterality of influences in material culture (Mattingly, 1996). In the same vein, new research in the field of Classical Archaeology (today, in our academic circuit, more recognized as Mediterranean Archaeology) brings up a series of questions related to "hybrid" cultures and urban landscapes (Müller, 2016; Stockhammer, 2012).

With this, we aim to bring to an international audience the thoughts and actions that our laboratories and researchers have been undertaking on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mots-Clés: Urbanism in Antiquity, Spatial organization in Antiquity, built environment in Antiquity, Cultural contacts in Antiquity