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► **To cite this version:**

Cristiane Duarte, Ethel Pinheiro. Sensitive Spaces and Urban Practices. Session 12 – Introduction. Proceedings of the 4th International Congress on Ambiances, Alloaesthesia: Senses, Inventions, Worlds, Réseau International Ambiances, Dec 2020, e-conference, France. pp. 134-135, 10.48537/hal-03220370 . hal-03220370

HAL Id: hal-03220370

<https://hal.science/hal-03220370>

Submitted on 14 May 2021

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Sensitive Spaces and Urban Practices

Session 12 – Introduction

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The research on Architecture and Urbanism, provided by the bias of Social and Human Sciences, has sought to work on the strategies of multidisciplinary approach and deliberated studies applied to collective spaces in contemporary cities for many years. Such actions can promote the resensitization of people and spaces, if developed towards though more sensitive approaches.

It is clear that far beyond the role of Information Technology in the modification of spaces, Metropolization and Suburbanization have introduced a degree of detachment, or social indifference, into the experience of public spaces, that is expressed today as a state of exacerbation of opposites (much densified public spaces enlivened by actions of tactical engendering x inert spaces without occupation, bequeathed to an exclusive public of the society). Thus, the current processes of dispersion and division of the city intensify the perception of public space as a destabilized and erratic dimension, which needs to be revised and enlarged to make survive new subjectivities.

In this way, to fully understand collective space, considering it as the locus of action and reaction of social actors, it is our goal with this thematic session to shed new light on the understanding of the emotions and practices experienced in the process of rehabilitation, or lack of it, in small ordinary spaces. By experiencing these places, giving time for awareness and rediscovery, it is possible to make emerge some individual and collective senses, affections, resonances of memory and desire; it is also possible to be asked about the presence of the old and the new and about how to think collective spaces from a harmonious relationship between humans and objects; it is also possible to highlight absences, cast a glance at the remains and perspectives for the future. These thoughts can be instigated by reflexive, theoretical, poetic and critical essays, or even practices that can be archived in a synesthetic and (inter) subjective way - through videos, photographs or drawings.

We hope to receive contributions that may interfere with the expectations of every citizen or passer-by, in relation to the way they experience those collective spaces, raising ideas that may promote the recognition of alterity. We also wish to receive contributions based on the construction of subjective and cultural dynamics on the scale of everyday life, through the intertwining of architecture and urbanism with

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other Social Sciences, and with a view to developing new processes for engendering spaces that are open to differences and also motivators of more humanizing experiences.

These contributions are to be materialized through descriptions of practical actions, carried out in public spaces, and should portray the diversity with which we can think and execute the plans and goals for more politicized and touching urban spaces - beyond the traditional methodologies academically taught.