

WORKSHOP “IMMIGRAZIONE E NUOVI ABITANTI NELLE CITTA’ GATEWAY”

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Titolo: CALABRIA, FROM TRANSIT TERRITORY TO PLACE OF WELCOME : POLICIES, EXPERIENCES AND CURRENT PROJECTS

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CALABRIA, FROM TRANSIT TERRITORY TO PLACE OF WELCOME : POLICIES, EXPERIENCES AND CURRENT PROJECTS

Arch. Natalina Carrà

In Italy, the immigrant flow has developed differently to that of other European countries, in particular the territorial and urban contexts with peculiar characteristics similar to the southern ones, being the arrival point for the majority of migrants to Italy.

In this scenery, Calabria is the natural crossroad of migrants, a very important point of transit, in particular with regards to the Ionian coast.

Yet, Calabria is not only a crossing point, but it has become a place where lots of immigrants have decided to live: the most recent ISTAT evaluations say that 50.000 foreigners live in the region.

The figures are 18.511 immigrants in Reggio Calabria (where the majority of immigrants live in Calabria), 15.031 in Cosenza, 9.000 in Catanzaro, and finally more than 4000 respectively in Crotona and Vibo Valentia.

These figures require serious consideration not only in regard to the cultural and structural change that has happened in the last few years, but also, the near future with increasing need for integration policies, which will create a lasting and suitable social/cultural structure apt for a global citizenship.

Many Italian and European cities have been dealing with a number of issues regarding the organisation and structure of territorial and urban contexts - and the related lifestyles - according to integration policies, in order to make them apt for a society that, in the last few years, has increased because of the arrival of many migrants.

In fact, social inclusion and integration should not ignore the issue of housing settlement, as inadequate knowledge and the speed of this phenomenon in the last few years has not allowed for effective proposals of intervention on the territory and city.

The main issue regarding the multi-ethnicity is expressed by a complex and dynamic system of connections between flows, places, spaces and urban functions, and it is subject to the aptitude of territories and urban places to foster not only the basic connections but also the variable and temporary ones.

The community usually connects this condition to a negative opinion of immigrants, who are seen as a burden, possibly even a social threat, due to the fact that their presence brings elements of unbalance to the local area.

In the last few years, a number of cities and territories in Calabria have been experimenting with strategies and policies regarding migration, seeing the migration itself as a positive factor enhancing the whole society economically, socially and culturally. The regional government has started working on policies regarding the main issues connected to immigration: work, housing, utilities, social exclusion and racial segregation.

The regional government has passed a law (regional law no. 18/2009) on the reception of immigrants who seek refuge which aims to improve the social, economic and cultural development of small communities that could experience welcoming paths and actual opportunities of social and economic integration of immigrants who have lived or still live in Calabria.

Of the many different experiences, an important development is within the Ionian zone of the province of Reggio Calabria, known as *Locride*.

In this part of the region a few small villages, such as Riace, Caulonia, Stignano and Badolato, have become successful models of integration; offering a warm welcome and a kind hand to immigrants arriving from across the sea. These experiences are based on a very strong idea of territorial development, through the rebirth of rural economies that had almost disappeared but has been provided a new lease of life to rural villages once abandoned have now been repopulated and become lively communities once again.

The same concept is expressed by a project promoted by the municipality of Cassano allo Ionio, regarding the restoration of a dismissed building – Casa La Rocca, which is part of a deserted village – through rebuilding work that involves the immigrants themselves.

These actions have been strongly supported by the municipalities and by the Regional administration, and originate from the idea that *“welcoming and inviting small groups of immigrant in marginal contexts, that were depopulating and being subject to economic and social decline, may be the most effective solution to the issues of integration and, at the same time, represent an opportunity for the local development”*.

The mentioned topics are the starting point of an in-depth critical analysis on how a vast territory of regional scale has become the “laboratory” of successful policies of integration for immigrants, from the hospitable and welcoming found in the *Locride* area, urban transformation and integration in places like Reggio Calabria and Cosenza, projects like *City to City* (funded by EU and headed by Calabria regional government), and finally the experience of Lamezia Terme, where in the last few months a pilot scheme, named “Creation of a reception network in the area of Lamezia Terme to host immigrant workers and their families”, has been started.

Resilience and Intercultural City. New instruments for Urban Regeneration

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Abstract

In Europe, and more recently in Italy, migration phenomena are increasingly modifying, in a permanent way, the ethnic composition of our cities. In this demographic evolution, urban spaces are those most involved in the affirmation of a multicultural society. In fact, immigrant tends to use public and private spaces in a different way, as their culture, overlapping to the existing context. Processes resulting from immigration impact on the physical, social and economic structure of territories, causing often radical modifications, bearing on the vulnerability of the city.

In cities' historical centres, such as in the periphery and in the rural areas, vulnerability is due to both endogenous phenomena, shaped by processes of urban degradation and to social problems, which are often a response to unmet needs, and exogenous ones of different nature. In this context, immigration exercises a direct influence on the territory, because modifies its physical and functional structure, and also an indirect influence, expressing needs to which the city has to respond.

The complexity of the immigration phenomenon, generated by different needs, requires new cognitive instruments and a dynamic, flexible approach, inspired by the possibility of changing established socio-cultural values that have heretofore been immutable. The research starts from the necessity to define controlling variables of the dynamics sparked by immigration, at the aim to begin a regeneration process based on the integration among populations, cultures, religions. The research proposes a knowledge-oriented methodology based on the concept of “resilience”, seen as the degree to which cities are able to tolerate alteration before reorganising around a new set of structures and processes (Holling 2001, Alberti et al 2003).

The study focuses on the historical centre of Naples for the most number of migrants, about 25.000 at 2010 representing about the 4% of the residents, and for the most fight the historical centre put out against transformations. In this context, the analysis of the different attributes that act on urban resilience acquires different meanings, and because of the multidimensionality of the immigration phenomenon and for the effect of increasing of the variables bearing on the relation user-space. The research ongoing is applied to three quarters located in the historical centre of Naples with different physical/environmental, social and economic characteristics and different thresholds of transformability. In this quarters the “signs” of immigration are more or less evident due to their different “resilience”.

In particular, in the quarter of San Lorenzo immigrant presence is quite evident in the variety of functions that these areas serve: commercial activity, social services, meeting-places. This area includes the station zone, in which immigrant presence is more evident because it is associated not only with commercial activities and residential functions but also with movement and meetings between people. In fact it is here that the principal services for migrants are concentrated and here that one can observe the largest migrant presence during the daytime. While the Arenella quarter, despite the high number of foreign residents, is characterised by less visible signs of immigrant presence, inasmuch as they are mostly residential zones. In particular they are used as such by immigrants from eastern Europe and south-east Asia and Latin America who work as domestic staff. While in the most of the quarters the transformation are related above all to the social and

economic structure, in the ex-industrial area, located close to the historical centre, the impact is on the physical system for the high number of commercial enterprises opened by Chinese migrants.

For each quarter the research analyses impacts of the immigration on the physical, social and economic structure. Starting from these positive and negative effects the project identifies factors affecting resilience and elaborates a system of “resilience” indicators through the comparison among the needs and the values/constraints of the “perturbation system” with the values/constraints of the urban system.

In the comparison, the constraints of the historical centre measure the degree of susceptibility of the city to be changed and its flexibility. The constraints of the immigration phenomenon represents the characteristics of the identity to be safeguard and express the potentiality and the dimensions of the interventions we can act in the city (Caterina, 2007).

The definition of the resilience indicators represents an instrument that, if correctly registered, understood and shared, can guide Public Administration during planning and social-economic development activities. In this way, local authority can communicate easily the set objectives and respond to the people its choices.

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Smart planning for Europe's gateway cities. Connecting people, economies and places

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Workshop 6

Immigration and gateway cities. Cities and migrants: new emergencies, innovative use of urban space, housing and social inclusion policies

Paper Title

Smart strategic planning in multiethnic environments: Mazara del Vallo as a Mediterranean gateway city

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The paper offers a critical account of the strategic planning process carried out in Mazara del Vallo, a Sicilian medium-sized city whose development model is characterized by the dominant role of the fishery economy. From the 70's onwards, the workforce employed in the fishery industry was mostly of north African origins immigrants (particularly Tunisian), setting a unique urban community in the euro-Mediterranean scenario. Over the last forty years, the living among the local population and the immigrant community has always been characterized by a peaceful coexistence, even if a real integration has been prevented by cultural factors and a strict separation of living spaces. The old town, that still maintains its Islamic characters and has been almost entirely abandoned by the local population starting from the 60's, today hosts a significant part of the immigrants community.

In the last few years, some rising economic and social processes put into question the survival of the north African population in the city, which presence could be a strategic asset in light of future euro-Mediterranean integration scenarios. On the one hand, the deep crisis in the fishery sector, together with the overall development model of the city, are calling into question the survival of several hundred jobs for the immigrant population, establishing a possible source of social tension and raising conflicts. On the other hand, the degradation of the old town and the ancient Canal Port represent a tangible obstacles to the diversification of the urban economy and a looming threat to the people living conditions of risk and lack of services in these areas nowadays.

In 2008, it was decided to start a strategic planning process aiming to radically modify the development model of the city. The strategic plan named "Mazara: Mediterranean gateway city" was developed with the intention to identify new scenarios of urban revitalization, linking together physical regeneration targets with strategies for the diversification of the urban economy. In such a highly problematic social context, characterized by strong mistrust towards the institutions, a great attention was dedicated to the creation of social capital, through the mobilization of citizens and representatives from the civil society. With a substantial investment on participation, the planning process has in fact pushed the local communities to consider an alternative development model for the city, based on an increased urban quality and new job opportunity in the cultural and touristic sector.

It was therefore decided to entrust this task to the action of three combined visible planning strategies: (1) an investment on practices of public participation and on communication, (2) a systematic enhancement of an integrated approach to planning and design and (3) the intervention on development issues and places characterized by a strong symbolic character. To serve this complex system of objectives and the cross-cutting need to activate as much involvement and interaction as possible with and among citizens, smart planning technologies were used, gathered through the interface of an easily accessible and interactive website. In order to structure a process based on transparency, information, discussion and sharing, it was decided to use surveys, online forums, an interactive geo-blog, and a continuous access possibility to all the information and documents related to the ongoing process. Smart tools and other participatory techniques have therefore worked with the clear intention of making the process itself a strengthening element for the local society and a chance for re-establishing a new, and more complex, urban identity.

Through the description of the case, the paper offers some general reflections about the role of strategic planning in such a fragile contexts from the social and the economic point of view. Furthermore, it analyzes the role which the process itself can play in social inclusion (particularly of immigrants), the need for an

integrated approach to strategic planning, and the attention to the link between urban spaces, symbolic values, social cohesion and economic revitalization.

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Workshop *Immigrazione e città gateway. Città e migranti: nuove emergenze, usi innovativi degli spazi urbani, housing e politiche di inclusione sociale.*

LABORATORIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTICULTURAL CITY

Antonio Tacconi

Today, the city is affected by always more intense migration flows, aimed at both urban center and rural areas. The establishment of the Regional Laboratories can be a real cultural progress towards the organization of a dedicated structure to listen to the citizens, residents and migrants, to the interpretation of their needs, but also to the planning of urban policies built with their own contribution.

It can be a contribution towards the establishment of a network of *urban centers* as an instrument of "communication over the city" used by citizens and institutions and, more generally, by those who in various ways contribute to its identity, its potential, the habits and the needs. A new way, consistent with the trends of the new season of city planning, not only to inform but mostly to share ideas, needs and projects on the development of the city and the territory.

Already many Italian regions within the law on urban development and territorial government are codifying the usefulness of participatory processes through workshops, aiming to combine tasks quotas to the formation of a plural city, with and for the migrant and the resident population, with innovative policies of close cooperation, mutual responsibility and participation of citizens in the transformation of places and urban environments, including through specific spaces - public kiosks or small *urban center* – intended by governments located at provincial or municipal offices, to accommodate meetings, projects and proposals for the redevelopment and transformation of cities and towns.

Many governments have already embarked on this journey through listening and joint planning initiatives with the aim of stimulating the local society to discuss the future of the city, directing the participatory way in order not to be isolated opportunity to meet, inform or present problems, but as a succession of appointments of collective work, organized also in terms of wider objectives and longer-lasting results, aimed at improving the ability of people to become aware of their role in the process of decisions concerning the development of their city, and stimulating the local government towards a more open and transparent dialogue with the recipients of urban policies. The implicit purpose in the participatory process is to enable all citizens, also starting from migrant communities, to know and to live well in their city triggering a virtuous cycle, offering tools for questioning the city and to act as the occasion to promote initiatives aimed at building new scenarios for a city with many faces.

The proposed paper will seek the purpose to read and interpret a pilot project conducted by the Department AACM in the work-Interreg IIIIC Project City to City, in partnership with the city council of Villa San Giovanni and the association Eurokom on creating a regional workshop designed as an open space for discussion and cultural exchange to promote participation in the processes of planning and design the city.

In this workshop the emphasis was on a particular condition of the city, though not historically a city "multiethnic," welcomes its residents between different communities of migrants, foreigners and, in some way, although for periods limited time, they decided to treat Villa San Giovanni's own city. Therefore is also to these types of citizens that the Laboratory has turned offering itself as a tool for its socio-cultural integration, comparing instances of the residents and all those who build the places of the city, a *plural city*, of which we want to prefigure the scenario of everybody's city, designed and owned by the actors who share the same urban space.

Term to Exclude: Roma Populations as Immigrants/Nomads in (Southern) Italy

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1. Local issues within global tendencies.

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the debate of the workshop “Immigration and Gateway Cities” through the analysis of a specific, “side” aspect of the whole thematic. The conditions of Roma populations in (southern) Italy represent a critical exemplification of general and theoretical issues which regard millions of people – immigrants but not just them –, in the whole Europe: the so called “blackening” (Yiftachel, 2009) of insurgent informalities and citizenships (Holston 1998; Holston & Appadurai, 1996).

In other words, issues of urban exclusion – in the new and specific forms exclusion has been declined in the last decades – within the European territory will be discussed, in order to furnish a critical reading on the concept of EU as “single market concerning half a billion inhabitants and which want to offer opportunities to all” (as termed by the call of paper).

The paper will, preliminarily, build a theoretical framework about urban exclusion in contemporary cities and its strict relationships with structural misinformation processes (Forester, 1989).

Then, the general Italian political and media context regarding immigration and nomadic people – which are commonly presented as two faces of the same coin – will be draft. Gipsies and Roms, in Italy, have always been strongly stigmatized groups but in the last years the growing of xenophobic parties and instances has pushed such stigmas. It will be debated how the terming of such populations – e.g. the use of *clichés*, the terming substantially geographically stable people as immigrants and/or nomads – is a common instrument to dehumanize and justify exclusion and oppression (Sibley, 1995).

The narrative of two southern Italian cases – different but entrenched in the same general context – will follow, in order to furnish some evidences for some theoretical conclusions.

2. The “temporary” camp of Palermo and the stake of Ponticelli, Napoli.

Most of the Roms living in the city of Palermo in the last 20 years have resided or still resides in a “temporary” camp instituted in 1992 and still existing. The narrative will build on a rough contradiction: on one hand, the institutional neglect and lack of acknowledgement of the camp; on the other hand, the growing political attention to Gipsies and Roma people – in terms of stigmatization – which characterised the national and local contexts in the last years.

The stake of the Gipsy camp of Ponticelli in Napoli, in the may of 2008, will then be analysed. This episode will result as the end point of a long-term misinformation process entrenched with several *clichés* such as “the Gipsy kidnapper of children”. It will be showed how such processes were aimed at building the preconditions for a property speculation to be developed by a private-public partnership in the area previously occupied by the camp.

3. Learning from the “extreme”.

Undoubtedly, the cases the paper will present can not be included in the “common” cases basket for they will appear to be connected with very local aspects. Or, it is, it might be noted that such “extreme” situations might not be an useful contribution to the general debate.

Nevertheless, from a theoretical point of view, the presented cases – and the general Italian context – will appear to be nothing more than typical – in many senses stereotypical – declinations of global tendencies which keeps appearing, with their very specific local aspects, here and there in the whole European territory.

In other words, building on “extreme” cases may be a unique opportunity to reflect on some growing global tendencies which might be already unrecognised – or just neglected – by institutional and academic politics and planning.

In other words, and from the point of view of the planning discipline, I suggest that such kind of narratives dramatically evidences the need for the planning discipline to stop assuming for itself a “technical” role, which is assuming its political one (Young, 1990). Moreover, if the growing instances of exclusion from the “right to the city” are acknowledged, the lesson coming from such cases foster the struggles for the need of a direct activist role of the planner (Young, 2001).

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