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CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:

QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

An Empty Space, a Virtual Place: Cultural Life and Creative Solutions in Besieged Cities

- **Author(s) Name:**

Ivone Ferreira*, Irene Aparício*, Patrícia Pereira*, Veronika Angtoniou**, Rosalice Pinto*,
Luís Bravo***, Nuno Fonseca*, Leandro Mandrazo***,

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

*Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal; **NGO Urban Gorillas, Nicosia, Cyprus; ***University of Florence, Italy; research group ARC Engineering and Architecture La Salle

- **Abstract (300 words):**

Long before the pandemic, cities around the world have been facing enormous challenges related to social changes, resulting in a considerable impact on artistic practices and cultural policies. Though multiculturalism, gentrification or ecological management were issues at the top of political agendas, the recent COVID19 pandemic has generated other serious concerns for urban communities: for example, one became aware of the reduction of socialization acts, and the growing distance between inhabitants, perhaps diminishing civic attention to other equally pressing issues (e.g. green spaces or ecological and sustainable transport, which are definitely important problems). Since the pandemic contributed to the isolation of people, it might have increased problems of integration and conviviality among city residents.

Just now, the pandemic and the restrictions imposed by governments radically transformed the ways people use, think and feel urban public spaces. And, most important, these changes affected people's relationships with each other, and with public space. The A-Place Project was just beginning its activities when the world was

forced into global and/or partial confinement. The situation demanded new strategies for creation, sharing and communicating art and culture in public space, in order to fulfill the most of the initial objectives of the Project, specially focused on creative placemaking activities. In face of changes, it became imperative to overcome difficulties, by imagining and finding alternative ways of sharing experiences, and creating community in spaces and places (2020, Madrazo et Al.). "A Confined Place", an A-PLACE activity, is certainly the most evident case of facing the facts and challenges of the "new empty cities". But the partners have also tried to adapt their planned activities to the new ways of living - inside-outside - the city, and in the city.

This paper is a reflection on the issues mentioned above given that designing public activities, outlining creative work and its methodologies, and programming impact assessment methods have been an arduous task. We seek to comprehend to what extent the experience of confinement has been instrumental in understanding the horizon of artistic creation and its dissemination in public places that go, more and more, beyond a mere physical space.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Ivone Ferreira is an Assistant Professor in the area of Strategic Communication at Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal, and Ph.D. in Communication Sciences with a thesis on the persuasive language of advertising.

She is a Researcher member of ICNOVA - Nova Communication Institute, a Portuguese research center evaluated by the FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology with Excellent in 2019. Ferreira has been working with the research group of Strategic Communication & Decision Making Processes. She is the author of several articles in the areas of strategic communication, including public relations, organizational communication and public interest communication.

At present she coordinates the SOPCOM (Portuguese Communication Sciences Association) Advertising Working Group (2019-2021), and was the vice-coordinator of the Rhetoric Group from 2010 to 2014. Ferreira is the Organizational Coordinator of the SOPCOM Congress in January 2022, hosted by Nova University of Lisbon, the most important congress in Communication Sciences organized in Portugal that joins national and international academics, and professionals in the communication field. Ferreira also joined the organizational and scientific committee of the ECREA 2021 pre-conference on strategic communication related to "Increasing public's participation through strategic communication".

Leandro Madrazo is the A-Place project coordinator, full professor and director of the research group ARC Engineering and Architecture La Salle since its creation in 1999. He graduated with a degree in architecture from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia

(1984), and later studied as Fulbright scholar in the master of architecture programmes at Harvard University and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) where he obtained a master's degree (1988). From 1990 to 1999 he carried out his teaching and research work in the Department of Architecture and CAAD at ETH Zürich, where he obtained his PhD (1995). His teaching focuses on the integration of architecture theory and representation, art and media, as well as on housing studies and design methodology. Among other research projects, he has coordinated HOUSING@21.EU (2003–06), OIKODOMOS (2007–09, 2010–11), and OIKONET (2013-16) projects all of them funded by EACEA. He has been co-coordinator of the PROHABIT (2015-18) and has led the UMVA programme, carried out in conjunction with the Loop Festival, from 2012 to 2017.

Luisa Bravo is a global academic scholar and educator, passionate public space activist, and social entrepreneur. She has more than 15-years experience in the professional field as urban planner and designer with a specific focus on public space. Her expertise is grounded in extensive academic postdoctoral research and teaching in Italy and Europe, the United States, Middle East, Asia and Australia. She is currently Adjunct Professor in Urban Design at the University of Florence in Italy and Guest Researcher at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Centre for the Future of Places in Sweden.

With her non-profit organization City Space Architecture, that she founded in 2013 and currently leading as President, Luisa has organized and curated conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions internationally aimed at promoting public space culture, through an interdisciplinary approach, involving art and architecture. Luisa is the Founder and Editor in Chief of 'The Journal of Public Space', the first, interdisciplinary, academic, open access journal entirely dedicated to public space, that she established through City Space Architecture in 2015, in partnership with UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

Nuno Fonseca is currently an integrated researcher at the Nova Institute of Philosophy (Ifilnova), a research unit of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of NOVA Lisbon University. Within the Culture and Value Laboratory (CultureLab) of the unit, he coordinates the group Art, Critique and Aesthetic Experience. He investigates various topics of Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art (focusing mostly on aesthetic experience and values) both in the context of contemporary sound art and everyday urban experience. He is currently working in the FCT granted project Fragmentation and Reconfiguration: experiencing the city between art and philosophy and is also a member of the UNL team of the Creative Europe granted A-Place: Linking places through networked artistic practices.

Graduated in Law (1998) and in Philosophy (2004) from the University of Coimbra, he completed his PhD in Philosophy (Epistemology and Theory of Knowledge) at Nova FCSH-UNL in 2012, working on issues of representation and perception.

Besides his academic activities, he has been dealing with sound and sound experience through the conception and direction of radio shows at Rádio Universidade de Coimbra and, more recently, RTP-Antena 2, but also being involved in sound design for theatre and performance.

Patrícia Pereira is a researcher and board member of the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA), Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of Nova University Lisbon (FCSH/NOVA). She obtained a PhD in Urban Sociology in 2013 with the thesis: "The Parque das Nações in Lisbon: a metropolitan showcase by the Tagus", later published as book (Mundos Sociais, 2018). Currently, her main research interests are gentrification, displacement and local resistance, public spaces and urban everyday life. She is co-coordinator of the Research Network 37 (Urban Sociology) of the European Sociological Association (ESA) and of ETNO.URB, an international network of urban ethnographers. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Forum Sociológico*.

Rosalice Pinto completed a PhD in Linguistics at Universidade Nova de Lisboa (2006) (FCSH-UNL), with a post PhD in Communication Sciences from the same University and from the University of Geneva (2013). Currently, she collaborates as researcher at the Nova Institute of Philosophy (IFILNOVA) and at the Center for Research and Development on Law and Society at the Faculty of Law of Universidade Nova de Lisboa (CEDIS) and the Linguistics Research Group at Universidade Federal do Ceará / Brazil (PROTEXTO). She investigates various topics on Text Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Theory of Argumentation. She is also, graduated in Chemical Engineering (1981), in Modern Languages and Literature (2002), in Law (2020). She is a member of the Metaphors Project based on rigorous data for the treatment of diabetes (PTDC / FER_FIL / 28278/2017) funded by FCT and is also a member of the UNL team of the Creative Europe granted A-Place: Linking places through networked artistic practices. She is a visiting professor at national and foreign universities. She has many national and international publications in Text Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Multimodal Argumentation in Professional Contexts, Political Discourse, Legal Language and Argumentation, Rhetoric, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Communication.

Veronika Antoniou is the co-founder and managing director of Urban Gorillas, a Nicosia-based NGO focused on building healthy and creative cities. She's also a licensed architect, and urban planner. Her work spans many aspects, and includes the practice of architecture, socially-engaged art and research on sustainable city

development. Her academic work was funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education and the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Since 2013, as the managing director at Urban Gorillas, she has been applying design-oriented techniques and transversal working methods to transform urban spaces into inclusive and interactive environments. Veronika has curated numerous exhibitions; amongst the most significant were the curation of Urban Gorillas work at the MaXXI Museum in 2017 and the co-curation of the Cyprus Pavilion for the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2018.

Veronika currently lives in Tokyo, with constant work exchanges with Cyprus.

Maria Irene Aparício is an Assistant Professor of Cinema, and Artistic Studies in the Communication Sciences Department of FCSH-UNL, and a Researcher of CineLab / IFILNOVA - the Philosophy Institute of the New University of Lisbon. At CineLab she coordinates the Research Working Group on "Cinema and Politics: Philosophical Approaches". She gained a PhD in Cinema / Filmology (Thesis: "Light and Architecture of Space in Film: Image, Memory, and Emotion in the Mind's Decade" / with the support of FCT, as a PhD Research Fellow), and an MA in Cinema (Thesis: "On Art and Science: Light in Cinema and Painting"), both from the New University of Lisbon. She also completed a Postdoctoral Research Project on the subject "On Memory, Portuguese Cinema and Post-Historical Time" sponsored by FCT, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. Her research interests include Film Theory and Practices, Artistic Practices and Research, with the main focus in the issues of Art and Science, Film, Space and Memory, Cinema and Philosophy, and Portuguese Cinema as well as philosophical, ethical and political problems of contemporary art and visual culture, including film.