Negotiating public order

International seminar / workshop / conference
30 november 2016*

Abstract

Although 'public order' as a concept is used often and carelessly, its content is not at all ubiquitous and simple. Once grounded in the moral order imposed by religion or the sovereign state, in our contemporary society public order is the object of dialogue and contestation among a plurality of actors. Public space is an important arena for political negotiation and economic enterprise or 'mundane', everyday social interaction. In this international seminar organized by the Crime and Society Research Group (CRiS-VUB), experts with various disciplinary backgrounds will fuel the debate on how to understand a concept such as public order. This event will also be the occasion to officially launch the book "Order and Conflict in Public Space" (Routledge, 2016) edited by CRiS researchers.

Program

Wednesday 30 november (U-Residence, VUB, Etterbeek)

08:30-09:00: Registration and coffee

Session 1: *Negotiating public order*
Chair: **Lucas Melgaço**

09:00-09:10: Introduction by **Lucas Melgaço**
09:15-09:45: Keynote **Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch** (University of Grenoble Alpes): "Letting loose?"

09:45-10:15: Keynote (social movements) **Maxime Kouvaras** (ZinTV) and **Gertjan De Boeck & Kevyn Cochinaux** (Free54)10:15-10:45: Q&A

10:45-11:00: Coffee break

Session 2: *The Limits To Public Order? The case of the piétonnier*
    Chair: **Els Enhus**

11:00-12:30: Panel debate with
- **Joost Vandenbroele** (BRAL)
- **Els Ampe** (alderwoman city of Brussels)
- **Sofie Vermeulen** (VUB)
- **Olivier Stein** (Progress Lawyers Network)

12:30-14:00: Lunch

Session 3: *Order beyond public space*
    Chair : **Tom Bauwens**

14:00-15:30: Presentations by
- **An-Sofie Vanhouche** (VUB): "Order in prison: the role of food and staff/prisoner relationships"
- **Marc Depaepe & Sarah van Ruyskensvelde** (KULeuven): "Order in the classroom. Modernizing (primary) education by the introduction of a *cult of order*"
- **Rosamunde Van Brakel** (VUB): "How profiling of children at risk in the UK contributes to enforcement of public order: From analogue risk assessments to big data"
- **Jan Snacken** (VUB): "Psychiatric disorders"

15:30-15:45: Coffee break

Session 4: *Book launch "Order and Conflict in Public Space"*
    Chair: **Mattias De Backer**

15:45-17:15: Presentations by:
- **Georgiana Varna** (Scottish Cities Knowledge Centre Glasgow): "Order and conflict in public space"
- **Antonin Margier** (University of Lille): "The residential normalisation of public spaces: towards a   post-punitive regulation?"
- **Ilse Van Liempt** (Utrecht University): "Reclaiming Civility in Urban Nightlife Districts"
- **Nick Schuermans & Manfred Spocter** (VUB & Stellenbosch University): "Avoiding encounters with poverty: aesthetics, politics and economics in a privileged neighbourhood of Cape Town."

17:15-18:30: Drinks and merriment

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Abstracts and bio's

- **Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch**: "Letting loose?"

ABSTRACT: Using examples ranging from recent Parisian mass demonstrations to South African protests, this intervention uses a spatial approach to reflect on the notion of public order. Whose order? And who constitutes a public? A democratic order should be open to a wide public, working towards inclusiveness, able to dissent and open up new spaces of expression.

BIO: Myriam Houssay-Holzschuch is a Professor of Geography at the University of Grenoble Alpes, UMR 5194 PACTE. She has been researching social and political issues in urban contexts through the example of post-apartheid South African cities. Her publications deal with questions of violence, segregation, social and political change, public space and social movements.

- **Marc Depaepe & Sarah van Ruyskensvelde**: "Order in the classroom. Modernizing (primary) education by the introduction of a *cult of order*"

ABSTRACT: In this presentation, we discuss the genesis of a modern educational system, and reflect upon the pivotal role the idea of 'order' played in this development. More specifically, we argue that the societal process of modernization was paralleled by the establishment of a stereotypical behavioral complex in school life that revolved around, not only the instruction of pupils, but also around their socialization into the dominant norm and value system. The idea of *order* was essential in this development, and is palpable in the educational behavior, the interaction with children, as well as in the determinants of so-called *school culture*.

BIO: Marc Depaepe (°1953) holds a PhD and a Special PhD in Educational Sciences. Since 1996, he has been working as a full professor in the field of the History of Education. Currently, he is the vice-rector at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven @ Kulak.
 Sarah Van Ruyskensvelde (°1985) holds a PhD in both Educational Sciences and History. In 2014 she finished her doctoral dissertation about the development of Catholic private education during the Second World War in Belgium. Currently, she is working as a post-doctoral fellow at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Campus Kulak, where she teaches and conducts research projects within the field of the History of Education.

- **An-Sofie Vanhouche: "**Order in Prison"

ABSTRACT: The problem of order is a fundamental and strong debated topic in prison policies because it provides security and a humane regime for prisoners and officers. However, research, Belgian prison staff and prisoners appear to have different visions on how order should be achieved. Therefore, this presentation gives insight in these conflicting perceptions and how they influence daily life in prison.

BIO: An-Sofie Vanhouche is a PhD student in Criminology at Vrije Universiteit Brussels and the University of Southern Denmark. She conducts a comparative study on prison food practices and their influence on prison regimes in Belgium, Tilburg (the Netherlands) and Denmark.

- **Rosamunde van Brakel**: "How profiling of children at risk in the UK contributes to enforcement of public order: From analogue risk assessments to big data"

- **Georgiana Varna**: "Order and conflict in public space"

ABSTRACT: Which public and whose space? The understanding of public space as an arena where individuals can claim full use and access hides a reality of constant negotiation, conflict and surveillance. In this paper the management, use and transgression of public space is discussed. Reflection is invited on the way in which everyday social interaction is framed and shaped by the physical environment and vice versa.

BIO: Georgiana Varna is Research Fellow at the Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK and part of the Scottish Cities Knowledge Center. She is a multi-disciplinary scholar with a passion for making better places for people. Coming from a background of Human Geography and Planning, she has obtained her PhD at the University of Glasgow, Scotland in the broad field of urban studies. Her main specialty is urban regeneration and urban public space development. In 2012/2013, she worked as a researcher, funded by the City of Turku in Finland, to apply her Star Model on the public places developed on the post-industrial waterfront of the city. She has also taught courses on urban issues in Scotland, in Finland and Estonia, where she was an associate lecturer for the Estonian Academy of Arts in Tallinn.

- **Antonin Margier**: "The residential normalisation of public spaces: towards a post-punitive regulation?"

ABSTRACT: Exclusion of marginalized people in public spaces has been a recurrent topic of human geography (Smith, 1996, Mitchell, 1997) but explanations mainly refer to macrogeographical and entrepreneurial production of iconic public spaces. In this chapter, by focusing on banal public spaces (Padisson and Sharp, 2007) of a neighborhood in Montreal, we will show that appropriation of public spaces also refer to dwelling practices. They are used as a *home* for homeless and marginalized people and as an *extension of home* for residents. Involving contradictory uses of public spaces, these dynamics of appropriation induce conflicts and the dispersal of marginalized people. In fact, "residential normalisation" of public space, through the diffusion of residential values in space, reduces the opportunities to make these public spaces a home for marginalized people. Then, they feel more and more « out of place » (Cresswell, 1996), and they are finally incited to leave or to reduce their own visibility. Therefore, through actions on space and the transformation of the landscape, a new kind of urban exclusion appears: a « soft dispersal » which substitute for « zero tolerance policies ».

BIO: Antonin Margier is lecturer at the University of Lille 1. He holds a Ph.D in urban studies (University of Quebec in Montreal) and a master degree in geography (University of Grenoble). His scientific interests are in the fields of social and urban geography. His research focuses on the current transformations of public spaces, on the geographies of homelessness and especially on the social control of minorities in public spaces. He is also a member of a research project called "Urban Pedestrian Mobilities" in the university of Paris-Est.

- **Ilse van Liempt**: "Reclaiming Civility in Urban Nightlife Districts"

ABSTRACT: Concerns about personal safety and the fear of crime have increasingly started to dominate the issue of managing leisure-based inner-city areas, particularly at night. Based on empirical research in the nightlife districts of Utrecht and Rotterdam (the Netherlands), this chapter looks into the broad variety of safety measures that are taken. It shows that public/private partnerships in nightlife districts reveal different ways of controlling public space than the traditional policing, in which various actors are now involved. These actors often share information and ideas about 'unwanted' groups who are disproportionally put under surveillance. Moreover, by reclaiming civility in an urban area at night, a certain 'morality' is created around public space in nightlife districts that reinforces the broader vision for order in the entrepreneurial city and excludes certain types of user and of behaviour that are not necessarily criminal.

BIO: Ilse van Liempt is Assistant Professor of Urban Geography at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Her research focuses on surveillance, public space and migration and she is an expert in qualitative research methods.

- **Nick Schuermans & Manfred Spocter**: "Avoiding encounters with poverty: aesthetics, politics and economics in a privileged neighbourhood of Cape Town."

ABSTRACT: This paper starts with the observation that privileged neighbourhoods in South Africa are increasingly characterised by walls, fences, closures of public land, security initiatives and neighbourhood watches. Drawing on official closure applications and in-depth interviews with white, middle class residents of the Tamboerskloof neighbourhood in Cape Town, we demonstrate that the privatization of public land, the fortification of the boundary between public and private spaces and the increased control over public space are not only inspired by fear of crime, but also by the aspiration to maintain economic privilege under the form of real estate prices and the desire to live in a comfort zone where one is not emotionally disturbed by encounters with homeless people, squatters or beggars.

BIO: Nick Schuermans is a postdoctoral teaching associate at the Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, and a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre on Inequalities, Poverty, Social Exclusion and the City of the University of Antwerp. his research deals with the geographies of fear, encounter and solidarity.
Manfred Spocter is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. his research is centred on the in uence of security and forti cation on urban morphology, non-metropolitan gated developments, public space privatization and small- town geographies.