

SESSION 2

Visualizing the Past, Imagining the Future



CHAIRS: ANTONELLA BRUZZESE, SOFIA MORGADO

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Introduction

Try to interpret the urban phenomenon means, first of all, facing with the times of the past and projections of the future. The everyday life in the city has to deal with continuous reconstructions and stories of the urban past as much as with imaginary and scenarios of many possible times to come: the future of the expected changes, the future of urban decline, the future of the loss of identity in the large metropolitan regions. Visions and imaginary thus become indispensable tools for connecting the course of fragmented time inside cities. Quoting Jude Bloomfield we can say that: "The memory, history and identity of a city are not the emanation of an enclosed, hermetically sealed, 'pure group' and their past, but the ongoing social construction of people with diverse histories whose lives intersect a specific place. Therefore the urban imaginary is also inherently intercultural but located, cosmopolitan but rooted"

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