The Socio-ecological Turn in Urbanism. Past and Future Interactions between Ecology, Urban Design and Participation in Brussels

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline.be

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Project abstract:

Brussels, as many cities world-wide, faces a double challenge. On the one hand, the demand for housing and office space results in a continuous increase in built-up area. On the other hand, the Brussels Capital Region needs more open space for recreation and environmental needs, such as water management and biodiversity. These competing social and ecological claims on open space are also reflected in the interactions between different governmental and civic actors. Governmental institutions concerning open space policies are fragmented, illustrated by the divided urban development and environmental agencies. Civic activism, prominently initiated and articulated by Brussels´ action committees, recently attempts to safeguard open spaces from construction and addresses shortcomings in existing participatory planning procedures. However, a lack of forums for debate on the matter limits possibilities in reaching an equilibrium in urbanization and ecological needs in Brussels.

These tensions, and the need for forums in which they can be discussed, have been on the agenda before. Interactions between social and ecological dimensions have existed in past planning and design practices in Brussels, through the collaboration of action committees, experts, governmental institutions, and designers from the 1960s onwards. We can learn from these past experiences, yet these historical precedents must be critically revisited. Existing historical research on civil strife and participation focuses on how the political and ideological context is expressed in the built form, but rarely on how broader ecological concerns are translated in design concepts and how action committees dealt with the tensions between green and built space within the cooperation.

This project therefore aims at filling this gap and develop 1) A historiography of the action committees and of the expertise they developed/relied upon, with a particular attention to the round table and the counterproject as tools for socio-ecological debate and cooperation; 2) An understanding of how these tools and strategies connect with current and alternative methods of discussion, intervention and development of future scenarios, such as research-by-design. Indeed, in the field of architecture and urban design, research-by-design has been an effective instrument for exploring alternative futures, internationally as well as in Brussels. In this project we therefore propose a double approach that brings together history – usually seen as a reflective science - and design - which is prospective - in an innovative framework. We aim to study the history of participation and urban design in Brussels, while using design prospectively in contemporary discussions on open spaces in Brussels. In this innovative methodology, the common logic of these sciences is reversed: history becomes a prospective tool for contemporary discussions, while design provides a reflection on those same discussions. The goal of this research project is to develop a critical historiography of participatory urbanism in Brussels focusing on conflicting ecological and social claims, that can be mobilized in current-day debates about urban design and policy making. Thus, the research will provide the action committees with operative insights regarding their own past and offer a conceptual framework for designers and policy makers that goes beyond the unproductive duality between built and open space.

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Research Data Summary

List and describe all datasets or research materials that you plan to generate/collect or reuse during your research project. For each dataset or data type (observational, experimental etc.), provide a short name & description (sufficient for yourself to know what data it is about), indicate whether the data are newly generated/collected or reused, digital or physical, also indicate the type of the data (the kind of content), its technical format (file extension), and an estimate of the upper limit of the volume of the data.

1) Archival sources. These include: meeting reports, correspondence, drawings, plans, and images. The archival material that will be consulted will be both digital and physical. A database will be created of all archival material that will be consulted. This database will be saved as a CSV file on the OneDrive where materials are categorised according to archival collection, location, file number, year, title, author and creator. Relevant archival material will be scanned into a pdf format and stored on the OneDrive.
2) Literature. This includes: academic literature, grey literature and policy documents. This literature will be consulted physically or digitally, via open access or online access through the Limo platform of KU Leuven. The online literature will be consulted in pdf format and stored on the OneDrive or via Zotero, in the case of open access academic literature).
3) Visual sources. These include: existing designs (spatial plans and schemes), drawings, models and digital visualisations and photographs. Visual sources from published material will be stored on the OneDrive, given that intellectual property rights are guaranteed.
4) Online media sources. These include news articles and reportages by local news outlets (e.g. Bruzz, La Capital, BX1), website articles of civil society organisations (e.g. BRAL, ARAU, IEB) and social media platforms of civil society organisations and activist groups.
5) Oral sources. These include interviews and participatory moments. Interviews will be uploaded as .mp3 files and transcipts in Word format (.docx) on the OneDrive. Observational notes of participatory moments will also be uploaded in Word format (.docx) on the OneDrive.
6) Personal data. Personal data of research participants (i.e. interviewees and participants in participatory moments) will include name, email address, phone number, gender, age and will be stored in a .csv file on the OneDrive.
7) Locational data. This refers to existing maps and data sets used for GIS mapping (including BruGIS, Geo.Brussels, BruCiel, Mobigis, Geopunt Vlaanderen, etc.). The relevant datasets will be kept in .csv and .shp format. During the process of creating maps, the shapefiles (.shp) will be stored locally on the computer of the PhD researcher (Dries Pattyn) and as soon as the maps are created the data will be exported in a geopackage format and stored on the OneDrive.
8) Publications and presentations. These include academic papers and presentations (for internal use in the research group or for conferences and seminars) that will be produced by the PhD researchers (Dries Pattyn and Eline Inghelbrecht). Academic papers will be published in .pdf format and presentations will be made in .ppt format and stored in .pdf on the OneDrive.
9) Visual material. These include: designs, drawings, images and other visual representations created during the process of the research. These materials will be created in AutoCAD/Vectorworks/Sketchup/Rhino and postproduction will happen using the Adobe Creative Cloud software and will be stored in JPEG (.jpg) or PNG (.png) format on the OneDrive.

If you reuse existing data, please specify the source, preferably by using a persistent identifier (e.g. DOI, Handle, URL etc.) per dataset or data type:

Archival material
- citizens' organizations: BRAL (Brusselse Raad Leefmilieu/Brussels' Council for the Environment), Inter-Environnement Bruxelles (IEB), ARAU (Atelier de Recherches et d'Action Urbaines)
- Architectural institutions: Archives d'Architecture Moderne,Haute école d'architecture La Cambre and Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Location: CIVA Brussels
- Parliamentary meeting notes: Brussels Agglomerations and municipalities

Publications
- Citizens' organizations: BRAL (Brusselse Raad Leefmilieu/Brussels' Council for the Environment), Inter-Environnement Bruxelles (IEB), ARAU (Atelier de Recherches et d'Action Urbaines)
- Architectural institutions:Archives d'Architecture Moderne,Haute école d'architecture La Cambre and Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Location: CIVA Brussels
- Multiple literature and research articles on relevant topics

Maps
- Leefmilieu Brussel/Bruxelles Environnement/Brussels Environment: https://geodata.environnement.brussels/client/view/?lang=nl
- BruGIS: https://gis.urban.brussels/brugis/#/
- BruCiel: https://www.bruciel.brussels/
- MobiGis: https://data.mobility.brussels/mobigis/nl/
- Geo.brussels: https://geobru.irisnet.be/nl/maps/new/
- Geopunt Vlaanderen: https://www.geopunt.be/

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g. experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? If so, refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate and provide the relevant ethical approval number.

- No

Will you process personal data? If so, please refer to specific datasets or data types when appropriate and provide the KU Leuven or UZ Leuven privacy register number (G or S number).

- Yes (Provide PRET G-number or EC S-number below)

Interviews

When conducting interviews personal data such as name, age, gender, profession, home municipality, email address, phone number will be collected. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed.
Names of interviewees will be pseudonymised, unless it is relevant/necessary to use the name of the interviewee (e.g. an architect or a politician) and the interviewee consents to using their personal data. The file where the pseudonyms are linked to the personal data and identifiers will be stored separately on the KU Leuven server. Data that might reveal the identity of the respondents will be replaced with less 'revealing' information.
Interviewees will include: (former) politicians, members of citizens' associations, architects activists from neighbourhood committees, students/members of architectural institutions such as La Cambre and Sint-Lucas, officials from public institutions such as Brussels Environment and Perspective Brussels

Design labs and roundtable discussions

- Interactive moments with stakeholders will be organised in the formats of (1) design and research labs and (2) roundtable discussions

(1) In these half-yearly labs the research and design is discussed with members of the most important action committees (BRAL, ARAU and IEB)
(2) Starting an in-depth conversation between the action committees and the Brussels governmental actors (Brussels Environment, Perspective Brussels, BMA) to identify the frictions and possible synergies, based on historical examples and design proposals.
For these interactive moments participants' personal data (name, e-mail address, telephone number) will be collected for practical use. In the output of these interactive moments, participants will be anonymised and only the name of the organisation will be stated, except in the case of the BMA (Brussels' city architect).
In entering the discussions on safeguarding open space in Brussels, sensitive and clashing viewpoints and opinions will come forward in the debates. In reporting on such events, awareness and precaution is necessary in order to avoid severe conflict between citizens and other stakeholder.
PRET number: G-2023-6437 (currently working on the draft)

Does your work have potential for commercial valorization (e.g. tech transfer, for example spin-offs, commercial exploitation, …)? If so, please comment per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- No

Do existing 3rd party agreements restrict exploitation or dissemination of the data you (re)use (e.g. Material or Data transfer agreements, Research collaboration agreements)? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and what restrictions are in place.

- No

Are there any other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, to be managed related to the data you (re)use? If so, please explain in the comment section to what data they relate and which restrictions will be asserted.

- Yes

Reuse of images and architectural drawings: does not only require mentioning the secondary source, but also the original author/creator. For some of these images, permission will have to be granted from the author/creator or relevant institution.

Documentation and Metadata

Clearly describe what approach will be followed to capture the accompanying information necessary to keep data understandable and usable, for yourself and others, now and in the future (e.g. in terms of documentation levels and types required, procedures used, Electronic Lab Notebooks, README.txt files, codebook.tsv etc. where this information is recorded).

Through a clear folder structure located on the One Drive, existing data and developed material will be organised in order to simplify retrieving and consulting the overall documentation.
Produced material will adopt meaningful filenaming starting with the date (year/month/day, e.g. 230331_), description of its content and, when applicable, ending with the initials of the creator.
README files: data will be described according to category (archival, interviews, images) and structured according to several identifiers: title, year, location, author/creator, file type, key words

Will a metadata standard be used to make it easier to find and reuse the data?
If so, please specify which metadata standard will be used.

If not, please specify which metadata will be created to make the data easier to find and reuse.

- No

We are currently looking into the options regarding the different metadata standards within our research groups P.PUL and ARP. Possible options until now are DDI, UNBIS and AAT.

Data Storage & Back-up during the Research Project

Where will the data be stored?

- Shared network drive (J-drive)
- OneDrive (KU Leuven)

The responsible person will be Bruno Notteboom, the supervisor of this C2 research project
For the Department of Architecture we have a 2 TB storage capacity + 5 TB for archiving available and it can be extended, if needed. The main tool for data storage will be KU Leuven OneDrive.
The ICT support is provided by LUCA. On LUCA managed devices, personal documents are stored and equally synchronized with the data server (no data on the hard disk of the laptops). All personal data will be stored on the I-disk/ in Leuven/ department of Architecture. As a cloud application, Box is supported (up to 2TB per user). The long-term storage is guaranteed up to 10 years after the end of a project. This is stored on servers in Leuven, on the K-disk. The members of the research group have access to the data with the permission of the supervisor.

How will the data be backed up?

- Standard back-up provided by KU Leuven ICTS for my storage solution

Is there currently sufficient storage & backup capacity during the project?

If no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available, explain how this will be taken care of.

- Yes

How will you ensure that the data are securely stored and not accessed or modified by unauthorized persons?

Onedrive documents will be shared only among the supervisors and PhD researchers of the research project. In case documents are shared outside of the research project (e.g. within the research group) this will be done with restricted acces (shared via e-mail) and editing rights (view-only).

What are the expected costs for data storage and backup during the research project? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data storage and backup.

Data Preservation after the end of the Research Project

Which data will be retained for 10 years (or longer, in agreement with other retention policies that are applicable) after the end of the project?

In case some data cannot be preserved, clearly state the reasons for this (e.g. legal or contractual restrictions, storage/budget issues, institutional policies...).

- All data will be preserved for 10 years according to KU Leuven RDM policy

Where will these data be archived (stored and curated for the long-term)?

- Other (specify below)

The long-term storage is guaranteed up to 10 years after the end of a project. This is stored on servers in Leuven, on the K-disk. The members of the research group have access to the data with the permission of the supervisor.

What are the expected costs for data preservation during the expected retention period? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data storage and backup.

Data Sharing and Reuse

Will the data (or part of the data) be made available for reuse after/during the project?
Please explain per dataset or data type which data will be made available.

- Yes, as restricted data (upon approval, or institutional access only)

If access is restricted, please specify who will be able to access the data and under what conditions.

The collected data will be accessible to both PhD researchers, Eline Inghelbrecht and Dries Pattyn, and the responsible supervisors of the C2 project prof. Bruno Notteboom and the respective supervisors and co-supervisors of the individual PhD trajectories prof. Martino Tattara, dr. Koenraad Danneels and prof. Sven Sterken.

Are there any factors that restrict or prevent the sharing of (some of) the data (e.g. as defined in an agreement with a 3rd party, legal restrictions)?

Please explain per dataset or data type where appropriate.

- Yes, privacy aspects
- Yes, intellectual property rights

- Privacy aspects: personal data of the research participants (interviewees and participants in interactive moments) will be collected: name, email address, phone number, age, gender
- Intellectual property rights of existing as well as newly generated images, designs, maps

Where will the data be made available?

If already known, please provide a repository per dataset or data type.

- KU Leuven RDR (Research Data Repository)

Data on all our publications resulting from this research will be stored in the KU Leuven repository LIRIAS.

When will the data be made available?

- Upon publication of research results

paper publications, seminars, exhibition, round tables and workshops

Which data usage licenses are you going to provide?

If none, please explain why.

- Data Transfer Agreement (restricted data)

Most probably we will use the Data Transfer Agreement. We will further look into the specific data usage licences when we evolve in the research project.

Do you intend to add a persistent identifier (PID) to your dataset(s), e.g. a DOI or accession number? If already available, please provide it here.

- Yes, a PID will be added upon deposit in a data repository

What are the expected costs for data sharing? How will these costs be covered?

There are no expected costs for data sharing.

Responsibilities

Who will manage data documentation and metadata during the research project?

The data documentation and metadata will be managed by the two PhD researchers appointed to the C2 research project, being Dries Pattyn and Eline Inghelbrecht

Who will manage data storage and backup during the research project?

The data storage and backup will be managed by the two PhD researchers appointed to the C2 research project, being Dries Pattyn and Eline Inghelbrecht.

Who will manage data preservation and sharing?

The responsible person will be Bruno Notteboom, the supervisor of this C2 BOF project.

Who will update and implement this DMP?

The data management plan will be updated and implemented by the two PhD researchers appointed to the C2 research project, being Dries Pattyn and Eline Inghelbrecht