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8 Research Paths For The City Feltrinelli Camp 2018

**A cura di
Paola Piscitelli**

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UTOPIE

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Feltrinelli Camp 2018

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About this book

The first edition of Feltrinelli Camp took place on February 16th and 17th, 2018, two days of closed-door workshop in the field of urban studies. One hundred young researchers and practitioners with international background gathered into the large luminous space of the multifunctional hall in Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli to discuss the present and future of cities. Eight thematic tables were the center of the exchange of research and professional experiences, as well as of discussion and debate, issues, mapping exercises, sketching, generation of new ideas, claims and arguments. The eight working table attempted to conceptualize proposals for solutions to crucial problems affecting our cities. Each thematic table corresponded to a theoretical and practical challenge to be solved in relation to a bundle of issues.

The following publication collects and returns the most relevant outputs of the two days and is divided in two different volumes:

1) the former, collected in this eBook, includes the specific points of view of the coordinators of working tables in relation to the thematic challenges of the conference. Eight experts offered their own contribution to the conceptual redefinition of the questions, both on the basis of their experiences and skills and of the close confrontation with the other participants to the Feltrinelli Camp. Eight reports curated by eight rapporteurs, thus, summarize the results of the discussion at the table. The reports contain at least three key issues related to the main challenge and three possible solutions responding such issues. Some of them contain a

proposal that could be possibly considered as the legacy to About a City - Places, Ideas and Rights for 2030 citizens, the festival about cities and citizenship by Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.

2) the latter proposes some cases studies and research proposals related to the the eight themes constituting the backbones of the working tables by some of the camp participants.

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8 Research Paths For The City

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Paola Piscitelli, Ilaria Giuliani

Introduction

The first edition of Feltrinelli Camp took place on February 16th and 17th, 2018, two days of closed-door workshop in the field of urban studies. One hundred young researchers and practitioners with international background gathered into the large luminous space of the multifunctional hall in Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli to discuss the present and future of cities. Eight thematic tables were the center of the exchange of research and professional experiences, as well as of discussion and debate, issues, mapping exercises, sketching, generation of new ideas, claims and arguments. The eight working table attempted to conceptualize proposals for solutions to crucial problems affecting our cities. Each thematic table corresponded to a theoretical and practical challenge to be solved in relation to a bundle of issues.

Each challenge was named by an action, both as a direction to look at in the future and as a part of an action-research path that Fondazione Feltrinelli aims to keep as trajectory for its recently launched Observatory on Cities and Urban Transformations.

Such selected eight research paths were:

- ENVISAGING FAIRER DIVERCITIES, which suggested to look at the city from the perspective of social diversity in relation to issues of cohabitation, conflict, rights, minorities and forms of social inclusion in order to highlight possible ways to govern our cities so to make them just, inclusive and characterized by reduced

inequalities and enhanced diversity.

- REALIZING POTENTIAL URBAN LANDSCAPES, which proposed to understand how to realize the unexpressed potential of urbanity while it is occurring a phase of re-definition of urban elements. It specifically tried to understand how to trigger urban transformations through resources identification for the implementation of innovative possibilities.
- MAKING THE CITY THROUGH HOUSING, which aimed to look at the private dimension of housing as a way to realize fully public and planned way of living for everyone by reflecting on the evolution of cities and their state of health through urban housing history.
- REGENERATING THE CITY AS A COMMON, aimed at re-defining the issue of commons within cities through a review of different cases of social innovation compared with bottom-up and self-organization initiatives.
- PLANNING THE IMMATERIAL CITY proposed an evaluation of urban immaterial dimensions in order to identify strategic priorities to plan an equal redistribution of resources and a truly open access to them.
- DESIGNING NEW NATURESCAPES explored the ecosystem of project proposals and policies that can shape a new urban landscape to effectively reformed the alliance between nature and cities.
- PUSHING THE BORDERS, which proposed a wordplay to improve the difficult rethinking of boundaries as well as of the role they play within the social, political and administrative constitution of our cities.
- FRAMING MOBILITY AS A SPATIAL CAPITAL, reflecting upon how we can best exploit the intrinsic capital of mobility and translate its fundamental value into material and immaterial infrastructures, as well as in effective policies able to support urban populations.

The following publication collects and returns the most relevant outputs of the two days and is divided in two different volumes:

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Ideas and Rights for 2030 citizens, the festival about cities and citizenship by Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.

- the latter proposes some cases studies and research proposals related to the the eight themes constituting the backbones of the working tables by some of the camp participants.

The proposal of two different volumes aims to respond to the need of leaving adequate space for the richness and heterogeneity of contributions emerged during the two-days debate. In this concern, it is particularly relevant to underline some comments received by some of the participants concerning the general mood of the initiative, conceived as "a free space for open conversation, where ideas have risen simply by enabling the exchange that was not necessarily output-oriented".

With the same objective, the two-volume publication aims to fix such exchanges as well as the seeds of potential change generated by the camp already planned in a longer-lasting path. Within this framework, About a city is itself an intermediate output, that will open up to other possibilities in the future.

Feltrinelli Camp, thus, tried to lay the foundations of a strongly desired research path designed as a shared and collective action taking based on the contribution of many and aiming to catch the interest and commitment of more.

Exactly in the same way the cities we want to live should be imagined.

8 ISSUES, 8 CHALLENGES

8. Framing mobility as a spatial capital

Mobility: what spatial capital

Paola Pucci

New research evidence, combining social and spatial theory in new ways (Sheller 2011), suggests a transformative nexus for explaining the role of mobility in contemporary cities, superseding simplified interpretations of mobility as movement through space, to reconceptualize it as "part of the process of social production of time and space" (Cresswell 2006, p.5).

As a "spatialisation of time and temporalization of space" (Kaufmann, 2014) mobility opens up new interpretative and operative perspectives, also for the urban policies.

On the one hand, mobility as a cause and consequence of changes in the organization of daily life "(Urry 2000), becomes "a total social phenomenon" through which "understanding the connections, assemblages, and practices that both frame and generate contemporary everyday life" (Adey and Bissel 2010).

Based on this interpretation, mobility represents an "analyser" (Bourdin 2005, p. 17) useful for describing the socio-spatial-temporal transformations in urban life and work-programs (Bourdin 2005; Kaufmann, 2002, Sheller and Urry 2006; Cresswell 2006) and identifying the urban rhythms - "the

coordinates through which inhabitants and visitors frame and order the urban experience” (Amin and Thrift 2002, p. 17).

At the same time, following another perspective, mobility plays a constitutive role in the structuring of urban spaces, not only because of the intensity with which the territory and its networks are used, but because mobility becomes an “act of territorialisation” (Raffestin 1980). According to Lévy “mobility is not only a technical tool for linking places. Insofar as the accessibility between places is a condition of existence of the city itself, mobility becomes an indisputable process of urbanogenesis”. In doing so, “the accelerated reorganisation and restructuring of the geography of movements define the spatiality of human societies (Soja 2004, p. 176).

Both perspectives, focussing on the material conditions of mobility and to the associated practices, it allow to reconceptualize mobility as a product of social practices and, at the same time, as a "producer" of spatiality, so as to be reinterpreted as spatial capital.

Mobility practices mobilise capital but, at the same time, thanks to the various forms of interaction triggered, they in turn generate new capital” (Coleman 1990, p. 302).

As a spatial capital, mobility is “a resource for action” (Coleman, 1990) thanks to the accessibility that conveys individuals’ “capabilities of performing activities at certain locations” (van Wee, 2011, p. 32), assuming that a person’s accessibility depends on both context (transportation systems, land use patterns, temporal availability) and individual features (such as vehicle ownership, income level, abilities, time sovereignty).

Overcoming the traditional approaches to accessibility that focus only on places or transport supply, accessibility is re-conceptualized as capacity to reach valued activities, to provide opportunities and contribute to

participation in social life .

In this framework, combining available resources (material and immaterial, physical and personal) and personal projects and capabilities (both economic and cultural), mobility turns in spatial capital thanks to accessibility.

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