

## Graduation Plan: Urbanism

Personal information	
Name	Willemijn Hoogland
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Urban Fabrics / porosities
Main mentor	Birgit Hausleitner Urbanism, architecture
Second mentor	Caroline Newton Urbanism, social sciences
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>My always existing personal interest in the vibrant and dynamic characteristics of urbanized areas lead me to first study Architecture. While following my masters, I soon realized how intrigued I was by the multilayered complexity of a city, with its interdependent, interwoven and multi-scaled networks. I became more and more interested in the thorough understanding of our physical contexts, and how those contexts strongly determine the way we feel, behave, think and even vote. I aim to pursue a career as an urban designer that feels the responsibility to take a position that respects and updates underlying structures while contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive city.</p> <p>Having a strong interest in social studies, I followed some courses in sociology at the University of Leiden as well as the University of Amsterdam. This studio strongly incorporated social sciences in the different stages of the design- and research process. At the same time, the strong focus on the urban fabric allows me to get a better understanding of social processes and how those are related to spatial structures.</p> <p>The scale of this studio in combination with the types of analysis and the social sciences layer made me decide to pick this studio as my first preference.</p>

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<b>The Right to Urban Space</b>  <i>reaching Just environments through the embracement of diversity and disorder in the urban realm.</i>
<p><b>Goal:</b> This master thesis aims to understand how smooth environments are manifested and what its socio-spatial consequences are on the Just City. By doing so, this research explores alternative ways to 1) incorporate different levels of smoothness into an urban environment in order to 2) understand which spatial transformations can give space for the other while allowing a variety of norms, thereby challenging existing power structures and contributing to important complex layers that make up a city.</p> <p>An extensive literature study will be conducted to understand and (re)define <i>Smooth</i> in the urban context of Amsterdam.</p> <p>Next, spatial analysis, ethnographic mapping and research by design will give relevant input to understand which spatial transformations contribute to Just environments. Design solutions that unlock spatial justice, to make space for the other and allow for a diversity of norms, will be the aimed output.</p>	
Location:	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The posed problem	<p>Strongly linked to the commodification of cities, contemporary urban spaces are increasingly transformed into 'smooth' environments, characterized by their inception to reach perfection, efficiency and control (Harvey, 2008 &amp; Boer, 2023). In reaching these new urban conditions, dominant norms are imposed that remove important complex layers that define a place while leaving out space for anything that is <i>other</i>. As a result, cities turn into exclusive entities, endangering their inclusive nature by leaving no (public) space for multiple types of citizens, modes of expression, modes of life, or possibilities to claim a part of the city and (re)shape it.</p>
research questions and	<p><i>What spatial transformation can work towards Just urban environments that embrace different norms, giving space to the other, within a smoothened environment of Amsterdam?</i></p>

design assignment in which these result:

**UNDERSTAND + EXPOSE:**

*1) How are smooth environments manifested in Amsterdam?*

**Methods used:** theoretical literature review, review of local government documents, socio-spatial analysis, ethnographic mapping, interviews, reflection

**Intended outcome:**

Using a literature review of both academic and informal sources, a new understanding of smooth in the context of Amsterdam will be developed. Furthermore, connotations strongly associated with smooth will be discovered and used throughout the research process (for example, specific spatial aspects that appear to be associated with smoothness can also provide informative input for the socio-spatial analysis).

Next, socio-spatial analysis combined with ethnographic mapping will reveal how the smooth emerges from existing norms (or lack thereof). This will be demonstrated through activity maps, pockets of differences (what is happening in a space that is not designed for?), images, mapping designed spaces (what they look like and what happens in them), and an understanding of who is appropriating urban spaces (and who is the *other*?).

In addition, potential connections between social processes and spatial elements will be identified. The distinction between 'smooth' and 'unsmooth' aids the reflective mindset in determining which spatial elements in both environments allow or do not allow social processes to occur.

*2) What are the socio-spatial implications of smooth environments in Amsterdam?*

**Methods used:** Sociospatial Analysis, Literature review, ethnographic mapping, SpaceSyntax

**Intended outcome:**

The application of socio-spatial analysis will reveal important relationships between architectonics and specific activities in smooth and "non-smooth" environments.

In addition, interviews will provide information on the variety of activities and potential trends that are visible but cannot take place in the urban realm as it currently exists.

Next, footage shot by five 'insiders' (people living in the Jordaan from various socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds) from a camera will help to determine which spaces are relevant in the Jordaan. Following interviews about these images, spatial elements from the conversations will be filtered to contribute to the spatial dimension of the individuals' preferred places.

Following that, a new map will be created to highlight existing and problematic spatial conditions in the Jordaan's urban realm that are inextricably linked to its social life.

A literature review on Just Cities will provide a more in-depth understanding of Just Environments in the context of Amsterdam. Next, spatial elements extracted from these texts will be evaluated within the context of the Jordaan to identify relationships or opportunities.

**PROPOSE:**

*3) How can smooth environments be understood as a progression of levels that positively contribute to the diversity of complex layers that comprise an urban space?*

**Methods used:** research by design, reflection

**Intended outcome:**

By reflecting on previous research findings, a better understanding of the social-spatial aspects of smooth is translated into an understanding of the definition as a gradient rather than two opposites (smooth and non-smooth), which includes the positive aspects of smoothness. Diversity will be an important factor in this.

Furthermore, design research will enable the creation of a map that depicts how smooth environments can accommodate differences or informalities.

An additional map will provide insights into the various types of shared spaces that contribute to collaboration and the potential to reshape the urban landscape (L, M, S, and XS scales).

*4) What spatial transformations can contribute to a Just urban environment, within a smoothened context of Amsterdam?*

**Methods used:** research by design, reflection

**Intended outcome:**

By reflecting on earlier done research, important conclusions are drawn that are input for design alternatives that can unlock spatial justice in the Jordaan. Research by design in return helps by determining where spatial transformations are possible and how they could look like in order to reach the goal of justness and the Open City. This might result in the development of patterns that can be of use in the design process.

Interscalar design solutions (from architectonics to street, block, neighbourhood and city) will be the output as a process that is shaped over time. For this reason, the output will be in an indefinite form: allowing for change and reinterpretation as time passes. This will be demonstrated through architectural and urbanist drawings (including plans and sections), as well as a vision strategies towards open structures at the city and neighbourhood levels.

## Process

### Method description

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review comprises relevant selections of scholarly articles, books and other sources to unveil important aspects of the research in both theory and context. By making use of a literature review, this research aims to explore the existing body-of knowledge that is applicable in the contextualizing and understanding of smooth environments.

At the same time, policy documents, news articles and non-academic sources will be reviewed that help gain a broader understanding of the context in which the problem is manifested. By doing so, informal insights help in understanding the social consequences of smooth environments, as well as getting a better understanding in the norm as communicated and perceived within Amsterdam.

#### LIMITS OF METHOD

By reviewing different sources of literature, I will be giving a personal interpretation of the texts read. Because of this, my own body of knowledge and my own body of reference will inevitably shape pieces of information that I find relevant for the research. Because of this, another researcher might come up with conclusions different than mine, based on the different selected

texts (based on personal idea of relevance and/or interest). This means that important, critical, theories or texts might be excluded now that could be relevant for the understanding of the context.

### ETHNOGRAPHIC MAPPING

In order to understand social patterns, different forms of ethnographic mapping will be conducted to reveal data that cannot be directly found in available research data. Examples of ethnographic mapping are:

- 1) Tracing activity; sitting at a specific site for a specific amount of time and write down everything that happens and who is doing the activity. This information can be mapped out according to set up standards (such as: using a dot when someone is standing still/ sitting and using an arrow when someone is moving from one place to another).
- 2) Tracing activity through senses; sitting at a specific site for a specific amount of time and write down all the information that comes through the senses (what do I hear/ see/ smell/ feel?). This helps in getting an atmospheric understanding of the site.
- 3) Unveiling human activity through traces; this method helps in understanding what people are doing in a (public) space by photographing the traces they leave behind.
- 4) Getting lost; with getting lost, you are obliged to look for (spatial) information that gives suggestions about a space. It also helps in tracing specific elements that stand out when visiting a site.

### LIMITS OF METHOD

Ethnographic mapping is a result that is shaped as a static moment in time. This means that the results of ethnographic mapping are entirely dependent on time conditions. Traces found in public spaces may differ depending on the day (due to weather, holidays, etc.).

Furthermore, the output, as mapped and written down, represents a personal interpretation of the given situation. In this case, I consider information that I believe is relevant or noticeable. As a result, a subjective view and interpretation of the site emerges that corresponds to my personal frame of reference, as well as my view and understanding of the direct context. This method may overlook important aspects of the built environment that are 1) not found in regular data and 2) not mapped by me. When information is not mapped, it will not be considered in design solutions. This may exacerbate existing power structures that cause injustice.

### INTERVIEWS

In order to get a better understanding of existing social layers, interviews will be conducted that open up conversations. From these conversations, a particular emphasis will be placed on spatial elements that comprise urban spaces, in order to determine the role of these objects in existing or missing social processes.

### LIMITS OF METHOD

When interviewing, the discussion will be guided by the questions asked. The selection of questions and the interpretation of their responses are thus a selective approach that may highlight important, critical issues at stake. At the same time, the questions asked may lead to design solutions in an area that the questioner is aiming for, while other problems, possibly unaddressed, may persist.

### URBAN ANALYSIS

Sociospatial analysis examines the relationships between social processes and built form. This analysis will thus be a hybrid of ethnographic mapping (what are people doing? What are tendencies?) and assessing how the built environment supports or does not support these

processes. To determine what to focus on, environmental psychology theories will be used to investigate this interrelation.

This method will be interscalar, with elements on an architectural scale.

#### LIMITS OF METHOD

Because this analysis also makes use of ethnographic mapping, the results may vary depending on the day or time of research. This has to be taken into consideration.

#### SPATIAL ANALYSIS

This method uses a morphological analysis approach. This method seeks to understand the role of existing morphologies in the functioning of a region by investigating the site's palimpsest as well as other significant morphological changes or appropriations.

This method will be interscalar, looking for links between both larger and smaller morphological elements.

#### LIMITS OF METHOD

This method relies heavily on existing maps. As is well known, maps can sometimes misrepresent an existing urban environment because the information is irrelevant to the map's developer. As a result, certain layers that comprise an urban environment may be excluded. When working with existing maps, power relations that contribute to social-spatial injustice may persist.

#### RESEARCH BY DESIGN

This method uses design to investigate alternative solutions for the problem at hand. Through analysis, model making and producing drawings, this method works with spatial elements to understand how spatial transformations help reach the project goal.

When presenting the analysis, only pertinent information that contributes to the final design decision is retained. Reflection is also used to demonstrate how the design solution has or has not unlocked specific potentials.

#### LIMITS OF METHOD

This method has a few key points where specific information is kept or left out. These moments are critical to the final design output and are based on the designers' arguments. This allows for a subjective interpretation of the project and its potential solutions, which may overlook or neglect underlying social layers that comprise a space, as well as important (socio-spatial) conflicts. This could result in socio-spatial injustice because the designer works from a personal frame of reference, thereby 'exposing' personal values and beliefs on a site.

#### REFLECTION

This method is used with the intention of thoroughly reflecting on previous outcomes in order to understand and reposition the problematization within the given research context. This aids in the holistic solution-finding process by incorporating various modes of research and maintaining a critical attitude towards the overall process.

#### SPACE SYNTAX

This method is used to apply scientifically proven data relationships between built environments and social patterns. This can provide insight into the likelihood that people will take a specific street, based on the designed spatial environment that serves as their information source.

## Literature and general practical references

### KEY-CONCEPTS

In order to position this paper within the existing academic research body and contribute to existing knowledge gaps, the most important concepts considered by this project are explained in greater detail in this chapter. Furthermore, literature that both supports and aids in gaining a deeper understanding of the concept is included.

This literature was chosen for the contributions it makes to gaining a more comprehensive understanding of the various concepts from different perspectives. Furthermore, female writers are carefully chosen in order to understand a more inclusive approach to the thesis goal, which recognises and embraces diversity and difference. At the same time, there maintains a limit to the understanding and gathered information from the selected concepts and theories, for this is an individual process with personal frames of references that determined and selected specific theories (in conversation with the first and second mentor). As a result, the selection of key concepts continues to be biased.

### SMOOTH CITY

Coined in 2023 by René Boer, the Smooth City describes the social-spatial phenomena resulting from neoliberal capitalist powerstructures in city-development. Characterized by their inception to reach 'perfection, efficiency and control', the process of smoothening is a very unjust one that leads to closed-systems and spatial injustice. In the smooth context, a dominant norm is imposed, diminishing space for anything *other*. Because of this, existing powerstructures are maintained and emphasized, with little opportunity to be criticized.

This research looks at Smooth Cities from a socio-spatial perspective.

### JUST CITY

'Justice' is a difficult concept, for the interpretation of justice is a time-bound and place-based concept, depending on cultural and political context (Verbeek & Delft University of Technology, 2023). According to Dobson, the 'pluralist interpretation of justice opens the way to a 'legitimizing game' in which some versions or interpretations of justice will be recognized and prevail' (1998 in Verbeek & Delft University of Technology, 2023). However, our spatial environment plays a crucial role in existing powerstructures, and in extension, democracy at large. 'There is no space in a hierarchized society that is not itself hierarchized and that does not express hierarchies and social distances,' writes Bourdieu (1993:124 in Newton, 2008). For this reason, justice and space are strongly related to each other.

The Just City represents an ideological understanding of spatial justice, defined by Soja as 'the fair and equitable distribution in space of socially valued resources and opportunities to use them' (Soja, 2009 in Verbeek & Delft University of Technology, 2023). By implying notions of the Just City, a more inclusive urban environment is reached.

This thesis focuses on the spatial dimension of Just Cities, particularly through the lense of (Verbeek & Delft University of Technology, 2023):

1. A just distribution of benefits and burdens
2. Equal opportunities
3. Protection of individual liberties

'Just' in this research does not always has to mean 'fair'. In distinguishing the two, theories about 'democratics of difference' of Young (1990) are embedded that acknowledge how group differences exist and certain groups are privileged. This means that, to reach a Just environment, sometimes unequal decisions are necessary to reach general justice, resulting in possible negative individual consequences. She rightfully points out how 'the achievement of formal equality does not eliminate social differences, and rhetorical commitment to the sameness of persons make it impossible even to name how those differences presently structure privilege and oppression' (Young, 1990: 164). Determining what is smooth and what is un-smooth is inherently related to norms. For this reason, the following literature concerning norms is conducted:

- Foucault on the subject and Power; focussing on power-relationships in society, how they come into being, how they are expressed and how they are linked to the spatial urban environment (in Newton, 2008)

Next, in order to understand the socio-spatial relation and its contribution to Just environments, a more detailed look will be given into theories on territories, territorial control and spatial perception.

- Foucault writes about this through the concept of *archeology of thought*, which will be looked into in more detail in the theoretical body of this thesis (in Newton, 2008).
- Bordieu elaborates on the specific role of the *habitus* in the positioning and hierarchy of social classes as evident in western societies. By incorporating theories about the connection between the modal habitus and classification systems, this research aims at getting a better understanding between social hierarchy and urban form (in Newton, 2008).
- Habraken extensively discusses the appearance of different-level territories (1998), elaborating from a gradience of public to private. He explains how territories are evident in the public- and private realm. Because of this approach, 'publicness' is directly linked to territories. The understanding of both territories and those who exert control over a territory helps in understanding how to reach just urban environments from a design-perspective.
- Hillier and Hanson in addition connect research on expected behaviour of individuals in an urban environment to its direct spatial context in *the social logic of space* (1984). This can support theories of Habraken by conducting analysis in Space Syntax and reflecting on the outcomes in relation to the opposed territory.

This thesis acknowledges that the reaching of Just environments is not a final end-goal but rather a process that is continuously shaped over time. Because of this, time becomes an important element in the final design strategy. In addition, Sennett talks elaborated about time as an important element in the becoming and transitioning of urban developments in a more just way.

His book *the Use of Disorder* (1970) is an important input for this research, for it provides relevant insights on urban time as a project aim.

Important insights in the effective use of urban spaces through time is conducted from *Everyday Streets*.

## OPEN CITY

The Open City, first mentioned by Jacobs but taken from Sennett's perspective for this thesis, focuses on the spatial dimensions that contribute to open systems. In doing so, characteristics of the opposed closed system are counterbalanced, opening up a variety of different possibilities that contribute to reaching Just environments. The elaborated description on Open Cities by Sennett gives clear tangible elements that help getting a grasp on the spatiality and the spatial



transformations possible to reach this the goal of openness. In here, the membrane, incomplete form, narratives of development and democratic space play a crucial role. The explanation of these elements will be further explored in the theoretical body of this thesis.

In addition, this research continues with concepts of porosity, first explored by W. Benjamin and obducted from research of Viganò, P in 2016.

Even though Sennett translated the concept of Open into spatial form, some important additional literature helps in understanding and contextualising his theories within the context of Amsterdam.

To make use of membranes in the urban context, a closer look will be taken at liminal spaces, which Irigaray defines as a threshold that allows for informal activities to take place and continuously move from inside to outside (1991). The liminal becomes apparent on the architectural scale.

Next, Tonnelat's interstitial spaces are valued on a larger, urban scale. The author describes it as a no-man's land without the usual guarantees of social order and control (2008: 295).

Narratives of development are a difficult process that addresses power dynamics and the likely unequal opportunity for certain marginalised groups to participate equally in decision-making processes. To incorporate development narratives into the design strategy, the following literature will be examined in greater detail.

First and foremost, acknowledging the existence of inequality based on differences is an important starting point for the thesis. As previously stated, embracing diversity can help democrats of different backgrounds achieve justice.

Furthermore, different narratives and interpretations of narratives will evolve over time, influencing perceptions of the urban and public realm as a whole. As a result, time will play a significant role in the project's overall design strategy. The book *Everyday Streets* will also be useful in this area of the research (2023).

Finally, in order to gain a better understanding of democratic space, a few theories are tested. First, how we perceive, move, and control space is strongly influenced by the (perceived) territory we visit. As a result, this section of the research incorporates Habraken's (1998) theories on territories. The contributions of Hillier and Hanson (1984), as previously discussed, also contribute to this understanding.

Next, who has control over urban spaces and how that control manifests itself is investigated using Foucault's theories on the archaeology of thought, the subject, and power (in Newton, 2008).

Control is also strongly linked to tolerated norms, which include determining who is an insider and who is not. Theories on this will be conducted by both Sennett (1970), who explores insider and outsider from an image-led perspective, and Butler, who investigates concepts of performativity, which relate to how behaviour relates to imposed norms and social hierarchies (in Newton, 2008). Young also writes extensively about the Other in *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990). She emphasizes on how equality in society does not lead to justice and continues by exploring notions of diversity (the existence of a variety of norms, simultaneously), leading to inclusivity.

## DISORDER

In contrast to smooth, ordered environments, disorder is the result of social friction in the public realm. This friction is important, for it urges one to re-evaluate existing powerstructures. This aids in understanding, responding, and providing space for various narratives and norms, ultimately contributing to Just environments as a process that is constantly (re)shaped over time. Disorder could thus be viewed as a sinusoidal movement that increases at times and decreases at others.

According to Sennett (1970: 166), a 'disordered, unstable, direct social life would lead to structural changes in the city itself as well as the individuals in the social milieu' and is thus something to strive for.

#### Sources:

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## Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation project topic, the studio topic, your master track (A/U/BT, LA, MBE), and the master programme (MSc AUBS)?

This project interacts with different scales, through literature as well as through social-spatial analysis. By incorporating important spatial elements within the urban realm, this thesis aims to understand connections between architectonics and social processes. For this reason, urban fabrics was a logical studio selection from the start, for it focusses largely on social-spatial analysis. In here, rather than only coming from theory, this studio approach helps in getting important informational input from the physical, contemporary context. Because of this, a more legitimate understanding of existing issues in the urban can be detected and responded upon. At the same time does a more thorough theoretical body give me the in-depth understanding of the processes that become evident in the physical urban realm and help me envision alternative, but realistic, design outcomes.

This project specifically focusses on elements to Open Up a city, counterbalancing the existing closed-systems that characterise Smooth environments. By specifically looking into porosities, through liminal spaces, shared spaces, interstitial spaces and the wall as membrane, this project perfectly fits within this years' theme of the Urban Fabrics studio: porosities.

At the same time, an interscalar approach gives relevant insights that help in looking for possible spatial transformation that can unlock spatial justice on the urban scale. In addition, the

phenomenon of Smooth Cities as described is an urban phenomenon, but becomes relevant to the scale of the body for this is where the urban is lived and perceived. For this reason, a link is also made to architectural scales. In my opinion, the tracks of both architecture and urbanism can, however still currently the truth, be impossibly seen as two separate entities for they strongly interrelate with each other. This also becomes clear from this thesis, that shows how information from both disciplines overlap and (re)inform each other. This works improving and leads to a better understanding and design solutions.

The distinct focus on aspects of the urban (both in its social processes, its form as well as the interrelation between the two) clearly defines this project within the boundaries of the master programme MSc AUBS. At the same time, this project recognizes the fact that the urban is built up from multidisciplinary elements, such as economical, sociological and ecological. Including aspects of these in the research help in getting a more broad understanding. However, a distinct urban design proposal, focussing on spatial transformations in the urban fabric, confine the project into the limits of the master track.

*2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.*

**Professional relevance:**

Since the term 'smooth' was only recently coined, our understanding of it remains limited. At the same time, no socio-spatial analyses have been conducted to support certain claims and identify opportunities through spatial transformations. In addition, no design output has been proposed that connects relevant theories to the opposite of closed systems.

This study fills a significant knowledge gap by attempting to understand and redefine Smooth, as well as its literal implications for the urban fabric and underlying processes. This research goes beyond what others have done by incorporating design as an important final product: it puts ideas about the Open City into practice.

Recent reflections on the book 'Smooth City' by various urban designers usually end with the question: 'but how do we reach this?', such as the reflection that was opened up by the Urbanistas on Archined.nl (2023). This highlights the need for a perspective and spatial solutions based on urban design.

**Scientific relevance**

In the ongoing process of commodification of contemporary cities, an increasing awareness is needed in understanding how spaces for commoning can be maintained in the urban that give space for different norms that help in understanding and criticizing existing power structures. Existing literature discussing the need for Open Cities to reach Just environments remain on an explanatory level, highlighting and unfolding the issue at stake, that is sometimes translated into strategic governance strategies. This is also the case in Amsterdam, where pressure on urban space is considered as a problem for which a decrease in visitors could be a solution. Spreading-strategies (and optionable entrance fees for certain neighbourhoods) are parts of the discussion towards change.

Since the concept of Smooth was recently coined, there remains a large knowledge gap on the (spatial) understanding of the phenomenon and its social consequences. In addition, no design strategies have yet been set up that incorporate these phenomena and searches for possible design solutions that work towards a Just City.

This research focuses on the socio-spatial consequences of a smooth environment through both literature studies as well as a strong analysis study. By doing so, the definition of smooth might be adapted according to real-life outcomes. At the same time, a more concrete understanding of the phenomenon becomes possible for the relation between the social and spatial will be extensively

analysed. By doing so, possible spatial transformations will be discussed that can unlock spatial justice within smooth contexts by means of design. In this way, this research incorporates two important aspects that are now missing in the current state of the art knowledge on smooth environments, which is:

1. An elaborated understanding of smooth and its socio-spatial consequences
2. An exploration in design transformations that contribute to Just Cities that allows for a diversity in norms and makes space for the other.

### **Societal relevance**

In the context of commodified cities, the likelihood of smooth environments appearing is high. As a result, opportunities to (re)shape the urban are unequally distributed. At the same time, important liminal spaces that allow for informalities are erased, and important spatial elements describing the spatial script overlooked. This leads to both static and expected appropriation of public spaces, as well as conflicts with the various needs of a public space. In addition, any space for 'the other' is removed.

Important frictions are eliminated from the public sphere in a static urban environment where the norm is imposed and controlled. As a result, uncomfortable and confrontational positions that expose existing power structures no longer occur. This inevitably leads to an increase in social injunctions in society as a whole, as well as the prevention of democratic processes.

In the Open City, as opposed to the previously mentioned closed systems, friction is incorporated and allowed into the urban fabric as part of social life. This contributes to important democratic processes as well as inclusivity because it provides a space and opportunity for people with different norms to (re)shape the urban environment, and thus themselves and civilised society.

### **Ethical considerations**

Taking into account important theories about the 'Democratic of Difference,' this thesis attempts to incorporate an understanding of various identities and norms that can occur simultaneously in society. However, I recognise that the ability to appropriate, even when considering and allowing a wide range of identities, is still likely influenced by existing power structures. As a result, some groups will continue to express or occupy space more difficult than others.

I am aware that I am a privileged, white girl with a limited understanding of the diverse needs of other norms. At the same time, I am aware that norms are dynamic processes that change over time. In this research, I am trying to be careful and mindful of a variety of norms in order to (re)shape the urban. However, it is possible that in doing so, I will overlook important social aspects that define certain communities. An urban design always has an impact on existing and future social structures, so mine is likely to have negative consequences for some. This thesis aims to reduce these chances to the greatest extent possible by 'opening up' and leaving the urban in an unfinished state, allowing for individual interpretation and meaning to be given to the urban fabric. I am aware that there may still be power structures at work here that can dominate the urban, perpetuating social and spatial injustice.