

## **P2 Report:**

Graduation plan, interim report of progress,  
theory paper & graduation orientation text

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**'Complex Cities' Graduation Studio**

**Urbanism**

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## **Graduation Plan**

### **1. The studio**

#### **1.1 Argumentation for studio choice**

This research is focused on a broad understanding of the implications of diversification within modern-day society. Not only looking from the perspectives of urban planning or urban design but also from the perspectives of social sciences, like social geography, sociology, economics and political theory.

The diversification of our society is a process that can only be understood when viewed from all these areas. It is clear that diversification is part of a complex process creating conflicts about democracy, equality and liberalization: all aspects that are influencing processes on bigger scales as well. For this, the focus of the Complex Cities studios is the best fit: *the interest in the changing role of Urbanism that results from increasingly complex spatial and societal circumstances and internationalization through interdisciplinary/integral thinking, understanding differences, planning methods and decision-making/participation.*

### **2. The project**

#### **A Better Brussels**

##### ***A strategy for Participation Parity***

#### **2.1 Problem statement**

Modern day societies are undergoing changes in their social, economic and political structures due to globalization. These changes are causing polarization and struggles with difference (Keith, 2005, p. i). Studying these changes raises questions about the growing inequalities between people in the city, creating the question how to deal with these changes in order for them not to create inequalities but possibilities.

In Brussels, these changes have been causing a polarization in participation opportunities.

Certain groups, dependent of their social, economic and political status combined, have high chances of participating, while others have none. This

can be seen for example in the way that local and transnational processes are spatially close, but participation in the debate of crosscutting processes is not present. As the home base of Europe's most important governmental organ: The European Union, Brussels should be a flagship case for the rest of Europe on multiple levels, where the European Union is not just represented in a material way, by buildings, but also by adding an extra layer of governance and people that serve that new institute.

Today, the city can't be further from being this flagship case. Partly because of a process called 'Brusselization', where a top-down decision created opportunities for the upper-class and diminishing opportunities for the poor, increasing housing prices and decreasing public transport accessibility and walkability, for example. This history of modernization as a guiding theme and creating an attractive environment for higher incomes has only increased from the point when Brussels was chosen as the seat of the European Union (Guérin et al., 2007, p. 9). Furthermore, while this type of injustice in development can, unfortunately, be seen in many cities with transnational institutes, the European Union has a moral responsibility in achieving a more just Europe, so they say (Janning, 2016), while they are actually only worsening it in the places where they touch ground.

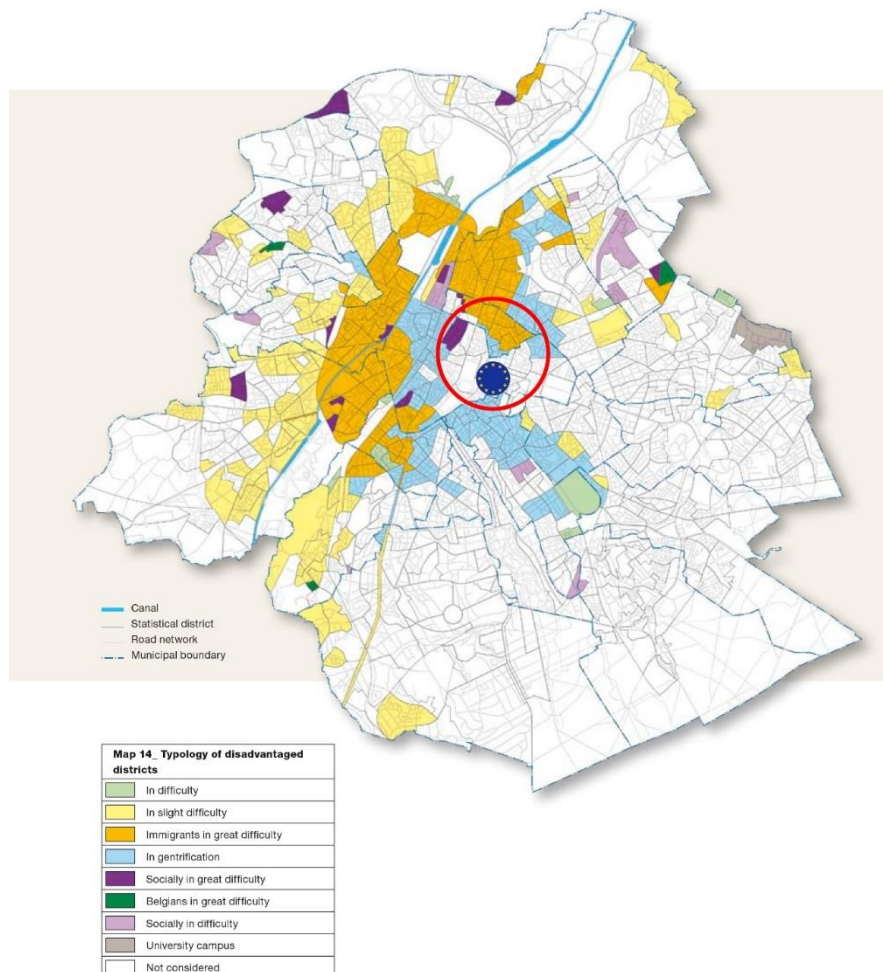


Figure 1: Analyse dynamique des quartiers en difficulté dans les régions urbaines belges', KUL, ICEDD, for the Large Cities Policy,. (Guérin et al., 2007)

Moreover, because the spatial distance between the EU buildings and the deprived area's is so small, the effect of subordination is increased, due to a high rate of encounters without recognition (Taylor, 1994), while also creating a great amount of opportunities (51N4E et al., 2012).

All these aspects make this area an interesting research location when interested in participation inequality. In order to create a strategy that can overcome these participatory problems, the framework of Nancy Fraser is used as a focus point as she focusses on Participation Parity, while integrating social, economic and political problems.

## 2.2 Research question

How to increase participation parity in Brussels, St. Joost ten Node & the EU-quarter, using Nancy Fraser's framework?

*How is recognition influencing participation opportunities in the area?*

*How is distribution of resources influencing participation opportunities in the area?*

*How is democratization of decision-process influencing participation opportunities in the area?*

*What spatial changes can be designed in order to create participation opportunities in the area?*

## 2.3 Goal

The objective of the research is to reduce participatory inequality in Brussels specific area seen in figure 1.

The research explores the possible reduction of participatory inequality in a simplified setting of three pillars: social, economic and political participatory inequality.

Thus, the intention is to analyse the possibilities and obstacles for participation parity formed within each of these pillars, while relating it to urban aspects.

The final ambition is to propose a spatial strategy for the complete area and thereby generating a more equal way of living with a parity of participation despite differences in social status, economic class or political position.

## 3. The process

### 3.1 Orientation

This project started with a fascination for divergent people in current day society: sometimes it looks like there are more divergent people than 'normal' people, and the cry for the John Doe in the media is only screaming louder (Pauw, 2016). Theoretically the differences between people in modern-day Western societies are growing, this increase of differences could create a more cohesive and pluralistic society, instead of polarized societies from the past (Fincher et al, 2014). See figure 1 and 2 below.

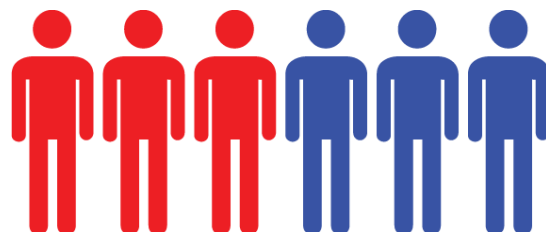


figure 2: simplified polarized society, made by author



figure 3: simplified pluralistic society, made by author

The place that is struggling most with this process is Brussels. Often shown in the media with devastating images of neglected housing and terrorist attacks (see figure 3), but also the house of the most powerful and wealthy politicians of the European Union. While there is no doubt about difference in society, there is doubt about how to deal with this difference and the way that an individual differs is affected in living their life (Fraser & Honneth, 2001).

For this research, the effect of difference on the ability to participate in society is the focus for developing a more just society. Being able to equally participate in your society means to be able to use the same places, the same amenities, have equal chances for gaining financial means and to have a voice in processes that concern you, uninfluenced by any individual social, economic or political aspects (Fraser, 2001).



De Belgische politie op zoek naar Salah Abdeslam in de Brusselse wijk Molenbeek © GETTY

## Waren de aanslagen in Brussel te voorkomen?

5 vragen over Onderzoek aanslagen

AANSLAGEN BRUSSEL  
153 ARTIKELEN

Belgische politie liet dertien kansen

Figure 4: Brussels raid for terrorists in the new – 153 articles about attacks in Brussel, screenshot of <http://www.volkskrant.nl/buitenland/waren-de-aanslagen-in-brussel-te-voorkomen~a4376857/> on 8-1-2017.

These aspects and this focus is formed by the framework presented by Nancy Fraser in her part of the book written by her and Alex Honneth in 2001, called 'Redistribution or Recognition?'. Here she writes about the interactive way recognition and redistribution affect an individual's ability to equally participate, adding a third aspect of democratization on page 68, stating that "the 'Political' obstacles to participatory parity would include decision-making procedures that systematically marginalize some people even in the absence of maldistribution and misrecognition."

Taking Nancy Fraser's part of the book 'Recognition or Redistribution' from 2001 as a directory, a framework is made in order to analyse this situation. This framework guides the answering of the questions about participation, focussing on three pillars: Social Status, Economic Class & Political Position. These pillars, as taken from Fraser's book, create subordination and subsequently participation imparity, and thus injustice.

Because the theoretical side of this research is extensive, to assure a spatial analysis, the analysis is cut up in two pieces: a strategic one which uses this framework, further explained below under the head 'Strategic Analysis' and an experimental one which uses simple spatial experiments, further explained below under the head 'Experimental Analysis'.

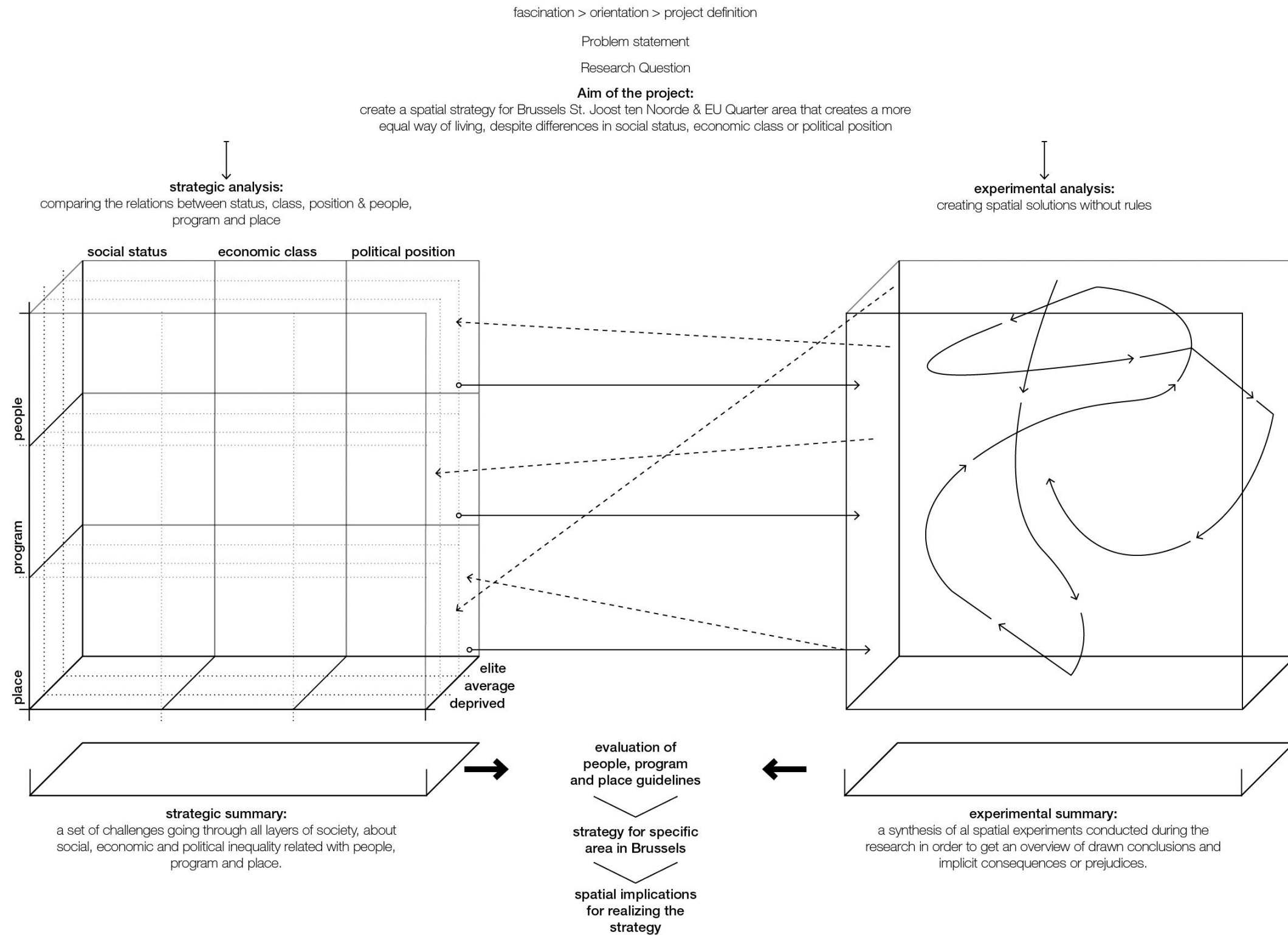


figure 5: full methodology scheme, made by author

### 3.2 Strategic analysis

Coming from three pillars of Social Status, Economic Class & Political Position the relation with urban aspects is the key to solving this as an urban issue. The translation of the social status, economic class and political position into processes in an urban system is for social status: recognition of different features, for economic class: the redistribution of resources and wealth, and for political position: the democratization of decision-making processes. This is important because it's exactly these processes that are being influenced by urban aspects that are to be analysed in order to understand the malfunctions of the current system (Fraser & Honneth, 2001).

The urban system is divided in the three aspects of people, program and place. In the strategic analysis, 9 boxes are then formed.

In researching the relation between the three pillars and the aspects of people, program and place on the position of deprived, average and elite individuals in the area, we can create a coherent overview of obstacles of injustice.

	Social status	Economic class	Political position
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The recognition of people;</li> <li>-The self-recognition of people;</li> <li>-The level people are autonomous;</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Individual and group interviews</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The extend to which a network can help with distribution;</li> <li>-The amount of volunteerwork in the area aimed at distributing resources;</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Individual interviews, mapping volunteer-services.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Organization of groups of people democratizing processes/their scales of influence;</li> <li>-Voting behavior;</li> <li>-The distribution/democratization of ownership of property;</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Mapping ownerships &amp; organizations, statistics of voting behavior &amp; policies.</i></p>
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use of functions by different people;</li> <li>-Houserules per amenitie;</li> <li>-Functions with specific dress-code/appearance and/or aim;</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Fieldwork, interviews on the street</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Different types of employment possibilities;</li> <li>-Distribution of amenities and acces too them;</li> <li>-Different types of housing;</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Mapping</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Placement of political functions spatially;</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Mapping political buildings</i></p>
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Use of places by different kind of people;</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Fieldwork</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accessibility of area's per transportmode;</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Mapping</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accessibility of politically important buildings/areas per transportmode;</li> <li>-Places to gather/organise;</li> <li>-Places to express thoughts, debate;</li> </ul> <p><i>&gt;Fieldwork, mapping of transportmodes, activities, streetart, protests</i></p>

**Elite**

**Average**

**Deprived**

Figure 6: In depth methodologic questions for the strategic analysis, made by author.

Sequentially all 9 boxes will be analysed, all answering the question of: how does X influence someone's Y, in the perspective of participation parity? For example: how do people influence someone's Social Status, in the perspective of participation parity? And: how does the program influence someone's Social Status, in perspective to participation parity? Because every box has different questions every box needs a different methodology of research. Above, in

figure 6, you can see an interpretation of these relations in the strategic analysis. It must be made clear that the questions written down are not set in stone: it is probable that while analysing a certain relationship, other, more important questions will arise and some will become less important.

Every box answers something about the relation between the X & Y axes and demands a specific methodology, as can be seen in figure 6 above. In carrying out these methods, it's important to derive a distinction between deprived, average or elite actors in the situation. For example, when looking at the relation between the program and the economic class from the perspective of participation parity, and we map the distribution of amenities and the access to them, we can subsequently subdivide the map in a deprived, average and elite area. The deprived area will have very little amenities and little access, where the elite area and users of this area will have a lot of amenities, different kinds of amenities and high access to these amenities.

This differentiation is important in order to draw an conclusion about the challenges in participation parity. When making these distinctions along the way, a profile can be made of deprived area's/users in different ways, and elite area's/users in other ways, creating a complete image of the ability for participation not only humanitarially but also spatially.

After these relations are examined, or probably already begun while examining them, a matrix can be made of set of challenges or advantages that are influencing participation in the area through people, program and place. Important here is that the outcome visualizes real implications, like area's where recognition is really low, where the diversity of amenities is to scarce or how people are not able to participate in any decision-making. Only then will the framework has done its job in setting challenges that can be evaluated in order to create a realistic strategy.

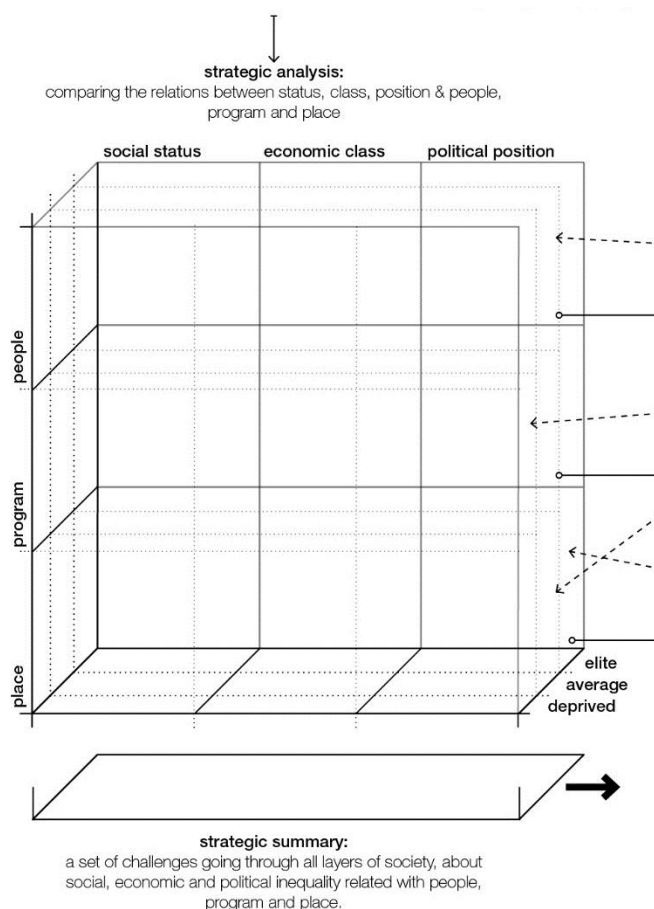


figure 7: strategic analysis schematic, made by author



### 3.3 Experimental analysis

During this strategic analysis, it's important to keep the focus on the spatial aspect of the strategy and relate the precedents to a spatial implication. For this experimental analyses are done. The experimental analyses are free-bound designs, aimed at solving the research problem in one go. These solutions won't be sufficient or complete, but will help in order to make the social, economic and political vision of this research spatial. These experiments do just that: less thinking, all learning by doing.

The more is learned by doing the strategic analysis, the less uncontrolled and the more valid the results will be. In the end, a spatial summary can be made of the experiments by making a synthesis and being able to draw conclusions of implicit consequences of certain spatial implementations and of possible prejudices in these experiments.

The conclusion of the design experiments is a synthesis of all experiments, extracting what the prejudices were when starting with the experiment, how they changed, how they influenced the next experiment and which values contributed to the understanding of the strategic analysis. Some conclusions will already be made during and after every singular experiment, in order to be able to stack the information and ad every new experiment, reach a new and higher level of spatial information then the one before.

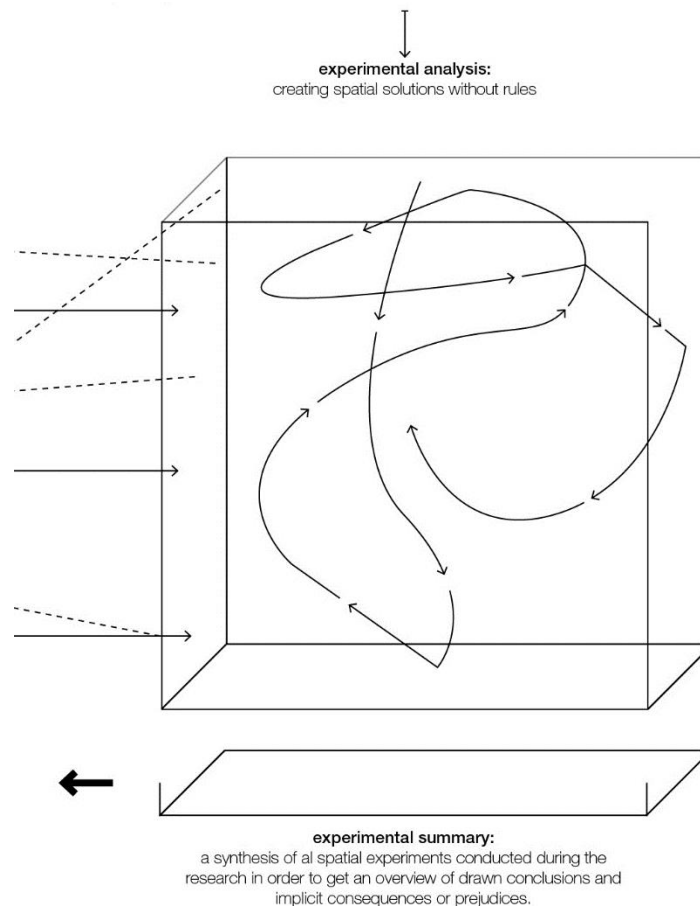


Figure 7: experimental analysis schematic, made by author

### 3.4 Evaluation

The summaries of the analyses are thus a synthesis of design by research (knowledge from the strategic analysis influencing the experiments) and research by design (knowledge from the experiments influencing the strategic analysis). Thus, both summaries are very valuable and are taking into account context specific spatial, theoretical and social information.



The summary of the strategic analysis is a set of challenges and the summary of the experimental analysis will be a set of spatial conclusions, the combination will provide a full understanding of the context. With this understanding, an evaluation criterion can be made to help in the process of proposing a spatial strategy.

Through this evaluation, the research will be able to look at aspects left untreated until now, for example through which scales certain goals should be achieved. Moreover, because the three pillars were merely divided in order to create a clear analyses, in the evaluation-phase the most important aspect will be how to combine the spatial and strategic outcomes in a way that integrates the challenges and opportunities found.

### 3.5 Strategy Design

From the evaluation, guidelines are derived that should be precisely implemented in the context of Brussels, proposing an alternative to the current society that stimulates participation parity. Through guidelines coming from the evaluation, integrative aspects of the analyses will be formed and used for the spatial strategy design.

The strategy will, just like the evaluation and the analyses, focused on the three aspects of urban systems: people, program and place.

### 3.6 Spatial Implication

The strategy is used to extract spatial principles and possibly new form of development. In this step, each of the principles will be implemented in the location. By doing so, the strategy is not only tested but also elaborated with an illustration and further explanation of the precise consequences of the strategy, for this location specifically, but the principles could also be applied in another city.

The implementation of the strategy probably needs a multidisciplinary approach with the collaboration of urban designers, planners, sociologists and public policy makers. The implementation will thus be done with the management of different stakeholders involved in the project as advisory.

### 3.7 The Time planning

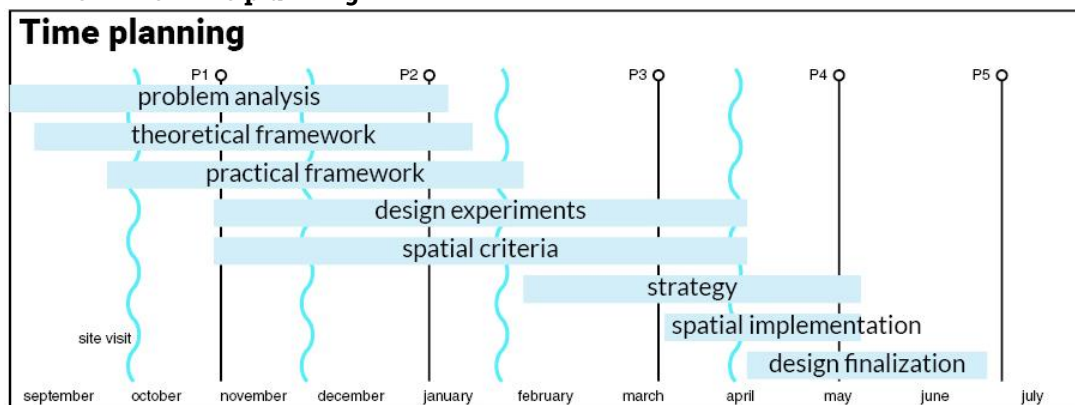


Figure 8: time planning, made by author

#### January 2017

Week 02:12.01: Hand in Theory paper, P2 report & Graduation plan at 16:00.

Drawings, presentation material, etc, for P2 Presentation, experiment #3 & #4

**Week 03:18.01: P2 presentation**

**Week 04:** Evaluation results + adding improvements to products + spatial experiment #5&6

#### February

*Week 05:* Location visit: secure interviews or conversations with locals about influence people-social + spatial experiment #5

*Week 06:* Analyse influence people-economic & politic + spatial experiment #6

*Week 07:* Analyse influence program & it's relation with social, economic & political position + experiment #7

*Week 08:* Influence place & social, economic & political position + experiment #8

*Week 09:* Summarize

## **March**

*Week 10:* Evaluate + Hand in P3 products

*Week 11:* P3 progress presentation

*Week 12:* Post-P3 evaluation, changing methodology

*Week 13:* Evaluate + set up strategy

## **April**

*Week 14:* Assessment evaluation + outcomes with professionals

*Week 15:* Specifying guidelines and strategy

*Week 16:* Spatial implication of strategy

*Week 17:* Finalization of the strategy and it's spatial implications

## **May**

*Week 18:* Finalize spatial Implementation

*Week 19:* Present materials for pre-P4, studio review?

*Week 20:* P4 Presentation/ Send invitation to whomever for P5 presentation

*Week 21:* Change according to feedback P4

*Week 22:* Visualize spatial implementation + finalize details

## **June 2017**

*Week 23:* Report & presentation

*Week 24:* Presentation

*Week 25:* Practice P5 presentation + hand in P5 report

*Week 26:* P5 presentation.

# **4. The Relevance**

## **4.1 The Literary References**

The work of Nancy Fraser and part in the book 'Redistribution or Recognition' is the main guiding theme in setting up the methodology for this research. Although she delivers a clear message and a vast amount of information about this, obviously more is needed in order to form a coherent literate background.

To start, more background on societal values of justice and equality can be found in the writings of Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, David Harvey, Jane Jacobs, Henry Lefebvre and Leonie Sandercock. They all speak about a heterogenic environment, and with their writings put together a complete view of the challenges and opportunities of a heterogenic environment; like the location this research covers.

Also the books covering recognition from a basic human viewpoint are important for consideration: Georg Hegel, Charles Taylor and William Whyte are the most important scholars in this respect.

Moreover, information about the economic side of justice should also be reviewed. Michael Keith and Neil Smith are taken as the main scholars guiding this part of the research.

An example of the books referred to written by the beforementioned scholars:

Arendt, Vita Activa - 1958

Nancy Fraser & Alex Honneth, Redistribution or Recognition – 2001

Foucault, Madness & Civilization – 1961

Harvey, Rebel Cities – 2012

Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit – 1807

Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities - 1961

Keith, After the Cosmopolitan – 2005

Lefebvre, The Critique of Everyday Life - 1991

Sandercock, When Strangers Become Neighbours - 2000

Smith, The New Urban Frontier – 1996

Taylor, The Politics of Recognition – 1994

Whyte, The Social Life in the Street - 1988

## **4.2 The Social, Scientific and Ethical Relevance**

### **Social**

The development of Brussels after and before its ascension as the capital of EU has been described, discussed and criticised in many studies (SOURCES). Some of the most discussed issues around this redevelopment were the increasing role of the European Union in the development process of Brussels, as the development is not always focused on the current citizen using the area, but more towards possible future high-end users.

Although this is a still highly relevant topic, Brussels is also facing new issues. As the area where the European Union is situated is becoming highly segregated from the rest of Brussels, conflicts continue to spark the area. Multiple terroristic attacks have affected Brussels and many other terroristic attacks have been planned by bad blooded Brussel citizen.

In the meanwhile, development aimed at the European Union is steadily growing while nearby areas are still in despair. This raises discussions about investment, equality and power relations in the city. It is therefore important to explore strategies that take into account the equality of society and the way everybody is able to participate in society, despite any social, economic or political status order.

Although this research is specifically focused on Brussels, similar problems occur in various developed cities. Therefore, the conclusions, strategies and designs of this thesis can function as a reference and inspiration for other cities with similar issues.

### **Scientific**

Extensive amount of research focusses on participation in society. Most of this research is from the viewpoint of sociologists, anthropologists, public theorist or some other one-sided scientific viewpoint. In urbanism, there is less attention for the combination between social, economic, political and development in cities. Especially in relation with contemporary situations as populism, terrorism and 'the fall of democracy' some say, exactly the integrative view of an urbanist can shed a light on these developments that the separate scientific specialities won't be able to offer.

### **Ethical**

This graduation project is questioning the status quo of contemporary urban research and the development of society: what is the difference between sociology, what is the essence of democracy, what will make it succeed or fail?

Sustainable societies should be able to form equity in participation, independent of any status order. In Brussels, the status order is forming an

indisputable size of polarization between citizens. The focus of its cities development contains several unethical aspects, that are to be covered by this research:

The city is being used as a power tool, attracting powerful people who pull money out of the city despite its local needs.

The institute that is stimulating most of this unjust development is responsible for the just growth of economy.

This institute is simultaneously eating away of the environment of the deprived, sending them away to the periphery.

It is the role of the urban planner/designer to influence these issues. This project aims at offering an alternative for the people that are now being pushed to the side, and looking at ways to provide a more socially, economically and politically just development

## 5 Literary sources

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# Interim Report of Progress

## 1. Problem analysis

### 1.1 Segregating Europe

Europe is in a process of social, economic and political segregation (Tammaru et al, 2015). To counteract this process, a stimulation in participation could be an adequate remedy (Honneth & Fraser, 2001; Vertovec, 2001; Fincher et al, 2004)

The crucial focus area for this subject is St. Joost ten Node & it's border with the European Quarter. Why this is the crucial focus area is clarified below.

### 1.2 Focus area

The first and foremost process that ignited the problems in this areas are formed because of Brusselisation.

Brusselisation is very similar to Hausmanization. Brussel always wanted to be an important capital city, and after a rise in poverty after suburbanisation and the bad timing of inviting migrant workers, the governance saw their chance.

Instead of taking care of the problematic architecture, Brussels government chose to invest in urban arteries to connect the inner-city for people from outside, as they wanted to affirm their position as a capital of Belgium, and in the future of Europe.

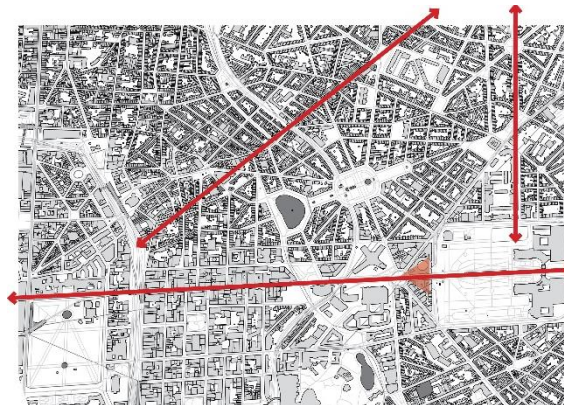


Figure 1: Brusselisation transport-arteries, made by author

Besides these large transport roads, big institution buildings for the EU and other administrative giants were built, again, in despite of the poor residential qualities of most of their neighbourhoods.

All this, lead to the creation of something that is now known as 'The Poor Croissant':

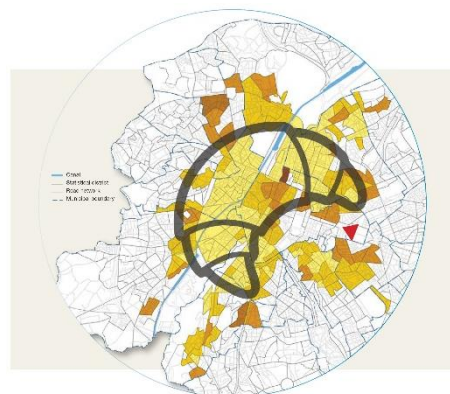


Figure 1: "The Poor Croissant", made by author & Guérin et al (2004)





Figure 3: The Poor Croissant',in combination with the EU quarter, made by author

This croissant has it's ends at the biggest concentration of European Institute buildings in the world, as seen in figure 3. This creates a level of segregation in the area that is unknown in other places in the Netherlands or Belgium. This can also be seen very clearly when mapping the income and unemployment rates in this part of Brussels.

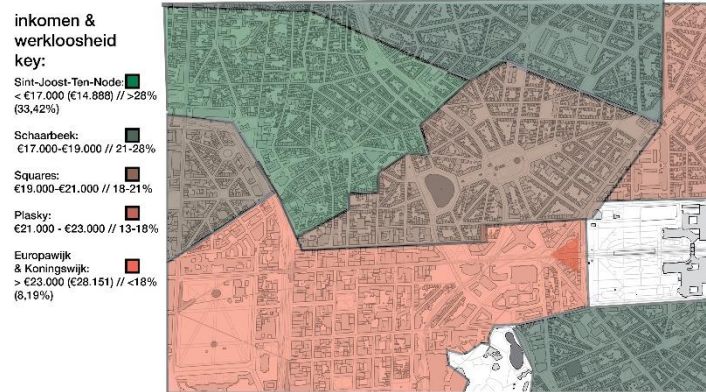


Figure 4: Income & unemployment rates, made by author

When, subsequently we lay the infrastructural changes that were implemented during the process of the so-called 'Brusselisation', we clearly see the connection between the employment/income-rate differences in the area and the changes made with Brusselisation.

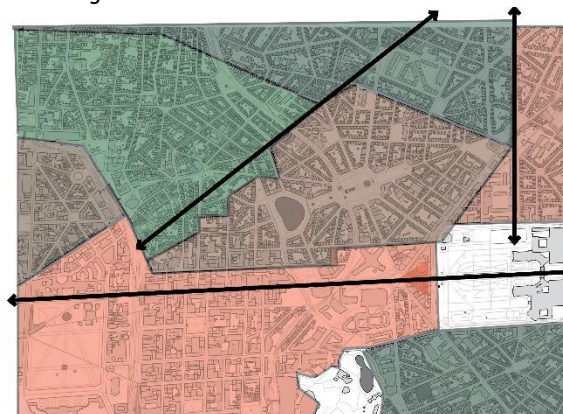


Figure 5: map 3 in combination with the Brusselisation structure.

As a result of this, and of the fieldwork, two segregated localities are derived. First: the EU-quarter. It's a area filled with politicians, driving in their cars



from one place to another, making important decisions that affect big area's in Europe, but don't relate it to their direct environment, or so it seems.



Figure 6: a collage of the EU-quarter, it's activities, users and overall identity, made by author



Figure 7: a collage of St-Joost ten Node & Schaarbeek, it's activities, users and overall identity, made by author

## 2 Research

As the methodology is finished, the first steps into the research have been taken. As described in the Graduation Plan, the research will follow partly a strategic analysis, and partly an experimental analysis, constantly exchanging feedback and in that way creating a research based design and a design based research. The first outcomes of this process will be discussed below.

### 2.1 First relation between strategy & experiment

After the theory analyses for the problem statement, it has become clear that part of the problem is a spatial barrier between the elite neighbourhood and the deprived. While during fieldwork for the strategic analysis, a significant difference was observed in modes of transport in relation to the influence in the economic class: in the elite area, everything is almost solely accessible by car. People park their cars in underground car parks and from there enter the buildings. Some walk around in a park during a break, but mostly the streets are filled with cars, without exception, as can also be seen from the collage of the EU-quarter in figure 6.

In the poorer area, people are mainly walking and on bikes, despite the big height differences in the area. But, experiencing myself when visiting the area, it was very unattractive to use a bike to get around in the EU-quarter. To solve this discrepancy in modes of transport, a heightened park is added to form a connection between the elite and deprived areas.

This park gives cyclist an attractive and relaxing route to the elite area with economic potential, while also stimulating the users of the EU-quarter to walk more towards the north, where there are multiple different places for spending your break. To make it even more attractive, the heightened park is connected to the other parks in the area, creating a big green connection through the neighbourhoods.

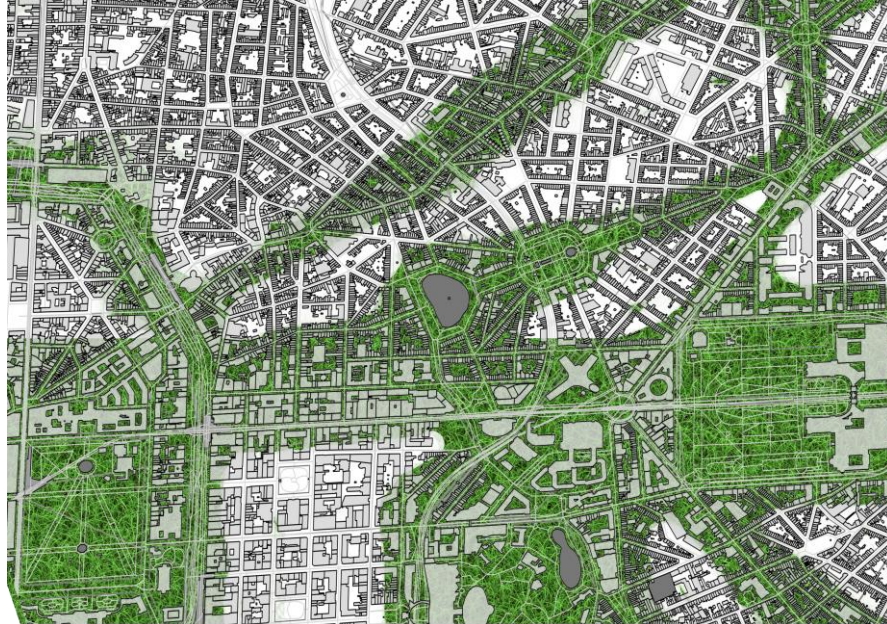


Figure 8: Top view of the extended park structure, including currently already present parks, made by author.



Figure 9: Streetview of the spatial implications of this design for the Wetstraat, made by author

## 2.2 Strategic analysis conclusions

Obviously, this experiment is asking for a very big change, without being able to show a very good outcome in solving the participation disparity. Moreover: the solution is very minimalistic, only solving one piece of the puzzle: a spatial barrier. It is interesting to see what kind of structure emerges when trying to overcome these barriers. This structure could hypothetically function in the



same way the SuperKilen park in Copenhagen functions. They designed the same kind of linear structure in between a deprived and a thriving area, creating a hub in the city where status order is diminished to zero, and where all people, young, old, Muslim Christian or gay can come to meet their peers or encounter others.



Figure 10: Photo of Superkilen parc in Copenhagen, taken from: <http://vesleuniverse.com/superkilen-park-for-the-people-by-the-people/>

The potentials of this design are there, as seen in the comparative example of the Superkilen park. When looking for a similar place already present in the urban fabric, we only see very sterile urban spaces in the EU-quarter, and mixed, but small, parks in St. Joost or Schaarbeek, that are not being used by the isolated elite of the EU-quarter. This is mapped in the map below, showing a mixed-use park in yellow and the sterile or fruitless parks in the EU-quarter in pink.

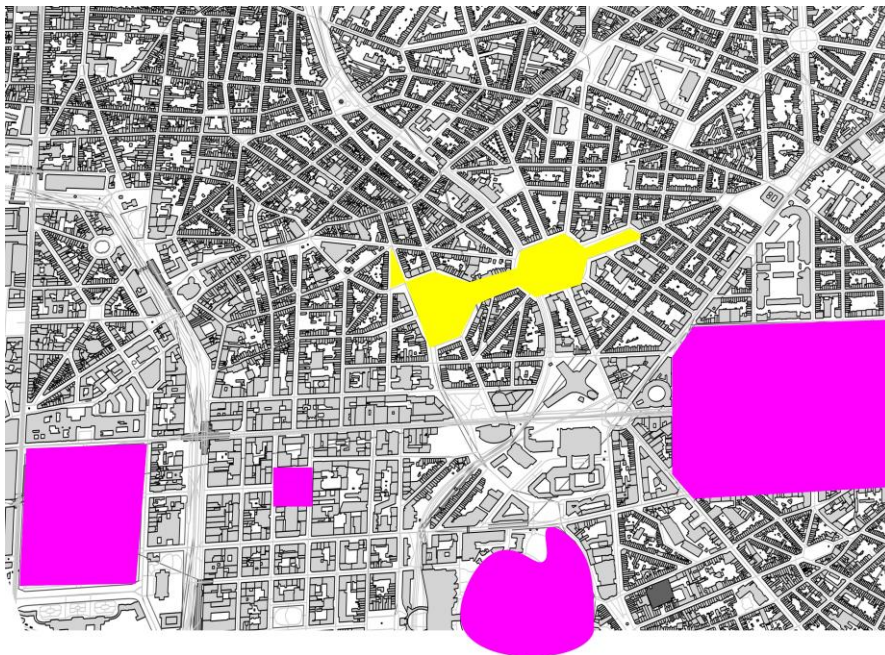


Figure 11: analysis of the public parks in the area, mixed or sterile, made by author.

Thus, we can conclude that the spatial set up of public space in the area is actually inducing the segregated notions of encounter. In the analysis of

theory for the strategic analysis of the aspect of people on the status order, we already found that encounters between different people increases integration and participation (Vertovec, 2007; Selim, 2015; Boterman & Musterd, 2015). Thus, this idea of a connecting public space, similar like Superkilen or a more elaborated version of the experiments could positively influence the participation parity.

### 2.3 Political Position

The main thing this experiment didn't respond on, was the political positioning of people, and their access to decision-making. In order to achieve engagement from people in decision-making processes, they need to have access to relevant information (Parekh, 2003). By giving a highly differentiated group of people access to the same information, an anticipated solution will be achieved, he argues. This is backed-up in many sociologist and communicative studies, where the outcome always is, the more diverging the research group is, the more nuanced and pragmatic the outcome of the question, problem, e.a. is. Thus, besides an integrative public space, an experiment with implementing an average amount of information into different peoples lives as much as possible should be carried out.

### 2.4 Experiment for Knowledge

In order to achieve this goal, the following experiment is derived. Although this example is shown in the Wetstraat, the same as the previous experiment, the actual consequence of the experiment will be through the entire city.

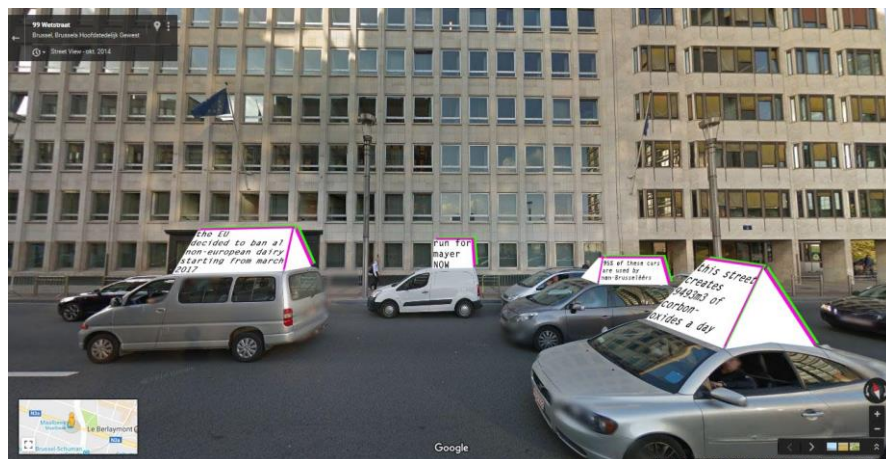


Figure 12: Collage of the Wetstraat, made by author

This experiment grabs back to situations we know from history, where the newspaper boy yells the headlines from the street corner, available for everyone, or where the buildings of newspapers or other public facilities had an interactive banner on their façade, displaying the hottest news.

The difference with this solution is that it is not limited to one place, and gives the most accurate type of information for that area, because it can be GPS-based. For example, in the EU-quarter, a car will show the unemployment rate of the neighbouring area, or a kind of conference that's publicly being held in the area. This way, people using the place will have immediate access to information that they can use in order to change a process taking place in that area.

A disappointing element of this design, is that it is not affecting anything through the different categories, but only affects the people to their political positioning by giving them extra knowledge, and thus a more powerful position in decision-making processes. Also, there is taken to little account of the previous experiment outcome, what results in a totally isolated result, that can't be related back to the rest of the analysis.

In the end, when making the experimental summary, of course, the two designs may have a reaction on each other either way, even though they have not influenced each other directly, but it should've been better if this experiment already took into account the need for a linear, integrative public space, as we concluded from the 1<sup>st</sup> design experiment.

### **3 Conclusions & recommendations**

#### **3.1 Conclusion**

This preliminary research shows that the importance for successfully completing this project lies in the interaction between the experiments and the strategy. After this integration, and only when it's being executed integrative, it's possible to coherently summarize the outcomes and complete a objective evaluation with the understanding of the spatial and strategic challenges in the area.

#### **3.2 Recommendations**

In the future research, more attention should be taken for the sequence of design experiments. This way, the understanding of spatial aspects is stacking and multiplying. By creating the experiments in a sequence, the design doesn't have to rely on the same area of method but does rely on the same type of information, and can test that information in multiple ways. This increases the value of the experiments and makes it able to even when there is a lot of information taken from the strategic analysis, still come up with new spatial criteria, obstacles or opportunities that wouldn't have been found when starting from scratch, or from just looking at the strategic part.

## **Theory Paper**

See page after for beginning full Theory Paper.

# Graduation Orientation Text

## The Report, final assignment



figure 1: poster for promoting the workshop, showcasing the first thesis, made by author



figure 2: poster for promoting the workshop, showcasing the second thesis, made by author





figure 3: poster for promoting the workshop, showcasing the second thesis, made by author.

## 1 Main Aim

The main aim of this workshop was to spark a discussion among different professionals and practitioners about the subject of 'City Identity'. 'City Identity' is a broad theme and can be viewed from many different sides. All of us had a different interest in the subject, but more than anything we wanted to organize lively debate concerning the sometimes subjectively formed goals of an urban planner, like something as 'City Identity', which will always stay only in the mind of the designer or citizen, so we thought. In the Appendix you can find the set-up of the whole workshop.

## 2 Student Organizers List

Pieterella Atten

Céline Janssen

Vera Kuipers

Kritika Sha

## 3 Date

28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016 – 14:00 till 16:00

## 4 Event title

Globalization & City Identity

## 5 Main Scope

For setting up the debate,, we formed three sharp theses, together with the guest lecturers. These theses focused on three cities where the guests had experience with.

They were as following:

~Shenzhen: Extreme Spatial Transformation and the consequence for City Identity;

~Rotterdam: Perception and Means of City Identity by Different Stakeholders;

~Coney Island, NYC: A Screwed Balance between Planning, Popular Culture and Everyday Life in the Creation of a City Identity.

These three theses were introduced by the experienced scholar in question, mentioned below. After the introduction we prepared questions to spark up a debate between the scholars but more then anything between the scholars and the interested students that participated in the debate.

More then anything, we wanted to create a environment where the students were dared to speak their mind and confront the lecturers with their diverging ideas about City Identity. This is why we had three lecturers with very varying backgrounds: to make it more realistic that students will have something to comment on at least one of them.

The first lecturer was a highly theoretical professional, experienced in the chair of Architectural Theory and focussing on a theoretical view of Shenzhen. The second was also theoretical, but from a sociologist point of view, actually stating that there is no such thing as a City Identity and any aim to strengthen or change it is just an attack on the current citizen of that city. The third lecturer was more pragmatic, having had a lot of experience with fieldwork, surveys and other anthropologists way of analysing. All this lead to a very dynamic set up for a discussing.

## **6 Lecturers & Tutors**

Main lecturers:

Gregory Bracken, Jaap Nieuwenhuis and Leeke Reinders.

Tutors attending:

Arie Romein, Stephen Read, Leo van den Burg.

## **7 Specialization**

My interest in this topic was vague, but my specialization was how to use a cities' identity in order to form a community or group that feels responsible for it's surrounding.

## **8 Reflection**

After this workshop I am much more nuanced about the aspect of City Identity then I was before. Because of the sharp opinion off Jaap Nieuwenhuis, and the curious students that constantly questioned his point of view, I, as were the students hopefully, able to come to the conclusion that a City Identity as urban planners often like to present it, is not set in stone or doing as much for the citizen as we'd like to. The relation goes the other way around: the citizen make the identity possible, and by making this identity, they create a solid ground for responsibility and care. Instead of, creating a solid City Identity where subsequently people fit in, or won't fit in.

City Identity is a very vague term and to be able to work with it is very hard. It's especially useless to try and *create* some sort of identity, this is mostly done with economic aims to attract certain offices or functions to a city, and actually *change* the city's identity instead of strengthening it.

# Appendix

## 3 Graduation Orientation

### Workshop set-up:

#### Global identity versus local identity debate

Date **28 October;**  
Time **14.00-16.00;**  
Location **Room C, Faculty of Architecture;**  
Set-up **See table below (not to be taken to precise);**

Program	Duration	Time
Debate introduction by moderator	5 min	14:05-14:10
Short introduction speaker 1	5 min	14:15-14:20
Debate 1st proposition	15 min	14:25-14:40
Short introduction Gregory Bracken	5 min	14:45-14:50
Debate 2nd proposition	15 min	14:55-15:10
Short introduction Leeke Reinders	5 min	15:15-15:20
Debate 3rd proposition	15 min	15:25-15:40
Conclusions by moderator	5 min	15:45-15:50

#### Propositions:

##### 1. **Tourism** – Venice

Economic development and local identity

*"What is the balance between the tourism-led economy, leading to mass tourism, and the local identity, the cause for this tourism economy?"*

Since the processes of Globalisation, tourism has become one of the economic drivers for some cities. Venice is the text book example of a city that has to deal with enormous amounts of tourists every single day. On the one hand this provides a livelihood for some inhabitants, because of (mostly low wage) jobs in the service sector. On the other hand, the huge influx of tourists during a day changes the identity of the city for the people who live there. They feel that their city has become a spectacle and that they are not able anymore to live their normal daily life. What is the balance between a tourism-led economy and the local identity?

##### 2. **The new economy** – China, Shenzhen

Spatial transformation and the consequence for its identity

*"How does rapid spatial transformation, due to globalisation, changes the identity of the city's original residents?"*

In the case of the pearl river delta in China, rapid city transformation has changed the spatial morphology of the landscape of urban village into global cities. In their growth, these cities have engulfed the original settlements (urban villages), along with the identity of its original citizens. To what extent do these urban villages (often with poor services and infrastructure) play a role in this identity? Can past heritage, culture or social relation, all which contribute to personal and local identity, disappear in such a situation? Then, what is the new identity? Does it conflict with the old one?

##### 3. **Creating identity** – Rotterdam, The Netherlands

The perception of identity by different stakeholders

*"What conflicts arise from different perceptions of identity by different people and organizations and how could these conflicts be tackled?"*

There seems to be consensus of the existence of a 'Rotterdam-mentality'. Citizens of Rotterdam identify the city as a harbour city, a labour city, a multi-cultural city and overall as a city that is 'down-to-earth'. However, this identity is represented by the municipality and commercial organisations, for example through architecture or events. In contrast to citizens, these organizations use identity as a tool to work with, and therefore might adapt the concept the 'Rotterdam identity' according to their own interests. City-branding is an example in which identity is used for commercial or public purposes. What is the advantage of city-branding and what are the consequences for citizens? Who benefits from a city identity? Overall, what conflicts arise from different perceptions of identity and how could these be tackled?