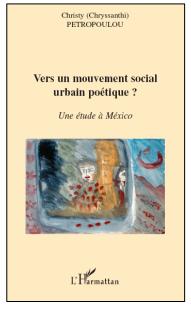


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Vient de paraître

Vers un mouvement social urbain poétique ? *Une étude à México*

Christy (Chryssanthi) PETROPOULOU

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[Abstract] By studying the case of the "poets in construction" of Nezahualcóyotl (Mexico City), this book proposes a reflection on the potential creation of a "poetic urban social movement" that especially develops in "neighbourhoods of spontaneous origin", otherwise known as "autoconstructed neighbourhoods".

Firstly, I try to understand the phenomenon of street art by the use of an urban consideration (Manuel Castells) and I seek for the influence of "the city poetic" (according to Pierre Sansot) on the street art practices of the "poets in construction". Then, taking as a starting point these various "street - art" practices I refer back to the initially used urban consideration to deeply understand the relationships established between the inhabitants of these neighbourhoods and the groups of artists, as in the specific example of the "poets in construction" in Nezahualcóyotl. In this case, the critical relationships have been built up on the base of a principle of autonomy according to which the group actions question not only official practices of the leading class but also the conventional practices of other cultural groups. The actions of this movement have somehow succeeded to be inscribed in the collective memory of the old Nezahualcóyotl neighbourhoods where the collective memory was already imbued with certain forms of previous struggles and socio-political cultural actions. Criticizing the elitist thought of "art for art", the group of "poets in construction" as part of a broader "poetic urban movement" is not only opposed to neoliberal globalization and space culture consumerism but it is also inspired by certain indigenous social movements.

The "urban poetic" inspires the poets and it is been recreated by the rebel poets poetic practices. Taken in social history, urban poetic evolves in mixing a political and an artistic rebel dimension. Everything seems to indicate that the *poetic urban social movement* contributes to the (re)creation and regeneration of a poetic space or to the (re)production of urban space according to Henri Lefebvre, but these same phenomena must be thoroughly considered in their complex interactions. If one paraphrases the words of John Holloway, the *poetic urban social movement* actions would be part of "the millions of bees bites" making the revolution happen now and every day by breaking capitalist social relations in a continuous break process and finally contributing to the redefinition and eventually real creation of poetic urban space and not only to the production of an urban space.

Christy (*Chryssanthi*) *Petropoulou* is a (PhD) doctor of Human Geography of the University Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg – France). She teaches geography at the Hellenic Open University (HOU) and also cultural geography and spatial planning at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). She has conducted participatory research on Mexico City urban social movements and she has had published many quantitative and qualitative researches on urban and peri-urban spaces, on socio-spatial and ecological segregations of various cities especially in Europe and Latin America. She has worked as an associated researcher in universities: UNAM (Mexico), UAM (Mexico), NTUA (Athens), ULP (Strasbourg). She is also a poet and painter.

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