

Abstract submitted by Ines Morales

Title:

Building new solidarities between movements: insurrectionary politics of food autonomy in the city of Athens.

Abstract:

The global tendency that we are witnessing, as Giorgio Agamben described, of “convergence of an absolutely liberal paradigm in the economy with an unprecedented and equally absolute paradigm of state and police control” (Roar magazine, February 4, 2014), is leading to the re-emergence of a socio-spatial imaginary defined not so much by institutions and political parties, but by movements creating, in their practices, discourses and modes of action, new political, social and economic spaces (Newman, 2011; Springer et al., 2012; Souza, 2014; Stavrides, 2015). Under these circumstances, and since the 2008 capitalist (debt) crisis, we evidenced how the autonomy of the cities is being challenged by radical movements across the Southern European peripheries (Stavrides, 2014; Morales et al., 2016; Nasioka, 2017). Besides the traditional economic and labour struggles, these radical movements are directly connecting with the material and emotional conditions to organize and maintain life in cities. Following this observation, in this paper we will explore the converge of the anarchist and anti-authoritarian movements together with other various radical movements as performed and experienced in Athens which have been re-constructing the food autonomy in this city since 2008 December revolts (Vradis and Dalakoglou, 2011; Nasioka, 2014, 2017). A work that has been developed by exploring the insurrectionary politics of autonomy (Newman, 2011; Newman, 2016) of the movements in the city of Athens through a two-year (2014- 2016) ethnographic fieldwork within their main autonomous spaces. To conclude that in the increasingly polarized and global city of Athens, we have perceived the reconstruction of urban food autonomy as an increased complex space where it's possible the collaboration of various urban and rural heterogeneous movements, at a local level but also worldwide (e.g. BioME (Thessaloniki, Greece), Zapatistas (México)). Cities, and in this case, the city of Athens, are perceived as relational incubators for new emancipatory scenarios. But is the existence and the everyday life collective construction of certain autonomous spaces (e.g. community urban gardens, collective kitchens) through prefigurative politics, what creates the stable ground for new cooperative relations and new emancipatory imaginaries.

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Inés Morales Bernardos forest engineer and later specialized in agroecology and organic farming is currently conducting a Phd in social science at Institute of Sociology and Peasant Studies (ISEC), University of Córdoba, Spain. In her research she is looking at urban radical movements and their practices of food autonomy with case studies in Madrid, Athens and Lisbon. As an activist she has been involved in several autonomous movements across Europe.