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Abstract Title: Recommoning with slow paths. A multiscalar approach towards access to open land in the Antwerp metropolitan area.

Thematic Track of Choice:3 - co-creation of public space

Abstract

500 words max

The Flemish territory has been affected by suburbanization for more than fifty years. Ongoing privatization has resulted in land fragmentation and increasing loss of open space. This hinders governance practices aimed at stimulating collective action in open space (Van den Broeck & Verachtert 2015). Moreover, these practices challenge the definition of private and public land ownership and move beyond the land use rights attached to private property. Creating and managing a slow paths network is one such practice, specifically pursuing shared land use or in other words the re-creation of a Landed Commons (LC). This paper illustrates how within the context of 'Antwerp South Landscape Park' (Landschapspark Zuidrand-LPZR), the slow paths network is used as a lever to create access to open land, within a highly fragmented suburban area; both spatially and administratively. Moreover, it analyzes to what extent a Landed Commons emerges on a meso-scale, and which institutional settings foster such emergence. Furthermore, it explains how partnership building, negotiations between partners and their socio-institutional context impact on the development of a Concrete Landed Commons (CLC).

This paper deconstructs building a network of slow paths in LPZR as a Concrete Landed Commons (CLC), mobilizing an expansion of Boltanski and Thévenot's (1990) Théorie des Cités (TdC+), the Grand Principles of Landed Commons (GPLC) (Van den Broeck et All. Furthcoming) and Scalar dynamics (Swyngedouw 2003, 2008).These analytical tools are summarized and then applied to the case. Furthermore, A narrative built up in TDC+ terms elaborates on how consultation helps create a network of slow paths through consensus and how mixing different cités ultimately leads to a new 'common' world. This narrative moves on to a retrospective reflection on the construction process, following three principal dynamics assessed with the Grand Principles of Landed Commons (GPLC). These dynamics include *building host communities, fostering hybrid governance* as well as *creating mixed legal arrangements which take institutional diversity into account.* The penultimate section mobilizes theory on scalar dynamics to analyze how these negotiations have nourished stepwise upscaling and recommoning at various scales. The paper concludes by giving methodological guidelines specifically on how to accelerate recommoning.The overall goal of the article is to evaluate how building this network empowers potential users, fosters inclusive social relations and produces ecological benefits.

Boltanski, L., and L. Thévenot. 1991. De La Justification. Les économies de La Grandeur. Paris: Gallimard

Swyngedouw, E., Moulaert, F. and Rodriguez, A., 2003. The world in a grain of sand': large-scale urban development projects and the dynamics of 'glocal'transformations (pp. 9-28). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Swyngedouw, E. 2008. Scaled Geographies: Nature, Place, and the Politics of Scale. In Scale and Geographic Inquiry (eds E. Sheppard and R. B. McMaster).

Van den Broeck,P & Verachtert,K.2015. Whose Permits? The Tenacity of Permissive Development Control in Flanders, European Planning Studies, 24:2, 387-406

Van den Broeck et All. Governing shared land use rights. Conceptualizing the Landed Commons. Sheltanham: Edward Elger. Furthcoming

How does your research tackle the topic of the conference? Why should we select your project?
250 words max

co-creation of public space

Within the spatially and administratively highly fragmented context of Flanders the creation of Landed Commons provides new possibilities for accessing open land. In line with the theoretical methodological frameworks described above and prioritized in the INDIGO research (www.theindigoproject.be) field research in concrete cases has revealed social, political and institutional dynamics of the governance of commons. The case of Trage wegen vzw has been chosen as a case study, as its ambition is to recuperate slow paths all over Flanders as ‘roads inaccessible for motorized transport’, reacting against the unfettered privatization and motorization of public space.

Central to the questions guiding this research is the understanding of how (and which) actors have collaborated – or can and will collaborate - towards the making and governance of a Concrete Landed Commons. Implicit questions are: What drives actors to collaborate in pursuing such a goal? What inspires or has inspired them, and how are those inspirations expressed in terms of the shape and governance gradually adopted by the Landed Common?

The case is approached as an evolving partnership of person-actors, bearing upon an emergent Landed Common, gradually setting its geographical boundaries and governance features. That evolution is structured according to specific interaction moments which are analysed using the TdC+. Furthermore, the shifting positions of the person-actors between the different interaction moments are reflected. The research reveals how the shift of positions of the person-actors is influenced by their socio-institutional logic, their position in the socio-political system, their cité affinity and the dynamics of the (inter-)actor justification and negotiation process in which social and interpersonal psychology have a role.

Short CV
Sofia Saavedra Bruno was trained as an Architectural civil engineer at the University of Ghent (1995). She obtained the Master of Architecture degree from the Berlage Institute in Amsterdam (1996–1997). She is currently undertaking a PhD on negotiating the landed commons and their governance, the case of a network of slow paths in Flanders at KU Leuven within the framework of the INDIGO project. Saavedra has been combining urban design practice and research in the Netherlands, France and the (Dutch) Caribbean for more than 15 years. She is a co-founder of Supersudaca (2001-), a collective of Latin American architects working in several countries and doing research on contemporary themes affecting society and territory.

List of your publications

(max. 5)

Saavedra Bruno, S., Van den Broeck, P., & Parra, C. (2018). Commons heruitvinden met trage wegen. Onderhandelen om de toegang tot open ruimte in Landschapspark Zuidrand.. In *Op grond van samenwerking.Woningen, voedsel en trage wegen als heruitgevonden commons* (pp. 181-207). Berchem: EPO.

Saavedra Bruno, S. (2017). Pedagogical experiment: Urban strategies and urban actions as result of a multidisciplinary approach towards community development. In B. Decleve, & A. Mezzoued (Eds.), *Kana Nos Kosta : La recherche -action territoriale en questions* (pp. 31-51). Louvain La Neuve, Belgium: Presses Universitaires Louvain.

Saavedra Bruno, S. (2014). Undivided Estates Curacao. *Volume , 38*, 64-67.

Supersudaca, R. G., Delgado, M., Koltowska, Z., Madrazo, F., & Saavedra Bruno, S. (2013). Destination Whatever: Touring the Caribbean Cruise Industry. *Harvard Design Magazine , 39*(4), 18-23.

Supersudaca., Saavedra Bruno, S., Madrazo, F., & Delgado, M. (n.d.). From Heritage to HERITAJE: How economic path dependencies in the Caribbean cruise destinations are distorting the uses of heritage architecture and urban form. In Adaptive strategies for Water Heritage. Berlin, Germany: Springer. Forthcoming.