

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON HIGHER EDUCATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, 30th June from 18:00 to 20:30.

Lecture by:

- **Susana Moliner, IED / Medialab Prado. Madrid. Spain**
- **Laura Fernández, Medialab Prado. Madrid. Spain**
- **David Pérez, Enorme Estudio. Madrid. Spain**
- **Yago Torroja, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. Madrid. Spain**
- **Salah Malouli, Opentaqafa. Casablanca. Marroc.**
- **Josian Llorente, BAU-UVIC. Barcelona. Spain**
- **Diego Peris, Instituto Do It Yourself. Madrid. Spain**
- **Representative of EVA (Espacio Vecinal de Arganzuela). Madrid. Spain**
- **Representative of Taula Eix Pere IV, Barcelona. Spain.**

Share or die! The role of makers and diy culture in research

In this session we will explain the symbology of “grigri”, the name that is given to amulets in Western Africa and their effects in the urban processes of contemporary African cities. We will also know the origin of the project and its connection to the programme “Objetos Comunes”, released by Medialab in 2016, which asks about the actual challenges of material culture in the digital era.

Medialab Prado is a citizen laboratory of Madrid’s city council that works as a meeting place for the production, research and diffusion of open cultural projects, where anybody is invited to play an active role. Through calls and collaborative methodologies, it looks for building, encourage and sustain learning and practice communities where people from different worlds (considering their backgrounds, interests, origins and social situation) could work together for the development of specific projects. In Spring 2016, Grigri Pixel started, promoted by Susana Moliner, and framed in the project “Objetos Comunes”, developed in collaboration with Constant vzw, and which sets out a reflective and critical perspective about the challenges of material culture in the digital era. Grigri Pixel’s activities in 2017 will continue the experimentation in digital making and the

reappropriation and care of public space, in complicity of several initiatives from Africa and local agents in Madrid, Barcelona y Casablanca.

Grigri Pixel is a project that questions and challenges us and, basically, is a project that connects. It connects knowledge, academic and formal knowledge with others that sometimes aren't even named as knowledge, maybe because they don't need it. It connects continents like Africa and Europe by putting in common collaborative practices of intervention, use and joy of spaces in cities. And it gets all this by practice and making. In our intervention we would like to share the way these challenges affect our practice as architects and the ways this affected practice might enrich our role as agents who build the city through the design of spaces and objects. How can we be the catalysts of a way of making city based on what there is, in order to dream and make collectively the rituals, ceremonies and re-spells that help us to recover a sense of common life in our common spaces.

Our society tends to see technology as a liberator and a problematic element. Internet, the low costs of electronic devices, Do It Yourself and Open Source (hardware and software) have promoted this type of perception and what is known as "democratization of technology". This democratization promises the free access to technologies that were before hidden and a world of new economic and social possibilities. But, is it really like this? This technology that is part of the Grigris (amulets) that we create, turns them into elements white or black magic?

As founder of Opentaqafa and link of the project with local collectives of street artists and circus, he will explain some of the problems that affect the public space and the life in common in the context of Casablanca. In his intervention, he will point out some of the responses that emerge from citizens and local communities to face up such threatens. The round table about these questions will help the creation of synergies with other participants from neighbouring and local urban initiatives (Taula Eix Pere IV, in Barcelona and EVA, in Madrid), promoting the creation of international networks of solidarity and collaborative learning. His intervention will be used to identify some of the constructive and design parameters that should be considered for the creation of the local Grigri.

Josian Llorente, as well as Todo por la Praxis, would have a role of "relator" of the Symposium and external advisor of the project, considering all the speakers' interventions. His role would be to synthesize and analyse the contents of the interventions in order to offer a vision of external expert that help advance in the project to improve it and adjust its objectives and actions at the contexts of intervention.

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EVA’s intervention will help to explain the activist and self-management experience of the neighbouring space in Arganzuela, pointing out some of the everyday problems and challenges that they face, but also the organizational strategies and the actions that they launch as response. The round table about these questions will help the creation of synergies with other participants from neighbouring and local urban initiatives (Taula Eix Pere IV, in Barcelona and Opentaqafa in Casablanca), promoting the creation of international networks of solidarity and collaborative learning. His intervention will be used to identify some of the constructive and design parameters that should be considered for the creation of the local Grigri. This way, through the symposium we could share experiences and knitting the Grigri alliances that we pursue.

Taula Pere IV’s intervention will help to explain the activist and self-management experience of the neighbouring space in Poblenou, pointing out some of the everyday problems and challenges that they face, but also the organizational strategies and the actions that they launch as response. The round table about these questions will help the creation of synergies with other participants from neighbouring and local urban initiatives (EVA, in Madrid and Opentaqafa in Casablanca), promoting the creation of international networks of solidarity and collaborative learning. His intervention will be used to identify some of the constructive and design parameters that should be considered for the creation of the local Grigri. This way, through the symposium we could share experiences and knitting the Grigri alliances that we pursue.

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