

MAPPING THE LOCAL SPRING 2020

C-AGENCY

HOW TO BECOME A SOCIAL-TOURIST

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introduction

Our group is engaged with the housing approach of the corona and the travelling context. With mapping a wider field, we focused more on understanding smaller and local phenomena and working on quick sketches rather than observe the whole structure and presenting the conclusions in one project. We are curious about the possibilities of practices like service-based approach, non-profit exchange, care-taking actions. How economical changes affect the profit-orientated and non-profit initiations. We collect our ideas about a possible agency that can mediate between foreigners/erasmus students/locals and people who are in need, or just recently got into a situation. Our agency would provide information for those who want to donate, volunteer and for those who need help but don't know where and how to start. We kept in mind that our target group is not the people who intended to help, but also people who need help. So beyond online platforms and communication, we chose Fedél nélkül magazine and Tilos Rádió (radio and free newspaper are the most available for homeless people) as a channel where we can share the information with our clients. As another way to reach people and draw attention, we can print poster-size maps, where we can share the spots which can be used for temporary accomodation. In another project, we approached the problems of housing through the question of local renting, tourism and airbnb and its financial and social aspects. First we wanted to trick airbnb with offering flat for free for people in need. Then we turned to a more critical approach, avoiding to involve and support airbnb's classic service, so we decided to advertise street spots. Through our brain storming and study circle, we reached the point when we started to observe and challenge the notion of agency, etymologically and hermeneutically.

The variety of the term AGENCY

An agency is

- a business which provides a service on behalf of other businesses.
- ... a business or other organization providing a specific service
 - ... the place where an agent conducts business
 - ... the business, duties, or functions of an agent
- ... action, power, or operation (example: the agency of fate)
 - ... intercession or mediation
- ... one of the administrative organizations of a government
- ... a government organization responsible for a certain area of administration
- a group of people who sell and manage insurance contracts.

Philosophy

Agency is the ability of an actor to act in a given environment. The ability to act does not, in the first place, imply a specific moral dimension of the ability to make the decision to act. Moral capacity to act is therefore an independent concept.

Structure vs agency

In **sociology**, an agent is an individual who deals with the social structure. Sociologists discuss especially the priority of social structure over the individual capacity of people to act. **Agency** is defined as the ability of individuals to act independently and make their own free decisions. In contrast, **structures** are those influencing factors (such as social class, religion, gender, ethnicity, skills, customs, etc.) that determine or limit an agent and his decisions.

translations (*)

Group 7, Mapping the local

Translations:

<u>English</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Synonymous</u>	<u>Hungarian</u>	<u>Dutch</u>
agency	Agentur	factorship	ügynökség	agentschap
admin. agency	Behörde	authority	hatóság	autoriteit
philos. agency	Handlungsfähigkeit	[capacity to act]	cselekvőképesség	rechts-bevoegdheid
philos. agency	Handlungsmacht	[capacity of acting]	cselekvőkészség	waarnemende vaardigheden
agency	Wirkung	[effect, impact]	hatás	effect/'werking'
agency	Vermittlung [Agentur]	[instrumentality]	közvetítő	uitzending/ tussenpersoon/ bemiddeling
comm. agency	Vertretung [Firma, Agentur]	representation	képvisélet	vertegenwoordiging/ representatie
admin. agency	Amt [Dienststelle]	office / bureau	hivatal	kantoor
comm. agency	Filiale	Subsidiary comm.	fióküzlet	zakelijke accoounts

Group 7, Mapping the local

agency	Tätigkeit	[operation, activity]	hadművelet	operaties
agency	Mittel	[way, method]	eljárás	procédé
admin. agency	Dienststelle	office	iroda	kantoor
agency	Geschäftsstelle	[office, branch]	ügynökség	agenschap
agency	Effekt	[effect, impact]	behatás	impact
law agency	Geschäftsführung [Besorgung eines Geschäfts]	[conducting a transaction]	igazgatóság	directoraat
law agency	Stellvertretung	principal and agent	megbízott	curator
admin. comm. agency	Vermittlungsstelle		telefonközpont	telefooncentrale
agency	Werkzeug	[tool]	eszköz	middelen
agency	Einwirkung	[impact]	behatás	actie/inwerking
spec. agency	Instanz		instancia	instantie

Group 7, Mapping the local

agency	(ausführendes) Organ	executive body	testület	lichaam
philos. agency	Handlungskompetenz (des Subjekts)	[capacity of acting]	cselekvési kompetencia	actie vaardigheid/ handelings- vaardigheid
agency	(wirkende) Kraft	[means of exerting power, produce an effect]	ágencia	
agency	Büro eines Agenten	[office of an agent]	ügynökség	

I tried to find public spaces, spots, which are suitable for basic needs (partly hidden, accessible, protected from rain, wind, etc.). Also all the collected places I have seen in use. All of them near to places, which can offer some additional supply, basically food and leftovers, like shops, market or restaurant.

-Anda

I chose a monument in my street, and tried to map the urban language in the surroundings. The houses, hotels and graffiti. The monument I chose, was a spot where I found a homeless group of three people. One day I gave them food and beer. The zooming out of being a foreigner and losing 'my own' community (University) made me realise that a community is something we can search for close by or far away. Since my social life changed (less consuming), I decided to use a little part of my food-money (which is governmental money from Belgium, the Erasmus grant) to share food with the ones who need it. Like I would do when I invite my friends. In the beginning of quarantine I paid a 2000 huf hostel for someone, but I always felt that feeling of wanting to do more. It already shows the inequality and it made me rethink my position.

I would not do this if I would not be alone the whole day. I couldn't ignore that in the beginning of quarantine nobody was in the street and I got talked to even more in my own street by homeless people. If you see your street as your village, then you should do what lies in your possibilities to organise that village. Food and shelter are basic rights. In the airbnb-hack I make fun out of the hotel, as a monument from the past to be visited. And that public space can finally be used again as a space for encounters instead of (over-)consuming.

-Ine

social use public space

I was on my way to pick up a package at the post office in Gyárdűlő. When I passed the stadium on my way there, an elderly man was lying under the bridge sleeping. Less than an hour later I walked back the same way. Because the man had disappeared, I

photographed his sleeping place under the bridge with my mobile phone. Shortly before a railway underpass there was an old tyre coat. The grass around the tire looked as if two people had been sitting comfortably and drinking beer together.

Someone had neatly thrown his empty cans into the tyre. At the

other end of this railway underpass was an old advertising board. When I wanted to take a photo of the billboard, I noticed that two people were sitting on the bridge and watching the moving trains. Furthermore, it was possible to climb on the old advertising board and look from there to the street. The

place was like a viewing platform to observe the surroundings.

-Joshua



-Anda

5,04 x 2,38 meter - the size of a 24 sheets billboard, equals 12 sqm.
A small space, a cell, a micro apartment, a mobile home in the densely populated, gentrified area of Budapest's 7th district, in a city, where homelessness is criminalized.



10th of March 2020
billboard Andreas Fogarasi
project in coproduction with
FKSE



11th of April 2020
billboard Andreas
Fogarasi overed with the
gouvernemental
information



The place
tourism-
advertisement
gets 2
billboards =
two 'homes'

-Joshua



-Ine

ONE SIDE HOTEL. OTHER SIDE THE URBAN NOTES FROM
PEOPLE RENTING OR SELLING THEIR FLATS. IN THE SAME
AREAD THERE IS A BRAND NEW HARD ROCK HOTEL WHICH IS
ALREADY USNG PUBLIC SPACE WITH THEIR FLOWERPOTS ON
THE PAVEMENT

Small town versus city experience

The small town where I live evokes the sense of the countryside, in recent years the illusion has started to disappear. Although the people here don't work extensively with livestock farming anymore, there is still a decent number of people who have fowl, horses and goats etc. With the pandemic came a new wave of residents who started to dabble into animal keeping. families, who moved here in the last fifteen years and never pursued this, started to buy these animals through the village's private group on Facebook. New posts appeared about taking care of them, and also about growing cultivated plants. Of course a lot of the locals here already have vegetable gardens with plants and herbs, but in a matter of a few months the number of these grew dramatically.

Since most of the residents own houses here, we are not confronted with the problem of living space in relation to the pandemic, unlike the more densely populated areas such as Budapest. In the beginning the stores and shops got wiped out, caused by panic buying but nowadays it seems like people turned to sustainable consumption at least for now. So this thinking can be applied in smaller communities such as this one, but in bigger cities with a larger population it is much harder to duplicate. -Veronika



your layout

use

everything

1 000 EUR

ITALIANI'S

FUVAROZÁS

LAKÁSOK, TELKEK TELJES
KÖZHASZNÁSI PÉNZMŰKÖZMŰVÉZET
ALVÁSI OTT

S III

06-30-542-1149



new people
shop now

rental price, just now!

early-district
rental right for sale
good layout

00-542-1149

FIVAROZAS
MASOK, TELKEK TELJES
ANTASA PINCETOL A PADLASIGI

9600



people
shop now

00-542-1149

PILANTIS

FVAROZAS
MASOK, TELKEK TELJES
ANTASA PINCETOL A PADLASIGI
AI OT
AS III

1 000 EUR

use
everything
near price, just now!
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good layout

9600

BUDAPESTI SZÁLLÁS
ERŐSÍTÉS
KÖRRE

DELAS NOSSAS VIDAS.
DELAS NOSSAS CASAS.

LITA MOO

egés
erüle
atört

orto
SETEMBRO
15

BUDAPESTI INGATLANOK
ÉRTÉKESÍTÉSE
NEMZETKÖZI ÜGYFÉLKÖRRE



布达佩斯公司

to
EMBRO

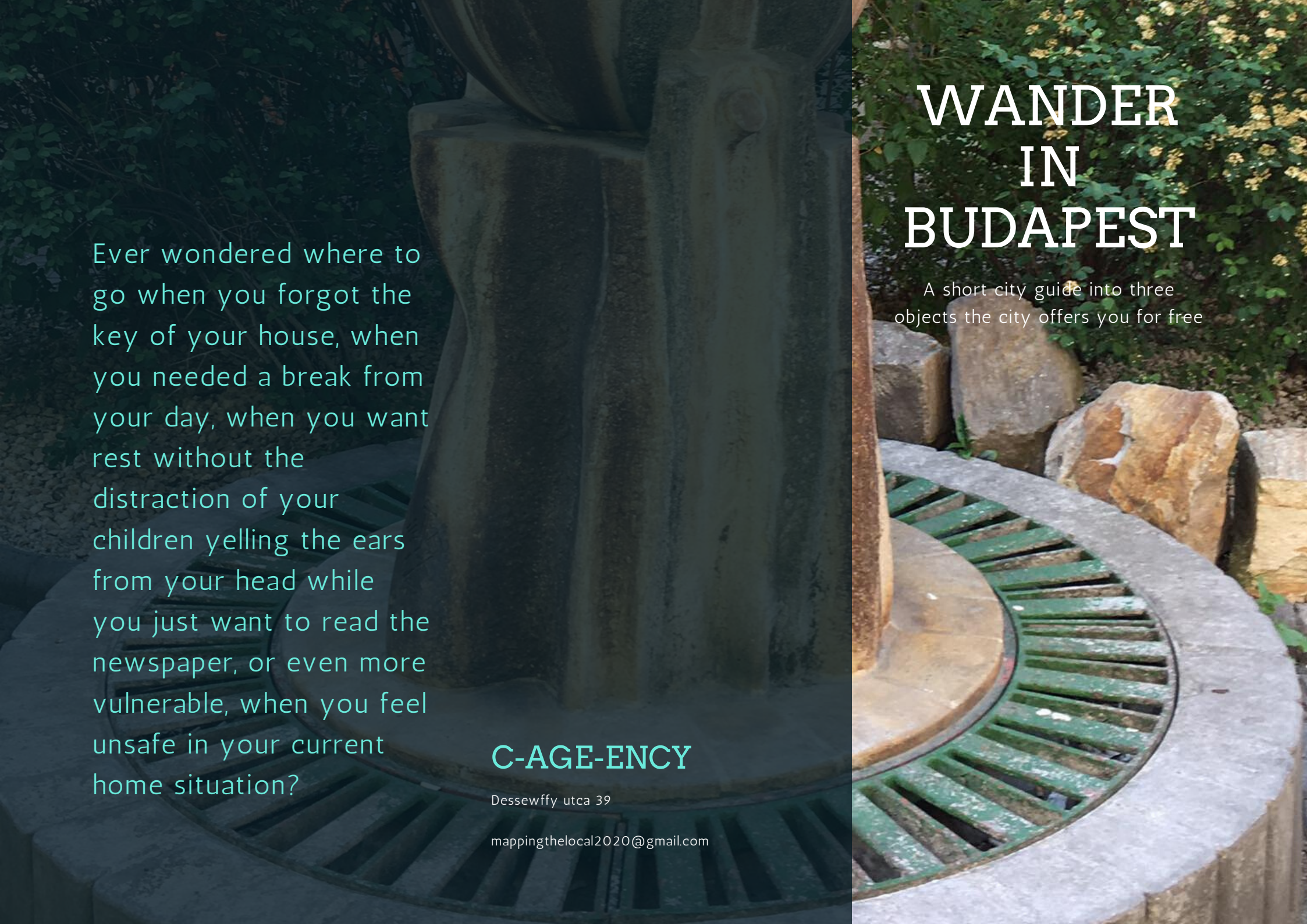
There are people who live their everyday life, but it is much more reserved these days with most of the stores and places for entertainment purposes closed. The overall feeling is that everything is kind of empty, since the tourism came to a halt with the borders closed.

It was an important source for people with businesses that catered to these travellers, since a very significant part of their income relied on them, that is now either missing or is decreased. These visitors were also the part of the sight of the different places they visited. With them disappearing the outlook of these environments changed. That is why a lot of industries are struggling, because their absence also means income absence that would have come from them.

Air bnb-hack



The set up-draft of the page is made, but due to problems with proving my identity, my ID got rejected twice, we just implement the draft and the folder with explanation. The concept is to have this space as a contrast to all the other 'expected' houses on the website.



Ever wondered where to go when you forgot the key of your house, when you needed a break from your day, when you want rest without the distraction of your children yelling the ears from your head while you just want to read the newspaper, or even more vulnerable, when you feel unsafe in your current home situation?

C-AGE-ENCY

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WANDER IN BUDAPEST

A short city guide into three objects the city offers you for free

DESTINATIONS

Monument

This monument is not quite sure what it is, because it misses some information board. In the past there used to be drinking water floating out. We will ask to install this again like this. Free water for the neighbourhood. Maintained by the neighbourhood and a great catalyst - water to bring public space again for non-commercial events.

Bench

The bench is an object that enables us to sit, lay down, sleep, relax, brings strangers together etc. Also voluntary maintenance works by the users are welcome. To sustain a place we don't always need money.

Garden

The garden can be taken care of and also organised by its users. Planting food, flowers, spices, all is welcome in this part of our city-garden..

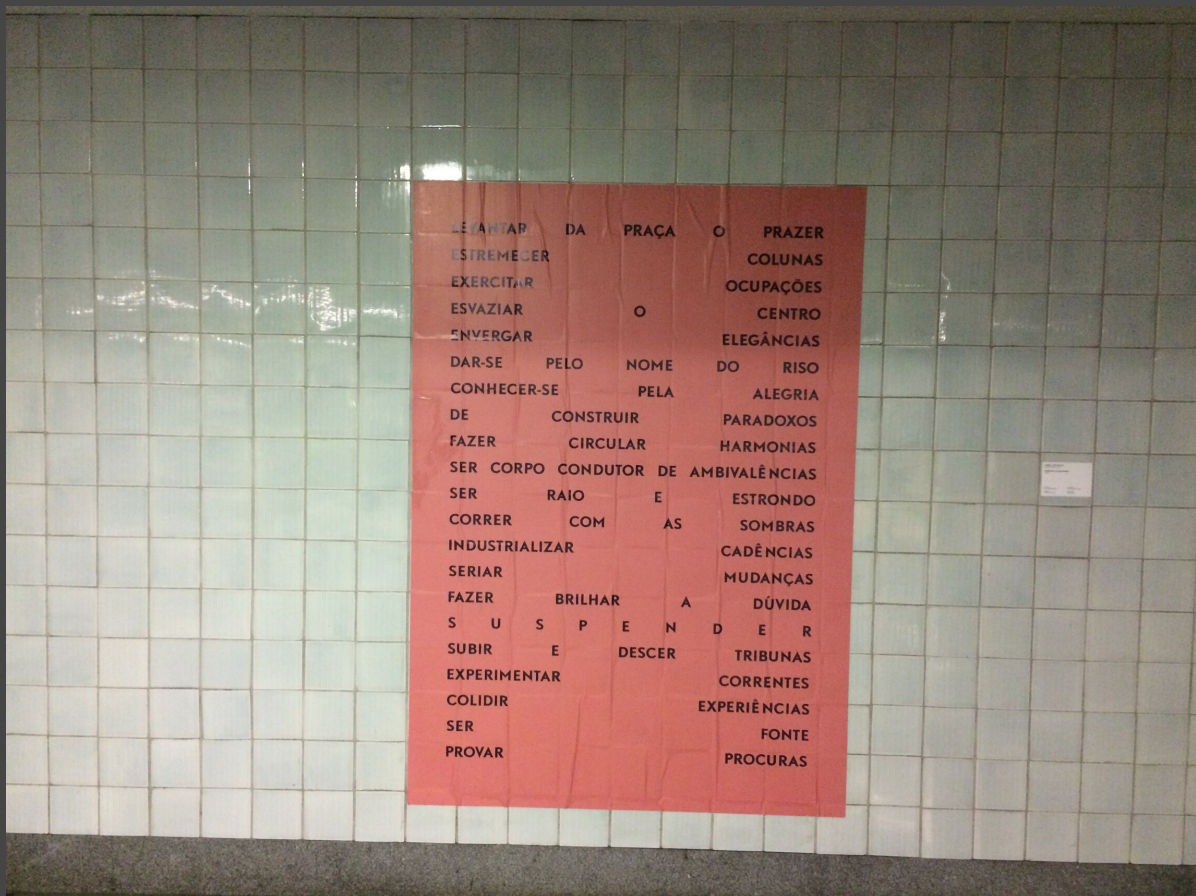
Ofcourse we accept donations for maintaining the monument and organising events every now and then on this spot.

USE PUBLIC SPACE

Since we missed all this time a social house without needing to consume, we now offer you this place to gather together.

For free for the users.
All located in Dessau city, 6th district.

Touristification- Tourism/activism example porto 2018

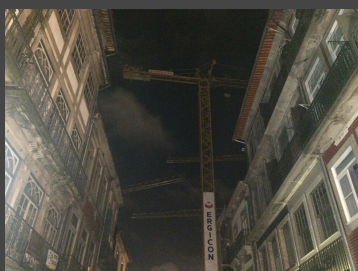
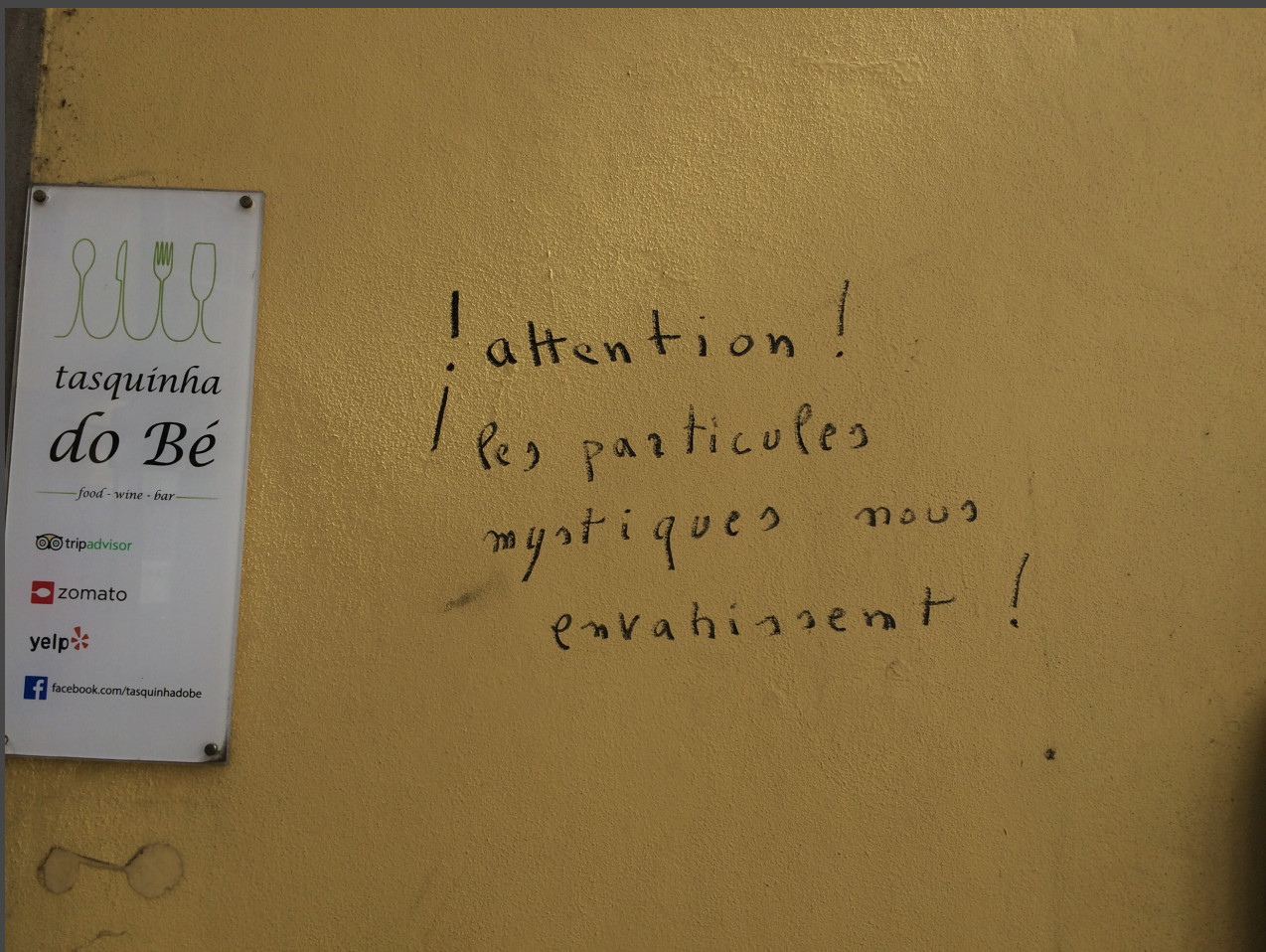


-Isabel Carvalha (Portugal 1977)
Indisciplina Rigorosa 2012



-Von Calhau (Deserto, 2006)
Muro 2018

expo:
Ver as voces dos artistas
curadorio:
Miguel von Haño Perez
organisation:
Sao Azul e Maus Hábito
coproducio:
Metro di Porto



"attention
mystical
particles are
invading us"

TOURIS M/ACTI VISM

PORTO 2018

INE VAN HOREN

"GIVE BACK OUR HOUSES."

When we were wandering around in the beautiful Porto, the whole city was speaking to us. Construction works going on, but also answers from people in the form of posters, screaming for attention. Touristification, workingmen and big cranes showed the Porto that was yet to come.

RETHINK RADICALLY REASONS TO TRAVEL

Dear Tourist,

Are you staying in a lovely renovated room that is listed on AIRBNB or similar websites?

this is happening because the residents are being EVICTED from our lovely CITY CENTRE.

EXTRA-INFO



PELAS NOSSAS VIDAS.
PELAS NOSSAS CASAS.

LUTAMOS

~ Porto ~

22 de SETEMBRO

marcha >>>>>>> 15H

LARGO DE SÃO PEDRO DE MIRAGAIA

media to reach



Care-taking possibilities (hostel, hotel, bread tickets)

We collected a few examples how profit-based businesses took action and added a non-profit direction to their company.

We observed business models, who have different models on how to release social responsibility and hospitality within a profit-orientated business. Hotels, hostels and airbnb provide housing and short-term staying possibilities for those in need. Bakeries started to emit bread tickets that can be bought by customers and given to people in need, who can use it for free bread. One can say collecting and donating food, or using the commodities of restaurants for charity, became much more regular than before.

“A not so fictional interview”

When our research on AirBnB was at an advanced stage, we found hotels that were lending rooms to homeless people as a result of Covid-19. We wanted to ask the hotels the following questions:

1. What does it mean to you as a hotel manager to open your doors for the homeless people.
2. Are there any political or personal barriers to offering your hotel free of charge to the homeless?
3. How do the homeless people behave in the hotel rooms?
4. Could you imagine that this concept would also work in the future, for example in the off-season?

We called a hotel in Mainz. The lady on the phone told us she was not authorized to answer such a question. But she was kind enough to put us in touch with the manager, who would call us back as soon as possible.

After a week without a call back, we called the hotel again.

It turned out that the management had decided that no further interviews would be held for the time being. After the hotel had been in the media with its project, the management had received numerous comments on the project. Although the enthusiasm was often high and was welcomed by the public, negative voices were also heard. The engagement was described as a "nice PR campaign". However, it was precisely from the hotel's most important target group - business guests - that a number of complaints were received that people no longer wanted to book rooms used by homeless people. The management was currently being advised whether to continue to go public, but would continue the project for the time being.

Another example is located in Belgium, Brugge:

Hotel 't Putje is the only hotel opening their doors for homeless people. All the other hotels in the city are closed now. I call Tina Wijns in the morning and during our interview she is also present for her guests. The conversation Gents interrupted by her saying to her guests if they want coffee, that lunch will take place at noon and since the already booked rooms need to be refunded because of the covid-19 rules, the hotel loses their income. But that doesn't take away the courage to keep on going. I hear a woman who made this decision using her role as a manager, with a human view. Not only seen as a company to make profit. But using the space she has for the current need.

Normally homeless people are anonymous during the day. They can use public places such as libraries to warm themselves, use sanitair etc. They were alone, but now they are brought together into one place. They all have a feeling of being part of something. Also Tina feels more useful, she feels appreciated. The guests gave her flowers and the whole reception was full with cards to thank her for her initiative.

The difference between now and the old situation? "Tourists are demanding, they want stuff." "And since I am retired already, and this is anyway an extra job, I will change after this to a volunteering job, to feel useful."

She organises the place and is a listener to the stories. She studied law, so she is also helping the people with their papers and to change things legally. And also because of her inner drive, to help and be present for others. A person who is already waiting for a house since 11 years, now got a place offered by the social institutes. The question of food stays, it doesn't mean if they have a house that they can afford food. The hotel became a meeting place for food distribution also, since the institutes are closed because of the current situation. The chocolate shops are giving truffles, the baker is giving unsold sweet bread on the weekend.

The place is taken care of. This is how the capitalist system and the post-capitalist system are still being able to fuel each other. The leftovers go to the social places.

I hear an enthusiastic person, but then I dare to ask how she deals with it on her own, what happens when the day is over? "I don't sleep well, I take these stories with me, and I am tired every now and then." Besnijden the goosebumps I got when she talked about her disbelief, but more important the way the guests are self-organising to take care of the space, is just encouraging. "They see that one person can make a change."

Of course she hopes to open again as a hotel, and they need tourists she says. To fill the gaps made now during the last months. Let's hope the Australian boss can make some arrangements, or the city of Brugge, to rearrange how tourism is organised here. That the gap between the lifestyle of a tourist and a homeless person can be filled in a communal way for example. Or that the experiment that happened with the new community that has been created in 't Putje can be moved to another space for them to live together.

Service-based approach

The care-taking services and the activity of social workers has been limited and reduced due to the coronavirus.

Taking examples from certain types of artistic practice, service-based approach, and the gesture of exchanging to support each other (Andrea Fraser, e-flux Time/Bank) can be adapted to the current situation.

The German Federal Government as a travel agency:

Reaction on a newspaper article

Just like the goose at Christmas, asparagus belongs on the plates of many people in Germany in spring. This year, however, asparagus is in danger and Covid-19 is, of course, to blame for this. At first it looked as if hundreds of thousands of harvest workers from Eastern Europe, who prick the asparagus every year and pick strawberries a few weeks later, would not be allowed to cross the border at all. In mid-April, the ministries of agriculture announced that 40,000 seasonal workers would be allowed into the country in April and May. This eases the situation for the farmers, but does not solve all the problems. In a normal year, about twice as many workers would enter the country.

Under increased security precautions and in buses chartered for the trip, the workers are brought into the country and directly into quarantine. During the high point of the lock down in Germany, opinions were very divided about this procedure. But since the fields have to be harvested and there is a lack of skilled workers for this work in Germany, it was mainly the asparagus cutters who were allowed to cross the borders, in addition to the numerous German travellers brought back from abroad by the government. During Covid-19, the German government becomes the travel agent for more than 250,000 Germans who want to return home.

Another type of travel took place despite the highest lock down level between Italy and Germany. Covid patients were partly transported by the German Air Force from the Italian crisis regions to German hospitals with free capacity. But for this solidarity with Italy's neighbours, the German government had to take a lot of criticism from parts of the population. Who pays for these journeys? The presumed costs were estimated by the Ministry of the German Health Minister at up to 20 million euros.

Suddenly the macabre question of the value of a human life is raised. While the Internet seems to hold endless answers to this question, the discourse does not help the actual problem. Finally, denial of assistance is a punishable act in Germany.

While it has become almost impossible for normal travel agencies to organise trips due to corona, the state takes over this function in times of crisis. At the latest this makes clear what a privilege free travel in Europe, but also travel in general, is. Too everyday, advertising, Instagram and airlines want to offer us travel as a natural part of our lives. Now, at the latest, it is obvious to see that this is not the case.

Consumers purchasing habits

Our group focused mainly on the various changes that take place in the cities in relation of the covid-19 crisis. When the first restriction came into consideration in the government, the population of most countries decided the same thing: buy as much non perishable food and supplies as they can. This phenomenon resulted in supermarkets being totally emptied as well as the smaller stores (for example butcher's, bakeries among others) and the people who don't have the same financial safety as others were stuck in a position, where even if they have the money to buy the necessary thing for their daily life, the stores do not have the needed products. And this situation continuously widens the gap between society's most and least affluent. The sight of the bare shelves tricked our mind into thinking what the media also portrayed: there isn't enough supply for everybody, so if we have the resources we should buy as much as possible.

But for the people who are in need this situation is far worse under these circumstances, because even if they have the possibility to stock up they meet with the worst thing: they are not able to provide for themselves and their families.

In this crisis so many of us lost their jobs, (since the government's guidelines restricted a lot of different businesses) and the percentage of the unemployed skyrocketed. In sync with this a lot of citizens can't afford the lifestyle that they previously could, in some extreme cases this results in becoming homeless.

Economy perspective

The partial suspension of economical, service and gastronomic processes results not only in the effect on the consumer society, but it also leads to the reduction of the marginalised communities' resources. The possibility of collecting or asking for food, leftovers, for asking for donation, money and dealing with service sector's worker as an exchange (many times restaurants, bar and shops deal with local homeless people, they get products for doing smaller helps and jobs for the crew, e.g. cleaning the street, bring the garbage can out) has been vanished in this current situation, period March-May 2020.

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Small town versus city experience

The small town where I live evokes the sense of the countryside, in recent years the illusion has started to disappear. Although the people here don't work extensively with livestock farming anymore, there is still a decent number of people who have fowl, horses and goats etc.

With the pandemic came a new wave of residents who started to dabble into animal keeping. families, who moved here in the last fifteen years and never pursued this, started to buy these animals through the village's private group on Facebook. New posts appeared about taking care of them, and also about growing cultivated plants. Of course a lot of the locals here already have vegetable gardens with plants and herbs, but in a matter of a few months the number of these grew dramatically. Since most of the residents own houses here, we are not confronted with the problem of living space in relation to the pandemic, unlike the more densely populated areas such as Budapest.

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*

the results:

Do we think differently about travelling? What changed? New perspectives

