

ABSTRACTS

Links between theory and action: INURA as a think tank.

Marvi Maggio (activist researcher – INURA Florence)

We are witnessing a growing wave of forums, meetings and conferences dedicated to the issues of social urban movements. At the same time new and old social fights are under going.

Some University's professors offer theories that are of great help in understanding the time we are living (David Harvey, Neil Smith, Neil Brenner...and many other and for sure all the INURA members). But University often carry contradictions and some of them lead to the fight for self formation (in Italy "the network for self formation") and to different kind of alternative universities (Uninomade) or seminaries sometimes host by universities (the art of rent).

In 1997 INURA organised an international meeting in Zurich with the aim to bring together the main thinkers involved in "theories for change" and the most interesting movements and fights that each INURA members were able to invite. Times have changed and new and old contradictions are now underway. So that is increasingly important to discuss and develop strategies able to transform power relations and everyday life.

The aim of my presentation is to discuss the proposal to organize a new INURA international conference founded on an analysis able to confront what is nowadays expressed by "intellectuals", social forums, alternative universities, seminar about urban movements, urban movements themselves..

I think this linking is one of the key task of INURA as a think tank .

"Call for paper: Topic 3.

- How can radical research/projects inform and support progressive urban social and political movements and struggles?"