



BEATRIZ G. TOMŠIČ ČERKEZ, PhD.

Beatriz G. Tomsic Cerkez is a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she earned her degree as an architect at the University of Buenos Aires. She also studied Stage Design at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of La Plata, Argentina. She moved to Slovenia, where she earned a degree in Fine Arts at the University of Ljubljana, and later received her Mr. Sc. at the Department of Sociology of Culture, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. Between 1994 and 1997 she worked as professor at the Department of Graphic Design at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. From 1998 she is professor for Didactics of Art Education at the Department of Art Education and a member of the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana, Slovenia where she earned her PhD with a thesis on experiential learning and spatial design.

Her research interests are focused on sustainable development and spatial design (in intercultural contexts, specifically in Latin America); identity and space, culture, identity and multiculturalism, spatial perception, multisensorial artistic activities and art education; and interdisciplinary art education.



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ENVIRONMENT, URBAN & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Lecture Title:	Environment, Urban & Regional Development: The Development of the City in Latin America: Reality or Fiction?
Name of teacher:	BEATRIZ TOMŠIČ ČERKEZ
Brief lecture description	<p>Regional definition and development in Latin America is almost always marked by ideal relations with Europe/USA and expressed through the dichotomies between different paths of thought among Latin American thinkers as for example »national/regional exclusivism” against »international movements«, keeping open a vivid discussion on the elements that shape the concept of “America” in the “post-modern world”. This is especially remarked in the different fields of material culture.</p> <p>The issues addressed in the lecture point out a comparative analysis of the processes of development of the city in Latin America and its becoming a mythical source of spatial, cultural, social and even national identity, sometimes based on reality, sometimes on fiction. Many observers in Latin America have little confidence that such enormous conglomerations are manageable; many worry about the future.</p> <p>The beginnings of 21st century mean a new period of evaluation, recognizing the specific differences and redefining the concepts of national identity, region, continent etc.: it seems that through the popularization of the “exotic” Latin America in the eyes of Europe and USA, a new process of “globalization” in Latin America is taking place. Emphasizing on popular culture we will try to answer questions about its role, importance and characteristics in the vast territory of Latin America. We will also try to compare similar processes in Latin American and North American cities.</p>

<p>Concepts for toolbox</p>	<p>The development of the city is a cultural process that involves questions dealing with space, social relations, environment, politics, different kinds of interests and even personal identity. Linked to <i>material culture</i>, it also reflects the characteristics of popular culture and the context in which it develops.</p> <p>The symbolic construction of »Latin America« is an important element in the discussion about <i>cultural identity</i> that could be linked to the question of <i>urban development</i>. Cultural identity is almost always marked by “Europe/USA centred visions” vs. »national paths«, “regionalism” vs. »international movements«, keeping open vivid reflections on the elements that shape identity in the “post-modern, globalized world”.</p>
<p>Reading list (selection):</p>	<p>Williams, R. J. (2005). Surreal city - The case of Brasília. In: Mical, T. (ed.). <i>Surrealism and Architecture</i>. London & New York, Routledge, 234-248.</p> <p>Wacquant, L. (2008). The Militarization of Urban Marginality: Lessons from the Brazilian Metropolis. <i>International Political Sociology</i> 2, 56–74.</p>
<p>Aims</p>	<p>The aim of the lecture is to analyze examples of city development in Latin America trying to explain which the elements that shape their specificity are; taking into account the processes that made them become a mythical source of cultural identity.</p> <p>The future of such cultural identifications as megacities in Latin America are should be a discussion for lecture conclusions. Another aim of the lecture is to open questions and reflections about the eventual further development of the concept of affiliation to the city in the context of “global uniformity” and growth of many megacities around the world</p>

<p>Workshop Titles:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Formation of Settlements in America: Foreign Models and the Local Vernacular 2) Latin American “Megacities”: A Mythical Source of Spatial Identification 3) Environment and Urban Peripheries: Between Autonomy and Domination, A comparison between urban development in Latin American and North American cities. 4) Identity, Popular Culture, and the City 5) Regional Organization: A Re-conceptualization of “America”?
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<p>Brief workshop description</p>	<p>When trying to define the elements that shape Latin American cultural identity it is necessary to refer to certain historical points: the colonial period with its ideological organization of strong social differentiation, the second half of 19th century when Europe becomes the model of development, the role of immigration, “modern ideas” at the beginnings of 20th century, national re-discovery in the fifties, national identity in the periods of dictatorship – identity and democracy, neo-liberal ideologies in the nineties and the relationship with North America. The symbolic construction of »Latin America« is an important element in this discussion.</p> <p>It is based mostly on the conjunction of “indigenous”, “colonial” and “immigrant” elements that are present in the ideas of many Latin American thinkers. We should not forget to mention the role of G. Garcia Marquez and J. L. Borges as opposed attitudes and visions towards language and life in Latin America.</p> <p>The discussions about cultural identity in Latin American are mostly marked by “Europe/USA centred visions” vs. »national paths«, “regionalism” vs. »international movements«, keeping open vivid reflections on the elements that shape identity in the “post-modern world”. The development of these ideas in the context of “globalization” should be among the contents of the workshop conclusions.</p>
<p>Reading list (selection):</p>	<p>Galeano, E. (1997). <i>The Open Veins of Latin America</i>. New York, Monthly Review Press. (Two chapters: <i>The Silver Cycle: The Splendors of Potosi</i> and <i>The Silver Cycle: The Ruin of Potosi</i>).</p> <p>Dussel, E., (1996). <i>The Invention of the Americas, Eclipse of “the Other” and the Myth of Modernity</i>. New York, Continuum. (internet source: http://www.enriquedussel.org/map.html) (pgs. 9-14).</p> <p>Mendieta, E. <i>The Othering of the Other, Santiago Castro-Gómez’s Critique of Latin American Reason</i> (internet source: http://www.javeriana.edu.co/pensar/Rev27.html)</p> <p>Martínez, T. E. (1999). <i>Myth, History and Fiction in Latin America</i>. New York, Inter-American Development Bank Cultural Center.</p> <p>García Márquez, G.: <i>The Solitude of Latin America</i>. Nobel Prize Lecture, 8 December 1982.</p> <p><u>Additional (non obligatory) reading:</u></p> <p>Romero, A., West, S. E. (eds.) (2005). <i>Environmental</i></p>

	<p>Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dordrecht, Springer.</p> <p>Craven, D. (2002). Art and Revolution in Latin America 1910-1990. London, Yale University Press.</p> <p>Lucie-Smith, E. (2005). Latin American Art of the 20th Century. London, Thames and Hudson.</p> <p>Tafari, M., Dal Co, F. (1982). Arquitectura y ciudades en Estados Unidos: La “Progressive Era” y el “New Deal”. Historia de la arquitectura contemporánea. Buenos Aires, Viscontea.</p>
<p>Aims</p>	<p>The main aim of the workshop is to give an account of the specific elements that could shape or define the formation of cultural identity in Latin America. The approach focuses on their interconnection and historical development trying to provide with “fields of observation” that will eventually play an important role even in the future.</p> <p>Another aim of the workshop is to open questions about the formation of cultural identity in general in the specific context of “globalization”, paying special attention to the processes that shape changes and redefinitions of the role and importance of cultural traditions.</p>