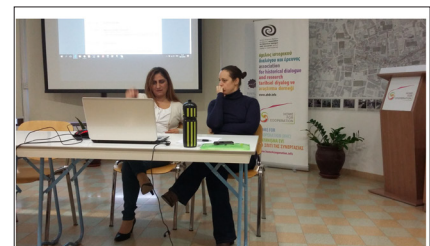


Bridging a divided island with the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology

di Alessandro Camiz

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Cyprus to this day is a divided island as it became after the Greek coup d'état in 1974. The UN buffer zone, also called green line, divides the island between the Republic of Cyprus, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In such a divided land, communication between academicians across the divide is uncommon. During the 22nd ISUF conference: City as organism. New visions for urban life, organised by ISUF Italy at the Faculty of Architecture in Rome, in 2015, a small group, comprising Nadia Charalambous, Ilaria Geddes, Nevter Zafer Cömert, Şebnem Önal Hoşkara, Naciye Doratli and myself decided to get together and establish a local bicomunal Cypriot party of the International Seminar for Urban Form. Once back in the island we organised periodical meetings at the Home for Cooperation in the UN Buffer zone with the idea of founding a unified Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology, to bring together researchers and practitioners across the divide. This bridging operation was not simple to accomplish, it requested time, patience, and strong determination. Following one year of discussion between the founding members, finally the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology CyNUM became operative. We organised its launching seminar at the Home for Cooperation in the UN Buffer Zone of Nicosia, on November 26th 2016. Şebnem Önal Hoşkara (CyNUM), Alessandro Camiz (Research Director AHDR, ISUF ITALY) and Nadia Charalambous (CyNUM) introduced the seminar. Vitor Oliveira (Universidade do Porto, Portuguese network of Urban Morphology) lectured about Learning from the experience of the Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology and Tolga Ünlü (Mersin University, Turkish Network of Urban Morphology) outlined The role of TNUM (Turkish Network of Urban Morphology) to strengthen morphological research. We founded CyNUM to promote research on the urban form of Cypriot cities and to support scientific dissemination throughout the island and abroad, acting as a first point of contact and information for researchers interested in Cypriot cities and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region. The CyNUM organises a seminar series: the first seminar took place at the Home for Cooperation on December 9th 2016. After the introductory remarks by Nadia Charalambous (University of Cyprus), Ilaria Geddes (University of Cyprus) lectured on Shifting centres and fragmenting structures: spatial trends in the evolution of the Cypriot urban form, and Nevter Zafer Cömert (Eastern Mediterranean University) presented on the Typo-morphological assessment of Famagusta old town. The abstracts and the slides of the presentations are available on CyNUM's website: <http://www.cynum.org>. The Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology is now launching its first Regional Conference, entitled Urban Morphology in South-Eastern Mediterranean Cities: challenges and opportunities, from May 16th to 18th 2018. The conference venue will be the prestigious Ledra Palace in the UN Buffer Zone, Nicosia. Conference topics include Urban Form, Social Uses, Urban Conflicts, Historical Process, Methodologies and Tools, Planning, Urban Design, Cultural Morphology, Fringe Belts and Townscape Conservation. The deadline for sending abstract of papers is November 19th 2017. You can find the complete call for papers in the conference website: <http://cyprusconferences.org/cynum2018>



Launching Seminar Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology

17:30-17:50	Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology Introductory presentation
17:50-18:20	Vitor Oliveira Universidade do Porto, Portuguese network of Urban Morphology Learning from the experience of the Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology
18:20-18:50	Tolga Ünlü Mersin University, Turkish Network of Urban Morphology The role of TNUM (Turkish Network of Urban Morphology) to strengthen morphological research.
18:50-19:30	Discussion

Thursday, May 26 at 17:30 - 19:30
Home For Cooperation
28 Marcou Dracou Street, Nicosia 1102, Nicosia, Cyprus