In numerous European cities, a variety of protest movements have been taking to the streets, using the urban arena to contest economic, social and political precarity. How can we understand such new forms of urban mobilization in a comparative perspective? And what do they mean for city administrations, for civil society groups, for urban citizens themselves, all of whom are becoming new political subjects?

This two-day conference will examine the changing nature of urban politics in and at the southern borders of Europe. Its focus will lie on new forms of urban mobilization and on new urban mobilities, asking how these are transforming the nature of European politics today.

Adopting a comparative approach, the conference will bring together scholars from a range of disciplines, ranging from area studies, anthropology and geography to political science, legal studies and urban planning. Along with academic presentations and one public keynote address, the conference will also feature a public workshop with urban artists, activists and practitioners, highlighting some of the ways in which the boundaries of the political are being reconfigured in today’s cities.

The academic presentations will be structured around 4 thematic panels:

- New urban politics, new urban publics
- Gendering the city: new geographies of embodied difference
- Neoliberalizing the city: the new geographies of dispossession
- Divided cities: new mobilities, new exclusions

The invited keynote address will feature Prof. dr. Ayse Caglar, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna.
Thursday 19 December
Allard Pierson
Nina van Leerzaal

9:30
Registration & Welcome from ACES and ACMES directors; introduction to the conference
10:00-12:00
Panel I: New Urban Politics, New Urban Publics

Judith Naeff (Leiden University) Taste of Cement: A corporeal film essay on urban destruction and reconstruction
Dimitris Soudias (Philipps Universität Marburg) Towards an Alter-Neoliberal Critique: Resistance in Athens between Emancipation and Unwitting Reproduction
Cristiana Strava (Leiden University) Moroccan Megaprojects and the Making of New Social Geographies

Discussant: Robbert Woltering (UvA)
Chair: Milou van Hout (UvA)
12:00-13:00 Lunch
13:00-15:00
Panel II: Gendering the City: New Geographies of Embodied Difference

Sabrina Stallone (UvA and University of Bern): Building Gendered Futures: Rawabi and Urban Palestinian-ness
Elisa Fiore (Radboud University Nijmegen): Gendered Islamophobia and Urban Regeneration: The Material-Aesthetic Dimension of Fear in Rome’s “Banglatown” and Amsterdam’s Indische Buurt
Hanna L. Muehlenhoff (UvA): (In)visible in the city: The LGBTQ movement in Turkey after Gezi

Discussant: Maaike Voorhoeve (UvA)
Chair: Lora Sarislan (UvA)
15:00-15:30 Coffee
15:30-17:00
Keynote Address: Prof. Dr. Ayse Caglar (Vienna)
Migrants, cities and contentious politics
17:00-17:30 Presentation of ACMES Thesis Prize
17:30 Drinks reception
Friday 20 December
Allard Pierson
Nina van Leerzaal

10:00-12:00
Panel III: Divided Cities: New Mobilities, New Exclusions

Anna Secor (Durham): Anxious encounters with difference in urban Turkey
Deniz Yonucu (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München): Counterinsurgency in the City: Racialization of Alevis and Incitement of Counter-Violence
Himmat Zoubi (EUME programme Berlin): Between ‘Parallel Time’ and Parallel Space: The Scene and the Unseen of Palestinian Cultural Spaces in Haifa

Discussant: Natalie Welfens (UvA)
Chair: Luiza Bialasiewicz (UvA)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-15:00
Panel IV: Neo-liberalizing the City: New Geographies of Dispossession

Nermin el Sherif (UvA): The city of “the good old days”: In search of better times, and “proper” images over Egyptian Social Media post 2011
Stefano Portelli (University of Leicester): Verticalizing a horizontal neighborhood: the displaced community of Bon Pastor in the contemporary Catalan crisis
Emel Akcai (Swansea): Urban transformation in Istanbul and Budapest: Neoliberal governmentality in the EU’s semi-periphery and its limits

Discussant: Yannis Kallianos (VU)
Chair: Enno Maessen (UvA)

15:00-15:30 Closing words and coffee

Convenors:

Dr. Maaike Voorhoeve (Department of Arabic Languages and Cultures/ACMES)
Dr. Hanna Muehlenhoff (Department of European Studies/ACES)
Prof. Luiza Bialasiewicz (Department of European Studies/ACES)

Co-organized by the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES) and the Amsterdam Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (ACMES)