



**SMUS
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ABSTRACTS BOOKLET

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exceed

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with the spatial constructions of local residents to ultimately investigate the role of non-human actors in spatial production. Initially born as a coping mechanism, the creation of a multi-modal autoethnographic joint spatial display (Marguin, Pelger and Stollmann, 2021) proved vital to visualize the researcher's spatial unknowings when confronted with the spatial constructions given by the research participants. The paper argues that this multi-modal triangulation therefore bares latent material dynamics and embodied spatial knowledges. Moreover, by interweaving autoethnographic, visual and embodied qualitative methodologies, interdisciplinary practices of positionality are incorporated in the process of data collection, allowing for decolonial and intersectional knowledge production.

Presentation 3

Title of Paper: Unveiling Participation: Investigating Stakeholder Representation in Participatory Design for Public Spaces

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Abstract:

Participatory research methods are progressively employed in public space design, garnering acclaim as a superior approach to designer-centric autonomy. However, mainstream literature in spatial design and architecture, rarely critiques these methodologies from the perspective of inclusive and diverse representation within the participatory process. The paper argues that, to create an inclusive process, mechanisms of exclusion and the interconnected ways in which they can affect a stakeholder's access to participation need to be examined. Through field research, it identifies and decodes the impact of these mechanisms, not just in terms of 'who participates' but also 'how they participate' and 'the outcomes of participation'. This paper delves into the following questions: What are the factors that affect representation of diverse stakeholders in participatory processes? How does the process of facilitation including facilitator bias, language, power hierarchies etc. affect representation? How can these understandings improve inclusivity in participatory design? In the research process, understandings were generated from the analysis of eight frameworks created by designers for engagements about public transit spaces in Bengaluru. Additionally, interviews (with facilitators and stakeholders) and on-field observations were conducted. Based on the resultant understandings, the paper presents a holistic toolkit for inclusive participatory design that acknowledges the heterogeneity of stakeholder perspectives and identities.