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### **Revised abstract– Project presentation**

#### **Visual dialogue: A drawn conversation about the city**

I have recently rediscovered an archive from an earlier fieldwork fulfilled in Morocco, around 2007-2008. The archive comprises pictures, films, and drawings. I photographed and filmed some Moroccan cities, and during the same period, I interviewed several Norwegian-born persons that live in Morocco. The drawings are the result of these interviews: a way to explore and try to unveil the participants' double urban experiences. The participants are people that had to re-understand and re-incorporate a new (for them) Moroccan city. Their belonging to the city goes beyond the common social aspect. The city can be seen as an independent entity, with its own temporality and visual aspects. Cities' features can also contribute to make one feel fitting (or not) to the environment.

My method for data collection is qualitative (Repstad, 1993; Halvorsen, 1996; Kvale, 2004): an interactional exchange of dialogue (between me and the participant), based on a thematic (the city), but with a fluid and flexible structure that enabled us to follow the dynamic of the dialogue. The interview was a moment where understanding and knowledge of the city is both verbally and visually expressed. During the interviews I asked people to narrate the city while drawing it. I call this method a visual dialogue.

My proposal to the conference at the Aalto University will focus on my research design, and on how my empirical data can be comprehended and disseminated. This includes, on one side, my role as a visual artiste exploring cities, along with my role as a researcher holding a more theoretical approach to the empirical data. And on the other side the processes of working with the data (auditory and visual material) to be disseminated. This project is connected to both; arts-based and artistic research. Relationship to the theme of the conference is belonging/not belonging to communities.

My research design was inspired by the work of the American urban planner Kevin Lynch. Especially his use of mental map to investigate three American cities, as described in his book "The image of the city" (1960). But while Lynch is particularly interested in how the inhabitants are able to recognize patterns and organize her/his way through the city, I am more interested in the participant's narration of the topological space (see Trageton, 1995), more than the metric Euclidian space. Inspired by the work of Christian Norberg-Schultz Trageton dismantles the metric space and propose an aesthetic approach of it through our body and senses. It is with a more poetic approach of the stones and spaces of an urban environment that I wish to understand, through the participants' narrations and drawings of the city, how urban environments shapes the inhabitants experience of a Moroccan city.

Different academic disciplines have used visual materials to investigate their subject of interest related to the city. I have considered some of them: the discipline of urban planner (Lynch, 1961) and social sciences (Spencer, 2011; Rose, 2001; Pink, 2014). Attention is also given to communication and design, and particularly participatory design (Rehal, 2006).

## Referances

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