

**SPERA Simone, « Exarcheia : lieu de refuge ou territoire à défendre ? Controverses autour de la gestion des indésirables », *L'Espace Politique* [Online], 38 | 2019-2, Online since 28 February 2020, connection on 05 March 2020.
URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/espacepolitique/6784> ;
DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/espacepolitique.6784>**

See abstracts in French & English hereafter. Full text in open access for reading.

L'Espace politique, Journal of political geography and geopolitics, is a free-access electronic academic journal publishing research papers in political geography and geo-politics.

<https://journals.openedition.org/espacepolitique/index.html>

It is published on *OpenEdition Journals*,
journals.openedition.org a journals platform for the humanities and social sciences, part of the open access academic publishing portal
OpenEdition.org

<https://www.openedition.org/>

<https://journals.openedition.org/espacepolitique/6784>

OpenEdition : OpenEdition Books OpenEdition Journals Calenda Hypotheses

DOI / References

Home > Issues > 38 > Rapports à l'espace et formes d'e... > Exarcheia : lieu de refuge ou ter...

FR EN


l'espacepolitique

Revue en ligne de géographie politique
et de géopolitique
Online journal of political geography
and geopolitics

Search

38 | 2019-2 Rapports à l'espace et formes d'engagement : ancrage, attachement, territorialisation + Varia

Rapports à l'espace et formes d'engagement : ancrage, attachement, territorialisation

Exarcheia : lieu de refuge ou territoire à défendre ? Controverses autour de la gestion des indésirables

Exarcheia: a place of refuge or a territory to be defended?
Controversies around managing the undesirables

SIMONE SPERA

<https://doi.org/10.4000/espacepolitique.6784>

Abstract | Index | Outline | Text | Bibliography | Notes | Illustrations | References |
About the author

INDEX
Authors
Keywords

ALL ISSUES

FULL TEXT ISSUES

38 | 2019-2
Rapports à l'espace et formes d'engagement : ancrage, attachement, territorialisation + Varia

37 | 2019-1
Struggles for territory + Varia

36 | 2018-3
Varia

35 | 2018-2

← → ⓘ 🔒 https://journals.openedition.org/espacepolitique/6784?lang=en 133% 🔍 open edition journals ☆ 📁 ⬇️ 🏠 📧 🔄 ☰

Cameroon and Ethiopia + Varia

34 | 2018-1
Contemporary crises and change: geopolitical and geoeconomic approaches + Varia

33 | 2017-3
Borders of War, Borders of Peace: New Explorations of Spaces and Temporalities of Conflicts + Varia

32 | 2017-2
Ten Years of L'Espace Politique. Political Geography and Geopolitics: The State of the Art

31 | 2017-1
Brazilian Political Geography and Geopolitical in the 21st Century + Varia

30 | 2016-03
Political Geography of Urban Times + extension of N°29

29 | 2016-2
Political Informality, Power and the Other Side of Urban Space

28 | 2016-1
Political Geographies of Tourism + Varia

27 | 2015-3
Borders and Circulations in the Middle East (Machrek / Turkey) + Varia

26 | 2015-2
(Geo)Politics and Health + Varia

25 | 2015-1
Lampedusa, Mediterranean Islands, Borders and Migrations + Varia

24 | 2014-3
Trafficking in Southeast Asia + Varia

23 | 2014-2
Electoral Geography and Sociology: Duel or Duo? + Varia

22 | 2014-1
Forced Displacement in Southern Cities: Eviction, Relocation,

Français English

This article explores the relationship between space and political action in the Athenian neighborhood of Exarcheia, the geographical base of the Greek anti-authoritarian movement. Since 2015, several migrant squats have developed in the neighborhood. This article analyses the controversies sparked by the opening up of the neighborhood to migrants and marginalized urban groups. It draws on a mixed-methods inquiry, based on participant observation in one squat for two months, and on discourse analysis of 35 activists' publications on Indymedia, an online platform of the anti-authoritarian movement. Firstly, the study of these debates shows that the migrants' transience and socio-economic instability has hindered their ability to build a substantive relationship with the neighborhood. Secondly, the involvement of some migrants in drug dealing has made them undesirable in the eyes of certain anti-authoritarian activists, who have attempted to enforce physical and moral borders against them in order to preserve a territory of struggle. Such defensive measures, however, justified by the argument that « marginal groups » must take responsibility for their own emancipation, have involved exercises of authority which contradict the conception of Exarcheia as an anti-authoritarian place of refuge. Finally, drawing on the reflections of activists themselves, this research examines the link between the state management of the undesirables and retributive actions carried out by members of the movement. In this way, the study examines how space can put the ideological coherence of an anti-authoritarian project to the test. This article contributes to analyses of space as both opportunity and constraint for collective action: it shows Exarcheia's double nature of *place* embodying universalist political claims and representations, and of materially and socially bounded *territory*, necessary for the reproduction of these very representations.

INDEX TERMS ↑

Mots-clés : Athènes, controverses, Exarcheia, mouvement antiautoritaire, frontières, indésirables, migrants, squat, territoire

Keywords : Athens, controverses, Exarcheia, anti-authoritarian movement, borders, undesirables, migrants, squat, territory

← → ⓘ 🔒 <https://journals.openedition.org/espacepolitique/6784?lang=en> 133% 🔍 open edition journals ☆ 📖 ⬇️ 🏠 🔔 ☰

Cameroon and Ethiopia + Varia

34 | 2018-1
Contemporary crises and change: geopolitical and geoeconomic approaches + Varia

33 | 2017-3
Borders of War, Borders of Peace: New Explorations of Spaces and Temporalities of Conflicts + Varia

32 | 2017-2
Ten Years of L'Espace Politique. Political Geography and Geopolitics: The State of the Art

31 | 2017-1
Brazilian Political Geography and Geopolitical in the 21st Century + Varia

30 | 2016-03
Political Geography of Urban Times + extension of N°29

29 | 2016-2
Political Informality, Power and the Other Side of Urban Space

28 | 2016-1
Political Geographies of Tourism + Varia

27 | 2015-3
Borders and Circulations in the Middle East (Machrek / Turkey) + Varia

26 | 2015-2
(Geo)Politics and Health + Varia

25 | 2015-1
Lampedusa, Mediterranean Islands, Borders and Migrations + Varia

24 | 2014-3
Trafficking in Southeast Asia + Varia

23 | 2014-2
Electoral Geography and Sociology: Duel or Duo? + Varia

22 | 2014-1
Forced Displacement in Southern Cities: Eviction, Relocation,

Français English

This article explores the relationship between space and political action in the Athenian neighborhood of Exarcheia, the geographical base of the Greek anti-authoritarian movement. Since 2015, several migrant squats have developed in the neighborhood. This article analyses the controversies sparked by the opening up of the neighborhood to migrants and marginalized urban groups. It draws on a mixed-methods inquiry, based on participant observation in one squat for two months, and on discourse analysis of 35 activists' publications on Indymedia, an online platform of the anti-authoritarian movement. Firstly, the study of these debates shows that the migrants' transience and socio-economic instability has hindered their ability to build a substantive relationship with the neighborhood. Secondly, the involvement of some migrants in drug dealing has made them undesirable in the eyes of certain anti-authoritarian activists, who have attempted to enforce physical and moral borders against them in order to preserve a territory of struggle. Such defensive measures, however, justified by the argument that « marginal groups » must take responsibility for their own emancipation, have involved exercises of authority which contradict the conception of Exarcheia as an anti-authoritarian place of refuge. Finally, drawing on the reflections of activists themselves, this research examines the link between the state management of the undesirables and retributive actions carried out by members of the movement. In this way, the study examines how space can put the ideological coherence of an anti-authoritarian project to the test. This article contributes to analyses of space as both opportunity and constraint for collective action: it shows Exarcheia's double nature of *place* embodying universalist political claims and representations, and of materially and socially bounded *territory*, necessary for the reproduction of these very representations.

INDEX TERMS ↑

Mots-clés : Athènes, controverses, Exarcheia, mouvement antiautoritaire, frontières, indésirables, migrants, squat, territoire

Keywords : Athens, controverses, Exarcheia, anti-authoritarian movement, borders, undesirables, migrants, squat, territory

26 | 2015-2
(Geo)Politics and Health + Varia

25 | 2015-1
Lampedusa, Mediterranean
Islands, Borders and Migrations +
Varia

24 | 2014-3
Trafficking in Southeast Asia +
Varia

23 | 2014-2
Electoral Geography and
Sociology: Duel or Duo? + Varia

22 | 2014-1
Forced Displacement in Southern
Cities: Eviction, Relocation,
Resettlement

21 | 2013-3
Varia

20 | 2013-2
Border Barriers

19 | 2013-1
Europe View from Here and
Elsewhere

18 | 2012-3
Varia

17 | 2012-2
The Possibility of an Island?
Shapes and Hybridization of
Urban Enclosed Spaces

16 | 2012-1
Harbour Area Policies

15 | 2011-3
Firms and Geopolitics

14 | 2011-2
Varia

13 | 2011-1
Sexual (Geo)Politics

12 | 2010-3
Theories of Geopolitics

11 | 2010-2
Fragmentation/Balkanization

Mots-clés : Athènes, controverses, Exarcheia, mouvement antiautoritaire, frontières, indésirables, migrants, squat, territoire

Keywords : Athens, controverses, Exarcheia, anti-authoritarian movement, borders, undesirables, migrants, squat, territory

OUTLINE

Le « quartier anarchiste » et ses nouveaux habitants
Une tradition antiautoritaire à l'épreuve des squats de migrants
Les conditions sociales de l'engagement pour Exarcheia

La production des frontières dans l'histoire d'une expulsion
Cause antiautoritaire et cause des migrants en tension
De la libération des « esclaves » à l'enfermement des libérateurs

La défense du territoire à la source de l'autorité
Les affinités entre mouvement et État dans le gouvernement des marginaux
La responsabilité des indésirables comme argument de justification

Conclusion

FULL TEXT

×

PDF

Freemium ?

A A A

1 Depuis septembre 2015, plus de quinze squats¹ de migrants ont surgi dans la ville d'Athènes, en particulier dans le quartier d'Exarcheia, centre du militantisme gauchiste et anarchiste. En 2017, *The New York Times* indiquait un chiffre de 3 000 migrants hébergés dans des squats à Athènes (Kitsantonis, 2017). L'augmentation des occupations a répondu à l'insuffisance de l'accueil de la part de l'État pendant le « long été des migrations » en 2015, quand le nombre d'arrivants en Grèce a eu de manière exponentielle (Mavratou, 2018). Par

1 Le nombre des squats de migrants est approximatif : certaines occupations ont eu une existence très (...)



l'espacepolitique

Revue en ligne de géographie politique
et de géopolitique

Online journal of political geography
and geopolitics

INDEX

Authors

Keywords

ALL ISSUES

FULL TEXT ISSUES

38 | 2019-2
Rapports à l'espace et formes
d'engagement : ancrage,
attachement, territorialisation +
Varia

37 | 2019-1
Struggles for territory + Varia

36 | 2018-3
Varia

35 | 2018-2
Playing with rules in
authoritarian situations.
Perspectives from Cameroon
and Ethiopia + Varia

34 | 2018-1
Contemporary crises and
change: geopolitical and
geo-economic approaches +
Varia

33 | 2017-3
Borders of War, Borders of
Peace, New Experiences of

Il y a politique de l'espace parce que l'espace est politique.
There is a politics of space because space is political.

Henri Lefebvre

PRESENTATION OF L'ESPACE POLITIQUE

L'Espace politique is a free-access electronic academic journal publishing research papers in political geography and geo-politics. It aims to encourage the understanding of the political space by presenting:

- Theoretical models and conceptual tools applied to all scales, both global and local,
- Relevant themes and cases in these disciplines (space and territory, borders and limits, networks and poles, spatial dynamics, power, order and disorder, actors, representations, gender but also epistemology).

L'Espace politique publishes papers in French or English. As a free Journal, *L'espace politique* wants to contribute to Francophone research in these areas, as well as the exchange with other academic traditions, and strengthen the role of political geography and geopolitics in the academic field.

The Journal published 3 issues per year. Calls for contributions of upcoming issues are available on this page: [calls for contributions](#).

Every issues of the Journal are subdivided into a thematic part and a Miscellaneous. The journal welcomes at any time any paper on subjects other than those presented in the call for contributions. For more details, go to the page [submission of article](#).

Call for papers

Commemorating in a global world: The geopolitics of commemoration

Commémorer dans un monde global : géopolitiques de la commémoration

All news...

Political Geography

As the drone flies:
Configuring a vertical politics of contestation within forest conservation

Informal governance and the spatial management of street-based sex work in Aotearoa New Zealand

Reading Clive Barnett's *The Priority of Injustice: Locating Democracy in Critical Theory*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA (2017), \$28, (paperback), ISBN: 978-0-8203-5152-0

Reading Ian Klink's *Cryptic Concrete: A Subterranean Journey into Cold War Germany*. Wiley Blackwell RGS-IBG Book Series, Chichester (2018), 192 pp. £24.99 (paperback) ISBN: 9781119261117