



VISIBILITY AS JUSTICE: IMMIGRANT STREET VENDORS AND RIGHTS TO DIFFERENCE IN HISTORIC ROME

Francesca Piazzoni
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Abstract: Thousands of immigrants eke out a living in the historic center of Rome by selling trinkets to tourists without licenses, and often lacking a regular immigration status. Drawing from archival research and ethnographic engagement with Bangladeshis, the largest groups of vendors, as well as other actors such as police officers, tourists, and residents, Piazzoni's talk details how diverse migrants make their own Rome by appropriating and inhabiting the city center.

Against the backdrop of xenophobic, pro-decorum regulations, vendors assert their right to the city by means of their visibility in iconic landscapes. They activate insurgent urbanisms of opportunity, refuge, and belonging. Volatile, and yet persistent, the vendors' urbanisms destabilize dominant constructions of who belongs to Rome. Learning from these urbanisms, I argue, heritage professionals should mobilize the politics of visibility and help empower oppressed group to see and be seen in heritage landscapes.

Biosketch: Francesca Piazzoni is Assistant Professor at the University of Liverpool, School of Architecture. Her research explores how power dynamics shape, and are shaped by, urban forms, focusing on design justice, migrant urbanisms, and critical heritage. Francesca's published her work in multiple venues including Cities, Urban Studies, JPER, and the Journal of Urban Design, while her first book "The Real Fake: Authenticity and the Production of Space" was published by Fordham University Press (2018). Piazzoni holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California, a Ph.D. in Architecture from IUAV University of Venice, and a Master of Architecture s.c.l. from Sapienza University of Rome.

Conférence sur ZOOM

<https://zoom.univ-paris1.fr/j/92502991553?pwd=dHZkY2VxamlwdHFPYjBPeUNybU4vZz09>

Informations, inscriptions : irest@univ-paris1.fr


UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1
PANTHÉON SORBONNE

EIREST - EA 7337