Modelling Controversies: How to (mis)understand cooperation?

In recent years, Berlin's broad urban grassroot movement expanded its scope of action towards cooperative urban development projects, two of them being Haus der Statistik and Rathausblock Kreuzberg. These projects bring together often times opposed practices of city making in a New Municipalism vein: Governmental actors from political and administrative institutions are working together with insurgent actors from civil society. Cooperation agreements resulting in more or less institutionalized Public-Civic-Partnerships enable longterm, reliable, and intense cooperation. Thus, controversies between communities of practice - across as well as beyond the public/civic divide - become visible and actively model-able. In our analysis, we focus on how heterogeneous actors make possible cooperation in relation to these controversies, and how this in turn shapes their organizational practices. We are especially interested in how cooperation is enabled through practices of dealing with equivocations (Farías / Mendes 2018), as opposed to an enrolling of competing actors by means of translation (Callon 1986). This allows us to alter the question of who is transforming whom and rather ask how cooperation based on equivocations is transforming the heterogeneous actors. Hopefully, this helps addressing the problem of how to adapt structures, that allow insurgent actors to implement transformative demands in PCPs.

Contributors: Felix Marlow, Rebecca Wall

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