One of the key roles of civil society is to provide a platform for like-minded individuals and groups to come together to put pressure on powerful decision makers in society; from site stakeholders, decision makers to elected representatives.

However, strategies to undermine the active civil sector (facilitated through the systematic implementation of a series of legislative acts which permeate social division); creates the current situation; where the responsive body of citizens is less active and effective than they have been in previous decades.

The lack of political desire to challenge the cyclic fall-out imbedded within our current mode capitalism; means that citizens cannot rely on traditional political ideologies or parties to overt this modern phenomena and problematic global outcomes.
Thus, the role of alternative practices, particularly that of protest actions which take place in the public realm; are a key arena in challenging the problems created by global capitalism.

The paper will develop the notion of protest as a critical spatial practice. Critical..."as an evaluative attitude towards reality" (Peter Marcuse). Spatial... as "the space of social practice [...] including products of the imagination such as projects and projections, symbols and utopias" (Henri Lefebvre). Practice... identified as "transverse tactics [which] do not obey the law of the place... one can distinguish “ways of operating" - ways of walking, reading, producing, speaking etc." (Michel De Certeau).

Focuses on protest actions which took place in London between 2010 and 2013 in the aftermath of the Global Economic Crash of 2007/8. Specifically, on how the practices explored there related to organised landed protests as an urban construct.

The paper will include cartographic images exploring how counter-mapping has been used to visualise the way in which stakeholders manipulate the designation of space as such theories of public social practice within neo-liberal societies can be formed.

- Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

My work explores the cultural and social development of alternative practices in their relation to our understanding of urban spaces of cultural exchange.

I am currently working on a research project exploring the role of the high-street resilience in London. The collaborative research is an impact assessment of publicly funded small scale urban interventions which took place in London between 2012 – 2014.

I am a member of the British Sociological Association and the White Rose Society. I have been an organiser and contributor in the Common Grounds (II) series (2012), The Lines of Flight series (University of Sheffield 2012) and the Mapping Agencies international workshop (Faculté d’architecture de l’ULB, 2013).

I have been an invited speaker at the Contested Spaces round-table discussion (Central St. Martins – UAL, London Festival of Architecture, 2014).

I completed my Ph.D in architecture at the University of Sheffield in 2016 on “Protest in Contested Public Space”.

I have taught and lectured in Architecture at universities since 2008 including Central St Martins, London Metropolitan University and Oxford Brooks.

I completed my RIBA Part 2 at the Architectural Association in 2007 in Diploma Unit 10.