URBAN ASSEMBLAGE: THE CITY AS ARCHITECTURE, MEDIA, AI AND BIG DATA.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
City as a divider or unifier?

• Author(s) Name:
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• Abstract (300 words):
As we look at the pace of the type urbanization realized at various geographies in the world, it is possible to observe that the notion of the city is reinterpreted and we have a recent urban settlement occurrence we can name as the “new city”! This new city seems to be designed as an area of camouflaged modern slavery. The autonomous farmers in the rural areas, affordably satisfying their basic needs like food, accommodation; are encouraged by the official states to migrate to the cities leaving their agricultural skills behind.

The reason that administrations want to draw everybody to cities is that, it is much easier to collect personal data in urban settlements due to ubiquitous connectivity and related services. One of the latest covers of the Economist, a globally very influential magazine, promoted “data is the new oil” statement as the headline. With the promise/pretext of offering smart technologies in urban settlements; computer, connectivity and network based systems, services and applications can follow your entire life ranging from transportation to sleep at home and finally start to covertly guide your life after collecting
enough data. The purpose of this presentation will be to open a discussion about how and why many components of contemporary metropolises are left out from where “really urban” life is taking place, as a result of exclusionary planning policies and how reunification can be made possible using micro solutions for cooperation among diverse folks living in the city, belonging to plural, various walks of life!

The very recent COVID-19 pandemic crisis opened a new layer in the “city as a divider or unifier” discussion as the compulsory quarantine, curfew pushed the division further to the extreme point of no public collective life. This opens a new dimension in the discourse of the future of cities.

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

Murat Germen is an artist, academic and archivist using photography as an expression / research tool. Born 1965, he currently lives / works in Istanbul and London. Has an MArch degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he went as a Fulbright scholar and received AIA Henry Adams Gold Medal for academic excellence. Works as a professor of art, photography and new media at Sabanci University in Istanbul. Having many papers, photo series published on architecture / photography / art / new media in various publications; he has lectured at tens of conferences internationally.

His oeuvre focuses on impacts of over-urbanization and gentrification, dis/possession, new forms / tools / methods of imperialism, civic rights, participatory citizenship, sustainability of local cultures, human devastation of nature, climate change, global warming, water rights. Has two monographies, one published by Skira (Italy) and the other by MASA (Turkey). Has opened over eighty inter/national solo+group exhibitions. More than 400 editions of the artist’s artworks are in personal collections inter/nationally, in addition to several that are in Istanbul Modern, Proje4L Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art, Centre of Contemporary Art Toruń, Benetton Foundation's Imago Mundi, Yapi Kredi Culture and Arts Center, Odunpazari Modern Museum, Evliyagil Museum collections.