The cultural potential of the spaces we inhabit

Dr Nancy Duxbury

How would you describe cultural mapping to those unfamiliar with the concept? What challenges do you see ahead of this field?

Cultural mapping is transferable to any size of community and different approaches have been applied in a diverse array of settings internationally. Cultural mapping today acknowledges the shifting and fragmented nature of many communities and aims to reflect and privilege pluralistic local knowledges, perceptions of importance, and ways of understanding. Extending from this, they also aim to draw connections and articulate relationships between people and place, culture and nature. This work aims not only to document and preserve information but also to catalyze and propel place-embedded cultural sustainability. How ‘transferable’ are the tools of cultural mapping? Could you explain some of their key characteristics?

My interest in ‘Culturizing Sustainable Cities’ is aligned with citizen-driven actions in co-creating their future cities, and the role that cultural and creative initiatives can play in connecting people with place and the stewardship of their local environment. What drives your interest in Culturizing Sustainable Cities? And how do you think the concepts therein could apply to a space like Malta, with its small size and lax attitude towards environmental concerns?

What is the significance of cultural mapping initiatives to those unfamiliar with the concept? How can we build more culturally and environmentally sensitive sustainable cities? What artistic and policy/planning practices should be considered to inform the design of symbiotic in situ systems of arrangements to catalyze and build this environment?

The conference Cultural Mapping: Debating Spaces and Places will be taking place on October 22 and 23 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta. For more information log on to: www.valletta2018.org/cultural-mapping-debating-spaces-and-places

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