



Study Title: Places of Togetherness: Investigating the relationship between urban space and social cohesion through the Asia Minor refugee's courtyards in Nikea

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Purpose of this Study

Places of Togetherness is a research project, funded by the European Commission (H2020-MSCA-IF-2020), that investigates the relationship between urban space and social cohesion through the public residential courtyards in the area of Nikea. The project aims to explore how people use the courtyards, how they interact in them, and how this has changed over time. Moreover, it aims to work with people to imagine and co-design what the courtyards could look like in the near future and what impact a transformation like this could have in their neighborhood and community.

Research Procedures

For this research there are three key parts of participation in the research: **Interviews**, **Documentation of Visual Artifacts** and **Participatory Workshops**. If you decide to participate in the research study, then you will be asked to participate in any of these three parts, which are described below more in detail:

- 1) **A free-flowing interview** that will last 30-40 minutes and will take place in one of the following locations based on your preference: a protected / private part of the courtyard, your house, or at the School of Architecture, National Technical University of Athens. The discussion will be focused on the following topics:
 - i. Some background information about you: how long you have lived in Nikea and in which areas, if your family lives in the same neighborhood, some information about your daily life.
 - ii. Your overall opinion about the area, and how do you feel about Nikea's public space and the courtyards specifically.
 - iii. Information about how often and in what ways you use the courtyard near your home. Who and how do you interact with in the courtyard?
 - iv. If you are a long-time resident, you will be also asked to share more stories about growing up in the area and discuss the life around the courtyards.





The interviews will be audio recorded in order to be transcribed and revisited. Your personal data and individual privacy will be completely respected. Your identity and personal information will be anonymised in the research findings, your name will be given a number and the identification key will be held by the National Technical University of Athens as the controller. Any personal information you provide to the organisers will be stored apart from the data recorded during the dialogue and will be destroyed at the end of the research project.

- 2) **Visual artefacts documentation:** During the interview, you will be asked if you would like to share personal artifacts with the interviewers that provide relevant documentation for your neighborhood, home, and courtyards. The artifacts could include old family photographs or drawings of your home, neighborhood and / or courtyard. The interviewer will scan or photograph the artifacts and return them to you during the interview session. Photos of the artefacts will be shared as part of the dissemination of the project, only if you have specifically provided consent to sharing that information with the public.
- 3) **Participatory Workshops** will take place separately from interviews and at the second half of the research project. The workshops will take place publicly in the courtyards and will invite people to discuss, envision and co-design the future of the courtyards. Upon arrival at the workshop, you will be asked to sign a consent form. The workshops will not be video- or audio-recorded. However, photographs will be taken of the event to be used in different formats of the research dissemination, from online websites, reports, and other print material. The materials from the workshop exercises will be the data collected for processing. Your responses to the workshop exercises will be anonymized.

Participant Requirements

All participants of the study need to be above the age of 18 years old.

Risks & Benefits of Participation

There are minimal risks to participating in this study. Unless the participant agrees to be identified, names from the interviews and workshops will not be disseminated and comments will be de-identified. Interviews will be realized in spaces with the necessary privacy. Pictures taken during the workshops will only be publicized after consent has been secured by the people depicted in them.

There is no direct benefit to participating in this study. However, there may be benefits to society, the participants' neighborhood, and to future research in this area. One of the main goals of this research is to understand how space is affecting a neighborhood's social life, interactions, and tolerance. The





workshops realized in the courtyards can have a positive impact in facilitating positive interactions between neighbors. Materials and resources will also be produced with regards to the neighborhoods history, maps, etc. that will be made available and accessible to everyone through the online platform and a newspaper to be distributed locally in Nikea.

Confidentiality

The researcher and the university are committed to maintaining complete confidentiality of all information that will be obtained as part of this research and which may lead to your identification. By participating in this study, you understand and agree that the data and information collected during this research may be used by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), published and / or shared with other research bodies outside the NTUA. Excerpts from interviews, photographs of the visual artefacts and participatory workshops will be used for explanatory or educational purposes during the presentation and publication of the research and its results. However, your name, contact details and other identifiable data will not be mentioned in any such publication or dissemination of research data and / or results by NTUA. More specifically, your research data will be anonymized and stored in a secure university location and digital files secured with encrypted passwords. Published data will be fully anonymised, or if we have your explicit consent to use identifiable information. Data sharing with other researchers will only be done with fully anonymous data. Anonymized data from this survey can be used by other research centers in Europe through the European Union Open Access under Horizon 2020 program.

In addition, the processing of personal data for research purposes is subject to appropriate safeguards. The identity of the participants will be anonymized in the research findings. Each name will be given an identification number when handling data from the NTUA. The anonymous personal data recorded during the research will be kept in a secure location of the university for at least 5 years.

Rights

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop your participation at any point. Refusal to participate or withdrawal of your consent or discontinued participation in the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled. The Principal Investigator may at his/her discretion remove you from the study for any of a number of reasons. In such an event, you will not suffer any penalty or loss of benefits or rights which you might otherwise be entitled.





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Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this scientific research, you can ask them during your registration and consent to participate in the program. For any questions later and at any time, you can contact the responsible researcher: Eleni Katrini (ekatrini@mail.ntua.gr), as well as the Research Ethics and Conduct Committee of the National Technical University of Athens (ehde@mail.ntua.gr) for questions about your personal data.

