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# INTEGRATED INFORMATION

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# **CONTENTS**

PREFACE: Proceedings of the International Conference on Integrated Information (IC-INFO 2011)	1
Georgios A. Giannakopoulos, Damianos P. Sakas	
Conference Details	3
Keynote Speaker	5
SYMPOSIUM ON INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT Prof. Christos Skourlas	6
Towards the Preservation and Availability of Historical Books and Manuscripts: A Case Study  Eleni Galiotou	8
An Extensive Experimental Study on the Cluster-based Reference set Reduction for Speeding-up the k-nn Classifier  Stefanos Ougiaroglou, Georgios Evangelidis and Dimitris A. Dervos	12
Exploiting the Search Culture Modulated by the Documentation Retrieval Applications Nikitas N. Karanikolas and Christos Skourlas	16
Information and Knowledge Organization: The Case of the TEI of Athens Anastasios Tsolakidis, Manolis Chalaris and Ioannis Chalaris	22
Providing Access to Students with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties in Higher Education through a Secure Wireless framework  Catherine Marinagi and Christos Skourlas	26
Improving Query Efficiency in High Dimensional Point Indexes Evangelos Outsios and Georgios Evangelidis	30
Text Segmentation Using Named Entity Recognition and co-Reference Resolution in Greek Texts	34
Pavlina Fragkou	
KINISIS, a Graphical XQuery Language Euclid Keramopoulos, Achilleas Pliakas, Konstantinos Tsekos and Ignatios Deligiannis	42
Dimensionality Curse, Concentration Phenomenon and the KDB-tree Nikolaos Kouiroukidis and Georgios Evangelidi	46

Applying Balanced Scorecard Strategic Management in Higher Education Manolis Chalaris, Anastasios Tsolakidis and Ioannis Chalaris		
A Web Portal Model for NGOs' Knowledge Management Zuhal Tanrikulu	54	
The Digital Archives System and Application Optimized for the Tradition Knowledge Archives	58	
Jeon Hong. Chan, In Deok. Hwang, Jae Hak. Park, Hyeok. Sim, U won. Gwon and Soon Cheol. Park		
A Semi-automatic Emerging Technology Trend Classifier Using SCOPUS and PATSTAT	62	
Seonho Kim, Woondong Yeo, Byong-Youl Coh, Waqas Rasheed, Jaewoo Kang		
Presenting a Framework for Knowledge Management within a Web Enabled Living Lab Lizette de Jager and Albertus AK Buitendag and Potjie (JS) van der Walt	66	
4TH SYMPOSIUM ON BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT AND DYNAMIC SIMULATION MODELS SUPPORTING MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES Dr. Damianos Sakas	71	
New Political Communication Practices: No Budget Events Management. The New Challenge  Evangelia N. Markaki, Damianios P. Sakas and Theodore Chadjipantelis	73	
Free Software – Open Source Software. A Powerful Tool for Developing Creativity in the Hands of the Student  Nacionavlas K. Dimitrias Demicros P. Sakas Konstantinos Massalas	78	
Nasiopoulos K. Dimitrios, Damianos P. Sakas, Konstantinos Masselos		
Open Source Web Applications. How it Spread Through the Internet and their Contribution to Education.	82	
Nasiopoulos K. Dimitrios, Damianos P. Sakas, Konstantinos Masselos		
Culture in Modern Times in the Frame of Luhmann's System Theory Anastasia J. Chournazidis	85	
Managing Scientific Journals: A Cultural Viewpoint Marina C. Terzi, Damianos P. Sakas, and Ioannis Seimenis	87	
A Conceptual Framework for Analyzing Knowledge-based Entrepreneurship Nikos S. Kanellos	92	

SESSION ON INFORMATION HISTORY: PERSPECTIVES, METHODS AND CURRENT TOPICS	96
Prof. Laszlo Karvalics	
Emerging Research Fields in Information History Laszlo Z. Karvalics	98
Information Management through Elementary Data Clusters: New Observations on Pridianum-Type Roman Statistical Documents  Gergő Gellérfi	102
Information and Secrecy on the Silk Road. Methods of Encryption of Legal Documents in Inner Asia (3th-4th century)  Szabolcs Felföldi	106
The Role of Information and Disinformation in the Establishment of the Mongolian Empire: A Re-examination of the 13th century Mongolian History from the Viewpoint of Information History	110
Márton Gergő Vér	
Early Warning Systems and the Hospitallers in the Eastern Mediterranean Zsolt Hunyadi	114
Information Management as Establishment Dutch Navigational Knowledge on Japan, 1608-1641	118
Gabor Szommer	
Files Everywhere - Register and Training of Men for Military and Civil Purpose in Prussia in the early 18th century  Marton Holczer	123
SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED INFORMATION: THEORY, POLICIES, TOOLS Prof. Georgios Giannakopoulos	126
Approaching Information as an Integrated Field: Educating Information Professionals Georgios Giannakopoulos, Daphne Kyriaki Manesi and Sryridon Zervos	128
Special Libraries as Knowledge Management Centers Eva Semertzaki	132
Digital Libraries' Developers and their Suitability: A Case Study Maria Monopoli	136

A Preliminary Study for the Creation of a Greek Citation index in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (GCI – H&SS)	140
Daphne Kyriaki-Manessi and Evi Sachini	
Archiving as an Information Science. Evidence from a Survey Carried out on a Sample of Greek Students	144
Georgios Giannakopoulos and Ioannis Koumantakis	
Transition Process of E-records Management and Archiving System in Universities: Ankara University	147
S. Özlem Bayram and Fahrettin Ozdemirci	
Government Information: Access and Greece's Efforts for Access Aikaterini Yiannoukakou	150
School Archives and their Potentials in Teaching: Aspects of Greek Reality Sonia Geladaki and Panagiota Papadimitriou	156
Research on School Libraries in Greece and Suggestions on its Further Development Georgios D. Bikos	160
Building Digital Collections for Archeological Sites: Metadata Requirements and CIDOC CRM Extension	164
Georgios S. Gkrous and Mara Nikolaidou	
Museological Claims to Autonomous Knowledge: Rethinking the Conceptual Mode of Display and its Claims to Knowledge	169
Assimina Kaniari and Georgios Giannakopoulos	
Use of Library Loan Records for Book Recommendation Keita Tsuji, Erika Kuroo, Sho Sato, Ui Ikeuchi, Atsushi Ikeuchi, Fuyuki Yoshikane and Hiroshi Itsumura	172
Developing a National Database on Librarianship and Information Science. The Case of E-VIVA, the Hellenic Fulltext Database Filippos Ch. Tsimpoglou, Vasiliki V. Koukounidou and Eleni K. Sakka	176
Integrated Access to Cultural Heritage Information Pieces in Iran Astan-Quds Razavi's Organization of Libraries, Museums and Documents Center: A Theory of Unionization Disparate Information Assets over Imam Reza's Zarih  Ms. Mitra Zarei and Ms. Maliheh Farrokhnia	181
Attitudes of University Librarians and Information Scientists towards the Draft Code of	185

## Library Ethics to Present a Model for Final Library Ethical Codes

Mahsoomeh Latifi, Fatemeh Zandian and Hasan Siamian

SESSION ON OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORIES: SELF-ARCHIVING, METADATA, CONTENT POLICIES, USAGE	188
Dr. Alexandros Koulouris	
Geographical Collections in Greek Academic Libraries: Current Situation and Perspectives	189
Ifigenia Vardakosta and Sarantos Kapidakis	
Information Seeking Behavior: Factors that Affect the Behavior of Greek Astronomers Hara Brindesi and Sarantos Kapidakis	194
Aggregating Metadata for Europeana: The Greek Paradigm Alexandros Koulouris, Vangelis Banos and Emmanouel Garoufallou	198
Integrating a Repository with Research Output and Publications: The Case of the National Technical University of Athens	202
Dionysis Kokkinos	
Implementation of Workflows as Finite State Machines in a National Doctoral Dissertations Archive	205
Nikos Houssos, Dimitris Zavaliadis, Kostas Stamatis and Panagiotis Stathopoulos	
Practices of "Local" Repositories of Legally Protected Immovable Monuments. A Global Scheme for 'Designation – Significance' Information  Michail Agathos and Sarantos Kapidakis	209
Sur sa a man a rea of	
Integration of Metadata in BWMETA-2.0.0 Format  Katarzyna Zamlynska, Jakub Jurkiewicz and Lukasz Bolikowski	213
SESSION ON EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMATION IN CLINICAL PRACTICE Dr. Evangelia Lappa	216
Applicability of Data Mining Algorithms on Clinical Datasets Wilfred, Bonney	218
Changing Roles of Health Librarians with Open Access Repositories Christine Urquhar and Assimina Vlachaki	221
From Medical Records to Health Knowledge Management Systems: The Coding to Health Sector	225
Evangelia C. Lappa and Georgios A. Giannakopoulos	

The Survey of Skill, Attitude and Use of Computer and Internet among Faculty Members Hasan Siamian, Azita Bala Ghafari, Kobra Aligolbandi, Mohammad Vahedi and Gholam Ali Golafshani Jooybari	229
Trends in Scholarly Communication among Biomedical Scientists in Greece Assimina Vlachaki and Christine Urquhart	232
SESSION ON ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING: A DEVELOPING LANDSCAPE Dr. Dimitris Kouis	236
E-Journal and Open Access Journal Publishing in the Humanities: Preliminary Results from a Survey among Byzantine Studies Scholars Victoria Tsoukala and Evi Sachini	238
Preliminary Results on a Printed VS Electronic Text Books Assessment Through Questionnaire  Dimitrios A. Kouis and Kanella Pouli	242
An Interpretation of Aristotelian Logic According to George Boole Markos N. Dendrinos	246
SESSION ON INFORMATION CONTENT PRESERVATION AS OUTCOME OF CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE: ETHICS, METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS  Prof. George Panagiaris and Dr. Spiros Zervos	251
Intrinsic Data Obfuscation as the Result of Book and Paper Conservation Interventions Spiros Zervos, Alexandros Koulouris and Georgios Giannakopoulos	254
Mass Deacidification: Preserving More than Written Information Michael Ramin, Evelyn Eisenhauer and Markus Reist	258
Information Literacy of Library Users: A Case Study of Mazandaran Public Library Users, Iran Hussein Mahdizadeh and Hasan Siamian	260
The Narratives of Paper in The Archives of the New Independent Greek State (Mid 19th c.)  Ourania Kanakari and Maria Giannikou	264
From Macro to Micro and from Micro to Nano: The Evolution of the Information Content Preservation of Biological Wet Specimen Collections Nikolaos Maniatis and Georgios Panagiaris	268

Digital images: A valuable scholar's tool or misleading material?  Patricia Engel	272
Attitudes of University Librarians and Information Scientists Towards the Draft Code of Library Ethics to Present a Model for Final Library Ethical Codes  Mahsoomeh Latifi, Fatemeh Zandianand and Hasan Siamian	277
Investigation of the Degradation Mechanisms of Organic Materials: From Accelerated Ageing to Chemometric Studies	280
Ekaterini Malea, Effie Papageorgiou and Georgios Panagiaris	
SESSION ON DIVERGENCE AND CONVERGENCE: INFORMATION WORK IN DIGITAL CULTURAL MEMORY INSTITUTIONS  Dr. Susan Myburgh	285
Extending Convergence and Divergence in Cultural Memory Institutions: The Old Slave Lodge in the New South Africa  Archie L Dick	287
The Transfer of Knowledge from Large Organizations to Small: Experiences from a Research Project on Digitization in Wales  Clare Wood-Fisher, Richard Gough, Sarah Higgins, Menna Morgan, Amy Staniforth and Lucy Tedd	289
The Usage of Reference Management Software (Rms) in an Academic Environment : A Survey at Tallinn University  Enrico Francese	293
Varialog : How to Locate Words in a French Renaissance Virtual Library Marie-Hélène Lay	297
The Urge to Merge: A Theoretical Approach Susan Myburgh	301
SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCES INFORMATION FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT Professor Nikolaos Konstantopoulos	304
Empowerment in the Tax Office of Greece Antonios E. Giokas and Nikolaos P. Antonakas	306
Building Absorptive Capacity Through Internal Corporate Venturing Ioannis M. Sotiriou and Alexandros I. Alexandrakis	310

The Monitoring Information System (M.I.S.) - An information and Management System for Projects Co-financed Under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and the Community support framework (CSF)	
Catherina G. Siampou, Eleni G. Fassou and Athanassios P. Panagiotopoulos	
Corruption in Tax Administration: The Entrepreneurs View Point	318
Nikolaos P. Antonakas, Antonios E. Giokas and Nikolaos Konstantopoulos	
Conflicts between the IT Manager and the Software House after the Strategic Choice of Outsourcing of the Information Processes in Maritime Companies.	322
Anthi Z. Vaxevanou, Nikolaos Konstantopoulos, Damianos P. Sakas	
Contemporary Forms of Ordering Between the Supply Department and Ship Chandler Companies in the Shipping Industry	325
Anthi Z. Vaxevanou, Nikolaos Konstantopoulos, Damianos P. Sakas	
Strategies Implemented and Sources Used for the Acquisition of Information on Foreign Markets	329
Myropi Garri, Nikolaos Konstantopoulos and Michail G. Bekiaris	
The Effect of High Performance Working Systems on Informative Technology in Enterprises after Organisation Changes such as Mergers & Acquisitions	333
Nikolaos Konstantopoulos and Yiannis Triantafyllopoulos	
Personnel's Absorptive Capacity as a Guiding Concept for Effective Performance in Informative Technology	337
Nikolaos Konstantopoulos and Yiannis Triantafyllopoulos	
SESSION ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MANAGEMENT: ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOUR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOG, EDUCATION & HOSPITAL LEADERSHIP	341
Dr. Panagiotis Trivellas	
Investigating the Importance of Sustainable Development for Hotel SMES Panagiotis Reklitis and Anestis Fotiadis	343
Strategic Alignment of ERP, CRM and E-business: A Value Creation Catherine C. Marinagi and Christos K. Akrivos	347
The Impact of Occupational Stress on Performance in Health Care Panagiotis Trivellas Panagiotis Reklitis and Charalambos Platis	351

The Impact of Emotional Intelligence on Job Outcomes and Turnover Intention in Health Care	356
Panagiotis Trivellas Vassilis Gerogiannis and Sofia Svarna	
SYMPOSIUM ON BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES SUPPORTING DECISION MAKING PROCESS IN TOURISM SECTOR	360
Dr. Panagiota Dionysopoulou	
The Human Factor as a Mediator to the Total Quality in the Tourism Companies. The impact of Employees' Motivation to Quality Improvements	362
Christos K. Akrivos and Panagiotis Reklitis	
Tourist Destination Marketing and Management Using Advanced ICTS Technologies Anastasia Argyropoulou, Panagiota Dionyssopoulou, Georgios Miaoulis	365
G.N.T.O. (Greek National Tourism Organization) Communication Strategy in Advertising Campaigns 1991-2006	370
George Stafylakis and Panagiota Dionyssopoulou	
GENERAL PAPERS	375
The role of Environmental Education within the Framework of the Environmental	376
Policy of a Regional Municipality	
Vassiliki Delitheou and Dimitra Thanasia	
Issues of Social Cohesion: A case study from the Greek Urban Scenery Evgenia Tousi	380
Merging Activity and Employee Performance: The Greek Banking System Panagiotis Liargovas and Spyridon Repousis	384
Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility in Higher Education: Some	387
Evidence from Greece	
Anastasios Sepetis and Fotios Rizos	
Exploring the Effects of Organizational Culture on Collaborative vs. Competitive	
Knowledge Sharing Behaviors	395
Hanan Abdulla Mohammed Al Mehairi and Norhayati Zakaria	

# Preface: Proceedings of the International Conference on Integrated Information (IC-ININFO 2011)

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#### **Aims and Scope of the Conference**

The International Conference on Integrated Information 2011 took place in Kos Island, Greece, between September, 29 and October, 3, 2011. IC-ININFO is an international interdisciplinary conference covering research and development in the field of information management and integration.

The conference aims at creating a forum for further discussion for an Integrated Information Field incorporating a series of issues and/or related organizations that manage information in their everyday operations. Therefore, the call for papers is addressed to scholars and/or professionals of the fields of Library and Archives Science (including digital libraries and electronic archives), Museum and Gallery Studies, Information Science, Documentation, Information Management, Records Management, Knowledge Management, Data management and Copyright experts the latter with an emphasis on Electronic Publications. Furthermore, papers focusing on issues of Cultural Heritage Management and Conservation Management are also be welcomed along with papers regarding the Management of Nonprofit Organizations such as libraries, archives and museums.

One of the primary objectives of the IC-ININFO will be the investigation of information-based managerial change in organizations. Driven by the fast-paced advances in the Information field, this change is characterized in terms of its impact on organizations that manage information in their everyday operations.

Grouping emerging technologies in the Information field together in a close examination of practices, problems and trends, IC-ININFO and its emphases on integration and management will present the state of the art in the field. Addressed jointly to the academic and practitioner, it will provide a forum for a number of perspectives based on either theoretical analyses or empirical case studies that will foster dialogue and exchange of ideas.

## **Topics of general Interest**

Library Science, Archives Science, Museum and Gallery Studies, Information Science, Documentation, Digital Libraries, Electronic Archives, Information Management, Records / Document Management, Knowledge Management, Data Management, Copyright, Electronic Publications, Cultural Heritage Management, Conservation Management, Management of Nonprofit Organizations, History of Information, History of Collections, Health Information

# Symposia

The Conference offered a number of sessions under its patronage, providing a concise overview of the most current issues and hands-on experience in information-related fields.

- Symposium on Integrated information: Theory, Policies, Tools
- 4th Symposium on Business and Management and Dynamic Simulation Models supporting management strategies

- Session on Open Access Rrepositories: Self-archiving, Metadata, Content policies, Usage
- Session on Evidence-Based Information in Clinical Practice
- Session on Business Management and Communication Strategies supporting Decision Making Process in Tourism Sector
- Session on Electronic Publishing: A Developing Landscape
- Session on Information and Knowledge Management
- Session on Information Content Preservation as Outcome of Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Ethics, Methodology and Tools
- Session on Advances Information for Strategic Management
- Session on Information History: Perspectives, Methods and Current Topics
- Session on Divergence and Convergence: Information Work in Digital Cultural Memory Institutions
- Session on Contemporary issues in Management: Organisational Behaviour, Information Technology, Education & Hospital leadership.

The wide range of aspects that the sessions covered, highlighted future trends in the Information Science.

#### **Paper Peer Review**

More than 300 papers had been submitted for consideration in IC-ININFO 2011. From them, 91 were selected for presentation, after peer review in a double blind review process. The accepted papers were presented at IC-ININFO 2011.

#### **Thanks**

We would like to thank all members that participated in any way in the IC-ININFO 2011 Conference and especially:

- The famous publishing house Emerald for its communication sponsorship.
- The co-organizing Universities and Institutes for their support and development of a high-quality Conference scientific level and profile.
- The members of the Scientific Committee that honored the Conference with their presence and provided a significant contribution to the review of papers as well as for their indications for the improvement of the Conference.
- All members of the Organizing Committee for their help, support and spirit participation before, during and after the Conference.
- The Session Organizers for their willing to organize sessions of high importance and for their editorial work, contributing in the development of valued services to the Conference.
- PhDc Marina Terzi for her excellent editorial work, contributing in the production of the Conference proceedings.

#### **CONFERENCE DETAILS**

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#### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Amanda Spink

Professor Amanda Spink has published over 340 scholarly journal articles, refereed conference papers and book chapters, and 6 books. Many of her journal articles are published in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Information Processing and Management, and the Journal of Documentation. She is Editor of the Emerald journal Aslib Proceedings. Amanda's research has been published at many conferences including ASIST, IEEE ITCC, CAIS, Internet Computing, ACM SIGIR, and ISIC Conferences. Her recent books include Information Behavior: An Evolutionary Instinct and Web Search: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, both published by Springer. Amanda's research focuses on theoretical and empirical studies of information behavior, including the evolutionary and developmental foundations. The National Science Foundation, the American Library Association, Andrew R. Mellon Foundation, Amazon.com, Vivisimo. Com, Infospace.com, NEC, IBM, Excite.com, AlltheWeb.com, AltaVista.com, FAST, and Lockheed Martin have sponsored her research. In 2008 Professor Spink had the second highest H-index citation score in her field from 1998 to 2008 [Norris, M. (2008)]. Ranking Fellow Scholars and their H-Index: Preliminary Survey Results. Loughborough University, Dept of Information Science Report].

## Issues of social cohesion: A case study from the Greek urban scenery

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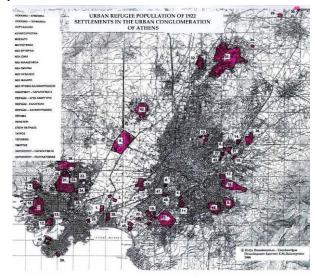
**Abstract:** The analysis of the contemporary images of the Greek urban scenery highlights issues of social cohesion, associated with numerous changes in socioeconomic, cultural and demographic level. Especially the wider area of the urban conglomeration of Athens consists nowadays of several social teams which start from different cultural origins. To be more specific, the settlement of economic immigrants the past decade alters the existing balances, affecting several aspects of daily life. This kind of settlement is spatially oriented in urban areas with low rents, some of which are the urban settlements of the refugees of 1922. As years went by several constructions and urban regulations were made so as to host the refugee population. This kind of 'residential islands' within the urban scenery are related with damaged and abandoned refugee-blocks of flats, lack of social infrastructures and in general unbearable housing conditions. In most of the cases the inhabitants of these areas are economic immigrants, elderly people and families with low income. Taking into consideration the lack of social housing policy, this essay is an effort to remind a kind of neglected urban issue, which is not only related with social cohesion and housing conditions but also with issues of cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** economic immigrants, refugees of 1922, Greek urban scenery

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The socio-spatial physiognomy of the wider area of the urban conglomeration of Athens is formed through different periods of time under the influence of several factors. According to this, these contemporary urban images owe their configuration to past transformation procedures that are still in progress. From this point of view, this essay is an effort to interpret today's crusial issues, using the historical approach as a methodological tool. It is commonly accepted, that contemporary urban communities suffer from several kind of problems, one of which the weakening of social cohesion. To explain what happens in the wider area of the urban conglomeration of Athens, it is necessary to look back in the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the new capital of Greece started to function as a small city. According to sources 2000), bibliographic (Sarigiannis discrimination of districts in the wider area of Athens was already developed in the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to several parameters, one of which the spatial orientation of each district. This means that the south-west department of the city offered worse living conditions due to the

mixed usages of land, where dwellings were near industrial units. In association to this was also the socioeconomic stratification of the population: the upper classes lived in the north-east part of the city, while the working class was hosted in the south-west part. In addition to this, the vast demographic change that followed the Destruction of Minor Asia in 1922 deteriorated the existing situation. According to historical sources, 1.500.000 refugee's found shelter in urban and rural areas, from which 48% were hosted in the wider area of the urban conglomeration of Athens. This demographic flow, affected every aspect of life for many decades afterwards. One of the main issues related to this change, was the housing rehabilitation as well as the social integration of the refugee population to the existing social structures. For many decades after the first settlement, these people used to live in unbearable housing conditions, as it was difficult for the State to cope with such an issue. In many cases, certain areas outside the boundaries of the existing cities were turned into slums, without urban planning and social infrastructures. Most of the times, these slums were near industrial units, where the majority of the refugee population used to work.



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As years went by, these areas were gradually assimilated to the rest of the existing urban net, but until today they suffer from numerous problems owed to a large extent to their first foundation and the polices followed afterwards. Moreover some other factors influenced these areas such as the intense post-war urbanization that resulted in illegal building in the boundaries of the existing urban structures. This led to

the creation of illegal-built suburbs in the west side of Attica, from financially unstable working classes from rural areas. In addition to this, the industrialization of the '60s and the de-industrialization of '70s, had an important impact to all these. Today the areas with housing problems are these illegal-built suburbs, the 'residential islands' of the refugee settlements of 1922, non permanent- housing units of Rom and degraded central areas. These differentiations in living conditions are connected with several aspects of social life real or symbolic that affect the sense of social and personal identity. There is interminable bibliographic discussion on the subject of identity in association with living in degraded areas. That's why this essay focuses on degraded housing districts of the refugee population of 1922. In addition to all these the inflow of economic immigrants to all types of degraded residential areas establishes new balances in urban reality. All in all, this essay is an effort to remind a kind of neglected urban issue that has to do not only with social cohesion but also with cultural and architectural heritage issues.

#### II. METHODS

For the fulfillment of the scientific purposes of this research, a suitable methodological frame is shaped that consists of bibliographical research as well as field work. This field work is directed not only in the urban development of space but also in the research of demographic changes and socio-economic characteristics of residents. The field work is separated thus in territorial and social level. The exploration of such a kind of urban environment involves precise recording, imprinting and cartographic depiction of the old refugee houses in association with the social physiognomy of these areas. So, the process of imprinting the geographic space contributes to the more explicit comprehension of transformations that take place and influence the prevailing relations and balances within the urban scenery. The main methodological axis of this research is based on the interaction of social and spatial parameters, through different periods of time. According to bibliographic sources, the interaction of social structures and geographical space has started to attract scientific interest since the dawn of the 20th century. The cause for this scientific approach was the urban growth and the new phenomena related to it. Studies on this field have already proved that an urban spatial module is not just an area of recording social. economic and cultural attributes, but it has its own dynamic that affects human behaviors, activities and choices. In this way, space connects human and his activities with geographical environment, materializing social networks, situations and phenomena. This means that it is impossible to separate social procedures from spatial parameters, since they are united with a viseversa relationship. At the same time the description of social physiognomy of these areas is being made through qualitative and quantitative methods of sociological research. As far as methodological tools are concerned, questionnaires, semi-conducted interviews,

focus groups and biographical life histories were used. The combination of conclusions in social and spatial level finally, gives useful pieces of information on theoretical issues about urban communities, emphasizing on the Greek urban reality.

#### III. FIELD WORK AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

To understand the social and urban evolution of such kind of areas, it is vital to study the first foundation and spatial distribution of the refugee settlements. As depicted in map1, forty-four districts in the wider area of Athens-Piraeus, hosted refugees. The exact number of people that moved there is not known, but a census in 1927-28 gives some elements for this issue:

Urban refugee population in the whole country 155.000 families	Settlement with their own means 45.000 families	Settlements from the State 110.000 families
In Athens 75.000 families (48%)	28.000 families	47.000 families

Table 1: Census of 1927-28, Committee of rehabilitation of refugees

In most of the cases the residential density was too high and several households where living in the same housing unit. In the first place, refugees created sheds and it was not until 1933 that the first acceptable houses appeared, from State's initiative. Today we can detect three to four types of refugees' houses:

- Ground-floor constructions with cheap materials (40-50 m2) (before 1930)
- Ground-floor construction with stone-made walls (up to 1930)
- Blocks of flats with two floors and many housing units (35m2) with stone made walls, concrete floors and tiled roof (after 1930)
- Post-war Multi-storey blocks of flats from concrete

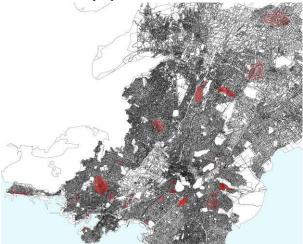
As years went by, the initial housing constructions were altered due to illegal extensions, which were made by the owners so as to cover each household needs. In addition to this some alterations in urban planning legislation (in 1930 and 1968) gave motives for new constructions. In fact, national economy was based on the flourishing of the sector of constructions which was fostered by medium investment funds. As a consequence in the middle of '60s, old refugee constructions started to get demolished for the renewal of the housing reserve, based on private initiative.





Figures 1,2: Kaisariani field work 2011, Tousi E.

What preceded next was depended on several factors that concerned each urban refugee settlement. That's why today's images do not seem similar, despite the fact that these forty four areas where founded the same way and for the same purpose.

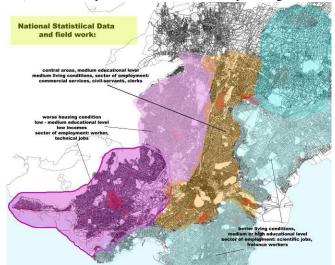


Map 2: What is left behind from the first refugee settlements in Attica, field work 2011.

As field work has revealed most of these areas maintain their refugee cultural heritage until today, but unfortunately it is associated with problematic housing conditions and households with extremely low incomes. Taking into consideration the theoretical position that bad housing conditions function as a spatial expression of social exclusion, the study of these areas exceeds the constructional and urban issues, going further into sociological research matters. To be more specific, the worst housing conditions and the households with the lower incomes are detected in the west part of Attica. On the other hand, refugee settlements which were located in the north-east part of Attica, offer better living conditions today, which means that their inhabitants managed to escape from the vicious cycle of degradation in two-generation time, while others are trapped in it until today. Some interpretations for this are associated with the semi-urban character of the settlements in the north-east part, which gave the opportunity to foster households' incomes from agricultural production. In addition to this, in the late '30s, the owners of refugee houses in the north part of Attica rented them for holidays. Simultaneously with this activity, services of commercial needs and transportation were developed, in these areas. As a result, these households had three sources of income: industrial worker's monthly payment, rent from holidaying and agricultural production. Contradictory was the situation in the west part: the economically active members of households worked in the nearby industries and had no other income. In addition to this. the de-industrialization of '70s deteriorated the financial condition of this working class, which had to find another sector of employment. Moreover the contiguity of refugee settlements in the north-east part with

bourgeois suburbs had a positive effect in the price of land in these areas. Respectively, was affected the price of land in the refugee settlements in the west part: the proximity with industrial units and already degraded districts restricted the prices of land in a very low level.

Apart from this, illegal-built suburbs were afterwards spatially located next to the west side refugee settlements. Moreover, the west part hosts non-permanent housing constructions of Rom, until today. In addition to this, the suburbs of the west part refugee or not, were developed without serious urban planning.



Map 3: socio-economic stratification in Attica 2011, National Statistical Data and field work.

All these conclude to problematic urban forms with inadequate town-planning, inefficient transportation, environmental problems and difficult housing conditions. Especially the degraded refugee settlements within the west part, host two types of households: elderly people and economic immigrants. In some cases, such as the area of Drapetsona and Nikea, the quality of the housing reserve is rather low and some refugee blocks of flats are totally abandoned hosting drug addicts and homeless people.



Figure 3: Abandoned refugee blocks of flat in Drapetsona that hosts homeless people, field work 2011.

Undoubtedly, these issues are connected with the weakening of social cohesion, since significant differentiations in living conditions act negatively to the sense of coherence and unity. Especially, in neighborhoods with a large number of economic immigrants, balances are renewed based on an introverted lifestyle for each social group. To ameliorate the situation in socio-spatial level, intense study is required so as to propose suitable solution for such kind of areas. From this point of view, this study is a suggestion of a different kind of analysis when it comes to urban design and housing policy. As field work has revealed, there are significant discrepancies within the same administrative area, which means that it is vain to propose total solutions. Geographical space is always subject to transformation processes interacting with alterations in social structures. From this point of view, the methodological plan should always be flexible so as to keep up with changes in socio-spatial level. Moreover, it seems to be necessary to follow a combination of scientific methods of analysis, so as to study in depth the important issues, in each case.

#### IV. HOUSING POLICY? CONCLUSIONS

This brief analysis of the socio-spatial condition of urban refugee settlements in Attica raises issues of housing policy. It is important to mention that housing policy stopped after the construction of the refugee blocks of flats. This means that since then the whole issue was based upon private initiative. The fact is that in the early '80s, living conditions were remarkably improved but in most of the cases there were intense problems with the preservation of the refugee blocks of flats, some of which are considered to be noticeable examples of Modernity in Greek Architecture. Only in the late '80s effort had been made to suggest urban renewal programs in such kind of areas, from State's initiative. In each such kind of municipality, one or two blocks were finally renewed, leaving large areas in degradation. In fact this kind of urban renewal makes differentiations more intense, discriminating areas in degraded and developed. It is necessary to study these areas in a socio-spatial level so as to propose programs of urban policy. Since the late '80s this issue is totally neglected as far as State's policy is concerned. From these forty-four areas only the municipality of New Philadelphia managed to maintain in a successful way the architectural and cultural heritage, according to an urban law ( $\Pi\Delta$  467 $\Delta$ /2001) enforced in 2001.



Figure 4: refugee houses in New Philadelphia, field work 2011

The rest of these areas either lost their cultural and architectural heritage or left it in decadence. That's why this essay tries to remind this issue before the total decline of these areas.

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