

11.329 Social Theory and the City

Session 10: "The Architecture of Repression: war machines and state apparatus in the EU summit meeting, Thessaloniki,"

Summary:

The class discussed a draft work-in-progress written and presented by Olga Touloumi. In her paper Olga explored the physical transformation of Thessaloniki during the 2003 European Union Summit, which took place there, in terms of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari's (D&G) distinctions of *war machine* and *State apparatus* and *smooth* versus *striated* space. She analyzed the impact of the physical barriers erected around the city as well as the police lines guarding the location of the meeting as striations and analyzed the movement and actions of the protestors to determine whether they were able to smooth the space as D&G's theory would suggest. The class discussion examined what alternative theories might also help illuminate the questions raised in the paper about power and space.

Theoretical issues underpinning the content:

- Foucault's theories of inversions of power
- Ritual in protest
- Panopticon
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Additional References:

- Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*.
- Sigmund Freud, *Mass Psychology*
- Elias Canetti, *Crowds and Power*.
- Charles Tilly
- George Rudé, *The Crowd in History*.

Exercises:

- Create diagrams of crowd movements.
- Analyze the morphology of the barriers that were present.
- Compare the ways that the forms of protests have changed over time.