



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### *Inequity and inequality in public space*

Representations and power relationships are expressed in public space according to who we are: our age, our gender, our respectability, and our history. From the moment we arrive on a territory, whether we're well-known or not, we don't have the same conditions of access to public space. And this always raises the question of how we can take our place in this space.

What we've observed is that in the collective imagination, there are good uses and bad uses. So good and bad citizens, because it's often the people who are blamed. The freedom of choice to be who you are in public space, represented by clothes, uses, by allowing yourself to dance, play music, eat or gather in public space, tells a lot about this possible or impossible freedom.

Unfortunately, the level of freedom is not the same depending on whether your uses are considered a priori to follow the most widespread norm or, on the contrary, uses that are slightly on the fringe. In public space, we're all in plain sight, and the way we look at each other can be quite oppressive, even preventing some people from expressing what they want to express. In the end, it's better to stay out of public space and in your own private sphere, to have the freedom to be what you want to be.

However, this cuts off our ability to express and share who we are when we establish self-censorship as a frame of reference, and what belongs to the private sphere and what should belong to the public sphere. There are leaders and people who hold a particular role within communities and who ultimately exercise authority.

Identifying these forms of leadership within a public space gives us a better understanding of how people organise themselves and how they interact with each other. Are we aware that we don't know the rules of the game for groups that aren't our own? I'm not sure, and that's where we might be able to get some leverage.

Do the projects and initiatives we carry out in public space aim to raise awareness? We assign people to particular groups, but we don't question the values that underpin the way they organise themselves, behave and interact in public space.

A better understanding of how authority is shaped within communities means we're in a much better position to see how to solve the problems that arise in terms of cohabitation in public space. How do these power struggles play out in the long term? And how do successive generations pass on their responsibilities?

Stigmatising representations that are not their responsibility, that are perhaps the responsibility of previous generations, but that continue to be carried as a burden and a social burden. By becoming aware of the power relationships that play out in a given territory, you can potentially prevent a power struggle from being played out, without your knowledge and to your detriment, in a way that will use you as an instrument and put you in a place where you hadn't planned to go at all.