[Session 8] Challenges in Design Curriculum / Patrick Flynn

About education in architecture: visual spaces of change.

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This abstract is based on the didactic experience and refinement of three curricular units (CUs) in FAUP, which are Photography and Design Communication, articulated with Photography of Architecture, City and Territory. In addition to this, the consolidation of a research work on the uses of diverse visual strategies and representation methods for communicating architecture, city and territory, with a special focus on photography as a transversal media within these areas of study.

The text describes a collaborative and dynamic environment allowing for an informed appraisal of architecture and city space, understanding the diverse forms of its appropriation and giving the students the possibility to participate in the discussion of the transformation of these territories.

The teaching process adopted encourages the interaction between teachers, researchers and students, leading to a dynamic of discovery built collectively, establishing relationships and connections between the people and institutions of academia involved and the general public. All this favours a dialogical learning process, exploring the multifaceted richness of the territories under study and the way in which public spaces are transformed and architecture is designed.

It will be shown the significant connection that is established between the CUs and the research focused on Architecture, Art and Image (AAI) which is the nuclear universe of all the research developed in the AAI research group, where several of the pedagogical actions of the CUS are linked to.

It is believed that this articulation between CUs and research coming from R&D project teams reinforces and provides conditions to stimulate the beginning of activities related with investigation, as well as the development of students' critical reflexive competences, creativity and autonomy. Moreover, we also ensure that the articulated work of the CUs with research is open to various national and international teaching and research institutions, as well as to civil society.

