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Bandung, recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Creative City of Design in Indonesia, is a model of grassroots-driven urban creativity shaped by community-led initiatives and state-led frameworks. Yet little is known about how stakeholders interpret this creativity, and how it manifests as built form and identity through formal-informal processes. Grounded in assemblage theory (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987; Lefebvre, 1992), this research examines formal-informal interplay as an ongoing negotiation of territory; a continuous process of territorialisation-deterritorialisation and expression-spatiality of urban spaces.

This research is guided by three questions: 1) how is creativity interpreted?; 2) how do formal-informal processes negotiate territory?; and 3) how does this negotiation manifest as built form and identity in the city? This poster shares preliminary findings on how Bandung's creative actors interpret creativity, and how this interpretation is beginning to take shape as built form. The study employs pragmatic, mixed-methods design: semi-structured interviews with actors from academia, business, community, government, and media, and spatial mapping of architectural form. This research is analysed through NVivo coding, Actor-Network Theory (ANT), topic modelling, and Kropf's (2017) urban morphology method.

Early findings show creativity interpreted not as innovation, but as problem-solving intent and action with organic (bottom-up) and structured (top-down) creativity emerging as contested identities. The manifestation of creativity as built form and identity appears through three patterns: 1) spatio-temporal negotiation with regulation of space; 2) built forms respectful of context; and 3) a safe space for expressing creative intention. Creative production is seen as a creative act due to the convergence of ideas of the artist(s), and as part of product's consensus, which requires validation from audiences in public settings. The research extends assemblage thinking on Global South creative cities, supporting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for sustainable, inclusive, and just urban development.

Keywords

Bandung, Assemblage Theory, Creative City, Interpretation, Manifestation, Territorialisation, Negotiation, Process

References

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