

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Andria Charilaou
Student number	5628938

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Verena Balz	Spatial Planning and Strategy
Second mentor	Leo van den Burg	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>My first choice for my thesis's studio is Planning Complex Cities. I believe that Cyprus provides a compelling case study of a contested complex urban environment, where various conflicts exist such as racial, religious, gendered, and political. Through this studio, I aim to unveil the different layers of complexity in the city and engage with other disciplines such as sociology, history, ethnography, politics, and art. Additionally, the feminist approach that I aim to establish in my thesis aligns with the studio's goal of promoting a democratic and open society. Another reason for choosing this studio is to reinforce my research and writing skills.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<p><b>BODIES OF ANTITHESIS</b> Gender power roles in conflict and militarized environments</p>
Goal	
Location:	Cyprus
The posed problem,	<p><b>PROBLEMATIZATION</b> <b>Institutional relation between military and gender marginalized groups.</b> In conflict environments, entities with institutional power, such as the military, often exploit the conflict to feed gender power relations, oppressing gender marginalized groups. For instance, the issues and concerns of women are often dismissed and deemed insignificant in the face of the ethnical conflict, since it is presented to them as so much more important than any other issue (Vassiliadou, 2002). A perception that has established a hierarchy on the importance of different issues, valuing less the ones concerning gender, ultimately leading to an hierarchical gender relation. The military is an institution which has been a key player in reproducing and institutionalize these perceptions and gender stereotypes, often portraying men as warriors/heroes and the ones who take decisions and women as the supporters, victims, and</p>

	<p>healers and thereby relegating women to ‘second-class citizens’ (Efthymiou, 2017)</p> <p><b>Spatial translation of the hierarchical relation between military and gender marginalized groups.</b></p> <p>Institutionalized gender perspectives have a profound impact on the way in which the presence and visibility of different bodies is constructed and negotiated within urban spaces. This is particularly evident in the juxtaposition between the body of the soldier and the body of the sex-worker, which symbolically represents marginalized groups. On the one hand, militarism, and the soldier's body in space, is often portrayed as an institution that upholds patriarchal and national structures (Vassiliadou, 2002) and hence it is highly visible within the urban fabric. On the other hand, the body of the sex-worker, one of the most gendered marginalized groups, is viewed as a form of resistance first to the social space to which women are traditionally confined and second to the prescribed notions of womanhood (their prefabricated role). This resistance to the space that they should be and to the role that they should have makes them a threat to patriarchy (Ekpootu, 2017) and is therefore stigmatized, remained silent and hidden.</p> <p>The thesis aims to explore and analyze these issues, with a specific focus on how institutionalized gender perspectives and gender power relations are spatialized in conflict environments. An excellent example of this, is the case of Cyprus, where soldiers are highly visible in the city center and urban areas, while sex-workers are pushed to the periphery and hidden from view in grey areas such as the buffer zone, in fake sauna clubs (Psillides, 2014), and ‘nightclubs in nature’ in the middle of nowhere (Hulusi).</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p><b>MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION</b></p> <p>How can we make visible and challenge the institutional perceptions that feed gender hierarchical structures between the military and GMG in conflict environments?</p> <p><b>RESEARCH QUESTIONS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the institutionalized gender hierarchical relations between the military and gender marginalized groups in conflict environments?</li> <li>2. How do these relations find expression in space?</li> <li>3. What are appropriate tools to challenge sensitive gender issues and taboos that concern body and sexuality?</li> <li>4. What are the institutionalized gender hierarchical relations between the military and gender marginalized groups in Cyprus and how do they find expression in space?</li> <li>5. How can the knowledge, and the tools be used to challenge the gender hierarchical relation between the military and gender marginalized groups in Cyprus?</li> </ol>

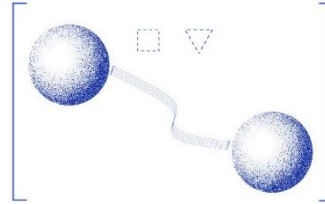
design assignment in which these result.

[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

## INTENDED OUTCOME

The present thesis' aim is to unveil and challenge the institutionalized perceptions, spatialities and norms which nurture gender power relations and advocate prefabricated roles for each gender. To do so, it creates an atlas of bodies.

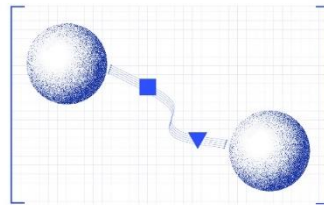


## CHAPTER A

### KNOWLEDGE BASE

*(Answering research questions 1 and 2)*

In chapter A it analyses the military as an institution, demonstrating how entities with institutional power can exploit the vulnerability of conflict environments to reinforce gendered hierarchical structures. The thesis aims to shed light on the relationship between the military and gender marginalized groups, focusing the detrimental effects of these hierarchies on the latter.

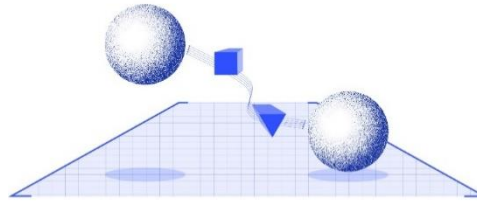


## CHAPTER B

### APPROPRIATE TOOLS TO CHALLENGE SENSITIVE GENDER ISSUES AND TABOOS THAT CONCERN BODY AND SEXUALITY

*(Answering research question 3)*

Through the whole research the thesis uses art as an experimental method to analyze these complex relations and at the same time it experiments with different art forms, researching for appropriate tools to challenge sensitive gender issues and taboos that concern body and sexuality.



**CHAPTER C**  
**APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE TOOLS IN**  
**CYPRUS TO UNVEIL AND CHALLENGE GENDER**  
**HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURES**

*(Answering research questions 4 and 5)*

The thesis contextualizes the research using Cyprus as a case study, an example of a conflict militarized environment. Utilizing the tools and knowledge gained from the theoretical and art analysis the thesis pursues to make visible and challenge the gendered institutional perceptions, spatialities and norms that feed gender hierarchical structures in Cyprus, aiming to raise awareness to facilitate a more horizontal relation between the military and gender marginalized groups.

## Process

### Method description

The atlas within the thesis is divided into three main chapters; Chapter A and B seeking to answer the research questions in a non-site-specific manner and Chapter C addressing the same questions, using the context of Cyprus.

Chapter A establishes a strong knowledge base for the thesis by investigating institutionalized gender hierarchical relations between the military and gender marginalized groups in conflict environments in different geographical locations and in periods of war or conflict. By building an archive, it examines the spatial translation of this relation and how space can promote institutionalized gender perspectives and increase the gap between the two groups.

#### Methods:

1. Literature research
2. Media research
3. Art Projects research
4. Image archive

Chapter B builds on the theoretical research and the material from the Archive from Chapter A. It experiments with different forms and techniques of art as a means to challenge sensitive gender issues and taboos concerning body and sexuality. It further provides the necessary tools and instructions on how to use art to analyze, unveil, and challenge for the case study in Chapter C.

#### Methods:

5. Art Projects research
6. Interviews with artists
7. Visual experimentation

Chapter C uses Chapter A as the lens and Chapter B as the tools to investigate the relation between the military and gender marginalized groups within the specific context of Cyprus as a militarized and conflict environment. In this specific context, the aim is not only to uncover the institutionalized perspectives and relations between the two groups but to spatially challenge them by structuring a body performance.

#### Methods:

8. Mapping:
  - a. QGIS mapping
  - b. Spatializing the Archive (Chapetr.A.2)
  - c. Media research
9. Context research:
  - a. Literature Research. (Chapter A.1)
  - b. Utilizing the Archive (Chapetr.A.2)
  - c. Media research
  - d. Interview with the artist Mustafa Hulusi
  - e. Interviews with Feminist organizations and NGOS
10. Field work:
  - a. Interviews with soldiers
  - b. Filming
  - c. Empirical
  - d. Unstructured interviews with women within the sites of interest
11. Body performance analysis:
  - a. Visual experimentation (Chapter B)
  - b. Mapping the body performances (Chapter B)
12. Structure a Spatial Body performance

## Literature and general practical preference

The research unfolds its main concepts and theories with the following order: first, investigating conflict environments as institutions and their effects on bodies; second, examining militarism as an institution and its effects on bodies and space; third, identifying gender marginalized groups within the theories of conflict environments and militarism; fourth, researching the relationship between the military and gender marginalized groups; and finally, analyzing the spatial translation of this relationship.

### Art as a tool:

Tate. (2023, January 25). Art terms. Retrieved from Tate: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms>

Lueg, K., & Lundholt, M. W. (2021). *Routledge Handbook of Counter-Narratives*. London: Routledge. doi:<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429279713>

### Body performativity:

Goffman, E. (1956). The arts of impression management . In E. Goffman, *The presentation of self in everyday life* (p. 137). New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group.

Kristiansen, S., & Jacobsen, M. H. (2015). Goffman's Sociology of Everyday Life Interaction. In S. Kristiansen, & M. H. Jacobsen , *The Social Thought of Erving Goffman* (pp. 67-84). SAGE Publications, Inc.

### Discourse/Institution:

Hajer, M., & Versteeg, W. (2005). A decade of discourse analysis of environmental politics: Achievements, challenges, perspectives. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 175-184. doi:10.1080/15239080500339646

Richardson, T., & Jensen, O. B. (2002). *Linking Discourse and Space: Towards a Cultural Sociology of Space in Analysing Spatial Policy Discourses*. Carfax Publishing. doi:10.1080/0042098032000035491

### Conflict environments:

Antona, L. (2014). *Separation and Resistance: How the Spatiality and Symbolism of the Border Intersects with the Everyday*. London : Development Planning Unit University College London.

Kirsch, S., & Colin , F. (2011). *Reconstructing Conflict*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

Papadakis, Y. (2005). *Echoes from the Dead Zone: Across the Cyprus Divide*. London: I.B. Tauris.

### Military as an institution:

Kirsch, S., & Colin , F. (2011). *Reconstructing Conflict*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

O'Brien, P. P. (2022, September 28). *What Ted Cruz and Tucker Carlson Don't Understand About War*. Retrieved from The Atlantis : <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/09/russia-ukraine-woke-military-tucker-carlson/671569/>

### Gender marginalized groups:

Bondi, L., & Rose, D. (2003). Constructing gender, constructing the urban: A review of Anglo-American feminist urban geography. *A Journal of Feminist Geography*, 10(3), 229–245. doi:10.1080/0966369032000114000

Ekpootu, M. U. (2017). Sexualizing the City: Female Prostitution in. In M. R. García, L. Heerma van Voss, & E. v. Meerkerk, *Selling Sex in the City: A Global History of Prostitution, 1600s-2000s* (pp. 306-328). Leiden: BRILL.

Evaristo, B. (2019). *Girl, Woman, Other*. United Kingdom: Hamish Hamilton.

Hadjichristos, C. (2007). *PROSTITUTION SPATIALISED: Cyprians then and now*. İstanbul: Proceedings, 6th International Space Syntax Symposium.

Hooks, B. (1984). *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. United States.

Lorber, J. (1994). "Night to His Day": The Social Construction of Gender. In J. Lorber, *Paradoxes of Gender* (pp. 13-36). New York and London: Yale University.

Newton, C. (2008). *Social Housing, Urban Policy and Social Capital: Spatial Interrelations in a Third World Context (Cape Town)*. Heverlee.

Psillides, C. (2014, October 4). 'Aphrodite's Temple' trial to go ahead despite threats of revelations. Retrieved from Cyprus Mail : <https://cyprus-mail.com/2014/10/04/aphrodites-temple-trial-to-go-ahead-despite-threats-of-revelations/>

#### **Relation between military and gender marginalized groups:**

Cockburn, C. (2001). GENDER IN ARMED CONFLICT AND PEACE PROCESSES. *The Cyprus Review*, 13 (1), 59-74.

Efthymiou, S. A. (2017). *Cypriot female soldiers: second-class citizens*. Cyprus: Cyprus Centre for Strategic Studies.

Enloe, C. (2000). *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*. University of California Press. doi:10.1177/03058298000290020408

Vassiliadou, M. (2002). Questioning Nationalism. The Patriarchal and National Struggles of Cypriot Women within a European Context. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 459 - 482.

#### **Spatial relation between military and gender marginalized groups:**

Hulusi, M. (n.d.). Nightclubs in Nature . *Nightclubs in Nature (Detail)*, 2009. PI ARTWORKS, London and İstanbul.

Kirsch, S., & Colin , F. (2011). *Reconstructing Conflict*. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited.



## Reflection

### **Relation between the thesis' topic and the topic of the studio Planning Complex Cities**

The thesis' topic aligns with the Planning Complex Cities studio's focus on research-based projects linking together institutional and spatial analysis. Specifically, the thesis examines the institutional causes and drivers of the spatial manifestations of gender inequity, focusing on informal institutions, invisible power distributions, and ideologies. The thesis examines how these factors shape the institutionalized gender hierarchical relations between the military and gender marginalized groups in conflict environments and how these relations are expressed in space. Additionally, the thesis explores the role of institutions in urbanism by analyzing their influence on forming gender power structures in society and space. The thesis will eventually conclude with recommendations for institutional change to improve socio-spatial equity aiming to contribute to ongoing efforts to disrupt oppressive structures and promote social justice, in line with the studio's normative values.

### **Relation between the thesis' topic and the master track of urbanism**

The thesis aligns well with the master's approach of exploring critical questions of urbanism with sensitivity to local conditions and cultures, as it examines the impact of institutionalized gender power relations on the spatial dynamics of urban environments in conflict situations with a focus on gender marginalised groups. The research aims to understand how these relations are expressed in space, and how they can be challenged using appropriate tools and case studies. By examining these issues, the thesis contributes to the department's goal of advancing knowledge of sustainable and fair urban development and of understanding the relationship between the built environment and the wellbeing of citizens.

### **Societal relevance**

The thesis focuses on the institutional relationship between military and marginalized groups in forming gender power relations within conflict environments. This is a crucial issue as there are many ongoing conflicts in which the military is often associated with hypermasculinity and brutality. Additionally, when military is diverse and promotes inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community, it is often characterized as weak, emasculated or 'feminine' (O'Brien, 2022). These perceptions not only affect those on the battlefield but also have a broader impact on society, particularly on gender marginalized groups. It is important to uncover these institutionalized perceptions of gender within conflict and militarized environments and challenge the hierarchical structures they reinforce, in order to contribute to the discourse of militarism and its impact on society.

### **Scientific Relevance**

The proposed research will use art as a tool to investigate and analyze the complex relationships between gender institutional perceptions and their manifestation in space. Specifically, by utilizing a procedural scope, the study will reveal the ways in which institutional perspectives shape spatial body performances and how these perspectives influence the urban fabric. Furthermore, by taking an experimental approach, this research will demonstrate the potential of art as a valuable method for investigating these complex relations. The findings of this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of these relationships and the potential for this method to be applied in other research studies.