

# 29 CASE STUDIES EXPLORING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH TRANSFORMATIVE FORMS OF SOLIDARITY IN DIVERSITY EMERGE IN WORK, LEISURE, RESIDENTIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SPACES



## TURNING DIVERSITY INTO SOLIDARITY

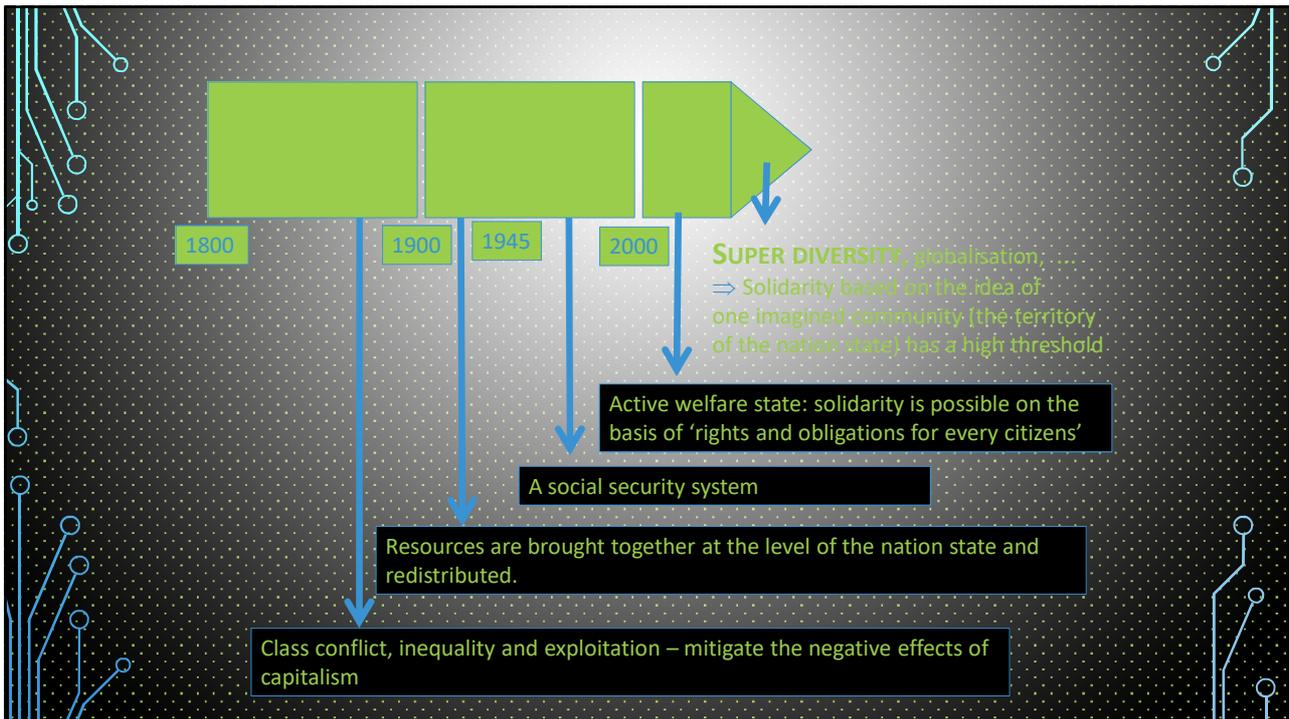
AN INTERVENTION PERSPECTIVE ... IN COMPANY WITH A LOT OF LADIES

Transformative forms of solidarity

the capacity to enhance transformative forms of solidarity

Joke Vandenabeele – Education, Culture and society





## AN INTERVENTION PERSPECTIVE? BRINGING IN 'SOLIDARITY' AGAIN

- Solidarity and its many-sidedness
  - relatively neglected concept in smooth policy processes
- Solidarity as a practical concern: sharing material and immaterial resources in ways that sustain the idea of fellowship
- Transformative forms of solidarity are upmost educational
  - seek to make concrete changes in the living conditions of people
  - are nurtured by an experience that the community we are taking ourselves to be representatives of can be changed, reoriented and broadened.
- Focus on transformative solidarities in the *here and now*
  - from boundedness of national territories to relationality and proximity of places
  - from conditional on long term presence and formal and bureaucratic criteria to concrete practices




## Rabot Blaisanvest



- ▶ Dense: 9465 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Ethnic-cultural superdiversity
- ▶ Economic deprivation: 'the poorest neighbourhood of Ghent'

## A COMPLEMENTARY CURRENCY EXPERIMENT...

- ecological actions and maintaining public space and greenery
- Local economy
- 10 Torekes = €1

**Neighbourhood, neighbours, environment**

Managed by a community development organisation  
 → "Linking unused capacities of people to unfulfilled needs in the neighbourhood"



## BROADENING INTERACTION IN SHARED PLACES

*“an older Turkish lady who speaks little Dutch, a homeless Belgian and a Nigerian refugee. These are various figures that are present on the Site, and they are linked to each other through the Torekes” (community worker)*



7

## INFORMAL WAYS OF LIVING WITH DIFFERENCE

*“It used to be each group, each culture relating to itself. They come together here and that’s what is so nice about it. Before, those Turkish people, I didn’t know them because I don’t speak any Turkish. Now it doesn’t matter, whether they speak Turkish or whatever.... You learn to communicate with each other, with signs and gestures! Those Turkish people also make an effort to make themselves understandable. We’ll get there in the end.” (volunteer)*



8

## EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND SOLIDARITY

Torekens as introducing 'liberating constraints'  
(focus, guiding rules, ... )

... prompting enough commonality for different individuals to interact and share

... turning (parts of) the neighbourhood into something that can be studied

... unsettling what is taken-for-inevitable

*"why don't you give us euros"*

*"the so called 'non-active' people seem to be very active"*

*".. I think we need to reclaim the word activation"*



## PUBLIC PEDAGOGY - RESEARCH AGENDA

'minor' acts of a public pedagogy

- Acts that **blur or even refute** the way very different people (irregular migrants, refugees, asylum seekers) falls between clear-cut social, cultural and legalistic conventions and categories.
- the **materiality of urban space** and the emergence of **a collective** that transcends existing differences in social identity and position
- **collective study practices**.... bringing into focus a more and more differentiated world that offers new possibilities for living and acting
- **"the audacious nature of hope** – spirited, daring, boldness – that creates surprising outcomes to disconcerting circumstances."

## PUBLIC PEDAGOGY - RESEARCH AGENDA

- It is not about envisioning a future and outlining the way to this future  
.... being part of a hybrid collective of “co-creators”
- It is about three critical interactions:
  - gathering, which brings together those who share concerns;
  - reassembling, in which material gathered is deliberately rebundled to amplify particular insights;
  - and translating, by which reassembled ideas are taken up by other collectives so they may continue to “do work”