



‘The Left to the City’:

**Reflections from the
Streets of Athens**

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It is 1968: in the midst of the cataclysmic and influential urban revolt of May 68 that left an imprint on French society. It is also the peak of the Situationist movement, alongside a very politicised and active student cohort leading the protests, when Henri Lefebvre published his most influential work 'The Right to the City'. Just before the revolutionary dominoes of 1968 in Paris, Prague, London, Rome, the rest of Europe and the US, the Right to the City appears as a slogan in his book *Le Droit à la ville* and quickly becomes the catch-phrase and cornerstone in urban social movements, radical thinking, and Leftist politics. 50 years after the first publication of the 'Right To The City', the term has been cannibalised by neoliberal agendas, municipal politics, and conservative urban scholars, to name a few.

In this talk, public confession, visual manifesto we engage with Lefebvre's slogan in order to explore the following questions: Whose right and to what city? Only proper citizens have the right to have rights in the cities? Is Lefebvre's 'Right to the City' still relevant for urban social movements? Using material and examples from the post-2008 uprisings in Athens, we are going to paint the picture of the 'left to the city' or of what is left from the right to the city.

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