ON THRESHOLD: INFRASTRUCTURES AND TRANSVERSAL METHODOLOGIES

Pelin Tan

Thinking of the architecture of the threshold infrastructures as a network of space-based struggles and solidarity practices is vital in my practice as a researcher, writer, and pedagog. In the last decade, I am involved in community-engaged practice in conflict territories, where I do organize unlearning platforms and collectives that I do question the field, methods, and knowledge production in search of commons as the decolonial process. I worked in diverse geographies for example China Pearl River Delta's fishing village of female labor; activists-run space from Japan to Palestine; and mapping survival infrastructures in refugee camps. Always my curiosity is how I can understand and involve with transversal methodology of such spaces where critical spatial practices are happening.

My collective Arazi Assembly is an example of how we can collectively map with architectural, urban, and artistic methodology in extractive zones in the southeast region of Turkey where I am based. Arazi, is a collective working on the extraction zone in engagement with local communities against geontological infrastructures' impacts. The action research here requires many collaborations with different actors, de/archiving landscapes, and producing contra-images.

For instance in my ongoing work "Tigris Phenomenologies" I am mapping memorizing lands, de/archiving artifacts, enacting non-human cycles, and engaging with poetics of exile on the lands of Tigris River. A zone of extraction along, the Tigris probes questions that build towards broader problematics, about artifacts as traces of an apocalyptic era; lands as layers of violence; cycles as Earth's navigation; and exile as a voluntary collectivity. What can artistic/architectural experiences reveal about and how can they embody the voice of apocalyptic landscapes? How can the effects of surpassing disasters be dug out and memorized through artistic and architectural methodologies?

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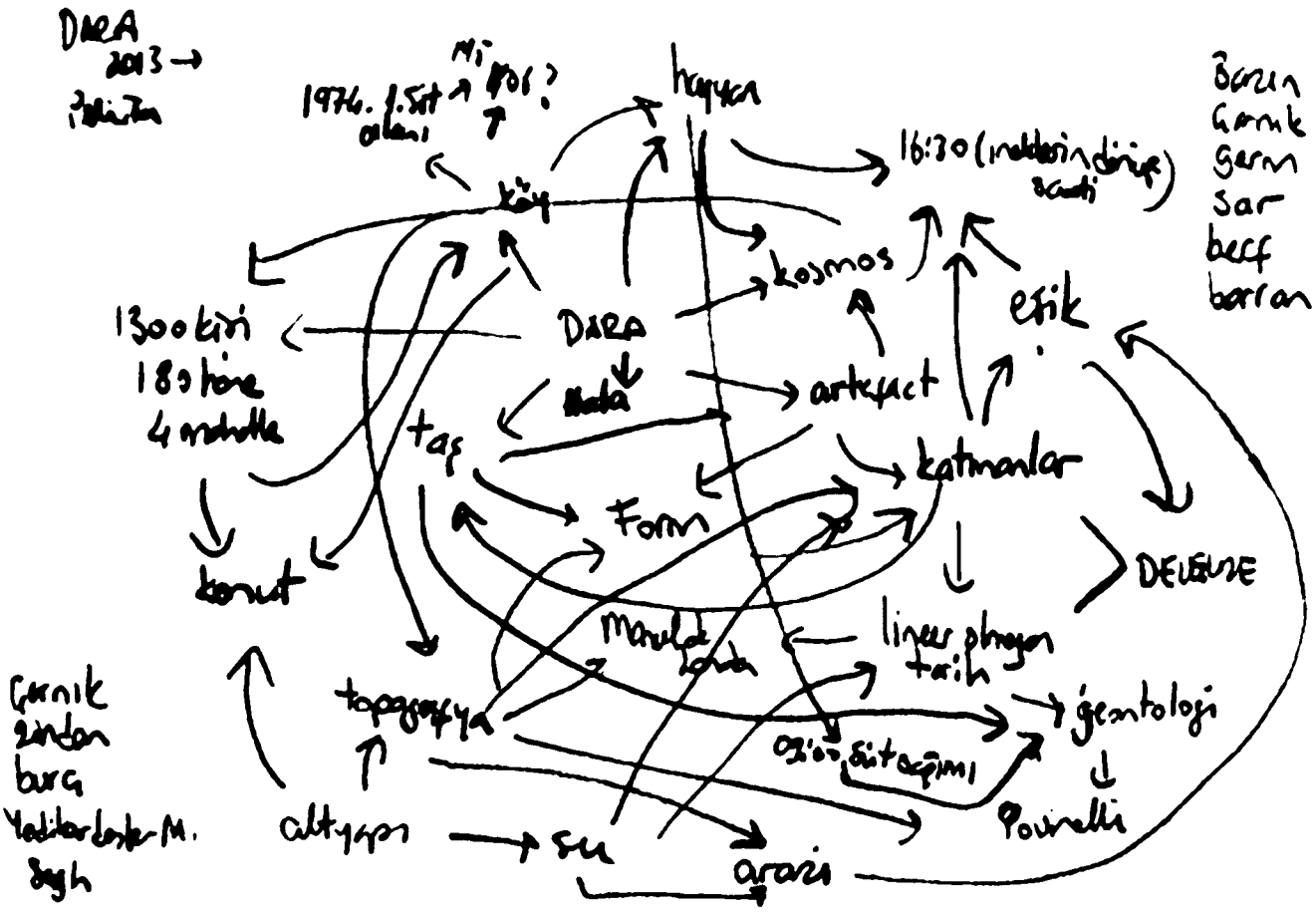
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Since 2018, I do co-curate Urgent Pedagogies (IASPIS) which is a debate, discussion-based public event and an online archive of practices of pedagogies from different parts of places. Aiming to create assemblies of practices, this curatorial research project helps me to understand in which historical moment, political-social pressure, and collective methods the unlearning collectives and practice appear from Beirut, to China.

araziassembly.org
urgentpedagogies.iaspis.se



A map of Dara in Pelin's notebook from 2013. © Pelin Tan