Poli-Plex-Icon: Visualizing Urban Complexities(2018)

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ABSTRACT IN GREEK

Η εικόνα της πολύπλοκης πόλης (Poli-Plex-Icon) είναι ποιοτική μέθοδος χαρτογράφησης και αναπαράστασης ταυτοτήτων αστικών τόπων που υιοθετεί τις αρχές του κριτικού ρεαλισμού και τοποθετείται στο σύγχρονο πεδίο μελέτης των ψηφιακών ανθρωπιστικών επιστημών. Κύρια χαρακτηριστικά της είναι η παραδοχή ότι η πραγματικότητα είναι διαστρωματωμένη και η κριτική, διεπιστημονική, πειραματική, συνεργατική, πολυτροπική, επιτελεστική προσέγγισή της. Η μέθοδος διαχειρίζεται πολυποίκιλα υλικά και άυλα στοιχεία ενός τόπου, τα οποία οργανώνει σε 'αφηγηματικά επίπεδα', τα οποία μπορούν να αντιστοιχούν σε ιστορικές περιόδους (παλίμψηστο) ή να αναφέρονται σε διαφορετικές έννοιες. Τα αφηγήματα οπτικοποιούνται με εκφραστικά μέσα, κυρίως από την αρχιτεκτονική, την χαρτογραφία και τις εικαστικές τέχνες και τοποθετούνται το ένα πάνω στο άλλο, δημιουργώντας μια πολύπλοκη εικόνα, στην οποία ο χαρτογράφος επιλέγει ποιά στοιχεία θα αναδείξει. Το αποτέλεσμα μπορεί να χρησιμοποιηθεί ως μια εικόνα του αστικού τόπου, ή ως υπόβαθρο για τον σχεδιασμό.

Extended Abstract in English

The Image of the Complex City' (Poli-Plex-Icon, 2018) is a qualitative, critical method of mapping and visualizing urban places identities that emanates from the contemporary understanding of the city as a system of organized complexity. It adopts the principles of critical realism and is placed in the contemporary field of digital humanities. As such, it is distinguished by seeing reality as being stratified and moreover, it adopts critical, interdisciplinary, experimental, collaborative, multimodal, and performative approaches. Settlements of various sizes can be mapped, not only cities and towns, but also villages, with the rationale that any settlement could develop into a city, or had urban characteristics in the past that later faded. This assumption comes from considering a place as an urban palimpsest, i.e., a place in which the traces of previous civilizations that have flourished and declined coexist. The image of the complex city maps diverse material and immaterial elements of a place, which it organizes into 'narrative layers', which can correspond to historical periods (palimpsest) or refer to different concepts. A narrative is a set of elements grouped by the cartographer. The narrative is treated as a text with multiple meanings; therefore, it is not static, but 'porous', a concept in semiotics, which means it includes meanings that are constantly renewed and reinterpreted in different ways. Necessarily the result has a high degree of subjectivity and ambiguity, although the cartographer has the ability to adjust how specifically to highlight certain narratives.

The image of the complex city has architecture as its starting point and emanates from the layer superimposition, a technique of producing form and giving meaning to a design project introduced by the architects of the deconstruction in the 80s. The superimposition of layers allows the collection and organization of a huge amount of multifarious data, which form a single image, producing visual complexity, a necessary condition for representing urban complexity. The layers, however, organize the phenomenal chaos, rendering the concept of the urban place as a system of organized complexity. Unlike the architectural practice, however, here it is not a real space that is produced, but its image, a visual simulation of the overt and hidden elements of an urban place, which can be used as an image of the place or as a background in urban design. The sources of data extraction are varied, the expressive media combine architectural plans, maps, painting, photography, text, etc. and the representation can be in a digital map, or video, including interaction, animation, sound, etc.

Poli-Plex-Icon Model

THE FORMATION OF BOTTOM-UP COMPLEX URBAN IDENTITY THROUGH MULTI-LAYER MAPPING
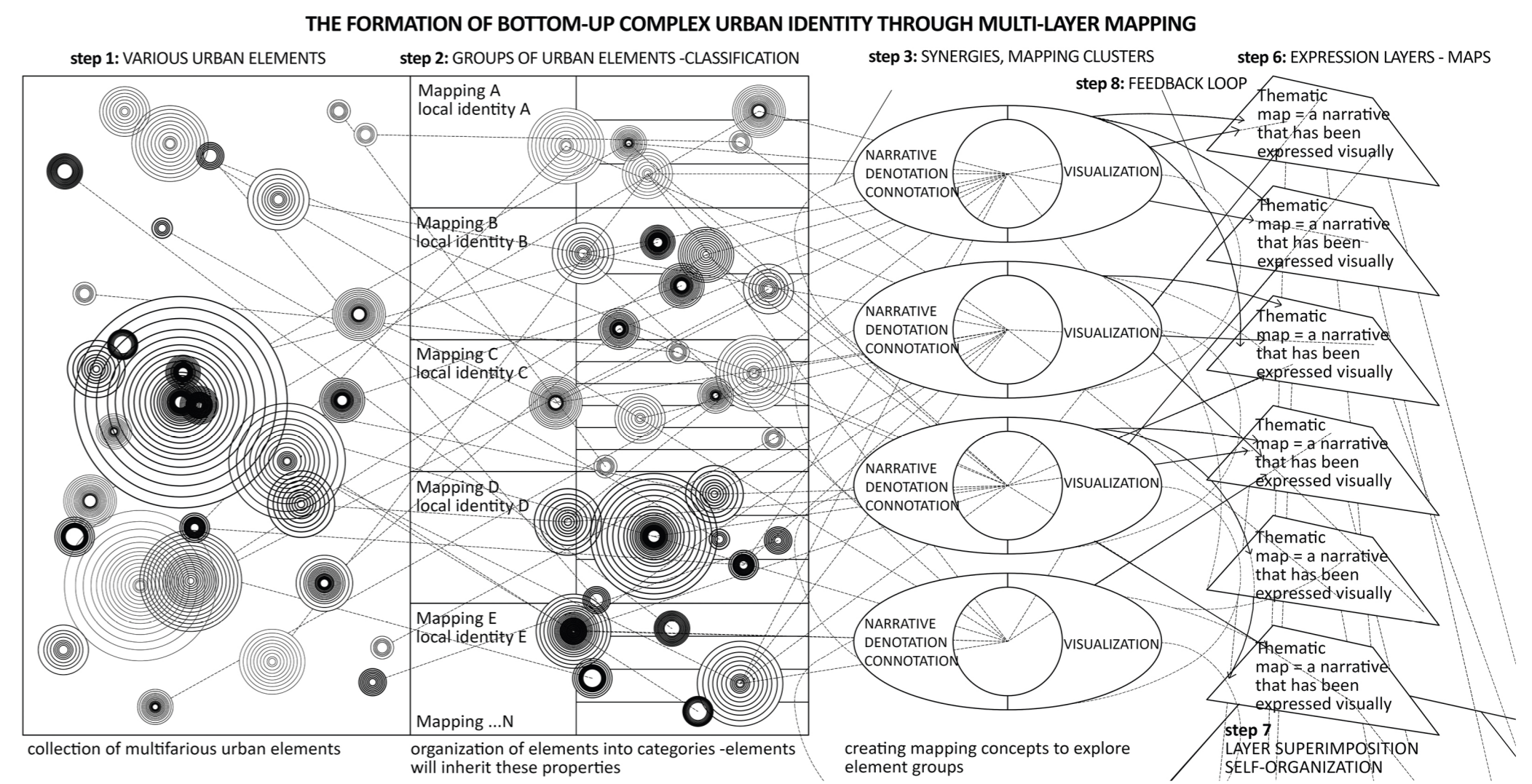
Application to Kythira Island
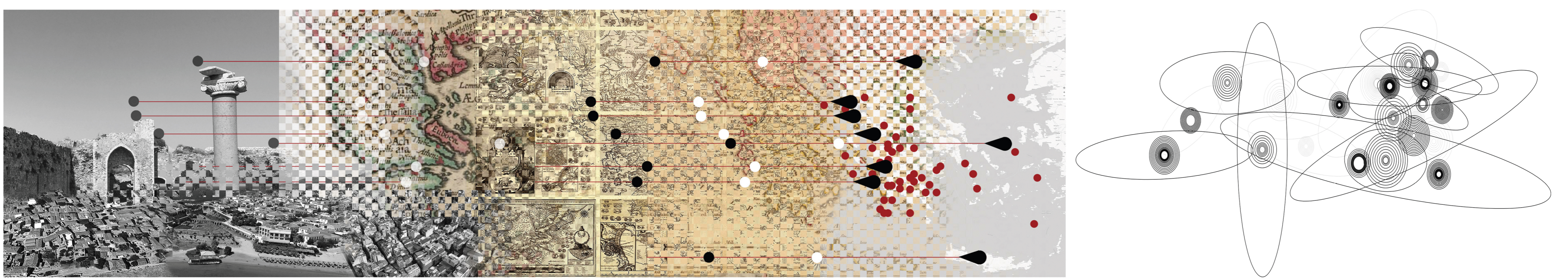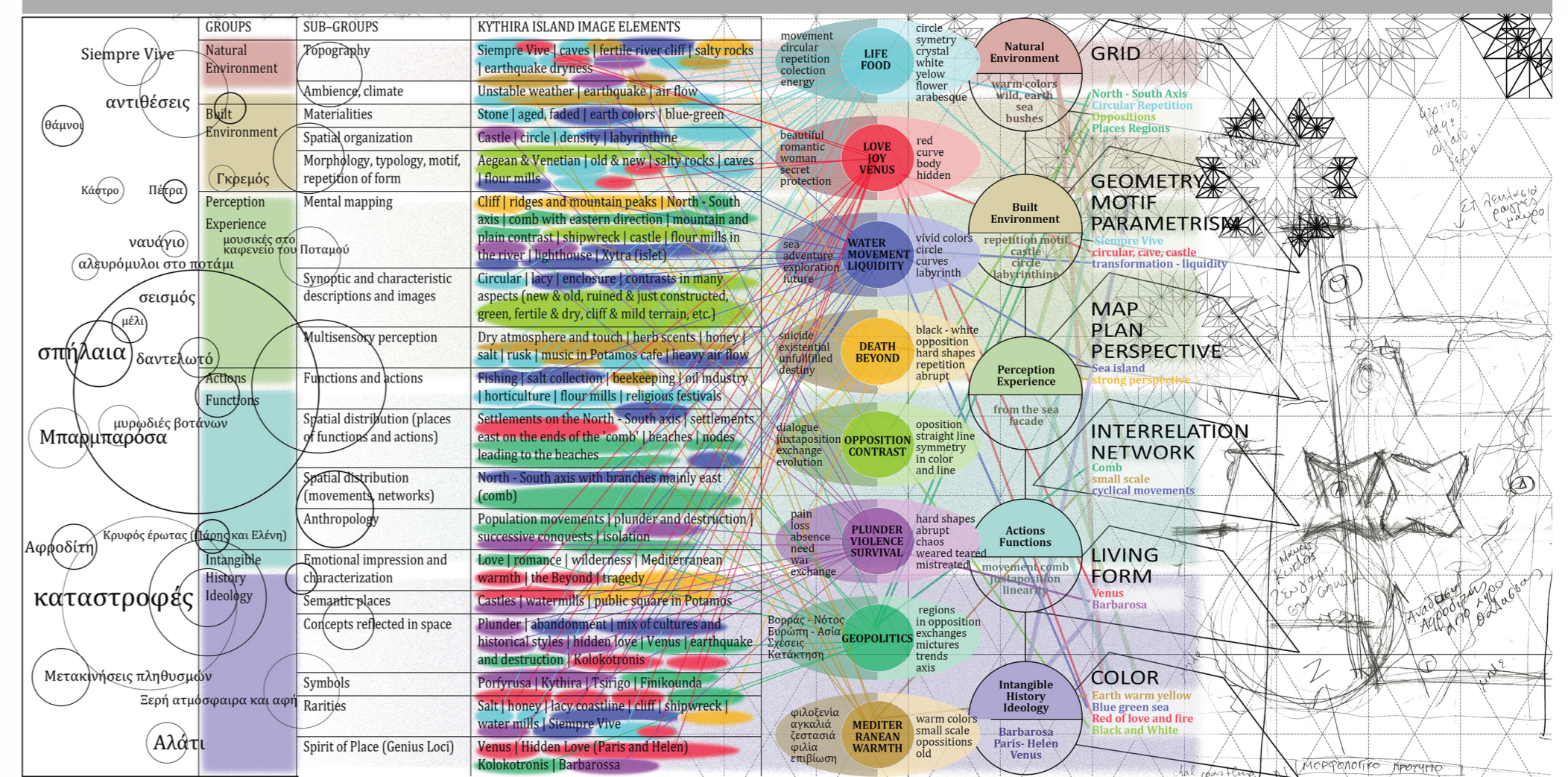
Application to funded research projects in Greece

Poli-Plex-Icon has been already applied to several research projects and workshops in Greece: Mapping Chania: Psychogeographic Guide of the Old Town (2019, E.Tsakiri, S. Yiannoudes) Ed: Technogramma Med (workshop and book)| APOPLUS The Invisible Cities and the City Ports of the Ionian Sea: visual art dialogues between Greek litterateurs and Calvino (2019) (Visual Arts Exhibition funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports | REVOLUTIONARY PALIMPSESTS: The visualization of the network of the distinct urban places in the space-time spectrum of the Greek Revolution (2020-2022), (Researh Project funded by the H.F.R.I.) | COVID-MAPPING: Mapping and Visualization of the Pandemic Image in Urban Public Space (2021) (research project funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports). LOUTROTOPOS: Critical mapping and visual narration of thermal springs in the Hellenic Territory (2023-2024) (Research Project funded by the H.F.R.I.)

References, Bibliography

www.youtube.com/c/PoliPlexIconVisualizingUrbanComplexities

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