EXTRATERRITORIAL

SITE SPECIFIC WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE
29 JUNE - 3 JULY

at Agios Georgios island, Salamina

The concept of extraterritoriality designates certain relationships between space, law and representation. Extraterritoriality regulates the function and circulation of people and things in space and across borders, sometimes by exclusion, sometimes by exemption. Under conditions of extraterritoriality, people and things acquire a special status according to spatial, political, economic and juridical implications. Extraterritoriality brings us face to face with the the refugee crisis, nation-state system and its complicity with capital e.g. tax-heavens and trade markets. It also highlights the complex spatiality of environmental crimes, the mechanisms of cyber surveillance, the changing shape of contemporary war, maritime boundary disputes over resources, all that resolve in states and corporations expanding their control over vast portions of territories, urban and rural spaces, waters, persons, communities.

Rather than being a static conceptual form extraterritoriality can be experienced and studied site specific. Extraterritorial research is always a practice with its own logic of representation, of knowledge production and documentation. It presupposes the confrontation with legal statuses on specific territories, it is shaped through accessibility and restriction.

Within the framework of a 5-days-program we seek to work on an extraterritorial place, the island St. George in Greece. Located in the Gulf of Elefsina between Salamina and Perama St. George is a small island which currently belongs to the Greek Navy and operates under military camp security rules. In ancient times the island hosted a colony of Phoenicians, who were engaged in shell fishing and producing Tyrian purple. St. George island has been firstly used in 1865 as a quarantine place for people with virulent diseases and it has been a spot for treating cholera in the epidemic of 1892, 1900, 1911 and 1913. The island hosted more than 100,000 refugees and soldiers that arrived 1923-1924 after the defeat of the Greek Front in Asia Minor. Part of the hospital facilities on the island remain abandoned, others are being used by the naval station.

The goal of the Extraterritorial site specific research is to bring together art and architecture students, as well as art practitioners and scholars which are interested in the notion of extraterritoriality and its implications, focusing on suburban geographies and landscapes, people and physical spaces under specific legal status.