**Museum of Slavery and Freedom at the Valongo Wharf: Dissent and Design of Territory and Memory**

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In 2011, two anchorages - Valongo and Imperatriz - were discovered during the excavations carried out as part of the revitalization works in the port area of Rio de Janeiro that were accelerated by the mega events that the city was hosting. Rio’s City Hall did not fail to realize the historical value of that discovery, but it was busy with works for the mega-events. In fact, Rio de Janeiro is today a city entirely affected by the mega-events that had taken place in it, and the urban transformations required in order to receive them. For example, the renowned *Maracanã* Stadium was completely renovated for the FIFA World Cup in 2014 and was once again renovated for the Olympic Games 2016. Today, the Olympic park in Barra da Tijuca that houses the main venues for the Games is abandoned. Throughout the whole city, there were resistances against these processes, but they were largely defeated. Not only ways of life were lost, but actual lives. In record time, soon after the closing of the Olympics, the newspapers were pointing out abandoned equipment, funds diverted and, lastly, the financial and social crisis where the city and the state of Rio de Janeiro were both deeply into. However, it is important to recognize that the crisis isn’t solely due to the mega events but, also largely, due to the economic dependency of oil, unpredicted market fluctuations, as well as inefficient management of resources and corruption. The crisis that affects Rio de Janeiro is serious and we live, today, under the total incapacity of the State and the City of Rio of granting basic services to its citizens.

Now, in the mist of a crisis, some achievements take place. In 2016 IPHAN and the City of Rio de Janeiro prepared a dossier of the Valongo Wharf for UNESCO and, in 2017, it was finally declared World Heritage Site in 2017. Faced with the surprise of the discovery of the Pier of Valongo and in the urgency of the construction of a memorial - the Museum of Slavery and Freedom - to welcome the archaeological findings, that we intend to discuss the possibilities of a “design of territory” and of a “design of memory”. If the path that took us to the Olympic Games was marked by heavy protests against the urbanization, with heavy conflict due to was being implemented without the participation of citizens, the current situation might open itself up to the exercise of citizenship, with resistances but always aiming at resurgences, that must characterize the democratic processes.