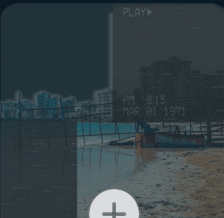


FROM TANGIBLE RUINS TO DIGITAL MEMORSCAPES: RETHINKING CONTESTED HERITAGE THROUGH DIGITAL ETHNOGRAPHY

Nilsu Erkul | Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University

CONTESTED HERITAGE HAS LONG PRIVILEGED TANGIBLE RUINS AS THE PRIMARY CARRIERS OF MEMORY. YET IN THE DIGITAL AGE, DISPLACED COMMUNITIES ARE RECONSTRUCTING MEMORY ACROSS VIRTUAL LANDSCAPES.

#contestedheritage #digitaletnography #memoriscapes #criticalheritagestudies #Varosha



RE-MEMBER

Contested heritage sites like Varosha demand new approaches to capture the evolving meanings and memories associated with them

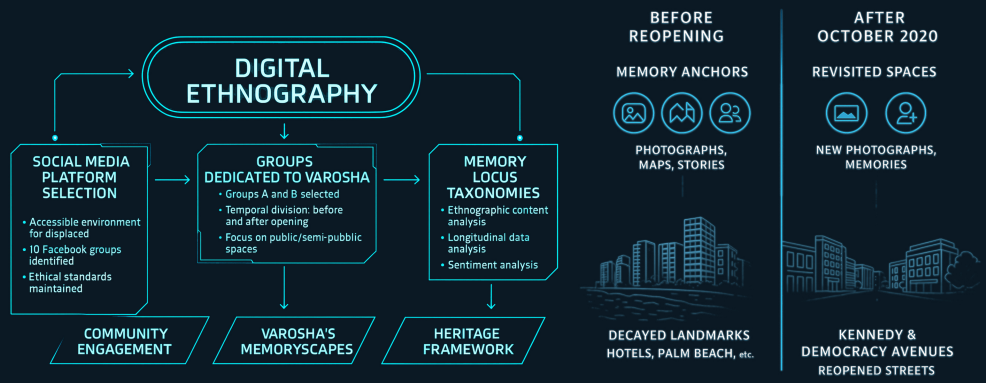
DISCUSSION

To explore how digital ethnography untangles the emotional and political complexity of contested histories

AIM

How does social media mediate remembrance for displaced communities?

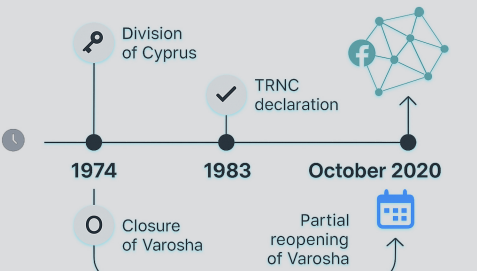
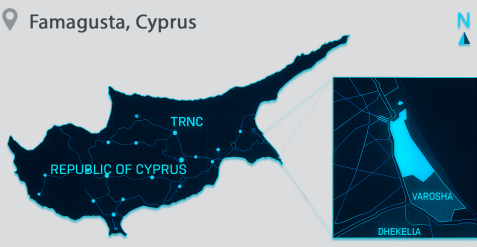
RESEARCH QUESTION



About Varosha

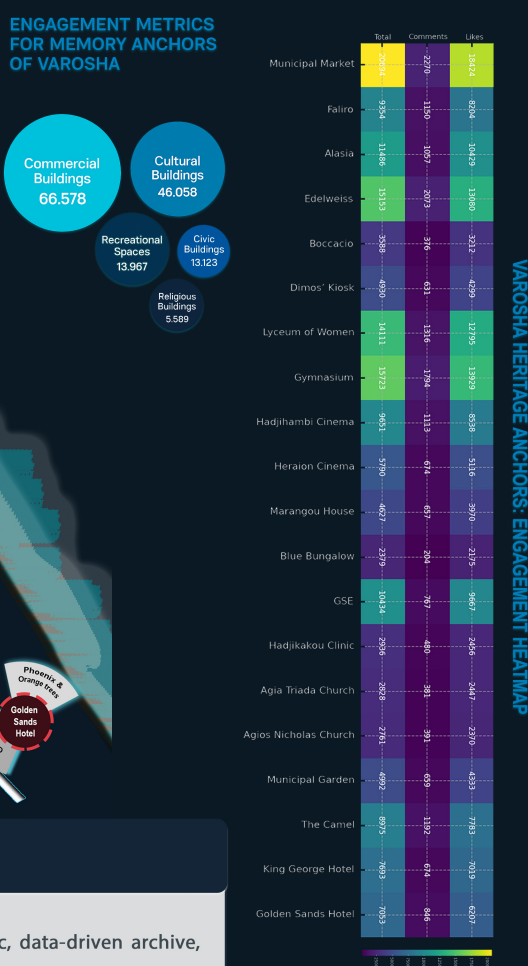
An emblematic site of displacement and contested heritage. Once a thriving coastal district of Famagusta, Cyprus, it was abandoned and sealed off following the 1974 conflict. Today, it stands as a potent symbol of urban rupture, memory loss, and geopolitical stasis.

Famagusta, Cyprus



Physically inaccessible to the public, except for two re-opened streets under surveillance since 2020. The area remains under the control of the Turkish military, with restricted access and no permanent civilian return permitted.

DIGITAL MEMORY CARTOGRAPHY OF VAROSHA



What happens when the archive is an algorithm?
14 August 1974

Digital platforms shape memory through algorithmic timelines and curated visibility. Drawing on digital ethnography in Varosha, Cyprus, this research reframes contested heritage as a dynamic, data-driven archive, formed through interfaces, affect, and temporal triggers.

IT ASKS: HOW MUST HERITAGE SCIENCE EVOLVE IN A POST-DIGITAL AGE?