

THE SOCIOLOGY WALKS THROUGH SOCIAL ISSUES IN SAN BERILLO

SAN BERILLO

San Berillo is an historical district of Catania. It was object of a renewal plan approved in 1957 that hid an operation of speculation behind the mainstream tale about the need of renewing the district for converting Catania in a "modern" city. As a matter of fact, **while the urban fabrics was partly demolished, the original social fabric of San Berillo was dismembered**: almost all of the original inhabitants had to move in the new suburbs. This huge economic operation of destruction caused around 30000 "deported people". As a consequence of these facts, the surviving remains of the San Berillo turned during the last decades in **the "red light district" of the city, avoided by the other citizens and by any kind of public urban policies.**

Today, San Berillo is a labyrinth of ancient streets and buildings and, above all, **a melting pot of cultures that gathers the open issues of current debate** (social poverty, local community empowerment, recovery of old and abandoned buildings etc.). Still now this area, even if it is nestled in the historic heart of the city, it is perceived as excluded from it.

TRAME DI QUARTIERE

In this context **Trame di Quartiere, a multi-discipline group** founded in 2015, **experiments community practices to regenerate this area starting from local inhabitants.** Trame also is conducting a research aims to re-trace the pieces of social history of the district with the goal of making the inhabitants and general citizens more aware about the past and the current situation. Trame believes that the awareness is the first step for the community empowerment and for future transformative actions.

THE WALKS

The **citizen-led walking conversations** through the streets of neighbourhood are one of the **participatory tools** used by Trame to spread and share the knowledge about the **material and immaterial heritage of San Berillo. It will cross the history of the district through the social changes that characterized it from the past until now**, involving inhabitants, telling anecdotes, mixing different fields of knowledge. The contents of these strolls are the results of many years of field research with a based context approach.

Meeting Point: "Palazzo De Gaetani", Via Pistone 55

Meeting time: 04:30 p.m., 5th of October 2018 at

Contribution: 5€ each.*

*Trame is made by volunteers and any contribution can help to increase our work with the community in the district.