

Privileged Tactics II

Work-in-progress, September 2008

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Introduction

This booklet presents Privileged Tactics II, which in September 2008 is still **work-in-progress**. It describes how the ideas for the project have evolved, and where we are heading with the work. The idea is to share our working process with others.

Why Privileged Tactics?

Privileged Tactics is the name of a series of projects that focus on **how people use creativity to survive**. Arising from our research, Privileged Tactics presents models for specific situations that question the wider environment, and at the same time help people improve their situation.

The projects suggest ways of subverting and appropriating tactics usually reserved for the privileged in order to survive.

Privileged Tactics I was based on our experiences with street children in the Ukraine. Before the arrival of capitalism to the former Soviet country, street kids didn't exist, but now number in the hundreds of thousands. The project consisted of an audio installation giving instructions for stealing; and a bag that can be used to block security alarms in shops.

The project tried to ask, **when is stealing a criminal tactic – and when is it a legal, or privileged tactic.**

Privileged Tactics III asks how people from different religious, national, ethnic, linguistic and geographic situations can use creativity in their interpersonal relationships. **It presents models that raise questions about an increasingly diverse society** and about the ways that technology mediates our relationships.

Privileged Tactics II - Background

The Zaballeen

In 2006 we visited Cairo and the hills of Moqattam, where we were first introduced to the Zaballeen (“people who collect the rubbish”). This community of **70,000 people survive by collecting and recycling the city's rubbish** in family-run cottage industries. We learnt that they recycle between 80-90% of all the waste they collect. (To compare, in London, only 40% of the rubbish collected for recycling is actually recycled.)

But despite international recognition for their low-impact and low-energy techniques, **their livelihood is threatened** by both international garbage contractors and government plans to move the Zaballeen out of the city. The international sanitation companies dump most of the rubbish they collect in land-fill sites in the desert.

First Idea

Our original idea was a GPS digital mapping project – we would track 1000 bottles as they moved around Cairo, and create a map showing how many ended up in the Zaballeen plants and how many in landfill sites. The idea won second prize in the 2007 UNESCO Digital Arts Awards.



Plastic in Moqattam, Cairo



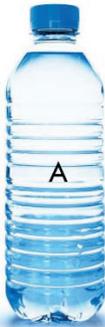
Central Cairo



Recycling plastic in Moqattam, where 70,000 Zaballeen survive by recycling Cairo's waste



Bottle A



| | |
|--|----------|
| Produced in | Fiji |
| Point of Sale | London |
| Distance from origin | 16284 km |
| CO2 produced in transport | 44 kg |
| Plastic Production Pollution : | |
| Hydrocarbons | 40g |
| Sulfur oxides | 25g |
| Carbon monoxide | 18g |
| Carbon dioxide (CO2) | 2.3kg |
| Nitrogen oxides | 20g |
| Water required to produce 1 kg of this plastic | 17.5 kg |

Future

The first demonstration of the model takes place in September 2008 at the Schute [Maknete] gallery in Hamburg, Germany.

On the 1st of October 2008 we will travel to Cairo for a research trip to develop the project further.

Partners and supporters

UNESCO

Santa Fe Arts Institute, US

Todd Lester, freeDimensional, US and Cairo

Kud Obrat, Slovenia

BAZA, Slovenia

Kholoud Bidak, Cairo

The Brindle Foundation, US

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