

The Transnational Working Group Espacio y ciudad en/desde América Latina invites to the following workshop:

"Decentering urban studies in and from Latin America"

September, 13th 2012, at desiguALdades.net Project House, Boltzmannstrasse 1, 14195 Berlin

The socio-spatial grid of Latin American cities is marked by a history of political and cultural domination and economic exploitation as a legacy of European imperialism and colonization. Studies of segregation, fragmentation, displacement, migration and marginalization in Latin American cities thus have to take into account the long history of spatially inscribed social, ethnical, racial and gendered inequalities. Yet this colonial legacy does not legitimate essentialist characterizations of "the" Latin American City. Instead, the development of cities and their socio-political, -economic and -cultural phenomena should better be framed as relational, that is, as developments entangled to urbanization processes in other world regions. The study of urbanity, due to its spatial focus, allows localizing global connections as well as contributing to global theories and their spatial assumptions by empirical case studies.

Against this background, transnational urban studies de-center, first, the space and position of theory building and its dominant localization in Western Academia, and second, through case studies in cities of Asia, Africa and Latin America, widen the empirical ground and generate an understanding of unequal urbanization processes. The workshop's aim is to link theory and methodology as two dimensions of inequality and explore on the question how they are interdependently related. By drawing on empirical studies on diverse phenomena and social spaces in Havana, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Medellín, among others, it is not the workshop's aim to conclude into a general theory of Latin American Urbanism, but to discuss academic vocabulary and method(ological) approaches for the study of urban space.

The workshop will be held in Spanish and English.

Programme

10:00h-11:00h **Welcome and introduction**

by Transnational Working Group Espacio y ciudad en/desde América Latina

Noa Ha (Technische Universität Berlin): „A right to the city for all – All for a right to the city?“ Decolonial perspectives towards the neoliberal city

11:00h-12:30h **Unequal Urban Spaces: Discourses and Practices in Rio’s, Mexico City’s and Medellín’s Urbanisms**

Stephan Lanz (Viadrina-Universität, Frankfurt/O): “Governmentality in a Brazilian favela“

Angela Stienen (Pädagogischen Hochschule Bern, Research and Human Rights Institute IPC, Medellín) "Urban Pedagogy and the Challenges of Medellín’s so-called Social Urbanism"

Frank Müller (desiguALdades.net, Freie Universität Berlin) “Formalising Landed Property in Mexico City’s Periphery: Enclosures and Heterotopic Effects”

Discussion

12:30h

Coffee

12:45h-14:15 **Mapping Urban Everydayness and Imaginaries – Methodological Challenges**

Jorge Peña Díaz (Facultad de Arquitectura y Centro de Estudios Urbanos, La Habana), "Mapping Havana"

Monika Streule (ETH Zürich), "A Hypothesis Map of Mexico City. Experimental Cartography as Method for Analyzing Spatial Practices in Urban Environments"

Estela Schindel (Uni Konstanz) „Maps and Sidewalks. Approaches to Understanding the Latin American City“

Discussion

14:15h- 15:15

Lunch

15:15h - 16:45 **Entangling Histories and Urban Spaces: Conceptual Challenges**

Anne Huffs Schmid (Lateinamerika-Institut, FU Berlin) and Kathrin Wildner (Viadrina, Frankfurt/O.): „Lo Urbano. Urban Studies from Latin America - a Translation Project“

Fraya Frehse (Universidade de Sao Paolo): “Times in the Body: Possibilities of the Lefebvorean Method for (Latin American) Urban Studies”

Discussion

16:45-17:00 Break

17:00-18:30 **Final Remarks and Discussion**

Discussant: Sergio Caggiano (desigualdades.net, CONICET), with all participants

19:30h Dinner

This workshop is supported by Dahlem Research School (DRS), desigualdades.net, ETH Zürich, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and Pädagogische Hochschule Bern.

Everybody is very welcome to join the workshop - please register your attendance till 10th of September 2012 with an Email to frank.mueller@fu-berlin.de