Mobilities around us: Social spatialities and new tourist surroundings in Barcelona
The case of Poblenou

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Objectives of the research

**General objective**
To assess the role of tourism in the neighbourhood social life with a focus on mobilities and relational processes;

**Thesis research project**

1 stage - Focus on the supposed ‘exclusionary’ character of space related to certain tourism mobilities – physical clash how different human mobilities negotiate public space

2 stage - Focus on the relational practices which shape the spaces / to analyse the way in which tourism mobilities negotiate and transform the everyday social life of the neighbourhood
Conceptual approach

This research excavates the shift in social relationships at the neighbourhood scale in the context of cities that are hubs of different mobilities, focusing on the agency of tourism mobilities.

Mobility turn in social sciences and tourism studies

Cresswell, 2014
Williams & Hall, 2000
Sheller & Urry, 2006

Mobile spatialization
Urry, 2000

Relational production of space
Harvey, 2000, 2006

Discuss the co-construction of society and mobility and in particular how mobilities are socially constitutive or disruptive.
Methodology

INTEGRATED APPROACH

Quantitative methods

- Functional segmentation of Case study area
  Aimed to identify tourist subdestinations (Hernández-Martín et al., 2016) and others functional sourrounding to compare different public spaces located in different contexts

- Subjectivity of local population and authorities (Coulton et al., 2001; Flowerdew et al., 2007; Sampson et al., 1997); Physical and social barriers (Cutchin et al., 2011; Flowerdew et al., 2007; Sampson et al., 1997; Suttles, 1972); Enacted boundaries (Chaskin, 1997; Suttles, 1972)

Qualitative methods

- Multi-sited fieldwork’
  Structured interviews
  Aim at further characterizing the spatial practices and interactions

Innovations in ethnography, in general terms, have developed monitoring practices such as ‘walking with’ or ‘flânerie’ (Ingold & Vergunst 2008; Jensen, 2009; Bairner, 2006), ‘tandem ethnography’ (Molland, 2013) and ‘multi-sited fieldwork’ (Marcus 1995),
OBJECTIVE STAGE 1
Determine different functions according to the dominant potential demand of mobilities which are observed. This step is motivated by the need to insert the public spaces which we will analyze from the relational perspective, in its spatial context, linking the mutation of the sociocultural landscape to the effects produced by different mobilities actuating (in) urban space.
Zoning: the areas of the neighborhood have been classified on the basis of the identified dominant function.
SELECTION OF CASE STUDY AREAS

SUPERILLA

CAN FELIPA SQUARE

VILLA OLIMPICA GARDEN

RAMBLA POBLE NOU SQUARE
METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK  Qualitative analysis

Qualitative analysis  Multi-sited ethnography  200 interviews (residents) conducted in August-September 2018 in the four selected spaces

OBJECTIVE STAGE 2
Explore four spaces surrounded by different context with respect to its capacity of relational performance and its potentiality to accommodate/exclude different networks of relationships.

3 sets of questions
1) Questions used to contextualize the link that binds the respondents to the public space of reference in spatial terms (proximity to the place) or motivational terms;
2) Questions refers to the perception of the identitary transformation of the neighborhood produced by the population remix that emerges from the implantation of new typologies of communities in general and tourist ones in particular.
3) Questions addresses the relational experiences that take place or have taken place in each of the spaces, the circumstances of the interactions and the capacity for producing more or less deep links between those who benefit from the spaces.
WHO ARE THE USERS OF THE SQUARES?

- **Tourist**
- **City Resident**
- **Worker (of institution / business elsewhere)**
- **Temporary resident in this area**
- **Permanent neighbor/resident**

**CAN FELIPA SQUARE**
- 8% SPAIN
- 92% ABROAD

**SUPERBLOCK**
- 32% SPAIN
- 68% ABROAD

**RAMBLA SQUARE**
- 22% SPAIN
- 78% ABROAD

**OLYMPIC PORT PARK**
- 36% SPAIN
- 64% ABROAD
Figure 5 - Residents' perception of social mix originating from tourism and new mobile collectives. Perception at neighborhood scale and public space scale.

Notes. Percentage on total number of respondents.
RESULTS

RELATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE SQUARES

CAN FELIPA SQUARE

- Yes, I recognize a familiar face, but I don’t ‘know’ them: 22%
- Yes, I recognize someone I know but didn’t plan to meet: 24%
- Yes, strangers I have been involved in conversation with: 50%
- Yes, friends of friends: 22%
- I haven’t interacted with new people: 4%
- Decline to state: 22%

SUPERILLA

- Yes, I recognize a familiar face, but I don’t ‘know’ them: 36%
- Yes, I recognize someone I know but didn’t plan to meet: 54%
- Yes, strangers I have been involved in conversation with: 18%
- Yes, friends of friends: 36%
- I haven’t interacted with new people: 0%
- Decline to state: 18%
RESULTS

RELATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE SQUARES

POBLE NOU RAMBLA SQUARE

- No, I don’t recognize anyone here right now.
- Yes, I recognize a familiar face, but I don’t ‘know’ them
- Yes, I recognize someone I know but didn’t plan to meet

OLYMPIC PORT PARK

- No, I don’t recognize anyone here right now.
- Yes, I recognize a familiar face, but I don’t ‘know’ them
- Yes, I recognize someone I know but didn’t plan to meet
The volume of connections increases in general with a more varied distribution of the connections. It is noted a large presence of temporary workers and residents and that these are key in the interchange with tourists, foreign workers and temporary residents. In general, the space of the superblock seems to offer many opportunities for relationships.

Most of interactions take place between residents and between the worker of the área and residents. The number of interaction with tourist is very limited and takes place especially with the worker of the área and temporal residents.
As expected, the total number of interactions with tourists increases, which in the majority of cases take place with permanent residents but mostly with local workers.

A similar situation is observed with regard to visitors from other areas of the city.

The relationships between permanent residents are clearly decreasing, while the number of connections between temporal residents and temporal residents and between temporal residents and foreign workers stands out. The categories that relate to the tourists and visitors are the residents and workers of the area developing a situation similar to that of the Rambla.
The Interactions between people who don’t know each other span a range of increasing reciprocity or not?

The level of connection has something to do with the human landscape of the place?
This article has examined the relational spatialities produced by the different daily mobilities that underlie the daily activities of an urban area through the analysis of its material aspects and the symbolic dimension that these are capable of causing in the immediate surroundings.

Mobility systems largely determine the spatial and organizational structures of social relations.

The differentiation by functions that characterize space constitutes specific mobility practices (rhythm, timetables, etc.).

Complement each other in a positive way, providing mutual opportunities for encounter, exchange of knowledge and information....

Can generated processes of social exclusion where the consumption of the space is linked more to the consumption of goods privileging consumption over spontaneous sociality....
Dynamic notion of relational networks in social space (Sheller & Urry 2006) complementary to The vision of urban space with perspectives linked to the dynamics of global processes as tourism (Sassen, 2010).

It is assumed that the dynamics of globalization at the urban level are not postulates but instead combine, in the places we have examined, their capacity of relational performance in terms of the cause and effect of the mobilities around them.

**CAN FELIPA SQUARE**
Plays a role in welcoming and fostering the relational life of the neighborhood. The square continues to have a strong capacity to attract those seeking relationships linked to the network of connections rooted in the older neighborhood system.

**OLYMPIC PORT PARK**
This lack of connections, suggested by the results of the surveys, seems to be related to the low familiarity of the space in the absence of a critical mass of individuals to serve as the social links necessary to generate a more interconnected network of subjects.

**RAMBLA SQUARE**
Located in an intermediate situation where its fame and its location leads it to be attractive on the one hand for its historical role by residents and workers of neighborhood and at the same time for tourists who visit the neighborhood.

**SUPERBLOCK**
The dynamic social nature of the space, as observed through the surveys, is derived primarily from a relational proximity that is developing with a base of social capital linked to the territory (work, activities...).

The only space capable of developing a liaison role with tourists as it is the only space in which there were significant contacts with this category of users of the territory.

The functional element keeps its capacity of attraction linked to certain needs of the population.

The resulting environment seems to have a sort of magnetism for those users who recognize a certain social role to the space.
Thanks for your attention!

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