Spatial analysis of coexistence: the socio-spatial integration of immigrant population in Barcelona

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Introduction

Evaluation of urban policies for socio-spatial integration: challenges and opportunities for social inclusion of immigrants

1) Analyze the role of housing and public spaces of the neighbourhood in the integration of immigrants in Barcelona

2) Develop methodology based in case studies and in spatial and social analysis

3) Analyze the function of urban public policies in the socio-spatial integration of immigrants
Three facts from the Catalan-Spanish context to understand this research

1. The arrival and settlement of large inflows of immigrants is a recent phenomenon.

2. The Role of public spaces as relevant place of socialization in Spanish Culture

3. In the last decade a big number of urban interventions have been developed in Barcelona as a result of several urban policies
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In the last decade the rate of immigrants has increased exponentially.
Introduction

This rapid increase of the immigrants has produced important changes in the physical and social configuration of the Spanish cities.
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3. In the last decade a big number of urban interventions have been developed in Barcelona as a result of several urban policies
Public Spaces play a main role as space of leisure and socialization in neighbourhoods where people build social networks of mutual aid.

This role in social life of people do that the analysis of Public Spaces can work like a kind of thermometer to measure social conflicts in a neighbourhood.
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3. In the last decade a big number of urban interventions have been developed in Barcelona as a result of several urban policies
A lot of urban projects. Most notable of which are part of the *Llei de Barris*, (Law of Neighbourhood) and has among its objectives to balance social and territorial inequalities.
Socio-spatial integration

-Possibility of integration
-Social conditions of life

People

-PHYSIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN CONTEXT

City:
Public Spaces
Facilities
Housing

-New urban and social dynamics
Methodological Triangulation for getting as much information as possible

Three dimensions interrelated:

- **Physical dimension:**
  Configuration of the neighborhood – Public Space, streets, facilities and commercial space.
- **Functional dimension:**
  Elements of connectivity, nexus, routes and relations
- **Social dimension:**
  Profile of people who live and walk around, activity and use performed.
Map 1: Space of relation and surrounding area

Radio of pedestrian proximity
Spaces of relation
Parks, plazas, interstitial
Streets of intensive pedestrian use
Associations in the neighbourhood
Neighbourhood scale
City scale
Province-national scale
Everyday facilities
Neighbourhood scale
City scale
Province-national scale
Commercial activity
Concentrated
Scattered
Market
Topography and accessibility
Steep
Mild slope
Steep slope
Stairs
Moving staircase
Ramp
Elevator
Funicular
Location
Limits
Connection

Map and images of the Plaza Española and its environment, Neighborhood La Torrassa
Map and images of Park Erm, Neighborhood Erm, Manlleu

Tools

Map 2: Description of space

Planta Baja de Viviendas Can García: Bares con mesas en la acera en general con hombres. Los demás comercios están cerrados.

Elelementos de mobiliario. Bancos y cestas que permiten diversos juegos al no conformar pistas cerradas. Mobiliario mesa-banco en esquina utilizado con el parque infantil. Parque infantil, zona más utilizada del parque después de la escuela.

Centro del Parque. Camino diagonal que lo atraviesa y vincula el barrio desde la zona central (colegio, mercado, Pl. St. Antoni de Padua) con viviendas Can García y Centro Cívico. Juegos infantiles y zona arbolada.


Centro del parque con bancos al sol y a la sombra. Espacio con poca utilización.

Calle lateral de acceso al grupo de viviendas con patio interior.

Calle con viviendas de PB y 2 o 3 pisos algunas con locales en Planta Baja. Paso de muchas personas desde y hacia los mercados (Municipal a un lado, Mercadona al otro).
Map 3: Users

Map of Park Erm, Neighborhood Erm, Manlleu

Descripción usuari@s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEXO</th>
<th>CANTIDAD</th>
<th>ORIGEN</th>
<th>EDAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hombre</td>
<td>Soá/e</td>
<td>Inmigrante</td>
<td>nd Niñ@ dependiente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mujer</td>
<td>Pareja</td>
<td>Niñ@ independiente</td>
<td>ni Niñ@ independiente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grupo o varias personas</td>
<td>Autóctono</td>
<td>j Jóvenes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descripción de usos

5. Cuidar a personas  10. Deporte  15. ...
Results

Physical elements that generate coexistence problems

- Inadequate or lack of spaces and facilities, which results in competition for their use.

- Spaces that generate the perception of insecurity and are underused or used by a dominant group because of their location or configuration.

- Deteriorated or poorly maintained and cleaned spaces that generate a feeling of social degradation
Results

Physical elements that contribute to living in community

- Diversity of activities and uses in the public space
- Buildings with multiple uses in the ground floor
- Urban elements that help social and everyday life
- Pedestrian routes that generate networks of everyday-life spaces
- Spatial configuration to improve safety perception
- Infrastructure for everyday life enough and diverse
Conclusions

The physical configuration of space has an important role for living in community, and in the way people perceive, understand and use public space.

The neighborhood is the everyday life space where people interact and establish neighborhood relations. Sharing everyday life spaces enables contact, interaction and living in community among people of different origins. The diversity of physical spaces allows and fosters social complexity in contrast to uniform spaces that attract homogenous groups.

Living in community is very important to the integration of the population.
The strengthening of social cohesion is progressive and there are different levels of social cohesion:

- **Segregation**: People are isolated; there is no presence of different groups in the same space.
- **Coexistence**: Different groups or persons use the same space, whether at the same time or not, but without having any relationship.
- **Interaction**: Different groups or persons share the same space with some kind of reciprocity among them.
- **Living in Community**: Different groups or persons share the same space and also develop activities in companionship.

**Conclusions**
Thanks for your attention

For further information:

http://www-cpsv.upc.es/InmigracionViviendaCiudad

http://www-cpsv.upc.es/HabitatConvivencia/