IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN BARCELONA:
RESIDENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND USE OF PUBLIC SPACE .

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Introduction

Source: National Statistical Institute
Aim research

Know the characteristics of the housing of the immigrant population and their use of public space.
Study Context
La Maurina

- Located in Terrassa
- 8000 inhabitants in 42 hectare
- Low density
- Origin in the 40s, shanty settlement
- Result of the migration of rural Spain
- Urban fabric: enlargement
- Important neighborhood movement
- Urban edge
- Residential neighborhood
La Maurina

- **Physical Configuration**
  - Self building construction
  - Deteriorated housing
  - Strong slopes
  - Public Space shortage

- **Social Configuration**
  - Aging population
  - Rejuvenation with the arrival of the immigrant population
  - 21.51% immigrants
  - Leading nationality Moroccan 12.63%
Description of the Context

El Raval

• Located in Barcelona.
• 18000 inhabitants in 28 hectare
• The neighborhood with highest density of Barcelona
• Settlement since Roman times, but development during the industrialization.
• Traditionally has been associated with an image of marginality
• Urban fabric: old town
• Strong social fabric
• Central area in the city
• Tourist neighborhood
Description of the Context

El Raval

- **Physical Configuration**
  - Dense urban area is articulated into many narrow streets
  - Deteriorated housing
  - Buildings between party walls with shops or workshops on the ground floor
  - Public Space shortage

- **Social Configuration**
  - Aging population
  - Gentrification and people with low income
  - 51.01% immigrants
  - Leading nationality Pakistani 14.32%
Methodology

• Quantitative
  - Statistical data analysis
  - Mapping of results

• Qualitative
  - Participative observation
  - Spontaneous interviews
  - In-depth interviews
Housing: typology

La Maurina

Very heterogeneous
- Self-constructed detached housing
- Apartment building with 5 or 6 floors
- Most buildings are residential use only

El Raval

Very homogeneous
- Apartment building with share party wall of 4 or 5 floors
- Most buildings have mixed uses, combining residential with commercial or industrial uses on ground floor.
Housing: location of the immigrant population

**La Maurina**
- Deteriorated housing and substandard housing
- Residential buildings without lift, upper floors immigrant
- Overcrowding
- Rent and property

**El Raval**
- Deteriorated housing and substandard housing
- Housing in Commercial premises
- Housing in Workshop
- Room rental
- Overcrowding
- Most Rent
Housing: characteristics

La Maurina

• Is a neighborhood where they stay for a long time
• Overcrowding
• Problems:
  — Structural
  — Accessibility
  — Insulation
  — Lack of services
  — Poor lighting and ventilation

El Raval

• Is a neighborhood of arrival.
• Overcrowding
• Informal rental market
• Problems:
  — Structural
  — Accessibility
  — Insulation
  — Lack of services
  — Poor lighting and ventilation
## Public Space: characteristics

### La Maurina
- Net of facilities
- Spaces of socialization: squares and parks
- Shops of everyday products and some trade of products for immigrants.
- Net facilities, shops and public spaces in a proximity area.
- Neighborhood scale, dynamic use of everyday spaces
- Spaces used by the neighborhood people

### El Raval
- Net of facilities
- Spaces of socialization: squares and parks
- Variety of commerce: traditional trade, trade in products for immigrants and skilled trade
- Spaces in a proximity area. Difficulty in the relationship between these spaces by the scale of the neighborhood and the lack of connectivity
- High intensity in the use of public spaces and facilities
- Spaces used by the neighborhood people, people from other district of the city and tourists
Public Space: Use of immigrant

La Maurina

- Many women use public space performing tasks related to the reproductive sphere
- Children playing in the street without adults.
- Mixed-use spaces (immigrant and Spanish), but only coexistence child and youth

El Raval

- Masculinized spaces
- Groups of teenagers of different nationalities (Spanish and foreign)
- Mixed-use spaces. Different degrees of interaction in areas: integration, coexistence and segregation
Conclusions

• The arrival of immigrants in a neighborhood, causes such deep changes in demography (rejuvenation and masculinization of the population), social (change in socioeconomic status and occupation) and urban (poor housing occupancy, different patterns of behavior in use of public space).

• As has been determined in the cases studied, in the case of access to housing the variable that determines access to a better or worse housing is the origin linked to social class, whereas in the case of the use of public space, the crucial variable is the gender over the origin of the person.

• Regarding the type of housing, immigrant people living in the homes of lower market value, both purchase and rental. The spatial characteristics, construction and accessibility determine the low quality of habitability.

• In the residential building without lift, we find that the Spanish population is concentrated in the lower floors while the immigrant population is in the upper floors. Usually the Spanish population still living in these buildings is older.
Conclusions

• It was possible to determine a difference between the situation of substandard housing and substandard housing conditions, both dynamics can lead to different results. On the one hand the objective conditions of substandard housing (lack of ventilation, cracks, humidity), can be alleviated by proper use and taking some action by residents. On the other hand, substandard housing situations we refer to problems of substandard housing that are not related to the objective conditions of housing, but for a bad use of it, can cause problems of habitability. Both dynamics affecting the immigrant population.

• Within the substandard housing conditions or situations, the population who is renting is most vulnerable.

• In addition to concentrating on housing with more deficits is common among this group the cohabitation of extended family members, causing overcrowding problems.

• Women are who suffer the more precarious conditions, since on the one hand are the most used indoor and the other to be the most entering and leaving home.
Conclusions

• Although the residential conditions are not optimal, the home has an essential role in the socialization of immigrants, especially the Moroccan, as it is here that conducted family meetings. It can be understood therefore that the houses supplement to other social spaces such as facilities or a public space.

• According to these first results it seems that there is no relationship between poor housing and substandard housing or intensive use of public space. It has been shown that despite the situation of poor housing is not given a heightened use of public space by the immigrant population, and that use fairly similar to what would make Spanish person.

• In the case of the use of public space is essential to understand the dichotomy between productive and reproductive work since it is this dimension that the origin that marks the use of public space. The use of immigrant women, is very similar to Spanish women do, and is almost always related to reproductive tasks.

• It has established a relationship between the kind of migration (whether family or individual) and the use of public space that is given. It seems that when migration is familiar, the male presence in public space is smaller, and the predominant uses are related to reproductive tasks, whereas individual migration is more men on the street doing entertainment-related uses and sociability.
Conclusions

• In this limited use of public space a main factor is the quality of public space, and whether this space is adapted to the needs and experiences of people who use it. Most of the tasks performed in the public space for immigrant women, are related to the reproductive role has been traditionally assumed by women.

• It is also quite remarkable the presence of children of immigrant origin unaccompanied on the streets and public squares. As noted above, it appears that they are given more autonomy and also trusts that care for older kids.

• Who uses a particular space and how it is, in other words, its physical and social settings are crucial when people use or not a space. For example, the physical configuration of the Plaza de la Maurina not be invited, but neither does the fact that there is a constant occupation of space by groups of young people (almost exclusively men) who are dedicated to consume cannabis.

• The proximity or connection of facilities with public spaces, determines the use made of public space, for example the use made of a particular place is set on the edge of the adjacent school.
Conclusions

• There are mixed use in public space, spaces that are used by immigrants and Spanish population, however, there are places where there is an interaction between different groups, while in other places there is coexistence but are not interaction.

• In the field work has come to appreciate that while adults have some problems to interact not true among children and young people have no problem with relationships. It seems that many times if not more interaction occurs between adults is by language difficulties.

• It has been concluded that many of the conflicts in the public space between immigrants and Spanish, are caused by the lack of resources such as public spaces and facilities, making that people compete for them. Such conflicts could be solved or mitigated by improved urban management.

• There are certain dynamics in public space that determine the use by the immigrant population in this space. This is the case for example of the screening of identity that are made on immigrants in the city's public spaces. The objective of these controls is to identify persons to proceed in an irregular situation to their detention and subsequent deportation. The existence of regular screening of identity in public spaces, especially in neighborhoods with a high concentration of immigrant population, means that many immigrants are afraid to stay on public spaces where controls are regulars.