

The impact of spatial reforms in Medellín (Colombia) on social groups and individual "human - space" relationship. DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The presented project aims to **explore the impact that wide-ranging reforms / changes that interfere in the immediate surroundings, and thus, interfere in the daily lives of people, have on human - space relationship among people covered by this change.**

Specifically, the study will focus on the Colombian city - Medellín, because it is an excellent example of extensive and even radical reform of space.

In detail, the study aims to:

1. Discuss the impact of spatial changes on city dwellers' life. This includes both the impact on the perception of the city and district, and the impact on the behavior.
2. Changes in the perception of the entire city.
3. Discuss the impact of these reforms on social groups; ie. how these changes form their relationship and bonds (including social capital) when the material environment of life is a permanent transformation.

The presented research project will enrich the knowledge of the city and contribute to the construction of the theory of the city. This is by definition an interdisciplinary project and as such will act as an integration for many scientific disciplines. Results will help to understand the formation of individuals and social groups' relationships with the space better, which in future will create a better living environment for urban dwellers. The impact of spatial reform on relationship of man and space is still rarely undertaken, and Medellín - the second largest city in Colombia is an excellent example to study such change. Since the 80s of the XXth century it became the capital of the drug trade and the field of perpetual war, with record homicides rates. Currently, the city is subject to extensive socio-spatial policy. It was the winner of many awards including the "Most Innovative City in 2013". The reason for interest in this city is the large scale and remarkable innovation of the spatial changes introduced and a very large role of the city planner - in this case the city authorities. Moreover, this example may encourage to reach for examples from other than physically the nearest regions.

In order to achieve these objectives the research. an investigation consisting of three phases will be carried: analysis of existing data, quantitative research and qualitative research field.

The analysis of existing data will be made on the basis of already existing databases coming from the research carried out by the city of Medellín. It will answer the question about the impact of spatial reforms on the satisfaction with the city and the district, and will estimate, whether the scale of improvement in satisfaction is directly proportional to the scale of the investment.

Custom quantitative survey will be conducted among residents of some neighborhoods of Medellín, with a questionnaire completed over the Internet and through self-administered paper questionnaire (for comparability of the data obtained, it will be the same survey). This study will cover, among others, such indicators as satisfaction, pride, attachment to the place and will compare these between people who have experienced spatial reform and those that have not experienced it.

Qualitative fieldwork study will be carried out exclusively among the inhabitants of the neighborhoods covered by the spatial change. In this study the way of functioning of the new (or upgraded) elements of the space will be particularly important. It will be investigated how they exist in the perception of dwellers and their daily spatial behavior. Therefore, this qualitative study will be composed of 3 methods to get the widest knowledge on the subject. If this knowledge is gained from one respondent, the risk of confusion or misinterpretations gets smaller. The 3 methods used in the qualitative survey are:

1. Imaginary maps study, preceded by a short conversation about the inhabited neighborhood. Cognitive map is very helpful in distinguishing functional, emotional and aesthetic characteristics of the space.
2. An in-depth interview about an individual relationship with the space, which is structured but open to new threads about the daily life and a kind of "history of everyday life" in the context of the immediate environment.
3. Walk through the fragment of discussed space, using the technique of photo story or transect walk. These are techniques that in a real surroundings, discussed in the real time, allow to diagnose functionality, emotions and experiences related to space.