

In 10 years, approximately 60 percent of the world population will be living in cities. It is estimated that by 2030 there will be 1.5 billion girls living in urban areas, many of whom will face gender-based violence from an early age. In particular, young women inhabiting marginalized districts are at a greater risk of violence and social exclusion because of the limited access to public services and poor local infrastructure. Despite available data and predictive models, young women are still underrepresented in urban research. If they do become a subject of sociological interest they are often positioned in research as passive victims of violence in the need of protection. The project focuses on the urban safety of young women, living in marginalized districts, from the perspective of collective care and networks of mutual support. I place young women's experiences and urban daily life in the center to understand what safety means to them, how is it constructed and how can it be enhanced. The case of Córdoba, an Argentinean city, explored in my research, will be a source of qualitative data on the urban life of young women. I will use urban ethnography, narrative interviews, and participatory mapping to gather data on spatial behaviors of young women, coping strategies with violence in public and private spaces, biographical trajectories of urban life the development of caring practices, and network of care.

What makes Argentina a relevant case for studying urban safety is the growing number of femicides and the high level of urbanization. In 2020, 298 women were killed because of their gender. The majority of gender-based violence cases take place in Argentinean cities, as it is the most urbanized country in Latin America, with 91% of its population living in urban areas, out of which approximately 18% inhabit marginalized districts, the so-called 'villas'. This dynamic environment will be a field for studying the complexity of young women daily life in cities. However the data and analysis produced within the project will contribute to the global discussion on gender-based violence in cities.

On a theoretical level, I will extend the urban safety theoretical framework by incorporating a concept of care. On the methodological level, the research will develop a participatory mapping method in the intersection of gender and urban studies. In practical terms, the research will provide qualitative data and analysis that can serve social initiatives in the struggle for safer cities. My project corresponds with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 11 that aims at making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Gathered and analyzed data, besides the empirical and theoretical values, will carry a practical potential to be used by an international community.