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RN37 | T08_03: Urban Vulnerability and Social Dynamics B

Youth in Vulnerable Neighborhoods of Madrid. Experiences and Urban Supports

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This communication will share the results from an investigation about the experiences of young people living in six vulnerable neighborhoods in the city of Madrid: Embajadores, Bellas Vistas, Moscardó, San Isidro, Entrevías, and Palomeras Sureste. The youth collective is one of the most affected by processes of job precarization. Added to this is the increase in the rental market prices in Madrid over the last decade, which impacts on the problem of late emancipation.

We will discuss the specific risks affecting young people, leading to the formation of vulnerability zones (according to Castel) resulting from urban segregation processes. Through a summary of statistical data, and the analysis of semi-structured interviews with 12 young individuals and 45 key informants, we will show how the studied neighborhoods gather to a greater extent different issues: labor precarity, difficulties in accessing housing, and even a higher prevalence of socioemotional problems. These factors will be framed in the pandemic and post-pandemic context in which the interviews were conducted (year 2022).

We then conclude by addressing how the neighborhood becomes a central support in confronting situations of crisis, such as those experienced during the pandemic period. We propose to study the different urban supports that young people mobilize to absorb the forms of vulnerability they face, but also to establish roots as a form of identification and a sense of belonging that arise from daily practices (Blockland) stemming from the same condition of vulnerability they experience. This communication is part of COMURES project (H2019/HUM-5738).

Neighborhood Social Vulnerability and Cognitive Function in an Older Cohort of Minoritized Adults in the U.S.: A Longitudinal Analysis

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Background: There is limited evidence on residing in vulnerable neighborhoods and cognitive function in diverse older adults. We examined longitudinal associations between

four indices of social vulnerability and cognitive function in a cohort of older Latinx adults residing in the Northeast of the U.S. (N=1,500).

Methods: We used mixed-effects linear regression analysis with three waves of data (wave 1, n=1500; wave 2, n=943, wave 3, n=444). Neighborhood vulnerability was measured from the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SDI) developed with 16 U.S. census variables data. Four factors of SDI were included (Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, Racial/Ethnic Minority Status & Language, and Housing Type/Transportation). Participants were matched to census block groups and linked with SVI. A factor score of global cognition was derived from a battery of cognitive tests administered at 3 in-person visits. Mixed-effects linear regression models were fit to assess changes in global cognition scores (GCS) at baseline and over time adjusted for age, sex, education, health behaviors (smoking, alcohol use, BMI, high blood pressure), and health conditions (heart disease, diabetes, and depressive symptoms).

Results: At baseline, mean age was 57.1 y SD=7.6, and 71.5% were female. In adjusted analyses, no significant associations between GCS and the four factors of SDI at baseline were found. However, a protective effect of Neighborhood Racial/Ethnic Minority Status & Language on GCS was observed in wave 2 ($\beta=0.97$, SE=0.05, 95% CI 0.006 – 0.189).

Conclusion: Beyond individual characteristics, neighborhoods with higher proportions of ethnic minorities may positively impact the cognitive function of older diverse adults despite the socioeconomic vulnerability that characterizes them.

Bound by Hybrid Lifestyles: Challenges Faced by Young Generations in Lisbon and Oslo

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Northern European countries have been catalysts of many spatial, generational and social transformation dynamics, including new ways of sharing (e.g., housing, workplaces, mobility, services, etc.). Southern European countries have been following these trends at their own pace, and with the necessary context adjustments. In both, young people navigate spatio-functional, social, and digital shifts, leading to intricate interactions and relationships, often referred to as hybridity. Simultaneously, they grapple with generational tensions and challenges in accessing suitable housing and employment with a proper income. Furthermore, there is a growing expectation for them to allocate increased attention to climate change and sustainable issues.

In general, young adults display heightened receptivity to emerging trends and lifestyles characterized as hybrid, encompassing co-housing strategies with increased mobility, flexible workplaces, diverse spatial arrangements, and various socio-cultural influences, coupled with a pronounced digital dependency. Despite ongoing discussions surrounding hybrid cities, there remains an uncertainty about how

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this concept manifests in the lifestyles adopted by young adults who serve as key protagonists in these trends. Additionally, it is unclear how these lifestyles intersect with climate change and sustainable issues, especially in distinct cities such as Lisbon and Oslo.

This presentation seeks to address these gaps through a comparative study between the two cities. By doing so, it aims to illuminate the hybrid nature of new urban lifestyles, highlighting the challenges faced by a generation that, despite being exceptionally well prepared for the demands of the digital transition, finds itself hampered by the extractive economic model prevalent in urban areas.

Body, Mobility On Bicycles And Everyday Racism

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In Lisbon, on 11/18/2023, around 300 young people and children crossed the city on bicycles doing stunts. It was a “Bike Ride” by the Wheelie Gads movement, in Portugal since 2020, with dynamics parallel to those observed in other cities around the world. Almost all participants were male, many were non-white people and lived in peripheral neighborhoods of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Their acrobatic and group crossing made them more visible, arousing interest and applause; other cyclists in the city have a more precarious experience, namely delivery workers, also mostly male, of immigrant origin and racialized. Both groups share an intense use of the city’s streets (the first for leisure, the second for work), in a means of mobility supported by their male, young and non-white bodies. In contrast, bicycle users in Lisbon are mostly white people, with greater gender balance (despite the majority being male) and move in more central areas, with better infrastructure dedicated to cycling mobility around their homes, jobs and schools. Bicycle mobility thus reflects coordinates of differentiation and inequality of racialized bodies in the city and the metropolis.

In this communication proposal, based on different ongoing research projects, we intend to discuss and relate issues of urban mobility (especially cycling), including public policies and the way in which they can segregate and make territories and people invisible, and racial issues, enhancing the identification of situations of everyday racism based on mobility.

RN37 | T09_01: Inside and Outside the City Borders: Suburbanization Trends B

The Post-Industrial Metropolis And New Suburbanisms: Placing Almada In A Global Diversity Of Sburubs

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The processes of globalization, neoliberalism and post-Fordism have challenged the classic dichotomies between urban and suburban, thereby also changing the suburban landscape. Almada, a suburban city on the south bank of Lisbon with a history of working-class settlement and political activity, has seen major transformations in recent years, now being part of the post-industrial metropolis and being affected by gentrification process. This essay analyzes these changes in the suburban landscape of Almada, in comparison with other forms of contemporary “post-suburbs”. However, there is no consensus within academia regarding the notion of suburbia: while some authors focus on the geographical aspects of these territories, others define suburbia by specific sociocultural characteristics. If today we live in a “suburban planet”, where the majority of the population live on the urban fringes, we must take into account the different types of suburbs around the world when we define them. To position Almada in this global diversity of suburbs, I first resort to an literature review on the notion of suburbia and the different models of suburban development, from the Anglo-Saxon model to the most recent processes of mass suburbanization in the Global South, also discussing the ideas of global suburbanisms and post-suburbs. In the last part, an data analysis of statistics and official documents that help to classify Almada as a suburb based on its location, density and sociocultural aspects. The results place Almada as a center of business, commercial activities, education and development, and a site of gentrification, challenging the idea of the dormitory suburb. The main contributions of this research are in overcoming the classic dichotomies between urban and suburban, analyzing Almada as a site of suburban gentrification, doing it so with an analysis of the phenomenon on its metropolitan scale.