Master Class

Multi-sited Fieldwork

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About me

- PhD (2017) in Human Geography and Urban Studies, LSE
- BSc (2008) and MSc (2012) in Economics, Federal University of Minas Gerais
- Urban Geographer - Interdisciplinary (Geography, Economics)

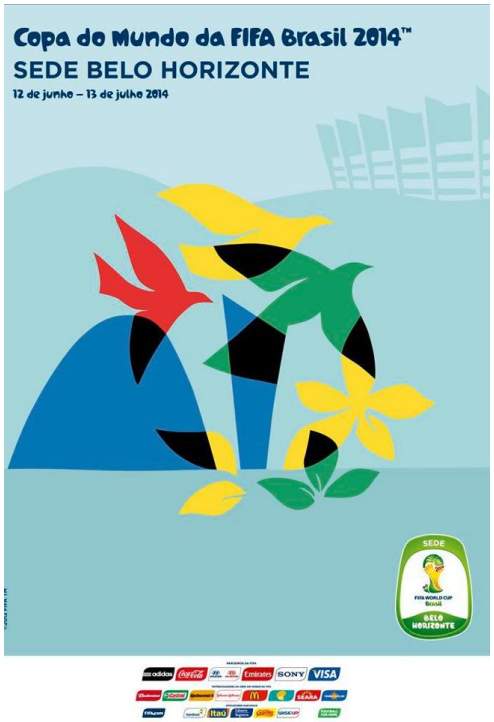
Research Keywords

- Social Justice
- Socio-spatial inequality
- Informality and citizenship
- Cross-class urban politics
- Urban economies
- Food infrastructures
- Global South (Brazil)

Lecture outline

1. Introduction
2. Urban conflict: one city – multiple cases
3. Urban food insecurity: two cities – multiple cases
4. Globalisation from below: one city – multiple trajectories

Context: Belo Horizonte and the 2014



Investments for the World Cup

R$2.7 billion (£690 million)

75% federal resources

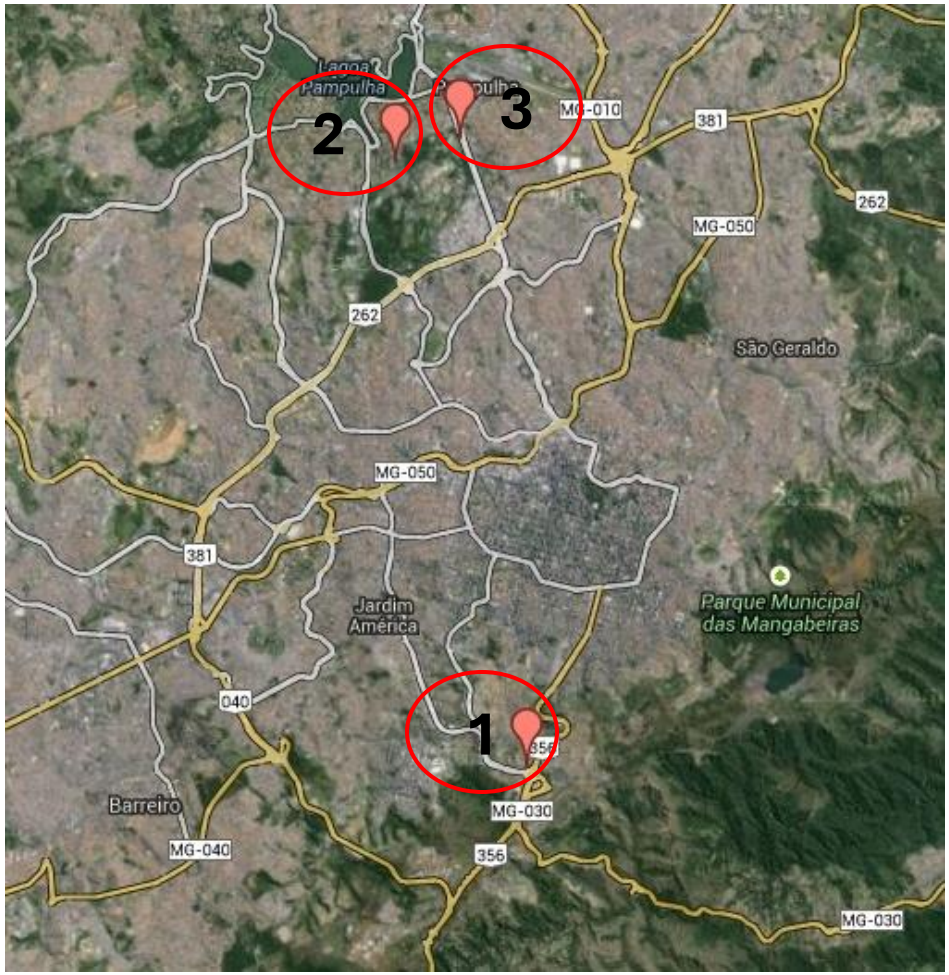
1.4 billion – federal funding

BNDES (stadium reform) and CAIXA (urban mobility)

10% of total World Cup investments (3rd place)

Source: Data 2010-2013, Federal Government (Portal da Copa)

Case study approach



Source: Google Earth

Three projects related to the city's preparation for hosting the World-cup

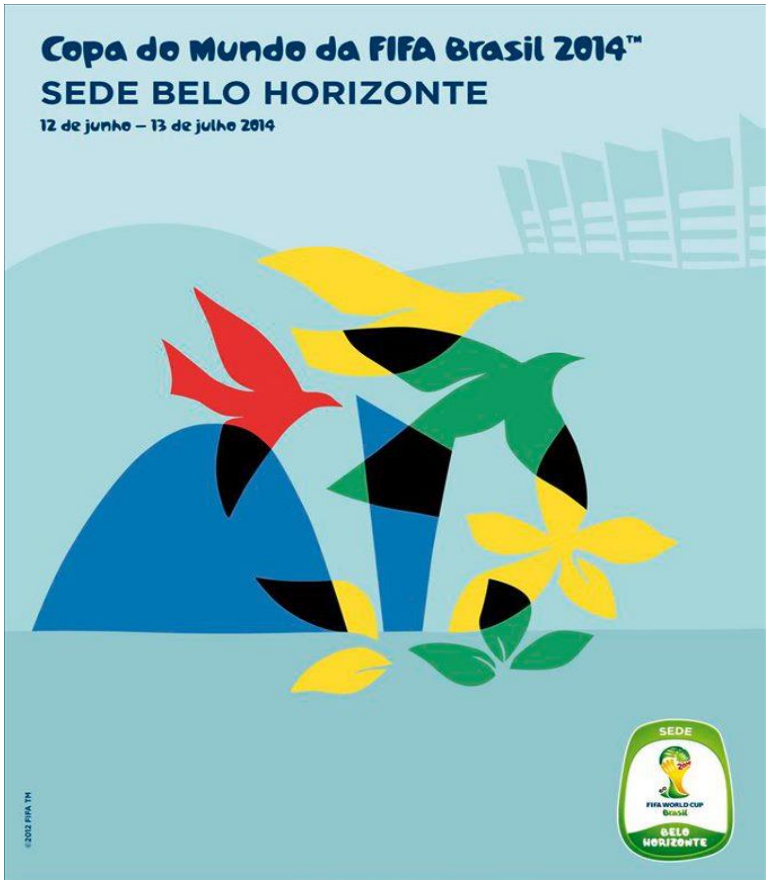
1) "Rua das Musas"
2) "Barraqueiros do Mineirão"
3) "Vila Recanto UFMG"

Case Study as a Research Design

- A case study is an empirical enquiry that
  - investigates **a contemporary phenomenon (the 'case') in depth** and within its **real-world context**, especially when
  - the **boundaries between phenomenon and context** may not be clearly evident" (Yin, 2014: 16)
- Involves thick descriptions of a singular case (or a set of cases), embodying complexity and uniqueness, to address 'why' and 'how' questions.
- What is it a case of?

Selection of case studies

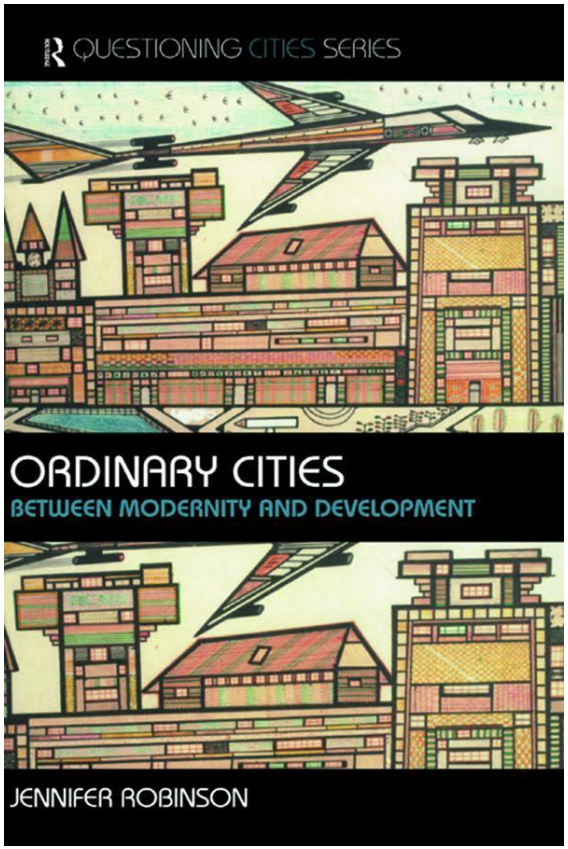
Why Brazil?



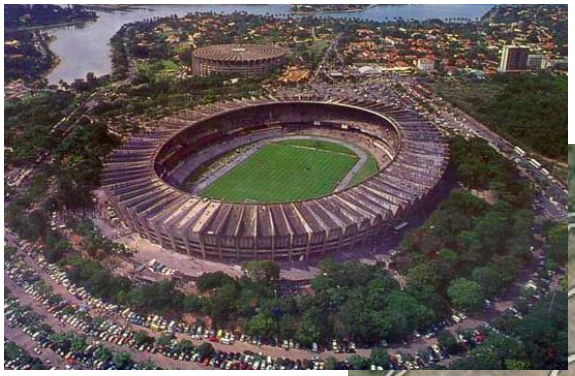
Why Belo Horizonte?

Case Study & Urban research

- Urban theory questioned for its parochialism
- Towards a "global approach to understanding cities" (Robinson, 2016)
  - Postcolonial critique - search for conceptual and methodological experimentation in the field of urban studies (Robinson, 2016)
  - There is a need to think about "how we might bring other urban experiences, knowledges and theories into a more horizontal comparative field" (McFarlane, 2010: 726)
- The need to expand the repertoire of cities informing urban research



Stadium modernization



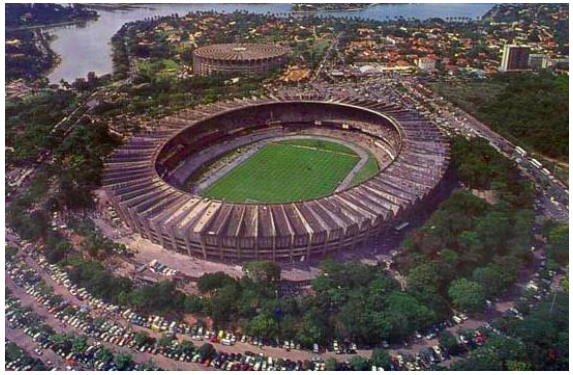
Viaduct construction

Hotel construction

Hotel construction

Conflict in middle-class neighborhood against the construction

Stadium modernization



Two conflicts

- Displacement of informal workers
- Dislocation of informal street vendors to middle-class neighborhood

Viaduct construction

Conflict in middle-class neighborhood against the construction

From **3 projects** to 4 conflicts

Urban Studies

Impact Factor: **4.2** / 5-Year Impact Factor: **5.1** | Journal Homepage | Submission Guidelines

Restricted access | Research article | First published online October 17, 2019

Preserving the (right kind of) city: The urban politics of the middle classes in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Mara Nogueira View all authors and affiliations

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Article

Displacing Informality: Rights and Legitimacy in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Mara Nogueira

First published: 06 May 2019 | https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12808 | Citations: 20

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Multi-sited fieldwork

- Data-collection methods

(1) collection of local documents and archival records related to the **fields study areas**;

(2) **on-site observation**;

(3) semi-structured interviews **with key actors and informants.**

- How to define the boundaries of a case? Where is the "field"?
- Relational approach

Engineering food: infrastructure exclusion and 'last mile' delivery in Brazilian favelas

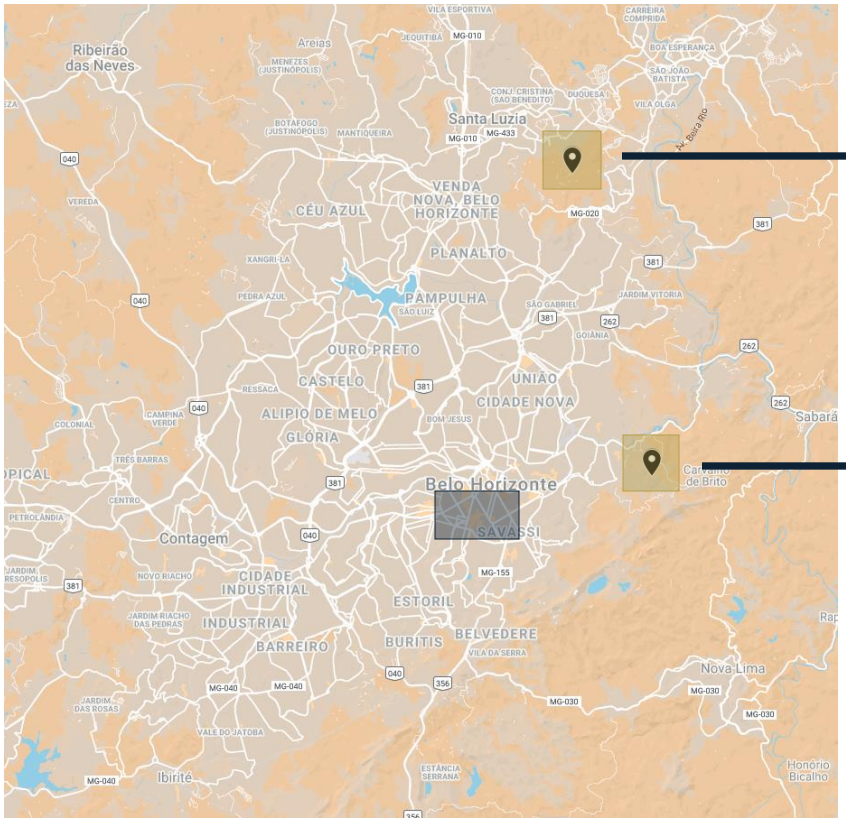
The project

- Access, availability and consumption of fresh food in low-income settlements (*favelas* and *ocupações*)
- Interdisciplinary:
  - Geography and Engineering
  - Multi-methods : quantitative and qualitative data, primary and secondary data
  - Multi-sited: five settlements in two cities (Belo Horizonte and São Paulo)

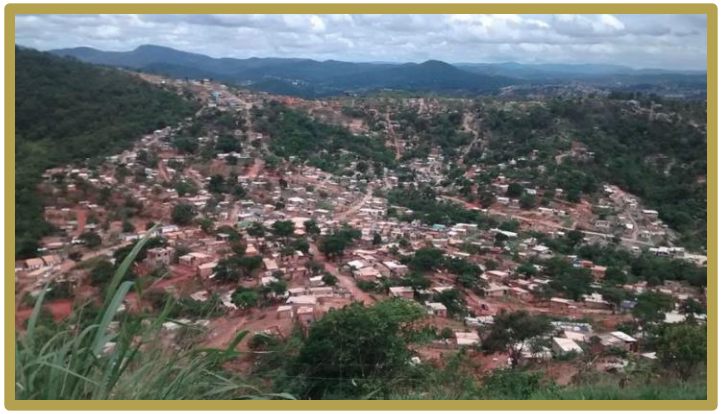
Rationale: Belo Horizonte vs São Paulo

- **Different sizes and complexities**
  - Distribution system?
  - 12 million (São Paulo) versus 2.5 million (Belo Horizonte)
- **Public policy**
  - Belo Horizonte – successful food security policy since 1993
- **Urban governance**
  - Different urban form and center-periphery relations
- **Active civil society**
  - In both, innovative initiatives – especially in favelas

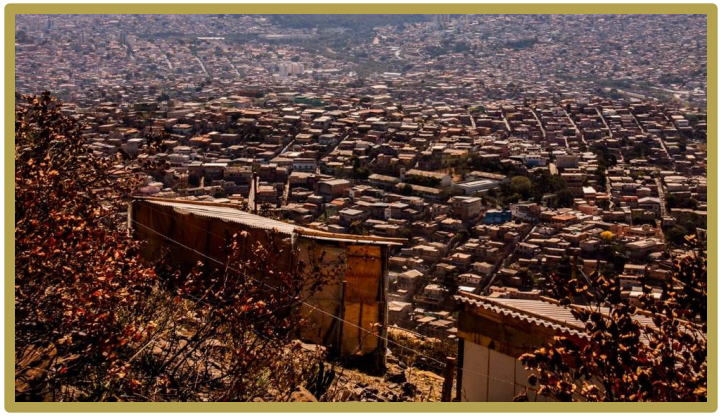
Belo Horizonte: Vitória and Taquaril



City Centre



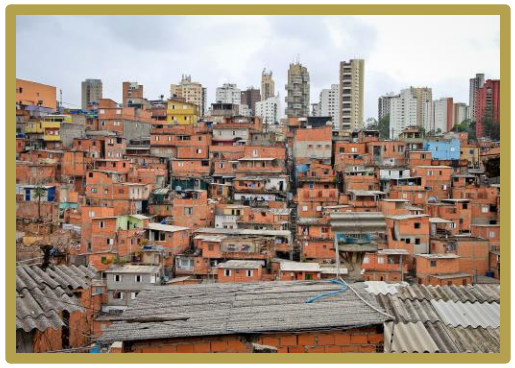
Vitória



Taquaril

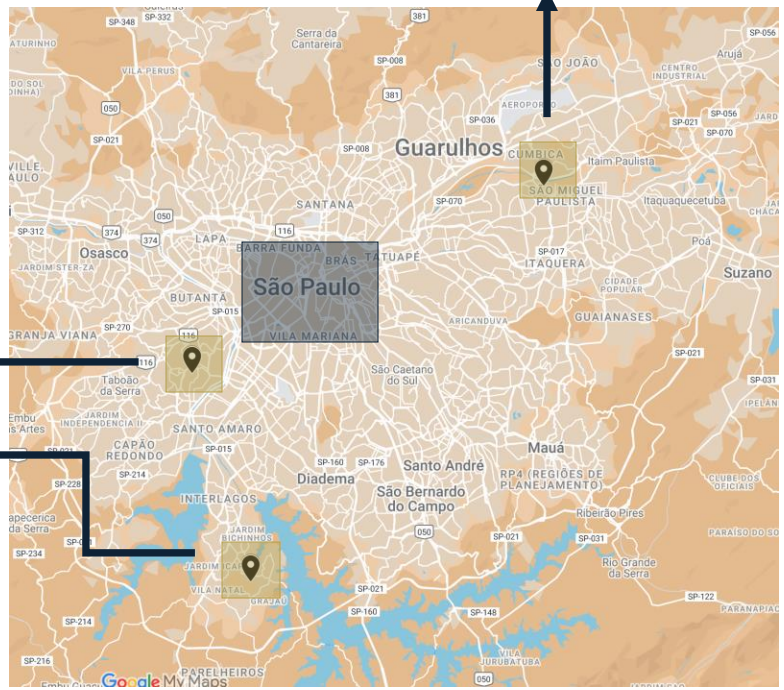
São Paulo: Anchieta, Paraisópolis and União

União



Paraisópolis

Anchieta



Expanded City Centre

Covid: England facing weeks of 'pingdemic' disruption to services and food supply

No 10 scrambles to extend self-isolation exemption scheme for critical workers as companies and councils warn of chaos

- Coronavirus - latest updates
- See all our coronavirus coverage

Empty supermarket shelves are seen on 23 July in London. Luke Pollard, shadow environment secretary, said food supply security is fundamental and empty shelves 'show the system is failing'. Photograph: Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Covid in Brazil: Hunger worsens in city slums

18 April 2021

Coronavirus

The crisis caused by the pandemic has forced a growing number of people to depend on food donations

The *new* project

- Objective: impact of the pandemic on food access in Brazilian low-income neighbourhoods
- Method: WhatsApp mediated in-depth interviews (synchronous and a-synchronous)
  - Photos, videos and voice messages produced by participants in their phones
  - Interview and WhatsApp transcripts and collective-interviews notes

Full Length Article

Re-framing popular governance in Brazil: Re-insurgent and entrepreneurial arrangements in the urban peripheries

Aiko Ikemura Amaral [a], Mara Nogueira [b], Gareth A. Jones [c]

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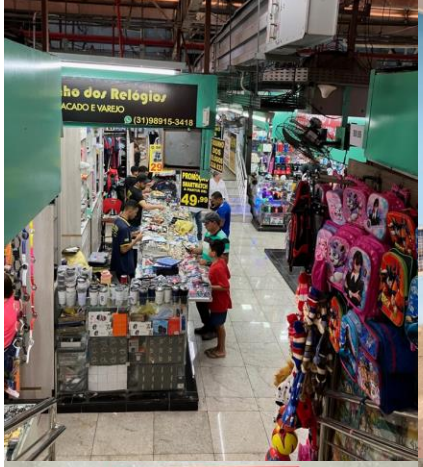
Abstract

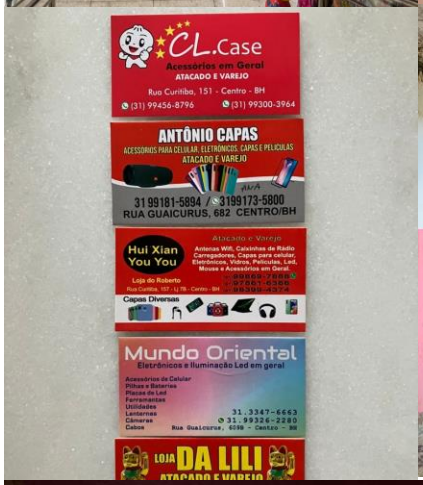
In the *periferias* of Brazil, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the role of local actors to organise and manage networks, resources and discourses to support and advance residents' demands. In this article, we argue that the pandemic gave visibility to emerging arrangements which remain under-theorised and under-analysed. Specifically, we examine how these arrangements reveal what we label re-insurgent and entrepreneurial forms of popular governance. Drawing upon fieldwork in Belo Horizonte and São Paulo, we examine how trajectories of autoconstruction and urban consolidation contribute to differently outline, legitimise and tend to local claims and demands. We show they rely and build on distinct networks of influence and resources, and encompass alternate combinations of state, private, and civil society actors, to both reinforce and challenge the urban inequalities and power asymmetries.

- What are the challenges of conducting fieldwork across different cities and sites?
- What are the advantages of multi-sited fieldwork?
- Do you need to research multiple places to do comparative research?
- Theory is always a generalisation of cases – what cases are informing theory and, consequently, what comparisons are we intrinsically making?
- Examples – global cities, gentrification, food deserts

Globalisation from below:

livelihoods, trade and transnationalism in Brazil's informal economy





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UFMG

The British Academy

Context

- Cheap industrialised Chinese products supply the informal markets of Global South cities, where marginalized groups secure livelihoods through self-employment and access to low-cost merchandise.
- This trading circuit is enabled by the Chinese diaspora while stimulating industrial growth in China and supporting further overseas migration.
- Often semi-legal and informal, this transnational flow of goods and people has been described as a form of "globalisation from below" (Mathews et al. 2012).

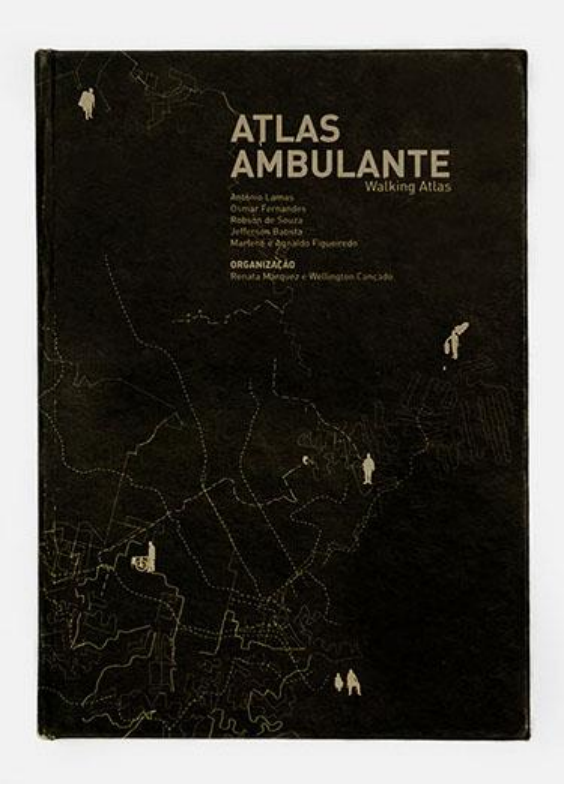
Globalisation from below

"What common people have done in response to the process of globalization is to create communities that sit astride political borders and that, in a very real sense, are 'neither here nor there' but in both places simultaneously. The economic activities that sustain these communities are grounded precisely on the differentials of advantage created by state boundaries. In this respect, they are no different from the large global corporations, except that these enterprises emerge at the grassroots level and its activities are often informal."

Question: How to study a community which is 'neither here nor there'?

The research

- Against the backdrop of China's growing influence in Brazil, the project combines **ethnographic** and **collaborative methods** to construct an in-depth account of the **transformative impact of the Chinese diaspora on Brazilian society, focusing on the popular economy of Belo Horizonte.**
- Transnational Atlas of the Popular Economy
- Exhibition



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Amapá
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Amazonas
Pará
Maranhão
Ceará
Piauí
Acre
Rondônia
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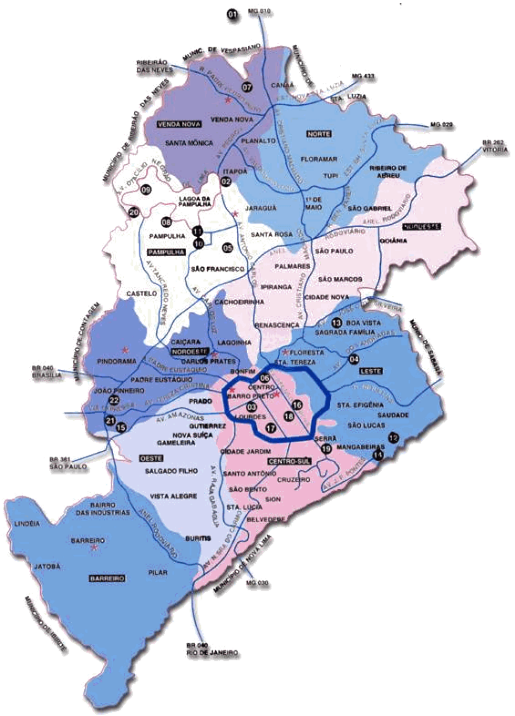

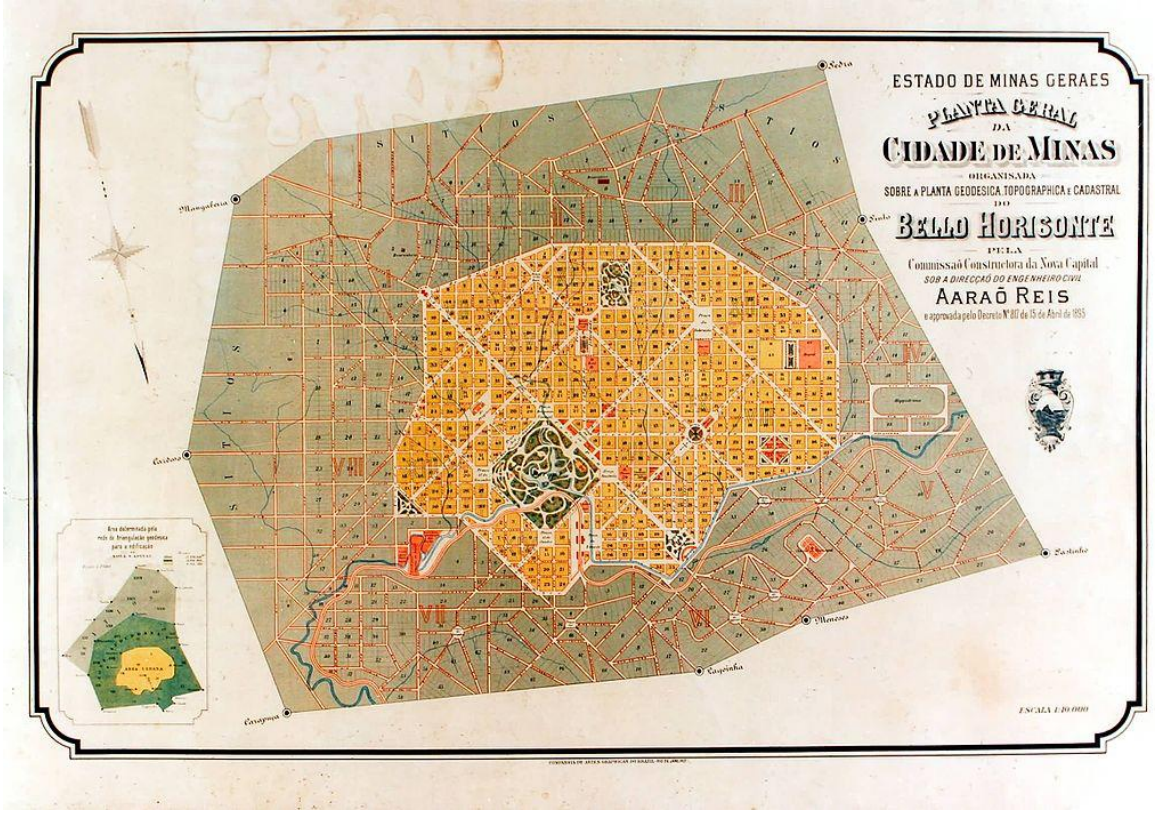
ESTADO DE MINAS GERAES
PLANTA GERAL
DA
CIDADE DE MINAS
ORGANISADA
SOBRE A PLANTA GEODESICA, TOPOGRAPHICA E CADASTRAL
DO
BELLO HORISONTE
PELA
Commissaõ Constructora da Nova Capital
SOB A DIRECÇAÕ DO ENGENHEIRO CIVIL
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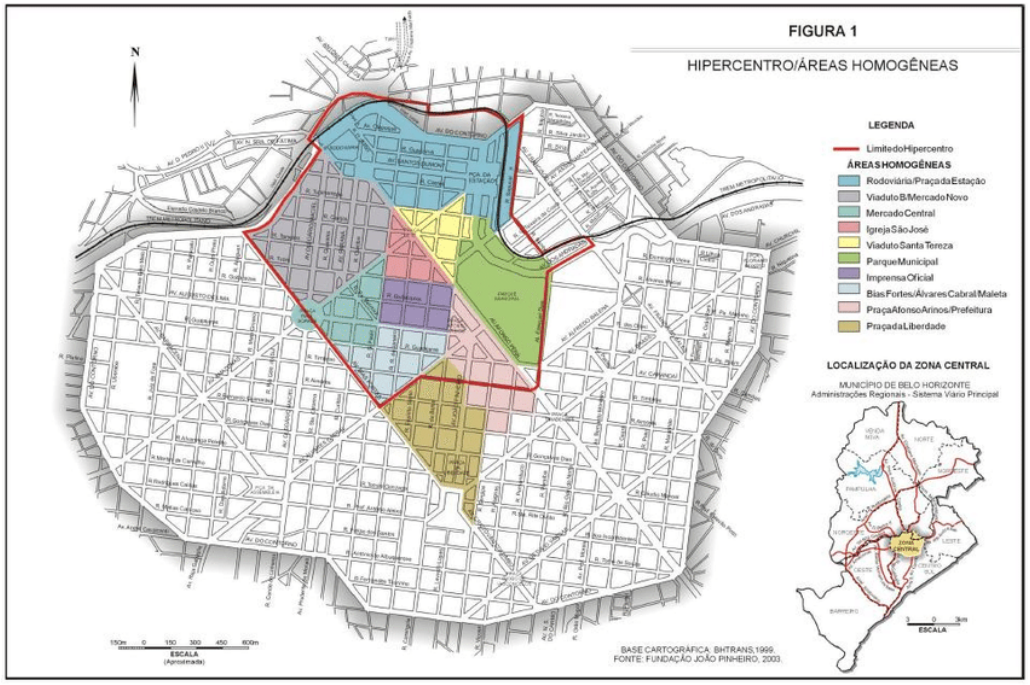
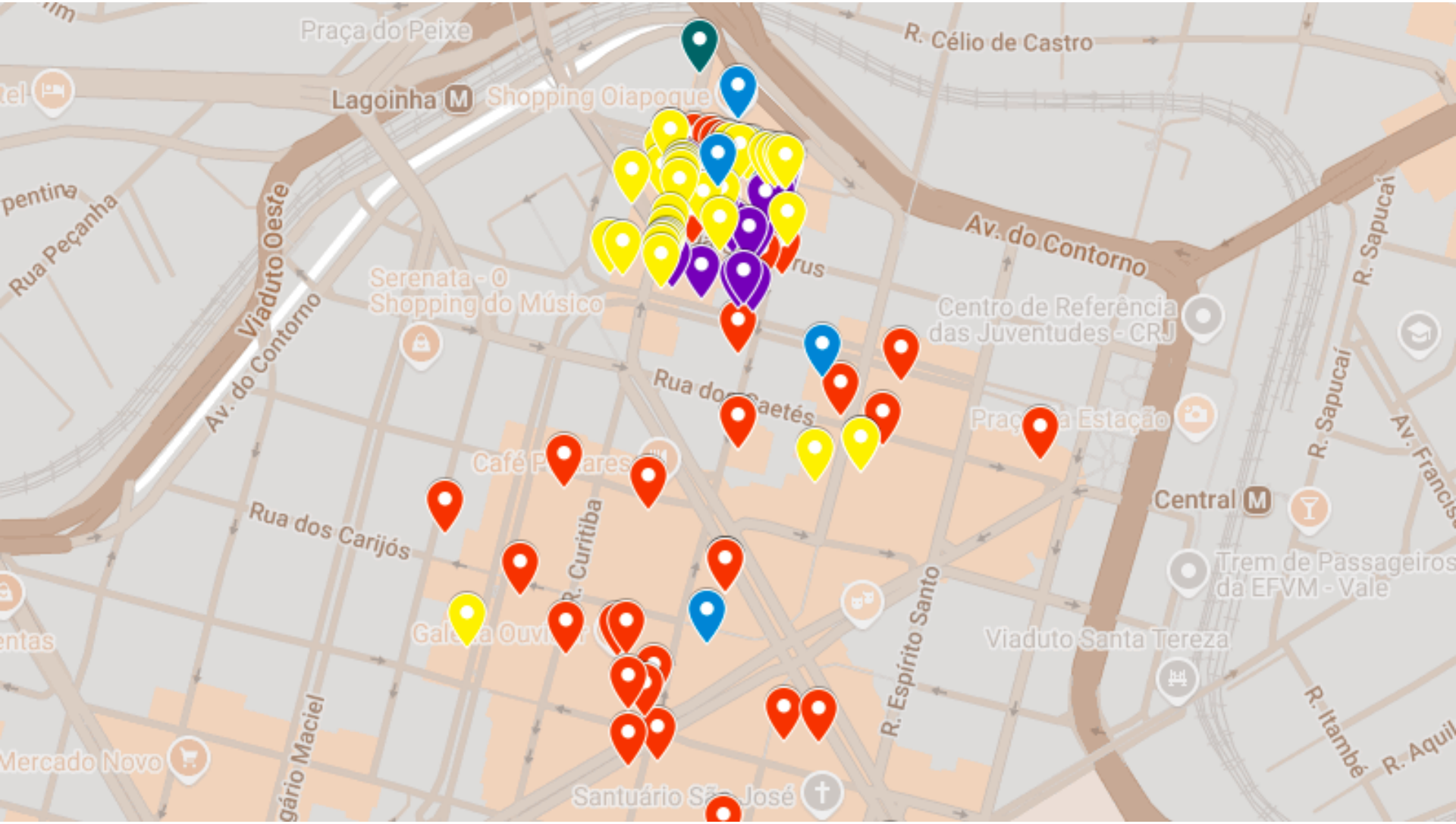
The “hypercentre”



Aims

1. A globalized popular economy
2. Transnational spaces of belonging
3. Globalization beyond the global city
4. Spaces for intercultural dialogue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R. Célio de Castro
Lagoinha
Shopping Oiapoque
Viaduto Oeste
Av. do Contorno
Rua Peçanha
Serenata - O Shopping do Músico
Centro de Referência das Juventudes - CRJ
Rua dos Caetés
Rua dos Carijós
R. Curitiba
R. Sapucaí
Av. Francisco
Central
Trem de Passageiros da EFVM - Vale
R. Espírito Santo
Viaduto Santa Tereza
R. Itambé
Mercado Novo
Santuário São José

Initial findings

- Most immigrants come from the Southeast coast in China: Zhejiang, Fujian, and Shanghai.
- The length of stay in Brazil varies between 1 and 26 years.
- 2nd generation – distinct trajectories.
- Relations with Brazilians are marked by a mix of respect and prejudice.

Thank you!

Any questions?