Street People

Street People

City → São Paulo
- Sé
- República
- Brás
- Mooca
- Santa Ifigenia
- Bom Retiro
- Bela Vista
- Minhoção
- Crackolândia / Luz
- Dom Pedro

Thesis
- Methodology
- Research Question
- Objectives
- Relevance

Actions

Reasons for Actions ①
- Repression ! — the City (through Architecture/Design)
  - Public Space
  - Wellfare Buildings
- Repression ! — through Violence
  - State
  - Police
  - Society
  - organized Crime
  - own Community
- Urban Segregation ! — Social
  - Marginalization
  - Minimal Difference
- Urban Segregation ! — Spatial
  - Precarious Living Conditions
  - Minimal Difference
  - Gentrification
  - Displacement

Organization of Actions ②
- Forms — as Group
  - Individual
  - Collective
  - (Social) Movement
  - NGO
  - Council
  - Forum
- Modes
  - Self-Determined
  - take part of — Participatory
  - be part of
- Places !
  - Cultural/Social Centres
  - Wellfare Centres
  - Public Space
  - Institutions

Goals of Actions ③
- Daily Survival
- Justice
  - Social
  - Spatial ?
- Right to
  - Housing
  - Land
  - Education
  - Work
  - Access
- Right to the City ! ④
- Citizenship
  - Participation
  - Maximum Difference
- Rising of Awareness
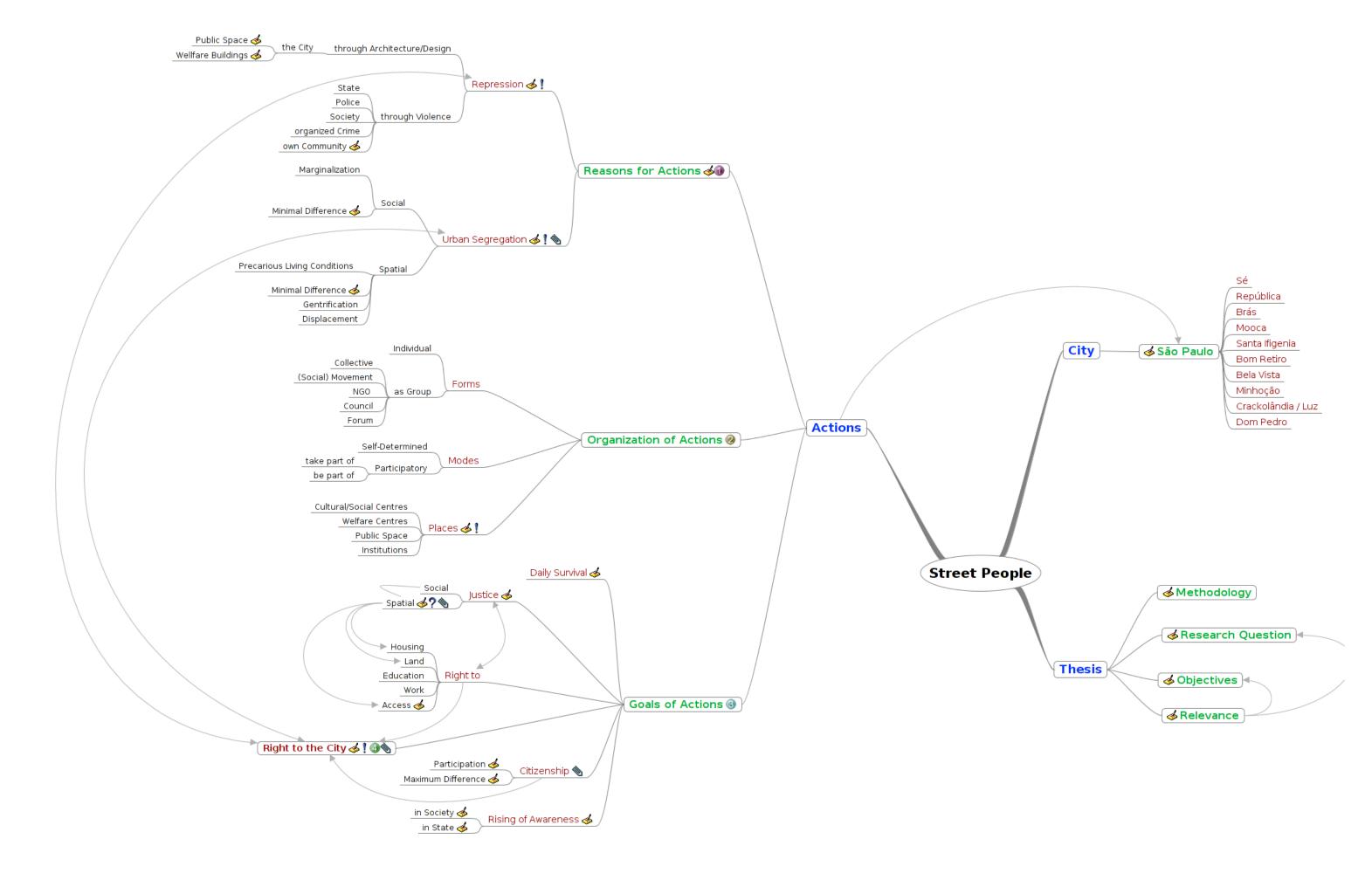 - in Society
  - in State

⊟ Street People

⊟ Actions

⊟ ❶ Reasons for Actions

Reasons also determine the adressor of action

⊟ ❗ Repression ✏️

repression and segregation are two forms of discrimination against marginalized people and groups, thus discrimination is provoked by the city itself and is supposed to be overcome when the right to the city is achieved

- ⊟ through Architecture/Design
  - ⊟ the City
    - ☐ Public Space

      lacking all kinds of service structures such as public toilets, banks, etc. public spaces become fenced, surveilled, guarded, turn into private property, are not accessible at night

    - ☐ Wellfare Buildings

      especial alberques/homeless hostels and other wellfare institutions are called human deposits

- ⊟ through Violence
  - ☐ State
  - ☐ Police
  - ☐ Society
  - ☐ organized Crime
  - ☐ own Community

    community seen as heterogeneous compound of many different sub groups and individuals

⊟ ❗ 🏷️ Urban Segregation ✏️

repression and segregation are two forms of discrimination against marginalized people and groups, thus discrimination is provoked by the city itself and is supposed to be overcome when the right to the city is achieved

- ⊟ Social
  - ☐ Marginalization
  - ☐ Minimal Difference

    here, minimal difference means segregated places and areas in the city where only a homogeneous group of citizens is occupying space. this can be a run down neighbourhood, a business district or a rich area. any of this places predominantely exhibits among others a similar inhabitant structure or urban infrastructure, thus it is a place where a minimum of difference can be observed

- ⊟ Spatial
  - ☐ Precarious Living Conditions
  - ☐ Minimal Difference

    here, minimal difference means segregated places and areas in the city where only a homogeneous group of citizens is occupying space. this can be a run down neighbourhood, a business district or a rich area. any of this places predominantely exhibits among others a similar inhabitant structure or urban infrastructure, thus it is a place where a minimum of difference can be observed

  - ☐ Gentrification
  - ☐ Displacement

❷ Organization of Actions

Forms

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ as Group
  - ☐ Collective
  - ☐ (Social) Movement
  - ☐ NGO
  - ☐ Council
  - ☐ Forum

Modes

- ☐ Self-Determined
- ☐ Participatory
  - ☐ take part of
  - ☐ be part of

❗ Places

Places are one of the core structure in order to perform actions. Places are the space of daily life, the city with its streets, buildings, buses, etc. Without places it becomes difficult to gather and to organize, plan and act together, thus, public space, cultural and self–determined centres, etc, are necessary. In addition to their function as gathering locations, places can also be spaces that distribute knowledge, where people experience micro practices that are difficult to perceive or realize outside of them.

- ☐ Cultural/Social Centres
- ☐ Welfare Centres
- ☐ Public Space
- ☐ Institutions

❸ Goals of Actions

Daily Survival

the daily survival is the one main action and is organized in various forms, by the "community" of street people, individually or in groups

- it means using the city, the available places of support such as public kitchens, workshops
- finding and constuctind places to sleep
- working,. daily survival also means
- it requires knowledge and experience about places and spaces in the city, the daily routes, routines, where and how to earn money
- it is also the linked to the daily threads of repression, by state agents, police, the society, organized crime or within the "community"

Justice ✏️

social and spacial justice are linked because social justice or injustice becomes also visible in space

- ☐ Social
- ☐ ❓ 🏷️ Spatial ✏️

  need

Right to ✏️

- ☐ Housing ✏️
- ☐ Land ✏️
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Work
- ☐ Access ✏️

  access can be access of public spaces without fearing repression, or without fearing discrimination, it can also mean access to the city in general by not being excluded from public transport for

example, but also access to land (land reform in rural areas) or access to housing and empty buildings for housing (urban reform in cities), access to education, etc

❗ ➍ ✎ Right to the City

While being in São Paulo, one of the first critiques I heard from Mateus (who showed me two days and nights the city from the perspectibe of the streets) has been that especially the street people have no "access to the city". this means that they are excluded from everything the city offers, even public space due to the cities cleansing policy (higienistas) that aims to relocate all unwanted people and scenes away from the centre. Thus, before any "Right to the City" is available, the people needs, according to him, access to the city, even if they live on the streets.

"Th right to the city" itself is one of the common requests of urban social movements, be it the recycler movement (mncr), the street people movement (mnpr) or the housing movements (flm, mtst). Interestingly, the Brasilian City Statute is already granting certain city rights, especially to the marginalized, but in practice, there exist no whatsoever visible implementation.

✎ Citizenship ✏

Participation

here, participation doesn´t just mean the part taking in, for example, urban planning processes where the participative part often just means the choice between different options for an already decided aim. participation may also mean to create new new political spaces which are self-determined by the people that participate in.

Maximum Difference

maximum difference means that the people can produce themself as they want, but not in the sense of absolute individuality and selfishness but in the sense of being and acting as they want but in continues social dialog with the others. maximum difference, in contrast to minimum differnce means that segregative and discriminatory process are abolished.

Rising of Awareness

Rising of Awareness is addressed to the state and its institutions and agents but also the the civic society.

One main issue here is that street people, as well as the favelas at the peripheries of São Paulo, or in remote areas of the official city, are invisible for the society. There exists a hugh amount of preconceptions and only little solidarity. Street population as well as favela population is stigmatized, may it be by complete neglection when passing by or viewing them as one heterogeneous bunch of crackheads. This picture is also partly transported by the media but the other side is shown as well, especially during the time of heavy rainfalls and coldness when street people had to suffer a lot.

Thus rising of awareness is often a theme of the peoples actions, may it be through fotos and films, journals, prosa, etc. against a symbolic culture that maintain inequality in order to contest it.

Another great approach have been the participation of some people, especially Valter, in improvisation theater that takes place in the biggest cultural centre in the centre of the city, the Centro Cultural de São Paulo. There, Valter always is part of those people that act and he always put actual or general issues of the street population in the scenes. He also suggested to use that kind of theater when the movement of the street population (mnpr) got in contact with the university of the military police in order to switch roles and show them how it is when one is lying on the ground, threaded by police.

in Society

rising awareness in society in order to overcome preconceptions and discrimination against marginlized people but also to strengthen the sense of support and solidarity the society is already showing, i.e. by distributing food on the streets

in State

rising awareness in the state´s institutions, such as the police that usually repress marginalized people but also the social workers which are supposed to support them but often just act as agents that clean public space of subjetcs and scenes that disturb the normal order.

City

São Paulo ✏

places of actions in São Paulo

Sé

☐ Thesis

☐ Methodology

1. **Definition of theoretical concepts**, **literature review**.
   - ○ *Most of those concepts have not been thought of in the initial thesis proposal and poped up during the field trip. For example the term "No Access to the City" has often been used by the people who talked about their situation.*
2. **Qualitative information gathering by conducting** *Participative Observation* **while being on field trip in São Paulo**.
   - ○ *In a sense, there is also a bit of* **Grounded Theory** *visible, because only the experience in São Paulo made the articulation of a concrete direction this thesis to, possible. Actually, with the experience made in São Paulo, any previously constructed theoretical consideration became obsolete and had to be reconsidered completely*
3. **Mapping of empirical gained information in order to try to visualize the various worlds the world on the streets of the city is composed of**.
   - ○ *Mapping must not necessarily be just geographically but can and should also consider media coverage, field trip reports, dokuments, posters, fotos, anything that has been gathered during the time in São Paulo. Mapping of Empirical Experience can also be combined with the mapping of relations betwwen the theoretical concepts.*
   - ○ *Mapping can combine the lived space, thus everything that exists between conceived and perceived space.*
4. **Locating the empirical experience in the context of the theoretical framework**
   - ○ *This seems to be the to be the step to answer research question* (1) *and* (2)
5. **Deepening of theoretical concepts based on available definitions** (1) **and empirical experience** (2).
   - ○ *This seems to be the final step in order to answer research question* (3)
6. **Final Conclusion**

☐ Research Question ✏

1. **What are the reasons for conducting self-determined participatory action**?
   - ○ *Note: This seems to be a simple question in the first place but when looking at reasons for self-determined participatory actions one has to consider the precarious situation the people life and the reasons behind that situation. Then certainly a whole universe is opening up, thus reasons in this context are probably not just related to reasons for actions and their goals and aims but also related to the reasons that produce the situation of the people, which asks for the reasons how the city the people life in affect their life and vice versa. A brief overview of different reaons can already be seen in the diagram above.*
2. **What are the goals of conducting self-determined participatory action**?
   - ○ *Note: Goals are as heterogeneous as reaons. Goals are of political nature but tackle also the daily reality, thus are small and persistent, such as the daily survival or the formation of knowledge and education. Political goals may affect the daily realities in the mid or long run and need long lasting and persistent actions. One interesting point here would be to sketch the level of self-determination and participation in the process of conducting actions and when their goals have been achieved fully or partly.* fe
3. **What could be the outlook of conducting self-determined participatory actions**? (*currently not well formulated*!)
   - ○ *Note: in a sense this question probably asks why self-determined participatory actions are the preferred* (*one or only?*) *way for marginalized people to organize the struggle for new political space and demands. This refers back, on the one hand, to the reasons of actions, because those reaons won't be overcome completely in the short term, and on the other hand is refers to places and spaces where those actions can be organized, where the people can gather, hence also asks the question how those spaces and places can be maintained but also created.*

☐ Objectives ✏

Note: The thesis shall not become an analysis of people or groups, their behaviour, personal problems or good and erroneous decisions they made. It shall not suggest anything for them because their

reality can only be represented as an incomplete snapshot in this thesis. Concrete suggestions can only be made together with them, living with them, experiencing their reality and understanding how their lived space is functioning. The thesis is based on a theoretical and a qualitative information base, thus no hypothesis is going to be formulated.

1. **Determination of the theoretical concepts that are (partly or to full extend) embedded in self-determined participatory actions**
   - *Urban Segregation*
   - *Spatial (in)justice*
   - *Participation*
   - *Citizenship*
   - *Right to the City*
2. **Compilation of field trip experiences**
3. **Mapping and visualization of empirical information and reports and other available sources of information**

   - *Report*
   - *Blogs Posts*
   - *Gathered Media from the news, journals, etc*

☐ **Relevance**

The answer to relevance of this thesis shall not set equal to the uniqueness of the topic. Instead it should be asked, as also suggested by Staeheli and Mitchell (2005: 357)

- ***what* are the (political) goals of the thesis research?**
  - the main goal of this thesis is similar to one if the goals of the struggle of the poeple, which is creating or rising awareness and to coneptualize the processes that happen in the urban environment, which are also visible in cities in other regions and continents, thus also in our daily reality.
- ***why* should this thesis be relevant?**
  - this thesis should not be relevant because it is a "new" topic
  - this thesis should not be relevant because it is suggest something for somebody
  - this thesis should also not be relevant because it aims to change the world, which it not does
  - this thesis should be relevant because of the harsh conditions that exists in the life of the people and becasue, as long as this condictions exists, it must always be made visible and be criticised in the public, universitary, political discourse
- ***how* could this thesis become relevant?**
  - this thesis becomes relevant if its content becomes public accessible, thus accessible online
  - if it doesn't adress the usuall scientific scene soleley
  - it if doesn't disappears in dusty bookshelfs
  - if it is returned back to those on whose reality this work is based on
  - if it is not considered as finished work but if further and future actions continue on the theme(s) this thesis is talking about. if this actions draw directly on this thesis or not is not relevant then
- ***who* is the intended audience and the beneficiaries of this thesis?**
  - the main beneficiaries are in the first place the people that provided me access to their reality. they should get this thesis in return because this is one of the little things that they can benefit of instantly
  - the audience shall be potentially everydody, beneficiraies, scientific or not. the thesis shall provide content that people could easily access in order to make their own mind of it, criticize it, suggest additional ideas or just use it as a source of information
  - the audience is also scientifc because it is a work that took place in a universitary framework but they are not more and not less addressed than anybody else

See also

Bown et al, 2007, What Makes Justice Spatial? What Makes Spaces Just? Three Interviews on the Concept of Spatial Justice