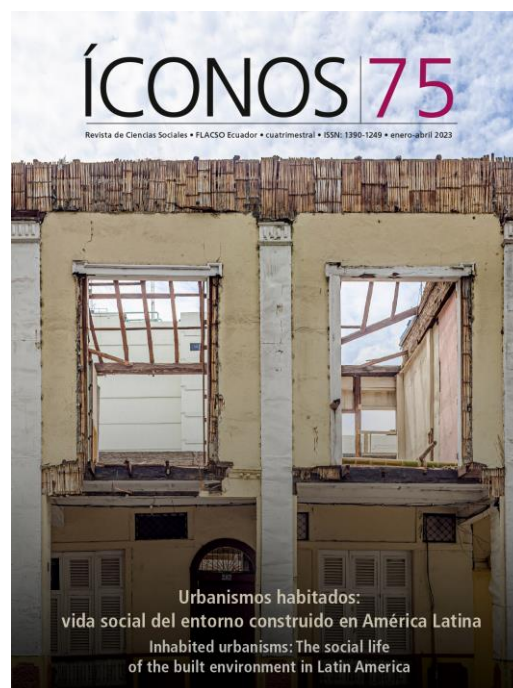


ÍCONOS Revista de Ciencias Sociales

CALL FOR PAPERS

INHABITED URBANISMS: THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN LATIN AMERICA



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This dossier aims to compile reflections on urban transformations in the Latin American region, within the framework of the capitalist reappropriation experienced in cities since the end of the 20th century. To this end, we invite papers that analyze transformations of the built environment from a socio-spatial approach, without neglecting the

economic and political factors involved in its production, nor the lived and perceived dimensions inherent to the act of inhabiting. In this sense, we call for research that, from an interdisciplinary perspective, makes visible the social life of the built environment, recovering the contributions of geography, architecture, urban planning, anthropology, sociology, urban economics and other fields of the social sciences and humanities, to study the process of habitat production in relation with the specific forms of sociability that occupy habitats.

In the current situation, marked by the implementation of neoliberal policies aimed at converting the city and strategic rural areas into centers of economic operations (via the action of the real estate market or extractive activities), it is essential to highlight factors hidden within transformations of the built environment, as such transformations operate within rhetorical devices that service the commodification of space and social control. There is a broad consensus among local governments and experts (urban managers, academics, planners, etc.) who consider urban colonization operations as positive developments, promoted within discourses that link them to democratization and progress, thus ignoring the growing privatization of public management and the effects of segregation and social exclusion, as the *sine qua non* of the operations of the capitalist city.

This contradiction is not unrelated to the proliferation of urban initiatives resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, aimed at solving spatial problems related to the behavior of human groups in order to protect health. This elucidates, once again, the instrumental role that urban planning has played in strengthening neoliberal policies and further suggests that the logics of the appropriation of space by those who inhabit the city do not always correspond to the guidelines provided by planners. Hence, critical perspectives are necessary for making explicit the economic interests that operate behind transformations of the built environment and their impacts on ways of living.

Inhabited Urbanisms calls for proposals that go beyond the prescription of project solutions that are distant from social life, in order to advance towards descriptive understandings that are capable of making visible the power of inhabiting to understand the production of Latin American cities and to rethink the disciplinary schemes of urbanistic practice. In this sense, contributions ought to come from distinct perspectives that illuminate the political economy of urban morphologies, the social impacts caused by spatial transformations, the functionality ascribed to spatial practices and appropriations, and the symbolic dimensions that intervene in the production of space. Among the possible lines of research and sub-themes of interest for this call are the following:

- Analysis of the production of built environments in urban and rural areas that have been subjected to processes of spatial commodification or that are threatened by real estate pressures or extractive activities. The aim is to include debates that make visible the economic and political motivations of such transformations, the institutional framework in which the activity of urban planners and architects takes place, and the effects of their plans or designs on people's daily lives.

- Approaches to the inhabited dimension of space, understood as the radical expression of social ordering, evident in manifestations of urban informality or in the subversive appropriation of space, despite project plans conceived by municipal technicians, or manifestations of assimilation or resistance in the face of urban change.
- Reflections that problematize urban praxis from an examination of its disciplinary foundations, with particular emphasis on actions conceived in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic or with respect to post-pandemic urban lifestyles, and the concept of *inhabiting*, as a basis for rethinking epistemological frameworks.

Article submissions are accepted in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, though the selected articles will be published in Spanish. The journal will clarify any doubts and provide feedback on proposals until the submission deadline.

The articles must comply with the editorial policy and publication standards of the journal (available at www.revistaiconos.ec). A peer review system is used for the selection of articles.

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