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Panel Title

Exploring and Questioning the inner-city in Latin America: urban renewal, historic preservation, gentrification and segregation dynamics

Abstract

The inner-city concept in the context of cities in Latin America has been explored from several approaches and disciplines. The socio-spatial processes implying population decline in areas labeled as inner cities in Latin America have been related to rapid urban growth dynamics, the emergence of new centralities, the expansion of tertiary activities, patterns of socio-spatial differentiation or insecurity, just to name a few of the most recurrent issues. The importance of architectural features from a historical preservation point of view has led some cities to design and implement planning mechanisms to protect this heritage, especially in those historic centers inscribed in the World Heritage list by UNESCO. The emergence of historic centers as focal nodes for tourism or the arrival of foreign capital has led to some revitalization measures, which in some cases have been influencing gentrification dynamics or displacing resident and uses. Recent waves of new residents as a result of public or private projects with the idea to back to the center have been also examined in terms of their implications in terms of segregation dynamics between new and old residents within central areas. At the same time, the implementation of urban renewal programs and transports projects around historic centers have captured the attention of scholars in terms of potential inclusionary and equity issues as part of landownership, capital investments, land use planning regulation, and market forces. What are the population dynamics and transformations in land use taking place in these spaces? What issues have emerged as a result of interventions in terms of historical preservation of heritage structures and urban revitalization strategies? What are the mobility and accessibility issues currently facing these areas and their relations with socio-spatial transformations? What are the relationships between gentrification and segregation within urban renewal interventions in these areas? This panel seeks to discuss these issues by looking at different cases in Latin America. In doing so it poses the question about the pertinence of the concept of “inner city” to examine and compare the processes and politics of intervention that are taking place in several cities in the region.

Please send paper abstracts of 250 words or less to panel organizers by **Friday September 4** (midnight): Erik Vergel-Tovar (evergel@live.unc.edu) and Jose Antonio Ramirez-Orozco (jar2264@columbia.edu). Paper abstracts can be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese. We hope to present the panel within the Latin American Cities Working Group to the track on Cities and Urban Studies