

Housing policies, housing displacements: the idea of neighbourhood in socio-spatial disputes over the production of Brazilian urban outskirts in the context of 'Programa Minha Casa Minha Vida'

Thaís Troncon Rosa

thaisrosa@yahoo.com

In Brazil, in a context of extreme urban periphery growth – intensified, in recent years, by the implementation of the public housing program “Minha Casa Minha Vida” - , whose crossing by "violent sociability" hinged to the illicit drug trade is given as incontestable, the idea of neighbourhood gets new contours. This context, over the last thirty decades at least, has been associated with an intense dynamic of successive housing displacements by the popular classes. The regularity of this intra-urban migration demarcates a condition of "nomadism" that seems to be a structural part of the simultaneous processes of production of subjectivities and territorialities in some Brazilian urban peripheries. That conforms a common urban experience among these popular classes, in which one sees a strong gender marking: the condition that, at some point in their lives (or across all it), 'doesn't take place', 'don't have where to go', in which the lack of housing is linked to the presence of the state as an actor of multiple violence in the field of urban. Trajectories marked by sequences of ruptures and restarts, successive uprooting often lived as traumas in which the housing privation is linked to the state's presence as an actor of multiple kinds of violence in the urban field, pointing to the coexistence of historical mechanisms of “social differences management” in the city and contemporary processes of "differential management of territories."

It is from this complex perspective that the importance of the idea of neighbourhood for this impoverished population, whose experience is guided by successive uprooting, should be comprehended. It is associated with the notions of house, district and city lived as process (always unfinished), understood as dynamic constructs and not as fixed structures in time. As a counterpoint to inconstant dynamics in various aspects of life (job, income, family arrangements, social bonds), the prospect of fixing in a house and a territory is one of the major horizons of its urban trajectories, which articulates the fundamental dimension of building situated networks of relations, a territoriality itself - the neighbourhood. From the moments in which some settlement seems to be possible occurs an update of one "future imagination"; in these moments are built, or reconstructed, the senses of neighbourhood, district, territory and city that, in dialog with the experience of housing displacements, conform "the spatiality of everyday life" in these urban peripheries.

On the other hand, the "home ownership" seems no longer to configure necessarily one stability horizon for the popular classes, it does not represent anymore the end point of condensation of these housing trajectories. Even in a context where social and housing public policies (highlighting the housing program Minha Casa Minha Vida) are increasingly directed to territorialize poverty, the persistence, the renewal or the intensification of certain life conditions and vulnerabilities impel other displacements, putting in check the own question of settlement.

Based on ethnographic research from trajectories of residents of urban outskirts in the city of São Carlos – SP, this paper proposes to reflect on some relations among these housing displacements and such dimensions of the idea of "neighbourhood" in counterpoint to the prospects for settlement and territorialisation of poverty that have guided the housing policies in progress in Brazil, problematizing the normative dimensions of dwell and production of urbanity.

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