

Medellin in motion: Governmental technologies of city-model making

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Becoming a city model to emulate across contexts benefit as deliberate strategy to 'govern' contested cities. The circulatory power of urban policies and planning ideas is shaping the ways in which the politics of space production takes place in contemporary urbanism. Emerging urban models place the 'global south' at the center of urban innovations, challenging the traditional sources of innovation and transgressing the mainstream directionality of travel North-South.

The debate on policy mobility – mutation and the acceleration of the international exchange of planning practices gained increasing attention to be considered pivotal for unveiling a variegated neoliberal modus operandi. However, the particular institutional, spatial and symbolic arrangements that enable the movement of ideas are often overlooked. Following the ideas of critical policy mobility scholars, using governmentality approaches to urbanism, this article aims to explore the context-sensitivity of the recalibration of urban imaginations that city models engender.

Particularly, this study seeks to reflect on the practices of *city model making* and its embedded *governmental technologies of circulation* offering empirical evidence from the case of Medellin, Colombia. Medellin, as a recently praised urban renaissance model, provides a site to explore the guiding question of the research: how an urban model gets enacted and circulated? I argue governmental technologies of city model-making rely on an ensemble of circulatory discursive coalitions, acupuncture of iconic-urban/architectural design, inter-sector alliances and transnational platforms of exchange for internal and external political legitimating purposes.

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