

# **Title of your paper - Urban segregation at a small scale. The negative consequences of living in a social and economic mixed area in Mexico City**

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The academic debate on urban segregation has been wide and profound, including quantitative and qualitative researches and cases of study from all over the world. Some of the urban segregation definitions consider, among others, the possibilities of contact or interaction between different social groups; social-spatial homogeneity and the devaluation of urban areas based on objective and symbolic criteria (Aguilar, 2013; Rubalcava y Schteingart, 2012; Sabatini, 2003; Sabatini, Cáceres, y Cerda, 2001).

During the past years, it has become clear that the scale, on which urban processes are observed, is central to the understanding of the dynamics associated with urban segregation and social exclusion. With regard to scale, Sabatini, Cáceres y Cerda (2001) argue that the larger the size of the homogeneously poor areas, the worse social and urban problems for its inhabitants. Therefore, social and economic mixture is expected to attenuate the segregation patterns and to favor interactions between people from different backgrounds and diverse resources. However, little is known about the life and urban practices of those with fewer resources (economic and social) living in contexts of social-spatial heterogeneity.

This paper builds on this discussion to understand the way in which social integration faces the emergence of new segregation structures. Phenomena like gentrification, enclosures and densification of cities has changed the structures of urban segregation, resulting on the physical closeness of different social groups alongside of refined separation devices (walls, bars, surveillance, etc.) (Caldeira, 2007). The new patterns of socio-spatial organization may reduce the segregation at large scale, but also may deepen micro-segregation and exclusion dynamics for those who are the weaker piece in a socio-spatial context defined by and for others.

In Mexico City, the micro-segregated spaces are in expansion as the interest for traditional neighborhoods has increased and the densification of former horizontal housing areas is rising. However, there are small settlements of low-income habitants that resist the pressure of displacement, at the same time that see

their lives and spaces changing. This research focuses on a micro-segregated area that take place in Coyoacan, one of the sixteen political divisions of Mexico City, where the densification and gentrification have brought middle and high class residents to live next to low class and poor inhabitants. In particular, the paper presents the case of a small community, of about 30 dwellings, trapped in this new urban context. The main question is: what are the impacts (positives or negatives) in the life and practices of impoverished subjects living in socio-spatial mixed area? The research is based on ethnographic observation and interviews to the residents of this community in order to understand the transformations in their cultural practices and urban habits, as well as the repercussions of segregation in a small-scale.

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