The Situational Impact of Intersectional Inequalities on Urban Public Space in post-Covid Latin America

Abstract:
Situational space matters in the production of intersectionally unequal public space in urban Latin America. This talk addresses how social categories of difference contribute to the physical-material and social setting of urban public space in Latin America. It focuses on the extraordinary increase of women-headed family homelessness in São Paulo during the Covid-19 pandemic. How have female heads of homeless families mobilised categories regarding class, race/ethnicity, gender and sexuality in streets and squares of the region’s largest metropolis to sustain their lives and families? Ethnographic research about their social-reproductive interactions helps me assess a twofold hypothesis. Intersectional asymmetries impact the production of urban public space depending on their management within the spatial boundaries of face-to-face interaction. This situational management is symbolically guided by the women’s institutional attachment to the (street) family, with or without children. Hence, entrenched family values contribute to the public-spatial experience of intersectional inequalities in Latin America.

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