

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21050) - GENTRIFICATION WHILE STAYING PUT: ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL VARIETIES OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY, COMMUNITY RESISTANCES AND MICRO-SEGREGATION.

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Background and objectives

Gentrification tends to alter long-term residents' established bonds with their immediate life-spaces, often triggering feelings of place-dispossession (Elliott-Cooper et al., 2020). This may lead to place nostalgia and increase the pressure to leave the area, but it may also prompt reactions of social resistance on the grounds of 'the right to stay put' (Newman & Wyly, 2006). The latter is premised on taken-for-granted psychosocial benefits derived from the maintenance of stable and meaningful bonds with one's place. However, neighbours' affectation and responses to gentrification may be more diverse and nuanced. In this presentation, we examine the variety of environmental-psychological underpinnings related to the right to stay put.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

We draw on results of an ongoing research on gentrification in two neighbourhoods in Barcelona (Gràcia and Poblenou), between 2018 and 2021. We conducted a visual-semiotic analysis (Nöth, 2011) of photographs of the commercial landscape and a thematic-discursive analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2013) of thirty walking interviews (Evans & Jones, 2011) to old and new residents.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

1) The right to stay put is *one* dimension of the right to the city that is at stake in gentrification, alongside the right to one's place (the right to recognise and realise one-self through space, against place-alienation) and the right to belong in a place (the right to feel accepted against symbolic exclusion); 2) community forms of resistance linked to the right to stay put can be either 'intimate' (involving community cultural retreat) or 'antagonist' (organised as a social movement against urban inequality); and 3) the right to stay put may be simultaneously infringed and bodily vindicated through micro-segregation inside the neighbourhood.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

We contribute new knowledge about the variety of environmental-psychological underpinnings sustaining political resistance to gentrification. Results are useful for the political assessment of the socio-psychological impacts of gentrification processes.

Palavras-chave : gentrification, right to stay put, community, micro-segregation