

Governance

(21026) - CONSTRUCTING CITIZENSHIP IN THE LOCAL-GLOBAL INTERPLAY – CLAIMING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEFINING RELEVANT ACTORS

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Background and objectives

Constructing citizenship in the local-global interplay – claiming rights and responsibilities and defining relevant actors

Many of the environmentally consequential meaning-struggles – or battles of ideas - of our time ensue in the interaction between two universes: the universe of institutions and that of the everyday. Examples of this are the struggles about what rights and/or responsibilities should be involved in responding to climate change, or to changes in people-place relations through gentrification and turistification, or to impacts of global mobility. Such meaning-struggles call for people-environment analyses to keep in sight how society and state are in constant interaction, and to focus on how these interactions are conceptualized, practiced and also contested in each of these two universes and their communication. This focus is the place proper for the concept of citizenship, as understood in this symposium. The 4 presentations it comprises put this conceptualisation to practice, by looking at discourse and communication (through the analysis of interviews, press articles and speeches) to examine how citizenship is constructed through the desirable rights and responsibilities assigned to or claimed for citizens. They will specifically examine:

(1) how the tensions between the rights and responsibilities of being grounded (in place and community) and universalistic rights (of mobility) are used to legitimize foreign residency under Golden Visa laws in Portugal;

(2) how the resistance to gentrification in two neighbourhoods in Barcelona is constructed on the grounds of 'the right to stay put' and the right to belong;

(3) how and from which perspective (individual, collective) are the place-narratives of residents in 2 gentrified neighbourhoods in Lisbon constructed and how rights to belong and remain in place are advanced or questioned.

(4) how Greta Thunberg speeches construct the good green citizen by valuing young people as competent CC actors, locating the desirable scope of CC action in the public sphere, and highlighting collective responsibilities over individual rights.

Significance for the advancement of People-Environment relations

Integrating the literatures of constructionist socio-environmental psychology and citizenship this symposium highlights the importance of analyzing how the actors, rights and responsibilities of citizenship are conceptualized and defended in society in interaction with state - namely here in interaction with the laws that regulate mobility and migration, housing and tourism, and sustain climate change action impasses.

More specifically, we contribute to a better understanding of how, in this interaction, the dilemmatic tensions between rights to place and rights to mobility sustain certain views of citizenship that can be more (or less) prone to the creation of multi-place attachments. We also contribute with new knowledge about the variety of environmental-psychological underpinnings sustaining political resistance to gentrification, and the rights claimed to legitimize it. And we also help showcase how GT helps position young people as competent citizens with collective responsibilities. All of which has implications for a more insightful understanding of the multiple realities of migration and place-relations, a more just governance of cities, and of the potential impact of climate youth activism.

Palavras-chave : citizenship; green citizenship; people-place relations; gentrification