



Memory, rituals and mobility in the urban context

On cultural heritage

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Analysing Urbanity, Mobility and the Homo Itinerans

Urbanity,
Mobility

Belonging

Rituals

Urban Rituals

Conclusions

- Three major analytical challenges
 - **the *liquid society* and the end of strong institutions (Bauman)**
 - **methodological nationalism and the End of the Nation-State as unity of analysis (Beck)**
 - **the era of mobility and the end of the analysis of sedentarily as normality (Urry)**
- And the political question
 - **Populism, nationalism, closure - and the pluralist society**

Consequences on the analysis of human mobility in the urban context

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Conclusions

- Informalization of living environments
 - **fragile groups, fragile institutions**
- Breakdown of homogenizing logics and the management of the society of differences
 - **differences and creativity, mainstreaming diversity, super-diverses cities**
- Multiple logics of belonging and citizenship
 - **multiple citizenship and diversified belonging**

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How to create belonging and civic engagement to spaces?

Urbanity, Mobility

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Urban Rituals

Conclusions

- Failure of “Integration policies”
- The city as an *inclusion machine*
 - **Discovery of migrant associations as intermediaries and spontaneous dynamics of inclusion - instrumental ties**
- But: how transforming ties into belonging and engagement?
- How creating civility?



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Rituals (Turner, Halbwachs, van Gennep)

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Conclusions

- Rituals creates inclusion and exclusion
 - **Heritage dimension**
 - Cyclical event
 - Linking past to future by a narrative
 - **Has a beginning and an end**
 - **Form: performance, body is involved,**
 - **Performance including the body, liminality, liminoid realm, ecstasy**
 - **Mobilises the social representations of personal, collective and social memory and identity**
 - **Presence of officers and objects**

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Rituals of territorial belonging

Urbanity, Mobility

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Rituals

Urban Rituals

Conclusions

- How to include people, how to create belonging and engagement in the urban context characterised by mobility and continuous change?
- Some examples

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Zinneke Parade Brussels

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Conclusions

- Zinneke Parade was created for the first time as part of Brussels 2000, European Capital of Culture, with the aim of organising a multicultural carnival, a creative and participative event "likely to reconcile the Brussels population with its identity"



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Derby Inter - Milan

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Conclusions

- Inter against Milan is a soccer event in Milan creating city and belonging at least twice a year.
 - **From an inclusion event against class struggle to an inclusion event of the city of differences.**



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Montreal Zombie Walk

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Conclusions

- Since 2011, common in North America
- Zombies as the complete otherness. More than 10'000 Zombies walking through the centre of Montreal



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Fête de Genève - Escalade: the two ambivalent ones

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Conclusions

- Fête de Genève: for Tourists and the french agglomeration of Geneva
- Escalade: For the Geneva population

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Comments on the examples

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Conclusions

- Rituals create ties, agency, inclusion (and exclusion from) to territories more than to groups
- The can be invented, top-down implemented, bottom-up created
 - **the more civil society is implicated the stronger belonging effects will be**
 - **emotionality (in the liminoid realm) and body transformation are crucial**
 - **the story behind its not fundamental (stories about perhaps more than a collective narrative)**

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Are rituals cultural heritages?

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Conclusions

- Transformed and invented traditions
- Can we call something we invented today a tradition? about creating rituals
 - **announcement**
 - **performance**
 - **continuity**
- A question mark: not rituals are the heritage, but the fact humans produce rituals of belonging (living in ritualised societies)

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Conclusion

Urbanity, Mobility

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Conclusions

- Discourses: Resurgence of conservative views of belonging (like nationalism) and essentialism regarding origins, religion and culture
- Observation: city as a continuously recomposing place of inclusive histories; mobility and migration is a routine in the urban context
- Ordinariness of self-organisation and inclusion
- Policies do not have to focus on migration and mobility, but on inclusion and belonging, self-organisation and self-help