



From slum to neighborhood

Informal settlements, safety and presence of State in a mid-size city in the Argentinean Patagonia

Puerto Madryn, Chubut

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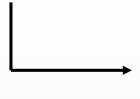


Sharing Space Project is financed by the European Union Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IRSES)

Design practice for urban safety and security
IUAV, Venezia, Italy
17th October 2013



Goals



Understand the dinamic of conflicts and changes in the transition "de asentamiento a barrio" of the Northwestern part of the city

Describe how the population of the settlement ant its seven neighborhoods were produced

Identify main issues, representations and actions driven by the community and their consequences in the everyday experience of living in the city





Puerto Madryn, from "pueblo" to "ciudad intermedia"

Cuadro 1. Población total de la población en los últimos 5 censos nacionales de población, vivienda y hogares.

Área\Año	1970	1980	1991	2001	2010
Argentina	23364431	27949480	32615528	36260130	40117096
Chubut	189735	263116	357189	413237	509108
Biedma	6981	21689	45494	58677	82883
Puerto Madryn	6183	20903	45047	57614	81900
Rawson	34288	67991	100243	115829	131313
Escalante	78236	100997	129229	143689	186583

Main reasons of attraction of immigrants and national migration: work and "The representation of a quiet and safe life in contact with nature"

Puerto Madryn, from "pueblo" to "ciudad intermedia"

Cuadro 2. Crecimiento relativo de la población en los últimas cuatro décadas según datos de los censos nacionales de población, vivienda y hogares.

Área\Período	1970-1980	1980-1991	1991-2001	2001-2010
Argentina	19,6%	16,7%	11,2%	10,6%
Chubut	38,7%	35,8%	15,7%	23,2%
Biedma	210,7%	109,8%	29,0%	41,3%
Puerto Madryn	238,1%	115,5%	27,9%	42,2%
Rawson	98,3%	47,4%	15,5%	13,4%
Escalante	29,1%	28,0%	11,2%	29,9%



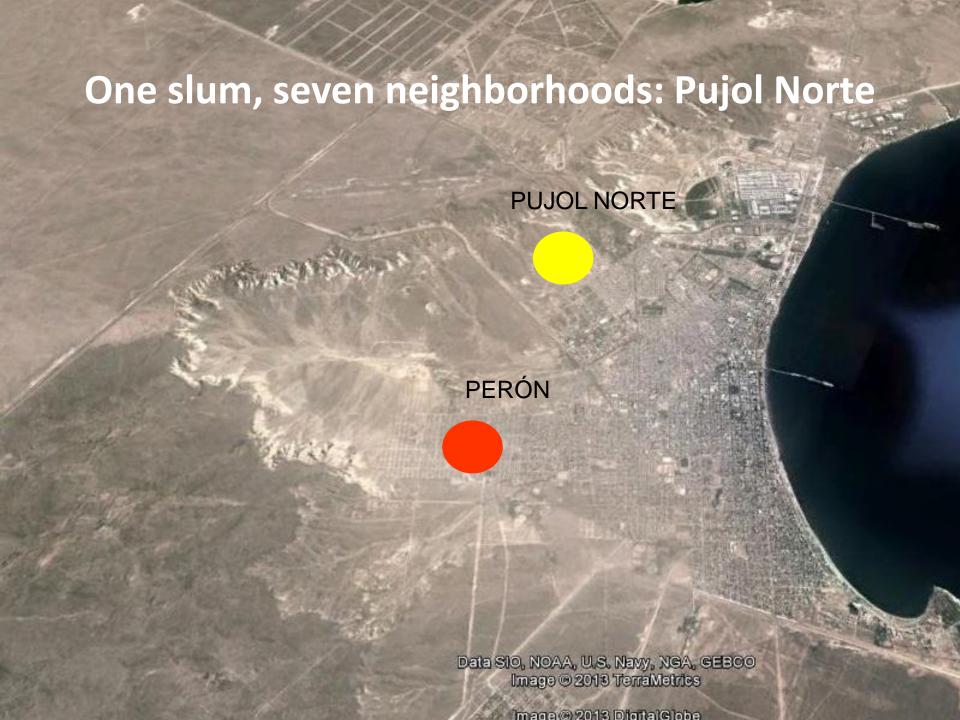
Two momentos in the construction of residencial space

Until the end of the 1980's: State, public companies and ALUAR Public housing and economic lots.

→ From the end of the 1980's: growth of the formal real estate masuburban lots and informal settlements









PASAR DE ASENTAMIENTO A BARRIO

Transitional moment 2011-2012:

 Change of municipal government. What happened with safety in terms of crime and violence and insecurity of teinure and forced evictions (related)

From zero tolerance to the consolidation of the neighborhood

From the organization of resistance to the presence of state



Urban safety: demands and dimensions in



the slum

• Before 2011

Political (real) threat of eviction (some actually took place)

Occupation of houses due to the lack of police ("aguantaderos", places where criminals went to hide) small thefts and situations of violence in public spaces by "criminals" from the "outside"

"I was beaten up by some girls, that were there near the school. I was arriving with a couple of bags and they told me "Bolivian", as usual...One neighbor saw this and yelled...Another time, some kinds, they were not so big (...) They started to sneak inside the houses while people were working..."

Urban safety: demands and dimensions in the slum

Police as a threat

"Police came and we ended up without money and without cable"

Communitarian organization to resist. Whistle, quick answers from the neighbors

"One morning, police came at 4 or 5 and pass on the machines, they kicked the doors, broke everything. People were sleeping...So that's why we realized we needed to have a whistle because you can't do anything to the crowd. But one by one, when you are sleeping...They were going to kicked us out in the same way....When we arrived there it was too late...That's why we ended up occupying the offices of the municipal governmente"

Common origin (or racism) as a risk as well as a solution ("solidarity between people from the same country")

"Between neighbors we take care of each other pretty well because almost all are from the same places

Urban safety: demands and dimensions in the slum

• From 2012

No more occupation of houses. Houses where criminals hide were reported by neighbors...But there are still some inside...though only few talked about these...

"I tell the police, what do we do with them? But they also look after themselves...If they make mistakes, they have to do them in other places...I there are parties, if there are shootings, then we call the police..."

Social violence linked with alcohol drinking in informal bars

"Clandestine shops...They are sitting there drinking outside...Girls pass...Violence no, uncertainty because there are young boys, girls too...there bothering...On the other side (of the road), that side is terrible...There is always fights..."

Gender based violence being denounced by local leaders

"There were some family problems in the neighborhood. I don't like the kids to see those things parents do. I have to work with the police"

Urban safety: demands and dimensions in the slum

• From 2012

Social control changed. Local leaders of the community calling the police

Direct links with city political leaders and its consequences (benefits and pressure over alternatives)

Atomization of organization and problems of representation





Final words

- The experience of the informal settlements tend to be complex. In places where the main demand was the presence of the State authorities and the invisibility of the groups, the authorities were the main threat, besides the impossibility of a real protection against crimes and social violence in its different forms (GBV, racism, xenophobia).
- When the local government changed its policy towards the settlement, local leaders linked to the city political leaders gained control over the neighborhoods but lost representation.
- Even though the experience of the communitarian organization prevented many problems, the presence of the state made it possible to address social violence in a more effective way (the excuse of violence in the private sphere lost support)