



REDUCING BOUNDARIES

Understanding exclusion through security
defensive systems in wealthy urban areas.
Porto Alegre, Brussels, Veneto Region.



International Seminar & Book Launch

October 5, 2017 - 14h00

at Metrolab Brussels

Quai du Commerce 48 - 1000 Brussels



The comparative research 'Reducing Boundaries—Understanding Exclusion Through Security Defensive Systems in Wealthy Urban Areas. Porto Alegre, Brussels, Veneto Region' took place between 2014 and 2017 under the EU-funded program FP7-PEOPLE under the Marie Curie International Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES), led by Università IUAV di Venezia (Italy) and Latitude Platform (Belgium) in collaboration with the Faculty of Law and Criminology of La Salle University (Unilasalle, Brazil).

The investigation originated from the observation of 'the rise of the security paradigm as a framework for organizing contemporary social life' (Daniel Goldstein). This leading paradigm is changing the aesthetics of cities, their physical space, and the everyday life of their inhabitants, affirming class differences and, in certain cases, leading to the construction of a 'visual landscape of fear'. 'Social aesthetics' can create and strengthen class-identity barriers due to the positions of wealthy groups and the way the upper classes represent themselves is becoming increasingly deeply entangled with the idea of risk and safety. Moreover, expanding strategies and interventions for securing private and public spaces, which range from spatial segregation (e.g. gated communities) to controlling access, the use of road bollards, the installation of closed-circuit television system, and other techniques of crime prevention through environmental design, are also emerging in European cities.

The research 'Reducing Boundaries' aimed at studying the defensive spaces and security devices in the main case study of Porto Alegre, understanding the socio-political dynamics that led to their production, and comparing them with the contexts of Brussels and the Veneto region. The goal of the investigation has been to highlight how a sense of 'safety' and 'security' is perceived, produced, and reproduced by the upper classes and how it modifies the urban territory.

The research **Reducing Boundaries** leading to these results has received funding from the People Program (Marie Curie Action) of the European Union's Seventh Framework Program FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IRSES under REA grant agreement n°612063

Partners:

University Iuav of Venice

Latitude – Platform for Urban Research and Design

Universidade La Salle Canoas-RS

www.reducing-boundaries.net

The seminar aims at discussing the main results of the research “Reducing Boundaries” achieved by the three multidisciplinary groups of investigators from Unilasalle, Latitude and luav. Given the focus on the case study of Porto Alegre, three speakers from Unilasalle and UFRGS will offer an overview on the Brazilian context, whereas the representatives of Latitude and luav will present their specific angle, methodology and output. Moreover, the screening of the documentary “Na Bolha” (the bubble, 2016) produced by Latitude on the issue of security and gated communities in Porto Alegre, will bring different voices from the field. Finally, the event will be concluded by the launch of the book “Reducing Boundaries” (Mimesis, 2017), that collects a series of written and visual essays produced by the researchers involved in the investigation.

Program

14:00 - Welcoming - Introduction

14:20 - Daniel Achutti - Unilasalle

Team leader RB / Head of the School of Law and Professor of the Master's Degree in Law

Fiammetta Bonfigli - Unilasalle

Researcher RB / Post-doc researcher in Law and Society

14:40 - Eduardo Georjão Fernandes - UFRGS

PhD candidate in Sociology

15:00 - Lucas Melgaço - VUB

Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminology

15:20 - Q&A

coffee break

16:00 - documentary screening “Na Bolha” by Latitude Platform

16:50 - Emanuela Bonini Lessing - IUAV

Research Coordinator RB / Assistant Professor in Communication Design

17:10 - Fabio Vanin - Latitude / VUB

Team leader RB / co-director Latitude and Assistant Professor in Landscape Urbanism STER

17:40 - open discussion

18:00 - book launch “Reducing Boundaries”

18:30 - drinks

Venue

Metrolab Brussels
Quai du Commerce 48 - 1000 Brussels
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