Social well being, urban planning and spatial justice

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CERDÀ AND BARCELONA. OPTIMAL LOCATION OF SERVICES AND URBAN PLANNING

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Parts of the talk

• Spatial well being, urban planning

• Case study, the Cerdà’s urban expansion of Barcelona done in 1860; his proposal included schools, markets, parks and hospitals
OUR OBJECTIVES

- We want to get further elements to incorporate in planning practices
- We want to study the distribution of well being over the space

- Our working hypotheses are the following:
  - Cerdà’s proposal for the expansion of Barcelona had the aim to improve the population living standards
  - He used normative urbanism as a redistribution tool
  - He emphasize the access of population to services as an important mechanism of improving social well being
quality of life and social well being

- **quality of life** and the relationship between people and their everyday urban environments

**awareness and concerns**

- from politicians
- from social organizations
- from individuals

**key role of the city**

- concentrating the majority of population of the world
- container of institutions and they are close to civil groups and everyday life
- adapting bodies in new conditions requiring social integration, culture and economic development (Le Gale´s, 2002)
spatial well being

• ‘who gets welfare and where do they get it?’
• Well being has a geographical context, and it varies with location
• Well being is not a simple concept
  – form in which people live
  – type of urbanism in a city
• Externalities: individual and social well being
• Efficient distribution of service-to-people
• Locational advantage and disadvantage
actions

• Need to advance – Looking for key masters

  – analysis of Cerdà’s Plan could have a contribution to this way of thinking
BASIC FACTS ABOUT BARCELONA 1860: a boiling pot

• Increasing population
• 182 factories, 54272 workers (41% women) (Cerdà 1869, p. 206)
• Workers’ strikes 1855 (Engels, Toynbee p. 118)
• “The wall” a political reason
• Plagues
• 802 inhab/ha
Barcelona’s Old City

Topographic map of Barcelona 1958
THE DIAGNOSIS
Cerdà and the Old City. the unbearable urban density

• “social philosophy and the urbanization concept” (started in 1849 p. 9); “la idea urbanizadora”

• “Monograph about statistics of the working class of Barcelona” (1856): living conditions

• “social statistics” as action tool
  – Density 822 inhab/ha; 11.44 sq m/person; 183,877 inhabitants (Garriga i Roca 1857-1858)
  – Mortality as dependent variable
    • food intake
    • family budget
    • working conditions
Cerdà’s Map of Urban Expansion of Barcelona 1861


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Geography Dept Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
decision and space
Cerdà’s Map legend
on spatial well being and spatial justice

Spatial analysis: hospital service areas
Spatial analysis: market service areas
results expected

• best practice guidance
• factors in leveling social welfare
• quality of life
• to construct the future policy initiators
• to help asking the right questions concerning urban well being and provision of needs
Q&A

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