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Munich in the 1960s. Urban Change as an Aesthetical Sensation

After the end of World War II and the national socialist's system, the city of Munich and its inhabitants had to rethink their state of mind and renovate the physical structures of urban landscape as well as its social and cultural formation. With support of the occupying forces from the US, life in Munich normalized to even fly high in the course of time. The era from 1958 to 1973 has been the most innovative period in the second half of the twentieth century. In 1966 International Olympic Committee awarded the 1972 Summer Olympics to Munich and urban change speeded up. "Munich was in such an extraordinary mood these times!" people, who experienced urban life in the 1960s, repeated in interviews on the city, its status as capital of youth and especially its later modernisation.

In the sense of Chicago School's "nosing around", fieldwork means not only collecting information but also feeling and observing aesthetic qualities and situations. Interview partners remembered events like the opening of the subway system since 1969 in conjunction with proceedings in their own biographies, almost none of them talked about political decisions or schedules. Oral history in this case study most of all effected verbalising what people had felt in the past. Taking described sensations serious, my research on urban change focused on atmospheres and aesthetics in the decade previous to the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. Speaking with German philosophers Gernot Böhme and Wolfgang Welsch, who think about new understandings of aesthetics in complex realities, I tried to reconstruct the growth of the setting in which the often cited special Munich mood could have been arisen. One of the most important topics in the physical and mental map of the city still means the Olympic Park and its visionary design shaping landscapes and hearts.

Cynthia Tobar

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"Cities for People, Not for Profit": Gentrification and Housing Activism in Bushwick

This paper seeks to trace the history of ongoing gentrification and the subsequent fight for affordable housing in Bushwick, Brooklyn from the perspective of artists, activists, and Latino community residents between 2013-2016. Inevitably, gentrification provides us with a glaring sign pointing to questions of equity and accessibility for long-term Bushwick residents. I wish to use oral history as an entry point to explore what Henri Lefebvre famously termed the citizen's 'right to the city' as a way to respond to rampant real estate growth and housing policy. These oral history interviews are archived in an online site providing resources to the community, such as alternative housing strategies, locating activist organizations and fair housing efforts in the area. The aim is to seek effective ways to empower urban residents to contribute to greater urban democracy, using these stories to underscore the urgent need for politics in this city to prioritize housing that corresponds to the human social needs of the people of this city rather than to the capitalist profit-driven economy of the elite few. This project will help ignite relationships amongst urban historians, policymakers and community activists, with the various groups being affected by gentrification in Bushwick in order to participate in real solutions with the community's best interest in mind.

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Political activism and memory in new media – digital archives and oral history in contemporary metropolis

This paper analyzes the construction of memory in social networks of the internet, especially on YouTube, carried out by two movements fighting for the right to the city and housing. It seeks to problematize activism in two contemporary metropolises. It intends to discuss the relationship between memory and urban space through audiovisual sources produced by Ocupe Estelita (Recife) and Renovar a Mouraria (Lisbon), understanding the singularities and differences of each activism in relation to the conflicts and disputes around the history of the capitalist city. It is considered that the videos and interviews are reports of space, oral history, public history produced by the social movement activists themselves. We rely mainly on the reflections about memory, city and daily life previously developed by Michel de Certeau (1998), Pierre Nora (1993) Andreas Huyssen (1996), David Harvey (1994, 2012) and others.

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Grocery in Macao: Not only selling goods, but also with kindness

Grocery stores are called "Si-do" in Cantonese speaking regions (Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao), which is the English transliteration for "store". Those grocery stores were very popular in Macao in the 20th century: they sell all kinds daily necessities including canned food, sauces, snacks, drinks, stationeries and toys. Since those grocery stores are located in the community, they constitute the some of the most memorable moments in the elders' lives. However, due to the development of economy and society, traditional grocery stores are gradually replaced by supermarkets and 24 hours convenience stores.

In order to archive this special kind of shop in Macao, the Oral History Association of Macao initiated this research project. We interviewed around 15 grocery store owners from different communities in Macao, all of which have been open for more than 30 years. They shared how they established the stores, challenges they encountered to stay in business, and memorable experience with regular customers. Meanwhile, we also try to explore the lifestyles of residents and how the grocery stores interact with their neighborhood.