Homogeneous and heterogeneous neighbouring coexistence. A Barcelonese Study Case

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ABSTRACT:

The case of some districts that emerged under difficult social and urban conditions during the 1950’s was an issue to be solved in Barcelona by City and Urban authorities in the 1980’s. Underlying their appearance we find still unsolved issues, despite extensive field research, that poise a hard question: up to what extent homogeneous or heterogeneous neighbourhoods implied similar qualities on their social groups and urban networks? Space Syntax can be applied to unveil the sequence of developments and how generators of centrality varied over the centuries up to recent phenomena, becoming more specific and practical, a point that should be stressed when planning decisions are taken, without a previous reading of the area, resulting in a real clash of both physical and social continuities.

Some phenomena appear in a limited area: small-worlds coexisting with recently introduced infrastructures; radical changes of morphology in neighbouring sectors, and —most relevant— very different social groups, separated by supposed connectors that, actually, segregate groups previously existing within one vicinity. Not an easy subject, but worthwhile if some light can be thrown on the problem, in order to improve our community welfare.