

Urban safety in residential areas¹

Global spatial impact and local self-organising processes

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Abstract

This paper reports some preliminary data, analysis and results that have arisen from the first year of a three-year research project aimed at identifying spatial characteristics involved in urban safety and feeling of (in) security in residential areas. This complex subject is been approached from a multidisciplinary perspective, involving social science techniques, econometric methods and categories from urbanism, combined with a space syntax approach including configurational modelling, space use observation and statistical analysis. The first phase of the project involves the collection of data from six settlements located in an old district of the city of Santiago de Chile with similar social characteristics but with different spatial characteristics

The preliminary results deal with the identification of variables involved in the feeling of insecurity, the contrasting of places that were considered unsafe by the population and those where mugging had actually taken place and the analysis of space use patterns. Rather than provide answers, the results at the moment have helped to clarify the problem, and raise new fine tuned questions.

Keywords

residential areas,
social and spatial
characteristics,
security, space
syntax

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Aknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the support of the Chilean fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FONDECYT) for having provided the funds to complete the research through project 12020886.