



The Struggles over City-Space: Informal Street Vending and Public Space Governance in Medellin, Colombia (Studien zu Lateinamerika)

Daniel Hawkins

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The relatively rapid and poorly regulated processes of urbanization in Latin America - linked in Colombia's case to violent processes of rural displacement - have left behind gaping structures of socio-spatial segregation. The historical class dimensions of such an inequitable development process can be well illustrated via an analysis of the marked differences between conceptions, uses, and representations of space in the inner-city of Medellin. This dissertation looks at the struggles over public space use in Medellin, caught between conflicting logics: politicians who "order" space in a lineal fashion ideal for consumption and capital investment; criminal elements that look to impose their rule on space via coercion, extortion, and contraband activity; and the mass population of informal street vendors who use space "actively" to subvert their socio-economic and political exclusion from their city. These differences become prime examples of the multifaceted nature of city development and the continuous class-based struggles over space in the city. The book adopts a multiple theoretical and conceptual lens, grounded in critical geographical historical materialism and informal forms of power. It traces the evolution of this inner-city space-based conflict, uncovering many aspects of what is removed from the untrained so-called expert's eye. Dissertation. (Series: Studien zu Lateinamerika - Vol. 13)

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