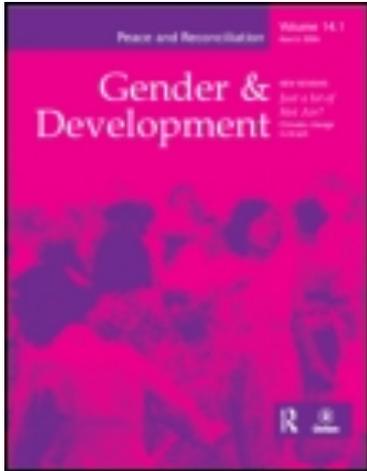


This article was downloaded by: [The University of British Columbia], [Sara Ortiz Escalante]  
On: 23 March 2015, At: 10:29  
Publisher: Routledge  
Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office:  
Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



## Gender & Development

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cgde20>

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Published online: 19 Mar 2015.



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**To cite this article:** Sara Ortiz Escalante & Blanca Gutiérrez Valdivia (2015) Planning from below: using feminist participatory methods to increase women's participation in urban planning, *Gender & Development*, 23:1, 113-126

**To link to this article:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2015.1014206>

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## Planning from below: using feminist participatory methods to increase women's participation in urban planning

Sara Ortiz Escalante and Blanca Gutiérrez Valdivia

*Women have been often invisible in urban planning. Col·lectiu Punt 6, a feminist organisation of women architects and urban planners based in Barcelona, Spain, has developed planning techniques and tools to include women both as objects and subjects of urban planning, and as experts of everyday life. The article focuses on the participatory tools that Col·lectiu Punt 6 has developed that can be used in the different stages of planning, from assessing to evaluating planning policies and interventions, as well as tools of women's empowerment with the goal of promoting bottom-up models of planning. Evidence is shown of how, using these tools, planning becomes more inclusive not only of women in their diversity, but also of children, youth, the elderly, as well as people of different race, ethnicity, income, sexual and gender identities, and capacities. Examples from different contexts are provided, from Spain and Latin America.*

*Les femmes ont souvent été invisibles dans l'urbanisme. Col·lectiu Punt 6, une organisation féministe de femmes architectes et urbanistes basée à Barcelone, en Espagne, a mis au point des techniques et des outils de planification permettant d'inclure les femmes aussi bien comme objets que comme sujets de l'urbanisme, et également comme expertes du quotidien. Cet article porte sur les outils participatifs qu'a mis au point Col·lectiu Punt 6, lesquels peuvent être utilisés durant les différentes étapes de la planification, depuis l'évaluation préalable jusqu'à l'évaluation des politiques de planification et des interventions, ainsi que des outils d'autonomisation des femmes dans le but de promouvoir des modèles de planification ascendants (du bas vers le haut). Des données factuelles sont présentées qui montrent qu'en utilisant ces outils, la planification devient plus inclusive, non seulement en ce qui concerne les femmes dans toute leur diversité, mais aussi pour ce qui est des enfants, des jeunes, des personnes âgées, ainsi que des membres de différentes races, ethnies, tranches de revenus, identités sexuelles et de genre, et capacités. Des exemples tirés de différents contextes espagnols et latino-américains sont donnés.*

*A menudo, las mujeres no son tomadas en cuenta a la hora de realizar la planeación urbana. Col·lectiu Punt 6, una organización feminista de mujeres arquitectas y planificadoras urbanas cuya sede se encuentra en Barcelona, España, ideó varias técnicas y herramientas orientadas a incluir a las mujeres, considerándolas objetos y*

*sujetos de la planeación urbana y expertas en lo que tiene que ver con la vida cotidiana. El presente artículo centra su atención en los métodos participativos creados por Col·lectiu Punt 6, los cuales pueden ser utilizados durante las distintas etapas de la planeación: evaluación, valoración de las políticas y acciones de las políticas respectivas. Por otra parte, con el fin de promover modelos de planeación arraigados en la base se examinan, además, los métodos de empoderamiento de las mujeres. En este sentido, se revisa la evidencia existente en torno al hecho de que, con el uso de dichos métodos, la planeación resulta más incluyente, integrando no solo a las mujeres en su diversidad, sino también a niños, jóvenes, ancianos, personas de diferente raza, grupo étnico, nivel económico, identidad sexual, identidad de género y capacidad. Al respecto, se abordan diversos ejemplos de distintos contextos españoles y latinoamericanos.*

*Key words:* urban planning; gender; women's participation; everyday life; bottom-up participatory processes

## Introduction

The cities of the 21st century require gender-transformative urban planning to ensure their infrastructure can support the aspirations of good governance and safety for all citizens, regardless of gender and other aspects of their identity. Jo Beall (1996, 9) has argued that, 'New forms of urban partnership are needed, to develop participatory processes that include women and men at all stages of urban development'.

Col·lectiu Punt 6 (Collective Point 6)<sup>1</sup> is a feminist organisation of women architects and planners based in Barcelona. We started working together in 2005, in response to the Catalan Neighbourhood Law enacted by the Catalan regional government in 2004, whose point 6 mandates cities to promote gender equality in the use of public spaces and facilities.<sup>2</sup> The main interest of the group is urban planning from a gender perspective, as a means of eliminating gender discrimination, and ensuring the 'right to the city'<sup>3</sup> for all. Our work is concerned with how built environments can reflect – and respond to – the diversity of human societies, by creating inclusive spaces. In their socially ascribed role as primary carers, women become expert in maintaining everyday life for themselves, families, and communities, and they need cities which are planned to support them in that role.

In this article, we advocate including a gender perspective in urban planning, in particular, through the use of collective and bottom-up participatory processes centred on women's everyday lives. We present some of the tools that Col·lectiu Punt 6 has developed over the years, to support the processes of women's empowerment and urban transformation. We then consider the lessons from our experience of promoting and enabling women's active participation in planning, and outline some of the challenges we have encountered in trying to implement the urban transformations that

women visualise and wish for. We finish by raising some challenges that we face as a feminist organisation trying to live up to our ideals in a patriarchal society.

### Our principles: inclusive and holistic

Col·lectiu Punt 6 began with the aim of challenging the general belief fostered in the fields of architecture, engineering, and urban planning that says: 'Urban planning has to be neutral, and is for the public good'. Despite this 'neutrality' umbrella, urban planning has not been inclusive, because it has ignored women's everyday lives in its design. The ideas of 'neutrality' and the 'public good' have been based on a view of cities and the lives of their inhabitants which is informed by the experience of a small sub-section of society which has shaped the governance and planning of cities. This results in a built environment that responds to the interests and needs of a small part of society, mostly 'white male, middle-class, middle-aged, employed, and with full physical and mental capacities' (Ciocoletto *et al.* 2014, 287).

Gender is a social and cultural construction that assigns roles, behaviours, identities, and responsibilities, and at the same time, limitations, to girls, women, boys, men, and trans\*<sup>4</sup> people. The inclusion of a gender perspective in urban planning allows the different facets of people's everyday life to be prioritised and planned for, with the aim of building neighbourhoods and cities that meet everyone's needs. Without it, urban planning will reproduce, rather than challenge, stereotypes related to gender, class, as well as the labour division within the family (Moser and Levy 1986).

An example is the way in which societies in many different contexts throughout the world assign the 'private' space of home to women and the public space to men (Sweet and Ortiz Escalante 2010). In fact, this differentiation between the private and the public space is not meaningful – women and men live their lives in both spaces. Paula Meth (2003) challenges this conceptual division on her work in South African informal settlements, where people live in shacks and the boundaries become more complex, above all when experiencing gender violence.

The construction of the built environment prioritises the work which goes on in the public sphere – work undertaken for pay – over the activities which go on in the home. This complicates people's everyday life, and in particular women's, since women continue being responsible for the majority of domestic and care work (Muxí Martínez *et al.* 2011). In fact, care work and the home are essential underpinnings of the work which takes place in offices, factories, and other 'public' spaces in the city. Pascuala Campos, an architect, highlights the fact that many times the needs of the people – mostly women – who are responsible for maintaining everyday life through care work are forgotten (Campos 1996). Yet it is essential to make visible these tasks, and provide evidence of their essential role in the maintenance of any society. Tasks related to the care of children, the elderly, and the ill – and other tasks related to hygiene, nutrition, and affection – are not 'natural', not inherently female, and not 'private'. They are of

critical importance to human life, have economic and social worth, and therefore need to be considered in planning processes and policies.

Gender-transformative urban planning techniques acknowledge and make visible women's experiences, and activities, needs, and responsibilities associated with domestic and care work. They also respond to the consequences of having a female sexualised body in public space, and the temporal dimension of everyday life, that looks beyond the productive life and responds to the different times when domestic and care work are developed. These issues are of enormous importance in cities, playing out via policies about basic services and how these are prioritised, how daily 'mobility systems' are structured (that is, how, when, for what reason, and with whom people move throughout space), or how safety is perceived in the public space.

### Gender-transformative urban planning: the principles

We understand participation as a tool of empowerment, which can be used in 'processes by which organised groups in the city (and individuals within them) identify and articulate their interests, negotiate change with others, and transform urban organisational life and their role within it' (Beall 1996, 9). It is essential to include a gender perspective in participatory processes to be able to respond to the diversity of people and practices, and break hierarchies. Participatory planning processes need to be gender-transformative (Kabeer 2005), responding to women's needs according to their realities, but without limiting women to the care role, and without reproducing gender stereotypes; transformative in the sense of promoting women's ability to challenge these roles and stereotypes.

Our view of urban planning from a gender perspective considers that women are experts about the places where they live. City and regional planning must take, as its starting point, the experience of people at the community and neighbourhood level, who live in and use the spaces it focuses on and wants to develop. A gender-inclusive planning prioritises a model of a 'compact city',<sup>5</sup> where people do not have to travel long distances to fulfil their different economic and social roles, where the activities of everyday life are valued, and urban configuration promotes sustainable mobility (short walking distances or accessible public transportation) and social relations. Integrating gender concerns into urban planning calls into question the model of a functionalist city designed from maps, which segregates uses and areas, for example separating residential areas from commercial areas, and within these, workplaces from shops and markets.

We work from an intersectionality perspective that highlights how different structural sources of inequality such as gender, ethnicity, class, and sexual identity are socially constructed and interrelated (Platero Méndez 2014). Women's identities intersect with other social identities (Molyneux 1985). In addition, the fact that the majority are care-givers means that they often have insights into the needs of children,

elderly, youth, and people with disabilities, among others. The characteristics of local geography, climate, land use, and planning tradition condition the way to address women's context-specific gender interests and needs (Greed 1997).

Over our ten years of work together, we have accumulated a variety of methods and tools which can be adapted in particular contexts. These include awareness workshops, exploratory walks, neighbourhood photovoice,<sup>6</sup> everyday log itineraries, assessment of the everyday network (public spaces, facilities, mobility network, safety), community mapping, awareness walks and mapping, safety audit walks, street festivals, space occupation, or demonstrations. We have an extensive variety of tools that can be adapted to particular contexts.<sup>7</sup> In the following section, we give examples of how we have used these methods.

## Getting women's everyday life experiences into planning

During our first decade, we have used collective participation to make women active agents of urban planning processes. We have adopted three main strategies: women's empowerment, urban diagnosis, and urban transformation.

### *Women's empowerment*

We understand women's empowerment as a process of reaffirmation of women's capacities, as well as the appropriation of spaces to perform these capacities. It implies being aware of women's individual and collective power, and having the possibility to execute it through participation in decision-making processes. Empowerment does not mean giving power to someone; but acknowledging the power that individuals and groups excluded from political action already have, and finding mechanisms that can enable the right to exercise their power. Processes of collective empowerment can make visible women's knowledge and experiences, in particular marginalised women, and find spaces where women can speak for themselves and their voices can be supported (Casanovas *et al.* 2013). We use different methods and tools in this strategy.

**Awareness workshops.** One of the experiences with the highest impact has been the facilitation of more than 100 awareness workshops with women's organisations in different areas of Catalonia, called 'Women's participation in the design of the city'. In the wake of the Catalan Neighbourhood Law of 2004, mentioned earlier, municipalities, as well as neighbourhood and women's organisations, began contacting Col·lectiu Punt 6 to facilitate capacity-building processes in urban planning from a gender perspective. In this context we organised workshops with women groups across all of the region of Catalonia. From 2005 to 2012, these workshops reached more than 1,300 participants, 97 per cent of them women, from rural and urban areas throughout the region.

These workshops are an empowerment strategy, a participatory exercise that introduces feminist methods in the practice of urban planning. The goal of the workshop is to analyse individually and collectively everyday life as the base of urban planning. It is a way to question planning that only uses statistics, plans, and models, and sees the city as a neutral space. In contrast, it values local knowledge, in particular, women's knowledge. This process helps define gender criteria based on women's experiences, needs, and personal and collective knowledge.

The workshops last between two and three hours, and have two parts. In the first part, the group discusses the meaning of urban planning from a gender perspective and the importance of considering women's everyday life as a source of knowledge. The second part explores women's everyday life, using our 'assessment of everyday networks' tool. On a map, every woman has to locate her home and the public spaces, facilities, and services she uses in her neighbourhood, town, or city. Once they have located these elements, participants mark on the map the paths and routes they use, how they move between places – walking, by bus, by car, whether they move alone or with someone, and which activities they develop. The individual exercise ends by identifying elements that favour, or make difficult, the development of their everyday life.

After this individual reflection, the women get into groups of five to share the results of this first exercise, and then they elaborate a group assessment. The conclusions reached by each group are shared with the other groups to build a collective list of favourable and unfavourable elements that condition everyday lives in a particular built environment. This exercise raises awareness of how going from the personal to the collective experience, women can build through consensus the priorities of the community and the aspects that need to be considered while planning. After the workshops, the results are sent to the planning department of each municipality, which in some cases have been included in the local neighbourhood plan.

An example of this process is our work in the neighbourhood of El Congost, in Granollers, a city in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. El Congost is a low-income neighbourhood with a high percentage of migrants who live in social housing built in the 1960s. The immigrant population came in two waves and from different origins. The first wave were families migrating to Catalonia<sup>8</sup> in the 1960s, from the south of Spain, and the second wave began at the end of the 1990s, especially from Africa and Central America.

El Congost had significant problems in terms of its layout and infrastructure. Its location, bounded by the river Congost and the railway tracks into the city, hindered communications and mobility to adjacent neighbourhoods. In addition, the fact that the area had been settled without much planning or public spending on infrastructure had led to a lack of public spaces, and poor-quality facilities.

The city of Granollers applied for funds of the Neighbourhood Law to implement an improvement plan in El Congost. It created a neighbourhood commission that

worked jointly with the municipal Gender Equity Department, set up in 2000, and the Planning Department. The city contacted Col·lectiu Punt 6 to deliver an awareness workshop, which was attended by 99 women and 87 children from different origins and cultures (53 per cent Spanish, 23 per cent North African, 17 per cent sub-Saharan African, and 7 per cent Latin American). Participants were recruited through the municipal department of Gender Equity, which had previously worked with women in the neighbourhood to support them to get assistance and asked for women who were interested and available to attend the workshop. Women attended the workshops and the exploratory walk, while children participated in special activities guided by trained staff, so mothers could participate in the full-day workshop.

Participants were divided into five groups. Four groups worked on one of the following aspects: public spaces, facilities, mobility, and safety; and a fifth group participated on an exploratory walk. The results included issues of safety, accessibility, and mobility, as well as the need for public facilities in the neighbourhood, such as a playground or municipal day-care. In particular, women's recommendations were used as criteria to improve one of the public squares, Plaça de la Libertat (Freedom Square). When it had been improved, the square was cleared to give full visibility, and new urban furniture was installed, to provide a safe and inviting space which could be used by elderly people, parents, and children of different ages.

In addition to the awareness workshops, within the strategy of women's empowerment we also organise walks, demonstrations, and festivals, to increase women's collective presence in the public space and raise awareness about gender issues as well as recover women's history and memory of place.<sup>9</sup>

### *Urban diagnosis*

As a second strategy, we conduct participatory processes to assess the built environment from a gender perspective and to analyse how it responds to the needs of everyday life. We use different tools when conducting urban diagnosis: an assessment questionnaire, community mapping, and neighbourhood photovoice, as well as everyday log itineraries or exploratory walks.

The urban diagnosis includes three parts. First, women participate in an exploratory walk of the neighbourhood where they identified public spaces, facilities, services, stores, and the neighbourhood's administrative and physical borders. They make their own assessment of the different components, and discuss the physical and social problems existing in the neighbourhood.

In the second phase, interviews are conducted with women and key informants in the neighbourhood, for example business owners, neighbours, and leaders of different ages and origins. The interviews are to gather information about the neighbourhood's everyday life, and serve to increase the knowledge of the area and to set up the third phase of the urban diagnosis: a workshop with women.

The workshop takes around three hours. It involves women from different origins, ages, ideological views, with and without dependants, and from different parts of the neighbourhood.

In 2013–2014, we worked on an urban diagnosis in the neighbourhood of Carrillo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Carrillo is a self-built informal settlement of 12,250 inhabitants; most of them are migrants from Bolivia, Peru, and Paraguay, who arrived in the neighbourhood in the last decade.<sup>10</sup> Women from the neighbourhood participated actively in the collection of primary data and in the elaboration of an urban diagnosis, in collaboration with the Secretary of Habitat and Inclusion (SECHI) of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

When it was first settled, Carrillo was built by the Buenos Aires city authorities to rehouse temporarily dwellers from informal settlements of the city. The houses built at that time belong to the residents, although they were not given formal titles by the city government. By now, the neighbourhood's density has increased through informal construction. The height of buildings is now beyond that legally permitted, and housing has expanded and encroached upon public spaces, including the streets. Households are mostly extended families, with different generations living in the same unit; there are also a considerable number of single mother-headed households.

Carrillo has a complex social network, with different political groups and organisations that compete for power and resources. Community organising is strong, led mostly by women who work collectively to improve the quality of life of the area. The political complexity of the community makes it a challenge to develop new initiatives and interventions in the neighbourhood in ways which are sensitive to ongoing work. We worked in collaboration with SECHI, which has a neighbourhood office, with staff who are close to residents' everyday life. An essential part of Col·lectiu Punt 6's work was to learn and understand the social dynamics of the neighbourhood, for example learning about the different women's groups and who could work together.

The first and second phases of the urban diagnosis in Carrillo took place, followed by the workshop, which took place in the community's health centre, since this was a close, familiar, and trusted space for women. In addition, we shared food while conducting the workshop to create an informal and comfortable environment. The workshop was in the morning, while children were in school, since the women considered that this schedule was the most convenient for them. In the workshop, the women identified on a map where they live, their everyday life spaces, grocery stores, spaces of socialisation and leisure, areas perceived as unsafe, spaces self-managed by groups, schools, and social kitchens, among others. At the same time, the women were building a collective narrative of the neighbourhood spaces. The women explained why they use some places instead of others, what needs and services are covered in the neighbourhood and those covered in other areas of the city, why they avoided certain

streets, issues of using the bus when raining, as well as other issues related to their everyday lives.

All the information the women gathered and shared for the urban diagnosis was used later in a second phase of the project: an urban evaluation that applied a set of indicators of urban quality from a gender perspective (Ciocoletto and Col·lectiu Punt 6 2014). After applying these indicators, the women's groups validated the results through meetings, and the results were shared and validated.<sup>11</sup>

### *Urban transformation*

Our third strategy incorporates the previous two, and consists of women participating in the actual transformation of a space. Relationships are built up with local women's groups and we hold working sessions with these groups, using various methods chosen specifically according to context.

An example of urban transformation is a participatory process we conducted with women's organisations in the neighbourhood of Poble Sec in Barcelona. We conducted five working sessions with women's groups. The first session consisted of an exploratory walk of the neighbourhood, where we used photovoice to later identify positive and negative elements of their communities; the second session was a discussion on urban planning from a gender perspective. After that, the women identified a place in their neighbourhood in need of transformation: the Square of the Three Chimneys.

In the fourth session, women in Poble Sec completed an urban diagnosis of the area, using the tools exemplified in the previous section. The women chose that square because it offered potential to be of great use to them, but various issues needed to be addressed to make it a safe and attractive space which could be freely accessed by all. In the urban diagnosis, women marked on a map, in red, those areas that were not used, and analysed why. In green, they marked the areas that *were* used, and why; and in orange, they marked those elements in the current design of the square that were misplaced and needed to be moved. For example, they highlighted the children's playground area as a positive, but pointed out that benches were needed close to it so caretakers could watch the children. They also marked mobility barriers, walking paths, corners, and walls that block visibility and increase fear.

In the fifth session, women developed a proposal for transformation of the square, to improve its use by different people: women and men, of different ages, ethnicities, with different capabilities. The goal was to increase the use of the square and avoid its monopolisation by homogeneous groups, for example skaters and young men.

Disappointingly, despite the initial interest of the district government in the women's proposal about improvements in Poble Sec, it ended up not being fully implemented, and some of the issues identified previously, such as safety issues at

night, lack of use of the square at certain hours, or the monopolisation by homogeneous groups, persist.

As we discuss in the next section, city authorities (and national governments) may be open to the idea of supporting women's participation in processes such as the ones we have outlined here, citing the aims of empowerment, or strengthening accountability, but when the time for transformation arrives, it proves difficult either to intervene directly, or to influence decision-makers in ways which actually yield results.

### The challenges of implementing plans arising from gender-transformative processes

Planning departments and municipal governments are generally open to the principle idea of supporting women's empowerment, and possibly receptive to the notion of them participating in a consultation about the issues important in a particular location. However, they are generally more reticent about committing to taking women's views and ideas on board, still less to allowing women to directly intervene in actual changes planned for a built environment.

One reason for this is likely to be because formally trained planners and architects still see themselves as the only experts: it is difficult for them to acknowledge that neighbours are the real experts of their communities. Urban transformation through bottom-up participation is easier in places where planners are receptive to the principles of participation and bottom-up development, and therefore content to adopt the role of facilitator instead of the expert.

An issue which we have frequently encountered is that government departments and city authorities (and other institutions!) often do not understand that applying a gender perspective in projects of urban transformation will benefit not only women and girls, but also other groups who are generally marginalised from planning processes. It is a way to begin to include a diversity of experiences and subjectivities.

While public institutions may be content to implement isolated activities or actions in support of gender equality, these generally do not lead to more radical or wider transformations which threaten the existing values and practices of the institution.

Over the years, Col·lectiu Punt 6 has worked to overcome these barriers at different levels, focusing on challenging attitudes and beliefs, and focusing on changing the culture of institutions. We have conducted several training workshops on urban planning from a gender perspective at the municipal and regional level. We have conducted five-day workshops organised by the government of the province of Barcelona, who encouraged staff from municipalities receiving funding from this agency to participate in this training. We have also conducted this workshop at the local level, training municipal staff from different departments (not only planning, but also public works, and including staff from interested departments whose staff share perspectives with us, e.g. gender equity, participation, or social work).

In the first case where we did this – from 2007 to 2009 in the offices of the Equity department of the Province of Barcelona – the staff who attended were mostly women from planning and other municipal departments interested in the issue who participated on a volunteer basis. In the second case, in 2011 in a small city south of Barcelona, the city authorities organising the workshop made participation mandatory for the municipal staff involved in planning processes.

The impact of training in both cases has been significant. Ultimately what is needed is commitment to integrating a commitment to gender equality in all municipal government areas. However, training has helped those already convinced of using a gender perspective to gain tools and strategies to be applied in their local contexts. In the particular case of mandatory training, both discussions and course evaluations revealed that the workshop has served to open a debate about the issue, and start a dialogue between different municipal areas, which was not taking place before.

In another strategy, members of Col·lectiu Punt 6 have been teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Architecture of Barcelona on gender and urban planning. Despite the fact that these are not compulsory courses for students, the feedback from students is that they have changed attitudes and deepened understanding. This is the start of a process of creating the architects and engineers of the future who will have a very different attitude to the involvement of the women and men who will live in the environments they play a role in creating and improving.

Change is slow, but we believe that formal and informal training on urban planning from a gender perspective is an essential strategy to overcome the barriers encountered in urban transformation. It helps make more planners aware of the need to include women's active participation in transformation projects. Both strategies need, though, stronger political commitments at the institutional level in order to make structural changes geared to increase gender equity.

### *Working upstream: feminist planning in a patriarchal society*

Finally, we want to finish with an internal reflection. As members of a feminist organisation, it is challenging at the personal and collective level to maintain continuously a discourse coherent with our values, and with what we propose in our daily practice, even more in the field of urban planning. We are aware that we have been socialised ourselves in a patriarchal society, which can lead us to reproduce discriminatory roles and stereotypes. Consequently, it is essential for us to share experiences with other feminist activists and practitioners in order to expand our knowledge on feminist studies and practices, and continue reflecting on a daily basis with a critical spirit.

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## Notes

- 1 Currently, Col·lectiu Punt 6 has six members: Roser Casanovas, Adriana Ciocoletto, Marta Fonseca, Blanca Gutiérrez Valdivia, Zaida Muxí Martínez, and Sara Ortiz Escalante. This article draws from the work that Col·lectiu Punt 6 has conducted since 2005 (<http://punt6.org>).
- 2 The 2/2004 Law, of 4 June, is a regional law passed by the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya), which seeks to improve neighbourhoods, urban areas, and towns that require special attention. The law stipulates that every city should determine which neighbourhoods need ameliorations to avoid their progressive ghettoisation. Projects should include eight fields of intervention, which will be evaluated through a benchmark system that is reviewed and enhanced in every call for proposals. These fields of intervention are: (1) improvement of public spaces and provision of green areas; (2) restoration and provision of public facilities and buildings for collective use; (3) provision of facilities for collective use; (4) incorporation of information technologies in buildings; (5) promotion of sustainable urban development; (6) gender equity in the use of urban space and facilities; (7) development of programmes for the social, urban, and economic improvement of neighbourhoods; and (8) accessibility and removal of architectural barriers. This law is the first one in Spain to include gender issues, under point 6. The motivation for the law to be passed came from a progressive coalition that governed Catalonia from 2003 to 2010, after 25 years of conservative government. The coalition enacted a series of changes in legislation to tackle social justice issues and provided funding for promoting these changes.
- 3 The Right to the City would include the right to appropriate and completely use urban space in everyday life, as well as the right to participate in decision-making processes related to urban space (Fenster 2005).
- 4 Trans\* is an umbrella term that refers to all of the identities within the gender identity spectrum. Trans with the asterisk includes all non-cisgender gender identities, including transgender, transsexual, transvestite, genderqueer, genderfluid, non-binary, genderfuck, genderless, agender, non-gendered, third gender, two-spirit, bigender, and trans man and trans woman.
- 5 The concept of the 'compact city' was developed in the 1980s as a way to achieve sustainable urban development, above all at the environmental level. However, feminists have argued that the compact city model is not only environmentally sustainable. A model of the compact city responds better to social heterogeneity. The vision of the compact city rejects urban sprawl models that separate functions throughout the territory, by promoting mixed uses (residential, commercial, recreational, business, administration) within urban areas, to allow people to develop their everyday life in walking distances.

- 6 Neighbourhood photovoice consists of participants taking photos of elements of their neighbourhood and communities that speak for them. For example, they take pictures of things that they like, dislike, or are important for personal memories or the history of the neighbourhood. Participants accompany the photos with a text that summarises the meaning of the image.
- 7 We recently published a guide that includes the participatory tools that Col·lectiu Punt 6 has developed over the years. The audience of the guide are informal and formal women's groups that want to participate in urban planning processes. The guide has been published in Catalan and Spanish and can be accessed online (<http://issuu.com/punt6/docs/mujerestrabajando>, last checked by the author 23 January 2015).
- 8 Catalonia is an autonomous community of Spain with 7.5 million inhabitants. It comprises four provinces: Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleidai, and Girona. The capital and largest city is Barcelona. Both Catalan and Spanish are spoken in this part of Spain.
- 9 For examples of walks, demonstrations, and festivals, see <http://issuu.com/punt6/docs/mujerestrabajando> (last checked by the author 23 January 2015).
- 10 See [www.estadistica.buenosaires.gob.ar/areas/hacienda/sis\\_estadistico/pg\\_comunas\\_2012.pdf](http://www.estadistica.buenosaires.gob.ar/areas/hacienda/sis_estadistico/pg_comunas_2012.pdf) (last checked by the author 23 January 2015).
- 11 The process of application of the urban quality indicators in the neighbourhood of Carrillo and the results have been recently published (Ciocoletto and Col·lectiu Punt 6 2014).

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