

CALL FOR PAPERS

special section



a critical perspective on
urban studies

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Security, Control, and Surveillance in the Latin American City

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Latin American cities are becoming increasingly monitored. The most evident example is the increase in CCTV cameras, both public and private. With the spread of surveillance cameras throughout the urban environment it is becoming nearly impossible for an individual to avoid being digitally recorded while taking a walk along the streets. Surveillance, however, goes far beyond that, as it includes a set of many different technologies and practices. In addition to CCTV, we can cite the appearance of innumerable technologies like mobile and wearable devices (smartphones, digital cameras, Google Glasses), drones, biometric tools, identification cards, etc.

In Latin America, the main reason for installing such technologies is an increase in urban violence or, at least, a growing fear of urban violence. Security seems to be the driving force behind the intensification of the use of surveillance technologies. There are cases, however, where it is hard to tell apart fear of violence and fear of the “other” (the poor, the marginalized). Surveillance technologies are then used not only to protect but also to segregate.

Although “surveillance studies” is already an established research domain in Europe and North America, in Latin America it is still developing. Changes came after the creation of the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (LAVITS), of which the two guest editors of this special issue are members (www.lavits.org). Founded in 2009, the LAVITS research network aims to become a platform for discussion, exchange of knowledge, and debate around the sociotechnical circumstances that enable capturing, storing, managing, and cross-checking digital information.

One of the challenges faced by researchers who want to study surveillance in Latin America is to identify the particularities of that continent in comparison to the way surveillance is carried out on other continents. For instance, fear of terrorism is not as present in Latin America as on other continents. On the other hand, more than half of Latin American countries experienced military dictatorships in the last century and this has certainly influenced the way surveillance and security are perceived and promoted in these countries.

This call for papers wants to address not only scholars with a focus on Latin America, but also those who tackle the idea of surveillance through a spatial and territorial approach.

We welcome submissions that articulate the ideas of security, surveillance, control and the urban in Latin American cities. We particularly encourage papers on, yet not limited to, the following themes:

- CCTV and Smart CCTV;
- The security and surveillance of mega-events taking place in Latin America;
- Control of dissent (demonstrations, public protests, etc.);
- Urban policing and the use of technologies of information for monitoring and control in public spaces;
- Resistance to surveillance (e.g. through the use of art);
- Smart cities, big data and integrated security centers;
- Urban planning and surveillance
- Urban law and data protection;
- Social media and the city;
- Mobile Surveillance: GPS devices, smartphones, RFID tags, wearable devices, drones;
- International comparative studies of security and surveillance in Latin America cities;
- The military history of Latin American cities and its relationship with surveillance and security today;
- Theoretical contributions of Latin American authors to the study of surveillance, control, and security in the Latin American city;

SCHEDULE

Full paper (5 to 8 thousand words, in English): **by July 30, 2014**

Expected publication date: **January 2015**

SUBMISSION

All papers will be submitted to a double-blind peer-review process.

Full papers must be sent by email to editorconvidado@gmail.com

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