

CALL FOR PAPERS

Contesting the Streets II: Vending and Public Space in Global Cities

October 2-3, 2015
University of Southern California

Organized by:

SLAB, the Spatial Analysis Lab
Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

The César E. Chávez Department for Chicana/o Studies
University of California Los Angeles

Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise
Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

In large cities around the world, the most contested public space is the streets and accompanying sidewalks. As a result of historic migration and immigration to urban centers, the spatial projects vying for this space have multiplied. In particular, the growth of street vending causes us to reconsider some of the fundamental concepts that we have used to understand the city. Vending can be seen as a private taking of public space. It can contribute to civic vitality as well as be an impediment to traffic flow. Vendors are often micro-entrepreneurs who cannot access the private real estate market as spaces for livelihood. The issues about the legitimate use of public space, the right to the city, and local ordinance enforcement/dereliction are often complicated by class conflict as well as the street vendors' diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, and their migrant/immigrant status. As a result, recent street vendors' challenges and protests have been important catalysts with far-reaching political implications about the future of our urban societies.

This symposium brings together scholars and practitioners in dynamic dialogue to present empirical cases (both contemporary and historical) and larger global trends. While vending and public space has been the subject of acrimonious debate in many cities between vendors, local government, formal business and property owners, community organizations, pedestrians and alternative mobility groups, it has also been the impetus for some innovative mixed-use and inclusive arrangements for sharing urban space. Since in our largest, densest cities, local governments, urban planners, and citizens will have to find new ways to plan, design, and govern this precious urban public space, this symposium particularly seeks to shed light on possible futures and the key narratives that will need to be re-written. Towards this end, this symposium extends the first Contesting

the Street conference that was held at UCLA in 2010, by expanding the geographic focus of the inquiry beyond (while still including) the Americas to gain comparative insights. We have exciting keynote speakers that we are lining up, including Saskia Sassen, Margaret Crawford, and Ananya Roy as well as a reception of digital media art of the city that will be held at USC's Cinema school, catered by Roy Choi's Kogi truck.

We welcome the submission of original, empirical papers. Papers from a variety of disciplinary perspectives are encouraged. We will offer a limited amount of travel support for selected papers to be presented at the symposium.

Furthermore, a subset of papers that are presented will constitute a special issue that the symposium organizers will guest co-edit of the journal *Cityscape*, published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development slated to be published March 2016.

Electronic submissions should include:

- Name, Title, Institution/Affiliation, Contact Information
- Paper title
- Abstract (350-500 words)
- Preliminary bibliography

Timeline:

April 15, 2015: Abstracts for papers are welcome from graduate students and faculty from a wide variety of disciplines. Please submit one-page abstracts by electronic submission to: contestingthestreets@gmail.com

mid-May: Notification of acceptance to symposium will be sent out via e-mail by late mid-May.

July 15, 2015: Papers are due to conference organizers for accepted presenters.

Early August: Preliminary reviews and feedback for papers selected for possible publication.

October 2-3, 2015: Presentation of papers at symposium at Los Angeles.

October 23, 2015: Final revised papers for publication are submitted to symposium organizers and *Cityscape* journal for production process.

Symposium Organizers:

* Annette M. Kim, Associate Professor at the Price School of Public Policy and Director of SLAB, Price School of Public Policy, USC

* Abel Valenzuela Jr., Chair of the César E. Chávez Department for Chicana/o Studies and Professor of Chicana/o Studies and Urban Planning, UCLA

* Raphael Bostic, Bedrosian Chair Professor and the Director of the Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise, Price School of Public Policy, USC.

Submit papers and abstracts to: contestingthestreets@gmail.com

For questions, please contact Donnajean Ward, donnajw@price.usc.edu