

Economic Integration versus Social Avoidance: Assessing Neighborhood Relationships Between the Shanty-Town of Calabar and its Surrounding Upper-class Gated Communities

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Abstract:

In this research we will assess the impact of neighborhood effects on the well-being of thirty inhabitants of Calabar, a shanty-town embedded in an upper-class area of Salvador (Brazil). We resorted to a threefold methodological framework to explore neighborhood effects at the material, social and symbolic dimension on the basis of interviews. Concerning the material dimension, cross-class interactions via the employment nexus are fostered by geographic proximity; however social segmentation regarding the access to schools, hospitals and leisure activities reinforce the social hierarchies. Regarding the social dimension, the high degree of cohesion and solidarity entails positive implications for the job searching processes, the access to resources and the strengthening of the territorial identity. Concerning the symbolic dimension, statistical discrimination entails deleterious effects on economic integration. Concluding, the hypothesis of an opportunity-enriching environment must undergo careful scrutiny since the inhabitants' economic integration neither bridges the social distances nor impedes place-based discrimination.

Keywords: Neighborhood Effects; Urban Poverty; Shanty-Town; Social Segmentation; Opportunity Structures; Territorial Stigmatization.

Resumo:

Neste estudo, explora-se o impacto do efeito-território nas condições de vida de trinta habitantes de Calabar, uma favela inserida em uma região da classe média-alta em Salvador (Brasil), a partir das dimensões material, social e simbólica. Baseando-se em entrevistas, o estudo evidencia que, no que tange à dimensão material, a proximidade geográfica favorece as articulações entre os grupos socialmente distantes através dos vínculos empregatícios. Contudo, a segmentação *vis-a-vis* o acesso ao sistema educacional, aos hospitais e aos espaços de lazer reafirmam as hierarquias sociais. Concernente a dimensão social, o alto grau de coesão e solidariedade beneficiam a integração econômica e fortalecem a identidade territorial. Com respeito à dimensão simbólica, evidencia-se que os estigmas territoriais prejudicam a integração econômica. Conclui-se que a hipótese de maiores estruturas de oportunidades deve ser submetida a uma análise mais cautelosa dado que a integração econômica nem reduz as distâncias sociais nem impede mecanismos de estigmatização.

Palavras-chave: Efeito-Território; Pobreza Urbana; Favela; Segmentação Social; Estruturas de Oportunidades; Estigmatización Territorial.