ÁGORA
Encontros entre a cidade e as artes: Explorando novas urbanidades

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THE MUSIC PERFORMANCE IN SEGREGATED SPACES:
THE CASE OF LISBON, PORTUGAL

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The contribution of arts for the transformation of the city is the result of a tension between domination and resistance, in which the former is linked to commodification and to cities’ competition and the latter to the reflexive, critical and disruptive impulses that seem to be intrinsic to a wide array of contemporary art expressions. Hence, it becomes relevant to grasp up to what extent artistic dynamics are connected to quarrels between the forces of the market, political powers and the refusal of the neoliberal model. We would like to focus our analysis in a Southern European metropolis: Lisbon and in the particular case of migrants. Migrants are often economic but also culturally and spatially segregated in the cities where they live, where market models have tended to be dominant and shape artistic spaces. Migrants resist by drawing on origin countries’ cultural heritages and references. Music has been a key artistic expression in this process, used both to recreate and remind the culture of the past and the place where she/he came from and to affirm her/his identity in societies where they are or feel marginalized. It has also been appropriated in some cases by cities wishing to promote interculturality and multicultural environments. We develop the idea of Borja (2011) about the importance of valuing original or reconstructed identity elements in urban collectives, feelings of belonging, sense of places and collective memories in Cova da Moura (Portugal) and contrast it with appropriations made by the dominant city model.

Keywords:
music, transformation of the city, contestation, periphery

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