Research Plan

Public Building Graduation Studio (Berlin)

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CHAPTER I

LOCATING THIRDSPACE IN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN: *A CASE STUDY ON THE SELECTIVE SITE BERLIN*

WHY

Motive writing
"L'etat nous laisse tomber"

Several murders have been committed by gangs since the beginning of the year, 'The state is letting us down' is the message on this wall on the housing estate where a boy was killed (Hugh Schofield, 2021). The southern French city of Marseille has a wide crime network. It offers money to the impoverished, educated inhabitants of the 'quartiers nords'. President Macron made great promises during a long visit, but for many there is no hope: 'I have two choices in life. Either go to jail or die'. The effect of Macron's visit was felt in the northern districts; the police were busy chasing down dealers and boys on the lookout. But that doesn't make the problems any less, says one resident: 'You can send a dealer away, but he'll go to the neighbourhood around the corner where someone else is in charge. It is this battle for territory that has caused many victims in recent months.

In addition, the perspective of 'The city as a Heterotopia or the city as a Collection of Heterotopias' provides a sense of the views of Michel Faucault. Edward Soja discusses the significance of Michel Foucault's views. Edward Soja's aim with Thirdspace is to get us to look at space and spatial organisation in a different way. According to him, the growing awareness of the simultaneous and mutual interweaving of the social, the historical and the spatial requires a different approach to (spatial) reality. The work provides a theoretical foundation for his alternative approach to space. It unfolds a so-called 'trialectic of spatial stratification', inspired by the ideas of Henri Lefebvre and Michel Foucault. In 1984 a series of lectures by Foucault from 1967 was published. It concerned 'Des Espaces autres'. According to Foucault, in **every society** there are places that deviate in some way from what is considered normal. Foucault calls them '**heterotopia'**, spaces or events where different rules apply than in other environments. At the end of these theoretical explorations, Soja concludes that '**third space**' is a concept that is meant to be ***deconstructed***.

Fig.1 A woman walks down a street in the Marronniers neighborhood of Marseille on August 30, 2021. Source: BBC News, Paris, Hugh Schofield, 2021

Problem

The relationship of politics to space, not only determines the line of politics, but also influences both the physical properties and symbolic meanings of space. The dominant class uses space as a medium to propagate its own values as "common values" and seeks to discipline urban space in order to achieve hegemony. According to Buci-Glucksmann, "urbanization" is one of the devices for hegemony. Thus, **public buildings** as educational institutions, cultural institutions, information organization, the residential framework and urbanization can be **hegemonic devices**. Therefore, it is very important for the dominant powers to be able to control the spaces and terrains of the city with hegemonic methods.

   According to Soja, 'hegemonic powers do not simply naively manipulate given differences between individuals and social groups', but actively produce and reproduce differences as a key strategy to create and maintain forms of social and spatial division conducive to their continued dominance. The strategies of **social and spatial division** can be accepted as one of the means of hegemonic power. Therefore, in this case, a **counter-hegemonic** process must oppose this differentiation and division. So, the space doesn't have to be just a new meeting place, but it's also a space for **oppositional practices**, for **multiple communities of resistance** (Soja, 1996). The 'third space' can be defined and investigated, and placed in the characteristics of the city; *'What is third space in the context of case study?'*.

Research into "Third Space" in the context of case study   **WHAT**

The main aim in this project is to achieve a clearer understanding of 'Third Space' and its relationship with politics through its analysis in urban particularities. This structure will help firstly to understand the relationship between space and politics using contemporary social theory, and secondly to illustrate and investigate the 'Third Space' in the characteristics of the city.

RQ: 'How can 'Third Space' in the context of casestudy be deconstructed?'.

Sub-questions:
1- How is Third Space reasoned and practiced (samples case study) by different scientists/philosophers?
2- How can Third space be reasoned in the context of the case study?
3- What functions does the third space have in the case study and its relation to the users?
4- What spatial features/qualities does the third space have in the case study?

Relevance
The study is a case study on Berlin within the framework of the relationship between space and politics. In light of the studies of hegemonic and counter-hegemonic struggles over space, define and explore the problem themes, and relate the possibilities; this study and Soja's concept of 'Thirdspace' can be argued as relevant.

Taking own position with literature and case study   HOW

Part 1- Theoretical Framework 'Third Space'

(sub-literature, see bibliography)

1- Edward W. Soja (1996). Thirdspace.

In addition to the literature, *also a practical example is provided.* The second part of the book Thirdspace is a reflection on the applicability of his ideas in the reality of Los Angeles and Amsterdam. For his micro-geographical explorations, Soja spent some time in the city in 1990, observing daily life from the Spuistraat. Much attention is paid to the spatial effects.

2-Bhabha, Homi K. (2004). The Location of Culture; Bhabha's Hybridity and the Third Space in Postcolonial Discourse

Third space can also be found in the work of Homi Bhabha. The third space is the space of the 'self' and the 'other' is an inside (self) and an outside (other). The third space is the space of the in-between. It is the space of that which is undefined, the space that presents itself, as a surface. For Bhabha, this is a generating machine for culture that renews and subverts. He uses it to explain postcolonialism as an elusive cultural function that constantly eludes and undermines the image of the cultural centre. The third space is the means by which configurations such as 'self' and 'other' express their power relations and thus give them a place. For Bhabha, however, the third space is **also a 'no-place'** because it is a space of ambiguity and danger, both for the space and for the identity within it. It is the space of **refugees**, displaced persons and illegal **immigrants** and it is a space in which these non-identifying terms maintain an ambiguity about identity. As such, the third space is foreign space. From the point of view of the first and second spaces, it is also the **space of criminality**, simply because identity is ambiguous and therefore dangerous. The third space is not the place where one wants to be, and therefore it remains a no-place where identity is problematic.

A Case Study of Fifth Chinese Daughter with Homi Bhabha's Theory
Jade Snow Wong, a Chinese-American writer and ceramicist, published Fifth Chinese Daughter, an autobiographical novel. The novel reveals the growth of Jade Snow Wong, including how she knows and integrates China into American society. The paper interprets Fifth Chinese Daughter using Homi Bhabha's theory and provides a systematic analysis of how Jade Snow Wong **absorbs and rejects** Chinese and American cultures, and how she achieves her **accomplishments**," from *which we can conclude that people with a hybridity mindset are able to inherit their own culture and embrace a foreign culture with an open mind*".

Part 2- Observational Fieldwork
Collecting differences/opposites, which emerge during the observation (excursion).

Part 3- Assess/Test

Assessment of the elements that emerged from the literature and the case studies against the selective site.

Part 4- Conclusion/taking own position

Taking own position with the results in the literature, the case studies and the test and finally answer the main question: '*'How can 'Third Space' in the context of casestudy be deconstructed?'*.

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(The "Broken Window Theory" developed by Wilson and Kelling (1982) identified four elements essential to crime: law, offender, target and place).

Figures

Fig.1 A woman walks down a street in the Marronniers neighborhood of Marseille on August 30, 2021. Several murders have been committed by gangs since the beginning of the year, 'The state is letting us down' is the message on this wall on the housing estate where a boy was killed. Source: BBC News, Paris, Hugh Schofield, 2021https://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-58457724