

## 23. Debating Urban Ethnography: limits and potentialities

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Format: Roundtable

Magnani's suggestion of a qualitative urban approach through the use of ethnography is seeing "social actors not as isolated elements... but that, through the vernacular use of the city (of space, equipment, institutions) in the spheres of work, religiosity, leisure, culture, and strategies of survival, they are responsible for its daily dynamics." (2002: 18) Hence, we believe that urban ethnography, through individuals' lenses, and by analysing the present (or the past through testimonies and life trajectories) can contribute to better understand urban contexts, processes, and dynamics. There are three main questions that we want to approach in this session: Thinking of urban ethnography as a qualitative method, how is it used by different social sciences? What skills do urban ethnography courses offer to researchers?

Therefore, we invite urban researchers that have formerly included ethnography in their methodological approaches; other researchers that specifically identify themselves with urban ethnography as a qualitative method that lives by itself as a branch in the tree of socio-anthropological; researchers that wish to discuss the limits and potentialities of urban ethnography; other researchers and teachers interested in this kind of urban approach.

Specific topics may include:

- Urban ethnography and interdisciplinarity;
- Urban ethnography practiced by sociologists and other social scientists;
- Urban ethnography and social responsibility;
- Urban ethnographic records and archives;
- Network analysis resulting from urban ethnographies;
- Ethnographic short incursions and its usefulness.

Additionally, because we could not ignore the challenges the world currently faces, we propose to debate how Urban Ethnography can contribute to make sense of the different urban realities lived during and after the 2020 pandemic.

This session is organized by the coordinators of ETNO.URB (Urban Ethnography Network), an international network of researchers, mostly sociologists and anthropologists but also historians and architects, working

mainly in Portuguese speaking contexts. The session is an opportunity for us to debate with other urban researchers and to share the history of our network in two dimensions: (i) the process of making this network a formal one, and (ii) describing the diversity of researchers and disciplines among members.