



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies, UCSD

Visioning a Transit City: Transit Planning and Citizen Participation in Quito, Ecuador

Thursday, April 2, 2015

3-4:30 PM, Deutz Room in the Copley International Conference Center, Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

Latin America is currently the most urbanized continent in the world after North America, with 80% of the population living in urban areas (UN 2014). As a result, Latin American cities are in pursuit of transformation on the one hand, through innovative transit solutions like, bus rapid transit, cable cars, and bicycles, and, on the other, urbanization marked by car-dependency. This seminar will begin by looking at two recent ideas that constitute these deep and contradictory changes to the urban landscape: deliberative democracy and sustainability in the context of Quito, Ecuador. Then, it will go on to discuss ongoing transit interventions in Quito, and in doing so, simultaneously question their current implications on public transport. This discussion will rely on accounts from public transit users in Quito to suggest an alternative approach to transit development amidst planning for a justice-oriented city.

Julie Gamble is a PhD Candidate in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley and focuses on public transportation in Quito, Ecuador. Her research focuses on the intersections of citizenship and expertise in transit planning. She holds a BA in History and Gender Studies from Northwestern University and a Masters in City Planning focusing on community and international development also from the University of California, Berkeley. Her current academic work adopts an ethnographic approach to study how urban citizens engage, use, and experience public transit based on their mobility practices.



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