



Type of products envisaged in the coming year

- > Event;
- > Scientific Publication.

2020



YOUNG BODIES FOR SALE IN THE STREETS OF THE ZONA ROSA

POWER AND RESISTANCE IN A DIVERSE SEXUAL SPACE

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THIS WORK FOCUSES ON THE SEX TRADE IN THE STREETS OF THE ZONA ROSA OF MEXICO CITY THAT IS OFFERED AND CONSUMED BY MEN AND REFLECTS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS IS A TRANSGRESSION IN PUBLIC SPACE.

Highlights

- > To show how male-male sex work in the public spaces of the Zona Rosa of Mexico City transgresses traditional culture by looking at diverse sexuality, youth and the sex trade.

What is planned for the next year

- A** An article has been sent in for peer-review.
- B** To propose and develop a methodology for the research of sex work in virtual spaces.

What was done this year

- > The interviews with the sex workers were completed and transcribed. Work on the research article is ongoing and will soon be finished.

Credit: Álvaro López López.



Preliminary results

– **In empirical terms:** it can be assumed that there is a general tendency for sex workers to consider the activities they carry out on the streets of the Zona Rosa of Mexico City as “inappropriate” practices according to social and personal norms. A frequent perception seen in the interviews is that sex work (commonly conceived as “prostitution”) is undesirable, but necessary to survive. Based on this perception, their presence in the public space is self-conceived as a transgression, something that threatens the morality of Mexican society (which they themselves violate). For the same reasons,

they wish they did not engage in these activities. Although the self-perception of the presence of sex workers in public space leans more towards what they consider negative, it is very noteworthy that this negativity is now much less serious than it was about ten years ago. Then, morality in the society of Mexico City looked upon homosexuality and sex work much more negatively and this influenced a perception of a greater transgression on the part of sex workers. The regulation of sex work by the police has also become laxer than it was ten years ago. This is linked more to achievements in human

rights, sexual diversities, and qualitative changes in regulations, than to changing mores.

– **In methodological terms,** individual interviews turned out to be an excellent method to access the general perception of sex workers. Group work would not have been feasible because they value anonymity due to the high amount of prejudice against sex work. Therefore, the individual interviews were an excellent opportunity to achieve a greater openness about their perceptions of public space, transgression, and regulation.