

Highlights

- > The central objectives are as follows: **i)** To document the way in which youth occupy, define, and appropriate public space and claim their rights to do so; **ii)** To better understand the meaning transgressive behaviour (using marijuana in public spaces) has for youth; **iii)** To identify formal (legal and social) and informal regulations (defined by the young people themselves) in the development of their transgressive practice; **iv)** To deepen the relationships that young consumers establish with their families, neighbors and the other occupants of public space such as police and civil authorities, vendors, and young people who do not consume marijuana or who consume other substances (inhalants, alcohol); **v)** To accompany youth activities in public space that are related to transgressive practices and the way they appropriate the space; to facilitating access to useful information; and to support their artistic expression and other interests;
- > To identify the authorities and organizations in the selected public spaces and to understand their perception of youth transgressive practices, the activities they develop around these practices, and youth presence in public space.
- > These objectives cover the concepts of the project: youth, transgression, public space, and regulation. At the same time, the objectives incorporate a reflection on the intervention process. They seek to engage the youth working with the project as active participants in the process and as beneficiaries rather than “objects” of research.
- > The project is currently focussed on the Tianguis El Salado, held on Wednesdays in the Iztapalapa district, east of Mexico City. *(Translator’s note: A Tianguis, derived from the Nahuatl language, refers to an open-air market held on certain days of the week, a practice dating back to pre-colonial times.)*
- > Youth that use marijuana, other drugs, and non-illegal substances like pulque (an alcoholic beverage made from the fermented sap of the maguey plant) and inhalants (“mona”) frequent this space. Consumption of these substances in public spaces violates both laws and social norms. Youth also work as vendors and porters, some of whom consume in their stalls and in market meeting spaces – mixing work with pleasure.
- > We are using a qualitative methodology that includes participant observation; field diaries of the visits made to the space; and interviews with youth, authorities and non-consumer adults to contrast diverse perspectives from within the community.

Deliverables for the upcoming year

- > Multimedia co-production;
- > Event;
- > Scientific publications;
- > Artistic performance.



Coordination centrale TRYSPACES
Tryspaces@ucs.inrs.ca
Institut national de la recherche scientifique
Centre - Urbanisation Culture Soci  t  
385, rue Sherbrooke Est Montr  al (Qu  bec) H2X 1E3
514 499-4058

<https://www.facebook.com/tryspaces/>
https://www.instagram.com/tryspaces_digital/
<https://twitter.com/tryspaces>
<http://tryspaces.org/>
<https://vimeo.com/user72205844>

2020



YOUTH MARIJUANA USERS IN PUBLIC SPACES OF MEXICO CITY

Researchers:   ngela Margoth Bacca Mej  a, Carlos Alberto Zamudio y Luis Astorga.

Student fellows: David Jim  nez (soci  logo), Lorena Paredes (anthropology) y Tonatiah Mart  nez (visual design and communications).

Youth: Irene Flores (26 years), Alcira Rosendo (28 years), David Aramburo (24 years), Juan Aramburo (30 years), Carlos Benjam  n Roque Rosales (30 years), Arturo Tapia Palacios (32 years), Leticia Mart  nez (29 years), Vianey Castilla Navarro (31 years), Yovanna Alin, Gibelle (25years), Alejandro Ya  ez (34 years), Luis Uribe (29 years), Daniel Mictlan (25 years), Betsa (30 years), Enrique Espinosa (30 years), Ain  .

Community partnerships: *La Dosis (the Dose) the psychoactive community’s newspaper F  brica de Arte y Oficios de Oriente* (the Oriente Arts and crafts Factory). The public cultural center of Mexico has been in operation for over 15 years. During this time, they have left their mark in the circulation of arts and crafts to youth in the east side of the city.

Techno-artist partners: Rodrigo Olvera. Independent artist.

Fosa Com  n. (Mass Grave). Artist collective made up of youth from the community of Faro.

UNDERSTANDING THE WAY IN WHICH YOUTH MARIJUANA USERS IN PUBLIC SPACES IN MEXICO CITY DEFINE THEIR TRANSGRESSIVE PRACTICE. TRANSGRESSION ALSO DEFINES THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY ESTABLISH WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND AUTHORITIES.

Next steps for this year

- a) **Research article on women who use marijuana in public spaces** which will present the daily difficulties of marijuana users with a gender perspective.
- b) **Video presentation of the “Hacia la regularizaci  n del cannabis en M  xico – Towards cannabis regularization in Mexico” event** in Faro de Oriente and other cultural centers in Oriente, the East, of the city:
 - Title: “Festival Hacia la Regularizaci  n del Cannabis - Jornada de actividades 2019” – “Towards cannabis regularization festival – a day of activities 2019”
 - Creator: Tonatiah Mart  nez Moreno
 - Theme: Cultural festival
 - Produced: 2020, by Tryspaces
 - Length: 25 minutes
 - Format: mp4
 - Collection or film archive: Equipo de TryM  xico - Marihuana Oriente
- c) **Promotion of sensitization activities on marijuana** for the youth in specific spaces in El Salado.
- d) The Covid 19 pandemic in Mexico City made us modify our data collection methods. We suspended face-to-face activities at the El Salado Tianguis and in FARO de Oriente. Contact was maintained digitally, using social networks. Through social media, we could analyze the impact of the situation on usage practices. So long as the pandemic is an issue, we will continue to monitor the practices of youth through their communication on social networks and occasional field visits when the opportunity presents itself.

What we did this year

A Established a presence in the study zone

Maintain a regular presence in the public space on Wednesdays, the day the El Salado Tianguis takes place. We built trust with the youth mentioned and developed relationships with more youths in the community. To build relationships with the youth, we supported a series of events they organized in the study area: 5 “Encuentros Marihuanos en el Oriente” or “Marijuana sessions in the East”. At the request of the youth group, the name was changed. From the 3rd to the 6th event it was called “Marijuana Session in the East” and the 7th was called “Marijuana Cannabis Culture Session in the East”. Participants included the youths linked to the case study, as well as other youths who visit the space. They oversaw the planning and facilitation of the event as well as disseminating materials. During the meetings, they proposed to explore the issue of detentions for possession of marijuana; they reflected on the etiquette involved in smoking in public; they spoke about their relatives opinion of their consumption; and developed a variety of artistic activities (music, poetry, theater, and juggling).

B Data collection and analysis (field work)

28 field diaries were completed: one for each visit to the field. The diaries are completed collectively by the team members attending each event.

9 youths (4 women, 5 men) were interviewed.

We conducted a targeted survey with residents neighboring the El Salado Tianguis exploring their opinions on the consumption of marijuana by youth in the area. We completed about 100 questionnaires and a database with their responses.

16 interviews with the youth were analyzed with MaxQDA, the qualitative analysis programme, which helped to identify patterns, make associations and classify them.

C Digital ethnography during the Covid-19 pandemic

As of March 2020, we stopped going to the study site in person. We maintained contact with the youth through social networks such as Facebook and Instagram. During the months of April and September we collected information using digital ethnography techniques.

D The November Event

The festival “Towards the Regularization of Cannabis” was held at the FARO facilities, from October 30 to November 20, 2019. The event was supported by La Dosis Newspaper and FARO de Oriente and financed by the TRYSPACES

knowledge mobilization fund. This made it possible to remunerate two of the youths participating in the study to provide logistics (Alcira, 27 years old) and photography, communications and producing a video (Tonatiuh, 23) for the event. They were in charge of the graphic design (logo and promotional poster). The Iztapalapa mayor’s office participated through its health promotion office and cultural and educational organizations in the eastern part of Mexico City. Other participants included scholarship holders and researchers from other case studies in TRYSPACES Mexico.

The theme of the event was the regularization of the use of marijuana in Mexico. It included an exhibition of art pieces alluding to marijuana. There were 8 musical performances at different times of the festival, including the opening and closing act; 7 roundtable discussions and 2 sessions of cine-debates aimed at encouraging participation from different sectors of the community; 2 creativity workshops, including one directed by Rodrigo Olvera, an artist associated with TRYSPACES and another proposed by one of the youths of the community on making stickers. Finally, there was a cannabic-bike tour that followed a 19 km route in the shape of a marijuana leaf through several neighbourhoods in Iztapalapa and Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl.



Fotografía por Tonatiuh Martínez Moreno - 2019



Fotografía por Tonatiuh Martínez Moreno - 2019



Fotografía por Tonatiuh Martínez Moreno - 2019



Fotografía por Tonatiuh Martínez Moreno - 2019

Preliminary results

- We found a greater amount of difficulties and stigma for women consuming marijuana than men. This relates to having less of a presence in public places. We observed a greater presence of women users in public spaces during cultural activities - sometimes even groups made up of only women - compared to other consumer spaces.
- The cultural activities in El Salado, and the possibility of smoking marijuana there, attract young people from Iztapalapa and other municipalities.
- The youth are more committed to the case study since the FARO de Oriente event. They not only want to continue participating in and organizing events, but also have more confidence and willingness to talk with the project members.
- Some academic and cultural institutions have adopted a certain tolerance towards marijuana use, though, for the most part, they have not made any anticipatory adjustments to their regulations despite the possibility of upcoming changes in the legality of marijuana in Mexico.



Fotografía por Tonatiuh Martínez Moreno - 2019