

# Backtracking Propinquity and the Ethno[flow]

R. Sadeghi<sup>1</sup>, A. Mohini<sup>2</sup>

Department of Industrial Engineering, Islamic Azad University, Qazvin, Iran<sup>1,2</sup>.



**Abstract**— Transnational relocation streams are the problem of versatility and globalization: While changing whole urban areas of the city into 'ethnic enclaves' - taking into consideration facilitating hubs of gathering to fresh introductions - they likewise convert into extrapolated patches of these streams' places of geological source, adjusting another urban polynational city. The aftereffects of this extra-national nearness in the city create prompt transnational associations as far as monetary, media and political connections, which all the while turn around the first stream back to the point of takeoff. Accordingly, the two streams combine themselves into a continuum: Biopower (Negri) [1] total to shape the approaching stream, while Immaterial Labor (Lazzaratto) [2] designs the switched stream. The two accommodate the Ethno [flow] [3] The Ethno[flow] both creates and prevents global reconciliation and propinquity, taking into account synchronous strain and congruity. It improves neighborhood urban economies, while monetarily supporting far away focuses in the globe. 'Transnational Suburbs' (Davis) [4] and 'Transnational Community+ies' (Portes)<sup>5</sup> are results of the Ethno[flow] The article floats around the idea of Ethno[flow] and its effect in the polynational city. Contextual investigation examination will be utilized to create minimum amount for hypothetical elaborations coming about because of the investigation of this marvel influencing the contemporary city.

**Keywords**— Movement, 'Ethnocity', Finance, Electronic Media.

## 1. Introduction: Urban Geographies of Multiculturalism

The meaning of Multiculturalism – or what it has progressed toward becoming to be called: 'the multicultural society' - has been the object of warmed discussion over the most recent couple of years. Sociologists, Anthropologists and Cultural Geographers all demand in the multicultural society as a given defacto result of our occasions, where worldwide relocation and versatility are now the main power behind the development of significant urban communities in the industrialized world<sup>6</sup> Yet the phenomenal powers of globalization amalgamate and homogenize the urban scene, making one 'worldwide culture', immersing everything into a bound together, non-enlightening example. How is that urban social orders can be 'multicultural', and 'globalized' all simultaneously? The very pith of the meaning of multiculturalism may give answers to this problem.



**Figure 1.** 'Corrala' typical Madrid dwelling: (16th Century) 18 m x 32 m dwellings around a central patio

As per Wieviorka (2012) Multiculturalism [is] "A Concept to be re-imagined and absolutely not supplanted by the amazingly unclear term of Interculturalism" [7]. Following the rationale of Colin Rowe – in which a procedure of fracture, impact/superimposition/sullyng of numerous differing thoughts forced on it by progressive ages, (each with its own thought) – acclimates the city, it appears the very embodiment of 'multiculturalism' today, is a half and half. Social qualities superimposed to one another lead these days to new ideas with a social curve, for example, the Korean Taco in Los Angeles or Japanese-Brazilian Post funk music from São Paulo 8. While the Kebab remain in Berlin's Kreuzberg, or the Spanish signs in Miami's Little Havana have moved toward becoming standard indications of the urban display, they are basically just over forced, collaged/glued in spatial appearances of culture, all being vital piece of the scene in the contemporary city today.

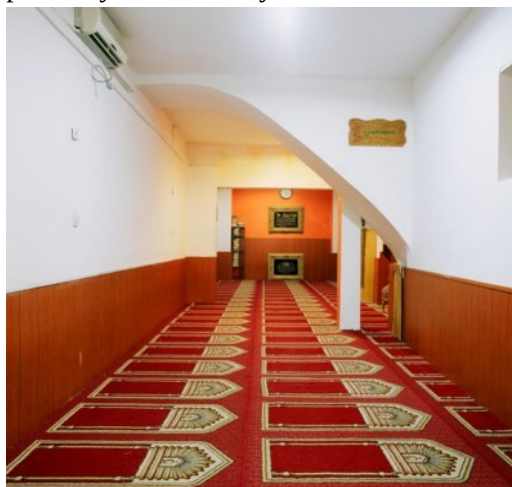
Spatially, there are explicit projects and employments of urban private and open space, which straightforwardly react to the idea of multiculturalism, from a different (non-looked) viewpoint: The unlawful sweatshops storm cellars in New York's Canal Street or in the edges of Barcelona, just as the numerous inhabitants' time-shared residences in tiny condos at Corralas (figure 1) in Madrid's Lavapiés district<sup>9</sup>, are spatial signs of what I have called ethnospace: A space of transnational dynamic and liquid inhabitation, with the limit of changing the urban scene in limited abilities to focus time. The occupation and appointment of urban remaining sub-spaces, and the over-thickness made by time-shared spaces of dwelling and over-crowded lodging (figure 2), are close to hid qualities of the ethnospace.

Moreover, non-just geological, yet in addition virtual associations of all budgetary, social and human capital, are a piece of the ethnic arrangement of the city, and are always flipping among physical and dynamic scenes: While worldwide urban movement changes whole segments of the city into 'ethnic enclaves' - taking into consideration facilitating hubs of gathering for fresh debuts – such enclaves convert into extrapolated patches of these streams' places of land inception, acclimating another urban polynational city. The consequences of this extra-national nearness in the city produce quick transnational associations as far as money related, media and political connections, which all the while turn around the first stream back to the point of flight. Therefore, the two streams combine themselves into a continuum: Biopower (Negri) [1] total to shape the approaching stream, while Immaterial Labor (Lazzaratto)<sup>2</sup> arranges the turned around stream. The two accommodate the Ethno[flow] [10]

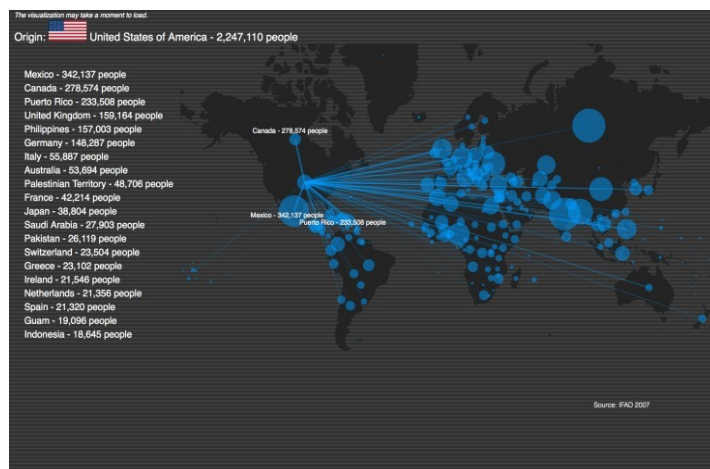


**Figure 2.** Ethno[space] by Dwelling 'Pisos Patera' (time-shared shift dwelling for migrants) 'Corrala' in today's Madrid

However, a meaning of multiculturalism, taking into account the unadulterated visual exhibition, serves just to the look of the city and sidesteps the very established actuality of the multicultural society: The hardship of the transitory procedure itself, and the need of building up a spatial sympathy and a feeling of network in the new urban settings with respect to new transients. A "multiculturalism [that] is described as a vibe decent festival of ethnocultural assorted variety, urging residents to recognize and grasp the panoply of traditions, [11] is currently viewed as a deceptive model that conveys a level lined idea of what 'multicultural' signifies, an idea presently dismissed by various researchers. [12]



**Figure 3.** Back-of-the-store ‘mini’ Mosque in Barcelona



**Figure 4.** Map representation of money remittances (in number of senders) flows from the US to the 20 largest recipients countries worldwide [15]

Therefore, an ethnic control of urban spaces is managed by ethnographic qualities, yet in addition by social works on having an immediate effect in urban space (Irazábal 2010) [13]. In the space of our urban areas, tasteful contamination and retail programming at the road level) (for example satellite dishes enabling access to universal media, as a medium to interface with social sources, in addition to the expansion of cash moving and long-separation calling/telephone retail outlets) underscore ethnoflow. In the interim, blended programming, for example, the miniaturized scale Mosque in the back of the Halal butchery (figure 3), or the day-showroom turned sweatshop around evening time, stress ethnospace.

In any case, the meaning of multiculturalism stays vague and vague in spatial terms. Maybe the piece of information to unravel this definition can be given by the idea of propinquity - or spatial compassion – 14 as a vehicle to characterize the crashing of vivid social qualities amidst urban space: The more in like manner occupants have with their urban environment, the greater propinquity there is between constructed space and the individuals who possess them. This spatial propinquity comes as a subordinate of the possibility of *erthäunis* – or the connection among articles and individuals – given in a framework where globalization acts exclusively as the leading mechanism for the urban wonders of ethnic/worldwide control of urban space. Following the Roland Barthes' grouping from the legend – as portrayed in *Mythologies* - we could state that Globalization turns into the signifier, while urban ethnicity turns into the implied. [16]

## 2. Cases of Study: Amalgamated Flows

### 2.1. Money Remittances

Globalization itself assumes a significant job in accommodating the ethnoflow, as characterized previously. Past the visual signs delineating the ethnic control of the city, the budgetary electronic domain assumes a significant job in the coherence of the ethnoflow: The cash settlement industry has duplicated its development in the course of the most recent two decades: More than 215 million individuals (ca 3% of the total populace) live outside their nations of birth. Settlements the cash sent home by vagrants - are multiple times the size of authority improvement help and they give a significant life saver to a large number of poor family units (figure 4) Remittances to creating nations were evaluated to reach \$372 billion by 2011. The general financial additions from worldwide relocation for sending nations, getting nations, and the vagrants themselves are generous [17] "Settlement sender and recipients live in what Manuel Castells calls the 'space of streams'; an immortal spot of transnational systems working past conventional organizations and communities"<sup>18</sup> The standard multiplication of electronic media to encourage cash exchanges at all levels has just encouraged the ease of capital in manners that outperform standards banking controls exposed to examination with respect to National governments offices. Prepaid re-loadable Debit Cards, completely member of the Credit Card centralized server systems, permit vagrant whose lawful status keeps them from getting to ledgers to get finance stores straightforwardly into virtual money storehouses; which consequently enables them to electronically get to settlements applications to send money to any point on the planet. Some accepting nations have mechanically arranged receiving better approaches to encourage the progression of money from their own transient diaspora. For instance of this, the Smart Padala organize in the Philippines permits clients of prepaid cell phones, to get cash settlements from the US and numerous different nations - straightforwardly into their cell phones by method for content informing – (figure 5) enabling them to code acquiring money by means of a charge card connected to Bank ATMs across the country. [19]

### 2.2. Exchanging Electronic Flows as Commodities

For another situation, in field concentrates acknowledged in the city of Caracas, Venezuela, the expansion of road outlets/sellers in that city, who leased prepaid cell phones to passers-by – offering the creation of telephone calls at more appealing charges than utilizing individual telephones or pay telephones – provoked the possibility of a system planned to be a 'Prepaid minutes Exchange' (2002) (figure 6) In this system, clients couldn't just utilize their paid ahead of time broadcast appointment to make telephone calls, however they could likewise exchange it units of minutes to different clients inside the framework - at a continuous worth/exchange trade - fluctuating with levels of pinnacle and off-top utilization (figure 7)

They could likewise trade these paid ahead of time exchanged minutes for items and administrations, supplanting the utilization of charge/Mastercards, and encouraging telecom clients to re-appropriate advantages routed to the less monetarily favored users<sup>20</sup>. Heretofore and of course, the monetary ethnoflow conveys a level of flexibility, causing it to override standard guidelines implemented by nearby financial frameworks and other budgetary guidelines in host/sending nations, much in the way Saskia Sassen clarifies how money related worldwide urban communities/focuses, for example, London, New York and Tokyo supplant national governments, working in a way autonomous of National States [21].



Figure 5. ‘Smart Padala’ Money Remittance System via Cell Phone



Figure 6. ‘RAM’ (‘Rent-a-minute’) Exchange: Mobile Pre-paid telephony as interface for the flow of trade and services (Co-lateral CCS) 2004



Figure 7. ‘RAM-Exchange’ Interface Proposal, *Fusedspace* Competition Entry (Co-lateral CCS: Alejandra Salas, Armando Montilla, Rafael Muci, Gustavo Muci, Federico Bozo) 2003

### 3. Consequences and Manifestations of the Ethno[flow]

#### 3.1. Transnational Suburbs

The omnipresent congruity of the monetary ethnoflow, between huge urban focuses in the industrialized world and remote focuses in creating nations, uncovers another spatial urban unpredictability: huge

urbanized territories inside metropolitan edges, become for all intents and purposes increasingly associated with far off focuses in the globe - getting to be extrapolated topographies of availability to the transients purposes of source – more so than to the promptly neighborhood topography. Hence, Theorist Mike Davis designates these areas keeping up strong connects to explicit territories in nations, for example, Mexico or China 'Transnational Suburbs' [22]

Recently connected controls to urban structure and arranging, for example, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) are taking advantage of the idea of these streams, not exclusively to delineate however to comprehend the intricacy and vacillation of these trans-national connections, between remote zones in specific nations and thick populated zones of primary US urban focuses: "Clearly, the plan and the purposes behind its accumulation affect the predispositions of the guide. Presently that numerous pros other than cartographers can make maps, it is uniquely essential to comprehend the wellspring of information they depend on, the results of which are maps and pictures that are affecting arrangement, urban communities, scene, security, and past" (Kurgan, 2013:53) 23 Similarly, not exclusively are the progressions of capital between people, yet in addition network interests by-passing land limits, adding to virtual associations between remotely associated spots to be a fortress of the ethnoflow (Portes, 1996) 24

### 3.2. Socio-social Dimensions of the Ethnoflow

Besides, another thought from Castells applies to these transnational elements: That of the 'Double City' 25. The covering of spatial occupation by various specialists' classes and sexes inside the equivalent building envelope, uncovers a potential trickery of streams, which takes advantage of the idea of recently expressed procedures inside electronic media: While the Stock Broker laborer screens budgetary movement at an alternate time zone from where he I (late around evening time at global/monetary corporate office spaces), the workplace cleaning specialist, working during same night move, utilizes her cell phone to check that her cash settlement exchange has experienced its place of goal (probably likewise at an alternate time zone) Through this typical event Castells uncovers hints of social and practical fairness that impact utilizing same compositional spaces and same channels of electronic streams. The ethnoflow takes advantage of this idea of Castells, as a major aspect of the globalized city of today. Outside of city corporate centers and increasingly illustrative of neighborhood texture, physical and structural signs of the ethnoflow change the facade of strip shopping centers and customer facing facades at road level in the core of ethnic enclaves (Portes and Bach, 1985: 239) 26. Along these lines, whole varieties of business foundations conceived out of the need to support vagrant urban networks spring up in the city: From cash settlements organizations and calling communities for transients to make shabby telephone calls to their nations of origin or to acquire prepaid calling cards, to ethnic eateries and other ethnic-oversaw business, for example, cleaning outlets and barbershops. In urban areas like Los Angeles, where multi-ethnic enclaves are a piece of the city's texture, the nearness at a similar strip shopping center of a Korean laundry, a Latino basic food item shop, an Indian/Bangladeshi or Pakistani Calling Center and a Chinese café adjusts – together with the multilingual signage that goes with its engineering – (figure 8) concurrent appearances of ethnospaces and ethnoflow inside propinquity separation. In these cases, one more idea should be summoned, that of 'ethnoscapes' (Irazábal, 2010) 27. As indicated by this idea, "[t]he scene of people who comprise the moving scene where we live: vacationers, settlers, shelters, outcasts, guestworkers, and other moving gatherings and people who establish a basic element of the world.[...] seem to influence the legislative issues of and between countries to an until now uncommon degree" (Appadurai, 1991:192)28. As a major aspect of the ethnoscape, the engineering of the ethnic enclave is



accommodating another scene of ethnicity, which provides food not exclusively to complex connections of arrangement of merchandise and ventures, yet in addition to a social measurement that incorporate a urbanity of pressure and agreement, fluctuating and changing as per the expansion of the urban transnational transient procedure itself.

#### 4. Conclusion: The City of Propinquity

Worldwide relocation has consistently existed in urban history, while the thought of the ethnic enclave goes back nearly to the birthplaces of urbanity itself. For instance, Jewish Ghettos were a standard in fifteenth Century Europe, and Mellahs in Moroccan urban communities were pockets of disambiguation inside Northern African Arab societies. [29]

Nonetheless, the present urban social orders bear various perspectives that engraving worldwide movement of qualities recognizing them from chronicled streams of relocation before, considering the thought of the ethnoflow:

1. Globalization This marvel gives a vehicle to portability to change urban conditions at a lot quicker pace, giving moment scenes and the receiving of diverse programming and spring up spatial regions of strain and congruity.



Figure 8. 'Ethnoscape' Strip Mall in Indianapolis IN [2]

2. Propinquity: This idea changes the thought of Multiculturalism, as it has been generally comprehended until today. Hints of propinquity today go with the procedure of movement: From the start of the migration encounters, to the advantageous association with the purpose of inception. The previously called multicultural city, the supposed 'polynational city', is currently the city of spatial qualities socially changed by global movement, or the city of propinquity, as such.

3. Technology: Processes of worldwide movement have consistently been resolved (in term of the speed of migration) straightforwardly in relationship to existing innovations: Beforehand, those advances taking into consideration the bridging landmasses (for example sail and steam route previously, plane voyaging today) Additionally, those taking into account transients to re-interface back to their places of inception (for

example electronic media: transmit/fax wire moving before, web/portable cash e-moves, in addition to Satellite TV, today)

4. Hyper-private enterprise: As mass utilization has been far reaching over the world, methods for traversing main land's become progressively open to a lot more these days, encouraging quicker and simpler global relocation forms and the ethnoflow. In the other hand, hyper-free enterprise additionally makes an incredible level of social, affordable and political imbalance – both inside urban areas and between nations - producing purposes of grating of spatial and geological closeness and nearness. These create both unlawful movement halls bearing a high traffic of vagrants (for example Mexico/Central America/Cuba-US, also Africa-Europe, and Southeast Asia-Australia); and impacting spatial covering of various class and sexual orientations at the equivalent urban and structural space (the double city) All of these purposes of grindings are encouraged inside and are a piece of the ethnoflow. Discussing urban topographies of multiculturalism opens an open door for an exchange and a vehicle of investigation into the ethnic control of the city, in view of social, practical, and political qualities. The two streams adjusting this movement – the approaching, and the active, are a key part of these urban procedures and changes. Accordingly, the ethnoflow, adds to the equalization – negative or positive - of urban propinquity. The ethnoflow will keep on existing as a virtual and spatial continuum, which will continue changing urban zones and will remain adjusting to the various conditions the transitory procedure experiences, as long as transnational movement happens. As urban areas keep developing in the assorted variety of their socioeconomics and their approaching ethnic populace develops, inevitably forsaking the ethnic enclave and moving to the upward rural areas (Li, 2011) 31; new approaching populace will supplant the opening of the outwards development of vagrants. The ethnoflow infrastructural spaces will just keep on multiplying, overcoming ideas of focus and fringe, and proceeding to be an indispensable piece of hyper-free enterprise structures of financial aspects and spatial power.

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- [7] WIEVIORKA M. (2012) "Multiculturalism: A Concept to be Redefined and Certainly Not Replaced by the Extremely Vague Term of Interculturalism". *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 33: 225-232.
- [8] Korean tacos are a fusion dish popular in the U.S. State of California, often as street food, consisting of Korean-style fillings, such as bulgogi and kimchi, placed on top of small traditional Mexican corn tortillas ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean\\_taco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_taco)) Akira S E As Garotas Que Erraram ('Akira S & The Girls Who Fucked Up') were a conceptual outfit made up of Brazilian/Japanese maverick Akira S on bass and programming, writer and activist Pedreira Antunes (formerly Número 2) on vocals and lyrics, Ana Ruth on bass, Corina on keyboards and Edson X on



drums. Their music had a punk funk disco feel with great half spoken, half sung vocals (<http://www.last.fm/music/Akira+S+&+As+Garotas+Que+Eraram>)

- [9] “Corrala is a typical representation of Madrid’s architecture from XVI and XIX century. The necessity to accommodate a great number of newcomers gave a birth to this kind of buildings, especially popular in the districts of Lavapiés, Latina and Palacio. The entrances to all the apartments in Corralas are communicated through a central patio, where the social life of the community of neighbours take place. Formerly, the apartments were no bigger than 30 square meters and the neighbours shared toilets. Nowadays there are about 500 corralas left in Madrid, some of them are in a pretty bad condition although there are some citizen movements taking an initiative of restoring this beautiful sign of Madrilian architecture”. (<http://www.360cities.net/image/la-corralla-a-madrid-typical-building#0.00,0.00,70.0>)
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multinational corporation. Unlike their corporate siblings, however, their assets consist chiefly of shared information, trust, and contacts. As the members of these communities travel back and forth, they carry cultural and political currents in both directions. Their emergence complicates our understanding not only of global trade but also of immigration and national identity” (PORTES Alejandro: "Global Villagers: The Rise of Transnational Communities," in *The American Prospect* no. 25, March-April 1996, p. 74-77)

- [23] “[t]he dual city is a classic theme of urban sociology: the contrast between opulence a poverty in a shared space has always struck scholars, as well as public opinion” (CASTELLS, Manuel: *The Informational City: Economic Restructuring and Urban Development*. New York/London: Wiley Blackwell, 1999)
- [24] “In the [Ethnic] enclave... [...] ...education contribute[s] to occupational gains very early in the resettlement experience, with the magnitude of that advantage increasing over time. Enclave workers also benefit initially from their work experience... [...] ...and, subsequently, from additional un-acquired education” (PORTES, Alejandro; and BACH, Robert L., Ed: *Latin journey: Cuban and Mexican immigrants in the United States*. Berkeley CA: University of California Press, 1985, p. 239)
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