International Conference *Meanings of the Rural – between social representations, consumptions and rural development strategies*

28-29 September 2015, University of Aveiro, Portugal

Theme 2

PRODUCTIVE SPACE AND COUNTERURBANIZATION IN THE "GRAN VEGA" OF SEVILLE

Mariano Perez Humanes, Carlos Tapia Martín and Carmen Guerra de Hoyos

Departamento de Historia, Teoría y Composición Arquitectónicas. Universidad de Sevilla. Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura. Grupo de Investigación OUT_Arquias HUM853.

Main theoretical framework and contextualization of the research problem

The region called "La Gran Vega de Sevilla" -located to the North of the city of Seville, being a part of its metropolitan area and sharing the Guadalquivir Valley with the province of Córdoba- is an exceptional area from a socio-spatial approach. It may be considered characteristic of the so-called rural peri-urban configuration, where different mobilities are contributing to create a structure and ways of life similar to the indovinian model of 'a diffuse city' (Cittá diffusa). However, this area has its own differences and peculiarities.

Research problem and main aims of the paper

This essay tries to deal with one of the processes detected in the project *"Mobilities, social diversity and sustainability. The challenges of the European Agenda for the rural development",* on which we have been working for several years. We will study the role small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) have played and keep on playing in the counterurban development of this area. Changes on the production systems and the way of making more productive use of agricultural lands -more and more linked to irrigation-, the introduction of new technological advances, in adddition to a new structure of cost prices, and a new direction and modernization of the production imposed and financed by the

European Community, have developed new spatial relationships apart from the counter-urban process. All these aspects can be observed in a special way in the “Gran Vega” area.

Methodology and techniques used to address the research problem

Our investigation proposes an approach to the study case territory to exceed the traditional methods used in the architectural discipline. These methods, traditionally more interested in the arrangement of the rural territory that in the comprehension of the transformation processes, are currently revealed unable to manage or to regulate appropriately the uses and the intensive incorporation of new factors acting in the rural territory. The proposed exposition rests on the methodologies of other disciplines as sociology, anthropology or geography without trying to supplant them, but articulating a comprehension of the different looks from the architectural spatial perspective.

Finally, we will develop a spatial lecture of the small and medium-sized enterprises in the Gran Vega of Seville –based on the study of the urban planning and with the GIS instrumentation. In addition, we will contribute with a first diagnosis in sustainability of the SME's related to the rural populations according to their mobility. In conclusion, we will describe the detected sociospatial phenomena, in the sense of new ways of life and forms of land occupation in a direct implication with the specific mobilities in every case and the type of small and medium studied enterprise.

Main findings

The counterurbanization is a desentralization process of population in the big city centres, which lose population for the sake of “the minor urban or even rural centers” (Dematteis, 1998). This process started taking place in our zone in a late date, not only because Seville is one of the least industrialized metropolitan Spanish areas, but because also this process took place very much earlier in the West (El Aljarafe) and in the Southeast (Los Alcores). Hence, the villages of the Vega would not start receiving population in a considerable form up to the 90's[1].

[1] As José Maria Feria Toribio says in his diagnosis for the PGOU of Seville in 2001, “the metropolitan area of Seville is actually entering in a process of absolute decentralization, which means a certain delay related to the rest of European, Spanish and even Andalusian areas. First, this change would imply that the completely metropolitan area is going to keep on growing, although with slower rhythms. Secondly, this area will extend spatially, moving the growth increasingly far from the central city. And the central city is going to have less and less relative weight in the agglomeration, with a progressive population loss and a readjustment of its principal functions". (Feria Toribio, 2001:203).

This development of small and medium-size enterprises will increase in parallel with the first counterurban development or 'relative decentralization' (1980-1999), producing a much more intense, technified and specialized expansion with the second counterurbanization or 'absolute decentralization' (2000-2007). Hence, small industries, stores and consumerism centres -settled in the area due to very different circumstances- will be creating a network of facilities that will demand a very specific mobility in every case. We will draw a map of this network to make understandable the mobilities and the interdependences that have been created around these SME's. Also we'll describe several socio-spatial discovered situations: From the logical creation and disposition in industrial estates, to the dispersed and isolated building lots of these enterprises in the area; from the hybridization between the developments of SME's and the residential developments, to the most recent tendency towards the tertiary sector and a sort of industrial estates' ecology.

References

Bernal, A.M. (1979). Cambios, modernización y problemas en la agricultura andaluza (ss. XIX-XX). *Revista de Estudios Regionales, 4*, 113-131.

Camarero, L. (1993). *Del éxodo rural y del éxodo urbano. Ocaso y renacimiento de los asentamientos rurales en España*. Madrid: Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación.

Camarero, L. (2009a) (coord.) *La población rural de España: De los desequilibrios a la sostenibilidad social*. (1st ed.) Barcelona: Fundación La Caixa.

Camarero, L. (2009b) Movilidad y procesos sociales en las áreas rurales. In C. Guerra, M. Pérez, and C. Tapia (coord.) (2009). *El presente de los procesos socioespaciales. Soportes para lo común e identitario,* (pp. 70-77)**,** Sevilla: UNIA.

Dematteis, G. (1998). Suburbanización y periurbanización. Ciudades anglosajonas y ciudades latinas. In F. J. Monclús (ed.) *La ciudad dispersa. Suburbanización y nuevas periferias*, CCCB, Barcelona, 1998 I.S.B.N.:84-88811-35-7

Feria Toribio, J. M. (2001). La emergencia del territorio metropolitano de Sevilla. Dianóstico General, Mesa de Participación 5. In PGOU. SEVILLA. 2007. Memoria de Participación.

Feria Toribio, J. M. (2010). La delimitación y organización espacial de las áreas metropolitanas españolas: una perspectiva desde la movilidad residencia-trabajo. *Revista Ciudad y Territorio. Estudios Territoriales*, 164.

Feria Toribio, J. M. (2013). Towards a Taxonomy of Spanish Metropolitan Areas. *Boletín de la Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles, 63*, 349-378.

Indovina, F. (2004). La ciudad difusa. In A. Martín Ramos. *Lo urbano en 20 autores contemporáneos, (*pp. 49-59), Barcelona: Ediciones UPC.

Indovina, F. (coord.) (2007). *La ciudad de baja densidad. Lógicas, gestión y contención.* Barcelona: Colección Estudios. Serie Territorios 1. Diputacio Barcelona. Xarxa de municipis.

Indovina, F. (2007a). *Introducción. Antes de la ciudad difusa*, Barcelona: Colección Estudios. Serie Territorios 1. Diputacio Barcelona. Xarxa de municipis, p. 13-24

Indovina, F. (2007b). Conclusión: después de la ciudad de baja densidad. In F. Indovina (Coord.) (2007c) *La ciudad de baja densidad. Lógicas, gestión y contención,* (pp 525-539), Barcelona: Colección Estudios. Serie Territorios 1. Diputacio Barcelona. Xarxa de municipis.

Indovina, F. (2012a). La ciudad difusa. In Nel-Lo (2012). *Francesco Indovina. Del análisis del territorio al gobierno de la ciudad, (*pp. 67-94), Barcelona: Icaria. Espacios Críticos.

Indovina, F. (2012b). La ciudad difusa: qué es y cómo se gobierna. In Nel-Lo (2012) *Francesco Indovina. Del análisis del territorio al gobierno de la ciudad,* (pp. 95-113), Icaria, Barcelona: Espacios Críticos.

Naranjo ramírez, J. & Torres Márquez, M. (2008). El Valle Medio del Guadalquivir: De Montoro a Alcalá del Río. *In* Rubiales Torrejón (ed.) *(*2008) *El río Guadalquivir*, Sevilla: Consejería de Obras Públicas y Transportes de la Junta de Andalucía.

Nel-lo, O. (2001). *Cataluña, ciudad de ciudades*. Barcelona: Editorial Milenio.

Nel-lo, O. (2006). *La tercera fase del proceso de metropolitanización en España.* In *VIII* Coloquio y jornadas de campo de geografía urbana: Los procesos urbanos postfordistas. Maó.

Nel-lo, O. (2012). *Ordenar el territorio. La experiencia de Barcelona y Cataluña.* Valencia: Tirant Humanidades.

Nel-lo, O. (2013). *Francesco Indovina y la ciudad dispersa.* Barcelona: Icaria

Oliva Serrano, J. (2006). Movilidad laboral y estrategias de arraigo rural. *Revista Española de Estudios Agrosociales y Pesqueros*, 211, 143-187.

Urry, J. (2000). *Sociology beyond Societies. Mobilities for de twenty-first century*. Routledge.

Urry, J. (2003). *Global Complexities*. Londres: Polity.

Urry, J. (2004a). *The "System" of Automobility*, in Theory. *Culture and Society*, 21(4/5), 25-39.