

Mexican borders as superdiverse waiting spaces

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Abstract

This paper will share findings and preliminary results of a research project on the transformations of border spaces in Southern and Northern Mexico. Through the reconstruction of the experiences of migrants waiting in the cities of Tijuana (US border) and Tapachula (Guatemalan border), coming from different regions of the global South (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, South America), the paper examines the production of waiting spaces by migration policy regulations. This involves considering the installation of humanitarian and refugee agencies at Mexican borders, as well as the occupation and spatial use by migrants themselves while waiting. Both civil society organizations and migrants link Mexican border cities with other places and processes at a global scale, turning them into superdiverse cities. In the background of the debate lie issues related to the spatio-temporal contention of migrations and cross-border mobilities.

Biography

Bruno Miranda holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico). He is a Research Assistant at UNAM Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales. His recent research areas include the transformation of border spaces into waiting spaces in Mexico for transcontinental (Asia and Africa) and Caribbean migrants, combining ethnographic fieldwork and a migrant-centered perspective. He is interested in the changes and rearrangements in migration systems caused by diverse, protracted and complex mobilities. At the institutional level, he analyzes how Mexico and its border spaces fit into the puzzle of migration governance on a regional and global scale. His latest publications are: "Otherness and waiting: African and Asian migrants in Tapachula, southern Mexico", in *Revista Diarios del Terruño*, y "African Migration in Waiting: New Scope and Dimension of Migration Contention in Mexico", in *Revista Pueblos y Fronteras*.