

## Cartography of government practices and subjectivation of young people from popular sectors of Córdoba (Argentina)

### Cartografía de prácticas de gobierno y subjetivación de jóvenes de sectores populares de Córdoba (Argentina)

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**Received:** June 30, 2021

**Accepted:** May 30, 2022

**Published:** July 15, 2022

**Recommended citation:** Ghisiglieri, F. & Cardozo, G. (2022). Cartografía de prácticas de gobierno y subjetivación de jóvenes de sectores populares de Córdoba (Argentina). *Psicoperspectivas*, 21(2). <https://dx.doi.org/10.5027/psicoperspectivas-vol21-issue2-fulltext-2418>

#### Background

The daily life of young people from popular sectors of Latin America is conditioned by devices of knowledge-power that result in a youth besieged by precariousness, denied in their multiple existences and negativized by stigmatization. Besieged, denied and negativized youth in their present and in their future, through the affectation of their possibilities of accessing quality education, health services, decent jobs, to circulate freely in public space, to develop their potentialities. This perspective invites to problematize the idea that exclusion and precariousness are the result of the absence or deficit of power interventions. Rather, it's necessary to redirect the question towards the exercises of power that are made effective in the popular youth, and from there, to the State, but no longer because of its abandonment or withdrawal -the starting point of numerous investigations-, but because of its strategic place as administrator -not exclusive- of these techniques of power. The Foucauldian perspective of subjectivation processes proposes a powerful analytic in this direction. It invites us to jointly ask the exploration of the knowledge-power devices that produce subjectivities; as well as the ways to subvert that imposed order, the rationalities and sensitivities that are produced in the resistance practices.

#### Aims

In this article we analyze technologies of government that condition the daily life of poverty young people, through the study of case of a neighborhood of Córdoba city. The questions that guide the paper refer to the way in which the youth population is governed in popular sectors and, more specifically, to how this government is played in the territory, affecting the daily experience of youth. We wonder what strategies are used by the powers to condition the possibilities of circulation, interaction, recognition of young people and how they appropriate this device, reinvent it, rearticulate it and resist it.

#### Method & procedures

Data analysis was qualitative, and it took tools from Foucauldian power analytics, which enabled us to investigate the ways in which subjectivities are produced in certain power networks, in a singular and situated way. Based on the identification of local foci of knowledge-power, an ascendent analysis was carried out. It allowed investigating their external conditions of appearance, with the aim of specifying how the polymorphous techniques of power work and are distributed in strategies. At this point, the dimension of everyday life offered a space-time that allows us to empirically investigate the ways in which the devices of knowledge-power configure lines of force that are experienced, resisted and reproduced in the territory. Within this analytical framework, we carried out a field insertion in a neighborhood of a popular sector of Córdoba City (Argentina), during the years 2014-2017. We

produced records of young people workshops, soccer games of the neighborhood club and intersectoral meetings; ethnographic conversations and key informant interviews; and analysis of secondary sources (journalistic news, social and political organizations documents and government documents).

## Results & discussion

We have analyzed different State interventions in the neighborhood to investigate their strategic meanings in terms of government and their effects in terms of subjectivation. Fragmentation, as a mode of government, is articulated through multiple techniques of power, among which we can highlight uprooting. These techniques have caused in the case study a weakening of previously consolidated subjective aspects and, from there, affected the capacities of group and collective articulation of young people. This process occurred, on the one hand, through multiple dislocations that put in check the coordinates that guide and orient the social dynamics in the territory and deactivate possibilities of insurgencies and resistance. On the other, causing a fragmented youth, apparently disconnected from each other and from the social group to which they belong. Fragmentation can be understood then, rather than as an absence of articulation or the secondary effect of another process (as studies on territorial stigmatization suggest), as part of a government technology that finds a branching path in fragmentation, within a biopolitics. A governmentality that gives support to power to fragment and hierarchize the population stands out through various techniques of power that dislocate daily life and cause a social, community and political precariousness of youth subjectivity.

## Conclusion

Through the case of young people from a neighborhood of Córdoba, this paper contributes to generate networks of intelligibility that allow to address the processes of subjectivation of young people from popular sectors from the perspective of their daily experiences. A cartographic strategy to map lines of subjectivation and government in the folds and unfolding of the daily evolution of precarious lives in Latin America, outside of dichotomous, binary and crystallized thoughts. We can account, first, how the articulation between security, territory and population (Foucault) continues operating as a key interface of governmentality. From the perspective of everyday life, it finds a point of articulation in their strategic effects: the ability to produce fragmented and depotentialized territories, through the affectation of a set of subjective dispositions that belonging and rootedness entail. In this way, between the destitution of the bonding aspects of subjectivity and social fragmentation, there is a mutual underpinning, articulated around a common objective: to "erode" collective aspects of subjectivity and prepare the social fabric for production of the neoliberal subject. Secondly, we see an exercise of power that is located between the making life of biopolitics and technologies typical of State racism. Government technology that we can enroll in the framework of security devices, especially in its treatment of youth. However, we consider it fruitful to investigate the articulation between these results and the analyzes referring to necropower, which in the field of youth has led a group of researchers to investigate the idea of youthicide in Latin America.

**Keywords:** daily life, governmentality, precariousness, subjectivation, young people

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**Financial support:** CONICET, Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.

**Conflict of interests:** The authors declare to have no conflict of interests.



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