

In/visibility and Difference: A Visual Methods Workshop – Berlin, 3-4 December 2015

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Visualizing geographical scale and boundary in qualitative social research

Abstract:

This presentation will focus on qualitative research projects that reflect on the issue of cities' causation and on the recent cases of change in the modes of cities' causation. More specifically, it will address the question of how cities are bounded and re-bounded collectively under various structural conditions. On the one hand, this presentation aligns with current discussions about what geographical scales are, and shows how these discussions can be grounded in qualitative social research. On the other hand, it contributes to the attempts to understand how urbanization processes establish social difference via spatial forms. In terms of methodologies of data collection and techniques of displaying research findings, the author will discuss the ways in which maps are a helpful instrument for visualizing geographical scale and boundary in arguments based on qualitative social research.