

Theory of walking methods

Michael B Duignan

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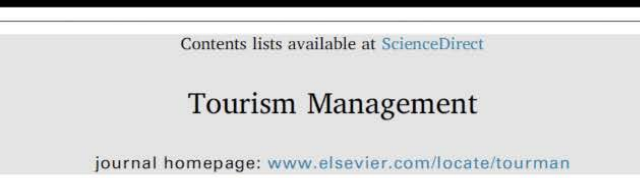
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Discontent: Exclusion and communal resistance at the Olympics



- What are walking methods;
- How can we embed walking methods as a data collection tool;
- Why they can be valuable for those seeking to understand socio-spatial interactions.

Walking methodologies, digital platforms and the interrogation of Olympic spaces: the '#RioZones-Approach' (Duignan and McGillivray, 2019 – Tourism Geographies)

Full article: Walking methodologi x +

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Articles

Walking methodologies, digital platforms and the interrogation of Olympic spaces: the '#RioZones-Approach'

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Abstract

Mega-sport events (MSEs) target, sequester and territorialise a 'host' (city – or nation) to exist, sustain themselves, survive and deliver on organisational objectives. Yet, little systematic and empirical evidence examines such urban processes, specifically in real-time during 'live staging' periods, including related implications for host community inclusion (and exclusion). In this article, we present the *#RioZones* project; a series of physical-embodied and digitally enabled primary data collection methods focused around embodied walking and participatory digital methods aimed at: (i) providing a deeper – and disruptive – interrogation of the spatial, social and economic implications of MSE organisation, (ii) developing creative ways to share empirical insights via microblogging, vlogging, media and public engagement platforms, and (iii) bringing together academic, industry, and policy stakeholders to debate and influence change. Embedded physically and digitally (albeit temporarily) into Rio's Olympic city, we refer to this strategically planned amalgam of methods as the '*#RioZones-Approach*'. Our findings reveal that utilising a set of post-positivist methods and approaches can be highly effective for creating new lines of (disruptive) inquiry and qualitative knowledge insights, currently latent in this field of analysis, and in related critical tourism and event studies). Additionally, we illustrate how projects with a longitudinal ethos present a unique

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Abstract

Introduction

Interrogating [mega] event spaces: situating the study

Post-positivism and MSE academic-activism

Embodied walking and journeying through the MSE city

Participatory digital methods:

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Help

#RioZones Approach

- Part 1: Theory of walking methods
- Part 2: Walking methods in practice - two international case studies
- Part 3: Limitations of the walking methods approach and integrating participatory digital methods for disseminating results

Walking methods

- Popularised in recent years across a variety of disciplines (anthropology, human geography, sociology and tourism)
- Walking can provide access to entangled relationships that exist between humans, non-humans, natural and social environments (Ingold and Vergunst, 2008)
- Enables observations, sense making
- Springgay and Truman (2018) activating problems and concepts in the midst of an event
- 'Theorising the world through consideration of everyday pedestrian practices of others' (Bates and Rhys-Taylor, 2017)

- Enable “observation of issues unfolding at street level if only for a short time” (Bates and Rhys-Taylor, 2017)
- Sensory dimension is key as city is increasingly viewed as a place where heightened collective sensory experiences are managed and curated (Gandy, 2017)
- Identifying such dynamics key in helping to unpack “the systematic description of events, behaviors and artefacts in the social setting chosen for study” (Marshall and Rossman, 1989: 79)

- Observations, field notes, audio narrations
- Photography, videography (possibility to geotag)
- Interviews, vox pop
- Microblog