Everyday Educations in the Neighborhood of Tepito, Mexico City
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Introduction

- Tepito is a neighborhood and informal marketplace in Mexico City
- The neighborhood is characterized by high crime and poverty rates
- Since the 1950s, Tepito has become increasingly known for selling "fayuca" or knockoff goods
- A common phrase in the neighborhood suggests, everything is for sale except for dignity
- The neighborhood still has a number of "artisans" or craftpeople
- Tepito has often been characterized as a neighborhood "without" education
- Interventions such as the secondary school Jose Guadalupe Posada
- Less research has looked at education as an everyday event capable of challenging the social order and verifying equality of those in the neighborhood

Objectives

- To show education where it had been less seen, or made less visible
- To see what that education does on an everyday basis and what it offers to those who practice it in this way
- To see how that education might talk back to other related educational projects

Methods

Ethnographic
- Participant observation
- 7 participants
- Unstructured interviews
- Neighborhood walks
- Conversations with academics/historians of Tepito

Genealogy
- Everyday discourses
- Using online, newspapers, and similar writing on "education" in Tepito
- Historical writing about Tepito

Findings

One type of education seemed to follow a path of 3 models:
1) Education as Apprenticeship Learning (Lave, 2011)
2) Education as Bricolage/Making Do (de Certeau)
3) Education as “Essay” (Montaigne)

Limitations

- Many participants described wanting to change views of Tepito, but also wanted prescription. To see educational practices in this way resists offering interventions that might help
- Looking at only one type of education for one small group of people in one part of the neighborhood
- Interpreting links that may not be there

Next Steps

- Further research in the neighborhood
- Share findings with participants
- Expand genealogical research to look at archival documents in Mexico on education in the neighborhood according to institutional bodies

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