



Urban
Studies
And
Planning



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Making visible indigenous youth visions in the critical context of El Alto, Bolivia

Philipp Horn & Olivia Casagrande (University of Sheffield)

Presentation structure

Background to the project

Scenes from El Alto

Participatory video and indigenous development alternatives



Economic
and Social
Research Council

Indigenous Development Alternatives: An urban youth perspective from Bolivia

www.alter-nativas.net

Project's objectives and key questions

1. What are the driving forces behind the urbanisation of indigenous territories and why are indigenous peoples, especially youths, increasingly moving to cities?
2. How do indigenous youth experience everyday urban life?
3. What development alternatives do urban indigenous youths enact/imagine/propose?

January 2021 – April 2023

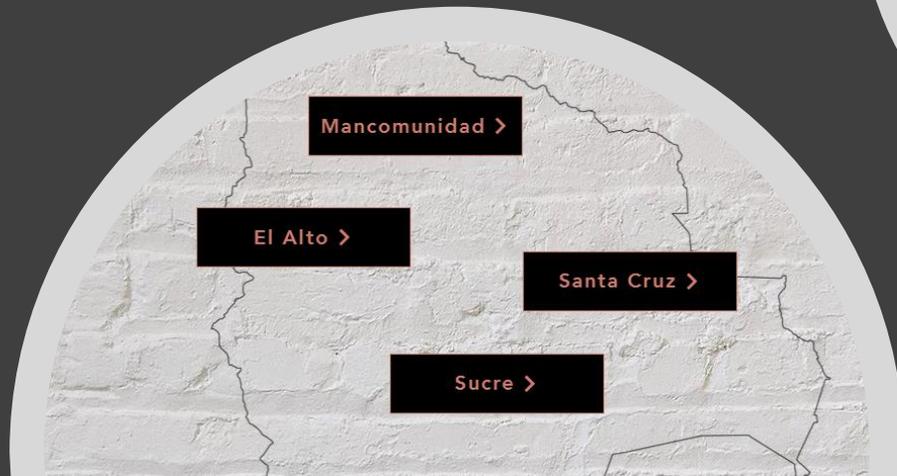
Concentrated, extended & differential urbanisation (Horn et al 2018; Monte Mor 2005; Revilla 2019)



A **comparative** methodology for a **collaborative** research in pandemic times

We compare cases of indigenous grassroots organizations in different contexts in the country.

Our project develops an emerging tradition of youth participatory action research that "provides young people with opportunities to study the social issues that affect their lives" by being co-researchers in the project. (Camarotta y Fine 2008: 2)





The potential of creative multi-modal methods to capture youth problems, desires and hopes

- Participatory video-making
- A collaborative use of the smartphone
- The use of fiction, improvisation, storytelling
- The use of interviews and visual methods

Final products (in preparation):

- **1 documentaries (El Alto)**
- 1 photo expo + 1 book (Santa Cruz)
- 2 multimedial representation (timeline with photos, videos, podcasts, interviews)

Scenes from El Alto

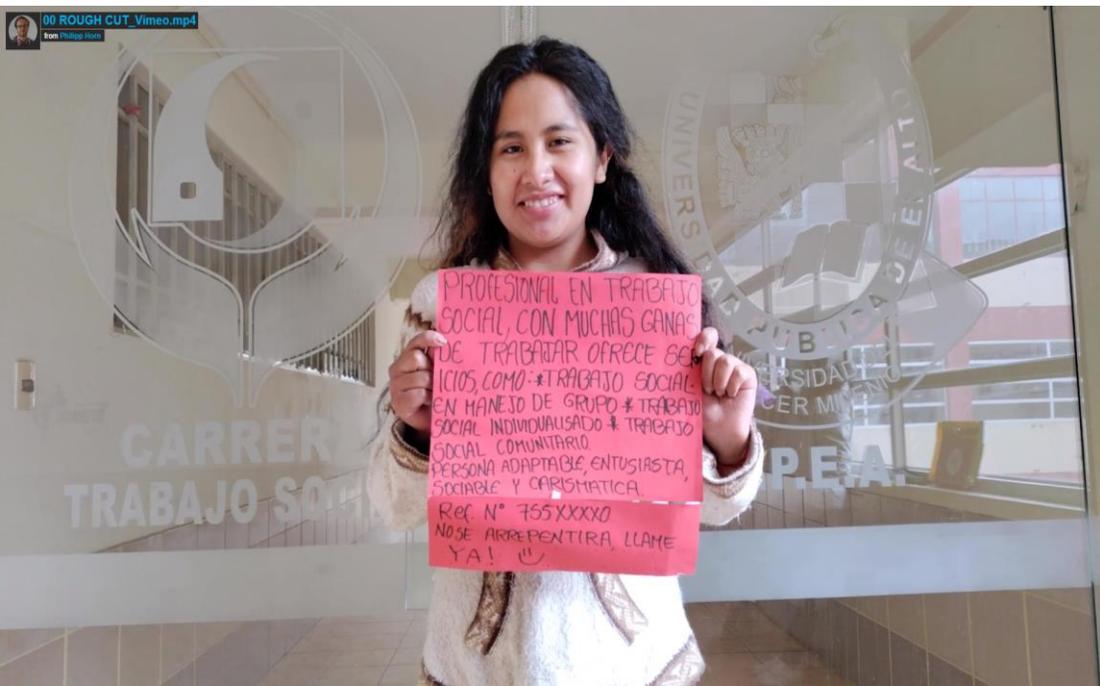
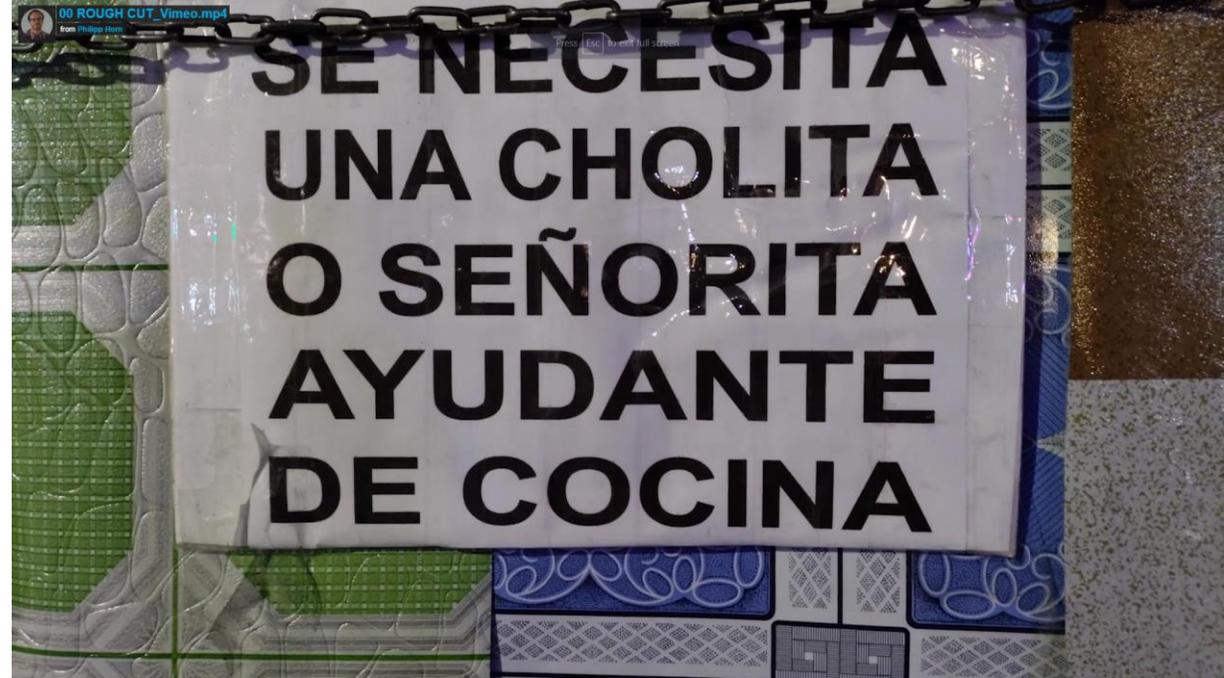
Aymara youth aspirations in a context of multiple crisis











Jobs in the private sector often need to come with the “right” political affiliation...



...or personal connections.



3. El problema que representa a los jóvenes indígenas en mi contexto.



Informales frente al abismo





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Concluding reflections: Participatory film and development alternatives



Questions to take forward

- How and in what ways can we best capture capture the problems, desires, and future hopes of youth?
- Who are the producers of knowledge in youth participatory action research, and how can the different roles and responsibilities, as well as the different types of knowledge (academic, youth, indigenous, etc.) be negotiated, rethought and represented?