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CITIES IN CRISIS | SPRING 2021
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THE DIFFICULTIES OF RESTORING LANDFILLS AND THE SHIFTING NATURE OF URBAN CRISES IN LATIN AMERICA

IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUITIES, CITIES IN LATIN AMERICA HAVE TRIED TO CLOSE AND RECUPERATE LANDFILLS. THREE CASE STUDIES SHOW THAT ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE DOES NOT STOP WITH THESE CLOSURES, AS THE SITES SHIFT INTO NODES OF NEW URBAN CRISES.

THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN WASTE AND INFORMALITY ARE NOT BOUNDED BY THE SPATIALITY OF LANDFILLS. AS OTHER FORMS OF URBAN VIOLENCE REPLACE CONTAMINATION, THE EXCEPTIONAL CONDITION OF THE CRISIS IS REPRODUCED.

AS LANDFILLS ENCOURAGE INFORMAL DEVELOPMENT WHEN THEY ARE ACTIVE, THEY WOULD SEEM TO REPLICATE INFORMAL LOGICS EVEN AFTER THEIR CLOSURE.

SANTA FE, MEXICO CITY

ENVIRONMENTAL RECUPERATION AND EQUITY CONCERNS WERE REPLACED BY LAND SPECULATION LOGICS. FORMAL AND INFORMAL PRACTICES BLENDED TO PRODUCE A UNIQUE BRAND OF INFORMAL LUXURY DEVELOPMENT, INITIALLY CEMENTED ON POPULATION DISPLACEMENT.



MORAVIA, MEDELLÍN

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN REGULARIZING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND CREATING A PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION. DIFFICULTIES OF INFORMAL TENURE AND SHADOWS OF URBAN CRIME QUESTION THE "RESILIENT CITY" BRAND.



GIBRALTAR, BOGOTÁ

CONNECTION TO NETWORKS OF URBAN WASTE CONTINUED AFTER CLOSURE. ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IMPEDED FULL RECUPERATION, AND THE SITE STILL DRIVES FURTHER PERIPHERAL URBANIZATION.

