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Title of the work: NEW URBAN POVERTY AND WATER GOVERNANCE IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE (1977-2008)

Overall project: Risk Habitat Megacity

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A morphologic and ethnographic approximation to the transformations in the structures of dwelling consumption in the frame of a neoliberal privatization

The history of the last 3 decades of the wastewater sector in Santiago de Chile, can be summarized in the globalization of the service, making it available to 100% of the population in great Santiago, in the neoliberal privatization frame.

Such globalization had significant impact on strengthening the conditions of fragmentation and segregation of the social-spatial tissue in Great Santiago. With this verification emerges the possibility of exploring new forms of exclusion in the city associated with the transformation of the popular residential habitat.

The privatization of this strategic sector has generated a direct effect on the consumption of physical units of water at home in the city as a whole, recording a steady decrease of the consumption. This gradual decrease in water consumption may be a key to interpreting this "new poverty" linked to the wastewater sector in the great Santiago. In this context, the central question emerges for this PhD research project:

How the urban poverty has evolved in Santiago de Chile (1977-2008), based on the social-spatial transformation in the consumption structures, in the context of drinking water governance of neoliberal pattern?

Is then, a record of this transition from a traditional poverty determined by the disconnection habitat popular with the drinking water infrastructure, towards a new urban poverty as reflected in significant changes in the structure of household consumption.

To achieve a first approximation to the transition of urban poverty, in this paper will present the initial results of a morphological analysis whose main idea was to construct a cartography that allows a reading of the market development of potable water in Santiago (1977-2008), with the goal of determining the spatial patterns of access to this basic good.

However, this doctoral thesis project aims to demonstrate the following research hypothesis, which states that: morphology and governance, form and power; two process superimposed in the same historical period, and analyzed based on the same case: the social-spatial transformation of the consumption structures in Metro Santiago; it can become a tool to understand the new urban poverty that happens in the contemporary cities, and to break free from the typical used methods, because of the new spatial patterns, and new adaptation strategies to the multiple exclusion ways that is imposed by the late capitalism of the beginning of the 21st century.