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Title of the work (Working title):

Mobility and Social Exclusion in Megacities.
An explorative investigation with the example of Transmilenio in Bogotá, Colombia.

Overall project: „Risk Habitat Megacity”

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Martin Lanzendorf/ Prof. Dr. Barbara Lenz

Expected working time frame: March 2008 – August 2008

Research question:

How do members of social disadvantaged groups organise their mobility in view of the comparative expensive service offered by the Transmilenio?

Hypotheses:

The Transmilenio is despite all praise regarding reductions of travel time and sinking environmental pollution the most expansive public transport alternative in Colombia. The expansion of its network replaces cheaper bus lines making the usage of Transmilenio unavoidable. The strong spatial division of residence and workplaces as well as the journeys to the latter in connection with low levels of income of the poorer population disadvantages particularly this group. Out of the portrayed situation can be deduced the following hypotheses:

1. The public transport in Bogotá and particularly the Transmilenio has a socially excluding effect towards socially weak population groups.
2. Members of socially weak population groups search for alternatives to satisfy their needs of mobility.

Methodology:

To make statements related to the first hypotheses, statistical material from the colombian statistical authority DANE (Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística), the planning authority DAPD (Departamento Administrativo de Planeación Distrital) and from the administration of Transmilenio S.A. should be considered.

To receive information about the second hypothesis and to be finally able to answer the research question, qualitative interviews will be made with affected members of socially weak groups. In these interviews the focus lies on the impact that the Transmilenio has for the interviewed persons and the form of their possible transportation alternatives.