



**PUBLIC SPACE AND THE BANNING OF
HOMELESSNESS IN COPENHAGEN:
EVERYDAY SPATIAL TACTICS AGAINST THE
COMMODIFICATION OF LIFE.**

NICOLÁS PALACIOS CRISÓSTOMO



Introduction

- Historical context: Cycles of homelessness criminalization.
- Area Ban in Copenhagen.

hus forbi

Zoneforbud for hjemløse vedtaget

Det såkaldte zoneforbud, der gør, at politiet kan bortvise en hjemløs fra en kommune, er nu vedtaget af Folketinget.

Børne- og socialminister Mai Mercado (K) forholder sig i et svar til Hus Forbi ikke til, at man med zoneforbuddet kan fratage en hjemløs sine sociale rettigheder. Men hendes ministerium forsøger at forklare sig med en uddybende bemærkning.

Læs artiklen om ministeren, ministeriet og zoneforbuddet i Hus Forbi i april. Her bringer vi som dokumentation hele svaret fra Børne- og Socialministeriet.

Hundredvis demonstrerede mod zoneforbud

I København gik hundredvis af mennesker i fakkeltog for at vise deres utilfredshed med zoneforbuddet mod hjemløse.

Hus Forbi-sælger udvist af København i tre måneder

En hjemløs blev natten til tirsdag anholdt af politiet og fik forbud mod at opholde sig i København i tre måneder, fordi han sov på gaden. Uværdigt, mener SAND.

Historisk retssag: Kan gøre det ulovligt at sove på gaden



Ifølge den seneste hjemløsetælling i 2007 var der 6.635 hjemløse i Danmark. Foto: Sofie Mathiasen/Ritzau Scanpix

Research Questions:

- How is public space understood from Copenhagen's administration? Moreover, how the concept of 'enclosure strategies' can be helpful to frame this understanding?
- How is the relation of public space and homelessness framed in the area ban legislative discussion?
- How have the homeless framed the effects of the zone-ban on their use of public space in Copenhagen?
- In which ways have they changed their spatial practices in public spaces?

Methodology and fieldwork



Research period: January to April 2019.



Analysis of public documents from different levels of governments.

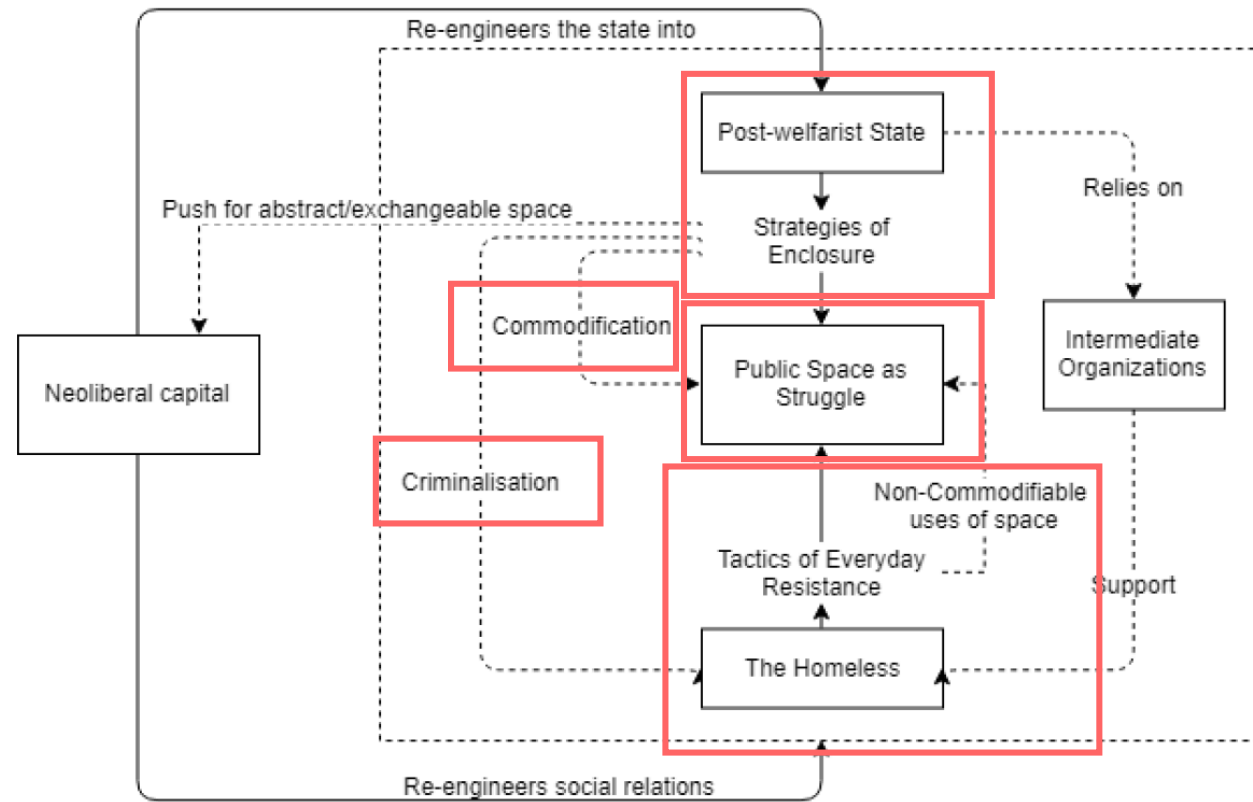


Non-participant and participant observation in Copenhagen.



Interviews to different stakeholders

Theoretical background



- Source: Palacios, 2019.

The top-down
approach.
State and local
government
strategies.



State enacted zone ban:
Commodification of space +
criminalization.



City goals and urban life
accounts: A city for the Modern
Copenhagener

Bottom-up.
NGOs and new
tactics of the
homeless people.



Wide ranging of organizations working in different angles of the issues.



Change in patterns of use of public space: adaptation due to needs.



Colective action through demonstrations.

Current scenario.

- Discussions on rolling back the area ban.

Aftalepartier vil undgå at hjemløse rammes af zoneforbud

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Zoneforbud skal ikke ramme hjemløse

Regeringen og dens støttepartier vil undgå, at hjemløse bliver bortvist fra kommunen for at sove på gaden.

- Is being homeless and their use of public space at a constant risk of being deemed illegal?



Conclusions



A city for the modern
Copenhagener not the homeless.



Resilience and adaption tactics at
a cost.

Recommendations.



Highlight strategically the use of space of homeless people.



Mutual aid within communities.



Advocate for co-created infrastructural solutions.



“I do think that it's has been the strategy of the government and the political parties to make this divide between homeless people, because they have nothing to gain by fighting each other and everything to gain by standing together.”

(Sebastian, Interview, 26/03/2019 in Palacios, 2019)

