



Reluctant neighbors: Ethnicity, housing problems and mobilization in Tel Aviv

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Outline

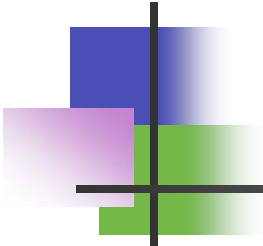
- Why a non-capital, relatively untouched by crisis, is relevant here
- Three protest events
- Ethnic map of Tel Aviv
- Protest demonstrations and the ethnic grid on the housing problem
- Space and mobilization
- Conclusions

Three protest demonstrations

- International Labor Solidarity Day
- Anti-racist demonstration and right-wing counter-demonstration in December 2010
- J14 (movement for social justice)



Source: www.j14.org

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- Uneven ethnic diversity
 - Uneven social status and prestige of city spaces
 - Who owns the right to be present



Who is not present?



- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ygurvitz>

- http://www.flickr.com/photos/shachaf_polakow



Theoretical background

- Mesch and Manor on ethnic relations in 2001: localized social ties?
- 'Liberated community' – not bound to place
- Compression theory: minorities face constraints when they try to participate
- Avoidance theory: minorities pushed to structurally disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Compositional perspective: culture influences neighboring
- Choice-constraint model for housing: ethnic preferences in residential choices



Protest demonstrations and the ethnic grid on the housing problem

- Widespread home ownership among dominant groups (>75% - Mesch&Manor 2006)
- Rising costs of housing as a trigger for social unrest
- Competition for housing and the discourse of belonging
- Symbolism of home

Space and mobilization

- Discourse representation
- Translation
- Right to feel at home





Not direct causality, but...

Competition

- For resources
- For space

Entitlement

- Ethnicity
- Citizenship

Tensions

- Incorporated
- Specific



Conclusions

- Mobilization is closely related to participation in (re)definition of meanings
- Cross-fertilizing between attempts from outside and ethnic networks
- Place vs. space (including private, virtual)
- Can everyone be mobilized?

Thank you for your attention!