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Liminality Articulations in Territorial Development: a Research on Biopolitics and Property Right Theories

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Abstract

Liminality has two main definitions. The first definition is related to the position between consciousness and the supraliminal on the one hand, and un-consciousness and the subliminal on the other. The second definition is related to the dimensions in-between. Starting from this last definition, the paper investigates the structural articulations of the dimensions in-between and its similarities with territorial development. Indeed, territorial development happens with a level of human consciousness, and it includes all the dimensions in-between the liminality: time, space and subjects in it; from individuals, groups, society, and state.

The paper's aim is to investigate on a probabilistic way the articulations of liminality dimensions, and consequently the results of the territorial development and its similarities with the property rights theories. The limits of the research are defined by the liminality dimensions, number of articulations, and the level of consciousness. The higher the number of articulations is, the higher would the consciousness of territorial development be. Fewer articulations there are, the more authoritarian would territorial development be. The probabilistic results with two articulations give 16 models of interactions. Each model is correlated to property rights theories and various definitions of biopolitics.

The research represents a first attempt to catalogue forms of territorial sovereignty, values, land, and models. Researchers are invited to reflect and contribute to the exploration of a broader number of articulations in order to produce new models of territorial development.

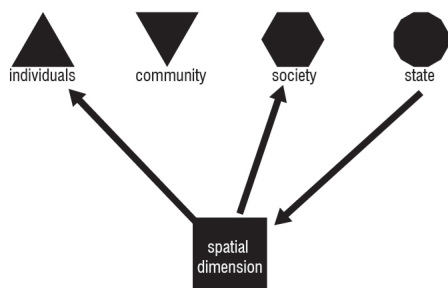
Intro to the liminality of territorial development.

Territorial development has many definitions. From the local scale to the wider one. From the accumulation of capitals and inhabitants to culture and politics. To not fall into a biased description of models, this research considers the territorial development as an act between subjects and territory. Only the nature of the action can determine the model of how individuals, communities, society, and state carries out the territorial development. The number of actions is also determinant in understanding the degree of consciousness in territorial development. The higher the number of interactions is, the higher would the degree of consciousness be.

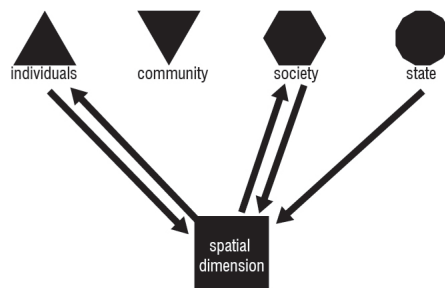
Liminality has both spatial and temporal dimensions, and can be applied to a variety

of subjects: individuals, larger groups (cohorts or villages), whole societies, and possibly even entire civilizations. (Thomassen, 2009). For decades, different development theories have argued about the highest level of consciousness to carry out territorial development.

Many defended the idea that the government has the highest level of consciousness to carry urban development because it represents the majority of political will. In the same manner argue the public officers, investors, and other urban actors when they draw rationally the plans to allocate people and investments. See the first example of figure 1. While it might be true with regard to the high degree of consciousness, it represents only a part of the diversity that might have come if all subjects were to act on the same dimension of time. Not taking



**First* example
of territorial development**



**Second* example
of territorial development**

Fig. 1 / Example of interactions in a given time between subjects and territory. Source / the author

into consideration all the possible actions may change the final results of the plans and extend the time dimension. See the second example of Fig.1.

Liminality definition is important to emphasize all the possible subjects that carry out a process of territorial development, without forgetting the dimensions of time and space.

This explains why some models of territorial development are outdated over time. Fig.1 shows two models of territorial development, based on the interaction among three possible actors and the spatial dimension, but with a different number of articulations. The first model is limited to three articulations.

The state defines the destination of use of the spatial dimension. The impact of it would influence the decisions of society and individuals. In the field of urban planning, this means delivering a plan

of investment and/or a policy interest. Development Plans in particular, which express the development indicators, the size, dimension, and cost, are a good example to study the level of consciousness, decision making and dependence.

Without feedback from the three other actors - the individuals, community, society, the state would be limited to the cognitive capacities to define the spatial dimension. The typical case is when no public affordability requirements for future housing developments, are taken into consideration.

The risk is to fall into biased and stereotyped answers to given situations, as in the case of the decision to address the public housing into assembled big blocks in the periphery.

As Michel Foucault contextualized these processes¹, which have been driven by discriminatory, racist, or colonialist forces,

¹ / (Foucault, 2003)

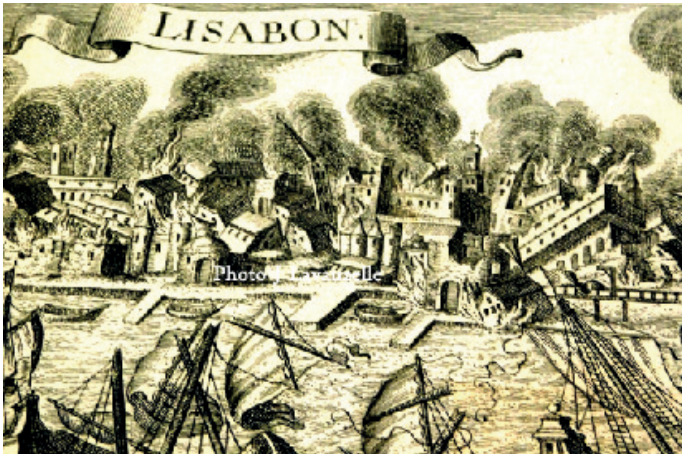


Fig.2 / Historical moments of the first model. 'State Model. Source / Find it in bibliography.

he gave birth to the concept of biopower². This is a concept deeply rooted since the Ancient Regime, and defines the property rights as a process that comes from top-down. Along with the line of ethical and political definition, this example is not necessarily left or right, but it certainly expresses a lack of consciousness to carry a broader territorial development. The second example has the same number of actors but a higher number of articulations. Differently from the previous example the individuals and society play an active role in the city, increasing its consciousness and the varieties of territorial development. The more exclusive the impact from the state to the spatial dimension is, the more intense would the answer by the excluded actors be. The best case to describe the intensity between the first and the second model is the 'battle for the city'³ by Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs. The new city incomers⁴, workers⁵, and tenants, have historically shown that other territorial developments are possible. In Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri⁶, the concept of biopower⁷ takes a broader definition, more connected to human practice as an insurrection tool. They call it biopolitics, and it works in the opposite direction to the impact of the state decisions to the spatial dimension. Of course, the difference between the first and the second example is not always so antagonistic. What is important to note is

the fact that the more actors operate in spatial dimension, the higher would the probability to have different models of territorial development be. The differences between models might depend also on the nature of co-existence. In the first example of the 'state model', the state can cooperate with diverse territorial developments, assisting with plans, management, financing, etc. At the same time, opposite theories⁸ assume that the territorial development is driven only and with the state. Individuals, communities, and even society are ousted from the territorial development processes. Seeing that the difference between the first and the second example lies in the number of articulations and linkages, the rest of the research will proceed in two directions; 1) exploring the degree of consciousness in the territorial development with different number of articulations, and 2) exploring the difference between territorial development and property rights theories, with a fixed degree of articulations - respectively with two and four articulations or the first and second grade in fig. 4.

Actors and articulations as indicators of consciousness to carry out the territorial development.

The second definition of liminality raises the question of consciousness in the process of territorial development. Full

² / It relates to the practice of modern nation states and their regulation of their subjects through "an explosion of numerous and diverse techniques for achieving the subjugations of bodies and the control of populations".

³ / (Jacobs, 1992)

⁴ / An estimated 25% of the world's urban population live in informal settlements, with 213 million informal settlement residents added to the global population since 1990, (Habitat III, 2016).⁵ / Autonomia Operaia was a movement of workers based on an anti-authoritarian left-wing political theories.

⁶ / (Negri & Hardt, 2000)

⁷ / (Foucault, 2003)

⁸ / In modern urbanism, (Harvey, 2013) points out, space is continually restructured. The process is determined by where large firms choose to place their factories, research and development centers and so forth, by the controls asserted by governments over both land and industrial production and by the activities of private investors, buying and selling houses and land. Business firms, for example, are constantly weighing up the relative advantages of new locations against existing ones. As production becomes cheaper in one area than in another, or as the firm moves from one product to another, offices and factories will be closed down in one place and opened up elsewhere.



consciousness results when all the territorial interactions become part of a network. Partial consciousness has created different, sometime antagonist, theories on property theory, as we saw in the examples above. Now the question that arises is: "how conscious are the different actors operating in the spatial dimension?" and "is there a level at which we can rank their consciousness?". Figure 4 illustrates the four probabilities of the actors' interactions, with 2, 4, 6 and 8 connections. And, every probability is related to a level or grade of consciousness. The first grade of consciousness is the lowest degree of interaction between the actors or subjects of liminality with the territorial dimension. These patterns of development represent unique cases in their kind but also widespread in the territory. An example is an area, where the private property is the only model of territorial development. Here, the other actors, - state, society, and community don't play a role. Different varieties result when the actors act with the spatial dimension one by one. The community reclaims its local rights, the society its general interests and the state its political utilities. The second grade of consciousness is the medium-low degree of interaction between the actors - the subjects of liminality - with the territorial dimension. These patterns of territorial development, are very common in our reality. For further exploration of this degree of articulations, see fig. 5 and the next chapter. The third grade of consciousness is the medium-high degree of interaction between the actors - the subjects of liminality - with the territorial dimension. These patterns of territorial development, are complex and scattered in the territory. Examples are schools, transportation services, housing with social responsibility, art, recreational sites, and firms with environmental and social responsibility.

The fourth grade of consciousness is the medium-high degree of interaction between the actors - the subjects of liminality - with the territorial dimension. These patterns of territorial development fulfil the full consciousness which can be acted on a spatial dimension. It may be a consequence of the third-rate incremental approach. Examples are when schools also play a community role in the place where they are located, or public transport is sensitive to spatial and socio-economic injustice for the individuals, communities, and society at once.

The nature of the articulations as an indicator of territorial development models, theories and ideologies.

A property right theory tends to create its model of development. This is true because behind the property theories stands a philosophical state of mind, which imposes its model of the spatial dimension to the subjects involved in it. For centuries, philosophers and politicians have seen from different angles the subject interacting with the spatial dimension. Karl Marks developed his dialectic, named the historical materialism, which involves the intervention of the state to all spatial dimensions, including the ruling class and the proletariat. In fig. 5, sixteen models are listed as a result of the probabilistic abilities of one actor to interact with the other subjects through the spatial dimension. Each line has four models, and in total, there are four lines. Lines are related to property theories creating four similar models of development.

- The first line sees the four probabilities of the individual to interact with the other actors through the spatial dimension. This category emphasizes the role of the individual in the community, society, and the state. The results are four models of territorial development. And, the four models see the development with the



Fig.3 / Historical moments of the second model. (Society and Individuals into 'State Model').
Source / Find it in bibliography.

individual as a primary actor. Indeed for Locke and Hegel, the property is an extension of the person⁹. It may produce a territorial development with the community (Model 2), with the society (Model 3), or with the state (Model 4).

- The second line has four models of territorial development and they all share a connection with the communities. The property rights theory is supported by philosophers since the late Middle Ages, but also contemporary philosophy develops theories of territorial development through communities similar with those of Thomas Aquinas¹⁰. The first model of interaction (Model 6), is similar to Model 2. Moreover, it is connected with the individuals through the territorial dimension. The next model, (Model 7), is a classic condition of territorial development made by many scattered communities; the best example are the gated communities. The next stage is the state (Model 8). The collaboration of a specific community with the state may be under a communist ideology or other similar forms.

- The third line has four models of territorial development and they all share a connection with society. For the Kantian theory on the property right¹¹ territorial development comes through acquired rights, private rights, and public rights. In the case of acquired rights, we should intend the ability to gain it. (Model 10, 11, and 12).

- The fourth line in Figura 5, sees the four probabilities of the state to interact with other actors through the spatial dimension. This category emphasizes the role of the state as the primary actor, whose action

is on state's interest and utility. (Model 13). Utilitarian property theory¹² tends to be comprehensive to a variety of benefits, economic an/or welfarist. (Model 16). In this prism, the political decision it is more important than personal morality. And the political decision is biopower. For example¹³, Hans Reiter used it in a 1934 speech to refer to their biologically based concept of nation and state and ultimately their racial policy. (Model 14). Communist regimes used the concept of dictating the proletariat, based on a community concept of the ruling class. (Model 15). The last model, 16, which has the same concepts of the Kantian theory combined with a utilitarian approach, is an example of a technocracy ruled by elites of the society. The social contract is the base concept to develop a doctrine of the property right. The 16 models shown in Figure 5 are realities of different territorial development. And, the theories of property rights are one way to read the different territorial varieties. These theories relate to different subjects that operate with the spatial dimension. The number of articulations is of second grade and consequently, the level of liminality is medium, neither in full consciousness nor in embryonic stages. Some of the models are already outdated, even though in some countries, or territorial realities, there may still be a threat. Here we refer to high-level models of biopolitical pressure, such as fascism, and communist models. Each of these models represent an ideology, closely linked to the way different actors develop the territory. As the number of inhabitants of urban areas increases both globally

⁹ / see (Peczyński, 1984), and (Kramer, 2004)

¹⁰ / "Every man is more careful to procure what is for himself alone than that which is common to many or to all: since each one will shirk the labor and leave to another that which concerns the community" Thomas Arquinas in .(Hallebeek, 1987).

¹¹ / see (Byrd & Hruschka, 2010)

¹² / see (Mill, 2017), and (Alexande & Peñalver, 2012)

¹³ / see (Schmitt, 2014)

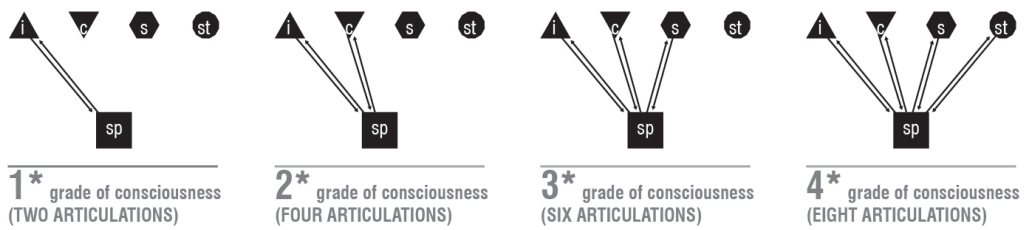


Fig.4 / Degrees of liminality consciousness by the number of interaction between subjects and territory. Source / the author

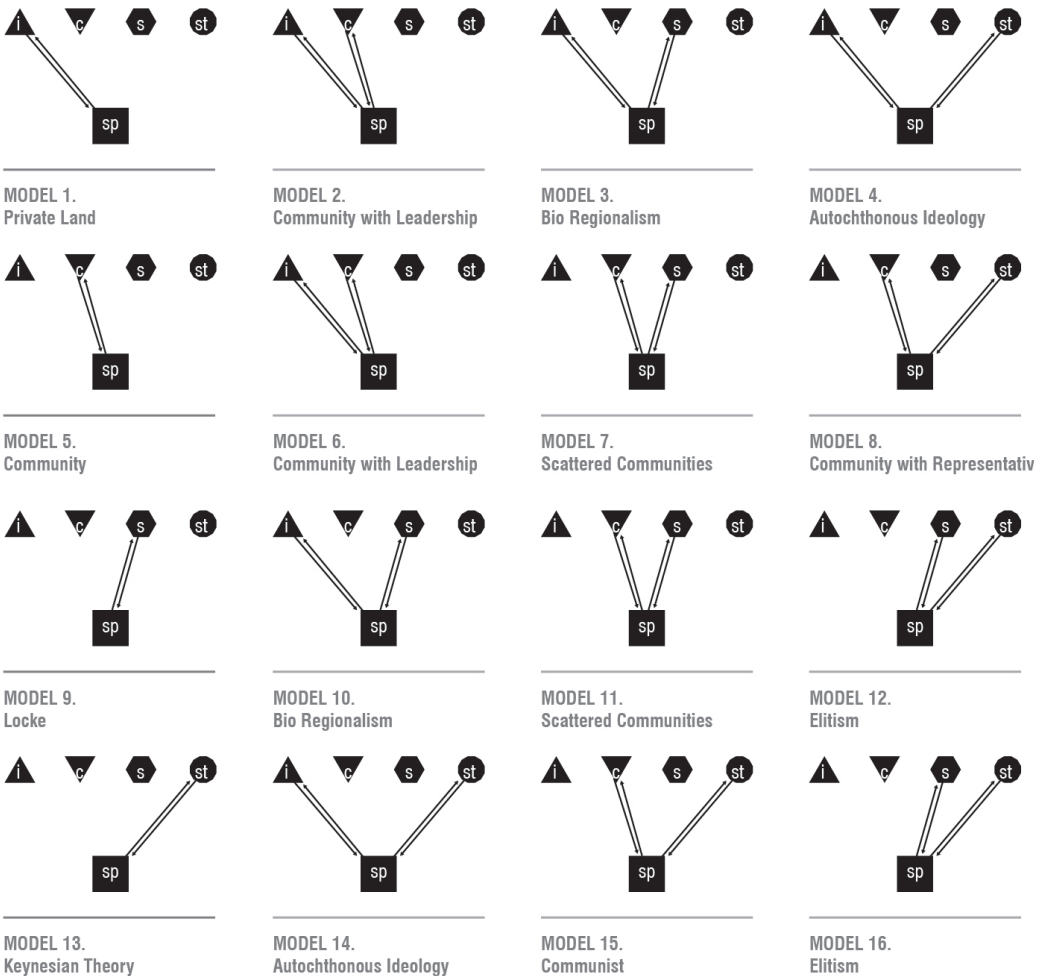


Fig.5 / Matrix of the second grade of liminality. Models, theories and ideologies. Source / the author

and nationally for different states, so does the number of subjects that interact with the spatial dimension. So it is always important to ask in a philosophical and

probabilistic way about which models we are adopting? And, is it possible to develop the territory with full and comprehensive awareness and sensitivity?

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Images sources

Figure 2.

Source 1 / Élie Bertrand, Le Tremblement De Terre Du 1er novembre 1755 entre 50 000 et 80 000 victimes. <http://artgitato.com/tremblement-de-terre-lisbonne->

de-1755-lisboa-terremoto-de-1-de-novembro-de-1755/

Source 2 / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (1972) The second, widely televised demolition of a Pruitt-Igoe building that followed the March 16 demolition. *Public Domain.*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pruitt%E2%80%93Igoe#/media/File:Pruitt-igoe_collapse-series.jpg

Source 3 / Michael Powell (2007) A Tale of Two Cities. A model of the 1964 World's Fair, one of Robert Moses's final projects. *Credit...The New York Times.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/06/nyregion/thecity/06hist.html>

Figure 3.

Source 1 / Urbanização nos países subdesenvolvidos.

<https://www.casadicas.com.br/moradia/diferenca-entre-a-urbanizacao-dos-paises-desenvolvidos-e-subdesenvolvidos.html>

Source 2 / Alberto Pantaloni (2018) Quando l'operaismo si fece progetto politico: la storia di Potere Operaio. <http://effimera.org/loperaismo-si-fece-progetto-politico-la-storia-potere-operaio-alberto-pantaloni/>

Source 3 / Bob Feldman, Patch Contributor (2019) Column: The Hidden History Of Rent Control. *Hidden history of rent control shows why Massachusetts should bring back rent control in Cambridge, Boston and Brookline in 2019.*

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/cambridge/hidden-history-rent-control>

