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Gastón Walter Cirio

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***TERRITORIAL UNDERSTANDING:  
APPLICATION OF THE TERRITORII METHOD***  
**Case study of the territorial and urban planning code  
Colon, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

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**Gastón Walter CIRIO**

[gastoncirio@hotmail.com](mailto:gastoncirio@hotmail.com)

+54 (11) 4251 5992

UNLP [National University of La Plata], Argentina

Member of the TAG Research Team, Lugar Innova, UNLP

Av.7 n° 776 – 1900 La Plata, Argentina

**Presentation: Theme: B**

**Introduction**

This paper lies within the framework of a line of research of the TAG Team -UNLP, originating group of the Latin American network [www.territoriosposibles.org](http://www.territoriosposibles.org), where it is part of the actions related to territorial knowledge. This work complements others<sup>1</sup> that constitute part of the scientific production of the TAG Team, also presented in the International Conference of Territorial Intelligence ENTI Salerno 2009. Its general objective is to apply the *TERRITORII* method (Bozzano, 2009) to a concrete case study and test the theoretic-methodological principles that support it. This constitutes an analytic and reflective exercise to determine the degree in which theoretic and methodological principles are present to orient concrete action in a case study with territorial application. In this context, the findings of this paper expect to constitute a contribution to the evaluation of the feasibility for the application of the *TERRITORII* method, oriented towards the standardization and systematization of results in the process of research of territorial applicability, within the framework of an interactive platform for the Social Sciences.

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<sup>1</sup> Bozzano, H.; Alejandro Jurado; Katharina Bode; Verónica Pohl Schnake; Adam Tecza; Fabricio Gliemmo; Irene Velarde; Juan José Garat; Jeremías Otero; Esteban Sosa.

# Territorial Understanding: Application Of The Territorii Method. Case study of the territorial and urban planning code. Colon, Buenos Aires, Argentina

## **The territory and the territories: scales and looks**

Starting from a territorial conception as a macro object we understand territory as “a place of diverse scales –micro, meso, macro– where actors –public, private, citizens, others– put complex interaction processes in motion –complementary, contradictory, conflicting, cooperative – between systems of actions and systems of objects, constituted by many techniques –natural and artificial hybrids– identifiable according to instances of a territorial organization process in particular events –in time-space– with diverse degrees of insertion in the local-meso-global relationship. “The territory is continuously being re-defined” (Bozzano; 2006).

The operational concepts that direct the application of the *TERRITORII* method (Bozzano; 2009) respond to the possibility of distinguishing between real territories, that can be described, experienced territories, of a strong perceptive and phenomenological base, thought territories, of an explanatory nature, legal territories, of a prescriptive order and possible territories, of a propositional nature.

## **Minimizing gaps: look dialectic between method and case**

Given the strong tradition of separation between geographical discipline presents concepts, terms and predominantly theoretical models, and the extensive development of empirical research, primarily, with significant gaps in approaches and theoretical foundations, *TERRITORII* is wielded as a geographical tool useful in research that looks interdisciplinary approaches allow partial territorial.

The method implies an attempt to reduce distances between facts and theory in research studies that, to a greater or lesser degree, allow for a territorial

approach, making use of operational criteria and

concepts which conception is based on the contributions of the social critical theory of space. (Santos M. 1996).

The case selected for the application of the method refers to the creation of an urban and territorial land use code for the Colón Municipality in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.<sup>2</sup>

This municipality is located in the Northwestern zone of the Pampas region in Buenos Aires Province, that currently has an estimated 25,000 inhabitants (23 179 inhabitants. INDEC 2001), of which almost 22,000 reside in the urban area of the city that acts as the administrative center. The main problem to be solved in the development of that research and intervention was the absence of a model of city development in the colon manifested through widespread and fragmented growth of the urban area, with conflicts arising from the incorrect location activities, spatial segregation, lack of future profiles Colossians consensus among the citizens, and others.

## **Main results**

Here are the main results of the investigation referred to the proposed analytical exercise in this study. This will consider the different types of area worked, the techniques used and results obtained. The *real territories* detected in the case study, recognizing that the choice of some variables over others supposes the prioritization of certain real

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<sup>2</sup> In preparing the draft land use and land use part of Colón. Bozzano, H.; Resa S. (coordinator), Jurado, A., Cirio, G., Grassi, L, Lopez Osornio, M, Botana, M. It is interesting to clarify that this work was developed in a dialectical way through the interaction between the particularities of the case and methodological and theoretical principles developed by Bozzano and Resa. These principles were developed and matured over two decades of work on implementing and territorial base, which form important background Territorii method. The exercise in this paper is, then, a reading and interpretation of research in Colon from the proposed method formalized in territorii (Bozzano, 2009)

territories over some others<sup>3</sup> takes care of a descriptive stage that considers as a fundamental variable the real land uses, complemented by other variables such as the road network, the hydrographic network, the utilities infrastructure network, etc.

The technique implemented for the survey of information was the field work at the plot level urban (urban) and rural plot (periurban area). This technique was supplemented with reading and interpretation of high resolution satellite images of the municipality of Colón. These images were used for both the survey of land uses in rural areas and for the establishment of urban uses and periurban areas, which were subject to random monitoring techniques.

The classification of the actual land use survey was conducted from existing precedent in the research project on "Land, Place and Management" UNLP-CONICET referred to the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, with the necessary adjustments to the case of Colón<sup>4</sup>. The distribution and frequency of the 22 land uses identified in real Colón was totally different from the uses investigated in the metropolitan area, occurring in the case study of combining the characteristic peak intensity of residential occupation, trade and services, but without building in height. It is also noteworthy that the applications related to settlements, countries or neighborhoods, and delta have not been identified in the District of Colon.

**The *experienced territories*** are those perceived by citizens, which are results of subjective views based perceptual, psychological and phenomenological, the territories that are experienced on a daily basis from a perspective of intellectual and sensory building the subject of their environment .

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<sup>3</sup>something that indicates an incipient explanation

<sup>4</sup> The actual land use surveyed are classified at the level of use by block and parcel dominant rural

In the case of Colón, territories experienced, arise from different techniques applied on the participatory process planned for the development of the preliminary land use mentioned above.

Among others, the techniques used include structured interviews, Delphi surveys, and mental maps (Lynch, K., 1960), made a significant social actors and representatives of economic, social, political and technical -scientific Colon, both individual and collective level<sup>5</sup>.

The results show complex representations, rich and different ways by different social actors in relation to the territories lived: among others, highlights the areas perceived as problematic, the territories of greater social value, the territories of further environmental degradation and others which are spelled out through the spoken, written and graphic of the members of different committees.

The ***thought territories*** for the case of Colón emerge from the correlation and synthesis of the different, previously mentioned, real territories, as well as from the incorporation of logics, vocations and trends that aren't necessarily territorial, in an instance dominated by explanatory elements. It is the application of a methodology that sets out five main stages<sup>6</sup>: The first establishes and defines the territorialities present in the Colón case, having found three

types of territoriality: urban, peri-urban and rural. . The second stage establishes the dominant vocations, which leads to the development of a provisional definition of preplaces: in the case of Colón, vocations have been detected dominant residential, commercial, and agribusiness; identification of rationales, processes , trends and actors make up the third stage, and refers to

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<sup>5</sup> We refer to the formation of four different working committees, according to the functions and interests of its members: committee business, civic committee, technical committee and policy committee - institutional

<sup>6</sup> The reader interested in deepening the methodology can be forwarded to "Lugares: El método Stlocus. Utilidad en trabajos de intervención variados" Bozzano y Resa, 2009; and to "El lugar: criterios teórico-metodológicos para su definición. Aplicación a General Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina" Bozzano y Resa 2007.

recovery trends, vulnerability, accessibility, set around different processes (synergic or conflicting) feature the different social actors, which can override environmental rationalities, social and / or economic. The fourth stage applied refers to the definition and mapping of places. It is developing 36 places or patterns of territorial occupation and appropriation researched and designed for the entire territory of the municipality, of which 13 are urban, 13 are suburban and 10 are rural. We devised 36 places or patterns of territorial occupation and appropriation, researched and thought for the whole territory of the municipality, 13 of them urban, 13 peri-urban and 10 rural.

The fifth and final phase definition and characterization of the sites identified in the previous step through the development of an array synthesis in which each of the locations are defined by the presence or absence of 29 variables in three qualitative levels important, important, unimportant, insignificant or absent.

The *legal territories* researched in the proposed case study refer to the application of Colón's Municipal Ordinance 252/1979 and 1069/89 that rules the implementation of the Provincial Law 8912/1977 regarding Land Planning and Land Use. This is a prescriptive instance that determines what the territory should be. To that end we evaluate, among other elements, the correlation between what's prescribed and what's observed and perceived. A high number of differences emerged from this analysis. In the present case, has detected a significant level of divergence between these levels.

The differences between what the rule provides, what the real land occupations listed as fact, and what they perceive the different sectors of society are highly significant Colón. Thus, the lack of updated legislation is in many cases an obstacle to local development of the party or individual sectors. The dynamics of the urbanization process is not reflected in the regulatory framework, with

the consequent gap between the legal territory and the actual territory. Similarly, it creates a situation of great vulnerability of local management to the lack of tools to enable it face the pressures of different economic groups.

The possible territories respond to a propositional intention that tries to integrate what's real, experienced and thought, while recognizing the elements recovered during the research process to offer territorial alternatives which recognize present trends and logics and impact the future to generate more equitable, less excluding, more sustainable and sound territories. For the case of Colón, these possible territories are materialized in an Urban, Complimentary and Rural Zoning proposal that's part of a Draft Urban and Territorial Planning Project consisting of 481 specific items, plus a section that sets forth objectives, challenges and strategies. Among the most notable challenges of ordering can be identified urban growth by defining a city skyline and scattered less segregated than the existing, and promote diversification of production in order to decrease reliance on a favorable scenario in the agricultural sector. Among the strategies proposed to achieve other possible areas in Colón have been ordered in five dimensions: mobility strategies, social strategies - urban strategies, socio - economic, ecological strategies and management strategies. Each dimension is made up of a series of specific strategies to systematize Colón. These strategies are synthesized with the development of a cartographic document summary, which shows the proposed model for the entire party and a document establishing the zoning map along the lines of the draft land use proposed.

### **Some conclusions**

The results obtained from the reflective exercise carried out allow partial venture some conclusions about the grade of the theoretical -methodological research work with a strong territorial intervention. In the case studied, it was found a significant presence of theoretical and methodological

principles that guide the action research conducted by integrating in a coherent and articulated territorial dimensions, trends and extra-territorial logic, active participation of different social sectors, and effective communication of interim and final products obtained. In this context, the results of this study suggest that the *TERRITORII* method shows great utility as a guiding tool for concrete action and territorial planning interventions aimed at achieving intelligent territorial actions, agreed by all local stakeholders in order of territorial co-

construct alternative scenarios, more equitable and sustainable development related to territorial.

Also, the method also shows a high level of value for analysis aimed at standardization and systematization of results of various investigations of territorial application made in order to draw conclusions and lessons learned implementing plausible exceeded in future research, the least in part, show a territorial dimension.

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