THE GEOGRAPHY OF INSECURITY IN PORTUGAL IN A POST-CRISIS PERIOD: NEW CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE COHESION POLICY

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ABSTRACT

Although crime is, overall, dropping in Europe (and Portugal), specific types of crimes as for example sexual violence have been increasing. As well, other problems such as the economic crisis and political unrest have fueled tensions in urban spaces and have added to spatial disparities.

Consequently, a transversal objective of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is still urban safety. Goal 16 aims for the significant reduction of all forms of crime and violence, whilst Goal 5 refers specifically to the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Goal 10 aims to guarantee safety in territorial mobility and Goal 11 addresses the provision of safe and universal access to settlements and their public spaces.

Urban safety is, however, very much regarded in its social, political, and economic facets, but less so as a spatial phenomenon, whose urban and geographical dimensions are often overlooked. This research thus aims to inform the recent debate on cohesion and sustainable development in Portugal, by examining the geographies of crime and insecurity in the last 10 years. Using a yearly time series at municipal level and multivariate statistical techniques, the evolution of the territorial expression of criminality is traced and the dynamics of each territory, in themselves and as part of their respective sub-national urban system, are analyzed. This spatial approach allows hot-spotting territories at risk, make comparisons with other space-based phenomena of a socio-economic nature, and discuss the implications for integrated public policies regarding the allocation of resources for safety, and polycentric planning.

Keywords: Insecurity, hot-spot policing, crime mapping, social and territorial cohesion, sustainable development, Portugal

A REDUÇÃO DAS DESIGUALDADES POR MEIO DO PLANEJAMENTO URBANO PARA A CIDADE SAUDÁVEL
THE REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES TRHOUGH URBAN PLANNING TO THE HEALTHY CITY

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RESUMO

O desenvolvimento das cidades modernas, realizado com concepções pautadas no avanço do setor econômico, gerou inequidades, segregações, distanciamentos entre as classes e restrições ao acesso a direitos humanos. O conceito de cidade saudável é apresentado como um possível