

Title: Peripheral corridors: the post-metropolitan landscape of Leganes (Madrid) and Melville (Johannesburg)

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Three key words: peripheral development, corridors, post-metropolitan landscape

Workshop First Preference: Post- Metropolis Regional Urban Development processes in Italy and the world **Workshop Second Preference:** New mobilities and dialectics between places and corridors in cities and territories

Thesis describing main arguments: This paper consists of a general history of the concept of periphery and aims to introduce the different definitions of periphery in architectural and other theories. It begins by setting out some of the difficulties encountered when attempting to define the periphery, before continuing with the three main parts to the paper. The first of these provides a general taxonomy and describes the characteristics of the periphery in architecture, based on historical general discourses; the second examines architectural discourse and typologies in more detail, developing a particular focus on the European context and thirdly it focuses in more detail on this difficulty of defining the peripheral condition in architecture theory. The architects Jonathan Woodroff, Dominic Papa and Ian Mac Burnie write: "Today, it seems an almost impossible task to define a contemporary peripheral condition; and yet it is that very quality, its extreme elusiveness, that ensures its attractiveness for debate [...] In Western Europe with the exception of Britain, the notion of periphery has historically been associated with the 'marginal'".¹

This quote summarises recent discourse on peripheries, where the difficulty of the theme through its elusiveness has made the discourse marginal. So it is through these marginal figures that the exploration of the theme can be carried out in order to understand its language. As Lars Lerup writes: "The abecedarium is a table of alphabet letters that for centuries has allowed students to commit the fundamental structure of language to memory. Likewise reading the city requires a metropolitan alphabet, a collection of base elements fundamental to the character of the middle landscape".²

Methodology/case study/comparisons, etc.: This paper will look at how the traditional categories used for interpreting the features of urban development are not anymore capable of grasping the distinctive features of the recent processes of urban transformation in peripheral areas and will focus in the application of peripheral theories in two urban corridors located in Leganes in Madrid (Spain) and Johannesburg (South Africa).

Expected results: The paper will look at the theoretical difficulty to define periphery in architecture and its application to two peripheral corridors in two capital suburbs in Spain and South Africa.

¹ J. Woodroffe, D. Papa, D and I. Mac Burnie "An Introduction" in M. Toy (ed) *The periphery* (London: Architectural design, 1994), 6.

² L. Lerup, *One million acres & no zoning* (London: Architectural Ass., 2011), 131.