



The Most Expensive Lettuce in Quito: Transformation of Urban Agriculture Through a Feminist Political Ecology Lens

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Case Studies in UA: Policy
Implementation & Implications

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Objectives

Outline how the feminist political ecology framework can be used to analyze transformation of urban agriculture.

Discuss the practice urban agriculture in Quito, Ecuador, and how the theoretical framework can be used for analysis.

Introduction of Feminist Political Ecology

- FPE is a critical framework that can be used to analyze power relations and equality across scales
- Initially, FPE practitioners saw the potential to explore how local experiences are affected by and connected to larger scale environmental and economic change.
- It shows an analysis of gender alone is not sufficient, women do not have one singular experience.
- Experiences of social inequity and unequal power relations vary by different social categories, space, and time.





New Feminist Political Ecology

- Elmhirst: calls for an open-ended FPE with an intersectional look at different subject positions and their effects
- Mollett & Faria: call for critical attention to race & other social categories in FPE analysis through lens of post-colonial intersectionality

EMPHASIZING
POWER & POLITICS AT DIFFERENT
SCALES

CHALLENGING
DOMINANT WAYS OF KNOWING

FEMINIST POLITICAL ECOLOGY

EXPLORING
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SOCIAL
LOCATION & SUBJECT FORMATION

UNDERSTANDING
COMPLEX CONNECTIONS BETWEEN
NATURE & SOCIETY

Principles of a New Feminist Political Ecology

Emphasizing politics and power at different scales (Elmhirst, 2015)	Challenging dominant ways of knowing (Elmhirst, 2015)	Exploring connections between dimensions of social location and subject formation (Elmhirst, 2015)	Understanding complex relations between nature and society (Elmhirst, 2015)
-Analysing of power relations and equality (Elmhirst, 2015)	-Privileging of local knowledge (Rocheleau et al., 1996)	-Recognizing changing and unstable constructions of racial and gendered identities (Mollett & Faria, 2013)	-Exploring access to and control of resources and the implications on environmental health and sustainable livelihoods (Elmhirst, 2011)
-Exploring how local experiences influence larger scale change and vice versa (Harcourt & Nelson, 2015)	-Including local experience in knowledge development (Rocheleau et al., 1996)	-Committing to addressing disadvantages and inequality through post-colonial intersectionality (Mollett & Faria, 2013)	-Analysing intersectional experiences of and response to environmental and political-economic change (Hovorka, 2006)
-Exploring how micro influences macro and macro influences micro (Hovorka, 2006; Harcourt & Nelson,	-Ongoing construction of a network of learners (Harcourt & Nelson, 2015)	-Theorizing “colonial present” & decolonizing research (Mollett & Faria, 2013)	

Intersectionality

- The understanding that people belong to multiple complex and fluid categories of identity that intersect and reflect their lived experiences
- Intersectional identities affect access to the practice of UA
- Through roles & responsibilities, division of labour, access to resources, decision making control, & access to space



Post-Colonial Intersectionality

Rethinking of Researchers Situated Positions (Rocheleau, 2015; Lykke, 2010)	Valuation of Lived Experience & Local Knowledge (Walsh, 2015)	Analysis of How Patriarchy & Racialized Processes are Embedded in Developm ent Work (Mollett & Faria, 2013)	Understanding that Power Differentials are Partially Produced by Structural Inequality Between the GN & GS (Mollett & Faria, 2013)	Rejection of Essentialist Categories in Analysis (Valentine, 2007)	Reflection that PCI is a Process, not a Structure (Lykke, 2010)	Recognition of Complexity of Individual's Social Locations (Crenshaw, 1989)
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Urban Agriculture in Quito, Ecuador



Participatory Urban Agriculture Project

Goals:

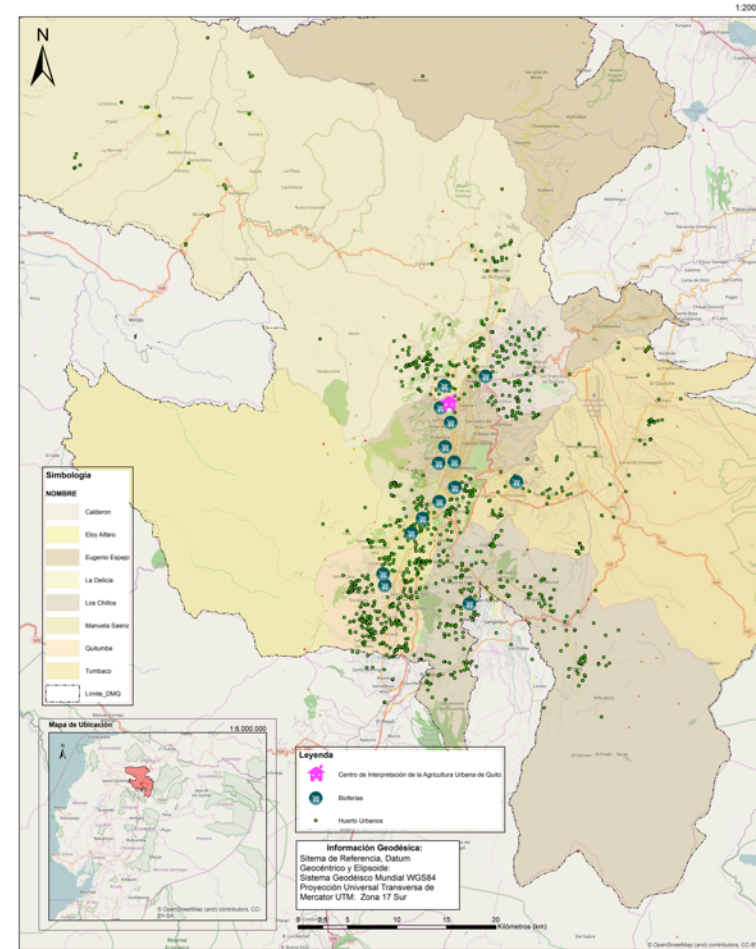
- Generate food security
- Food sovereignty
- Income increase, employment
- Environmental management
- Inclusion
- Social cohesion
- Resilience and sustainability

...through the implementation of organic gardens and small livestock, organic markets, infrastructure development, farmer training.

Quito's UA Achievements

- 380 organized groups
- 80% of participants are women
- 4,500 beneficiaries / year
- 3,600 gardens implemented
- 21,000 farmers trained
- 17 'bioferia' markets
- 105 types of diverse food grown
- 150,000 kilos of organic products are produced annually on 29 hectares of land
- \$175 USD of extra income / month for participants

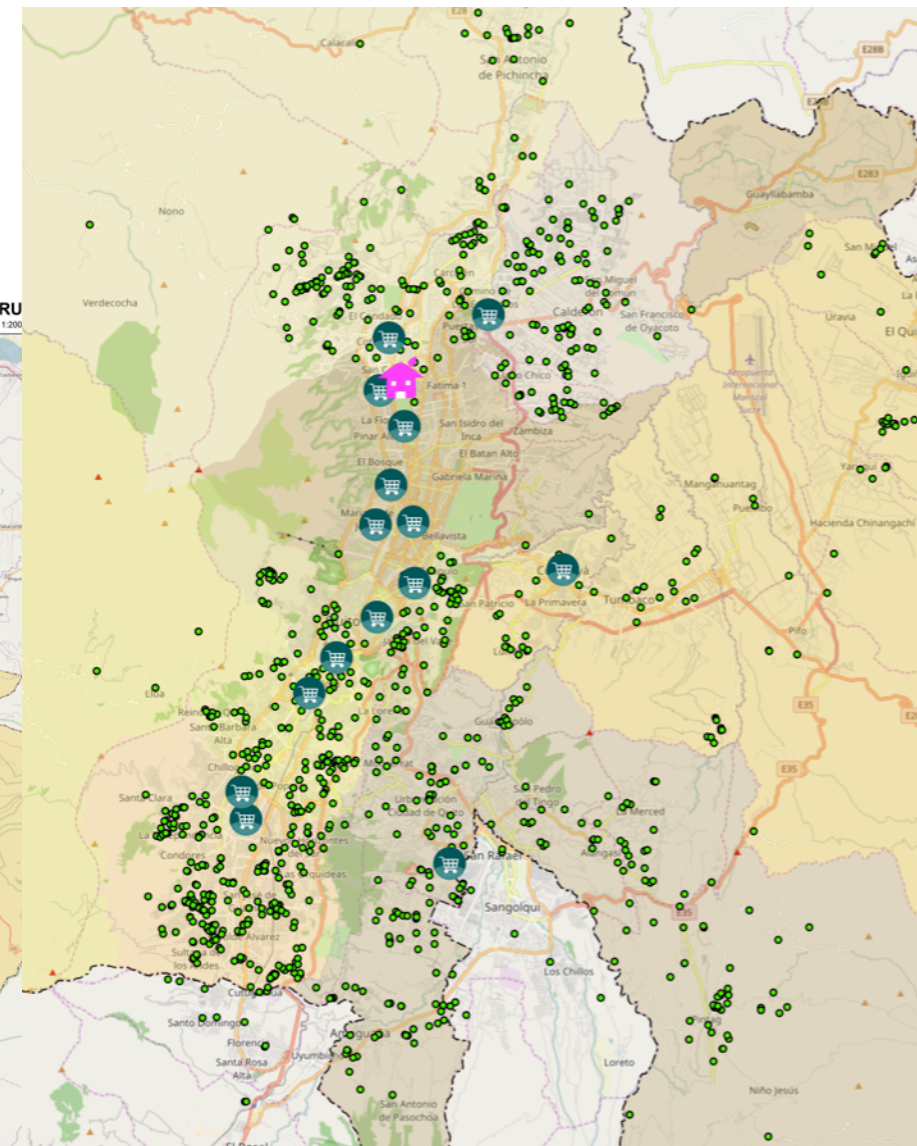
HUERTOS Y BIOFERIAS DEL PROYECTO DE AGRICULTURA URBANA PARTICIPATIVA AGRU



PROYECTO DE AGRICULTURA URBANA PARTICIPATIVA - "AGRUPAR"		
Tema: Huertos Urbanos y Bioferias dentro del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito (DMQ)		
Escala de Trabajo: 1:200.000	Escala de Impresión: A2	Fecha: 23/08/2017
Fuentes: Límite del DMQ y Administraciones Zonales - Secretaría General de Planificación de Quito Huertos Urbanos y Bioferias: CONQUITO - Proyecto Agrupar (2017) Mapa Base: Open Street Map		



Realizado por: Patricio Loza



Preliminary Results from Scoping Research

- UA in Quito is thriving through the support of AGRUPAR & CONQUITO and the participants
- To improve & expand the program:
 - Scaling up & out
 - Building partnerships & networks
 - Enhance marketing & promotion
- FPE analysis in Quito:
 - Intersectional identities of the participants, examining power relations across the system, challenging dominant knowledge systems, including the voices of those who are marginalized, and integrating the complex relationship between nature & society





Thank you!

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