

Are the fairs for all? Movement and accessibility in the open-air markets of Caruaru (PE) and Campina Grande (PB)

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The open-air markets are part of the life of the city, specially the ones in the Northeast of Brazil, as they keep an intimate and symbiotic connection between them, through the occupation of the urban space, the colours and the diversity of products, the human relationships and the cultural richness. This work aims to analyze the interfaces of trade with the cities, taking as case studies two of the most representative examples, the open-air market of Caruaru (feira de Caruaru) and Campina Grande (feira de Campina Grande). There are several aspects that can be investigated in a study on open-air markets, yet the configurational aspects of these spaces (or their spatial patterns) are often neglected. The closest studies to investigations of this nature were made by Azinzadeh (2003) and Nejad (2005) in Iranian bazaars. So, the lack of researches on use patterns of informal trade in urban areas has provided a springboard for the development of this work. In these markets, if fuller or emptier, the different atmospheres allow different types of movement patterns, favoring a constant process of change in the space. For a contribution to enhancing the framework of existing research on this theme in particular, this paper has addressed this issue based on the concepts of accessibility and movement - two variables that are closely linked and present in any discussion of patterns of space occupation by the open-air markets.

Keywords: open-air markets, Caruaru, Campina Grande, movement, accessibility.