



# PROCESS PART 1

## STUDY TRIP DIARY

18.01 – 23.02.2014

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## PREWORD\_

As indicated in my preliminary document, my main method for getting an understanding of the area, would be to go there and talk to the people living there. The plan was for my research to be based mainly on the information they would give me and the observations I would make while being there.

In order to go to the area I was very dependent on the collaboration with my co-students from the Richardo Palma University, Joel and Jhonatan. Because of the social stigma the area carries, and the general safety issues in Lima, they warned me numerous times about going there. But they too were interested in doing research about the area for themselves and their projects, so we agreed to cooperate.

We were able to go to the area 9 times all together, and I have documented all of the visits. Ideally I would have liked to spend more time there, even without being on a mission to do interviews, take pictures and notes. But I was dependent on my local co-students when going there both for safety reasons and also because of the language barrier. I therefore spent the rest of the time visiting other parts of Lima, doing research, talking to two professors and one lady at a NGO about my project, and that taught me a lot about the general impression about the *barriada* and Lima's future.



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Transcripts of interviews is available as it's own pdf-document.

## LOCATIONS OF INTERVIEWS AND WALKING ROUTES\_



WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
<p>_ Meeting with professor Sharif Kahatt at the Catholic University in Lima</p> <p>_ Meeting with co-students Jhonatan and Joel</p> <p>_ Visits to the area on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Jan.</p>	<p>_ Organising of first impressions and online research</p> <p>_ Meeting with professor Mariana Leguia at the Catholic University in Lima</p> <p>_ Meeting with the NGO Foro Ciudades Para La Vida</p> <p>_ Meeting with co-student Astrid</p>	<p>_ Visits with Jhonatan to the area on the 4th and 6th Feb. Fikko showed us around</p> <p>_ Working with registrations and research</p>	<p>_ Visits with Jhonatan to the area on the 13th Feb to meet Fikko again</p> <p>_ Visit to the area and Patio Union to talk with Daniel on the 15th Feb</p> <p>_ Working with registrations and research</p>	<p>_ Visits to the area on the 18th Feb with Joel and Jhonatan</p> <p>_ Meeting with Alexander Wiegling at Llama Architects</p> <p>_ Working with registrations and research</p>

## VISIT 1\_21.01.2014

### *Equipment:*

Note book

### *Where:*

The governmental housing project Mirones by Av. Colonial

### *Information:*

The first thing we did was to visit to the police station, which was useful as we learnt the location of the police station in Mirones Bajo (it was not available online). We were also warned about the security, which wasn't surprising. Although, it made me think a little, as this area was part of the "formal area" and on the south side of Av. Argentina. My impression was that this part of Lima Cercado was safer than the north side, so I had to adjust my expectations to how careful we would have to be on the north side of Av. Argentina.

The mix of typologies in this area works well, it is spacious and organised. It was also a good intro to the tradition that the government built whole, sustainable neighbourhoods (examples are found all over Lima) – they all had a school, church, market etc.

The old lady walking her dog told us how she values cross ventilation and visual contact with outdoor activities from her house. She also talked about the green spaces and how it's a shame they are decreasing. This gave me a first impression of what inhabitants appreciate.

The elderly man lived in the more dense part of Mirones. It was pleasant, though, and you could

see that many had lived in the row houses there for a long time as they were very well maintained and looked good. The apartment blocks had a rougher look, and it was interesting to see that people had used the construction to extend their apartments. This gave an indication that there is little control of what people can do with their apartments, as I assumed it was done without permission.

The man said that he chose to fence his property to avoid people doing drugs in his garden. This shows lack of respect of other people's property, so he felt he had to protect his own. He also said that the green areas are well maintained between the row houses as the people living there keep them that way. The municipality don't have anything to do with it. It made me think that neighbourhood engagement is important. He also gave us advice not to go a few blocks further east – "new people have arrived", he said. This is a clear message that you should not trust new people in your neighbourhood.

### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

This was a good experience in terms of seeing how the state also solved the housing problems formally – through building numerous housing estates like this through the years. It also illustrated issues people in Lima have, like the fact that other's don't respect their property unless they fence it in, and a general mistrust between neighbours.

### *Keywords of the day:*

MIX OF TYPOLOGIES, COMMUNITY BUILDING, MISTRUST BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS, SECURITY

*Equipment:*

Voice recorder

*Where:*

Mirones Bajo

*Information:*

Our first stop was the local police station. Here we asked about the area in general, and they told us about the security issues. There are a lot of robberies, drug dealing and -abuse, and also many reports of domestic abuse. We asked them if it is possible to get them to come with us on a walk through the area. They said we could do so if we put in a formal request.

Through a walk around the area, we talked to an elderly lady in a bakery shop, an old male shoemaker in his shop, a shopkeeper in her forties, her two elderly male customers and a couple in their thirties sitting in a park.

*History:*

The first settlements in the area started in the 1940s or 1950s. The bakery shop lady explained: "I moved here in the 1960s. When I arrived, everything was already here. Houses were already built, and the main distribution of the streets was here. But everything was rocks and dust. Everything was part of the river. Back then there was no sewage and water, but there was electricity. There were no vehicles that passed through the area, and we had to walk a bit to catch the bus." This quote tells me that the area was early

organised in blocks, but fully functional vehicle roads and services came later.

The fact that the area was "part of the river" can be interpreted in the way that it was not originally meant for housing, and that people started building more or less without ownership of the land. The woman further denies that the whole area was an invasion, and explained that some people bought the lots from the start (although not necessarily from the state). The state later registered the houses and properties. The other shopkeeper later confirmed this, as she said that her parents bought land from a private person when they settled down. This information gives me an overview of how the area started off, and shows me an example of the more or less typical way that these so called informal neighbourhoods in Lima first appeared.

The shoemaker describes a situation similar to what the bakery shop lady said. "It was all rocks and dust" and "Where the main park is now was an open area with a large hole where you could find rocks and leftover materials for construction." He explained that the development has come gradually to what it is today, and this "leftover space" later became the park. The bakery shop lady also explains this and how the earthquake in 1972 and the situation in the 1980s gave the area a setback: "People were good in this area back in the days, and kids were playing in the street. But then came decay and something happened, the kids in the streets had nothing to do. Many turned out to be thieves in the end. The physical

decay came first with the earthquake in 1972, many houses were damaged or ruined. This also affected people's attitudes. The municipality tried to fix some things, but it was up to the people to maintain it".

The gradual development mirrors the situation of Lima in general, and how most new neighbourhoods go through many different stages over time to become what is the preferred state of things.

The fact that natural catastrophes can occur, and that the political situation has a great impact, tells me how the city suffered at a neighbourhood level, and that the bigger picture can explain a neighbourhood. One of the elderly costumers in the shop confirmed this further: "Everything was bad until Fujimori became president. He built roads and schools, there were more buses etc. All the roads here were built during his government. In the 80s there was barely anything here. No roads and you had to walk far. Everything changed in the 90s."

The elderly costumer also explained the relationship that Mirones Bajo had to the industry nearby, and how many of them opened in the 1960s. There were a lot of jobs, and everybody wanted to work there as it provided insurance and retirement money. Shops and services also were also established in the area to provide to the industry and the workers. This gives me one of the reasons why many people moved to this area of the city- to work in the industry.

#### *Current living situations:*

The bakery shop lady said that many people rent out parts or the whole of their house today, and many of the original settlers are now old or passed away, so residents of the area are typically either relatives of the original settlers or people that rent. I ask myself what affects there are of the high number of rented properties, in terms of quality of living and sense of community, and if there is a situation of overcrowding.

The shopkeeper mentions that rental prices for rooms are more than one third of the salary of a person that earns the minimum in Lima (Rent per room: 250 – 300 soles = 500-650 kr, Minimum salary: 750 soles = 1600 NOK). The couple in their thirties could tell this first hand, as they paid 250 soles per month for a room (housing them both plus their daughter), and they had to share bathroom with others. The man said you could find up to 10 rooms rented out in one house, and all would have to share bathroom. This tells us a lot about the living conditions for some of the people that rent. It is reasonable to wonder about their life situations and life quality as it is likely to believe that many of the people renting have just moved to Lima and are either searching for jobs or working for a minimum salary (Explained further down).

The shoemaker explained the rental situation further, and said the people renting is increasing because more new people move to the city all the

time. He said he had an increase of costumers from the jungle lately, and he put this as a direct result of the eradication of the coca leaf, as it had left coca farmers without a job. He went on to tell how Lima today really consists of people from the provinces. The shopkeeper adds to this: (After explaining that her parents moved to Lima from Arequipa) "Even now a days people come here to Lima to search for more opportunities than what you find in the provinces." In other words: the immigration to cities is still going on today, and it seems that because of the lack of space and opportunities to build or own in central Lima, they end up renting. The couple in the park are a direct example of this, as they told us they moved there only a month ago.

All the people we talked to today said they felt they had all the most necessary things (in terms of commerce and services) in a close radius to their house.

#### *Security:*

The bakery shop lady had put up fences in her shop to avoid robberies, as she had experienced them several times. It's an example of how people try to secure themselves and their property or business from robberies. The fact that they do so is again evidence of a general feeling of being unsafe.

The shopkeeper : "There is a lot of bad

people living around here. Seeing a dead person in the street was something you could never imagine 20 years ago. Today, it is not a surprising sight." This is another quote to prove the inhabitant's lack of security in their neighbourhood. She then later mentions that the junction where her shop is located, is a particularly bad area. She relates this to bad people and how they influence each other negatively.

She also mentions that a lot of people rent. Through this information, I draw the conclusion that some people see renting and the people that rent in relation to crime.

One of the old male costumers in the shop: "Well, many people say that this area has changed a lot. But it has always been a bit unsafe. Before the people from El Montón (an old waste deposit area, where a lot of people in lack of other opportunities have squatted up through the years) used to come here. There used to be a movie theatre near here, and that's where the young people from Montón used to come. Little punks, up to no good. But in those days they only used to take your watch or things like that...now they take everything. And now, near the river, there are a lot of people that consume drugs like marihuana." This quote shows how the inhabitants show distrust to people from other areas.

The young couple in the park that had recently moved there, also expressed their concern about the

safety. And they really felt that it limited their freedom, something which has a lot of impact of the quality of living.

#### *Mobility:*

On the question of how well-connected the area is to the rest of the city, the woman in the bakery shop replies that it is okay as there are many buses nearby. But she also emphasises the fact that it is more difficult in the rush hours.

The shopkeeper supports this: "It is okay, it is a good location. It is close to the centre, San Miguel and Miraflores. But it is a problem in the peak hours."

#### *Public space:*

The bakery shop lady told us that the public spaces have been done up by the municipality at a few occasions, and that they kept some maintenance afterwards. But some things were left to the inhabitants, which resulted in decay. The municipality maintains the parks and boulevards today, but it is infrequent. In other words – municipality involvement is there, but it is infrequent and the physical state I observed was not impressive compared to other parts of Lima. This also makes me think about the fact that green spaces demand frequent maintenance in this city, since it is in the desert. If it is not prioritized specifically by the municipality or a private organisation – or it is organised by the neighbourhood themselves – there will be rapid decay

and it is something that is immediately observed and creates a certain atmosphere in a neighbourhood.

Both the woman in the bakery shop and the other shopkeeper told us about kids playing safely in the streets more before than now. The shopkeeper told us about a large public space along Morales Duarez too, where she used to play as a kid. She also mentions a need for a sports area in Mirones Bajo. These things tell me that there was a time when Mirones Bajo had less cars and Morales Duarez was less busy. They seem to look back at that with joy, which can portray a feeling of vehicle invasion and lack of public space.

#### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

Mirones Bajo is a very old neighbourhood, one of (if not the) first one in MIRR. A lot of people moved there in a short space of time, and the services came later. This development is typical for many parts of Lima, but Mirones Bajo and Mirones Alto seem to be special in the way that the people were able to buy their plots more or less from the beginning. So they had ownership early, but people still chose to settle on this rocky and dusty riverbank even though the services hadn't arrived yet.

The fact that people in Mirones would come there to work for the industry, creates a link between employment and location of residency.

Today, the facts that there are a lot of tenants in each house create tension as the people



interviewed see tenants as potential criminals. They also said that the crime rates are very high in general in the area, and that it is very often because of people from other neighbourhoods that come there. This creates a tension between inhabitants and 'visitors'. I also interpret the information about tenancies as a potential for overcrowding of the houses, something which affects a neighbourhood. And the high number of tenancies also proves the current immigration to the city that still goes on today. The information given today also portrayed that the people interviewed were happy with how close they are to everything, and they are happy with the public transportation. There also seemed to be a general attitude that the area needs public spaces for kids to play in and to do sports.

*Keywords of the day:*

INFORMAL DEVELOPMENT, TENANCIES SUSPECTED TO BE CRIMINALS, TENSION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND "THE OUTSIDE", OVERCROWDING, CURRENT MIGRATION TO THE CITY, OK PUBLIC TRANSPORT, LACK OF PUBLIC SPACES

*Equipment:*

Voice recorder

*Where:*

Mirones Bajo

*Information:*

We went back to the main square to further investigate who takes care of it. This was a follow-up to the fact that the woman in the bakery shop said the previous day that it was “maintained by a neighbourhood organisation”. We talked to an elderly lady with a food trolley outside the school, and one of her costumers, a middle-aged woman working in the school. We also went to the community organisation’s building next to it, and talked to one of the volunteers there, a man in his thirties. Another volunteer, a young girl at 16 also shared her comments with us.

*Public Spaces:*

The owner and the costumer by the food trolley told us that the park had been like it is today for around 15 years (with green grass, paths, open space in the middle, large trees and large steps on the west side), and that the last changes were made by the municipality. They also said that it is the main park in the area, and that celebrations of events take place here. It used to be more informal commerce in the square “People used to come to sell food, and filled the roads and sidewalks. But they were removed by the municipality. Now everything is more organised

and quiet.”

Further on, the ladies explained how the park is used by young people in the afternoons and evenings, and that it gathers criminals. In general, the costumer says that she doesn’t like living in the area – “I am sometimes afraid of the other people living here”. Based on this information, we see that this square/park is important in this area. It acts as the main communal space and the fact that it still has some commerce and is one block from the market, strengthens that impression. It is also unfortunately an example of a well-functioning and community gathering space in the day, but then it becomes a space people fear to be in at night.

The ladies told us that the area could use more green parks, with areas for dogs so they don’t litter the streets. And they need a sports area for the kids to play in, as they consider the streets to be unsafe. They told us they have heard rumours that JUVECO (the neighbourhood organisation) are going to make changes in the park, but that “they have meetings and everything, but they don’t produce much”. This tells us that the people would like improvements, but that they lack trust and support to the neighbourhood organisation.

The man working for the neighbourhood organisation told us JUVECO is short for Organización Juvenil de Mirones (Mirones Youth organisation), and that it has existed as a typical neighbourhood organisation since the forties, when the area was founded. It has recently gone through a change of

leadership and they have started new activities like summer courses for kids and youths. He said the old people that used to run the organisation didn't do much - "they were only focusing on earning money by renting out the building for private events". But now the organisation is going through changes and they have many plans for the future. One focus is the park, they want to fix it and they have many ideas for changes (like an area for dogs, a sports area and a youth centre). He explained that they have met some resistance amongst the older inhabitants, because they see the park as more of a traditional park and they don't support many changes. This is a clear indication that a lot of people were not happy with the old neighbourhood organisation, so they have taken matters in their own hands and the aim is to start fresh. The evidence of resistance against new development shows us a typical conflict between generations and interests.

He also explained the people's awareness of their public spaces: "When you don't have good public spaces, you feel less motivated to use it. Also, it creates a situation where young people don't have much space to engage in activities, and they turn to crime." He explained how a lot of young street dancers and skateboarders use the stairs in the park, and that in fact so many people use it so that they displace each other. He said they need a new and better public space so that people can meet and share the space, and by that make a better community.

He went on to talk about the building they really wish to build. He said they need a large building, with many floors and different activities on each floor. It could be classrooms, studios, sports fields etc –spaces to gather, be social and also to educate people about things. He added: "Here are a lot of young people that can be guided and encouraged to get things done. Like the young people that dance and skate in the park. They are not bad youths, but from a distance they might be perceived as that." All this information shows the organisation's thoughts about the park and their surroundings, and how the quality of it affects the people that use it. They portray a belief that a good and active public space and public buildings are necessary and positive for a community. He also conveys a belief that the young people can be guided away from a criminal path.

The man told us that the organisation is in contact with the municipality to get their plans into action, and they are looking for sponsors. The young girl made a comment in relation to how their community is seen by the municipality and from the outside - "We are 10 blocks from Callao, so nobody cares". This comment made an impression, and shows how they feel the outside looks at them. They feel neglected.

Note:

The impression that JUECO "takes care of" the park was first perceived by me to be on a day-to-day basis,

totally without the municipality. But this was never confirmed, and the municipality was later observed to pick rubbish and cut grass in the park. So “takes care of” means that they are taking charge and initiative of the transformation and renewal of it.

#### *Security:*

The young girl explained the security of the area: “The crime rates here are high. A lot of people who live here now, rent properties. People who own the houses have moved or passed away, and then they rent them out. And people from other neighbourhoods come here and they make a mess for us. We really need to find out what we can do with the security issues. I got robbed right outside the Serenazgo (Municipality Security Guard Office), and they didn’t do anything.” The man added that gangs from the neighbouring districts (Palermo and San Martin de Porres) used to come there five years ago to have gang fights and they made the streets really unsafe. The inhabitants of Mirones Bajo then decided enough was enough, and started coming out from their houses with sticks and such when it was going on, to scare the gangs off. He said that what they need are security guards in the streets and the ability to organise workshops about security. This shows us that they have a first-hand experience fresh in mind that people from the outside make their neighbourhood unsafe, and this can build up a recent to other neighbourhoods. They don’t see any other way out of that than to increase the number of security guards in the streets.

#### *NOTE:*

The man in the neighbourhood organisation gave us his card (His name is Fikko Castro Bautista and he is a catering chef), and encouraged us to be in touch if we needed anything.

#### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

The information gathered today gave us a lot of insights in regards to the main park in Mirones Bajo. It is a main square and it is important for the inhabitants. The youth organisation has a positive attitude and many plans, and they seem to have strong ideas of how a good public space can serve the community. The plans for the upgrading and activation of the park are in conflict with some people’s idea that the park should be quiet and pretty, or a place for a quiet retreat. It is very clear from today’s conversations that they have a problem with crime, especially in the evenings. This results in a bad atmosphere for the inhabitants and could to some extent reduce their quality of life.

#### *Keywords of the day:*

UPGRADING AND ACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACE,  
HIGH CRIME RATES AND REDUCTION OF LIFE  
QUALITY AS AN EFFECT OF CRIME

*Equipment:*

Voice recorder and camera

*Where:*

Palermo

*Information:*

Through a formal letter to the police department of Mirones Bajo, we were able to get their assistance in visiting the area of Palermo, the railroad and the area close to the river. We did this as we wanted to be cautious since we had heard bad things about those places, and to get an introduction to those areas with the police would be useful. They provided a car and two officers to drive us where we wanted for a couple of hours.

In Palermo we talked to a shopkeeper, an employee of Lima Municipality, a taxi driver and a woman living by the sports field close to the railroad. By the river we talked to a shopkeeper and a woman working as a street cleaner for the municipality.

*History:*

The shopkeeper in Palermo told us that the area (which is also called 1 de Septiembre) appeared in 1972, as a re-location by people living by the river or El Montón. It was done by the government, and the people were able to buy their plots after a while. They had no services at first; they just had a common place to get water and a toilet area with a hole in the ground shared by several houses. The services came in the

middle of the 1980s. The taxi driver and the woman by the sports field all confirmed this story. The taxi driver also mentioned that they had to work hard to get the services. In other words, the area is a governmentally initiated and regulated re-location of squatters. It is a typical way of how the government tried to solve the informal development – they gave the squatters the opportunities to settle in a place where they would be left alone and where they would be able to own their own plot. The government organised the plots and gave the promise that services would come later.

*Current living situations:*

The shopkeeper in Palermo told us about the situation with renting: “A big issue here is that a lot of people are renting. And when they go to the government to apply for a housing support programme (“Techo Propio”), the government say that they are not qualified.” By not qualified they mean that their income will not reach the minimum monthly payments. Their income is too low. She also said that a lot of people move to Lima from the provinces. She thinks that the government needs to find better ways to allow poor people to get a house.

The taxi driver also confirmed to us that a lot of people rent in the area. The old lady by the sports field is on the other hand a direct example of someone who pays a lot for owning her own house: “When I go to the Comedores (food halls for poor people) to eat, they say I have a house so I am not poor enough to get served. But I am paying most of my money for the

materials I got to build the house. The municipality says I am not poor enough, but I am struggling”.

This tells us about the inhabitants of Palermo and indicates some things about some of the people's financial status. They do not tend towards criminalising the people renting, like we heard before in Mirones Bajo, but it sheds light on the difficult situation that exists when it comes to finances, renting and owning your own house. The shopkeeper also confirmed what we heard in Mirones Bajo – that the rental prices for rooms are around 250 soles and that many rent rooms in a house and have to share bathroom. This does again indicate overcrowding of the houses.

The shopkeeper told us that she had heard rumours that some industry close by will move out from the city and that there will be housing developments in the future. But she did not know much or think that it would have much effect on the existing residents. We decided to ask about her knowledge of the moving of the industry, as we previously have gotten confirmation from several places that this area now is going to be residential as there is a tendency that the industry is moving out. We were hoping to learn the attitude of the existing residents. But the lack of interest shows that it is not an issue that is concerning them very much at the moment. The industry is moving slowly, and there hasn't been any new development right next to Palermo.

The lady in the shop by the river told us about how she finds living there at the moment. Because

of the Via Parque Rimac project (the new road that is being constructed), she is fenced away from the street and there is little circulation of people. The inhabitants by the river are in a process of re-locating to other parts of the city because of the road improvement, and most of them now live in Patio Unión near the neighbourhood Villa Maria (further east in MIRR). The lady told us that the compensation they offer (32 000 USD = 84 000 soles = 179 400 NOK) is not enough, and the apartments they want them to move into are too small. People she knows that have moved, say that the apartments are okay, but they are too small. “I would like to receive a fair price for my land or receive a house with the same area in Mirones because I have many clients here and this is a central place. My whole family works and studies in Lima and I can't afford to leave Mirones and spend more time and money in transportation. “ The things the woman told us, reveals quite a serious conflict and tension concerning Via Parque Rimac, and the road work seems to leave many people unhappy.

#### *Public spaces:*

The lady by the sports field expressed a strong wish to get “proper streets and sidewalks” in Palermo.

The shopkeeper also said that they need more space for the kids to play, as there are many kids in Palermo. She also mentioned that the area isn't very pedestrian friendly for them if they wish to go to Av. Universitaria (the main road in the area if

they wish to travel south), and they have to walk or take a mototaxi along Av. Materiales. “We have been working hard to get Materiales improved, the way it is now is a disaster. We want it to be improved all the way from Universitaria to Dueñas, it is an important road. They are finally going to fix it now, and it is going to be a road with two lanes in each direction.” These comments give witness to a lack of quality public spaces and pedestrian routes.

The representative from the municipality that we met in Palermo, told us that they are part of the Participatory Budgeting Programme; they are working towards improving neighbourhoods with the inhabitant’s involvement. They ask the inhabitants what they wish, and in Palermo they have come up with a project that is an upgrading of Av. Materiales.

As a part of the process to get the work started, they have found it necessary to remove a cluster of market stalls that were taking up space along Materiales – “We have been talking to them through a year to try and make an agreement to re-locate them. And now we had to order them to leave.” The taxi driver commented on that, and expressed concern for the people that lost their workplace when the municipality removed the market activity. This information is interesting and tells us about the municipality involvement and the effects of new interventions.

The elderly lady, who works as a street cleaner along Morales Duarez by the river, told us that people

treat them as servants, and they don’t care much if they litter the streets. The recycling businesses also discard a lot of things in the street. This shows a generally bad attitude towards keeping the streets and public spaces clean by the inhabitants and workers of the area.

#### *Security:*

The taxi driver told us about the security issues. He said that there are a lot of gangs, and they have fights and get violent based on football and things like that. They are also behind a lot of criminal activity and drug dealing. He said they come from other neighbourhoods, and they have a bad influence on the kids that live there in Palermo, and it creates problems – “The municipality seem to be very focused on making this street nice, but they are not focusing on the social aspect of it.”

The lady by the sports field also said that people come from other places to rob the inhabitants of Palermo, and the frequently used path along the railroad is particularly unsafe. The shopkeeper told us that Palermo is a “red zone” in Lima – a highly conflictive area. It seems to me that people also here have a bad relationship with “people from the outside” – because they experience that criminals come and make the area unsafe. The taxi driver also shows disapproval of the municipality’s focus on the physical improvement of Palermo, when he sees it as more necessary to try to straighten out the social problems.

### *Mobility:*

The shopkeeper said that she is quite happy with how close things are and she doesn't see it as a difficulty to get there. The taxi driver points out how the peak hours make things more difficult. The lady by the sports field on the other hand, said that she "feels like she lives on the outside of Lima". These differences in opinions tell us that they are physically okay located, but that some aspects may for some make them feel that the way they live are not much like other parts of Lima.

### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

The area started as a re-location of squatters in the seventies. In other words – it is a younger neighbourhood than Mirones Bajo. But it too started off as a place where people built their houses, and then the services came. Palermo, on the other hand, was an area that appeared all at once, while Mirones Bajo portrayed more of a gradual construction.

Palermo experiences, like Mirones Bajo, that a lot of people rent there. The people we talked to didn't seem to see it as a problem as such, but one of them mentioned how tenants often are in a financially bad situation that they can't get out of.

During our visit to Palermo, we learnt that the inhabitants seem little concerned about the new residential development that will be happening in the area in the upcoming years. I believe this is because

no concrete plans and construction is happening close to them yet, so they are distanced from it. One conflict that is quite serious and happening right now, though, is the Via Parque Rimac road development. Today we learnt that it is creating a conflict and that some of the people involved experience the re-location as very unfair.

Further on, when talking about public spaces, we got feedback from people in Palermo that they are generally unhappy with the current state of things, and they want an upgrade of the existing public spaces and better pedestrian routes, as well as the fact that they would like more public spaces for the kids especially. It was interesting to note that the street cleaner said that people care little about the surroundings in terms of picking up their rubbish. Is there a generally bad attitude when it comes to each person's individual responsibilities in public spaces?

The people in Palermo also told us about gangs and the fact that people come from the outside to make the area unsafe, and it confirms the general impression that the inhabitants look at their neighbouring districts in a very mistrusting manner.

Lastly, the people of Palermo seem to be happy to some extent about how easy it is to travel to other parts of the city, but judging by the statement from one lady, it can also feel like far away from the rest of Lima as she doesn't identify the area with the rest of the city.



*Keywords of the day:*

RE-LOCATION OF SQUATTERS, MANY TENANTS, BAD FINANCIAL STATUS, NOT ENGAGED OR CONCERNED ABOUT NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, CONFLICT AND TENSION WITH VIA PARQUE RIMAC, LACK OF GOOD PUBLIC SPACES AND PEDESTRIAN PATHS, LITTLE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSABILITIES IN PUBLIC SPACES, HIGH CRIME RATES, MISTRUST TO PEOPLE FROM OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS, OK MOBILITY, FEELING DISTANCED FROM THE REST OF LIMA









*Equipment:*

Camera and notebook

*Where:*

Mirones Bajo and Mirones Alto

*Information:*

We had a walk around Mirones Bajo and Mirones Alto with Fikko, the volunteer working for the municipality we met during our last visit. He introduced us to people along the way and we asked them questions about some of the issues we had identified in previous visits, plus new questions that came up as we went along. During our visit we talked to a group of elderly ladies in an exercise group in the main square, Fikko's cousin who lives in San Fernando and we had a chat with Fikko's uncle by the river in Mirones Alto.

The old ladies in the park told us that they feel their neighbourhood is in the periphery, so they don't get much attention by the municipality. They also told us about high crime rates and that the "Serenazgo does nothing". The main park gets absolutely horrible at nights, and one of the ladies said she doesn't dare to leave her house at night. All of them agreed that they would like the park to look nicer. They also admitted to the fact that the different neighbourhoods around there don't trust each other, and that it prevents cooperation.

We had a walk through Mirones Bajo's commercial area, and we visited the local market. It

is quite large and according to the ladies in the park, people from other districts come to do their shopping there.

As we walked to the railroad, we experienced the topographical differences that exist in the area. To get from Mirones to the railroad, you have to either climb hills or stairs. Not all of the roads going north-south in Mirones Bajo go all the way through to the railroad. As we walked along the railroad, Fikko told us that it used to be a lot more dangerous than what it is today. And he said that it's most dangerous around Palermo these days.

We asked Fikko how he sees people in Palermo, and he answered that "people in Mirones Bajo are more decent." During our walk, I observed that people use the space along the railroad for different private things, like drying clothes and some have planted little gardens. Some even seem to use the plants as visual sheltering or physical barriers between them and the railroad and/or the other side of the tracks. The road and the railroad are also on different levels, creating another barrier for pedestrians. Some stairs and crossings are constructed, although at irregular intervals.

Our next stop was San Fernando, a gated area in Mirones Bajo by the railroad. We had observed gates closing off streets several places around Mirones Bajo and Palermo already, but this area seemed very organised and the gates were extensive. Fikko's cousin could tell us that the area was reserved for the

police, military and navy when it was constructed. People employed in any of those institutions could buy a lot there and build their house. He went on to tell us that criminal activity is the main problem in their neighbourhood and that they should do like the neighbouring district in Callao – Carmen de La Legua Reynoso. According to him, what they did there was to close off the whole area and by that they eliminated the gang activity. He said he thinks they should do that in Mirones Bajo. A personal observation as we visited San Fernando, was that the conditions of the houses and little front yards were better than the general impression of Mirones Bajo.

We continued walking and crossed Av. Nicholas Dueñas to get to Mirones Alto. We walked by a building that had a sign saying “Centre for equal services in MIRR”, signed by the municipality. Fikko said the building was like their neighbourhood organisation in Mirones Bajo, more or less. The next thing we arrived to was a football field with a playground for children next to it. Fikko said he would come here to play football. We also observed more level differences with hills and stairs, plus an informal use of the sidewalk: people had a big pool standing right outside their door. As we continued up to Morales Duarez by the river, we could observe that many houses next to the river were either empty or completely demolished.

As we got closer to Av. Nicholas Dueñas, we saw the extent of the road work. A large area of

Morales Duarez was closed off. We went past it to one of the houses right by one of the fences, and here we talked to Fikko’s uncle. He told us that he has gotten information from the municipality about the road project, and he’s seen prospects of how it will be. It is going to be a boulevard, and he has the impression that it will be a park along the riverside like in the historic centre. He told us that he sees all the positive sides of doing this road project, as people from other parts of the city will think better about the area. He also said that his row of housing will probably be asked to leave at some point too, and he expressed concern if they would compensate him well for all the efforts he’s put down in the house and property.

#### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

We also got confirmation today that the inhabitants of Mirones Bajo feel that they are in the periphery of their municipality, and that the authorities don’t give them much attention. They also talked about the high crime rates, especially around the main square, and they expressed their discontent with the security officers. They seem to want the park to look nicer, which I believe seems to be the main concern of the elderly in particular. It is interesting how they admit that the mistrust between neighbourhoods prevent them from forming useful co-operations. It was useful to walk around in the area and experience the topographical challenges, which I believe have a large impact on pedestrians. By that, I especially mean the area around the railroad.

It was useful to visit San Fernando, as it gave an example of a semi-gated community – an area where they are organised and have the possibility to close themselves off from their surroundings. Yet it is not as much gated as other examples we can see in Lima, where residential areas have high walls surrounding them and security guards by the gates.

Another important piece of information was the fact that Fikko's uncle told us about Via Rio Rimac and how it is going to be a boulevard with a park. I will have to supplement this information by looking at prospects and plans myself. It also gave a confirmation about the tension and conflict when he told us about his concerns about re-location and compensation.

*Keywords of the day:*

PERIPHERY, FEELING OF NEGLECT, HIGH CRIME RATES, UPGRADING OF PUBLIC SPACES, MISTRUST BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS IS A PROBLEM, LEVEL DIFFERENCES AND CHALLENGES, GATED COMMUNITY, BOULEVARD BY RIMAC, TENSION BECAUSE OF THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION











*Equipment:*

Camera and notebook

*Where:*

Planeta, Rescate, Villa Maria and San Martin de Porres

*Information:*

We asked Fikko to walk with us more towards the eastern parts of MIRR. During our walk we covered a large area, and it was important in order to see the greater district.

We started off from Av. Nicholas Dueñas and walked east. The railroad continues in the same manner as on the west side, but with a lot more and taller vegetation. It looked wilder and not as well kept. There were still some stairs and crossings for pedestrians, and next to Rescate there was also a ramp for prams or wheelchairs. The railroad was a lot more crowded by Rescate as the main street through it is a market area. We noted that the physical appearance of the area of Planeta and Rescate are both comparable to Mirones Bajo and Mirones Alto – with row housing back-to-back and all streets between the blocks are for vehicles. Fikko informed us that Rescate appeared more or less in the same time period as Palermo.

There is also an apartment complex called Parque Garezon that was built around 4-5 years ago right next to it. After a short walk through Rescate,

we continued back to Planeta. We walked up one of the streets, and saw many recycling businesses as we got closer to El Monton, (the old waste deposit area). Many people were working with the recycling, and the streets were littered with waste from the recycling activity. Fikko decided we should turn and return to Enrique Meiggs and the railroad for safety reasons.

We continued on to Patio Unión, which is the apartment complex where people by the riverside have been re-located. We were able to enter the area, which is walled and has security guards monitoring the entrances. Inside we got talking to a young woman in a shop (an apartment on the ground floor, where they were selling goods like snacks and sodas out of the window). She told us she moved there from the area 1 Mayo by the river. Her and her mother had a 3 storey house, and in Patio Unión they have only 65 square metres. They didn't have the papers for their property, so they had no option but to move. She added that for some people the re-locating was a good deal, as their house by the river was very small. She continued to tell us that one of the challenges by living there in the apartment complex is living with people from other neighbourhoods.

Patio Union is a very dense complex, with several buildings of 6 floors gathered in clusters around small green areas with playgrounds. There are 3 clusters all together, where the third cluster currently

is not in use yet. The area has only housing, no public buildings. There is a large parking lot for cars, which was being used by kids to play in during our visit.

Our walk continued up north through Villa Maria. This area was a strong contrast to what we had just seen in Patio Unión. As we got further up towards Morales Duarez, there was no asphalt in the streets and a great physical degradation of the buildings. We observed one building that was subject to unstable conditions in the ground, as it had sunken down on one side. We arrived to a very busy street with market activity, where we got talking to a representative from the municipality. It turned out they were doing the same there as in Palermo, and they were promoting the Participatory Budgeting scheme. In Villa Maria they had almost completed a new sports hall nearby, which would open that same month. She said that the day-to-day responsibility for the sports hall would be with the inhabitants by election.

We continued further, and arrived up to Morales Duarez. Here we continued a bit further east and crossed the river over an old pedestrian bridge, the only one of its kind. We walked through a neighbourhood and got to the main road. Here we jumped on a bus which took us down to Av. N. Dueñas. On the San Martin de Porres side of the river, we had a walk down and had a look. This side the river is lined by private gardens rather than houses.

#### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

There was a contrast between the east and the west part of the railway in terms of vegetation and activity levels. One of the main approaches to the neighbourhood Rescate was there, and the market activity attracted many people. An activity like that does a lot for an area in the daytime. I noticed how the physical appearance of the streets and buildings of Planeta and Rescate was, and automatically compared it to what I had seen before. I concluded with the fact that it was more similar to Mirones Bajo and Mirones Alto, than Palermo. The reason for this was that Palermo has planned pedestrian paths and a clear organisation with pedestrian paths and sports areas. Rescate and Planeta have as good as all streets for cars, although in Rescate the market street is made pedestrian for that particular use.

The visit to Patio Unión gave us insight in the re-location issues that we were introduced to before. It seems to leave many people feeling unhappy or they feel discomfort. The apartment complex looks good since it is new, clean and well maintained, but I was not impressed how dense it is. It is also a gated community with no public buildings, which might make things a bit harder for the inhabitants when they are organising themselves as a community. The meeting with Villa Maria was important in the way that it showed us one of the more dense and more rough

looking neighbourhoods of MIRR. Villa Maria seems to be one of the areas that strongly needs a physical upgrading in terms of roads and public spaces. We met the municipality there, and it is clear that the municipality is aware of the district, and they are implementing community projects. We met people from the same institution in Palermo, and it makes us see that the physical degradation of the areas is in the municipality's focus.

At the end of our walk we saw how the riverside in the west of San Martin de Porres is largely private gardens, and there is no housing. It gave a visual of how the riverside can be on the other side in the future.

*Keywords of the day:*

RAILWAY ACTIVITY, CAR STREETS VS PEDESTRIAN, CHALLENGES REGARDING NEW LIVING SITUATION AFTER THE RE-LOCATING, PHYSICAL DEGRADATION IN VILLA MARIA, PARKS ALONG RIMAC











*Equipment:*

Camera and notebook

*Where:*

Palermo and Av. Nicholas Dueñas

*Information:*

Fikko walked with us around Palermo and along Av. Nicholas Dueñas. It was meant as a walk for testing observations and walking around areas not covered before to make additional observations.

As we started off from Mirones Bajo, we walked through a quite special street – one of Mirones Bajo's pedestrian streets. It was like a long narrow corridor, and it was sheltered from the sun and therefore not so warm to walk through. Some people were storing bricks in the middle of the street, due to construction work in one of the houses. This, and the fact that we (like a couple of days before) passed a large pool in one of the sidewalks, made me reflect over the fact that it is a dense neighbourhood, and people invade the public spaces because they have no private space to use. Another very different observation: shoes hanging in the wires. This is an internationally known sign that there are drugs for purchase.

We started our exploration of Av. Nicholas Dueñas in the crossing with Morales Duarez. Here we observed once again the construction sites and we were reminded of the Via Parque Rimac Project. We had located plans for this road project since last

time, and knew that the exact plan for the crossing is a viaduct. Morales Duarez is going to be elevated above Av. N. Dueñas, and it raises a question about how the space will be in the future in relation to pedestrians and the residences nearby. The junction experiences heavy traffic, since Av. N. Dueñas is an important inter-district road. It connects San Martin de Porres, and districts further north, to Lima's historic centre. When the new road along Morales Duarez opens again, it will carry more traffic and the junction will as mentioned have a very different character.

A couple of traffic police officers were stationed in the junction as we passed by, and their main purpose was stopping the vehicle traffic to allow for pedestrian crossing.

We continued along Av. Nicholas Dueñas to the crossing with Enrique Meiggs. This junction was familiar and we had already passed it a few times. Our main focus this time was the traffic movement, and we also observed how little warning and separation it is between the train and the vehicles. I also made a note of how the gas station on the corner takes very good care of its decorative green spaces, and for that reason it is like an island in contrast to its surroundings.

Our walk continued east along Enrique Meiggs and down in a southward direction along one of the streets between the industrial plots – Condestable Jose Celendon. It was perceived as very unfriendly for pedestrians and there was no activity except from some trucks arriving and leaving at the



Inca Cola Storage Depot.

At the end of the street we arrived to the apartment complex Parque Garezon. Fikko had told us about this during our visit to Rescate. It is a fairly new building complex, which was finished 5 years ago. It has several 7 floor buildings arranged around a public space and a parking lot. It has walls around it, equipped with security guards.

The walk continued towards Av. N. Dueñas and we passed a school in the street Teniente Pedro Garezon. Fikko told us that the school used to have its approach and main gate towards N. Dueñas, but because of accidents related to the children and traffic, the gate was moved to where it is now.

As we arrived to N. Dueñas again, the character of the street was a little different than further up where we left it. It was a commercial area, and some vegetation lined the Avenida. We had a walk almost all the way down to Av. Argentina, and the observations were in short: scarce and poorly maintained trees and grass, only one pedestrian crossing (by the school) and no activity except a few street vendors. When we returned to the crossing with Av. Materiales, we turned west and had a short walk within the Palermo district. It was confirmed that Materiales is a street with potential because of the large space of sand and dust that is lining it almost continuously all the way to Av. Universitaria. Today it is used mainly as a parking area for cars.

Our walk through Palermo included a visit to

the local market and a visit to the south side of the area. Here we mainly confirmed how the houses are organised around public spaces and with pedestrian paths. Cars do enter where there are clear pedestrian areas, but mainly to park.

#### *Personal conclusions and thoughts:*

The observations in Mirones Bajo were good as they made me think about how the shadow affects the streetscape and the comfort when walking through it. The other thing was how it made me reflect upon the lack of space, and how people have to use the street as an extension of their house because they have nowhere else.

The N. Dueñas / Morales Duarez junction was informative as I could visualise how it will be in the future. Based on what I have seen other places in Lima, it will very likely not be pedestrian friendly. I am particularly concerned about what will happen under the viaduct, as the pedestrian access to San Martin de Porres still is important. It will need to be carefully planned to avoid potential inactive zones that can be locations for criminal activity and such.

At the same time, measures can be taken in the Via Parque Rimac road project in order to avoid it becoming a wall of traffic and not give anything at all to the area it goes through. Further on, a new visit to the crossing with Enrique Meiggs gave new input in how the traffic and the train co-exist in a very chaotic manner.

The walk along the street between the industries, gave a reminder of the mix of industry and housing. To me, the streets that are only faced with walls are boring to walk down, and in an area like this I imagine them to be inviting for criminal activity since they are quiet and deserted.

The building complex Parque Garezon is an example of a private new housing development. It portrays the typical housing complex found all over Lima – it is dense and gated. My problem with that is that it gives very little to its surroundings. Each apartment complex is an island on its own, so the community building across the large fences becomes very difficult. It also creates a large contrast between the OUTSIDE and the INSIDE of the fence.

What Fikko told us about the school was also something which illustrates the conflict between the heavy traffic and the pedestrians along Av. Nicholas Dueñas. The observations we did along the southern part of Av. Nicholas Duñas also confirmed what I experienced before – scarce vegetation with no purpose and concrete and asphalt with no activity expect for people walking, some gates opening and closing, and a couple of street vendors.

Our visit to Palermo was useful in the way that I started realising the potential of Av. Materiales, both because of its with and available space, but also because it is an important connector westwards, passing industry that could turn into residential developments in the future. I also realised more the

value in the organisation of Palermo. It has pedestrian paths that have not reached their full potential, the way I see it.

*Keywords of the day:*

SHADOW IN THE STREET, LACK OF SPACE, FUTURE OF JUNCTION AV. DUAREZ / AV. DUEÑAS, RAILROAD /AV. DUEÑAS JUNCTION, INDUSTRIAL ROADS, CLOSED NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, AV. DUEÑAS IS NOT VERY PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY, IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF AV. MATERIALES, ORGANISATION OF PALERMO







*Equipment:*

Voice recorder

*Where:*

Patio Unión

*Information:*

Interview with two of the inhabitants; Daniel Siesquén and his mother. Daniel is a colleague of Joel and him and his family were relocated from the riverside to this housing complex because of the Via Parque Rimac road project.

One of the first things they told us is how the road is large and affects a 50 metre parallel along riverside. This confirms how large the road is, and how many households that were affected.

The next thing they pointed out is that the new apartments very often are too small for the families that live in them. They are often 9 people in a 3-room apartment. It displays a quite unfair situation for the people that were being located, mainly in the terms of space. They have to live in overcrowded situations, something which can affect their quality of life in many ways. That being said, it seems that they have benefited from being able to choose apartment, and the company doing the road paid their costs of moving. There is also a company that takes care of the gardens and security, which has a great affect on the surroundings. A lot of things come to mind when visiting the complex of Patio Union, and it is mainly

in terms of the architecture and space. For being such a dense complex, it doesn't have much gardens, and there is a complete lack of community buildings or public functions. It is a paradox, since they tell the people to organise themselves with a community leader per cluster in the complex.

The main problem this apartment complex seems to face, is the fact that the relocation was forced and a lot of people resist to embrace the new situation. That can result in many problems in the future.

*Keywords of the day:*

OVERCROWDING, SECURITY, COMMUNITY BUILDING, RESISTANCE TO RELOCATION



*Equipment:*

Camera and voice recorder

*Where:*

Palermo, Enrique Meiggs and Av. Nicholas Dueñas

*Information:*

Interview with the man from the neighbourhood organisation and a woman living by the railroad. As we first came to the area of Palermo by approaching from Materiales, we asked a man on the parking lot where we could find the community building. He warned us not to go to Palermo II, the area furthest south within Palermo. It was the most rough part, according to him.

The first thing we learned from the leader of the neighbourhood organisation, was that the area of Palermo was originally a ranch before they came there, and not a brick factory like we heard before. An organisation called Sename (which later became the ministry of housing) planned the streets and plots.

He also told us that like the organisation in Mirones Bajo they don't get any funding. The only thing they do is rent out their community building to small businesses, which they get some money from. In the beginning they had a rule that every family should pay so and so much ever so often, but that disappeared with time. He said that they now have an opportunity to get money from the Participatory Budgeting Programme, and he expressed his relief and that the upgrading of Materiales has been needed

for a very long time. This all shows some of the issues a neighbourhood organisation like the one in Palermo faces. The leader did not seem very enthusiastic, and I interpreted that as an indication that the work with the organisation is very challenging.

The next conversation we had was with a woman living by the railroad. It is a row of 1-2 storey houses by the railroad and with their back to the wall of the industry. She said it started as an occupation, and they have not been successful in legalising it with property documents with the Municipality. The government says that this row of housing is not part of the plan for the area. She also confirmed what others had stated earlier; that the railroad is a hang-out for criminals. It was very useful to have this conversation, as it showed us a current location where people have been able to live in an area for as much as 15 years, but they haven't got clear answers from the municipality in terms of property titling, and they haven't been denied staying there either.

*Keywords of the day:*

LACK OF FUNDING, NEW GOVERNMENTAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, RESENT LAND OCCUPATION, CRIME









## CONCLUSION - THE MAIN PROBLEMS\_

MISTRUST BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS

CRIME

UNSATISFACTORY PUBLIC SPACES

OVERCROWDING

TENSION BECAUSE OF VIA PARQUE RIMAC

NEGLECTED BY AUTHORITIES

