

AGENCY IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

(Neo-)Marxists and (Neo-)Weberians Approach on Urban Social Stratification and Change in Brazil and Vietnam

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INTRODUCTION

This work explores the role of human agency in social change through dialogue between (Neo-)Marxists and (Neo-)Weberians. We argue that both intellectuals are complementary rather than mutually exclusive in understanding modern society's complexities and incessant transformation. Comparative empirical cases of Brazil and Vietnam show increasingly diverse urban social stratification and marginalized actors' choice of values and strategies depending on embedded dominant structures.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS & METHODS

How do the dialogues of (Neo)Marxists and (Neo)Weberians contribute to understanding agency in social change?

How can this approach be applied to understanding the role of marginalized groups in Global South urban social transformation?



The methods used are mainly based on literature review, comparison and interpretation

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

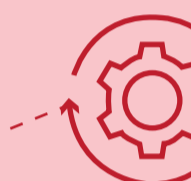
Marx: Bourgeoisie vs. workers

Weber: Class, status group [stände], party

Similarities:

- The power relations are central to understand the class configuration in modern societies
- Class conflict still plays a major role as they set out structural possibilities and limitations for social agency.

Neo-Marxist-Weberian: beyond class; relational ontology between inside and outside each agency, power and conflict for material and ideational means



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Marx: Economic forces, class consciousness, revolution

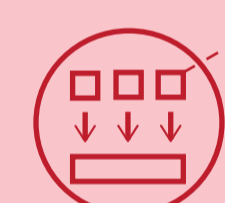
Weber: Value commitment, social action, rationalization

Similarities:

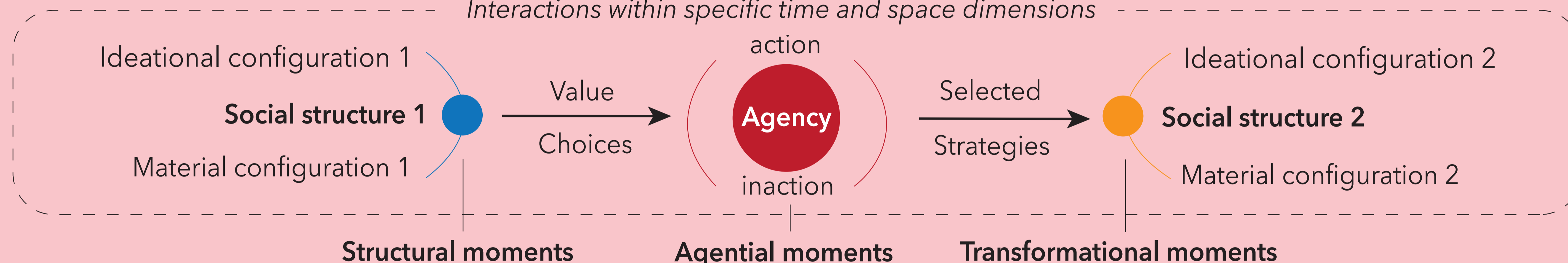
- Class struggle (conflict) serves as the catalyst for social transformation
- Dialectical view to understanding modern society to find out the nature of social change

Neo-Marxist-Weberian implies a combination of material & ideational, structural & agency elements within time and space in order to analyse complex social systems

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK



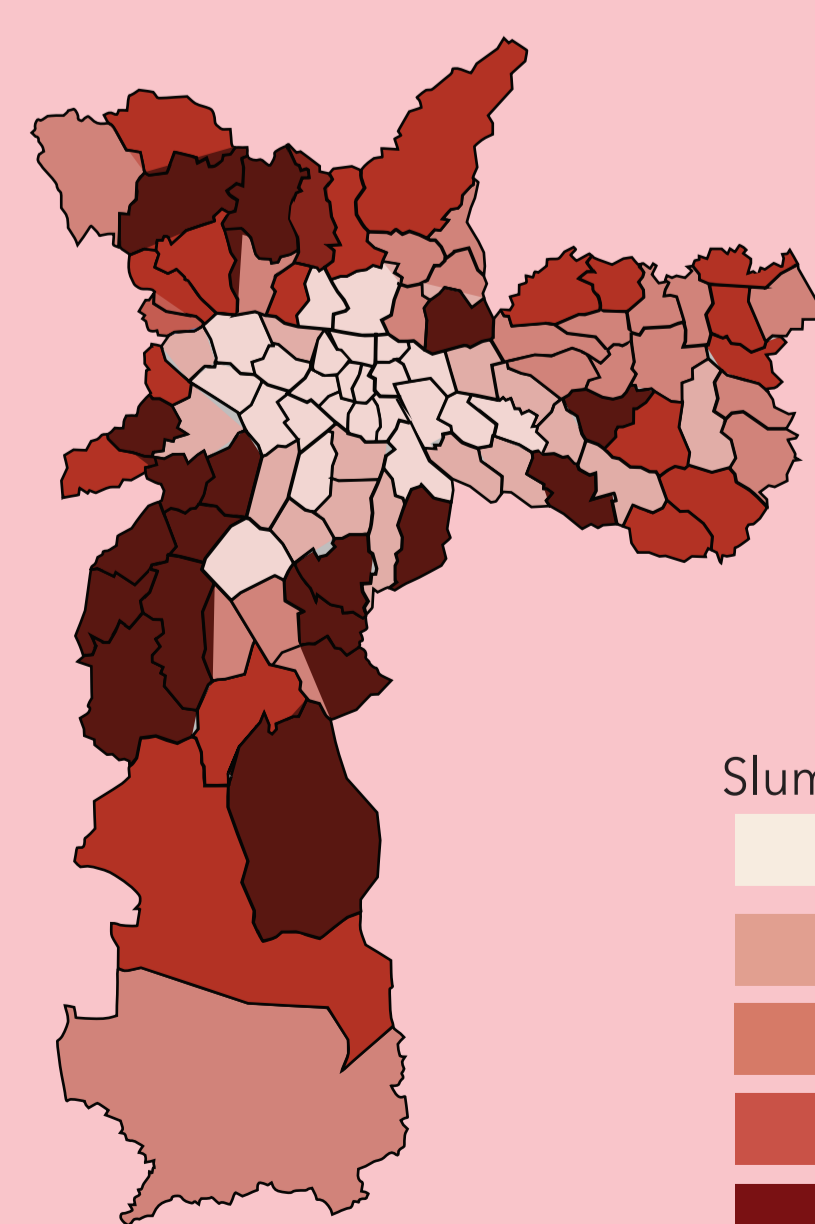
Interactions within specific time and space dimensions



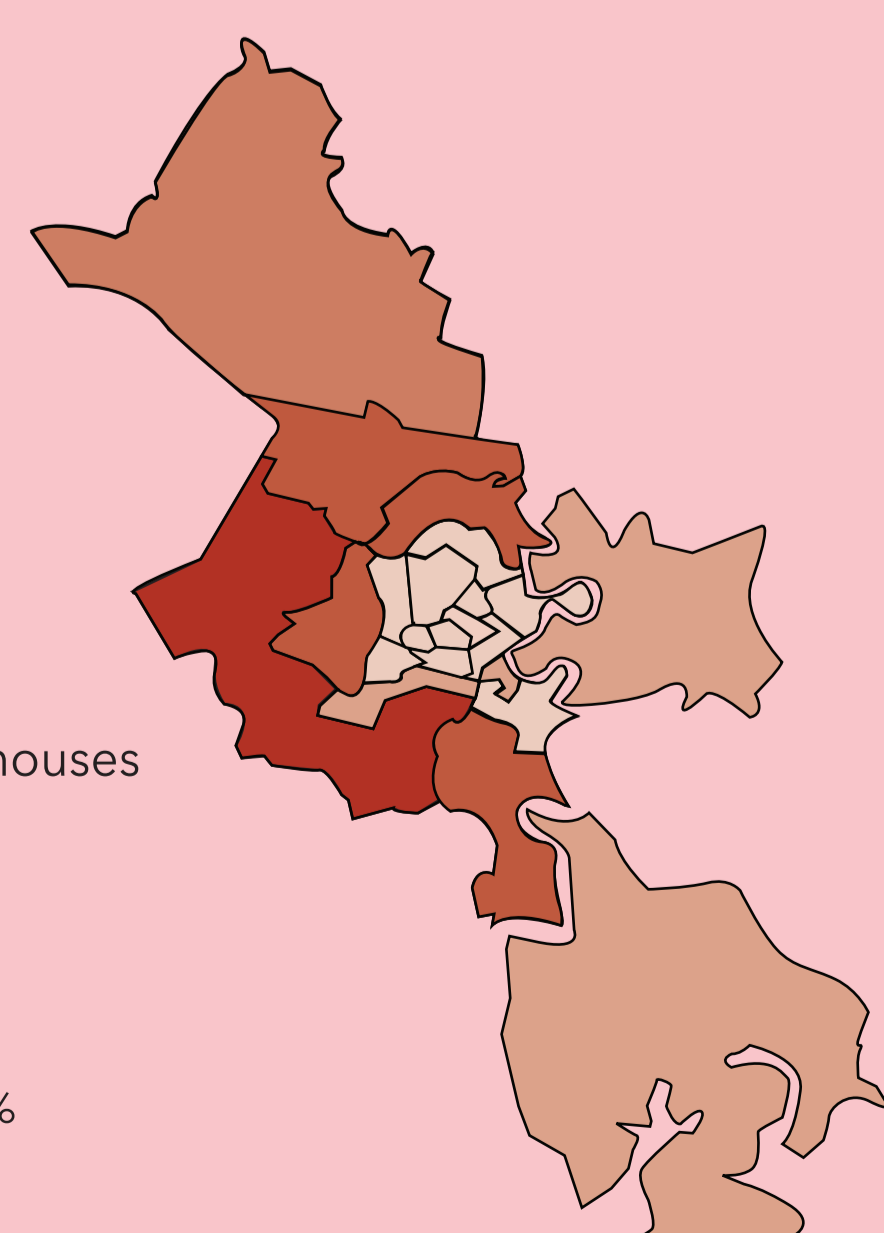
URBAN SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND CHANGE IN BRAZIL AND VIETNAM

Urban marginalized groups

	BRAZIL	VIETNAM
Main	Urban poor class (favelas)	Rural-urban migrants
Rate	31%	32%
Poverty	25%	1%



São Paulo



Ho Chi Minh City

The role of marginalized groups in urban social transformation

	Similarities	BRAZIL	VIETNAM
Structural moments	Fragmented urbanization; ideas of modern city; privatization & austerity (Cheap) labor demand; consumption; economic growth; market-oriented	Social inequality by poverty Dependence on the services of the marginalized groups	Social inequality by household registration system Socialization services for rural-urban migrants
Agential moments	Survival, solidarity and community values Informal practices	Neoliberalism Self-organization of poor neighbourhoods	Authoritarian Neoliberalism Indirect (passive) actions
Transformational moments	Collective actions Ideas of social inclusion; from territorial configuration to place-based configuration	Social movements Radical change in urban agenda; implementations of region metropolitan; municipalities	Everyday practices Liminal change in public services and local governance; short-term urban policies
Conclusion	- Diversity of social transformation models and complexities of the social world - Social change must be seen through the relations between different groups and their interaction within different structures inside a specific society - Rethinking theory of the dynamics social transformation		