Public Space to the People

#spanishrevolution / M15 & the squatters' movement

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Public Space = Power

Why the M15 movement?
1/ Financial **Crisis**, Precarious Work, Urban Speculation, Unemployment, Neoliberal Government

2/ **Context**: Contamination with Euro-Mediterranean Wave of Protests


**Why the M15 movement?**
From Demos to Camps

What is the M15 movement?
What is the M15 movement?
1/ **Starting Demonstrations**: 2011, May, 15th. 57 cities. DRY (Real Democracy Now). One week before Municipal Elections.

2/ **Puerta del Sol (Madrid) Camp**: after clashes with police and 24 arrested. Crowds attended to assemblies after attempts to evict and ban the camp.

3/ Committees, Work Groups, Popular Decentralised **Assemblies** and Multiple Demos (summer & autumn)

What is the M15 movement?
Why Squatters join the M15 movement?
• Squatters are part of the Precarious Multitude that the M15 mobilised... and they were unable to do

• Squatters defended a more radical discourse against the System... but the M15 Camp adopted their methods (Assemblies and Self-Management of Everyday Life & Politics)

• Squatted Social Centres in the city centre were offered as basic Infrastructures for the Camp and provided Shelter for groups after self-eviction... Recruitment of new squatters

Why Squatters join the M15 movement?
Why Squatters join the M15 movement?
Squat Buildings Too

Why not?
• After 1 month of Camp and 7 months of Demos, Assemblies and, above all, the campaign Stop Foreclosures... Squatting and Squatters gained **Respect** and **Legitimacy** within the 15M

• Squatting for Living and for setting up Social Centres started to be seen as **Temporary Solutions** facing the Crisis (means to satisfy extreme needs) as well as examples of **Direct Democracy** (ends of the M15 movement) more than an anti-Systemic struggle

Why not?
PARQUE PROSPERIDAD (Madrid periphery) Liberated Public Space (3 Oct. 2011)

Why not?
LA OSERA (Usera neighbourhood, Madrid periphery) Self-Managed Social and Cultural Centre (24 Sept. 2011)

Why not?
HOTEL MADRID (Madrid city centre) Squatted Abandoned Private Hotel (15 Oct. 2011)

Why not?
Why not?

MONTAMARTA (San Blas neighbourhood, Madrid periphery)
Squatted Abandoned Public Market (23 Oct. 2011)
CORREDERA (Madrid city centre) Liberated Space for Foreclossured Families (20 Nov. 2011)

Why not?
TIRSO DE MOLINA (Madrid city centre) Squatted Building for Housing Homeless People and those evicted due to Foreclosures (25 Nov. 2011)
Why not?

**EKO** (Carabachel neighbourhood, Madrid periphery) Self-Managed, Liberated and Socio-Cultural Space (26 Nov. 2011)
LABORATORIO SOCIAL (León)  
Recuperated Social Centre (13 Nov. 2011)

CSOA LA MADREÑA  
(Oviedo) Self-Managed and Squatted Social Centre (15 Nov. 2011)

Why not?
15-O ALMAGRO (Nou Barris, Barcelona) Building for Social Occupation (15 Oct. 2011)

Why not?
Why not?

15-O ALMAGRO (Nou Barris, Barcelona) Building for Social Occupation (15 Oct. 2011)
Yes, We Camp & We Squat

Conclusions
Before the M15 movement everybody seemed depressed and down... then after, grassroots politics exploited (Camp, Demos, Assemblies...)

Squatters approached the Camp, provided their autonomous skills and squats... and learned how to protest along with other precarious groups

New squats were launched due to the increased legitimacy of squatting, the creation of new groups of activists and the decreasing legitimacy of the government (General Elections as opportunity)

Conclusions
• This process can be designated as “cumulative chains of activists' exchanges”: initial face-to-face collaboration provides socio-spatial ground for further collaboration and mutual imitation.

• There were also a “structural equivalence” of camps and squatted social centres: places for living together, socialise and cooperate... both protest means and democratic ends.

Conclusions
El Poder nos teme porque la Revuelta enamora.