Urban Paradigms & Street Vending:
A Global View

Sally Roever

11 November 2017

1. Licensing Regimes

Conventional wisdom: Street vendors are 'outside' of regulation. Yet **we see extensive regulation of vendors** all over the world.

New York City Independent Budget Office **Fiscal Brief**

November 2010

Sidewalk Standoff:
Street Vendor Regulations Are Costly, Confusing, and Leave Many Disgruntled

Standard framework for licensing: require vendors to hold a license in order to trade, then limit the number of licenses issued, and selectively enforce when politically convenient. **Modifications needed**: to recognize the possibilities for regulation with low barriers to access for licenses specifically.

2. Spatial Control

Conventional wisdom: evicting/relocating street vendors will make them go away.
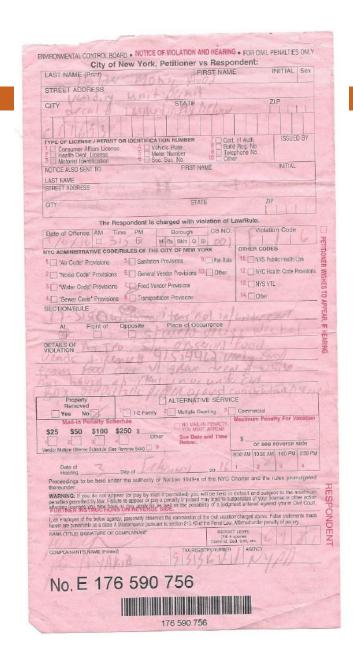
Standard framing driven by entrepreneurial urban governance paradigm. Research on political dynamics of urban space (including resistance) is now well established. **Modifications needed**: to differentiate 'formalization' approaches using spatial control from other approaches.

El drama de la reubicación:

3. Enforcement

Conventional wisdom: regulations aren't enforced.

Standard frameworks for enforcement: fines, merchandise confiscations, license revocations, arrests.
Modifications needed: to close gaps via administrative law.

4. Taxation

Conventional wisdom: street vendors don't pay taxes.

Standard frameworks for taxation: local levies, excise taxes, fees associated with licenses, permits, health certifications. **Modifications needed**: accounting for 'costs of being informal' including all forms of tax, plus relationship of tax to service provision.

Three Priorities for Research

- Ongoing interactions between street vending organizations and authorities at all levels — the spaces in between the headlining moments

- Emerging models for own-account workers to access social protection and otherwise mitigate risk

- Structured comparisons as one of many methods that bring value to debates on street vending