

CAPICÚA MOVLAB features

THE MEMORY OF WATER

RUNNING ADRIFTS throughout the hydraulic system of the city

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Overview

From a post-humanist approach this poster shows a process-oriented proposition held by Capicúa MovLab. The proposal sheds light to the understanding of human bodies as 'relational materialities' using running as a vehicle for social action. With the provocation 'The Memory of Water' this social laboratory offers an example of how human bodies can relate actively (to affect and being affected by) and committed to the urban space through everyday life mobility and movement. They suggest that running can be explored as a feminist (embodied) methodology in the urban setting to track the potential of human bodies to engage, become and co-respond with non-human materialities in the city. Through the 'RUNNING ADRIFTS' Capicúa MovLab speculates the activation of a sense of continuity between human bodies and the urban environment that potentially brings out an activist implication of people to current environmental challenges. In this case the element water was explored through the routes of the hydraulic architectures in Querétaro City (México).

Introduction and objectives

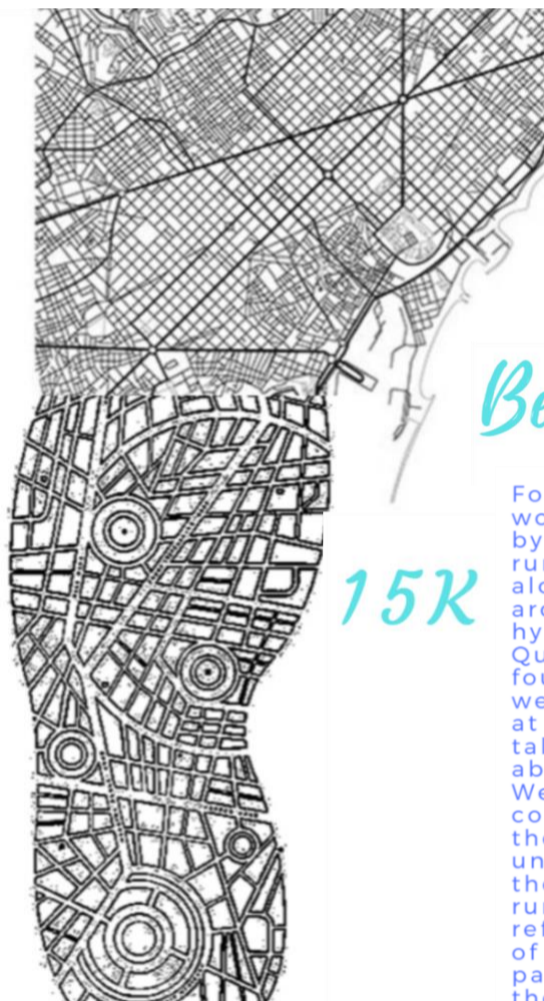
In times of the Anthropocene, not committing is a Dangerous Movement

Capicúa MovLab and the RUNNING ADRIFTS emerged in 2017 as part of the ethnographic fieldwork of the doctoral research project "RUNNING MATTERS. Posthuman embodied becomings of running in Barcelona" carried out between 2015-2018. The aims of this research were to activate an analytical gaze of continuity between the body and the city (what I called 'continuum bodycity') to look at the becomings (Braidotti, 2013) of human and non-human materialities and as such be able to explore new ways of understanding corporeality and detecting its affirmative power (Braidotti, 2013). "The Memory of Water" was a three-day provocation/exploration of the hydraulic system of the city of Querétaro through the practice of Derivative Running that inherits the idea of Situationism in its aim of sensing, flowing and discovering the urban space in an alternative way.



Methodology

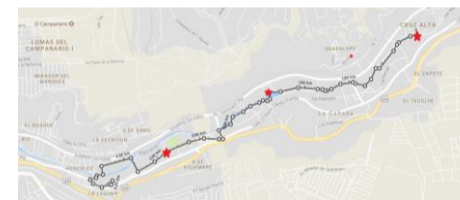
In December 2017, Capicúa MovLab made an open invitation to interested people to perform derivative running following 'The Memory of Water' in Querétaro, as part of the activities of spreading and broadcasting abroad the doctoral research project. Interested in engaging with the urban space and the element water, we planned beforehand three different running routes inspired on the ways of the hydraulic architectures in the city and the zones of occupation by ethnic groups in the XVIII century: 'the Spanish city', 'the Indigenous city' and 'the Afro-mestiza city'. This inspiration was brought from the fieldwork in Barcelona that had revealed the impact of urban elements, objects and materials in the mobile experiences of human bodies while performing casual running in the urban space.



Becoming Water

15K

For three days, men, women and dogs (guided by Capicúa research-runners) ran collectively 15k along the paths and architectures of the hydraulic system in Querétaro such as rivers, fountains, aqueducts, water wells and dams, stopping at diverse spots to observe, talk, breath and learn about the urban landscape. We created a running-community episode around the common interest of unveiling the memory of the water in the city while running, talking and reflecting about the history of the monuments and the past and present uses of the hydraulic infrastructures.



The moving pace was negotiated along the routes while sharing personal anecdotes, memories and speculations of possible futures. While performing the 'RUNNING ADRIFTS' we shaped the experience with our bodies and we were shaped by the environment by its vibrant and vital materiality (Bennet, 2010). Around 20 people were involved in the provocation. The use of digital technologies were useful to track and broadcast the activity.

Results

- + Performing the RUNNING ADRIFTS through 'The Memory of Water' we achieved an involvement with the history of water in the city and with its current status and problems..
- + Re-discovered the landscape and urban architecture from a practice in movement.
- + Explored bodily sensations in consonance with the characteristics of water and its drifts.
- + Reflected on the political place of our bodies in space.
- + Talked about the past and present uses of the public space entangled with daily life of people.
- + Raised awareness of the conditioning of infrastructures in our lifestyle and our health.
- + Expanded our understanding of the territory and recognized the problems of water pollution and bad urban planning in some areas of the city.
- + As Capicúa members and research-runners we made networking and set alliances with people of different backgrounds, professions and strategic positions in the area of urban planning.



Conclusions

- The practice of 'running adrifts' produces emplaced bodies, which are bodies whose power of existing is dependent upon movement and the encounters with various urban materialities.
- These bodies that run become in a 'bodycity continuum' and their expression fluctuates, changes and transforms based on the encounter with the city's textures (types of pavement, vegetation, traffic lights, climates, etc), digital data and other human bodies. This allows us to see how human corporeality becomes, changes, expands and relates to the territory and with itself in encounters and through movement.
- The body that runs is potentially an activist body involved with the territory and capable of acquiring awareness of the environment of which it forms a part. The body is a vehicle for political and social action.
- The running body is a methodological tool in ethnography that introduces mobile nuances and perspectives in research such as the consideration of specific sensations, perceptions, flows, contradictions and tensions experienced 'on the go'. This helps to generate situated, partial and embodied knowledge inherent to feminist approaches.
- Design and Urban Planning disciplines should consider mobile ethnographic research and perspectives to critically project the city.



Want to learn more?

WATCH:

THE RUNNING INTERVIEW

Instagram & Facebook page: @Capicúa MovLab
Link: www.facebook.com/capiciuamovlab/videos
scan the QR Code



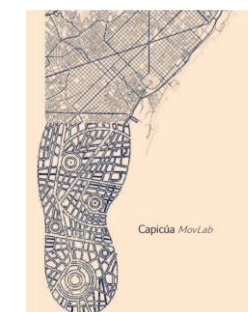
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