

Why live in a gated community? Analysis of its resident's discourses in Granada

Henar Baldán, Nayla Fuster & Joaquín Susino

10/06/2022



1. The gated community phenomenon

The gated community understanding in academic literature

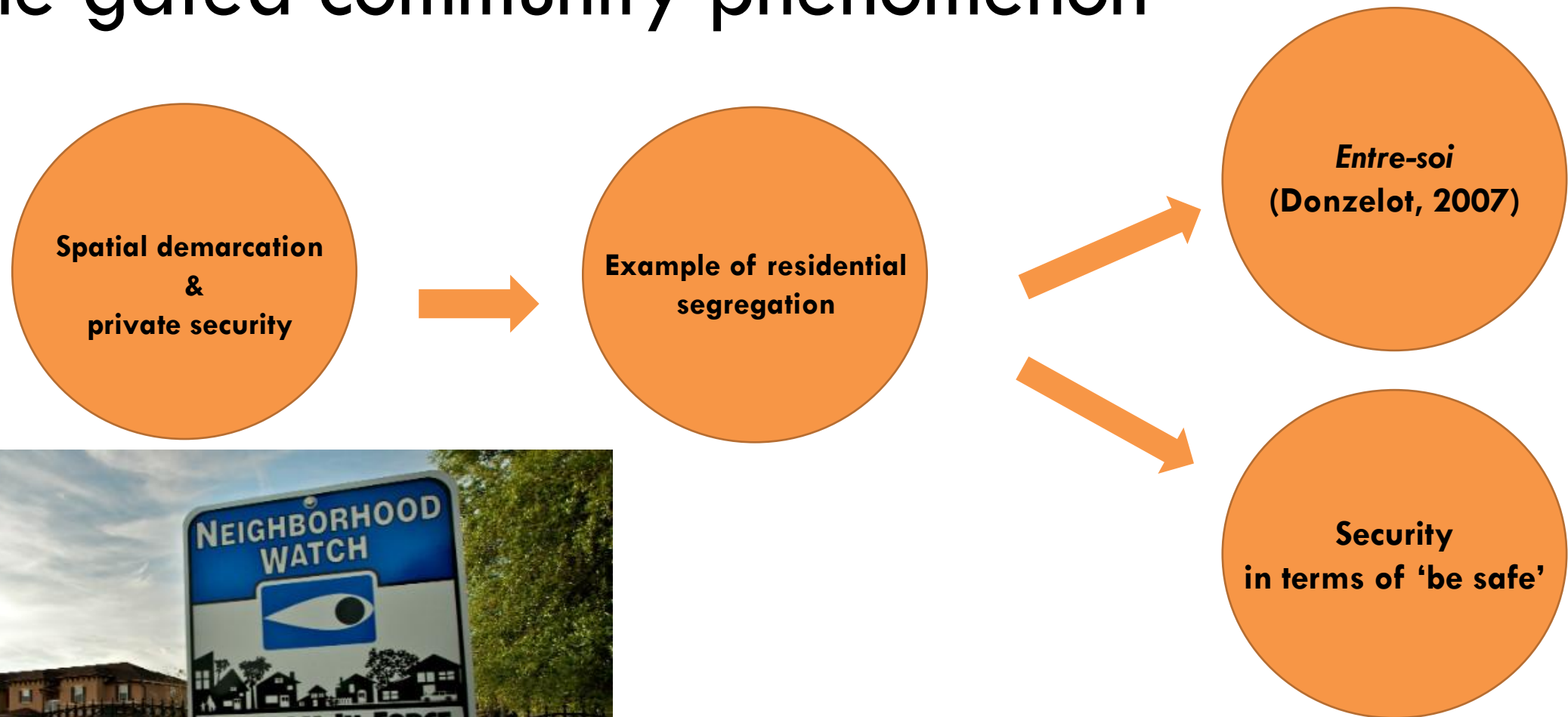


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The gated community phenomenon



The gated community phenomenon

**Spatial demarcation
&
private security**

What about the spanish context?

***Entre-soi*
(Donzelot, 2007)**

**Security
in terms of 'be safe'**



The gated community phenomenon

Spatial demarcation
&
private security

What about the spanish context?

Why people live in gated communities?

Entre-soi
(Donzelot, 2007)

Security
in terms of 'be safe'



The spanish context

The context ***matter***



Ley (49/1960) de
Propiedad Horizontal

The spanish context

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Ley (49/1960) de
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From Gated communities



To other residential/conceptual
expressions



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Abolote municipality. RC code: 003013



The spanish context

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Pseudo-gated communities
(Wehrhahn, 2001)

Natural barriers

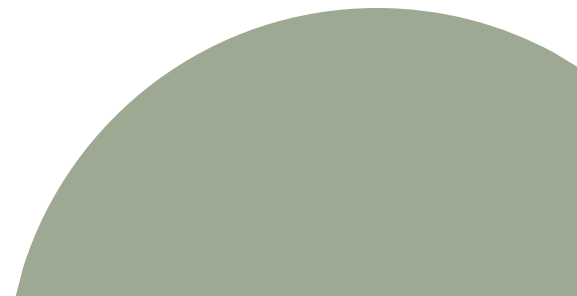
Suburban lifestyle

Semi-gated communities
(Wang & Pojani, 2020)

'Private atmosphere'

Master-planned communities
(Dowling, Atkinson & McGuirk, 2010)

Symbolic communities
(Barthel, 1990)



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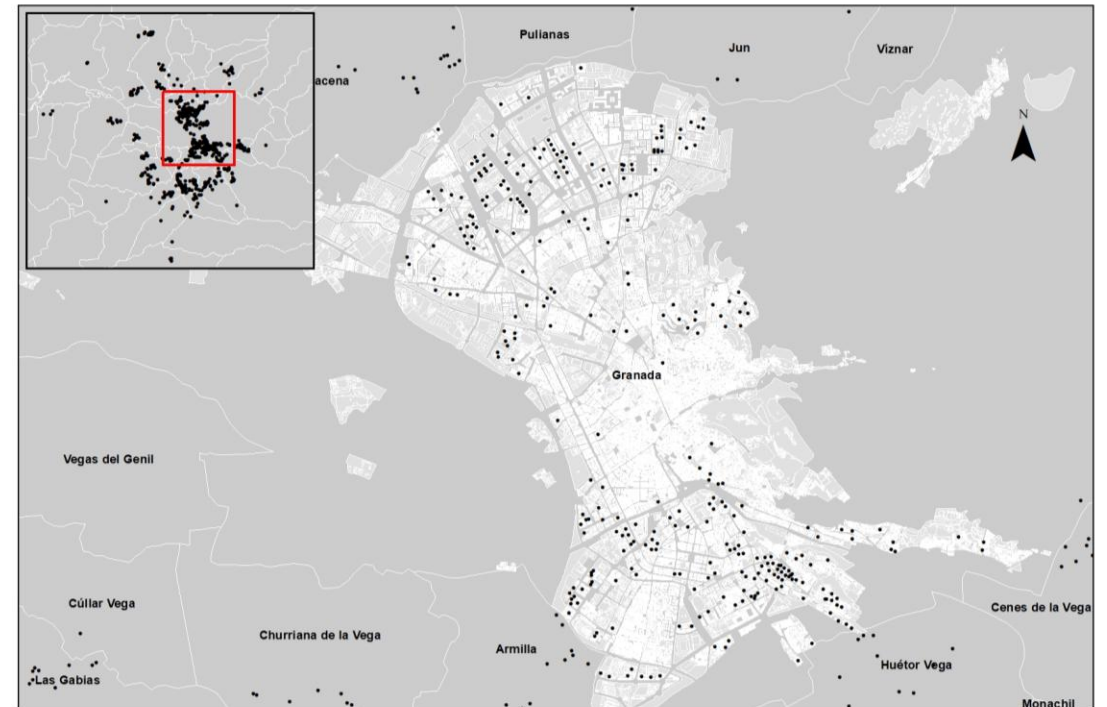
TYPOLOGY OF RESIDENTIAL COMPOUNDS

Type of Residential Compound	Nature of Closure	Type of Access	Security Devices	Traffic Affluence
Protected RCs	Hard closure through the use of physical barriers	Common entries	Yes	Totally restricted to residents
Controlled RCs	Hard closure through the use of physical barriers	Common entries	No	Totally restricted to residents
Structurally self-isolated RCs	Mainly controlled by natural and spatial barriers. Occasionally combined with physical barriers	Common and/or individual entries	Generally no of SDs presence (guards in some cases)	Open or partially restricted to residents (business hours)
Individualistic RCs	Hard closure through the use of physical barriers	Individual entries	No	Totally restricted to residents
Symbolic RCs	Soft physical closure. Occasionally combined with structural barriers	Common and/or individual entries	No	Open to general traffic

MAPPING RESIDENTIAL COMPOUNDS TYPOLOGY

URB

- 61  Protected RCs
- 245  Controlled RCs
- 36  Structurally self-isolated RCs
- 193  Individualistic RCs
- 91  Symbolic RCs





2. Methodology

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Methodology

Total of **20 interviews** conducted
(during May-July 2020)

COVID-19 Pandemic

- ✓ Face-to-face interviews
- ✓ Non face-to-face interviews

ID_interview	Sex	Age	Family household	Social class	Type of residential compound	Location
E1	Man	Young	No children	Middle class	Protected	Alfacar
E2	Man	Adult	Children	Middle class	Individualistic	Alfacar
E3	Woman	Adult	No children	Middle class	Individualistic	Alfacar
E4	Woman	Adult	Children	Middle class	No Residential Compound	Armillá
E5	Woman	Young	No children	Working class	Controlled	Cájar
E6	Woman	Young	No children	Working class	Protected	Granada
E7	Man	Young	No children	Upper-Middle class class	Symbolic & Protected	Granada
E8	Man	Adult	Children	Middle class	Individualistic	Granada
E9	Woman	Adult	Children	Middle class	Protected	Granada
E10	Woman	Older	No children	Working class	No Residential Compound	La Zubia
E11	Man	Adult	No children	Upper-Middle class class	Protected	Granada
E12	Woman	Adult	No children	Middle class	Controlled	Granada
E13	Man	Adult	No children	Middle class	Controlled	Granada
E14	Woman	Older	Single	Middle class	Controlled	Granada
E15	Woman	Older	Single	Working class	No Residential Compound	Granada
E16	Man	Older	Children	Upper-Middle class class	Structurally-isolated	Granada
E17	Man	Older	No children	Upper-Middle class class	Structurally-isolated	Granada
E18	Woman	Older	Single	Working class	Individualistic	La Zubia
E19	Woman	Older	Single	Working class	Controlled	Ogíjares
E20	Man	Older	No children	Working class	Controlled	Santa Fe

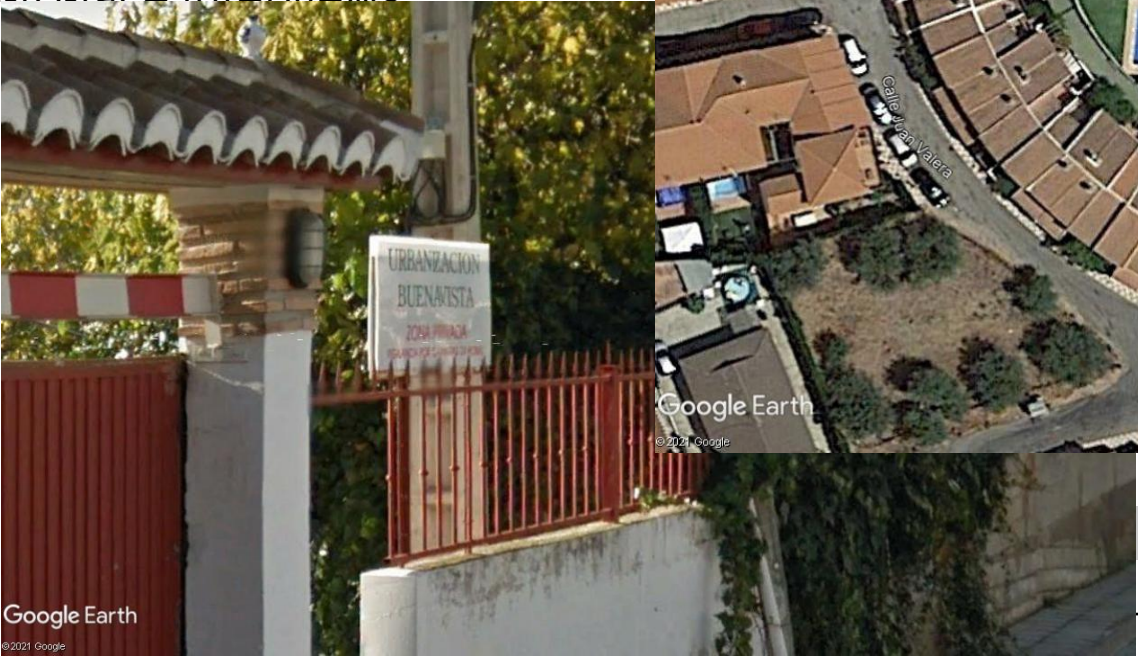
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ID_interview	Sex
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E3	Woman
E4	Woman
E5	Woman



Granada
Granada
Granada
La Zubia
Granada
Granada
Granada
Granada
Granada
Granada

Older	Single	Working class	Individualistic	La Zubia
Older	Single	Working class	Controlled	Ogijares
Older	No children	Working class	Controlled	Santa Fe

A detailed line map of Granada, Spain, showing its urban layout and surrounding terrain. Several areas in the northern and western parts of the city are highlighted with thick green brushstrokes. In the top right corner, there is a small, semi-circular inset showing a textured green surface.

2. Results

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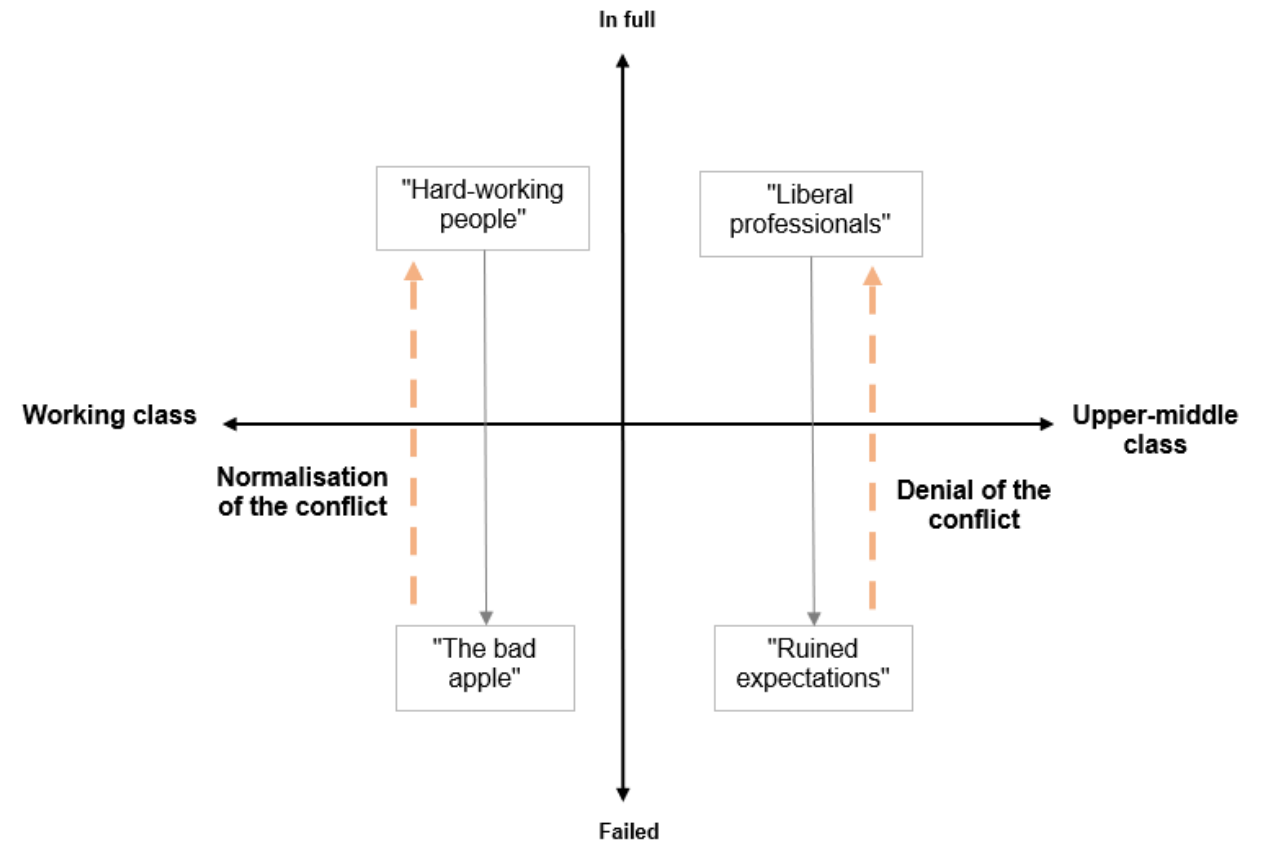
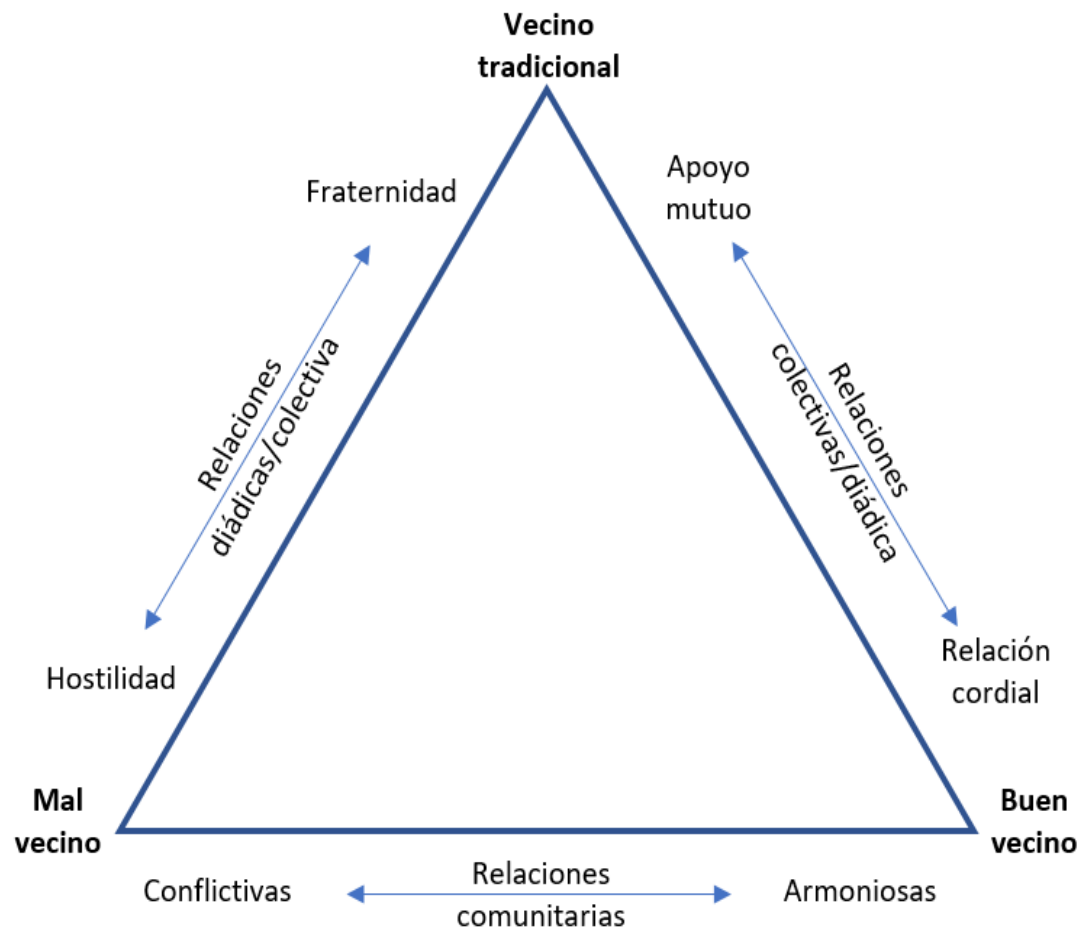


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QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS: OTHER TOPICS





What do GCs' residents value about living in these residential models?

What's about the sense of 'being safe'?



Security

Relate to fear of crime?

- ✓ Residual importance: Just one time mentioned spontaneously

What's about the sense of 'being safe'?



Security

Relate to fear of crime?

- ✓ Residual importance: Just one time mentioned spontaneously

(...) it is a very quiet area, it is an area with traditionally... very low rate of... crime and normally nothing happens. This year yes, this year there have been house burglaries, but it was the first time it happened... or so the police have told us...

(E1. Adult, semi-gated compound with children)

- ✓ Probably related to low crime rate: they even don't understand

Why do you ask me about it?

M. - ahem... and the issue of security, for example, is it something...?

E10. - I've never really had a feeling of lack of security anywhere I've been, so, it's not something that I think about as... as something... do you mean living in a... in a single-family house that is perhaps more insecure than living in a flat? I don't know...

M. - no, just because...

E10. - no, no... I don't know, I take security for granted, I think we live in, come on, unless, like everywhere else, in any country in the world...

What's about the sense of 'being safe'?



Security

When "security" appears?

- ✓ Relate to *social control* (When they are asked specifically)
- ✓ Relate to "Cerramientos" → Families with children

M. - And the security?

E8. - security too, because everything here is also locked... you have to enter with a key... you have the caretaker who is there from eight in the morning until six in the evening... he controls everything... he knows which neighbours enter, who doesn't enter, who is in the house, who is... oh, it's [the phone] leaving me!

What's about the sense of 'being safe'?



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Why people live in gated communities in Spain? What do they value?

What do they value? → La “tranquilidad”



‘Tranquillity’ in terms of peacefulness

No pollution:

- ✓ No noise (sound of birds vs nightlife)
- ✓ No traffic of vehicles and people
- ✓ Green areas

Residential community as
an oasis

Related to “suburban ideal lifestyle”

Entre-soi:

- ✓ *Tell me who you live with and I will tell you who you are* (socioeconomic homogeneity = similar lifestyle)
- ✓ Living together “cordially” (no conflicts)

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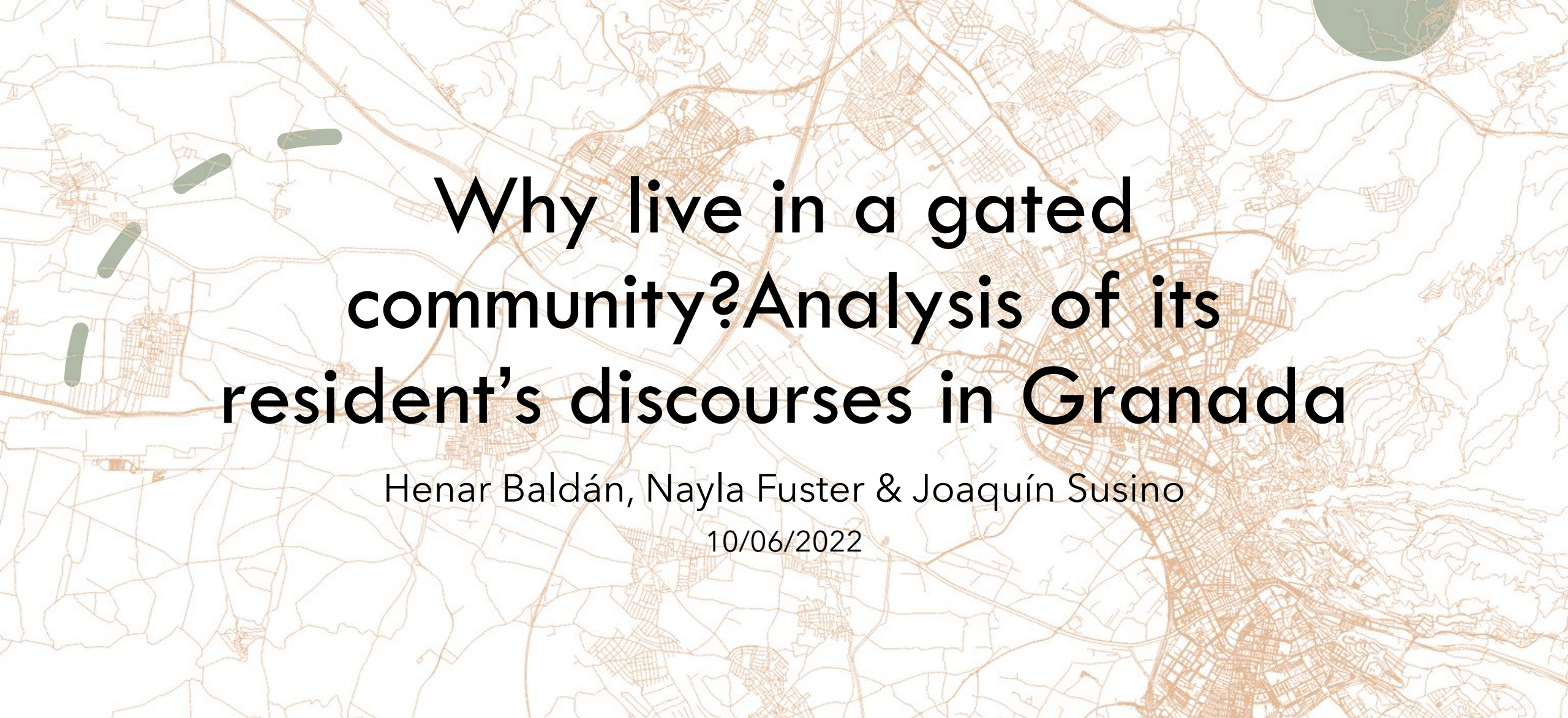
Entre-soi:

- ✓ *Tell me who you live with and I will tell you who you are* (socioeconomic homogeneity = similar lifestyle)
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This also
appears in
non-gated
communities!

Some food for thought

- The feeling of no-tranquillity in terms of **security** (fear of crime) has been one of the main causes attributed to the expansion and development of the **phenomenon of Gated Communities around the world**.
- Previous studies highlight that this sense of security **rarely appears in some Spanish contexts**.
- **Our interviews** indicate that this discourse of security does **NOT appear at all in the Granada context**.
- We went on **to analyse** the different ways in which this **tranquillity** appears and is expressed in the interviews.
- Does tranquillity depend on the type of community and social class?
 - 'Spatial layers' in the discourse of tranquillity
 - Intersocial neighbourhood relations ('I don't look for friends among my neighbours').
 - Impact of the ideal of residential relations on entre-soi...



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Esta comunicación forma parte del proyecto I+D.....



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