

# Open data assemblages in Latin America

Theory building and open data research

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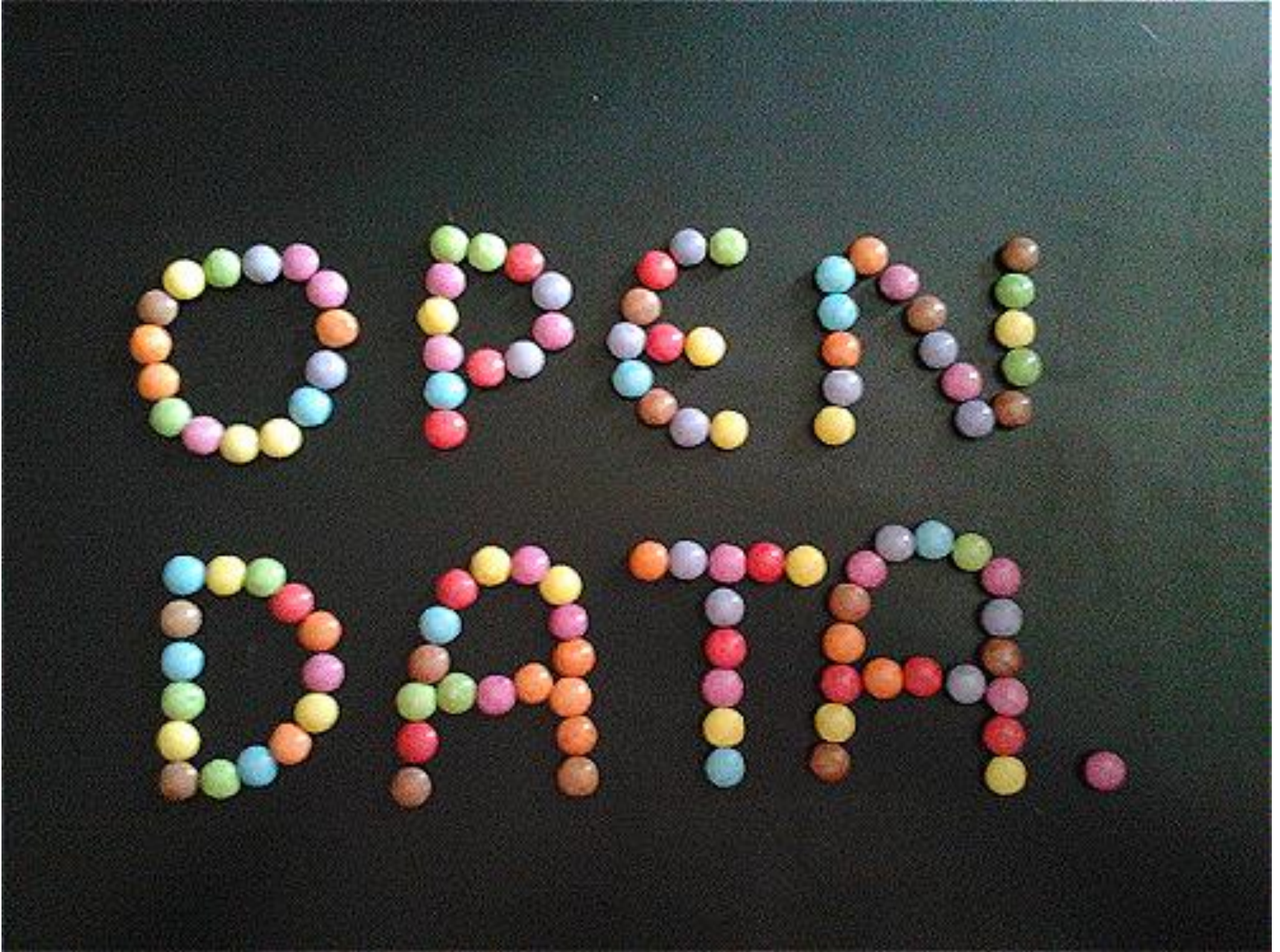


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# Research context

I study empirically **how open data projects unfold** in three cities in Latin America

**Co-creation practices** as the focus of my research

Sociotechnical framing, contextual design



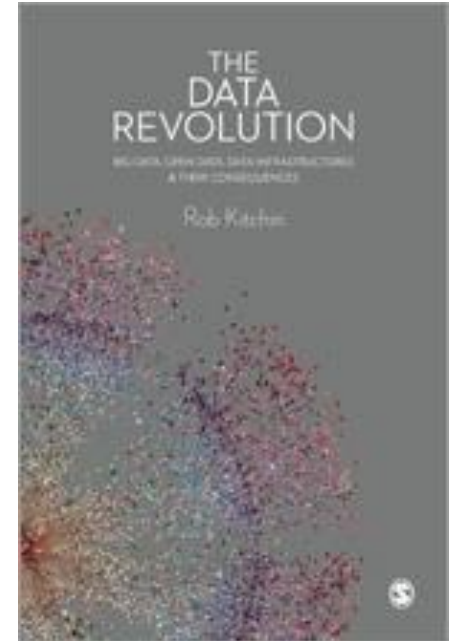
Buenos Aires  
Gobierno de la Ciudad



# Theoretical framing

**Co-creation** as the focus of my research (open innovation)

Open data projects as **sociotechnical assemblages**



# Data assemblages (Kitchin 2014, pp. 24-26)

(Open) data do not exist independently of ideas, techniques, technologies, systems, people and contexts

Open data central concern of a complex sociotechnical assemblage:

composed of many apparatuses and elements, thoroughly entwined, that develop and mutate over time and space

# Research design

Exploratory, in-depth study of three cities  
Theoretical sampling/information selection  
Government teams or hybrid teams directly financed  
by the government

## Sources of evidence over 8 month

- two visits to the field during 2014
- participation in ConDatos 2014
- 24 interviews with open data leaders, users and intermediaries,
- extensive analysis of documents, social media outlets, previous studies (Scrolini 2014; Fumega 2014; Belbis 2014)

# Findings

Most active actors: similar in the three cases (usually, governments, entrepreneurs and civic activist)

The way the open data projects unfolded is rooted in different socio-political practices:

- Bottom up approach (Mtvdeo)
- Joint-venture NGO/government and entrepreneurial direction (Mx)
- Digital champions within government (BA)

Differences in levels of deployment and uses of open data, with consequences on their future development

# Theory building from multiple case studies

(Eisenhardt and Graebner 2007)

Building theory from case studies as a research strategy to create theoretical constructs, propositions and/or midrange theory from case-based empirical evidence (inductive theory building)

Appropriate for phenomenon-driven research questions; importance of the phenomenon and lack of plausible existing theory (more contested)

Theoretical sampling and multiple sources of evidence to mitigate bias



# Theorising open data assemblages

**How** open data assemblages unfold in local governments?

**Why** actors engage in co-creation practices in open data assemblages?

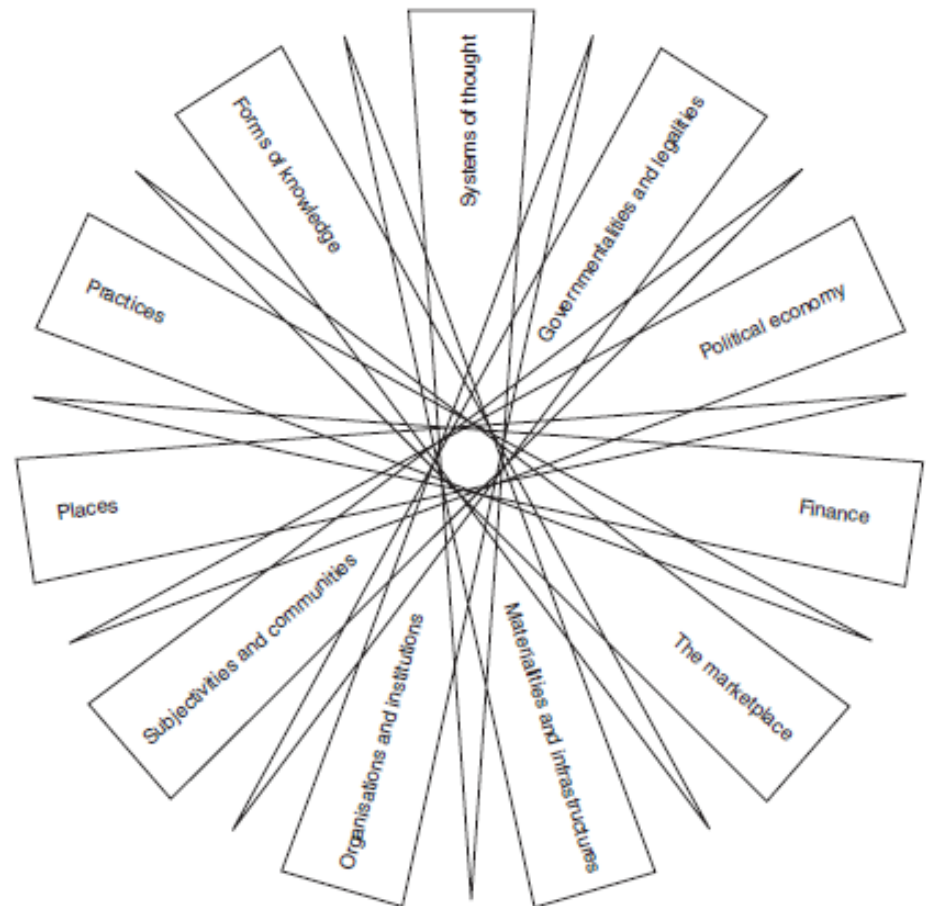


Figure 1.3 The intersecting apparatus of a data assemblage

Kitchin (2014) , p.26

**Thank you! And feel free to reach out...**

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