

Open data assemblages in Latin America

Theory building and open data research

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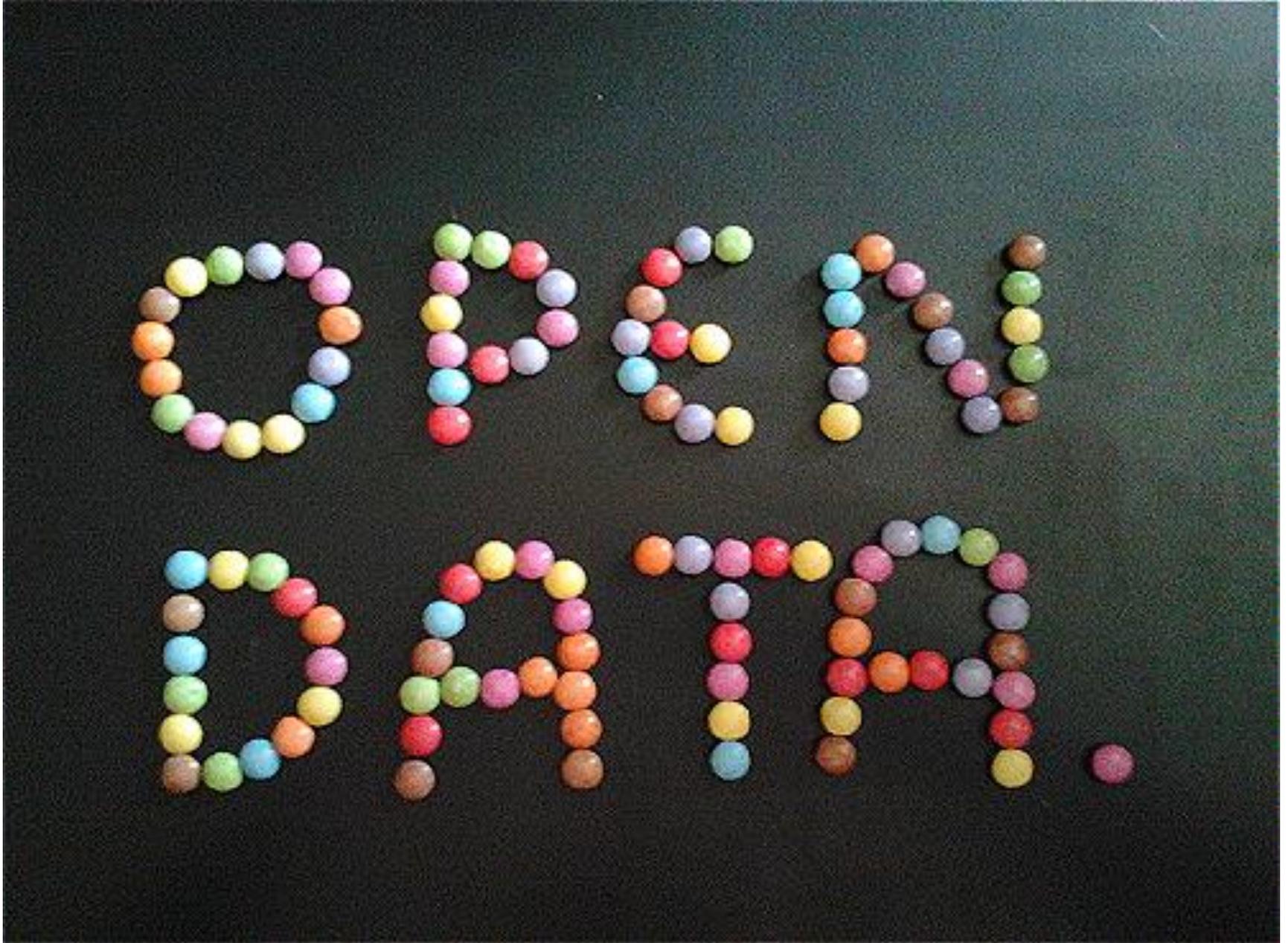


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Research context

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



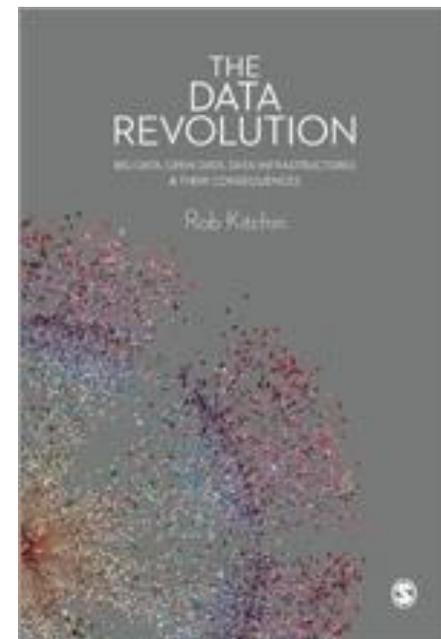
Buenos Aires
Gobierno de la Ciudad



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?

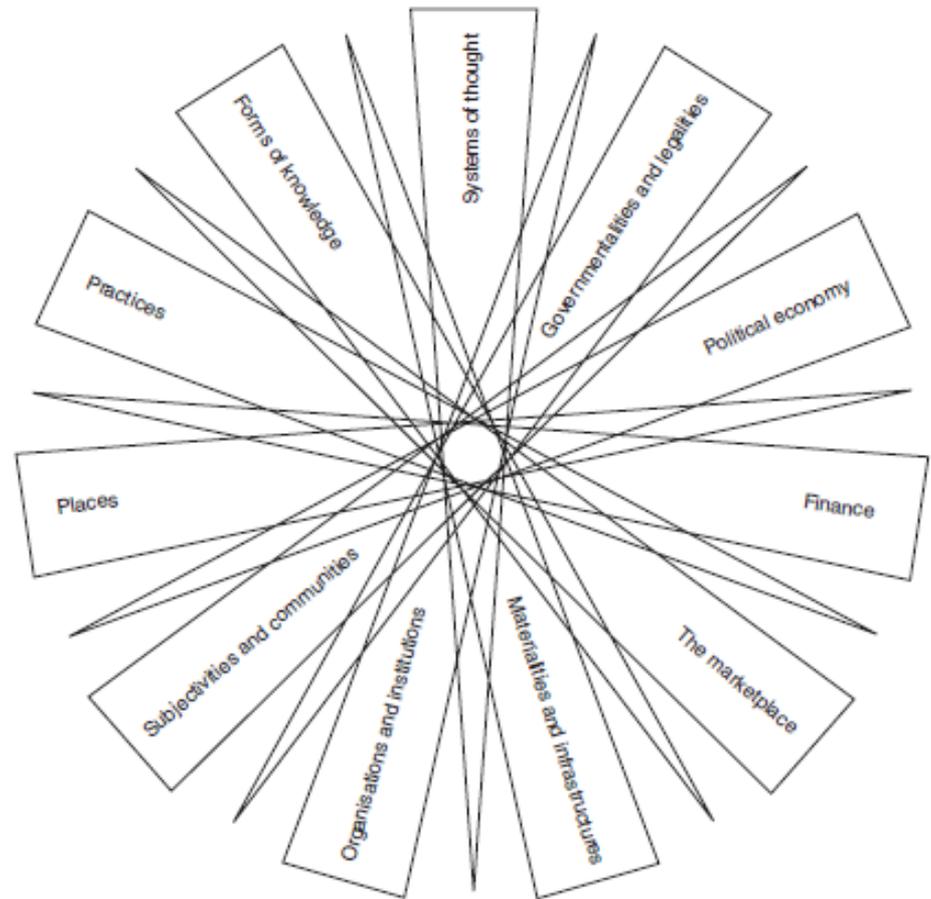


Figure 1.3 The intersecting apparatus of a data assemblage

Kitchin (2014) , p.26

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

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