

NESTSMX: Neighborhood Environments as Socio-Techno-Bio Systems

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- Combines ethnography, environmental engineering and environmental health to link neighborhood and household water use and trust to health and inequality in Mexico City.



Why Mexico City?

- Mega-city = variable water delivery systems by neighborhood (class stratification).
- Flooding and shortage.
- Since 1985 earthquake tap water distrust.
- Highest bottled water and soda consumption in the world.
- Ecological and health crisis – plastic bottle waste and epidemic obesity/diabetes.
- Pervasive corporate influence - Coke, Walmart, etc.



Ethnography - People don't trust tap water –
(although tap water can be less contaminated
than bottled):

**Middle/upper class – purchased or
filtered water**



Working class/poor - soda



Water distrust/soda trust:

Tap Water

- Unreliable
- Unhealthy
- Costs money
- No pleasure/anti-social
- Needed for bathing, cooking, cleaning.

Soda

- Reliable
- Healthy
- Cheap
- Gives pleasure/social
- Needed only for drinking and sharing.



NESTSMX – Aims to understand relationships of water trust/use to health and inequality.

- **1) Audits (2019)** intensive neighborhood audits in 15 working class neighborhoods, 60 households. Ethnographic, environmental engineering, and epidemiological investigation on trust/distrust in relation to water use, water quality. NON-HYPOTHESIS BASED
- **2) Assessments (2020)** systematic assessment of 450 neighborhoods and 1000 households to develop a neighborhood/households multidimensional numerical scale for water trust, quality, health outcomes and inequality.
- **3) Multidimensional Analysis (2021)** HYPOTHESIS TESTING Linking neighborhood and household, water trust and use to health outcomes and inequality.

