



Gender Walk Design

G u i d e b o o k

Guidebook for method, theory
and execution of genderwalks
in urban planning or design

INTRODUCTION

Genderwalks are group walks designed for residents to explore their urban environment together. Emphasis is placed on gender related issues. The method has been developed in the frame of a master thesis in Urbanism at the Technical University Delft and positions itself within the problem field of gender based differences and inequalities in cities.

All decisions that are made for the design of a genderwalk are based on its goal: The method of this guidebook aims for knowledge gathering in an urban planning and design process, in order to be able to make better gender sensitive proposals. Therefore, the qualitative findings of the walks have to be relevant and translatable for a spatial response.

Furthermore, many execution details are highly dependent on the walk's circumstances. (Meaning the location of the walk and it's social structure as well as the time for preparation and the identity and profession of the organizer.) The booklet explains the different organisation steps and advises on the handling of these decisions or situations.

How to read this guidebook:

The booklet has 6 chapters, which group the topics in organisational order. This order is of course not as linear and the topics are interlinked with each other. If this link is direct the text references the other topic in brackets.

Each chapters subject and it's significance for the concept of a walk is described briefly on its first page.

The method was developed by an analysis and comparison of existing walk practices and has been tested and re-evaluated in three walks in the Summer and Autumn of 2017.

The difference of how conclusions were reached is transparent by the division of each step into the 'Practicalities', the 'Theory' behind it and the additional knowledge gained through the 'Experience' with the method.

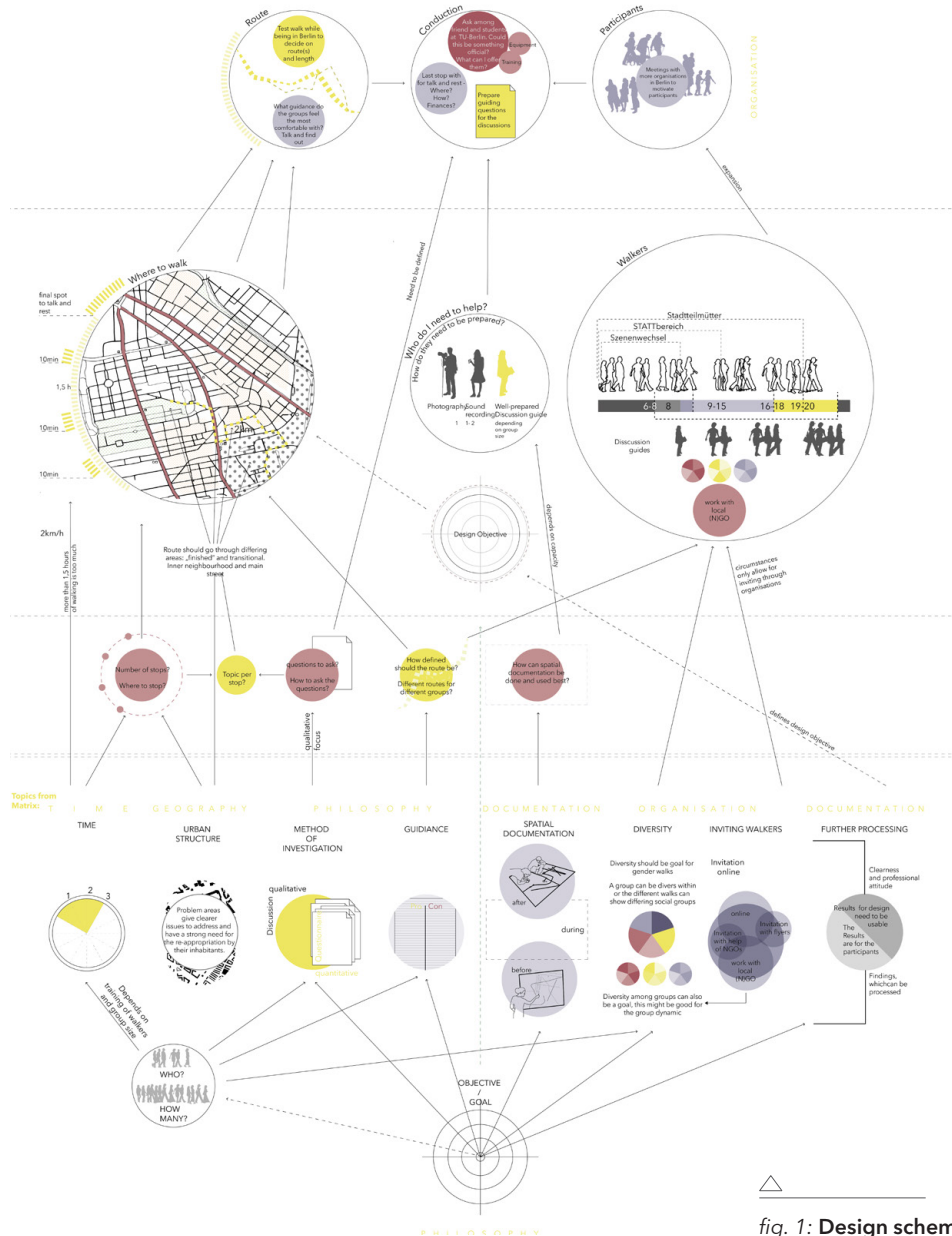


fig. 1: Design scheme for genderwalks in Berlin Neukölln in the summer of 2017.

Judih Schweizer
Complex Cities Research Group
TU Delft
Mentors: Lidewij Tummers and Leeke Reinders

Why genderwalks?

The complexity of intersectional gender analysis is challenging, especially when it comes to finding effective strategies in planning and design practise. Social constructions, cultural organisation, normative perspectives, multiplicity of identities and place-specific circumstances are strongly interlocked and thus difficult to analyse or work on separately.

At the same time, gender sensitive planning is a very practise based field. It already has many valuable tactics, but the results of short-term dedicated approaches often seem to clash with expectation towards a long term deconstruction of gender roles and the negative effects that come with them. The long-term development of gender roles and the density of spatial meaning receive higher attention in sociological research, however it stays mostly theoretical and seldomly tries to come develop spatial or programmatic interventions to cause change. What is lacking, are research and design tools, which can incorporate the consideration of the complexity, without having to completely anatomize or solve it.

Genderwalks can be one of these tools. Its potential lies in narrowing down the area and with it the number of stakeholders and diversity of individuals, while staying flexible towards the outcome. With the perspective of introducing a direct connection between affected people and the examination of the issue, the practise can also address the problem of a misbalance in representation.

The goal

The objective of the walks is to acquire knowledge, which the planner otherwise could not have reached. Based on the results more gender- and diversity-sensitive urban design proposals or strategies should be developed.

The findings through the method offer a strong empirical base and good inspiration for design proposals to be based on. The level of scale both in physical and temporal sense remains debatable, but the designs themselves can fulfil the goal of introducing gender sensitive changes into the investigated neighbourhoods.

The documentation of the existing practises is fragmented. In order to reach more conclusions about the method's chance of reaching its goal, more tests and a creation of a continually growing information pool would be helpful. This pool should contain findings, analysis of findings, design proposals and evaluation of the designs.

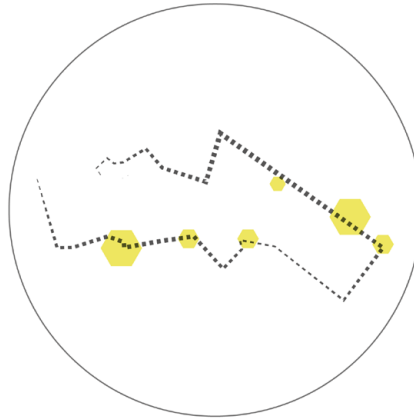
Design Outcome #1
Method for genderwalks
as urban planning tool

GENDERWALK
METHOD



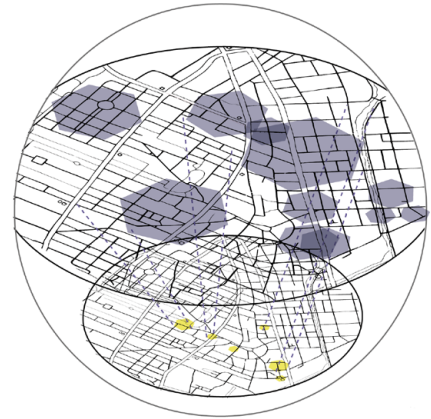
URBAN
DESIGN

Design Outcome #2
Translation of the findings,
expressed needs and ideas into and
immediate design for the walked route



STRUCTURAL
DESIGN

Design Outcome #3
Bigger scale, gender-aware
design proposal



based on findings of the walks, design and theoretical background

based on findings of the walks



fig 2: Design scheme for genderwalks in
Berlin Neukölln in the summer of 2017.

T I M E

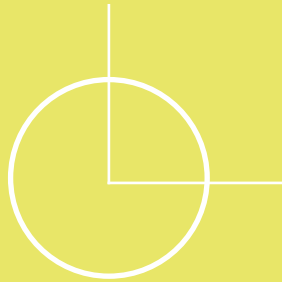
Year and Season

Time of the Day

Duration

Length and number of stops

T I M E



A walk is not just positioned in space, but also in time. While the space defined by it's purely physical features changes only slowly, space produced through the activities of people in their social relations to each other and their surroundings, re-shapes in a more dynamic manner. This broader definition of space as social product of the relations of the people appropriating it, can be found in the work of sociologists like Martina Löw and is strongly emphasized by Henry Lefebvre's in his work 'Space: Social Product and Use Value'. The perspective is significant for questioning gender relations in space, because it offers the possibility for change. Instead of accepting the underlying, subconscious rules of spaces as a given, it instead shines a light on the way they are produced. Walking as a method connects to this notion, due to its processable nature. Each walk is both a very timing-related snapshot of the moment - influenced by societal cycles in the day, week and year - and holds in itself a development of group dynamic, discussion development and energy level. All are influential to the outcomes of the walk.

Year and Season

Practicalities:

Preferably a warmer season, spring, summer or early autumn, because the walk should be enjoyable and rain or heavy snowfall will force one to postpone the walk. Preparation time for organisation with groups through NGOs or other organisations will take time and a new date might be difficult to arrange.

Theory:

As 'Womenability' and the 'Jane's Walk' concept both point out, a main factor in gathering people for a walk is that walking itself and especially in a group should be fun. The Jane's Walk weekend, where hundreds of walks are conducted all around the globe is around the 4th of May, Jane Jacobs birthday, and highly successful. The more positive perspective, which comfortable temperatures offer, also supports a more general look upon different needs and wished for the urban space, instead of a pure problematization of women's role in the urban environment.

However especially in northern countries the weather plays a crucial role in how use and atmosphere of spaces change and it would be most holistic to explore an area both in summer and winter. How easy it would be to motivate groups to join a walk in unpleasant conditions would have to be explored further.

Experience:

Even though walking in the summer is pleasant, summer holidays pose a threat to the organisation flow, because most organisations and private people have a break of at least one month (mostly August). Because the walk requires some time to plan, considering this 'summer slump' is crucial. In Germany schedules are decided on either at the beginning of the school year (September) or beginning of the new year (January-February) and then need some lead time of 2-3 month. Contacting organisations in early June turned out to already be too late.

In general it can be said that summer holiday time is not the best option for a walk. It could however still be an option for the summer children's program, if planned early enough. (see also: 'ORGANISATION', 'Invitation')

fig 3: Jane's walk in the rain



Time of the Day

Practicalities:

Ideally there should be at least 4-6 walks in a site (See also in 'Diversity of groups'). Thus some walks can be done at the same time, in order to obtain a relevant comparison. Some walks can be done at different daytimes in order to reach a bigger overview.

Theory:

Over the time of one day the city changes dramatically. This topic has been a focus in gender sensitive planning and design, with fear related immobility of women at night times being one of the central issues (Roberts, 2013). Vice versa, the usages and appropriation of space, which is highly fluctuating with the time of day, does also influence the feelings towards it. Thus the time of day can completely change the outcome of direct response by the participants.

An indirect response to the differences in of one space during the day can also be obtained by asking the participants to make a mental comparison. They can

be asked if and how they use the space at different times of the day as well as to imagine themselves at the location in a different situation. Because one cannot walk with all participants at all times, this is a valuable option of genderwalks in general: The participants are the experts of their day to day environment and are able to give information beyond their immediate response.

Experience:

Additional to what would be ideal, the actual plan depends on when people can be free from work, school or other plans. Because most people cherish a free and spontaneous weekend, walking during the week is probably preferred by most. In the summer walking from 17:30/18:00 until 20:00 is a good option (See more on 'ORGANISATION', 'Invitation'). Furthermore, depending on the urban area, there are stronger times (with a lot going on at a certain place), which the organizer can estimate and take into consideration when deciding on when to walk which area.

Visiting each place at least at two different times of day is important. If the organisation does not allow to do so with more than one group, it can also be substituted by a pre-visit and post-visit by the planner, who compares the different situation with what has been seen with the group.



fig 4: Sunny walking experience at a Jane's walk

Duration

Practicalities:

walking should be 1,5 to 2 hours and plan one hour for discussion afterwards. With a speed between 1 km/h and 3 km/h the group can reach around 2km of length. This covers some space.

Theory:

All analysed exploratory walks range between 1 and 4 hours. This shows the rough range of how much time people generally are willing to spent. Most of the walks have stops of movement in between and one final stop in a comfortable location. This can be seen as the reward for the exercise done by walking and needs to be planned into the duration as well.

Experiences:

In practise it turned out that people were difficult to motivate to spend the planned duration of 2-3 hours for walk and following discussion, but that most participants wanted to extend the time of discussion the topics once they started. While the energy level breaks down after two hours of walking and observing, a sitting conversation with refreshments changes this.

Advice:

A walk should be advertised as taking around two hours of time, but the organizer should plan flexible for an extension of additional 2 hours. These can be spend walking or only talking, depending on the groups energy and interest.



fig. 5: Scene of a walk in Neukölln, Berlin

Length and number of stops

Practicalities:

The number of stops to make with the group, should relate to the length of the walks. In order to have moments that bring the group back together after longer stretches of walking, the organizers should plan for at least 3 stops. At each stop they can introduce a new topic to discuss or reflect with the group about the things they saw on their path.

Theory:

The stops in the walk have three functions: Firstly, they allow participants to take a break from walking and consume some drinks or snacks, if needed. Secondly, they are good times for the organizers to introduce a new topic of discussion or give an exercise for observation. Thirdly, they function as structuring elements in the walk for the participants, where the group can reflect on the things seen. Stops like these are used by 'Womenability' to structure their walks. The stop in movement allows for a different kind of conversation. Instead of talking in conversations of 2-4 people, the discussion can get input from more people at the same time. Intermediate small stops can also be done spontaneously, to examine a particular place more thoroughly.

Advice:

There are many good reasons to include enough stops into the walks. The organizer should plan this out carefully, to make use of the possibilities. If the route changes and does not visit the planned locations, it is important to keep them in mind and to find new places to come together and to introduce the topics there instead.



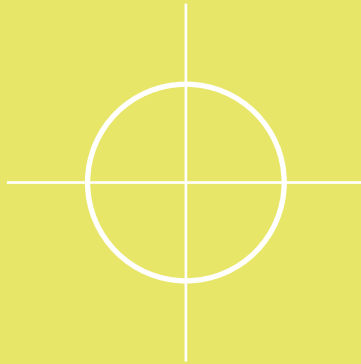
fig. 6: Participants sitting at the last stop of their walk. Discussing with drinks.

G E O G R A P H Y

Location

Urban structure

G E O G R A P H Y



While geography - meaning location, it's perimeter and the typologies of the urban area - is in the centre of what is explored through a gender walk, there is generally no location which could not be the focus of a walk. Therefore the choice on location is not based on theory. The handling of it, however, should follow certain considerations.

Location

Practicalities:

A specific location should be the neighbourhood, where the participants are living or using the spaces often. Thus they can be experts on their personal usage of the neighbourhood. (See more in diversity of the group)

Theory:

The human experience is in the centre, which means the logical choice of location is a piece of land, where people act and live. A denser environment with a number of people, who can be possible participants is also a more practical choice, compared with a sparsely populated area.

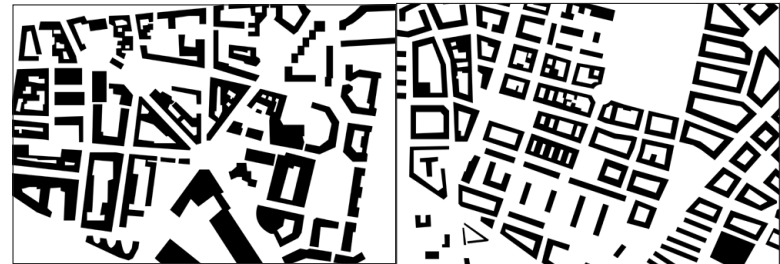
The overall method of genderwalks should work for any urban environment in the context of Germany or Northern and Western Europe. It is oriented on examples from France, Spain and Canada. The design of the actual walk should be based on the circumstances of the environment. Who and how to invited, the actual route and length of the walk can be made, after the location is specified. The method, as described in this booklet, was developed and tested with the exemplary location of Berlin, Neukölln in mind. It has only been the first of hopefully more tests of the method. The more neighbourhoods and cities it would be tested in, the better. The design of the each walk is based on the circumstances and the goal of the organisers. This means that the designer of walks in any new neighbourhood, needs to analyse the circumstances to design the walks accordingly.

Experience:

The overall choice of location has to be made at the beginning, but will possible be influenced, by who the organizers can motivate to participate. If a group would like to join, but is not from the neighbourhood, one has to decide if a change in location is functional.



fig. 7: Berlin Neukölln was the test site for the gender walk method in the summer of 2017



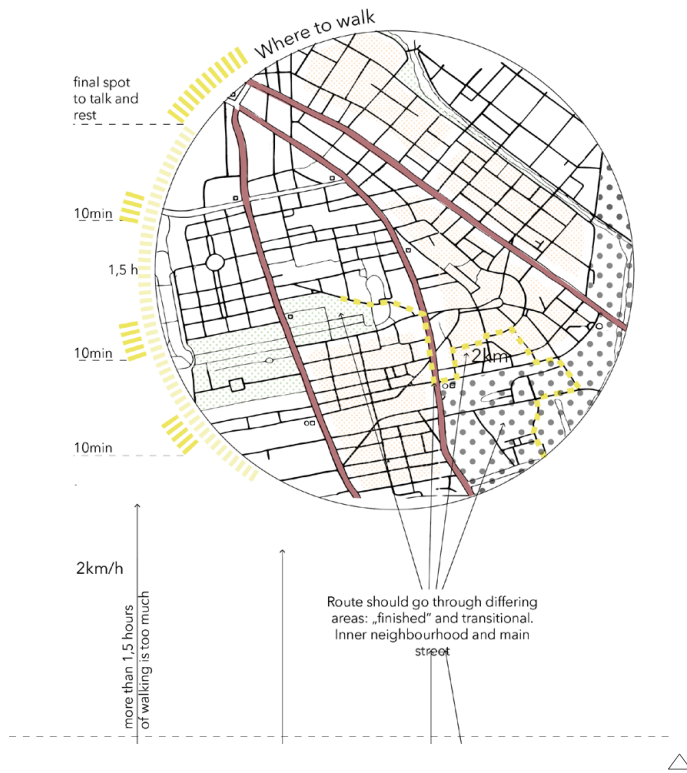


fig. 8: A preparation for the walks analyses the urban structures of the neighbourhoods, in order to choose the route



fig. 9: Urban structures of genderwalks in France, Spain and Sweden

Practicalities:

The route should go through differing urban areas as the discussion profits from the contrasts. Depending on what kind of urban areas exist in the neighbourhood and on the composition of the group, a walk can lead through „finished“ and transitional areas, through the core of neighbourhoods and the main streets. If the group has special relations to one point in particular, the area should be included, but compared with something less-known to them.

Theory:

The different genderwalks in Paris, Barcelona, Malmö and Prague show that the urban structure (old or modern, residential or industrial, mixed or monotonous, dense or sparse, known or unknown) have a big influence on which aspects of the gender discussion are focused on. Therefore the type of area can be used as a catalyser for discussion. Issues of walkability will for example be more present in the discussion in modern neighbourhoods, that urban plans did not focus on free pedestrian mobility. Furthermore, a contrast between areas can support the reflection of those topics for the participants. If the type of urban area does not differ in the explored neighbourhood, the contrast between big and small, lively and quite, clean and dirty streets can still be used in a similar way.

Experience:

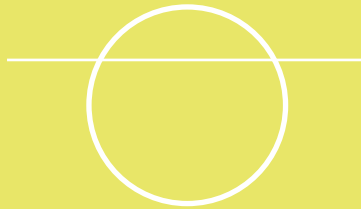
The difference of urban areas is automatically on the mind of the people, who live or work outside of the area. The comparison works well to evaluate the spaces, even if the organizers just ask for it to be done by imagination. The method is focused on areas, which people know and use daily. In practice this means that participants want to change the route to show the spots most familiar to them. These wishes should be taken into consideration. At the same time, the routes of the different walks need overlapping, so that the findings can be compared. The concept of the 'known and un-known places' functions to reveal how people react differently to the same space according to how familiar they are with it. A similar effect happens with different urban typologies, where participants who live in one type of urban structure automatically have a different viewpoint about its up- and downsides.

O R G A N I Z E R S

Who organizes a walk?

Presents of Administrative Person

O R G A N I Z E R S



The organizer has a special role, as he or she is leading the discussion, deciding on the route and is also participant in the walks. The organizers are in very direct and social interaction with the participants and thus cannot be completely objective. An awareness about this position and their own identity is crucial (See also 'Ways of leading' in 'PHILOSOPHY') The organizer's identity, in relation to the participant's identities as well as in society, influences what kind of conversation is possible. It also changes the level of authority and motivational strength an organizer has. If the main organizer lacks some of the important attributes to reach participants or communicate with people, collaboration with other organizers should be considered. However, the choice of who to collaborate with, also requires careful consideration.

Who organizes a walk?

Practicalities:

Organizer should be the designer or planner, who later analyses the findings and translates them. Depending on the size of the group and number of walks, the organizer will need help in the execution of all steps, starting at the conduction of the walks. The walks can also be organized by an independent organisation, with the designers as silent participants.

Theory:

The immediate contact between the people and their expression, on the one side and the designer on the other, is central for all following steps. Therefore, the designer always has to be present at the walks. The main organisation task however, could be shared with a social organisation. Leading a bigger group and their discussion cannot be fulfilled by one individual and should therefore be done in a team. The organisation of the walk itself works the best with the positive support of some organisations on site. A more official setting for the walks helps to achieve a higher number of participants.

Experience:

The organisation of the walk itself works better with the positive support of some organisations on site. Furthermore, the leading of discussion during the walk cannot be handled by one person alone. It should be done by a team of adequately educated professionals. Similarly, the analysis of the large volume of findings can be done by one person, but is a time consuming and complicated task. Designers are also seldom educated in interview tactics and qualitative content analysis. The method can therefore profit from an interdisciplinary team of designers, sociologist and social worker to control the process.



fig. 10: Organizers need a team of helpers to lead discussions and record the walks.

Presents of administrative person

Practicalities:

It is not proposed to have an administrative person present. But this is fitting, if the walk is organized in a pre-competition phase by an administrative body. This person should either be trained in the process or should be a quite by-stander.

Theory:

Administrative personal at the walk brings the risk that these professionals take over the conversation. Their normative perspective is even stronger than that of any other person, as they are interest representatives in the urban planning environment. A presents could be counterproductive to the aim of lending an ear to the less-heard part of the population. The 'Marches-Exploratoires' however are organized by the Mairie de Paris. This shows that walks can even be organised by the administration, when the employees are educated in the subject and trained in the methods.

Because administrative officials were not part the walks tested for this method, no statement about the practise can be made at this point.

P H I L O S O P H Y

Method of investigation

Way(s) of leading

Opennnness towards Outcome

Additional methods

P H I L O S O P H Y



In the chapter Philosophy, the goals and following methods are described. The first title ‘Underlying Philosophy’, which it is named after, explains the theoretical background and general believe for the gender walk. Only with an understanding and reflection on this part can the goals and the following methods of investigation be decided on. As the word “underlying” already implicates, the philosophy is actually what every other decision for a walk’s method is knowingly or unknowingly being based on. In this case, this goes especially for the last chapters ‘Organisation’ and ‘Documentation’, where all practical elements for the fulfillment of the goal are explained. In this effect, the last topic, ‘Design on the Base of genderwalks’ plays a critical role for the overall goal and original motivation of the walk.

Method of investigation

Practicalities:

1. With pre-interviews and general communication with the heads of organisation or the people themselves, the best the way of leading, the group size, the topics and length of the walk are figured out.
2. Within the walk, methods to enable the walkers to communicate freely can differ a bit. In the centre is the semi-structured interview while walking. Depending on group the topics discussed can and will differ. Additional methods for investigation and documentation can also be added.

Theory:

The approach of semi-structured interviews is most comparable with an expert interview, which is a subcategory of semi-structured interviews, a qualitative method of social research. The approach of semi-structured interviews is less strict than in most other survey methods of empirical social science though. Questions which were fixed beforehand are posed but no answers to choose from are given. The interviewed persons thus can freely answer, comment and explain in the way it is most natural to them. With the open format even choosing not to discuss something further becomes easier. This freedom can also help interviewers to tailor their questions to the interview progressing situation, and to the people they are interviewing. ("Leitfadeninterview - Wikipedia," 2017) The advantage of the method lies in the fact that the interviewer still makes specific questions by means of his questionnaire, thus guiding the topic in the direction of relevant information for his or her research (Baur & Blasius, 2014), but the interviewed person can answer openly and also lead the discussion to new aspects and extend the entire interview. ("Leitfadeninterview - Wikipedia," 2017) This quality is key for the openness towards the topic of gender differences in urban space, which the genderwalks aim to achieve. The semi-open interviews with inhabitants are especially appropriate to the sensitivity of the topic, though they have the hazard of being led by the interviewer and therefore containing an unaware bias. (Gilow, 2016) For the genderwalks this means that a careful preparation of the questions and the structure is advised. Gilow uses semi-structure interviews in her study on fear and insecurities of women using

public transport in Brussels and emphasizes that the advantages outmatch these disadvantages. The strength lays in the in-depth character of such interviews, which allow self-reflective, subtle answers.

For the preparation interviews the method allows the experienced employees of the organisations to lead the discussion towards the topics that they find most important and which they are experts on. This rather free dialog can therefore work as research for the following work with the participants. It also functions as input of problem detection and as introduction to the neighbourhood.

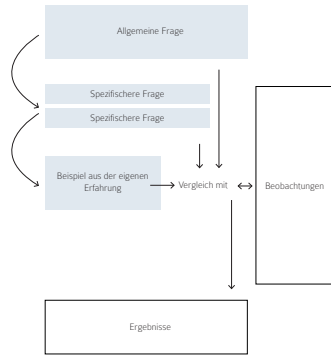
Experience:

A good preparation of the topics to discuss and pre-formulated questions help organizers to stay focused on what they want to investigate. It also helps to stay in control over stirring the conversation too much or too little. In the execution of the walks, it is likely to lose the pre-made plan at some points. It is important to stick to the catalogue of questions, in order to treat the different participants similarly and thus to achieve comparable material. If participants don't react to some of the questions, this is also insightful. On top of this the leader of discussions should be able to spontaneously react on unexpected information and come up with follow-up questions on the spot.

Advice:

Advice: Even if you think you remember all the topics and questions to address, the group dynamic can be overpowering in the sense that it become more difficult to come back to the prepared questions. Especially if the group is less responsive to certain topics the threshold becomes bigger. Having them written down on paper can and re-reading them during the walk, can help to find more courage to address them.

Strategie für das Fragenstellen allgemeiner Fragen



Strategie für das Fragenstellen zum Raum

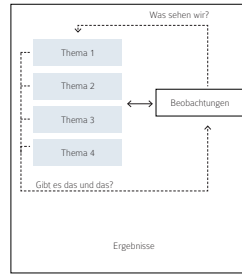


fig. 11: The question structure should start generally and only become more specific, if the participants don't react on their own.

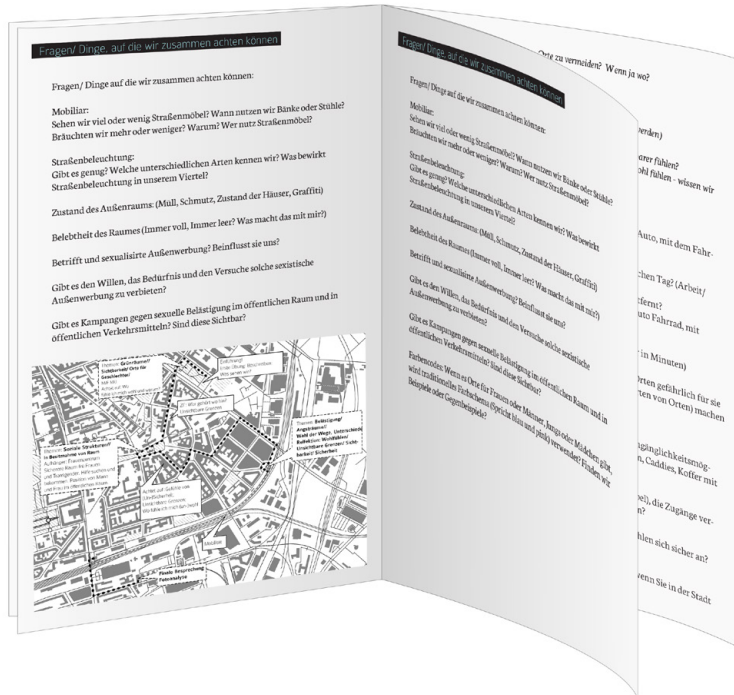


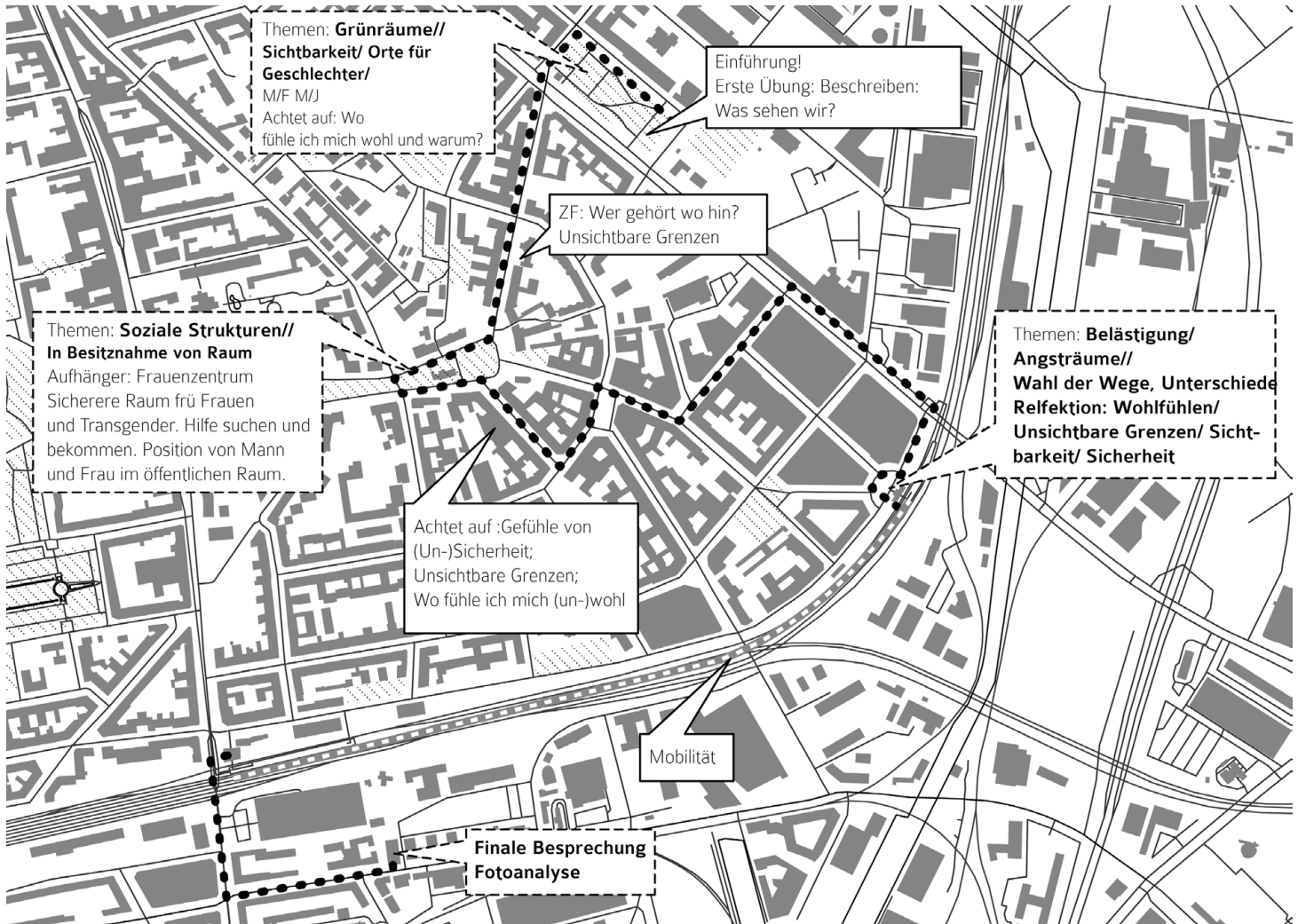
fig. 12: A Catalogue of questions should be prepared to use for the semi-structured interview format during the walks

Practicalities:

At the beginning of a walk the planned route is described to the participants and it is made clear that they are welcome to make suggestions for alternatives. Thus, different people can take over the leading role for a while. Depending on the groups size, average background and the time frame, the balance of the role of leading can and has to differ.

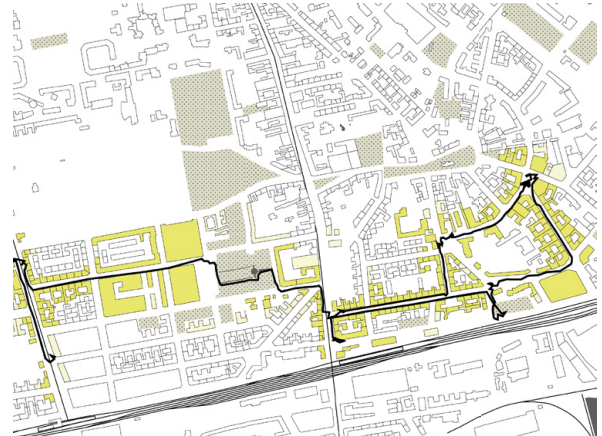
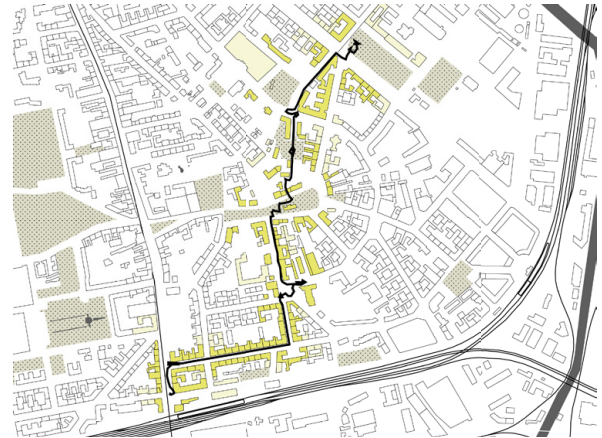
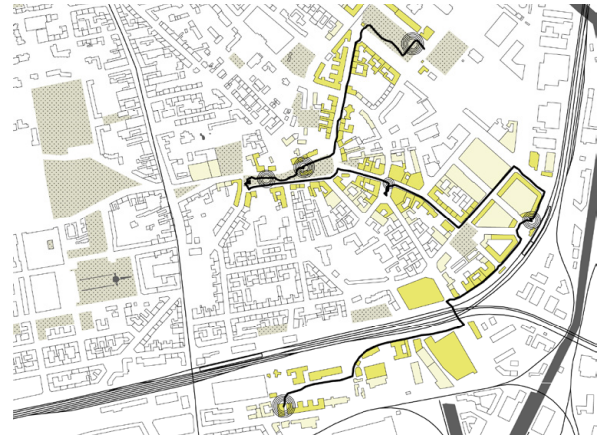
Theory:

The method of investigation defines that the organizers gives both structure and freedom to the development of the discussion. The same goes for the physical route. The goal is to allow openness towards topics and development of the discussions. The ideal final balance of guidance and freedom and the strength and distribution of the leading role differs for the groups in relation to their size and needs.



Experience:

The offer of changing the route will be taken more by typically confident people. The changes that were made in the tested walks are usually very helpful for the understanding of the people's needs and especially widens the scope for the later design proposals. Through heavy changes however, the overlap that remains between the walks routes becomes smaller. The comparison between the planned route (shown on the left) and the actual routes (shown on the right) illustrates how quickly the area of investigation can change.



Advice:

Because of the goal of openness towards the outcome, it is advised to allow even big changes in the route. The consequence is the chance for highly informative findings. Besides these positive effects, the organisers should take the time to quickly assess if the new route has enough overlap for a comparison with the other walks and decide where the originally planned stops can happen instead.

fig. 13: Originally planned route in Neukölln. It has fixed stops and fitting topics and questions to introduce at them

fig. 14-16: If the participants take over the lead and the route changes, the organizers have to rethink, where to stop and when to introduce their topics.

Openness towards outcome

Practicalities:

The semi-structured interviews allow for more openness than most other methods of investigation. It is up to the leaders of the interviews to walk the fine line between having the discussion as open as possible, but as structured as necessary.

Theory:

Based in the original goal of the genderwalk method, to gain knowledge about the reality of gender related differences in urban space, the walking method tries to achieve a strong openness towards the walk's outcomes. At the same time however, the walk also has to stay close to the topic under investigation, because it aims to use the findings of the walks as a base for a design proposal.

Experience:

It poses a challenge to immediately find the right balance for the openness towards the outcome. The level of personal engagement of the leaders of discussion will change with their concentration during the walks. Additionally, very eloquent or dominant participants will tend to take over the direction of discussion. This dynamic between organizers and participants can be really fruitful if the right balance is found, because that is exactly what the openness towards the outcome is aiming for.

Additional methods

Practicalities:

In addition to the conversations during the walk and the stops, a final discussion follows the walk at the final destination or any convenient location. The group can continue discussing and can reflect on what has been seen.

Additionally, organizer can ask the participants to take photos of things they find interesting during the walks. They can serve as a guideline for the final discussion and help with the documentation of the walk.

Theory:

The style of conversation changes depending on if the group is talking while walking, or is sitting around a table. While walking is stimulation for the mind, sitting down gives more time to react to each other's thoughts and makes reflexion easier.

Experience

As explained in 'number of stops', the groups stretches out while walking. Therefore, a following discussion at the end, where the group has the opportunity to talk as a whole for a longer time, develops an additional, interesting dynamic. For some information, such as daily routes or a representative width of information about the proportional use of functions and transportation the discussions alone are not enough. If the organizers want to find data about these topics, further methods of investigation need to be found. This could be done in the form of surveys. They however, would have to be fitted to the language and education level of the participants, as they are not as accessible as the conversations during the walks.

The use of photographs to reflect on the walk works well, but time needs to be planned for collecting the files and sorting them in an order that allows everyone to talk about their thoughts.



O R G A N I S A T I O N

Group size

Diversity of the group

Invitation



In this chapter the organisational topics, which make the execution of the walk finally possible are being described. While all topics have an important experience paragraph that addresses the reality of the conduction of the walk, the size of group, ways of invitation and motivation are very practical elements from the very beginning and heavily depend on the circumstances of the social structure and organizers position and experience. The topic ‘diversity of the group’ has a more particular experience-based standpoint, while it is connected to the organisational decisions.

Group size

Practicalities:

A walk ideally has 8-18 participants.

One organizer can be leading up to 7 people, but there should be one more discussion leader for every 3-4 additional people. This is important for the focus of the discussions and for their documentation.

Theory:

The number of participants that a walk can support depends on the organisation structure and on the investigation method. A more numerical oriented investigation method, like done by 'Womenability' allows them to lead bigger groups. With the decision on the semi-structured interviews the walk needs at least one leader of discussion for every 4 participants. This qualitative approach limits the number to the mentioned 8-18 people.

Experience:

Groups that are smaller than 8 people have a very individual focused viewpoint. Therefore the method of investigation changes and the walks become less comparable and representable. More than 15 people become difficult to handle with the qualitative empirical method of the semi-structured interview.

Even if the an organised walk have under 8 or over 15 participants and thus do not fit the plan of the method, it still can be conducted. It merely means that the organizer will miss some of the discussions of a bigger group and will have a more individual focus in a smaller group. The findings are still valid information for the later stages, if the circumstances are paid attention to in their further analysis.

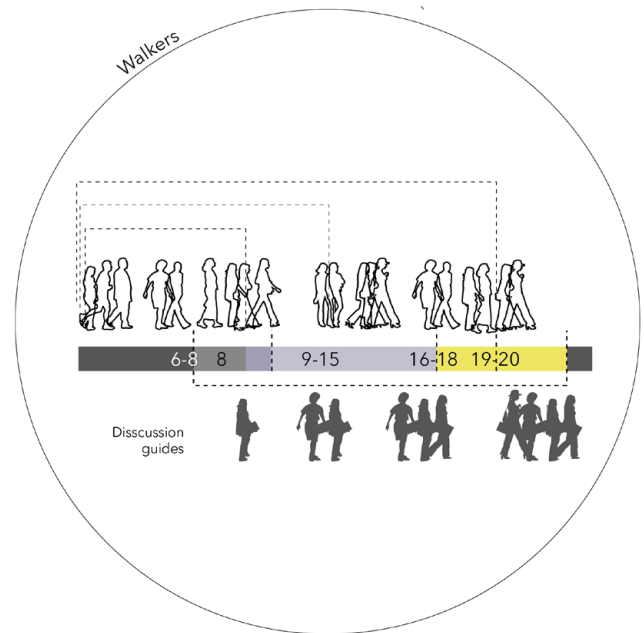


fig. 17: The number of participants need a fitting number of people to lead the discussions

Diversity of the group

Practicalities:

Diversity is a goal for genderwalks. This method advises to aim for diversity mostly among groups and less within

Theory:

Because the topics that are discussed during the walks can be very sensitive, it is the priority to make the group feel comfortable enough for sharing. The grouping in people of similar background, language skills, age and gender helps to achieve this. Depending on their identity some people are also more used to taking charge, while others will be careful. An unbalanced dynamic of dominance would harm the conversation and the findings.

Other differences, like a mixture of locals with newcomers will have less problems with balancing dominance from one part of the group and can support a lively discussion.

Experience:

On the one hand, the division into different groups proofed to make the organisation of the walks easier and certainly helps to deal with the different levels of confidence among the participants of the different walks. The walks also produce very distinct findings, which are useful for gaining a broad image of a neighbourhood. On the other hand, the smaller elements of diversity, such as either gender or education background, can also spark discussions positively. This leads to the conclusion, that the level of diversity in the groups have to be decided on individually, so that the people will feel comfortable to speak up, but also have enough different opinions to experience an interesting challenge of their viewpoints. At the same time the diversity among the groups should be as high as possible.

Generally, the group of participants should be residents or users of the neighbourhood, but exceptions can be made here. An outsiders perspective can be helpful, because people feel more comfortable in areas that they know. A comparison between people being used to the area is therefore interesting.

DIVERSITY

Diversity should be a goal for genderwalks
A group can be divers within or
different groups can differ from each other.



A decision for either is valid, but changes the
group dynamic of a walk.

△
fig. 18

Invitation

Practicalities:

People are invited through NGOs and GOs, who have to receive clear information on flyers, per email and in personal contact. Some dates are found through doodle planning, others are decided on with the organisation.

Theory:

How to invite people is related to the organizers position in the neighbourhood. The NGOs and GOs are a necessary connection of trust between the participants and an unknown organizer. The connections are used by other independent organizers like the team of 'Womenability'.

Furthermore, the organisations already have insight in how to best approach their clientele and what motivates them.

Experience:

It can be said that the invitation process for the method was medium successful. The other method of inviting that was tried was to address organisations and inhabitants on site. This leads to immediate positive feedback, but not to the actual participation in one of the walks. This is surely connected to the question of motivation.

To find better answers for a successful invitation process this topic would have to be investigated further. A general recommendation could be to start early in the process of the organisation to invite people through organisations. However this does not guarantee participation. For some groups it might even be the case that very spontaneous invitations are more attractive than long-term plans.

D O C U M E N T A T I O N

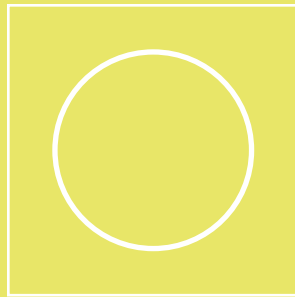
Methods of Documentation

Spatial Documentation

Analysis of the findings

Design on the Base of genderwalks

D O C U M E N T A T I O N



The documentation of the walk in itself and of the findings (and with it all further processing of the information) define it's outgoing message and the role it can plan in urban planning. There are two main difficulties which need to be overcome: First, the organisational and style challenge to document while one is moving during the walk. Second, the search for an appropriate and strong representation of the dynamic of the walk and the re-organisation of the findings which are gathered in the form of more or less spontaneous information.

Methods of documentation

Practicalities:

Discussions are being recorded, transcribed and analysed by the organizers of the walk. In addition, the immediate impressions of the organizers, which do not appear in the records of the walk, should be discussed among them and written down or recorded as well.

Theory:

While it is not transparent, how or if some of the organisation that conduct genderwalks, document what has been said during conversations, it can be said that recording the sound while walking is the easiest way to document thoroughly. This holds particularly true, if organizers are leading the walk and the discussion at the same time and do not have time to document through writing. Recording is also not too intrusive for the participants. Filming or even taking photographs may not be well received by the groups.

Experience:

The amount of information coming through the walk is so enormous that the voice records are absolutely necessary to keep an overview over them during the process of analysis of the findings. Even if an organizer is present at the walk and transcribes his or her own voice recordings, there will be things forgotten along the way. Multiple revisits of the material offer support for considering the findings as holistic as possible.

Further development of method:

It would also be good to support more documentation through the participants. This would make sure that everything gets recorded. However, there is a limited amount of data, organizers will be able to work through. Thus this additional records have to be done in the appropriate amount.

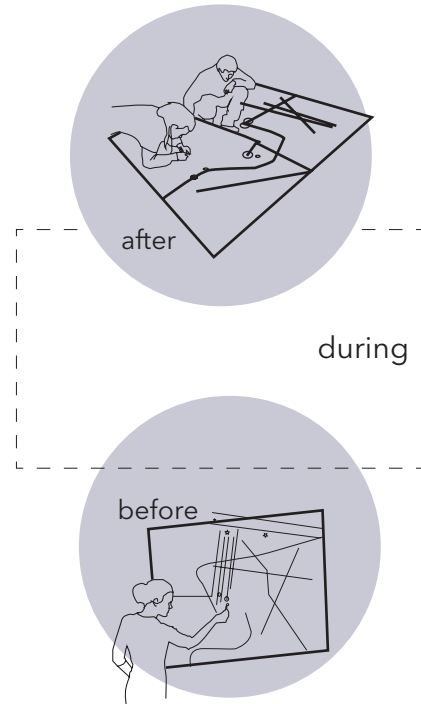


fig. 19: Some genderwalks have additional workshops before or after the walk to document findings with the participants

Advice:

To relate the documented recordings closer to the environment, the leaders of discussion can mentioned where they are every now and then. This will later help with the transcription and the spatial translation. This should be done especially, if the person recording, will not also be analysing the findings. Also, recordings should be kept running the whole time, so that the time-display of the sound recording corresponds to the passage of time during the walk.

Practicalities:

The spatial documentation can - for its biggest part - only be done after the walks. The organizer, who might be a planner or designer has the challenging job to visualize the process of the walk. The recorded text-passages are connected to the space they have been mentioned in. The visualisations are also a tool for the designer in the analysis of the findings.

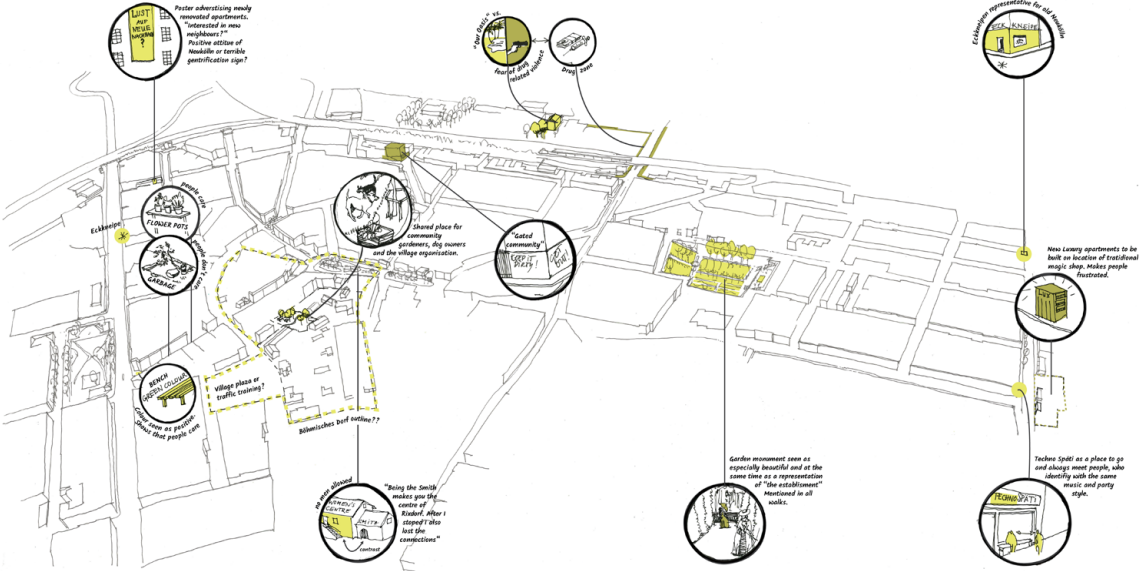
Theory:

The spatial documentation is of great importance, but poses a problem during the walks. None of the examined methods found a solution for the issue. Mapping sessions before or after can be done in workshops with the participants. This needs a different investment of time from their side and is therefore not investigated as a possible addition yet. The spatial documentation also feeds into the following analysis and design process.

Further development of method:

A possibility for further integration of the groups in the spatial documentation would depend on their level of commitment and their knowledge about the subject of mapping and the level of time commitment the participants are willing to spend.

fig. 20: Spatial translation of the recorded discussion, done by the organizer after the walks



Analysis of the findings

Practicalities:

The documented findings are being transcribed in an efficient but detailed way, so that their content can be analysed. This should happen by the means of a qualitative content analysis, but the time consuming method can also function as a point of methodological reference.

Theory:

The knowledge production from the genderwalk is a qualitative, inductive process, which' main goal is to understand social phenomena from the gathering of individual observations. (Chevron, Köpl, Payrhuber, & Reinprecht, 2012) While it is evident that the method does not make a claim for further generalisations of this gained understanding, a comprehensible analysis of the findings is already a crucial step for the arguing of its veracity for the location as well as for the scientific character of the method as a whole. Even though a valid sociological analysis is too extensive in time and to complicated in qualification to be executed as a smaller part of a master thesis by an urbanist, a fitting method is still used as a model for a four-steps analysis of the findings.

Qualitative content analysis allows a systematic extraction of relevant information from interviews and at the same time is open to unexpected findings. Thus it fits well to the qualitative findings gathered in the walks and the aim of openness towards the outcome. The evaluation method processes texts that occur in the qualitative data collection of research projects. For this purpose semi-structured interviews are for example interpreted by summarizing the findings both according to the questions asked and based on the data of answers given. With a system of re-categorizing the same information a team of people can, for example, get an overview about which things the interviewees are passionate about. The method is qualitatively interpretative and thus can also cover latent meanings, but the procedure is controlled and therefore intersubjectively verifiable. The content-analytical rules are based on the psychological and linguistic theory of everyday textual understanding. This could make it possible to handle for people without a background in sociology, if they got enough instructions.

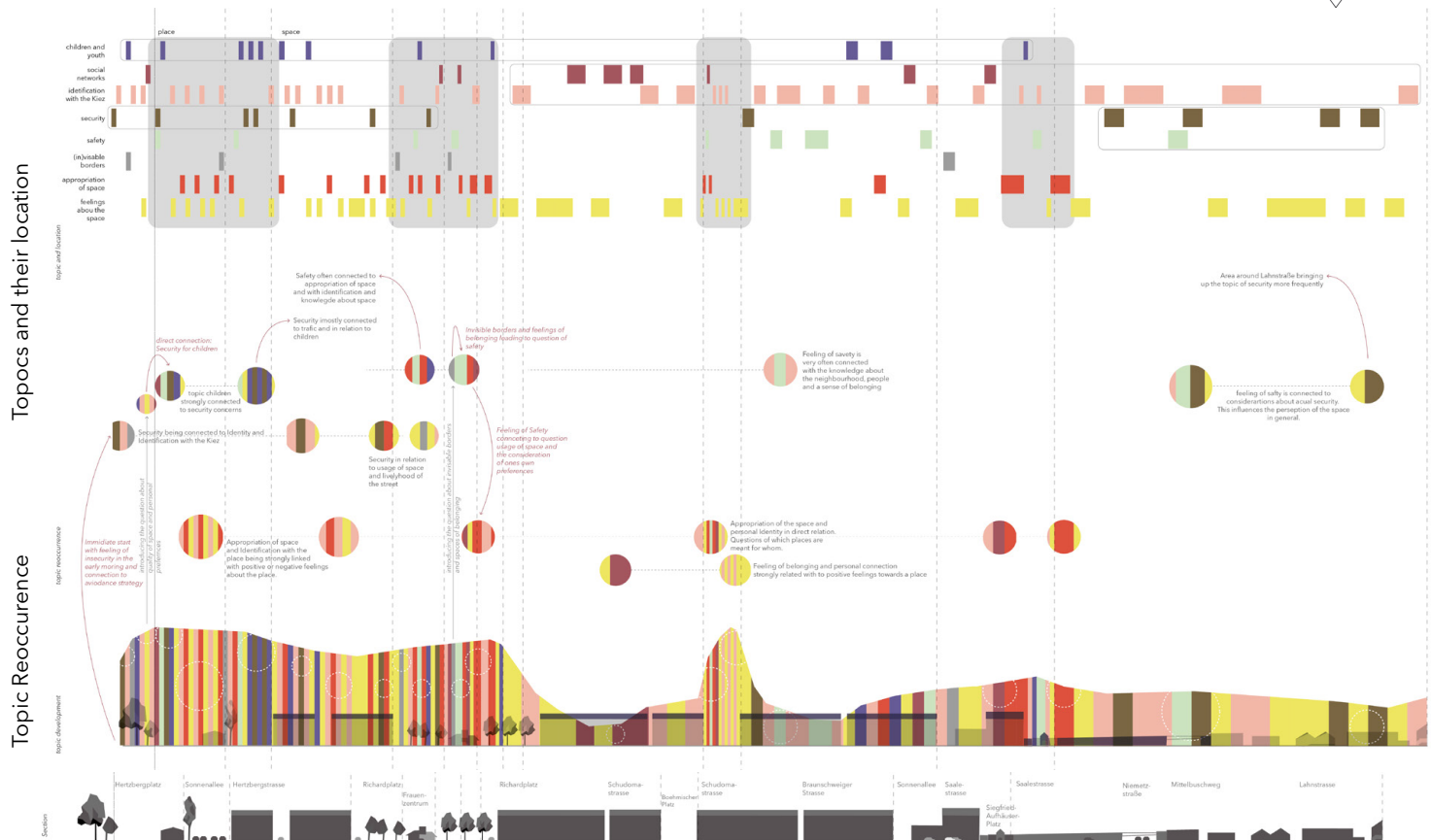
Experience:

A valid sociological analysis can be too extensive in time and to complicated in qualification to be executed by an urbanist. A method of categorisation and re-categorisation, modelled on the sociological method can be done instead. The multiple step analysis sheds light on several perspectives on the findings.

An example of an systematic categorization of the material, one can frame and reframe findings of walks in the following way:

- 1) Linear Visualisation of the dynamic of the walk and categorisation according to the topics introduced by the organizers through the question catalogue.
- 2) Division of both positive and negative comments in their reference to spatial, functional or cultural nature.
- 3) Visualisation of the discussion divided into locations.
- 4) Categorisation of topics, based on inductive categories, introduced by the participants through repeated mentioning.

fig. 21: Linear analysis of the recorded discussion, done by the organizer after the walks



Design on the Base of genderwalks

Practicalities:

The walk's findings are translated into design proposals. Reacting to the different scales of information, the design proposals can be direct repair interventions or proposals for restructuring of a neighbourhood.

Theory:

A translation of the findings for urban design and planning is the main idea behind this ideal method. Leaving out the step or instead only presenting results to a current administration or team of independent designers would not profit similarly from the deeper understanding, which the designer can get when he or she also conducted the research.

In order to draw more conclusions from the design proposal it should be compared with other proposals for the area. A juxtaposition of approach, outcome and evaluation of their gender sensitivity could tell more about the role that genderwalk methodology could and should plan in urban planning and design.

Experience:

The design further processing of the findings through a design response cannot be based solely on the information of the walks. Instead, additional field research and knowledge about gender sensitive design can help to find fitting answers. For a final reflection on the design, it should be presented to the participants of the walks and evaluated with their feedback.

Design method:

The knowledge for the design proposals comes from three main sources: The genderwalks (1), a desk analysis (2) and the literature on gender sensitive design (3). While the walks unveil a big number of interesting findings, there is some information lacking for the step to a design intervention. The designer can add it through fieldwork and desk analysis. Thus, information and impressions from the walks can be double checked for their transferability for the whole neighbourhood. Furthermore detailed information about physical conditions in

the neighbourhood add more spatial criteria (4) to the pool of issues (5) resulting from the analysis of the findings.

The next crucial step to find spatial design answers in relation to gender specific issues, is the filtering of the issues through knowledge about gender sensitive design (6). When making his or her own decisions, the designer can refer to design scales and the relation between approach and goal that play an important role in the gender sensitive design and planning. This 'approach filter' helps to categorize the issue in regards to their causes and a fitting design response. The responses can either address a change in the system, with the aim to effect the everyday life through those changes, or interventions can improve everyday life with the aim for a bigger effect on inequalities in the system (7). Different approaches in aim and scale are valid and can be used parallel.

The design proposals within this research explored examples of both in order to show the range of possibilities. The proposals are categorized as proposals on a Re-structure scale and proposals on a Repair scale. Finally, during and after the development of the design proposals (8), the design development functions as a test of the method of genderwalks: A comparison of which original information source lead to which design decision can help evaluating the potential of the knowledge gained through the method.

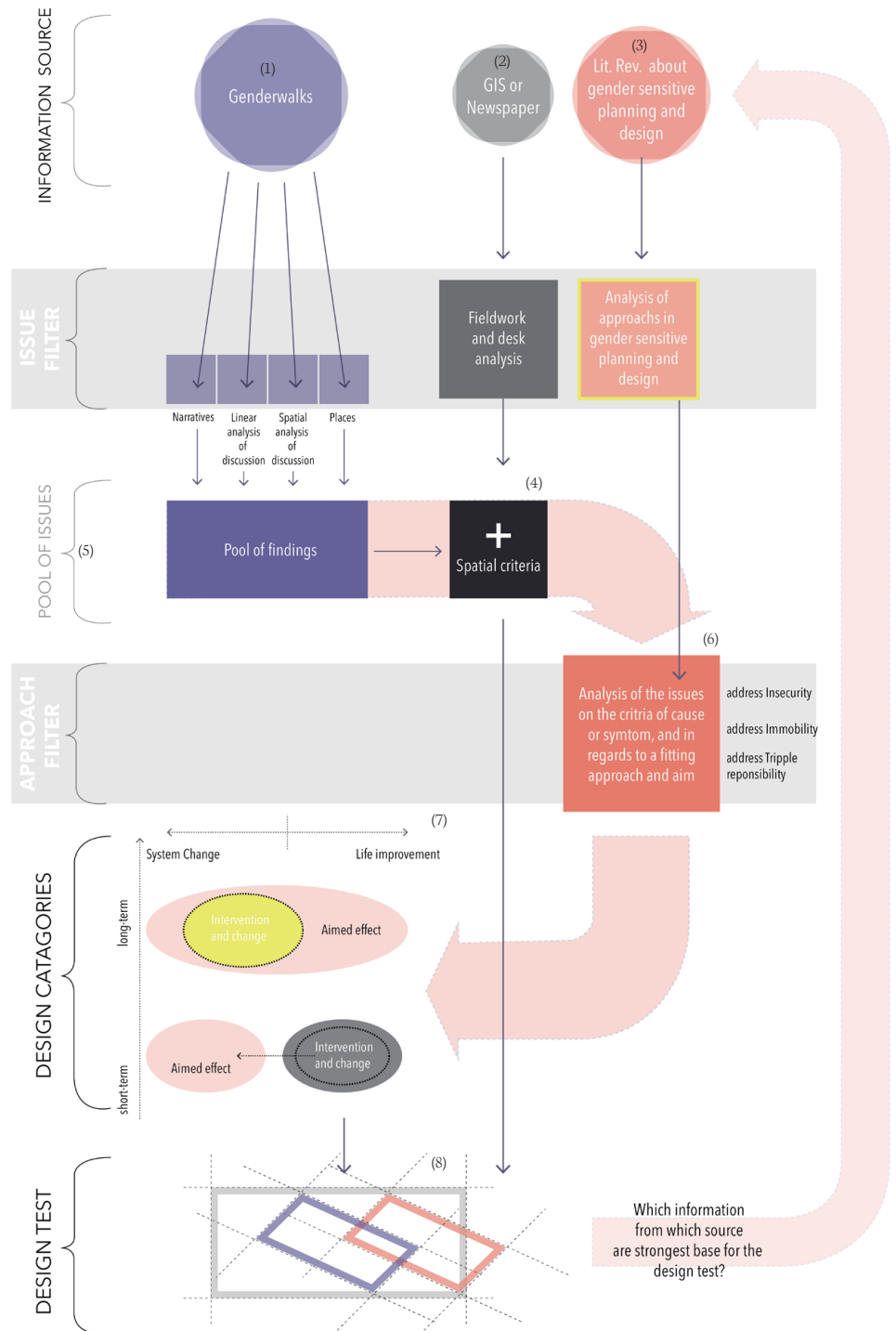


fig. 22: process of the design method

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fig. 3: Jane's walk in the rain, Retrieved from http://vic.gedris.org/files/images/2010-05-01-010_RailpathJanesWalk.preview.jpg

fig. 4: Sunny walking experience at a Jane's walk, Retrieved from <https://torontoist.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/20130503janeswalk.jpg>

fig. 7: Berlin Neukölln was the test site for the gender walk method in the summer of 2017, Retrieved from <http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article104400427/So-laeuft-ein-Tag-auf-dem-Planeten-Sonnenallee.html>