

Sex tourism in Rosana (SP) and the two circuits of the urban economy



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ABSTRACT

The present discussion intends to apprehend the structure that engenders sex tourism and its consequences on the two circuits of the urban economy in the municipality of Rosana (SP). In the months when fishing is open there is an expansion of the flow of tourists and call girls who, together, are responsible for articulating a complex network

of sexual profitability that ends up boosting the local economy. For the effective development of the research and achievement of the results was used as a methodological procedure interviews conducted with the subjects who integrate the network of sexual profitability, tourists and call girls and the application of a questionnaire aimed at the subjects who integrate the upper marginal circuit of the urban economy, aiming to reiterate the importance of the lower circuit of the urban economy over the upper marginal circuit of the urban economy, thus boosting the local economy. The results show that in the low fishing season there is a decrease in consumption in the marginal circuit of the urban economy and the decline in the income of the subjects who make up the sexual profitability network, thus highlighting the relevance that the high fishing season exerts on the local economy through the central presence of the call girl and the tourist, as subjects that stimulate the mechanisms that engender sex tourism in the municipality of Rosana and the district of Primavera (SP).

Keywords: Fishing Tourism, Sex Tourism, Agency of the Body, Sexual Profitability Network, Circuits of the Urban Economy.

1 INTRODUCTION

The municipality of Rosana, being bathed by the Paraná and Paranapanema rivers, has become a propitious place for the practice of fishing tourism. Every year this segment of tourism attracts tourists from different states of Brazil during the high fishing season that extends from March 1 to October 31. However, fishing tourism hides sex tourism in the ¹ municipality that, directly or indirectly, adds income to different subjects inserted in the lower circuit of the urban economy and in the upper marginal circuit of the urban economy.

¹ The present discussion comes from the doctoral thesis defended in 2027 called "The Network of Sexual Profitability and its Developments in Rosana (SP) and is an integral part of a Research Project Coordinated by Professor Juliana Maria Vaz Pimentel entitled "Sexual Tourism in Rosana and Its Developments on the Lower Circuit of the Urban Economy and the Upper Marginal Circuit of the Urban Economy: a Spatio-Temporal Analysis (2017-2024)", which seeks to understand Rosana's spatial production from sex tourism and its consequences on the lower circuit of the urban economy.



About the economic relations in Rosana, we cannot fail to analyze how its socio-spatial formation is conditioned to the way in which the productive forces inserted in the lower circuit of the urban economy (re) produce the places where sex tourism presents itself assisting in the maintenance of the upper marginal circuit of the urban economy. By observing the structure that permeates the agency of the body, we can verify the way in which the sex trade is surrounded by mercantile relations arising from the presence of call girls and tourists.

Through the agency of the body, we ascertained that the action of call girls and tourists on the two circuits of the urban economy is only likely to be consolidated due to fishing tourism that makes tourism/sex trade invisible. Thus, sex tourism is incorporated into the "lower circuit of the urban economy" through the socioeconomic framework of the subjects who cannot occupy functions that require greater qualification, forcing them to insert themselves in activities with low remunerations, thus placing them in a peripheral condition within the scope of the urban economy.

Inns and ranches are the places that receive the most tourists. From the year 2012 with the policy of granting land for municipal entrepreneurship, the inns and ranches were the types of buildings that gained more spaces, not only in the city of Rosana but also in areas between the city and the district of Primavera and in the 2020s, the construction of ranches gained notorious expressiveness in the municipality of Rosana and in the district of Primavera, because the municipalities perceive an opportunity to expand their incomes by renting these spaces to tourists.

We emphasize that the municipality of Rosana does not have a specialized trade, composed "of large stores, supermarkets and even hypermarkets, encompassing a considerable number of products and an important mass of consumers [...]" (SANTOS, 2008, p. 86). Rosana has an insipid industrial and technological activity and the demand for employment exceeds the supply of local commerce, a factor that drives the entry of many workers into the "lower circuit of the urban economy", thus becoming a propitious locus for the increase of sex tourism.

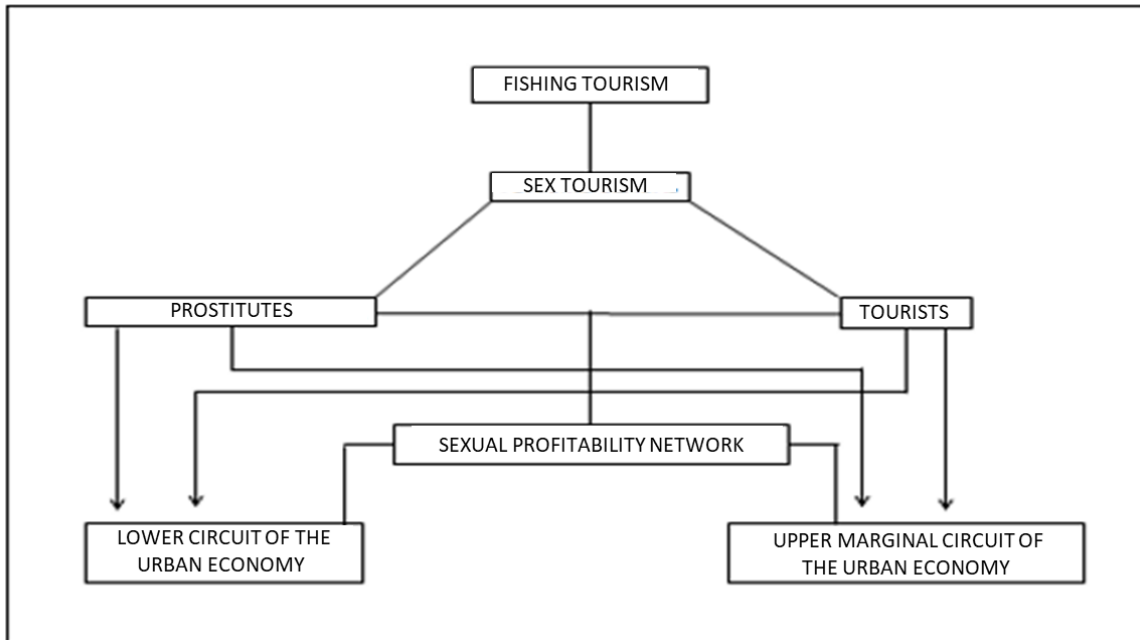
2 THEORETICAL DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

By analyzing how the arrangement of body agency is configured, we found that the action of call girls and tourists on the two circuits of the urban economy is only likely to be consolidated due to fishing tourism, invisibilizes tourism/sex trade. Thus, sex tourism is incorporated into the "lower circuit of the urban economy" through the socioeconomic framework of the subjects who cannot occupy functions that require greater qualification, thus forcing them to insert themselves in activities with low remuneration, placing them in a peripheral condition in the scope of the urban economy. However, we must point out that the "lower circuit of the urban economy" that sustains sex tourism is also responsible for boosting the "upper marginal circuit of the urban economy", thus demonstrating the relevance that the lower circuit exerts on the upper marginal.



As shown in Organizational Chart 01, the dynamics of sex tourism is produced by virtue of the purchasing power of the tourist. Therefore, this subject becomes the driving force to also boost the sex trade, whose consolidation is also due to the services offered by call girls to tourists.

Organization Chart 01. Of the developments of sex tourism and the performance of call girls and tourists Rosana (SP)



Org.: Juliana Pimentel

In the organization chart 01, we can assimilate the way in which fishing tourism enables and fosters the performance of the tourist and the call girl in the movement of the two circuits of the urban economy. In the organizational chart we consider the tourist and the call girl as central subjects of sex tourism and who drive the economic activities interconnected to the two economic circuits, through the network of sexual profitability².

The network of sexual profitability is structured through the organization of the subjects who provide direct and indirect services to tourists and call girls. Those who are inserted in it realize how much fishing and/or sexual tourism is consolidated as a profitable activity and responsible for generating an important division of labor. In this structure, service providers appoint people they trust who can provide some kind of labor aimed at tourists and call girls. It should be noted that this network is composed of "codes of conduct" and practices that express social relations produced in the daily lives of service providers.

The network of sexual profitability, in turn, is developed and fostered through the agency of the body and constitutes one of the primordial elements hidden in the dynamics that engender sex tourism.

² The network of sexual profitability includes all subjects who provide direct and indirect services to call girls and tourists, such as: boatmen, creators of fishing baits, cooks, manicurists, hairdressers, taxi drivers, liquor sellers, cleaners, ranch owners, hotels, inns, jewelry sellers, pharmacies, supermarkets, agriculture, grocery stores, clothing stores, appliances, beauty products, among others.



Its realization occurs through the indication network. All the subjects inserted in this network have the dimension of the meaning that the opening of fishing exerts on the increase of the family budget and, conceive the tourist, as the subject responsible for triggering the most diverse types of remunerated activities aimed at fishing and/or sexual tourism. However, it is worth mentioning the preponderant role that the call girl also plays in the dynamics that govern sex tourism.

Tourists and call girls are part of a network of sexual profitability, through the unleashing of a series of activities and/or services, linked to the "lower circuit of the urban economy", which end up generating income and, consequently, boosting local commerce, thus implementing the "marginal upper circuit of the urban economy". The subjects who are part of the network of sexual profitability, together with tourists and call girls, act directly in the "lower circuit of the urban economy" and in the "upper marginal circuit of the urban economy", allowing the dynamization of local commerce during the opening of fishing.

Within this logic, the production of urban space in our research will be investigated, first, from the perspective of the action of the subjects who integrate the profitability network and, then, how this division of labor articulates the two circuits of the urban economy, because we consider that the materiality of space is consolidated through social actions. The activities in the living plan of the subjects that produce the relations intrinsic to the network of sexual profitability determine differential logics about the complementarity, preponderance and subordination of the urban circuits, depending on the circumstance of how the network of sexual profitability is structured.

So thinking, space constitutes a totality. But it cannot be well apprehended if it does not pay attention to its divisions, its internal hierarchies. For, although submitted to the general processes of this spatial totality, the different places and agents, present in space, live each phenomenon, each modernization, each tendency in a specific way (BICUDO JR, 2006, p.09).

Given the relationships established between tourists and call girls, and the subjects that make up the network of sexual profitability, we could verify that the two circuits of Rosana's urban economy cannot be analyzed in isolation when investigated through the prism of sex tourism. Although they are leveraged by different factors, both within the structure that engenders the sex trade become interdependent and, thus, inseparable so that there is an effective understanding of the logic of urban economic production, because "the circuits are in a certain way quite contrary in their activities and their purposes of services. But there is a relationship between them, with regard to some products and exchanges" [...] (SILVEIRA, 2011, p. 5).

However, each circuit has its own and distinctive characteristics that, extracted from the real from that unitary vision, could be theorized as constitutive elements, i.e. as those elements that define a circuit, explain their combination and confer internal coherence, differentiating it from their opposition and making it an object of thought or a category. But, each circuit is seen equally in its relational elements, that is, in those nexus that, also recognized in the real thing, make it possible to apprehend the interdependence and articulation of one circuit with another



and, in other words, understand both objects of thought as a unitary category — the urban phenomenon (SILVEIRA, 2016, p. 15).

According to the demand of the circulation of tourists and call girls in the opening of fishing, the services increase. The entry of tourists and call girls has a direct and different impact on the two circuits of the urban economy. Therefore, from these two subjects and from those who carry out economic activities aimed at them, we can perceive the interdependence and articulation between the two circuits. However, we were also able to observe the dependence of the upper marginal circuit on the lower circuit in the period when the fishery is open.

We agree with Carlos (2012), when he assures that the production of space is distinguished according to the "purposes that guide this production in the whole of a given society". In this case, sex tourism is ensured by peculiar dynamics and its area of activity reverberates differently over the two circuits of the urban economy, even when the network of sexual profitability is organized via social networks such as *WhatsApp*³.

Thus, the notion of production *brings* important questions: its meaning reveals the contents of the productive process, the producing subjects, the agents of the material production of space, the purposes that guide this production in the whole of a given society, as well as the ways in which it is appropriated. This production is distinguished from the others in its meaning and presents new implications. If it has social relations as its content, it also has a location in space. In this way, there is production of space and production of activities in space, therefore, human activities are differentially located in space, creating a morphology (CARLOS, 2012, p. 62).

In line with Carlos (2012), the urban spatial arrangement produced by the subjects inserted in the "lower circuit of the urban economy", ends up producing the space, according to the purposes that engender sex tourism. The lower circuit of the urban economy leveraged by the processes inherent to sex tourism is responsible for generating employment and income, to the subjects who for various factors are unable to enter the labor market. In the high season of fishing, this economic circuit allows the subjects who are part of it, to obtain income that allows them to consume in the upper marginal circuit.

Although the subjects who work in the lower circuit manage to survive peripherally in the urban economy, the activities arising from this circuit allow these subjects to acquire products from the upper circuit. As an example, we can allude to the products of household appliances, furniture, clothes, among other goods that are acquired in local commerce, through the agency of the body, thus evidencing the importance that the lower circuit exerts on the upper one.

³ If during the 2010s the arrangement of the sexual profitability network was organized territorially in the streets and nightclubs, during the pandemic, there was a need to readjust to the requirements of the Ministry of Health in relation to social isolation. From interviews conducted with call girls in the year 2023, the reports demonstrated that the dynamics of the sexual profitability network was perpetuated and, even if less intensely, consumption on the two circuits of the economy continued to be structured according to the mechanisms of the 2010s.



In this way, call girls and tourists are responsible for boosting both the lower and upper marginal circuits of the urban economy, through changes in the economy and in the urban landscape itself from the opening of fishing. We can compare the urban dynamics of the city of Rosana, with what Silveira says about the circuits of production and consumption that make up the city and fragment it. "The fragmentation of demand corresponds to a fragmentation of supply, consisting of divisions of labor carried out with different techniques and forms of organization in the same geographical space" (2013, p. 65). When we compare the mechanisms that sustain the subsystems of the lower circuit, we find that fishing tourism is conducive to a division of labor, with specific forms of organization, focused on the demand of sex tourism.

The reflection on the lower circuit in particular thus brings us closer, in a certain way, to an analysis of the process of precariousness of work that, nowadays, increases social vulnerability and produces various forms of work that end up involving, albeit indirectly, the entire social fabric (MONTENEGRO, 2006, p. 50).

Thus, we consider that the spatial production of the two circuits is also based on the way sex tourism is organized and materialized in space, evidencing that the economic production of the city is fragmented and creates subterfuges so that citizens can generate income, even if it comes from activities that require little application of capital, low remuneration and provision of services that do not require technology and specialization of work. These are the characteristics inherent to the profile of the subjects that integrate the lower circuit of the urban economy, focused on the demand of fishing and/or sexual tourism.

Following this logic, if in the closure of fishing there is a decline in sales in local commerce and in the flow of people and cars in the city center, during the high season this scenario is modified, above all, by the greater circulation of tourists and call girls.

The offer of services inserted in the "lower circuit of the urban economy" is enhanced in the months before the opening of fishing. In this period, some commercial establishments focused on the sale of fishing articles are already beginning to feel the heating of their sales. This is due to the action of boatmen and pirangueiros who, before the opening of fishing, start buying and organizing the articles intended for this activity.

In these months, inns and ranch owners are already with their daily closed. If tourists request the services of pirangueiros, boatmen, cleaners, cooks, call girls, among other service providers, the owners already have the contacts.

Barreto (2007) discusses the economic relationship that tourists develop in the cities they visit and calls it the "multiplier effect of tourism". This fact occurs due to the "distribution of tourist income" that this subject trigger when looking for differentiated services.



Those who practice tourism, tourists, are related, in the first place, to service providers, and this interrelationship affects in various ways the other members of society who relate to these service providers and, circumstantially, as tourists; in turn, from this interrelationship new data emerge that affect in a different way another group or other groups of people. At the same time, tourists relate to other tourists and the quality of this relationship has peculiar characteristics. According to the economic model, the components of tourism are on the one hand, tourists, consumers who constitute the demand and, on the other, those who create attractions and the very attractions that compose, together with service providers, supply (BARRETO, 2007, p. 9-10).

We can compare the economic relations that involve the tourist activity mentioned by Barreto (2007) with the way sex tourism is organized and structured in Rosana. Even before the tourists arrive, they already negotiate with the owners of inns, ranches and even with call girls their stays. Subsequently, they look for subjects who offer services consistent with fishing and/or sexual tourism. The same process occurs with the call girl. If she does not settle in a friend's house, she will look for pensions where the price of the daily rates are low. When preparing to provide their services, they will look for, for example, a manicure or a hairdresser and clothing, shoe and cosmetics stores. These examples are consistent with the economic model described by Barreto (2010) that clarifies the relationships that are played by tourists when they arrive at their place of destination.

According to our research, upon arrival, tourists can have their meals in the inns or restaurants and bars. If they opt for ranches, they go to the supermarkets and grocery stores for the purpose of buying general food and drinks to consume during the time of their stays. In the meantime, call girls also come to town. Manicurists and hairdressers, in the last week before the opening of fishing, can already notice an increase in the turnover of women in their salons. This reality can be explained by the fact that the girls are preparing to work, that is, to receive potential clients.

My movement does increase! It's the best time of movement for me. A lot of women come here at the opening of the fishery. There is a client of mine here who lives here and knows some who always come at this time and they already indicate me. There are times when I have to call a friend to help me because there is a lot of movement in the hall. I do a lot of tincture, flat iron, progressive and cutting. This time is good, women pay everything in sight, they do not mark no. At the close of the fishing I have movement yes. It's more the women right here. Many women mark to pay in the other month and the movement here fell and I do not know how much, more I see that falls, nor do I need to call my friend to help me (Hairdresser. Interview conducted on 04/19/2016).

I worked in a salon right here in Rosana and I did the hand and foot of the girls and had to give a percentage to the owner of the salon. One day I started doing the math and saw that I gave was a lot of money to the salon. I thought, I'm going to work on myself that's worth a lot more. I work and keep everything I earn for myself. I did it! As I knew some girls I started to go to their house to do nails and always these girls already indicated I to the friend. Look at the time when I work the most is when fishing opens because there are a lot of girls coming because of the tourists. I've been to ranch does the nail dumas three girl who was with tourist on the ranch (Manicure. Interview conducted on 11/25/2016).

In view of the two reports, we can verify the influence that the opening of fishing exerts on the subjects that are part of the "lower circuit of the urban economy". In addition, we found that the



network of sexual profitability is also consolidated through the call girl. In this case, the call girl uses the services provided by manicurists and hairdressers and appoints work companions to share the services offered by these people.

During the night, tourists and call girls meet in the cafeterias and in the beer garden. Both come to these places in search of a companion. At this moment, there is a meeting between girls who arrive to work and tourists who want to consume their services. The amounts earned with the agency of the body allows, the call girl, to consume in shoe and clothing stores, acquire beauty products, pay their bills, taxi rides, frequent bars and kiosks of the municipal bathhouse, do their nails and hair and, sometimes, consume drugs.

If the call girl has aroused a greater interest in the tourist with whom she chose to carry out the program, she may be presented with some product of her preference. This treat can be purchased in a store of clothes, shoes, beauty products and even appliances or furniture.

Considered in its totality, accumulation tends to produce a homogenizing rationality, inherent to the process that takes place producing not only objects/commodities, but also the division and organization of labor, models of behaviors and values and representations that induce consumption, revealing themselves to guide everyday life. In this way, daily life tends to be invaded by a regulatory system at all levels, concretized in space as normal [...] (CARLOS, 2012, p. 65).

We were able to verify that the daily life of the call girls, in addition to other aspects, is marked by the possibility of raising material goods and bank deposits from their potential clients. Getting the ability to furnish their homes and acquire new garments are among their interests. That is, this activity, therefore, in addition to providing them with an income, also serves as a means of acquiring other goods and objects of their interests, thus acting in the dynamization of the upper marginal circuit and in the lower circuit of the urban economy.

The circuits reveal a dynamic unknown to most people, they show the structure of the fragmented economy of the underdeveloped countries. Both remain on opposite sides and serve individuals with different incomes; however, it is essential to point out that the logic of the upper circuit begins to enter the life of the poor population, through the appeals for consumption. What in fact maintains and sustains the poor mass is the lower circuit, which provides them with employment and income, as well as essential products and services that would not be possible to consume in the upper circuit (SOUZA; SAINTS, 2014, p. 7).

In this sense, by investigating the profile of the tourist who arrives in Rosana and about the type of tourism that is developed, we were able to broaden our field of apprehension about this activity. Fishing tourism, which, in fact, increases the sex tourism carried out in the high season of fishing, energizes the two circuits of the urban economy, from the division of labor that embodies the network of sexual profitability, arising from the production of space resulting from the increase in the circulation of call girls and tourists in the high season of fishing.



3 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The lower circuit of the urban economy leveraged by the processes inherent to sex tourism is responsible for generating employment and income, to the subjects who for various factors are unable to enter the labor market. In the high season of fishing, this economic circuit allows the subjects who are part of it, to obtain income that allows them to consume in the upper marginal circuit of the urban economy. This logic can be evidenced by different forms of consumption already explained in the course of the discussion. Although the subjects who work in the lower circuit manage to survive peripherally in the urban economy, the activities arising from this circuit allow these subjects to acquire products from the upper circuit. As an example, we can allude to the products of household appliances, furniture, clothes, among other goods that are acquired in local commerce, through the agency of the body, thus evidencing the importance that the lower circuit exerts on the upper one.

Thus, the two circuits of Rosana's urban economy should be investigated with greater caution and in the light of sex tourism. From this analysis, our research has shown that sex tourism boosts commerce and services and, consequently, the two circuits of the urban economy.

In order to understand the intricacies of this dynamization, we could not disregard the role played by sex tourism, given that call girls and tourists are responsible for articulating and strengthening a series of services that integrate the network of sexual profitability. The activities that constitute the network of sexual profitability organize and structure, especially the lower circuit, thus demonstrating the need to apprehend the way in which economic circuits are based so that we can truly understand the economic dynamics engendered and driven by sex tourism.

The subjects inserted in the "lower circuit of the urban economy" have in sex tourism an alternative for the unleashing of a series of services that, without the action of tourists and call girls, would not exist. Thus, they find in sex tourism a way to transform themselves into subjects capable of identifying with the product of their service.

Therefore, the various services triggered by sex tourism, or rather, by the subjects who play a central role in the network of sexual profitability and who, in turn, make up the "lower circuit of the urban economy", become relevant for the support also of Rosana's "upper marginal circuit of the urban economy", considering that, in the opening of fishing, increase it significantly.



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