CONTESTING THE PUBLIC REALM: STRUGGLES OVER PUBLIC SPACE IN LOS ANGELES

By: Margaret Crawford
“the end of public space” - Michael Sorkin
“the fall of public man” - Richard Sennett
“destruction of any truly democratic urban spaces” - Mike Davis
public sphere overwhelmed by consumerism, the media, and the intrusion of the state into private life
- Jurgen Habermas

LOSS.
The School of Athens  -Rafael

public | state

public | economic/domestic

Mall Food Court
COMMON GOOD?

narrow and normative definitions of both public and space

**public as singular | counterpublics**

**unity | contestation**

**public sphere: competing demands, violence, reasoned debate, demonstrations, rioting, strikes**

.."The meaning of concepts such as public, space, democracy, and citizenship are continually being redefined in practice through experience."
Insurgent Citizenship

The city is an arena for the self creation of these new citizens, it is also a war zone. The dominant classes have met the advances of these new citizens with new strategies of segregation, provatization, and fortification. - Holston
1992 Los Angeles/Rodney King/Justice Riots

“Somos vendedores, no criminales” - Vendadores Ambulates
"Simultaneously local and public, the activities in this parking lot strengthen the neighborhood while they visibly represent its culture to outsiders."
ban sleeping in public parks
closed midnight-6am
not permitted where playgrounds/sport facilities exist
eliminate food programs in city parks
prevent expansion of social service agencies
donate to agencies, not panhandlers