

Exploring Urban Resistance: Street Vending and Negotiations Over Public Space Livelihoods in Hanoi, Vietnam

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This project examines the infrapolitics of street vending in Hanoi, Vietnam, as vendors negotiate government regulations aimed at restricting vendor livelihoods. In 2008, Hanoi's municipal government banned street vending on 62 selected streets and from the vicinity of 48 public spaces. While the government has taken steps to restrict the ability of street traders to work, vendors can still be seen plying their trade throughout the city. Moreover, the majority of street vendors, especially itinerant traders, are rural to urban migrants, often women, without access to more formal livelihoods due to a lack of formal education, financial capital or social networks. As the threat of government regulation becomes increasingly critical, vendors must develop effective resistance strategies in order to maintain their livelihoods. Based on fieldwork completed in the summer of 2010 this project explores these vendors' multiple survival strategies, ranging from methods of everyday surveillance, to the use of bribes or payment.

