

Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

Urban Paradigms & Street Vending: A Global View

1. Licensing Regimes

Conventional wisdom: Street vendors are 'outside' of regulation. Yet we see extensive regulation of vendors all over the world.

New York City Independent Budget Office Fiscal Brief

November 2010

Sidewalk Standoff:

Street Vendor Regulations Are Costly, Confusing, and Leave Many Disgruntled

Standard framework for licensing: require vendors to hold a license in order to trade, then limit the number of licenses issued, and selectively enforce when politically convenient. **Modifications needed**: to recognize the possibilities for regulation with low barriers to access for licenses specifically.

2. Spatial Control

Conventional wisdom:

evicting/relocating street vendors will make them go away.

Standard framing driven by

entrepreneurial urban governance paradigm. Research on political dynamics of urban space (including resistance) is now well established.

Modifications needed: to differentiate 'formalization' approaches using spatial control from other approaches.

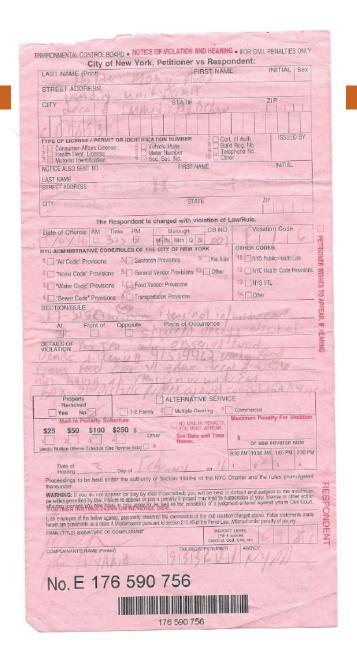


3. Enforcement

Conventional wisdom: regulations aren't enforced.

Standard frameworks for enforcement: fines, merchandise confiscations, license revocations, arrests.

Modifications needed: to close gaps via administrative law.



4. Taxation

Conventional wisdom: street vendors don't pay taxes.

Standard frameworks for taxation: local levies, excise taxes, fees associated with licenses, permits, health certifications. Modifications needed: accounting for 'costs of being informal' including all forms of tax, plus relationship of tax to service provision.



Three Priorities for Research

- Ongoing interactions between street vending organizations and authorities at all levels — the spaces in between the headlining moments
- □ Emerging models for own-account workers to access social protection and otherwise mitigate risk
- □ Structured comparisons as one of many methods that bring value to debates on street vending