

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO
THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC CENTERS

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE X CONSERVATION

An increase in the number of people that agree upon the conservation meanings of an object can result in an increase in the significance of a given object.

(Muños Viñas, 2005, p.160).

Tested hypothesis

The **level of conservation** of the **residents properties** in the HC depends on the level of the **perception of cultural significance of the HC** by the residents.

METHODOLOGY

A statistical account of the **the state of conservation of the properties** against the:

1. **Factors** about the state of conservation of: monuments, scenic views, urban layout and public space.
2. **Indicators** of: Perception of significance, Urban infrastructure, Supply of urban services and Management of urban conservation.
3. Socioeconomic conditions of residents.

Data: 138 properties in the Historic Center of Marechal Deodoro (Alagoas, Brazil) Maximum error of 7%.

TESTS OF THE MODEL

Model 1: SCHC x Factors.

Model 2: SCHC x (Factors + Indicators);

Model 3: SCHC x (Factors + Indicators + Socioeconomic conditions + State of property conservation and public space).

Best result: Model 3 (reflects the contemporary theory of conservation)

RESULTS

Most important variables to explain the state of conservation of the residential properties:

- 1) The state of **Conservation of monuments**;
- 2) The level of **Supply of services**;
- 3) The level of **Perception of cultural significance**.

The practice of revitalizing urban centers is focused on the infrastructure, services and management

Leads to an **over-standardization**, which is not always well received by locals and users of the historic center.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Need of a **review of the practice** of revitalizing historic urban centers.

Cultural significance can be a way to find what **makes each place different**, and may well contribute to an **enhancement of local development and sustainable urban conservation**.

Thank you!

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