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Mapping the migrant-owned commercial activities to understand urban dynamics and inequalities in Naples

Mappare le attività commerciali dei migranti a Napoli per indagare dinamiche urbane e disuguaglianze

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ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

Mapping the migrant-owned commercial activities

The growing presence of migrant workers from non-European countries employed in the trade sector is becoming increasingly apparent. In urban studies, the observation and interpretation of the distribution of migrant-owned commercial activities in urban areas allows for the highlighting of the processes and dynamics of urban transformation. Firstly, the morphological, settlement and building characteristics, socio-economic structure, cultural habits and production traditions affect the opportunities for migrant populations to engage in small business activities. Secondly, they influence the dynamics of spatial transformation and re-signification of parts of the city.

This paper presents the findings of a research project initiated in 2020 at the Department of Architecture of the University of Naples Federico II. The project, PRIN 2022 PNRR “Mapping the new spatial inequalities within Southern European cities”, offers new insights that are relevant to the topic under discussion. The paper, therefore, provides an investigation into the prevalence of commercial activities owned by citizens from non-EU countries on the geography of the city of Naples and on the processes of urban transformation and reproduction of inequalities.

Keywords: urban studies, migrants, urban policies, mapping, GIS

Mappare le attività commerciali dei migranti a Napoli

La presenza di cittadini migranti, provenienti da Paesi extra europei, occupati nel settore del commercio è un fenomeno sempre più evidente. Negli studi urbani, l’osservazione e l’interpretazione della distribuzione nella città delle attività commerciali di titolarità di migranti rappresenta una lente di ingrandimento per evidenziare processi e dinamiche di trasformazioni del tessuto urbano. Caratteri morfologici, insediativi, edilizi, struttura socioeconomica, abitudini culturali e tradizioni produttive incidono, infatti, sulle opportunità per popolazioni migranti di avviare piccole attività imprenditoriali e influenzano le dinamiche di trasformazione spaziale e ri-significazione di parti di città.

Il contributo presenta alcune evidenze di una ricerca in corso dal 2020 presso il Dipartimento di Architettura dell’Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II, che ha trovato nelle attività del progetto di ricerca PRIN 2022 PNRR “Mapping the new spatial inequalities within Southern European cities” nuovi spunti di riflessione. Il contributo, infatti, descrive l’incidenza delle attività commerciali di titolarità di cittadini provenienti da Paesi extra UE sulla geografia della città di Napoli e sui processi di trasformazione urbanistica e di riproduzione delle disuguaglianze.

Parole chiave: studi urbani, migranti, politiche urbane, mappe, GIS

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1. Introduction: the role of migrants as a lens for urban studies

The growing presence of migrants (Cristaldi, 2020; Douglas et al., 2019), come from non-European countries, employed in the trade sector is becoming increasingly evident. Campania is one of the most appealing Italian regions for foreign entrepreneurs, with the trade sector accounting for over 50% of immigrant companies (AA.VV., 2024).

The presence of foreign populations represents a privileged point of observation in urban studies. The presence and distribution of housing and labour among migrants can be used as approaches to understanding and explaining the dynamics of migration, their impact on the transformation of public and private spaces, and related urban policies (Briata, 2011b). Indeed, the spatial dimension serves to highlight the presence of migrants in the urban context, thus rendering it both visible and perceptible (Cristaldi, 2012; Lanzani, 2003). Within the framework of path dependence, which posits that social paths influence the developmental dynamics of open systems (Djelic & Quack, 2007) and that the resilience of geohistorical patterns intersect with the persistence of urbanisations (Paba et al., 2017), the research succeeds in describing and interpreting certain characteristics of the phenomenon of migrant presence, beginning with its localisation at the municipal level.

From an alternative perspective, the observation and the study of the presence of the foreign population seek to gain a comprehensive understanding of the underlying inequalities and their dynamic interactions within the population, which can be classified according to various demographic characteristics, including gender, age, education, occupation, and so forth (Kunzmann, 1998; Lawrence, 2002; Martínez-Martín, 2005; Nijman & Wei, 2020; Tonkiss, 2020; Viesti, 2021).

This paper presents some of the findings of an ongoing research process carried out at the Department of Architecture of the University of Naples Federico II. This research project was initiated in 2020 as a departmental research project with the objective of investigating the role of migrants in the social division of space in Naples (Abbamonte et al., 2022a, 2022b; Laino, 2022b, 2022a). These issues will be discussed and expanded upon in the PRIN 2022 PNRR research project, entitled “Mapping the new spatial inequalities within Southern European cities”. This project is being carried out in the same Department and aims to elucidate the impact of foreign-owned commercial activities on both urban transformation processes and the reproduction of inequalities.

2. Methodology: an exploration through a Geographic Information System

The research has been developed through a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches, integrating a robust foundation of urban geographical knowledge with a Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyse data and facilitate a more profound comprehension of the territorial dynamics in Naples.

In order to investigate the phenomenon of the localisation of commercial activities owned by foreign citizens a quantitative approach was employed, whereby data from the Chamber of Commerce of Naples were collected and processed. This data enabled the definition of a framework at the municipal scale. Subsequently, a qualitative approach was employed through the implementation of a field survey in a designated area of the city's historic centre of Naples. The selection of this area was informed by the analysis of data from the Chamber of Commerce and the insights gathered through direct observation, which revealed an escalating concentration of foreign commercial enterprises, predominantly engaged in the trade

of goods intended primarily for personal or household use and consumption¹.

The research process can be summarised in five phases, which also constitute the basis for the design and implementation of the Geographical Information System. Indeed, the various stages of the research process align with the primary functionalities of GIS, including data acquisition, pre-processing, database management, spatial analysis, and the generation of products (Biallo, 2005). The aforementioned phases are as follows: (1) The initial stage of the research process involved the collection and pre-processing of data from the Chamber of Commerce of Naples. (2) The data were then georeferenced and subjected to spatial analysis within a GIS. Subsequently, (3) a field survey was carried out, and (4) the resulting data were integrated with the Chamber of Commerce dataset for further analysis within the GIS. Finally, (5) the processed information was subjected to a process of reading and interpretation.

In the first phase, the data obtained from the archives of the Chamber of Commerce of Naples were subjected to a screening and selection process in order to identify the necessary information. The dataset comprises commercial activities registered in Naples until December 2020, with ownership registered via a value-added tax (VAT) number by foreign citizens resident in Italy.

The database employs the Classification of Economic Activity (ATECO), a system adopted by ISTAT for the classification of commercial activities. A preliminary distinction was made between two categories of commercial activities: those conducted within commercial premises, referred to as “in-store” activities and carried out by shopkeepers, and those conducted in stalls on a public street or in a market, referred to as “itinerant” activities and carried out by street vendors. In order to guarantee consistency and comparability across the entire data set, business activities conducted by companies were excluded from the sample; only legal entities were considered. This has enabled a more accurate correspondence of activities with natural persons. Consequently, the data on in-store activities serve as a reflection of work, while those on street vendors can be interpreted as reflecting the housing of migrants. Indeed, preliminary analysis has revealed that the address associated with the VAT number pertaining to “in-store” activities corresponds to the address of commercial activities. Conversely, the address pertaining to “itinerant” activities appears to be more likely associated with the residential address of the proprietor of the activities.

In terms of the types of goods sold, reference was made to products traded by both identified categories – shopkeepers and mobile traders – and thus to products intended mainly for personal or household use and consumption. The category of goods in question included foodstuffs, electronic and computer equipment, clothing, and accessories. A further level of selection was applied to the data according to the nationality of the business owners. This analysis considers only those activities owned by non-EU nationals.

In the second phase, the Chamber of Commerce data were imported into the Geographical Information System, developed for the research, through an indirect georeferencing process, using the addresses declared as business locations as an alphanumeric relational parameter. Subsequently, spatial analyses were conducted with the objective of identifying and categorising activities, in accordance with the aforementioned characteristics of the data². Furthermore, spatial analyses were conducted using overlay and extract techniques to establish relationships between disparate information levels through the utilisation of topological characteristics.

In the third phase, a field survey was conducted through the utilisation of semi-structured interviews. The objective of these interviews was to gather information

regarding the store, the management of activities, and the proprietor. In regard to the former aspect, the questions were direct in order to ascertain the previous use and owners (i.e. Italian or foreigners), as well as the opening period. With regard to the latter, the focus was on the manner in which the business was initiated and how it is managed (i.e. whether it employs staff or is supported by friends or family members), on the type of goods sold, and other relevant information. With regard to the owner, the questions aimed to delineate their migratory history and actual family and dwelling conditions³.

In the fourth phase of the study, the findings of the field survey were incorporated into the Geographic Information System, linked to the data set provided by the Chamber of Commerce, and subjected to spatial analysis in order to gain deeper insight into the multifaceted landscape of commercial activities of migrants (Arena, *in press*).

In the last phase, the findings of the analyses were interpreted with the objective of advancing the understanding of the geography of Naples with specific reference to the dynamics of migrant presence.

The research project aims to experiment with the use of Geographic Information Systems capable of integrating both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as interacting with databases, tools and different digital structures. According to its established and traditional quantitative use, GIS can be employed as a tool for collecting, storing, retrieving at will, transforming and displaying spatial data from the real world (Burrough, 1986). It is capable of providing a detailed description of an area characterised by significant morphological, settlement and socio-economic heterogeneities, such as Naples (Goodchild, 2010; Maguire, 1991). From an epistemological research perspective (Dragičević, 2004; Han, 2019), GIS can be employed as a method to support decision-making processes (Biallo, 2005; Cowen, 1988; Longley et al., 2001). This is achieved by integrating the approach, method and tools of quantitative and qualitative research, facilitating the interpretation and utilisation of the resulting analysis about urban phenomena and supporting the formulation of urban policies. The GIS enables the collection and management of georeferenced data, as well as the association of quantitative and qualitative information. This further allows for the undertaking of analyses at varying scales, taking into account the multiple spatial and non-spatial characteristics of the territory in question. The implementation of such systems can be phased in over time, allowing the production of up-to-date information. Furthermore, they facilitate the simulation of different solutions and scenarios, thereby providing guidance for decision-making.

Moreover, in this research, the field survey provided a valuable opportunity to assess the interplay between applications and digital technologies within GIS (Abbamonte et al., 2023). Indeed, the semi-structured interviews conducted on site were collected using Google Forms and integrated into Google My Maps. This allowed the information to be immediately geolocated, thus avoiding potential complications associated with transcription at a subsequent stage⁴. The integration of the data into the GIS environment enables the construction of maps that return qualitative survey results with a comparable process methodology to those produced using quantitative data from the Chamber of Commerce.

In alignment with the aforementioned theoretical and methodological framework, this paper will focus exclusively on the evidence resulting from the processing and interpretation of maps generated from the data provided by the Chamber of Commerce of Naples at the municipal level concerning the presence of migrant traders, encompassing both shopkeepers and street vendors⁵. The integration with a

robust urban knowledge base is intended to facilitate an understanding of the dynamics of the evolving social and demographic landscape. It can be reasonably assumed that itinerant trade represents the initial source of employment for many migrants, with the potential to evolve into a fully-fledged business after a few years. This phenomenon represents an evolutionary trajectory out of poverty. Furthermore, the role of shopkeepers and street vendors as a reflection of employment and housing⁶ opportunities is considered, with the objective of elucidating potential future migration patterns in the city.

The following section will present the analysis and interpretation of the distribution of migrant traders. Initially, the findings from the analysis of the data collected about both shopkeepers and street vendors will be presented collectively, after which the two categories will be examined separately. This approach enables an investigation into potential changes to the spatial distribution of these groups and the impact of the migrant presence on local neighbourhoods.

3. Results: how shopkeepers and street vendors are distributed in urban area

At the municipal level, the distribution of migrant traders – comprising shopkeepers and street vendors – integrated with consolidated knowledge of urban geography allows for the enrichment of our understanding of territorial dynamics in Naples (Arena, 2024).

In accordance with the criteria elucidated in the preceding paragraph, the identification of the type of commerce, the products sold, and the nationalities present in the greatest numbers allows for the definition of the foreign nationals who own the businesses as “migrant”.

Indeed, in Naples a total of 6,457 activities have been identified, with 18.5% of these activities conducted in a physical store and 81.5% conducted as itinerant activities, taking place in stalls on a public street or in market areas. The goods sold fell into the category of the kind typically used or consumed by individuals or households, electronic and computer equipment, clothing, and accessories. With regard to nationality, the largest numbers of both in-store and itinerant traders were found to be of Chinese, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan and Senegalese nationality. Of the 1,193 shopkeepers, the countries of origin are as follows: China (22.1%), Pakistan (11.3%), Bangladesh (9.5%), Sri Lanka (6.3%) and Senegal (5%). The 5,264 street vendors are from the following countries of origin: Pakistan (26.8%), Bangladesh (21.4%), China (9.7%), Senegal (8.5%) and Sri Lanka (8.3%) (Abbamonte et al., 2022a) (Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1. Type of goods sold by shopkeepers and street vendors

Typology	Foodstuffs	Electronic and computer equipment	Clothing, and accessories	Total
shopkeepers	328 27%	788 66%	77 6%	1,193 18.5%
street vendors	23 0.4%	0 0%	5,241 99.6%	5,264 81.5%
				6,457

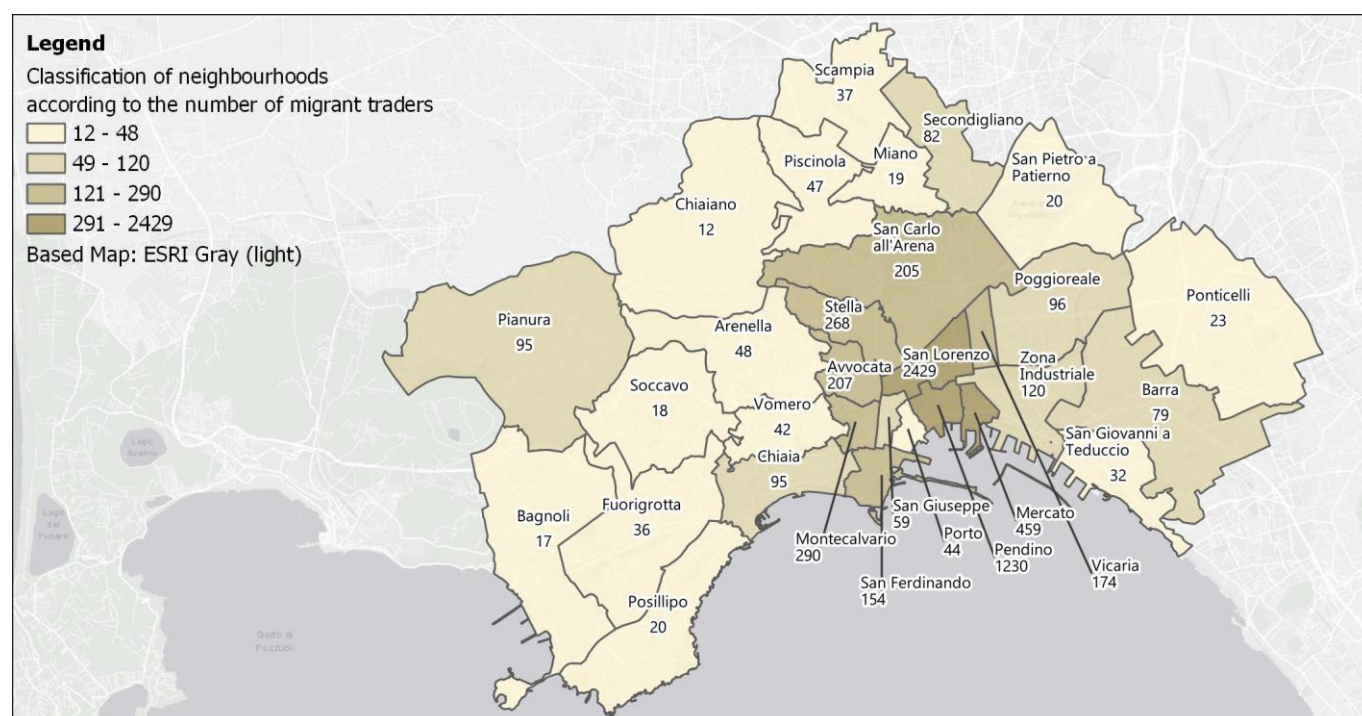
Source: Author’s own elaboration of data from the Chamber of Commerce, 2020

Table 2. Main nationality of shopkeepers and street vendors

Typology	China	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Senegal	Othor	Total
shopkeepers	264 22%	135 11%	113 10%	75 6%	59 5%	547 46%	1,193 18.5%
street vendors	512 10%	1,409 27%	1,124 21%	439 8%	445 9%	1,335 25%	5,264 81.5%
							6,457

Source: Author's own elaboration of data from the Chamber of Commerce, 2020

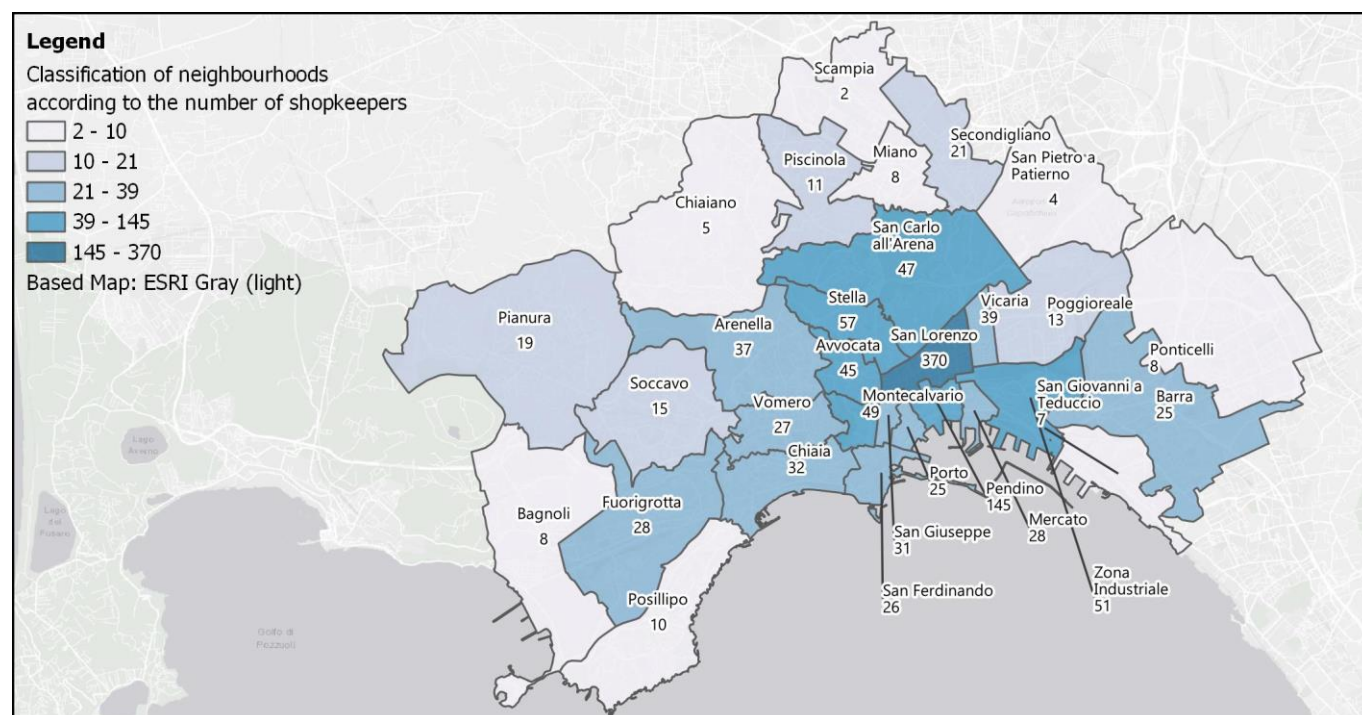
The presence of shopkeepers and street vendors (Figure 1) has led to the formation of a central area comprising the districts of Mercato, Pendino, and San Lorenzo, which are situated in close proximity to the railway station, a hub for migrants (Amato, 2017; Giuliani, 2021; Ostanel, 2017; Schenk, 2020). Additionally, a second ring can be identified, comprising the districts of San Ferdinando, Montecalvario, Avvocata, Stella, San Carlo all'Arena, Vicaria. The third level is constituted by the districts of Pianura, located to the west, and Barra and Poggioreale, situated to the east. This category also encompasses Chiaia and San Ferdinando, as well as Secondigliano, which are situated on the edges of the second ring.

Figure 1. Shopkeepers and street vendors by neighbourhood

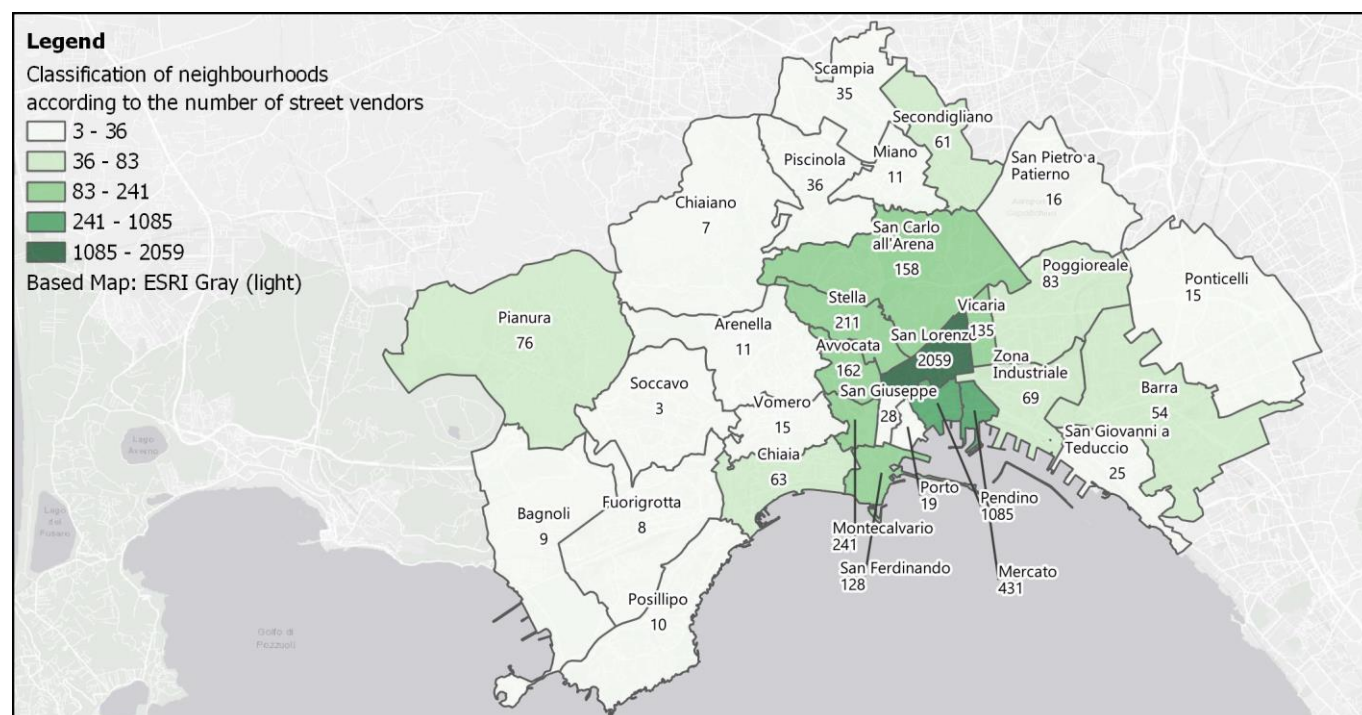
Source: Editing and processing by the author

The first and second categories overlap with the well-known geography of the central area of Naples. Conversely, certain districts within the final category, which are identified as the peripheral residential zones of the city, have assumed a central role as destinations for migrants.

An analysis of commercial activities conducted in-store (Figure 2) demonstrates that the majority of retail outlets are located in San Lorenzo, a district that corresponds with the historic city centre.

Figure 2. Shopkeepers by neighbourhood

Source: Editing and processing by the author

Figure 3. Street vendors by neighbourhood

Source: Editing and processing by the author

The remaining significant concentrations of foreign shopkeepers can be found in the neighbouring districts of the northwest, including San Carlo all'Arena, Stella, Avvocata, and Montecalvario, as well as in the district of Pendino to the south of the aforementioned area. The foreign presence is less significant in the hilly areas of the city (Chiaia, Vomero and Arenella), as well as in the residential districts of

Fuorigrotta to the west and Barra to the east. Conversely, in the more peripheral districts, on the other hand, their presence is markedly constrained.

As illustrated in Figure 3⁷, the distribution of street vendors is comparable in the city centre, where their presence is most concentrated. In contrast, their visibility is less pronounced in other areas, including the hilly residential zones and the districts of Fuorigrotta, as well as the suburbs.

4. Discuss of results: the features of Naples behind the city's appeal to migrant

A review of the data presented on the maps, in accordance with the consolidated paradigm of urban division into central-peripheral areas, reveals that the presence of migrants is more prevalent in the traditional central districts. This is the case both for shopkeepers and street vendors considered together and separately.

The administrative division of the city is indicative of its morphological, settlement, economic and social characteristics, which have marked its evolution over time. The neighbourhoods of Mercato, Pendino, Porto, San Giuseppe, Montecalvario, Avvocata and San Lorenzo define the historical central area of the city, which developed in close proximity to the port following the Hippodamean layout and the ancient 16th-century walls. The hilly districts of Chiaia, Posillipo, Vomero, Arenella, Stella and San Carlo all'Arena, which developed as a result of the building boom of the 1950s and 1960s, constitute the expansion areas of the city. The peripheral areas are defined to the west by the neighbourhoods of Fuorigrotta, Bagnoli, Pianura and Soccavo, to the north by Chiaiano, Piscinola, Scampia, Secondigliano, Miano and San Pietro a Patierno, to the east by San Giovanni a Teduccio, Barra and Ponticelli. The northern and western districts are the result of expansion plans drawn at different times, which were intended to ensure multifunctionality and polycentrism. The eastern districts, on the other hand, were annexed to the municipality at the beginning of the 20th century and this determined their settlement and functional structure, which still today ensures a degree of autonomy with respect to the dynamics of the city centre (Dal Piaz, 1982; Gasparrini & Russo, 2010; Lepore, 1989; Mazzeo, 2009; Romano, 1970).

A comparison of the maps demonstrates that the central areas appear to be attractive locations for both shopkeepers and street vendors. In contrast, the second ring, which is characterised by hilly and residential areas, is more open to the presence of shopkeepers than of street vendors. Finally, the peripheral areas are less accessible to migrants, although there are some districts where the presence of migrants is linked to the housing rather than work

From the perspective of urban studies, the investigation of employment sectors, particularly trade, can offer a valuable approach to understanding the reciprocal relationships between migration dynamics, changes in land use and government policies (Briata, 2011a; 2011b, Celata & Cassani, 2012; Zanfrini, 2008). The incidence of foreigners is facilitated by a combination of urban features and social factors. In terms of activity in the store, both high residential density and the presence of facilities and services at local and metropolitan levels are relevant. The former refers to the density of housing in the area, while the latter refers to the presence of amenities such as schools, employment opportunities, tourist attractions, and transportation links, which serve to expand the catchment area, including students, workers, tourists, and city users. Other urban factors are linked to spatial issues, such as the availability of small, inexpensive dwellings, the persistence of a natural micro-commercial district able to protect and maintain retail trade and neighbourhood trade, which includes the foreign retailers.

The urban factors conducive to the concentration of itinerant traders include a satisfactory level of accessibility and, most significantly, the presence of a diverse housing stock in terms of both size and quality of condition. A case in point is the *bassi*, a Neapolitan residential unit that is characterised by its ground-floor configuration, accessible by and opened onto the street. This configuration comprises a single room that functions as a bedroom, living room and kitchen. Such dwellings are considered appropriate for small families or groups of individuals with shared national origins. As an alternative option, there are larger flats that were not subject to subdivision or renovation, and which have the capacity to accommodate larger groups. However, these housing solutions do not adequately address the residential needs of even lower-middle-class individuals or families, although they offer a solution, albeit an unsuitable one, for migrant groups with fewer resources. The social conditioning factors that influence both shopkeepers and street vendors include the previous attendance of fellow foreigners. These facilitates the progressive embeddedness of the migrant in question. The presence of brokers, which makes it easier for them to set up of a business. Furthermore, the lack of the intragenerational change in specialised craft activities, which leaves empty commercial spaces. Other social factors pertain to the management of commercial activities, such as home delivery, microcredit and flexible opening hours, which have been surfaced through fieldwork as contributing to the competitiveness of migrant traders.

These characteristics are particularly evident in central areas, especially in the historic centre where diverse social classes have historically coexisted due to the morphological and typological conditions that have facilitated the presence of the lower classes.

In the hilly districts designated as upper-middle residential districts, the spatial characteristics identified as relevant to the presence of migrants are fewer in number. The area is well served by public transport, with a metro line providing convenient access to a range of services and facilities, including primary and secondary schools, as well as tertiary and quaternary services. However, the availability of affordable housing is limited, and the cost of living is generally higher. Conversely, these neighbourhoods constitute significant commercial areas, historically distinguished by a diverse array of product sectors, including neighbourhood activities, major brands, large-scale distribution and handicrafts. Even foreigners can find premises that have been left vacant as a consequence of intergenerational changes. While these neighbourhoods are central in terms of service provision and housing density, they can be defined as peripheral in terms of the phenomenon of the presence of migrants as both residents and workers.

Lastly, peripheral areas, specifically the districts of the northern and western suburbs are, generally, perceived as unattractive to migrants due to their predominantly residential character and lack of services and activities that could facilitate their integration. However, the districts of Secondigliano, Pianura and Poggioreale represent exceptions to this trend, either due to the availability of low-cost housing or the established foreign communities. The western districts of Bagnoli, Posillipo and Soccavo also fall within the peripheral belt. Here, the low presence of foreigners can be explained by the high quality of housing in the first two districts and the absence of pre-existing communities in Soccavo.

In conclusion, the dichotomous centre/periphery geography, which is based on spatial determinism and polarises differences between central-attractive and peripheral-degraded areas, is an effective method for describing, studying and interpreting the presence of a specific population, namely migrants in the city of

Naples. The urban and social features that facilitate the presence of migrants in an urban area – a diverse mix of uses, heritage, social and economic characteristics – are more likely to be found in the city centre than in the peripheral districts.

The presence of migrants, whether as inhabitants or employees, in specific areas of the city evinces the city's diverse and permeable character, which is open to the integration of new citizens. Moreover, this presence reflects a process of growth in the personal trajectories of migrants and a transformation of the city, which is susceptible to the entry and mobility of individuals and activities from diverse backgrounds and social classes.

5. Conclusion and future perspectives

This paper makes a contribution to the field of urban studies by delineating the distinctive geography of the city of Naples. The study employs a GIS to process maps and interpret the results, identifying central and peripheral areas according to the presence of migrant traders.

From a conceptual perspective, three issues warrant discussion: firstly, the distinctive characteristics of Naples; secondly, the mutual opportunities presented by the city and migrants; and finally, on the use of GIS.

The city of Naples represents a distinctive case study in the field of urban studies. The morphological and typological characteristics of the city facilitate the residence of the lower classes in the historic centre. Moreover, the city's heterogeneous areas, which have historically been defined by a range of functions, uses and housing typologies, are shaped by the presence of foreign commercial activities, which foster a diverse population in terms of social and economic backgrounds.

Moreover, the presence of migrants can be an opportunity to maintain the vitality of the city. Indeed, it can encourage integration between the existing population and new arrivals, between traditional and emerging uses of commercial spaces, and encourage the adaptation of spaces to new functions. At the same time, it can ensure the conservation of the structural characteristics of the historical centre, which are constituted by a combination of residential and commercial uses.

The relevance of GIS lies in its capacity to geolocate data, thereby enabling the establishment of relationships between variables typically employed in urban studies and the explicit delineation of existing topological relationships.

However, most importantly, this research emphasises the significance of GIS in its capacity to facilitate the integration and interoperability of data and resources from diverse sources developed by quantitative and qualitative approaches, which are represented in various digital formats. Indeed, the analysis of Chamber of Commerce data within a GIS environment has enabled the identification of information that would otherwise remain obscured when stored in a tabular database. These are linked both to topological dimension and to the relationship with another information layers as soon as administrative boundaries, the presence of public or private facilities and network of transportations. Moreover, GIS has been disclosed as a good tool to management data collected through diverse technologies as well as those utilized during the field survey.

From a technical perspective, however, the research is also deficient in certain respects.

One limitation of the analytical approach employed is the assumption of a linear connection established between the addresses associated with the value-added tax number of businesses and the residence of foreign nationals. It seems reasonable to posit that these addresses may be fictitious and provided for work purposes. It can

thus be inferred that the number of citizens present in the territory may be considerably lower than the data indicate. Nevertheless, this does not invalidate the observations regarding the contextual conditions that facilitate migrants' entry and settlement in the city. The considerable number of VAT number associated with dwellings (detected within the same address) can be interpreted as the preliminary unstable landing place, both residential and labour-related, of a stabilisation process that may be perpetuated with the establishment of commercial activities in shops.

A further limitation pertains to the territorial reference dimension of the data, namely the neighbourhoods. It is acknowledged that there are intra-neighbourhood variations. However, this territorial extension, a widely used approach in urban studies, enables the generation of data that can be comparatively analysed with other variables, such as indices pertaining to demographic, education, and labour statistics. Furthermore, the neighbourhood, when merged into the municipal level, becomes the territorial extension of urban and social politics and actions, including ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of public spaces, social welfare, education, culture, sports, trade and crafts, and finally, public security. These sectors are of particular relevance to policies that aim to promote inclusion and reduce the reproduction of inequalities.

The aforementioned considerations provide a foundation for further analysis that may inform future inquiries into the relationships between diverse population groups and the influence of specific spatial conditions and facilities on the evolution of urban context. Another potential avenue for future research is an examination of policies designed to facilitate genuine intercultural integration through collective endeavours conducted on a daily basis and sustained presence in a given locality for occupational purposes. Such policies could be designed with the objective of reducing inequalities.

Notes

1. The activities in question are referred to as “minimarket” on the signboards of the premises. Consequently, this term will be used throughout the remainder of this article, as well.
2. Some results of the analysis are illustrated in a series of cartographic representations published in the work of (Abbamonte et al., 2022a; Laino, 2022b).
3. The acquisition of data pertaining to the subject's background and living aspects has been more arduous. Consequently, the resulting dataset has been deemed to be of negligible significance.
4. The research utilised GIS software that is open source. It is acknowledged that certain software solutions, which are protected by copyright, have developed plug-ins that facilitate the collection of data during survey field analysis.
5. The results of the research obtained from semi-structured interviews were disseminated in a publication by (Abbamonte et al., 2022b).
6. We consider the addresses linked to value-added tax number such as residential addresses.
7. The near-total overlap of figures 1 and 3 can be attributed to the high prevalence of hawkers in comparison to shopkeepers.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Originality

The author declares that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere, in English or any other language. The manuscript has been read and approved by all named authors and there are no other persons who satisfied the criteria for authorship but are not listed. The author also declares to have obtained the permission to reproduce in this manuscript any text, illustrations, charts, tables, photographs, or other material from previously published sources (journals, books, websites, etc).

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