

Propositions Timo Peeters

1. In Guatemala City, the withdrawn lifestyle represented by gated communities *is* city life instead of an exclusion from it.
2. The aesthetization of security made sense in Guatemala City as bodyguards and other visible security measures provided people with the possibility to distinguish oneself from others and step out of anonymity without necessarily making oneself vulnerable from a security perspective.
3. Withdrawal is not only a moving away from something, but also a moving towards something else.
4. In a world full of violence, violence easily becomes the go-to source for coping with violence.
5. Fear of crime has magnetic qualities as it attracts fearful people on the one end while it helps to fight back others on the other end, keeping itself alive in the process.
6. During fieldwork, especially when this takes place in crime ridden areas, criminologists are often forced to hide the fact that they are criminologists due to the unfortunate associations with the police and police work the term tends to inflame.
7. In a criminological world that is mainly focused on western and especially the United States cities, the Global South – which should have high priority within a discipline that derives its identity directly from crime – is all too often assessed through the lens of western theories and expected to live up to western standards.
8. The old adage “If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences” is as relevant today as it was almost a century ago when it was first written down and seems to only gain extra importance in situations of duress and distress.
9. Without gates and even the walls of a house, the body was one of the few things left for the street people of El Castillo they could withdraw from.
10. It is not a coincidence that one of the greatest magic realist writers, Nobel Prize winner Miguel Ángel Asturias, is a Guatemalan, or that the style of fiction, which injects the real with the magic, originates from Latin America, a region that has specialized in losing.
11. A dissertation is never finished, it is abandoned.