Café culture in queer Madrid: conviviality and hospitality in cosmopolitan cities

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Structure of paper

• Chueca: the rise of a cosmopolitan queer village
• Textures of hospitality in queer urban culture
• Conclusion
Chueca was a wretched hive of scum and villainy; a place where angels feared to tread and to which the police afforded a very wide berth. The transformation from run-down junkyville to Madrid’s hottest quarter began when the then-marginalised gay community started to buy up property, set up businesses and open bars and restaurants. Now that the barrio has risen like the proverbial phoenix, there are more great places to have a caña or a tasty meal than you could shake a very large stick at.”

Train, 2006, *In Madrid* (Listings magazine)
Most of the gay-friendly businesses and the scene are located in one area: Chueca… Chueca boasts a rich and varied offering of activities and services to the neighbourhood, contributing to the vibrant and fun atmosphere…Madrid invites you to feel free…Holding hands or showing your gay or lesbian feelings in public are freedoms protected by the laws of our city…

Welcome!
Conclusion

• In Chueca, consumer culture has been one crucial factor in the
development of Madrid’s queer cosmopolitan urban culture;

• Through widespread access to spaces of queer conviviality,
relations of cosmopolitan hospitality (i.e. universalist attitudes
towards difference, and appeals for welcome) emerge and are
reproduced;

• Queer “café cultures” can enact, or host, relations of queer
cosmopolitanism and hospitality in cities undergoing rapid
change because cafés are spaces of ‘experiential consumption’.