

Abstract

This doctoral thesis examines retail geography in urban spaces through the lens of three distinct but interconnected chapters. The first chapter focuses on the informal street vending of goods, analysing it as both a form of labour and economic activity and a negotiated and contested space in urban environments. The second chapter examines the halal meat supply chain, exploring how it functions as a diverse economy or alternative food network in non-Muslim countries and as a source of conflictual and contested spaces, specifically in relation to ritual slaughterhouses and *halal* butcher shops. The third chapter narrows the scope to the specific case of Turin, analysing the relationship between Muslim spaces and secularisation. By examining how mosques and halal butcher shops were originally closely related but have evolved, the chapter explores how these spaces are perceived and experienced differently by different individuals and groups. Throughout the thesis, a common theme is a relationship between retail, urban spaces, and religion. The thesis emphasises that while retail can be a valuable resource or coping strategy, it can also be a source of conflict and negotiation. Additionally, the thesis highlights the complex relationship between food and retail in urban spaces, showing how it can be both a source of livelihood and conflict.