

Research step 7: Final version of Bachelor's thesis

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You are welcome, but behave!

How students perceive privatization of the public space through privately owned public spaces in Groningen

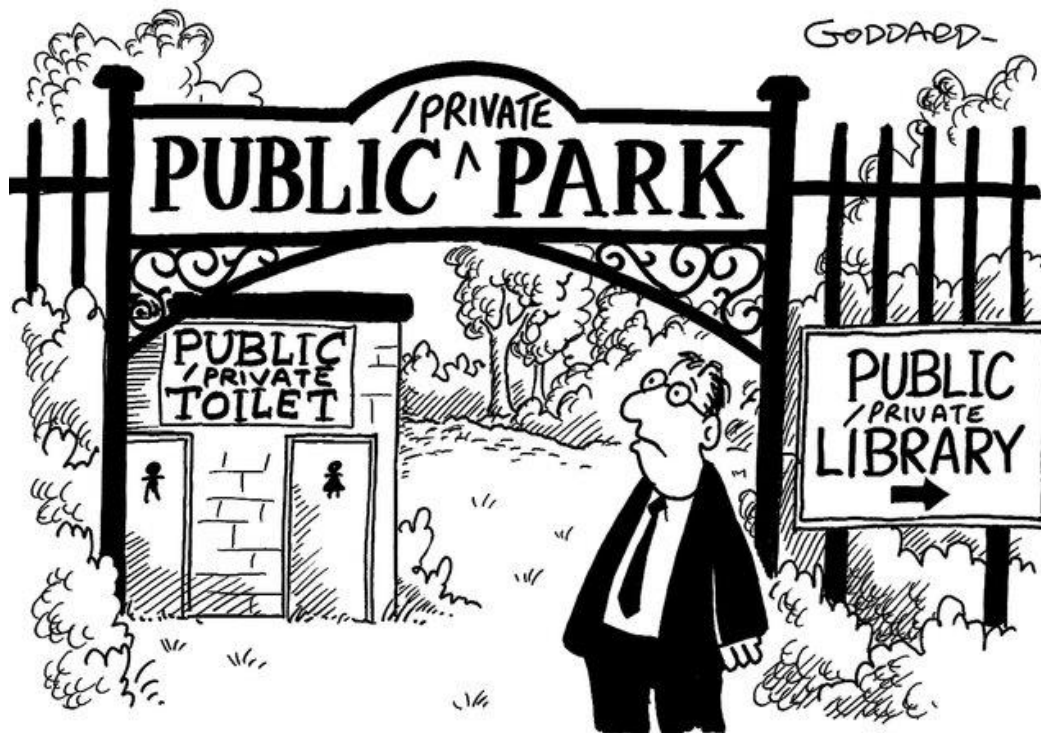


Figure 1: (Goddard, n.d)

Abstract

Privatization of the public space is a phenomenon that is expanding itself in the Netherlands. While developments regarding this phenomenon often occur in silence, it has a huge impact on its users. As little to no research has been done on this subject in the Netherlands, this thesis aims to map out the perception of student users regarding privatization of the public space in Groningen. This has been done via a qualitative research on privately owned public spaces (POPS) consisting of both a survey and semi-structured interviews. The results indicate a two-sided conclusion: students do appreciate privatization of the public space as private owners invest in safe, clean and well-maintained spaces. Contrary to that, users categorize the imposed rules of conduct, higher prices and excluding of certain visitors as negative. In order to get the best of both worlds regarding the advantages privatization brings while discarding the disadvantages, further research is recommended on general rules imposed by public entities regarding privatization of the public space.

Keywords: privatization, privately owned public space(s) (POPS), perception

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Introduction

In order to fight against and prevent the declining of cities and its public spaces after the industrialization of western Europe, many countries introduced neo liberalistic policies. These policies laid accent on the benefits of a free market, causing a global competition between cities from the 1990's onwards. During this period architects got the job to alter the public space by giving it its own aesthetic in order to attract tourists, firms and new residents. This caused for a privatization of the public space in Western Europe (Leclercq, Pojani, van Bueren, 2020). The privatization of public space is a development that is influenced by North American models considering private backing of the public realm. Furthermore privatization of the public space is driven by other factors such as consequences of globalization, a building pressure on public finances and increasing land values (Devereux & Littlefield, 2017).

The phenomenon of privatization of the public space has expanded over the last 30 years in the United Kingdom, and now it is also rapidly gaining a foothold in the Netherlands (Leclercq, 2016). Therefore it is important to research how this movement manifests itself and what consequences it has for its users in the Netherlands.

On the one hand privatization of the public space is a process that has created enormous opportunities such as the transformation of many outdated squares or riverfronts making them new economic centers (Minton, 2006). An example is the complete renovation of Canary Wharf in London from an neglected wharf into a brand economic powerhouse with loads of big companies settling there (Weaver, 2014). Furthermore private owners often have better financial opportunities than the state when it comes to investing in the cleanness, safety and overall pleasantness of public spaces. This is appreciated by its users, besides a wide range of entertainment and shopping occasions (Leclercq & Pojani, 2021).

On the other hand the privatization of the public space causes for higher overall levels of surveillance with the installation of more CCTV cameras and sometimes even private security guards depending on the space (Leclercq & Pojani, 2021). Next to that there has been an increasing influence of spaces that look public at first glance but are in fact privately owned (Weaver, 2014). These locations, are also referred to as privately owned public spaces ((POPS) also known as pseudo-public spaces/semi-public spaces/mass private properties/quasi-public spaces). They appear to be open to the public and have the appearance and feel of public land, but they are actually governed by landowner-drawn restrictions. These restrictions are typically enforced by private security firms rather than being subject to standard local authority bylaws. This causes landowners of seemingly public space to put up their own rules of conduct which they can alter at any time without notifying users. Eventually this results in situations where visitors are being addressed for taking pictures or homeless people being removed from the site by security for simply being there (Shenker, 2017). But the restrictions expand even further in other places such as Canary Wharf (London) or Paternoster Square (London), where people were denied their fundamental rights when private owners used court orders to stop protests from happening on their sites.

Societal and scientific relevance

As there are very contradicting views regarding this subject and little to no research has been done regarding the privatization of the public space in the Netherlands, this research will aim to give better insight in the way that privatization of the public space in Groningen is perceived by its users. For societal and practical reasons it is important to take this perception into account as it is a major asset to measure the success of a public space (Ramlee et al, 2018). Furthermore local city governments also ask the private sector to fulfill the urban users' needs as part of city renovation strategies (Peiris and Fayas, 2022). Investigating how users perceive the space therefore leads to new outcomes that could help us improve our public spaces.

In addition to that POPS appear to be 'public spaces', it can thus be stated that privatization of the public space affects everybody in their daily lives, whether you notice it or not. This makes it a topic of great societal value worth looking into. Besides that, a paper of Paköz, Sözer and Doğan (2021) is

hinting for a need for further research on the experience users have with pseudo-public spaces. Furthermore Leclercq and Pojani (2021) would also value extended research on this subject in different places to compare the outcomes. Both of these thus indicating there is a well-founded scientific motivation to further explore this topic.

Research area

This research will investigate how this phenomenon expresses itself in the Netherlands, Groningen. Groningen is a city situated in the North-East part of the Netherlands with an interesting demographic where one in four inhabitants is a student (around 60.000 of the 240.000 total) (Groningen, 2023). As student housing usually consists of having small rooms in houses which often do not have a common room, students like to use the city center as their 'second living room' (VIDIUS, 2021). Therefore students tend to use the city center and its amenities a lot for studying, traveling or practicing social activities which consequently results in them also coming across the aforementioned privately owned public spaces. This research will take a look at how students perceive these privately owned public spaces in order to map out how the privatization of the public space in Groningen is perceived in general. In order to dive into the beforementioned subject, an effort will be made to answer to following research question:

How do students perceive privatization of the public space in Groningen through privately owned public spaces?

In an attempt to answer this research question, first, these sub-questions will be answered:

- In what ways does the phenomenon of privately owned public spaces take place in Groningen?
- What are possible advantages and disadvantages to privately owned public spaces according to student users?
- How does the ownership and the thereby associated rules of privately owned public spaces contribute to the perception of users?

Thesis structure

The thesis is structured as follows: in the second chapter the theoretical framework will be discussed in which the concepts of privatization and public space are being explained. Thereby an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of POPS is given. The theoretical framework serves as an overview of the existing knowledge regarding this subject which helps setting the boundaries for a sufficient data analysis. Chapter three will consist of an explanation as of why and in what way a survey and semi-structured interviews were used as methods of data collection. This chapter also discusses practical details regarding the gathering data process. In chapter four the data analysis will be done. This is made up of an overview of the gathered data which is interpreted by linking back to the theoretical framework. In addition chapter four also includes the discussion of the data by recognizing patterns and explaining percentages. In the final chapter the conclusion will be discussed along with the further research advice and the reflection.

Theoretical framework

Public space & privatization

There are many different definitions of the term public space. It should not be considered as a genre in and of itself, because history shows it is its function and its visitors that cause different interpretations (Bodnar, 2015). However to get a grasp on what this concept means, this research will use the following definition which is implemented by Devereux and Littlefield (2017): “*Public space can be considered either as space owned by public institutions, or space used by members of the public. Additionally, writers describe “quasi-public” spaces, “third spaces”, “parochial” and “domesticated” space and varying forms of public/private partnership.*”

Public space is a key concept regarding the topic of privatization. This definition shows that it is a broad concept that includes many different types of space, the most important one being quasi-public spaces, which is a synonym of the aforementioned POPS. But what is privatization exactly?

Ultimately the goal of the privatization is to create vibrant, environmental friendly and properly managed public spaces, causing them to be very sustainable (Ntakana & Mbanga, 2020). It started in the 1990’s in the USA and later on the UK when a development occurred towards making cities centers more appealing rather than functional. However during this period local governments were bound to stern spending restrictions. In order to pay for these ‘attractive spaces’ private actors became involved (Devereux and Littlefield, 2017). Besides financial reasons the private sector was willing to get involved as it would improve their development ideas. Also some members of the public had a need to distance themselves from troublesome groups that assembled in inappropriate public areas, therefore preferring private actors to look after public space (Loukaitou-Sideris, 1993). Other factors that drove privatization were inner-city competitiveness, political acceptance of public-private partnerships and increasing land values (Devereux and Littlefield, 2017).

An article by Carmona (2021) distinguishes two different types of privatization, namely ‘corporate privatization’ and ‘state privatization’. Corporate privatization is the process where the conserving and managing of certain spaces that used to be seen as public spaces is being taken over by private parties. Think hereby of squares, streets, parks etcetera. State privatization is the growing influence of corporate interests in the ongoing management of public resources, including whole neighborhoods and specific spaces. This study will mainly focus on corporate privatization and the coherent concept of POPS (privately owned public spaces).

POPS and its advantages

As local governments wanted to attract investors due to their financial benefits in order help manage and evolve public spaces, the privatization was often executed via public-private partnerships (Ntakana & Mbanga, 2020). But also other forms of outsourcing to non-public parties such as pseudo-public bodies are possible (McLaughlin, Osborne, Ferlie, & Osborne, 2002). These pseudo public-bodies cause for the emerging of POPS such as shopping centers, cultural institutions, recreation centers or other types of private facilities. These have slowly become important places for the gathering and the social networks of people. They are private properties that are open to the mass, therefore blurring the conventional ownership-based borders (Zhang, 2016). These POPS do not have to deal with all kinds of bureaucratic rules and have more funding which allows them to tackle issues that occur in the traditional public space. This makes it for example easier for private owners to improve public safety and cleanness (Zhang, 2016). In addition private owners are often seen to be more responsible for their space as proponents state that POPS must build positive relationships with regular people because their visits directly contribute to their revenue. Kempa et al (2004) contribute to this by mentioning that the survive ability of a POPS is dependent on how often people visit and their consumption pattern. A rational POPS owner would therefore make sure that the privately owned public space is an inviting space of high quality. Furthermore processes of developing new public spaces sometimes become in fact more ‘public’ when private actors are involved as they cause for a bigger diversity of actors that participate in urban governance and planning (Leclercq, Pojani, van Bueren, 2020). Besides the aforementioned reasons privately owned public spaces also cause for better proximity for residents from their home or work towards public spaces. POPS also cover the areas

where there are few publicly owned public spaces, which serves to balance the distribution of public spaces around a place (Yoon & Srinivasan, 2015).

Obstacles regarding POPS

The standards of public space and private owners' rights however, seem to be at odds when consumerist private properties disguise as public areas. Due to the private ownership the owners have the authority to regulate and police the spaces, a power that causes for 'more invisible but continuous behavioral control' besides possibly putting pressure on social equity (Zhang, 2016). They impose behavioral regulations that prohibit unwanted behavior or exclude unreasonable users. Callies and Breemer (2000) highlight that private owners have a basic constitutional right to exclude. Property rights are not necessarily superseded by the Civil Rights Act as that act simply outlaws discriminatory exclusion. Therefore the inclusive and diversified public sphere is severely limited by the institutional arrangements in these spaces, which allows owners and managers to filter and prioritize users according to mandates and goals that are driven by finance (Németh, 2009). This causes the privately owned public spaces to be designed with an emphasis on consumption, paired with risk aversion, causing the public spaces to look very similar (Leclercq, Pojani, van Bueren, 2020). This risk aversion consist of creating (the perception) of safety, monitoring, neatness, and the exclusion of all "undesirable" behavior and individuals (Low, 2006).

The monitoring is done in multiple ways such as security guards, CCTV cameras, unfriendly design elements like spiky ledges, and other measures. Besides that also more 'soft' mechanisms like behavioral rules that forbid things like hanging around, political gatherings, taking pictures, handing out flyers and so on are implemented (Leclercq & Pojani, 2021).

Sometimes the privatization is taken a step further which is seen through the concept of 'business improvement districts'. These BIDs consist of defined areas (often in a city) where property owners pay private companies for services such as security, cleaning and landscaping (Macleod & Johnstone, 2012). According to Minton (2006) these are the processes that contribute to 'the erosion of democracy'. Besides that, these BIDs and its strict rules often only cause for the problems to be relocated.

Importance of perception

The perception of the user of the public space is seen as a fundamental factor since the new development where contemporary privately owned places have to find common ground with government owned spaces. This is the cause because it is exactly the users' needs that the private owner has to facilitate (Peiris and Fayas, 2022). As stated in the introduction, it is crucial to take perception of public spaces into account because it is a key indicator of how well a public area is doing (Ramlee et al, 2018). Common ways to measure the perception are via questionnaires and semi-structured interviews (Ramlee et al, 2018), (Peiris and Fayas, 2022) (Ho, Lai & Wang, 2021). These are both forms where the input is self-reported, meaning the outcomes show actual depictions of people's objective impressions as opposed to hypothetical rankings derived from observational measures (Zhang, 2023).

Conceptual model

The conceptual model shown in figure 2 functions as a tool to show the connection between the concepts of (among other things) public space, privatization and student perception. It will be used in order to get an overview so that the conclusion drawn out of the results gets clearer. The figure shows there is a connection between the key concepts of public space and student perception that can potentially work as a 'virtuous cycle'. The concept of privatization stands in the middle of these two. On one side it is a stand-alone process influencing public space, on the other side this research simultaneously captures student perception on privatization and therefore the outcomes can potentially influence the process in the future.

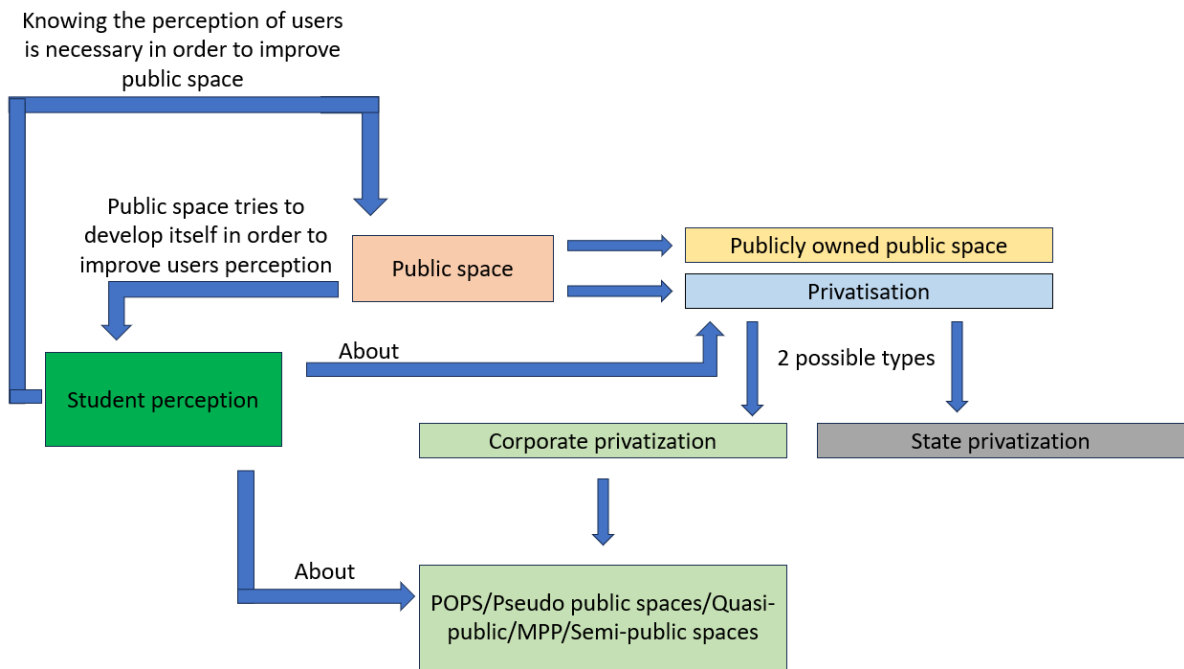


Figure 2: the conceptual model (Author, 2023)

Expectations

In order to draw a conclusion regarding this research, the results will be measured against a preconceived expectation. As this is a qualitative research it will be difficult to measure whether the correlation between several variables is significant or not. Therefore the expectation is more predictive in its essence. The following expectation will be used as an benchmark to which the outcomes of this research can be compared: *‘In general users perceive the privatization of the public space as a positive transition.’*

Methodology

The aim of this research is to get insight into the users perception considering the privatization of public spaces in Groningen. To do so a qualitative research has been done consisting of semi-structured interviews and an online survey regarding privately owned public spaces. This method was chosen as the perception of users is central in the research question, therefore getting broad reflection of people's experience is necessary. The decision to eliminate a quantitative research has been made because the perception of users considering how they experience a place is connected to countless factors. Therefore, proving significance of any kind would be hard as it is near impossible to be certain one did not forget to include a factor that influences perception. For that reason an alternative manner was chosen in which respondents could openly answer questions regarding the topic and therefore solely give their opinion on this exact phenomenon.

Survey (collection)

A survey was created regarding this subject consisting of both multiple choice and open answer questions (see appendix for the survey guide and outcomes). The survey was then distributed among different groups of students that had the completely free choice of filling it out. For the distribution accessibility sampling was chosen. This was the case as the survey results would not end up being skewed or unrepresentative due to different study types, hobbies or other factors as the only requirement for the population was being a student living in Groningen. Therefore accessibility sampling was the most convenient in its essence without influencing the outcome of the survey. Among other groups the survey was sent to and filled out by students of the student association Ibn Battuta, Rowing association Gyas and students passing by on Zernike Campus. In total the survey was filled out by 69 respondents of which 46 completely finished it including the last question allowing to use their data. This results in the sample size being 46. Below some demographics of the respondents are shown.

		Q2: Gender / Geslacht				
		Total	Men / Man	Woman / Vrouw	Other / Anders	Prefer not to say / Zeg ik
Q4: How old are you? Hoe oud ben je ?	Total Count	46,0	22,0	24,0	0,0	0,0
	19 or younger / 19 of jonger	5,0	3,0	2,0	0,0	0,0
	20 - 22	34,0	17,0	17,0	0,0	0,0
	23 - 25	5,0	2,0	3,0	0,0	0,0
	26 or older / 26 of ouder	2,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0

Figure 3: age and gender distribution of the respondents (Qualtrics output made by author, 2023)

Within the survey respondents had to choose between one of three privately owned public spaces depending on which they were the most familiar with. They would then answer the following part of the survey only regarding this location. The respondents were given this choice because it would increase the chances of them being able to fill out the survey as it was location bound. If the entire survey was made with only one location in mind there was an increased chance that a potential respondent had never visited that location, hence not being able to fill out the survey. The three different privately owned public spaces were:

- Station Groningen: the main train station in the city of Groningen (figure 4)
- Forum Groningen: cultural center (figure 5)
- Shopping Center Paddepoel: shopping center (figure 6)



Figure 4: (RTV Noord, 2023) Station Groningen, figure 5: (Veenstra, 2020) Forum Groningen and figure 6: (Elevelt, n.d) Paddepoel Shopping center.

Consequently the respondents were then asked to fill out some questions regarding that specific place in order to map out how familiar they were with both the place itself, its ownership and most importantly the rules of conduct. Subsequently all respondents had to answer a couple questions concerning their direct perception of the phenomenon of privatization, the advantages and disadvantages of privately owned public spaces and their own experience.

Survey (analysis)

The closed questions of the survey are all analyzed via graphs, charts and crosstabs in Qualtrics. All of the open-answer questions were coded in ATLAS.ti and following this the codes were counted. Codes that were reoccurring therefore got labeled with a higher quantity meaning many respondents share a similar thought regarding the answer to that question.

Semi-structured interviews (collection)

Besides the survey some more in-dept data was required to obtain a complete overview of the perception of students users considering privately owned public spaces. For that reason 10 semi-structured interviews were conducted. The interviews were conducted via a non-probability sampling approach in the form of quota sampling. This has been done as it is very difficult to carry out any type of probability sample since most people do not have the time or feel like doing a (approximately) 10 minute interview when they are approached at random. Quota sampling is an approach where the researcher decides who is in the sample in order to make sure its representative by acquiring data of given subgroups of the population. For this research 5 men and 5 women were interviewed. Furthermore 2 of these interviews were with international students as they might perceive the public space in a different way. Respondents were sought via different ways similar to the survey approach while the only criterion remained that the respondent had to be a student who lived in the city of Groningen.

Each interview started with some control questions to determine whether or not the respondents were part of the correct target group. The rest of the interview consisted of open questions (see appendix for full interview guide). The interviews were semi-structured meaning that it was not a problem if the conversation lead to new questions and answers that were initially not on the menu, which caused that it was possible to explore varied opinions.

Semi structured interviews (analysis)

In order to properly analyze the interviews the conventional approach for qualitative data was used. This means that all the interviews are transcribed and are manually coded afterwards in order to show the frequency of reoccurring (sub)codes and themes. On the basis of that the data can be assessed in order to draw conclusions.

Research ethics

Both the survey and the semi-structured interviews were carried out with no breach of the code of conduct for research integrity. This code is based on the following five principles; honesty,

scrupulousness, transparency, independence and responsibility from the Netherlands code of conduct (GDPR, 2018). These principles are guidance for participating in the right choices and behavior in all circumstances, interactions and publication of the qualitative practice. In regards to scrupulousness and transparency each interviewee had to fill out an informed consent form before the interview was conducted in which they agreed with the anonymous collection of their data. Similar to that, the respondents of the survey could voluntarily check an informed consent box at the end of the survey.

Subsequently, the transcribing of the semi-structured interviews is honest, with no manipulation and changing of the wording and answers. This ensures that there is accurate and true information. This study is independent, and is not guided by non-scientific considerations during the choice of methods, assessment of data and the choice of alternative conclusions.

Data of the respondents has been stored in two ways. Survey responses were saved in Qualtrics. This account was locked through the RUG and therefore 2 step verification is needed to access it. Semi-structured interviews were stored in the 'Dictaphone' application on the authors phone. This application was locked separately so that it was not possible for outsiders to access the data.

Results & discussion

Defining public space

As seen in the methodology section the survey got a total a of 46 useable responses. When looking at the survey, respondents were first asked how they would define a public space, as this is a key concept regarding privatization. If respondent have different interpretations to the meaning of public space this would namely also influence their thoughts on privatization. The coding overview in the image below shows that by far the most responses would define a public space as ‘a space that is available to everyone’. Others add various characteristics to that such as that is public space is owned by or related to the government, is free to access and that there are no time restriction to when you are allowed to enter the area. What an attentive reader might notice is that the code quantity is higher than the response rate, this is the fact as some respondents answered in such a way that it overlapped with multiple codes. Interestingly the most frequently given answer does not match with the earlier definition given by Devereux and Littlefield (2017), however their definition does describe “*space owned by public institutions*” which is similar to the second most frequent answer.



Figure 7: code count regarding the answers of survey question ‘How would you define a public space?’ (ATLAS.ti output made by author, 2023)

Ownership

Respondents who picked ‘Forum Groningen’ to answer their survey questions about were correct in 66.67% of the cases when asked about whether they thought Forum Groningen was publicly or privately owned. Respectively 50% of the respondents who picked Paddepoel shopping center guessed correctly that it is a privately owned place and for Station Groningen the percentage is 45,71%. All in all this shows that at most two thirds of the users actually is well aware of the ownership of the public space. In most cases this is less, especially as approximately 71% chose to base their answers upon Station Groningen.

Looking at the three different sites in the survey there was no correlation between the amount of times a respondent visited that location and whether or not they were correct about the type of ownership. This shows that it does not necessarily become clearer if a public space is privately or publicly owned depending on the amount of visits.

Rules of conduct

The table below shows the data of the respondents when asked about their awareness of the rules of conduct in these places. When the percentages are accumulated it is shown that a total of 93,5% is not

fully aware of the rules of conduct. This result is in line with the research of Shenker (2017), who stated that users of the public space have no clue what rules they are bound to when visiting them.

		Pick one of the following places that is most familiar to you			
		Total	Forum Groningen	Paddepoel shoppingcenter	Station Groningen
Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in Paddepoel shopping center?	Total Count (All)	46,0	9,0	4,0	33,0
	No / Nee	16,0	6,0	2,0	8,0
		34,8%	66,7%	50,0%	24,2%
	Some of them / Van sommige	27,0	3,0	0,0	24,0
		58,7%	33,3%	0,0%	72,7%
	Yes / Ja	3,0	0,0	2,0	1,0
	6,5%	0,0%	50,0%	3,0%	

Figure 8: statistics regarding the users' awareness of rules of conduct in several POPS (Qualtrics output made by author, 2023)

But what do the visitors think about the rules private owners uphold in public spaces when they are being informed about their existence? By far the largest groups deems the rules necessary in order to maintain a space safe and clean (figure 9), which is a similar conclusion compared to the one within research by Leclercq & Pojani (2021) presented earlier. However it can also be seen that there is a second group which is almost as big when you accumulate the codes, who are less satisfied with both the ownership and the imposed rules (figure 9). This is the case due to different reasons such as “that the rules should not go too far” and “should definitely not exclude people”. Furthermore others state that they find it uncommon that a public space is not publicly owned in the first place, let alone that the private owners can uphold rules of conduct.



Figure 9: code count regarding the answers of survey question: ‘What do you think about the fact public places are privately owned and that the owner draws up all kinds of rules of conduct?’ (ATLAS.ti output made by author, 2023)

Advantages and disadvantages of POPS

Most people value the privately owned public spaces for their good maintenance. This includes that these spaces are well cleaned and safe. A coherent aspect to this are in fact the imposed rules of the landowner. People seem to appreciate them if they cause for a cleaner and safer space. Furthermore maintenance also includes other factors such as hygiene and the continuous renovating of places. Student users feel that the private owner takes more responsibility in owning the place due to market forces and economic purposes. For private owners, their publicly accessible space can be seen as advertisement in order to promote their purpose, which results in feeling responsibility for their immediate environment as they have interest in reoccurring visitors. This causes for intrinsic

motivation by private owners to maintain the place as best as possible, which has been recognized earlier by Kempa et al (2004) as stated in the theoretical framework. Another aspect respondents mention is that with ownership changing from public to private, the municipality who will now have more time and finances to invest in other parts of the city, as there are fewer places that they have to exercise control over themselves. Lastly, users think that market forces also cause for constant innovation as private owners do not want to lag behind in comparison to their competitors.

Contrary to that, the commercialization is also seen as a downside of privately owned public spaces. Users are afraid of price increases due to the profit motives of the owners, but also because the aforementioned improvements of extra safety and cleanness will take money to execute. As a result it is likely that the user has to pay for this which can be detrimental for people who rely on these public spaces in their daily lives. Next to that these price increases can exclude certain users who (especially in the case of the train station as the NS has a monopoly) are less fortunate. In addition users state that rules can negatively impact the public space in many ways. First of all opening hours cause the public space to not always be accessible. Thereby rules of conduct can limit the rights of a user, leading to less freedom and sometimes exclusion of users who are not liked by the owner. Linking back to a previous conclusion, users see the fact that the private owner has more control in determining these rules and the fact that they are often unknown as negative. A similar conclusion is affirmed by the interviewees, of whom some think that the rules can have an impact that damages the overall purpose of the public space. As one interviewee mentioned:

“I feel judged. It feels like a club. Either they let you in or they don't let you in. That shouldn't be the way when you are going into perceived public spaces.”

Interpretation of the ambiguity of some results

When asked about student users' own experience with privately owned public spaces, most respondents (73,8%) mention that they have no personal experience whatsoever with privately owned public spaces or ways in which they were confronted with rules of conduct. This may potentially indicate two things. 1. Contrary to Leclercq's (2016) findings, the phenomenon of privatization via POPS has not expanded over the years and is in fact not that present. 2. The phenomenon is not visible for this specific target group because they either not breach the rules, or the private owner is doing its best to show little signs of the new ownership form and its complementary rules. Regarding that same questions the second largest group of respondents (14,3%) mentioned they were told not to smoke at some places. In addition others mention things such as not being allowed to walk with a beer on a certain street, or their bicycle being moved around as it was parked at a POPS without their knowing.

What stood out is that it seems that most student users want the best of both worlds when it comes to the rules of conduct a POPS upholds and the services that they provide. Over half of the respondents (54,35%, see figure below) would probably and or – definitely improve certain aspects of the public space even if this is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (with 'keeping out the homeless' being used as an example). On the other hand most users do feel that a public space is a space that should be available to everyone, meaning no one should be excluded (figure 7). This contradiction shows that most users would prefer a situation where they would profit from the services a private owner provides such as safety or cleanness, while not wanting the additional rules that potentially exclude certain users. Besides the numbers shown below one interviewee shared his thoughts on this, while his answer confirms this pattern, it is worth quoting in whole:

“In an ideal world, you would want a beautifully renovated, yet free space.”

Q12 - Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc.) ?

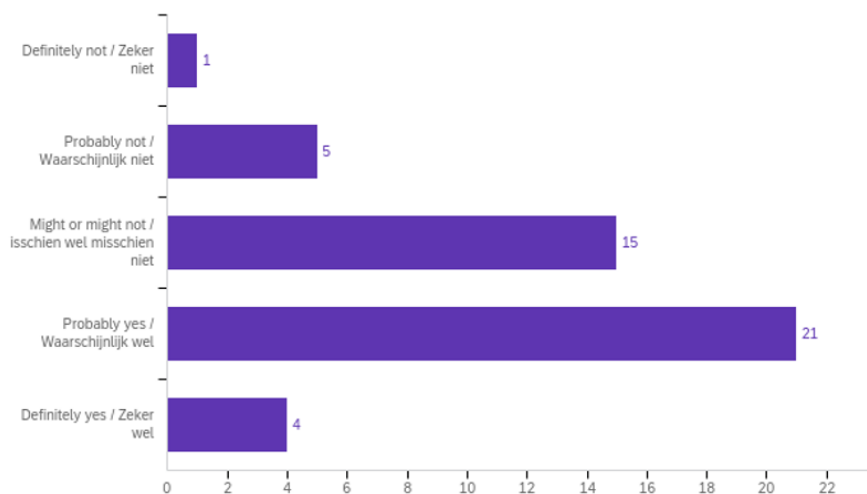


Figure 10: answer overview regarding Q12 of the survey (Qualtrics output made by author, 2023).

In conclusion most users would not appreciate expansion from the privatization towards the street. Several interviewees state that they are not keen on extra control in the streets, besides it becoming unclear what rules to adhere to in different places. To some users the solution would lay in general rules of conduct created by the state that private owners of public spaces need to adhere to. An interviewee mentions the following when asked about expansion from the privatization towards the street:

“I would be fine with it if there is still a mediator behind it which is of a public entity. They can decide on the regulations and laws and norms even though its privately owned.”

A mediator of a public entity therefore seems to be the ideal solution for users to get the advantages of private investors, while disadvantages where owners may go too far in their own regulations are diminished.

Conclusion

The development of privatization of the public space is currently still in its emerging phase compared to the situation in both the United States or the United Kingdom. In Groningen there are several examples of privatization through the appearance of POPS, but one has to look deeply into the ownership in order to find out about their existence. Subsequently most student users can think of little to no examples of how this movement stood out to them apart from being told about where they could smoke.

However when the phenomenon was explained in detail to the target audience, they pointed out advantages of privatization such as the investments private actors make in order to ensure safe, clean and well-maintained spaces. Furthermore users think private owners have a larger sense of responsibility about the space which causes them to maintain it as good as possible. However once this responsibility leads to an exceeding amount of control by the owner over the public space, users negatively characterize the privatization. They are against the limitation of users rights as to them it is not part of the nature of a public space.

Regarding the ownership of the public space, users feel that private owners do contribute to the quality of the space. Simultaneously they point about the fact that the municipality can invest their money and time in other parts of the city which they regard as positive. The additional rules that often emerge with private ownership are seen as a necessary consequence to keep the space clean and safe, while most users feel that rules should not go too far nor exclude people.

This thesis explored the perception of student users regarding privately owned public spaces in order to map out how they look at the phenomenon of privatization of the public space. Overall it can be concluded that the transition of privatization of the public space is not a topic one can easily depict as positive or negative. As privatization of the public space can take place in many forms and to different extents, users experiences with it are both good and bad depending on the situation. Nonetheless this research gave insight in the way some student users perceive current aspects of this phenomenon, which helped answering each of the sub-questions.

Recommendation

As the privatization of the public space will expand in all likelihood, it is important to take both positive and negative aspects into consideration. In order to get the advantages of private owners of public spaces in the future while making sure users are not too limited in their behavior, further research is recommended on general rules imposed by public entities regarding privatization of the public space. This can be done by doing an extensive literature review on existing policies that the municipality uses concerning privatization.

Reflection

As this research is about perception of student users, it remains difficult at all times what this perception entails. It is therefore hard to determine whether or not the questions asked in the survey and during the semi-structured interview completely grasp the entire perception of the user. As not every respondent was aware of the existence of this phenomenon, they were informed about the subject before answering questions in both the survey and the semi-structured interviews. This also included explaining examples of POPS and potential advantages/disadvantages which could have potentially caused bias in answering the follow-up questions.

Furthermore it was very hard to determine the existence of POPS in the Netherlands in the first place. As the municipality is not allowed to give insight in ownership, Kadaster could not help and most places do not mention anything about ownership on their website, it is difficult for an average visitor to know who owns the place. This caused for a less extensive research where not as much locations were included then what was aimed for in first instance.

When looking at the survey results the group of respondents was almost completely 50/50 distributed regarding gender, but completely skewed regarding nationality. Of the 46 respondents only two were international students. To prevent that the data of the subgroup 'international students' would be overshadowed they were 'over-sampled' in the interviews where every one in five interviewees was an international student.

Lastly, one of the semi-structured interviews was recorded in a noisy café. In hindsight it turned out that the sound quality was not good resulting in it being impossible to fully hear every answer of the interviewee. Therefore, it was decided to discard this interview completely from the data.

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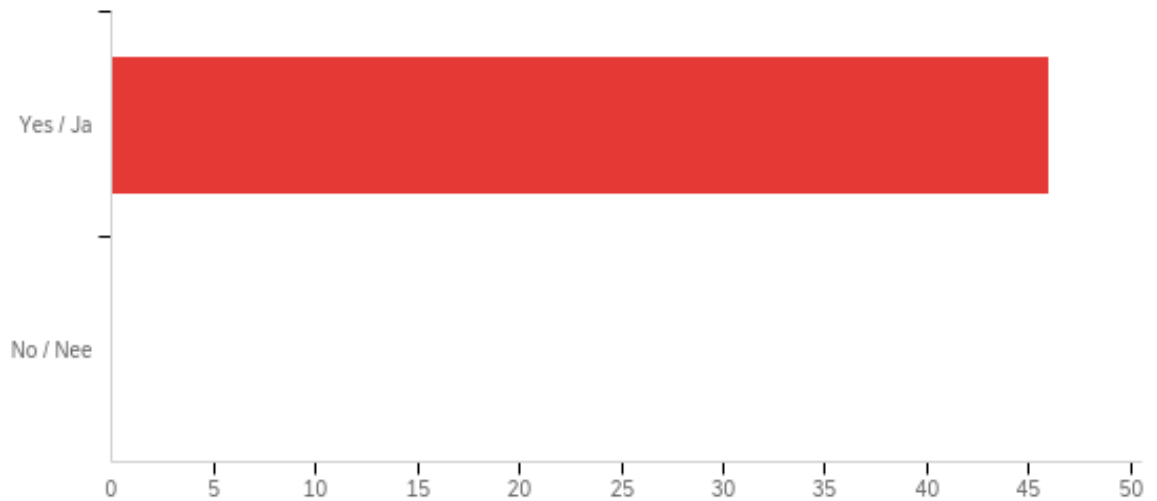
Appendices

Appendix 1: survey results

Privatisering van de openbare ruimte

December 13th 2023, 5:30 am MST

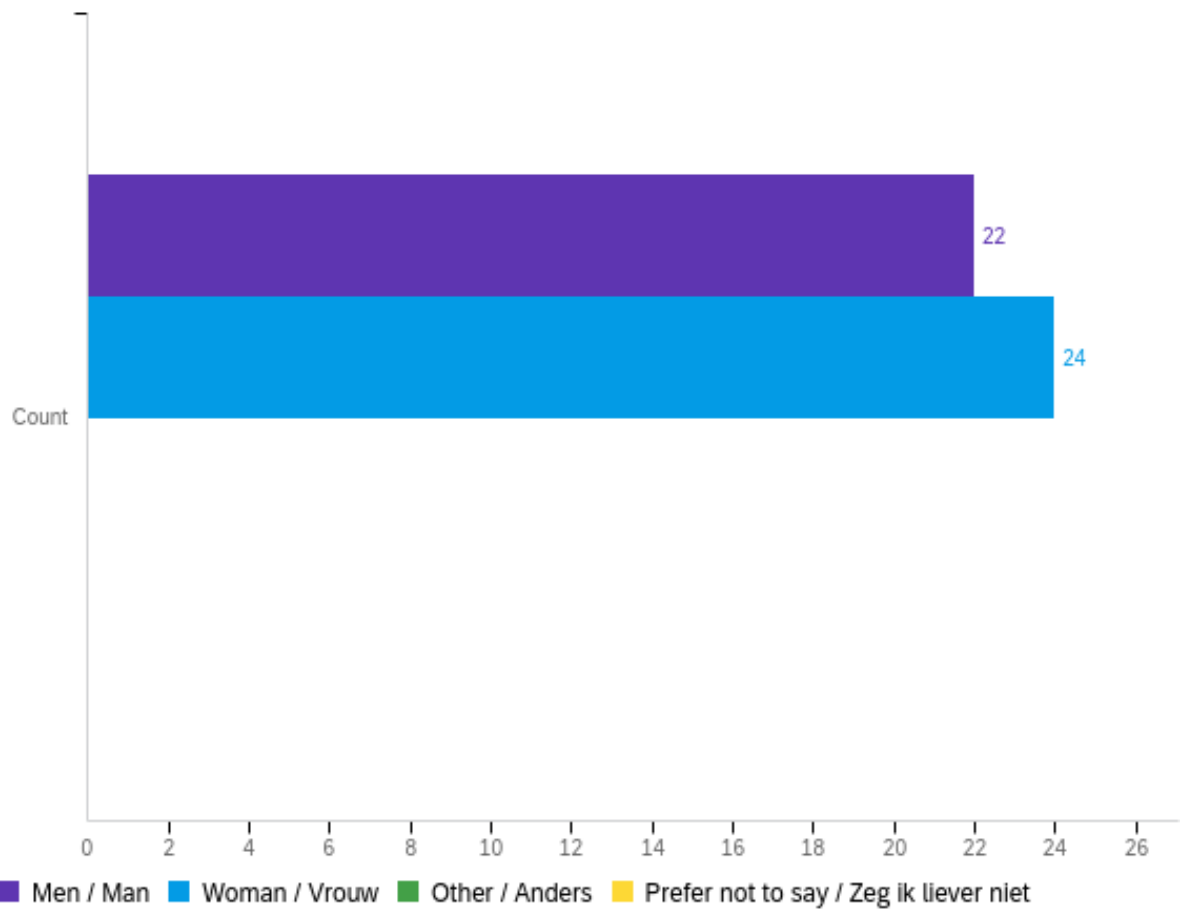
Q1 - Are you a student that lives in the city of Groningen? Ben je een student die woont in Groningen?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you a student that lives in the city of Groningen? Ben je een student die woont in Groningen?	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	46

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes / Ja	100.00%	46
2	No / Nee	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	46

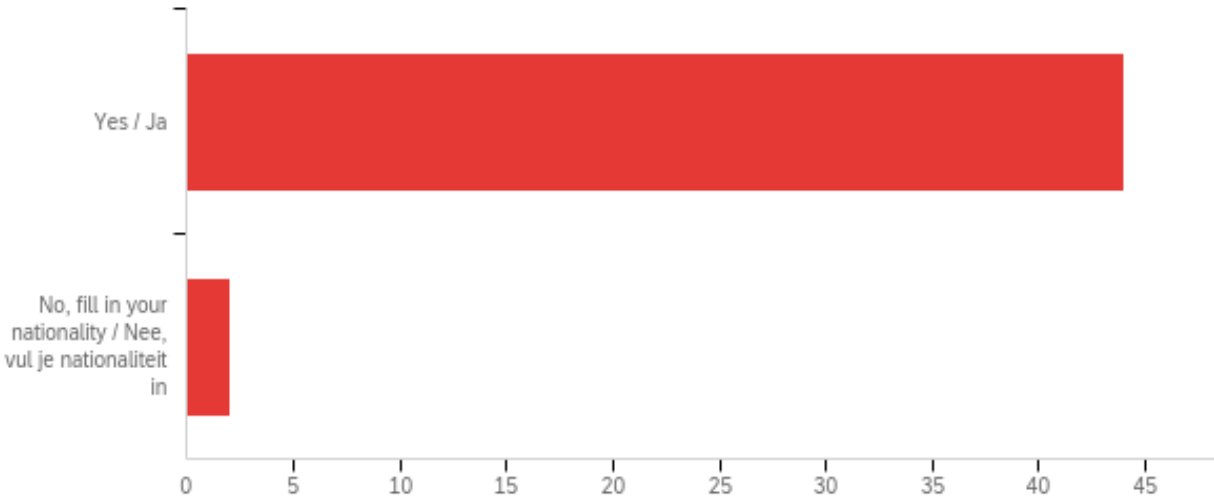
Q2 - Gender / Geslacht



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Gender / Geslacht	1.00	2.00	1.52	0.50	0.25	46

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Men / Man	47.83%	22
2	Woman / Vrouw	52.17%	24
3	Other / Anders	0.00%	0
4	Prefer not to say / Zeg ik liever niet	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	46

Q3 - Do you have Dutch nationality? Heb je de Nederlandse nationaliteit?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you have Dutch nationality? Heb je de Nederlandse nationaliteit? - Selected Choice	1.00	2.00	1.04	0.20	0.04	46

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes / Ja	95.65%	44
2	No, fill in your nationality / Nee, vul je nationaliteit in	4.35%	2
	Total	100%	46

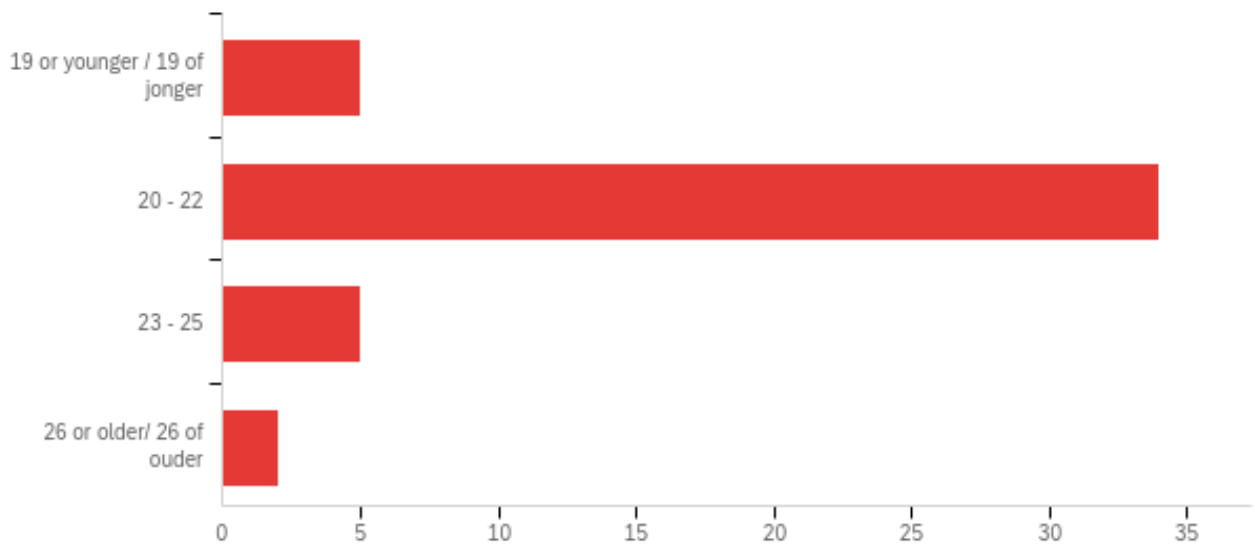
Q3_2_TEXT - No, fill in your nationality / Nee, vul je nationaliteit in

No, fill in your nationality / Nee, vul je nationaliteit in - Text

Italian

Indonesian

Q4 - How old are you? Hoe oud ben je ?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How old are you? Hoe oud ben je ?	1.00	4.00	2.09	0.62	0.38	46

#	Answer	%	Count
1	19 or younger / 19 of jonger	10.87%	5
2	20 - 22	73.91%	34
3	23 - 25	10.87%	5
4	26 or older/ 26 of ouder	4.35%	2
	Total	100%	46

Q5 - How would you define a public space? Hoe zou u een openbare plek definiëren?

How would you define a public space? Hoe zou u een openbare plek definiëren?

A space of common usage among peoples

Als een plek die beschikbaar is voor iedereen

Een plek waar iedereen gebruik van kan maken

Een openbare plek is een plek dat de samenleving dient. Het moet toegankelijk zijn voor alle lagen van de samenleving.

Plaats die voor iedereen toegankelijk is

Een plek die onder het bezit van de overheid valt. (Grotendeels) gefinancierd door de overheid. Het toezicht en onderhoudt wordt geregeld vanuit de overheid.

Een plek die voor iedereen toegankelijk is

A place where all people can travel trough freely

Een ruimte die publiek trekt en gratis toegankelijk voor iedereen is.

Een plek waar iedereen mag komen

Een ruimte die voor iedereen toegankelijk is.

Iets waar iedereen zomaar kan komen

Een plek waar iedereen toegang tot heeft

Een plek waar iedereen mag komen

Een plek waar iedereen welkom is

Een plek die voor iedereen toegankelijk is

Iedere plek die niet iemand huis of erf is

Een plek waar iedereen kan komen.

Een plek van iedereen onder toezicht van de gemeente, bijv een parkje of een speeltuin

Een locatie die toegankelijk is voor iedereen

Een plek waar iedereen iedereen naartoe mag

Een plek waar je altijd mag komen zonder daar iemand wat van kan zeggen.

Een plek beheerd door de overheid waar geen beperkingen zijn met betrekking tot wie zich mag bevinden op zo een plek.

Een plek die toegankelijk is voor iedereen op elk moment van de dag, of tussen bijv. 9-21.00

A space for everyone that is not owned by a private company. It should always be welcoming to all people to spend however much time they want. Regulations are compliant to the existing social norms and values

Een plek waar iedereen mag/kan komen

Waar iedereen gratis toegang tot heeft

Een plek waar iedereen de mogelijkheid heeft om er te gaan en staan waar ze willen

Een openbare plek is simpelweg een locatie die toegankelijk is voor het publiek, zoals parken, pleinen of winkelcentra.

Een plek die voor iedereen toegankelijk en begaanbaar is.

Een plek waar iedereen naar toe kan gaan / kan zijn als hij of zij dat wil.

Een ruimte die beschikbaar is voor iedereen, wat voorzien is door de overheid

Een plek waar iedereen toegang toe heeft

een plek in het openbaar waar je zonder enige moeite kan komen

Een plek waar je zonder kosten of openingstijden naar toe zou kunnen gaan.

Een ruimte waartoe iedereen toegang heeft

Een plek waar iedereen mag komen op elk tijdstip

een plek waar iedereen zonder restricties heen kan

Een openbare plek is een plek waar iedereen onder normale omstandigheden naartoe zou kunnen, een plek die toegankelijk is voor iedereen.

Een ruimte waar iedereen kan/mag komen, zonder daar iets te voor moeten doen, kopen of betalen.

Een plek waar iedereen toegang tot heeft

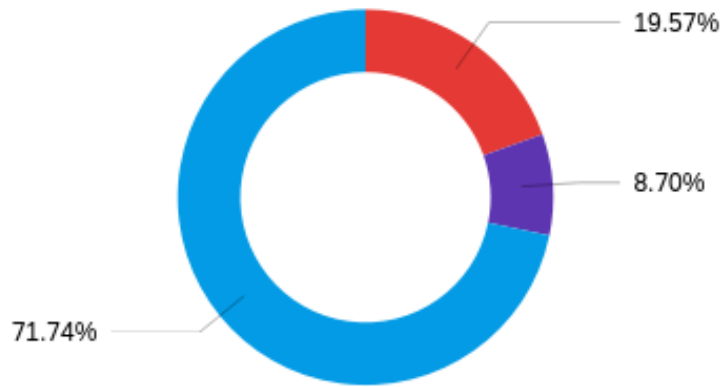
Een plek die toegankelijk is voor iedereen.

Een plek waar iedereen toegang tot heeft

Een plek waar iedereen mag en kan komen

Een plek waar iedereen welkom is.

Q38 - Pick one of the following places that is most familiar to you Selecteer de locatie die voor jou het meest bekend is

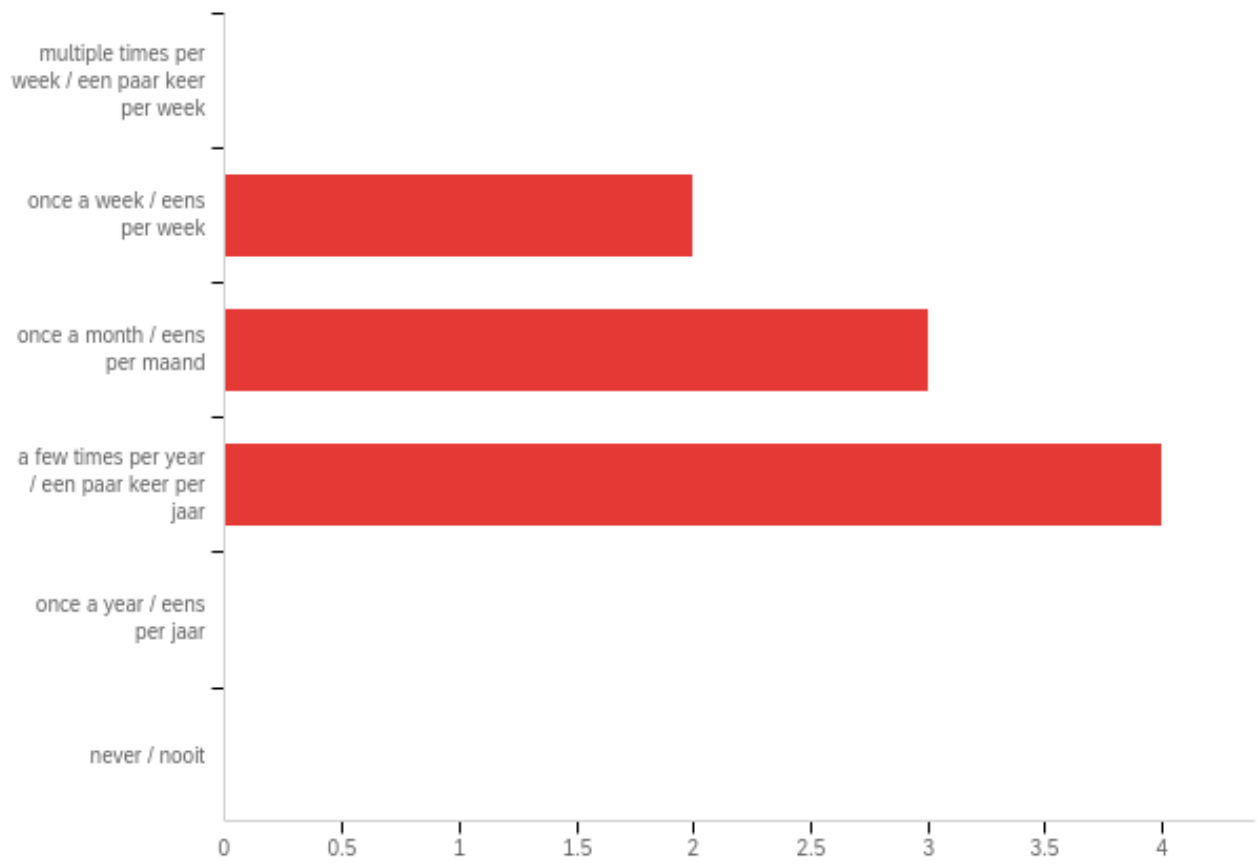


■ Forum Groningen
 ■ Paddepoel shoppingcenter / Winkelcentrum Paddepoel
 ■ Station Groningen

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Pick one of the following places that is most familiar to you Selecteer de locatie die voor jou het meest bekend is	1.00	3.00	2.52	0.80	0.64	46

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Forum Groningen	19.57%	9
2	Paddepoel shoppingcenter / Winkelcentrum Paddepoel	8.70%	4
3	Station Groningen	71.74%	33
	Total	100%	46

Q7 - How often do you visit this location? Hoe vaak bezoekt u deze plek?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How often do you visit this location? Hoe vaak bezoekt u deze plek?	2.00	4.00	3.22	0.79	0.62	9

#	Answer	%	Count
1	multiple times per week / een paar keer per week	0.00%	0
2	once a week / eens per week	22.22%	2
3	once a month / eens per maand	33.33%	3
4	a few times per year / een paar keer per jaar	44.44%	4
5	once a year / eens per jaar	0.00%	0
6	never / nooit	0.00%	0

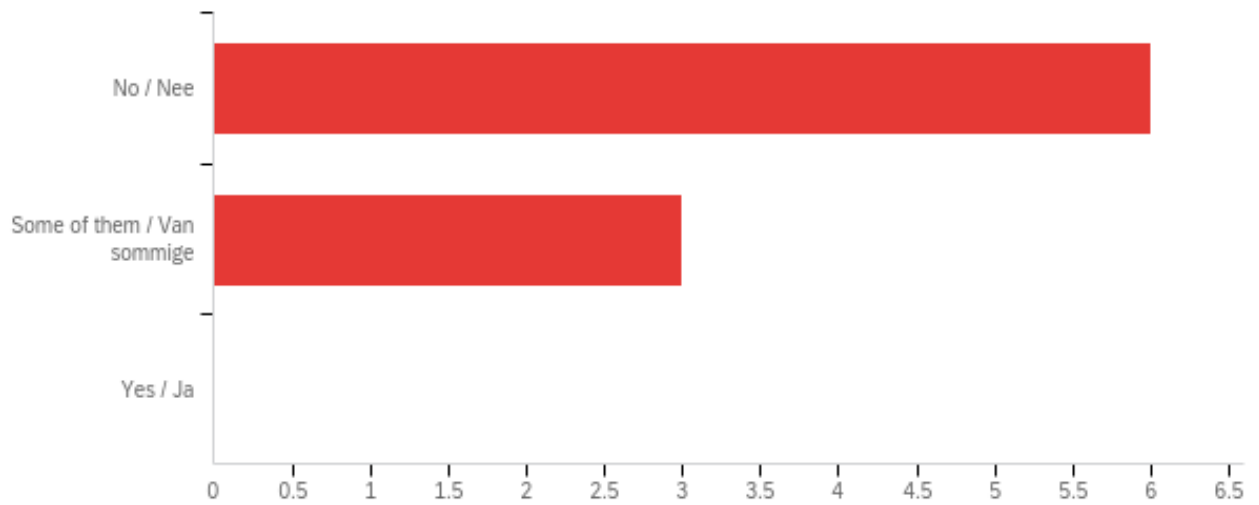
Total	100%	9
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Q8 - Do you think this is a public or privately owned space? Denkt u dat dat deze plek in publiek of privaat bezit is?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Public / Publiek	22.22%	2
2	Private / Privaat	66.67%	6
3	I don't know / Ik weet het niet	11.11%	1
	Total	100%	9

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Public / Publiek	22.22%	2
2	Private / Privaat	66.67%	6
3	I don't know / Ik weet het niet	11.11%	1
	Total	100%	9

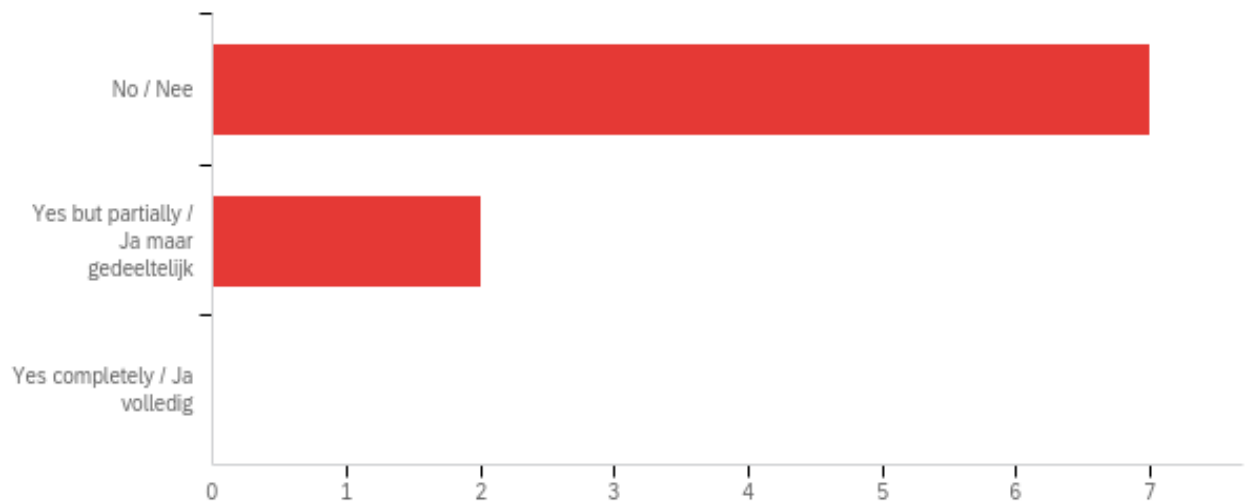
**Q9 - Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in Forum Groningen?
Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in Forum Groningen?**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	66.67%	6
2	Some of them / Van sommige	33.33%	3
3	Yes / Ja	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	9

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in Forum Groningen? Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in Forum Groningen?	1.00	2.00	1.33	0.47	0.22	9

Q21 - In the Forum it is among other things not allowed to bring food or drinks or to photograph someone without their permission. Also, security is authorized to take any measures they deem necessary in every other situation. Were you aware of these rules? In het Forum is het onder andere niet toegestaan om eten of drinken mee te nemen en om iemand te fotograferen zonder diens toestemming. Daarbij is de beveiliging bevoegd om in iedere overige situatie de maatregelen te nemen die zij nodig achten. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	In the Forum it is among other things not allowed to bring food or drinks or to photograph someone without their permission. Also, security is authorized to take any measures they deem necessary in every other situation. Were you aware of these rules? In het Forum is het onder andere niet toegestaan om eten of drinken mee te nemen en om iemand te fotograferen zonder diens toestemming. Daarbij is de beveiliging bevoegd om in iedere overige situatie de maatregelen te nemen die zij nodig achten. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?	1.00	2.00	1.22	0.42	0.17	9

#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	77.78%	7
2	Yes but partially / Ja maar gedeeltelijk	22.22%	2
3	Yes completely / Ja volledig	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	9

Q22 - What do you think about Forum Groningen being privately owned and that the owner is drawing up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt ervan dat Forum Groningen privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaar allerlei gedragsregels opstelt?

What do you think about Forum Groningen being privately owned and that the owner drawing up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt ervan dat Forum Groningen privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaar allerlei gedragsregels opstelt?

Wel logisch, aangezien zij het pand openstellen voor publiek mogen zij daar ook regels aan vastknopen

In zekere hoogte goed, wegens veiligheid maar het moet niet te ver gaan natuurlijk

Opzich geen probleem, maar wel vervelend als ze gedragsregels hebben waar je door belemmerd wordt. Ik vind het bijvoorbeeld lastig dat je geen eten en drinken mee mag nemen als je daar gaat studeren.

Eigenlijk gek want het is een zeer openbaar gebouw en het is raar dat ze op dat soort kleine dingen dan zo streng mogen handhaven

For the Forum to be privately owned and put up it's own rules is fair. However I don't think that they enforce this very strictly and that kind of flexibility is needed

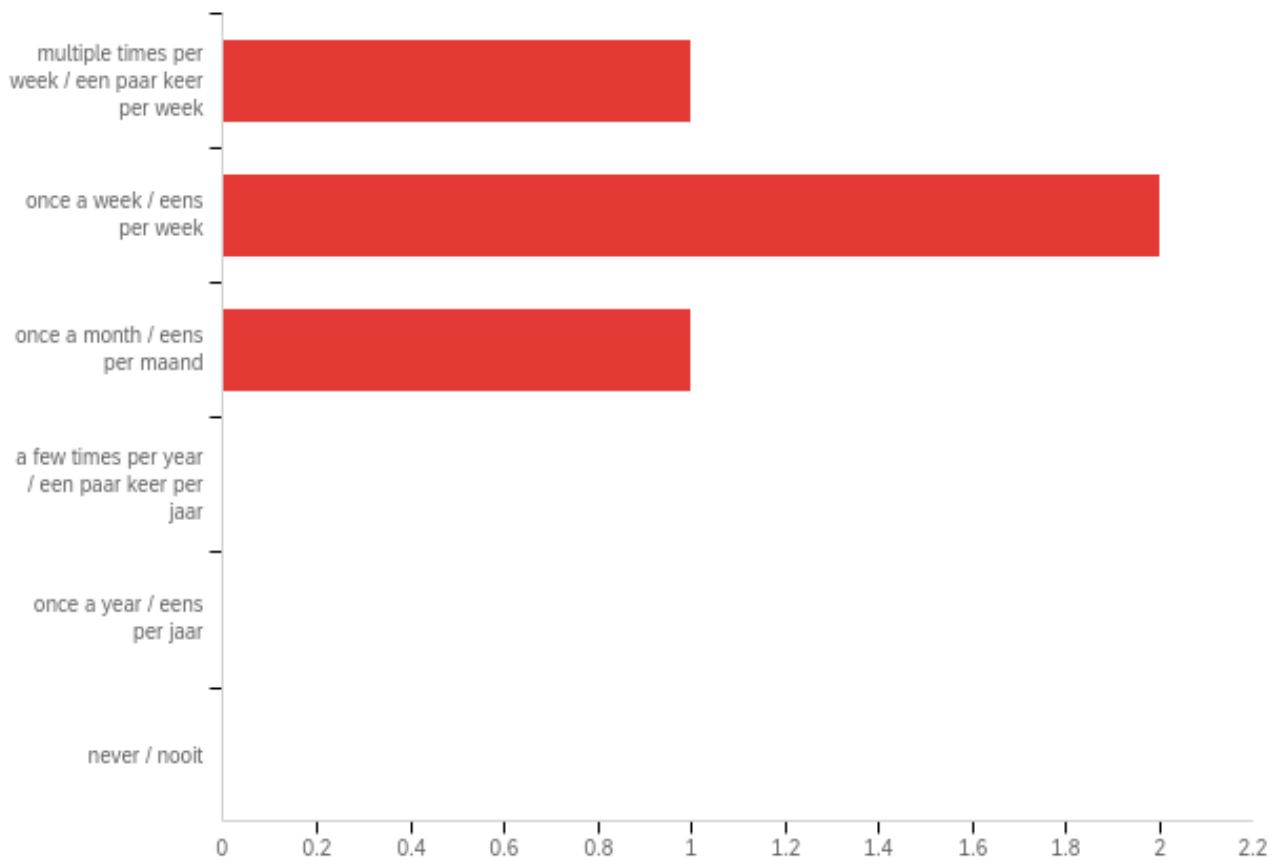
Toch best raar aangezien de gemeente Groningen volgens mij best veel geïnvesteerd heeft in het forum.

Niet erg, zolang de regels op fatsoenlijke manier worden gehandhaafd en niet buiten-proportioneel zijn.

Logisch, overal zijn gedragsregels. Als deze gedragsregels niet in het forum zouden zijn zou zo'n plek kunnen verloederen doordat niemand achter zich opruimt

Dat het privaat eigendom is is misschien een beetje gek, maar uiteraard mogen zij zelf de regels bepalen.

Q28 - How often do you visit this location? Hoe vaak bezoekt u deze plek?

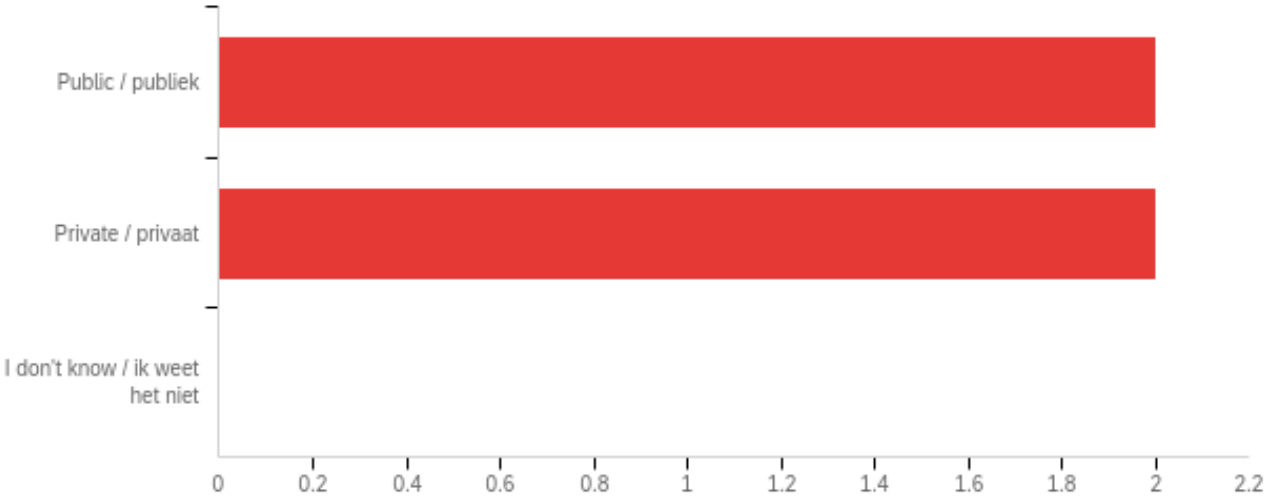


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How often do you visit this location? Hoe vaak bezoekt u deze plek?	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.71	0.50	4

#	Answer	%	Count
1	multiple times per week / een paar keer per week	25.00%	1
2	once a week / eens per week	50.00%	2
3	once a month / eens per maand	25.00%	1
4	a few times per year / een paar keer per jaar	0.00%	0
5	once a year / eens per jaar	0.00%	0
6	never / nooit	0.00%	0

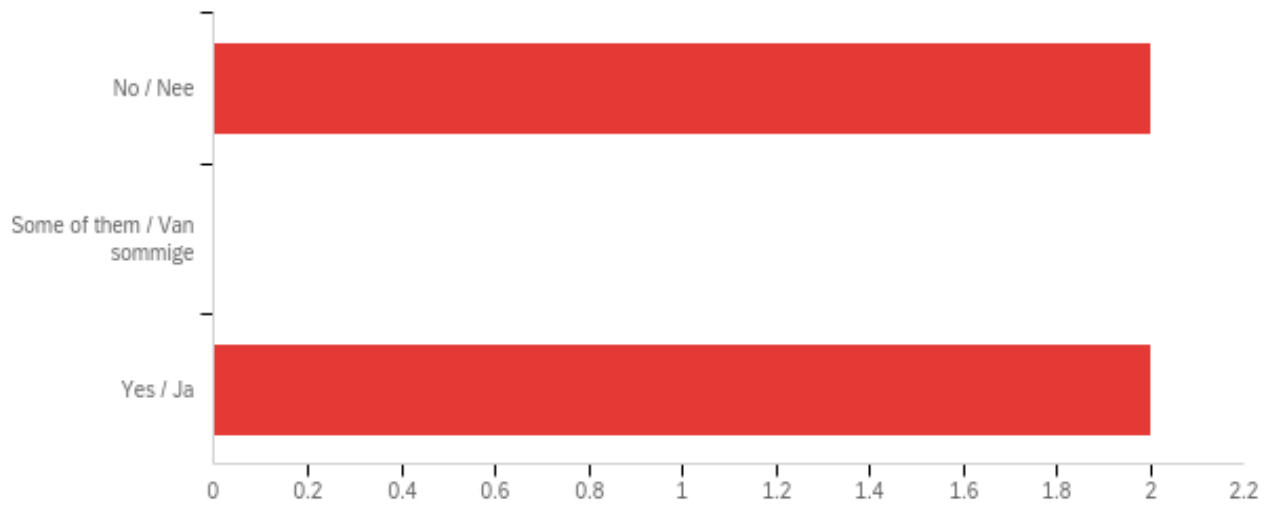
Total	100%	4
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Q29 - Do you think this is a public or privately owned space? Denkt u dat dat deze plek in publiek of privaat bezit is?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Public / publiek	50.00%	2
2	Private / privaat	50.00%	2
3	I don't know / ik weet het niet	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	4

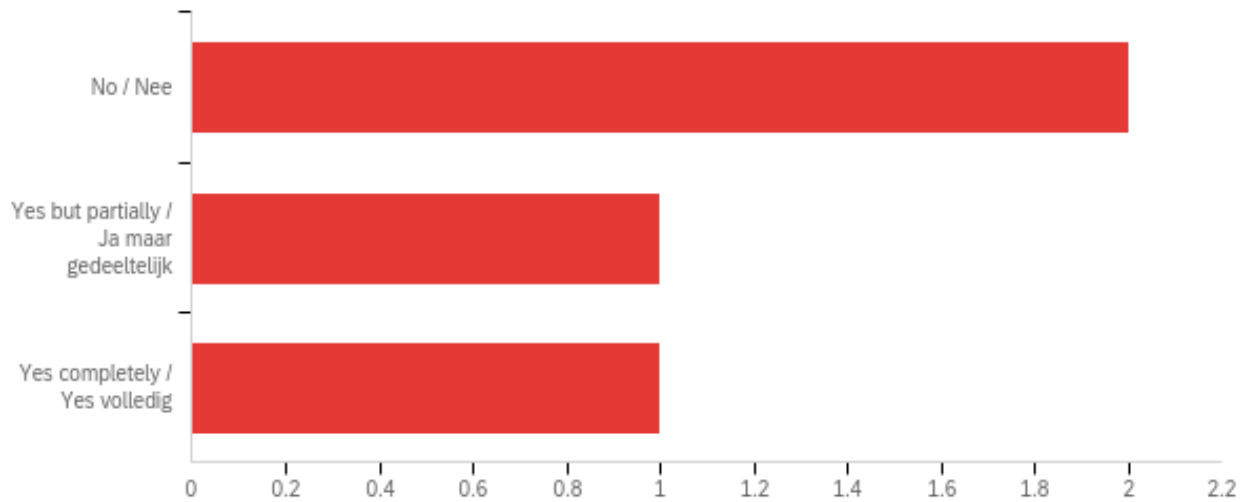
Q36 - Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in Paddepoel shopping center? Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in winkelcentrum Paddepoel?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in Paddepoel shopping center? Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in winkelcentrum Paddepoel?	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	4

#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	50.00%	2
2	Some of them / Van sommige	0.00%	0
3	Yes / Ja	50.00%	2
	Total	100%	4

Q23 - In Paddepoel shopping center it is among other things not allowed to hang around or sit on the ground. It is also not allowed to take pictures or film anything. Furthermore you are not allowed to bring a dog. Were you aware of these rules? In winkelcentrum Paddepoel is het onder meer niet toegestaan om rond te hangen of op de grond te zitten. Ook is het niet toegestaan om foto's te maken of iets te filmen. Verder mag u geen hond meenemen. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	In Paddepoel shopping center it is among other things not allowed to hang around or sit on the ground. It is also not allowed to take pictures or film anything. Furthermore you are not allowed to bring a dog. Were you aware of these rules? In winkelcentrum Paddepoel is het onder meer niet toegestaan om rond te hangen of op de grond te zitten. Ook is het niet toegestaan om foto's te maken of iets te filmen. Verder mag u geen hond meenemen. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?	1.00	3.00	1.75	0.83	0.69	4

#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	50.00%	2
2	Yes but partially / Ja maar gedeeltelijk	25.00%	1
3	Yes completely / Yes volledig	25.00%	1
	Total	100%	4

Q37 - What do you think about the fact that the Paddepoel shopping center is privately owned and that the owners draw up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt u ervan dat Paddepoel winkelcentrum privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaren allerlei gedragsregels opstellen?

What do you think about the fact that the Paddepoel shopping center is privately owned and that the owners draw up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt u ervan dat Paddepoel winkelcentrum privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaren allerlei gedragsregels opstellen?

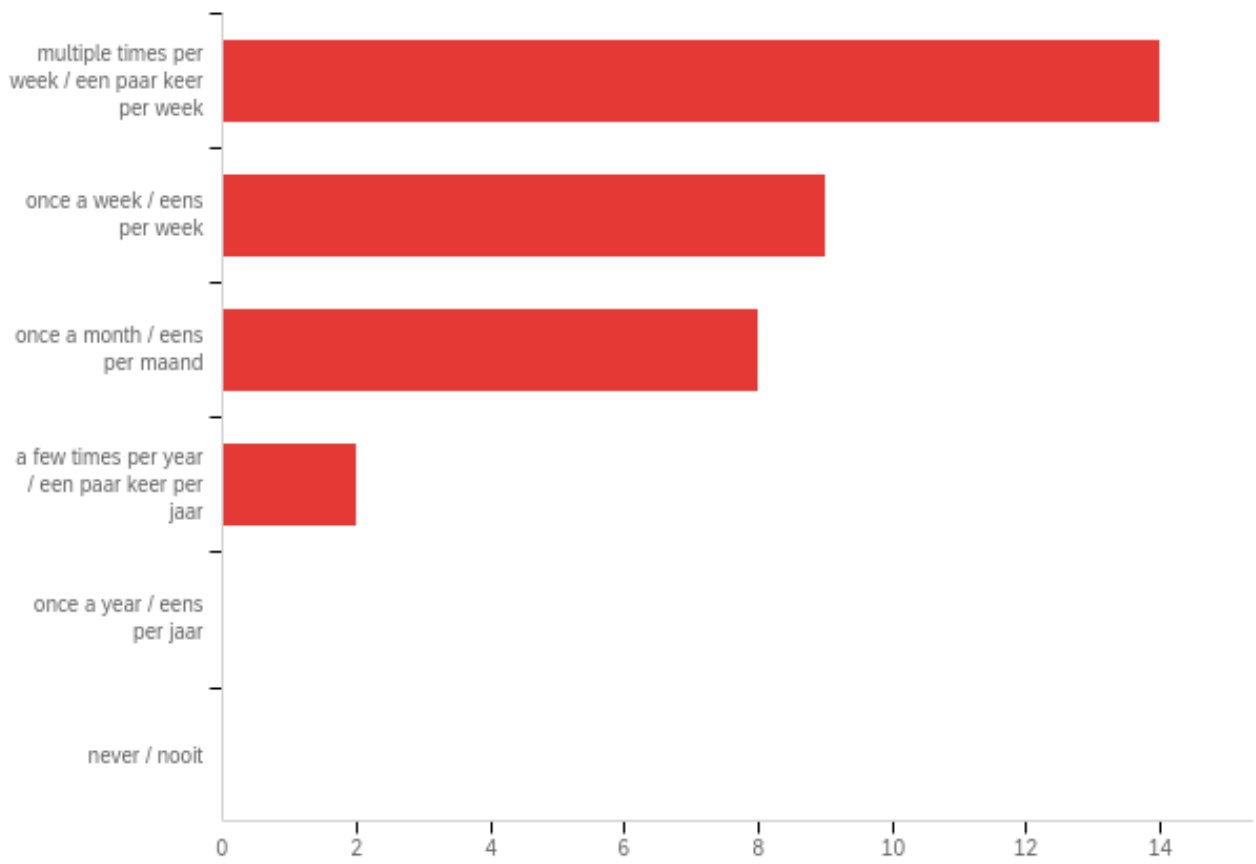
I think it is pwrfectly fine, it is a shopping place, therefore owned by someone / or more that makes money off it, it differs from a park for example that is owned by the collective, where maintenance is paid by taxes that were paid by everyone.

Ik vind het opzich prima, zolang de regels nog wel enigszins in het redelijke blijven. Ik was niet op de hoogte van de geldende regels, maar de regels die er staan klinken prima. Al snap ik niet waarom je er niet zou mogen "hangen" maar er op meerdere plekken bankjes staan.

Zolang de regels niet doorslaan, heb ik er persoonlijk weinig last van

Voor een winkelcentrum best logisch. Handhaving van deze regels heb ik nog nooit gezien, dus vandaar dat het mij niet zo veel uitmaakt. Als ik had gezien dat er streng gecontroleerd werd, had ik denk ik wel even gekeken wat de huisregels precies zijn.

Q34 - How often do you visit this location? Hoevaak bezoekt u deze plek?

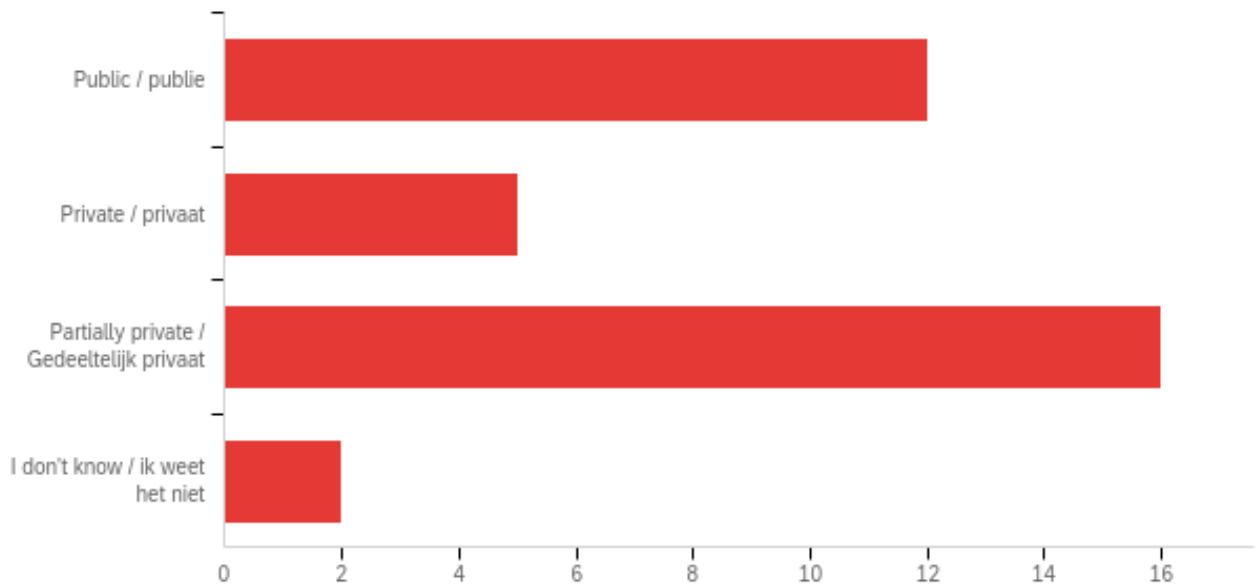


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How often do you visit this location? Hoevaak bezoekt u deze plek?	1.00	4.00	1.94	0.95	0.91	33

#	Answer	%	Count
1	multiple times per week / een paar keer per week	42.42%	14
2	once a week / eens per week	27.27%	9
3	once a month / eens per maand	24.24%	8
4	a few times per year / een paar keer per jaar	6.06%	2
5	once a year / eens per jaar	0.00%	0
6	never / nooit	0.00%	0

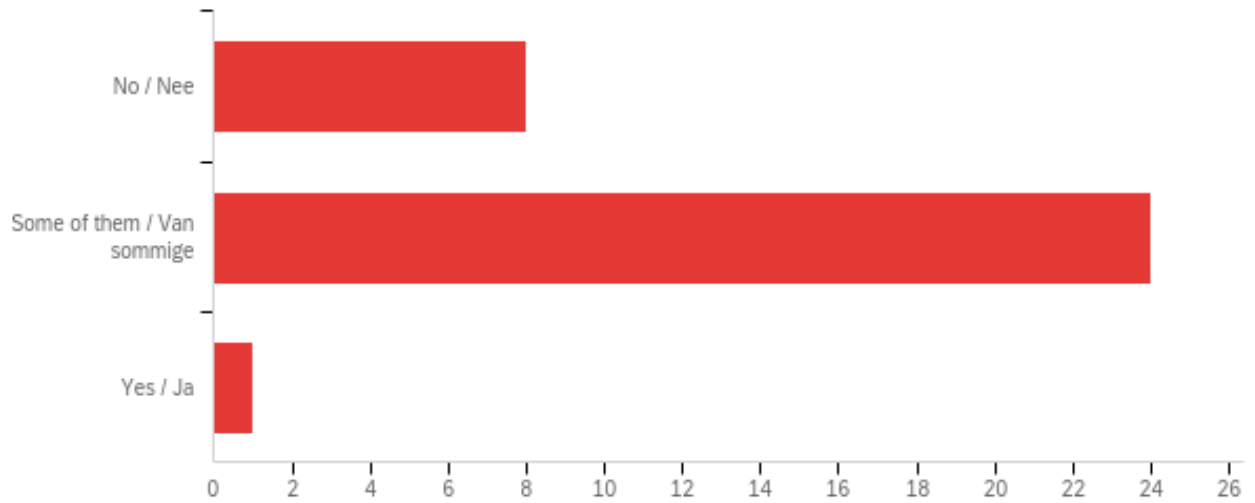
Total	100%	33
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Q35 - Do you think this is a public or privately owned space? Denkt u dat dat deze plek in publiek, privaat of gedeeltelijk privaat bezit is?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Public / publie	34.29%	12
2	Private / privaat	14.29%	5
3	Partially private / Gedeeltelijk privaat	45.71%	16
4	I don't know / ik weet het niet	5.71%	2
	Total	100%	35

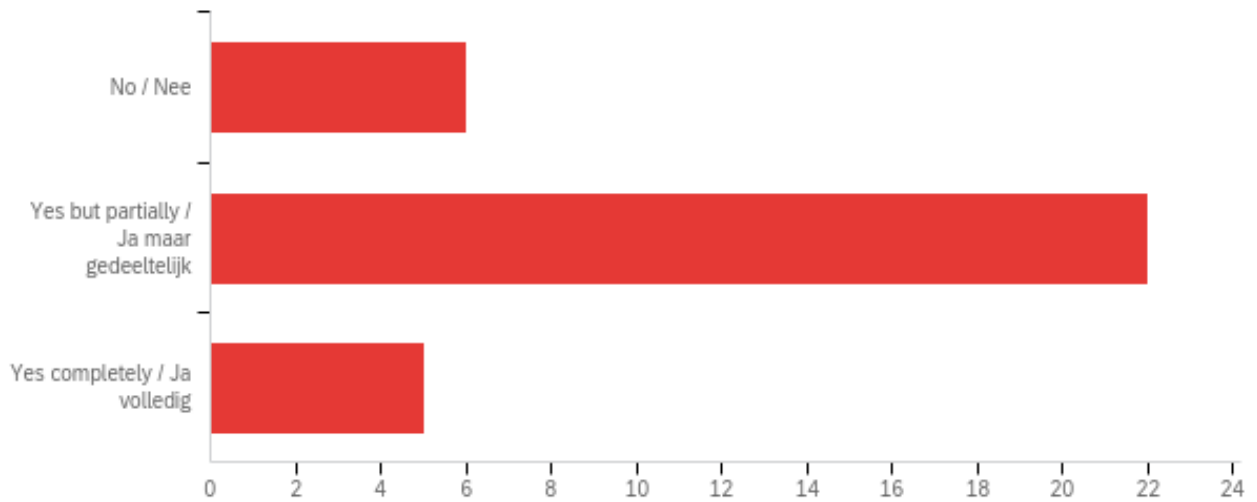
Q30 - Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in station Groningen? Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in station Groningen?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you aware of the rules of conduct which apply in station Groningen? Bent u op de hoogte van de huisregels/gedragsregels die gelden in station Groningen?	1.00	3.00	1.79	0.48	0.23	33

#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	24.24%	8
2	Some of them / Van sommige	72.73%	24
3	Yes / Ja	3.03%	1
	Total	100%	33

Q32 - At station Groningen it is among other things not allowed to smoke and to make pictures of NS staff without permission. Furthermore everybody can be denied access to the station by the owner/administrator. Were you aware of these rules? Op station Groningen is het onder meer niet toegestaan om te roken en om zonder toestemming foto's te maken van NS-personeel. Bovendien kan iedereen door de eigenaar/beheerder de toegang tot het station worden ontzegd. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	At station Groningen it is among other things not allowed to smoke and to make pictures of NS staff without permission. Furthermore everybody can be denied access to the station by the owner/administrator. Were you aware of these rules? Op station Groningen is het onder meer niet toegestaan om te roken en om zonder toestemming foto's te maken van NS-personeel. Bovendien kan iedereen door de eigenaar/beheerder de toegang tot het station worden ontzegd. Was u op de hoogte van deze regels?	1.00	3.00	1.97	0.58	0.33	33

#	Answer	%	Count
1	No / Nee	18.18%	6
2	Yes but partially / Ja maar gedeeltelijk	66.67%	22
3	Yes completely / Ja volledig	15.15%	5
	Total	100%	33

Q31 - What do you think about the fact that Groningen Station is partly privately owned and that the owner draws up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt u ervan dat Station Groningen gedeeltelijk privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaar allerlei gedragsregels opstelt?

What do you think about the fact that Groningen Station is partly privately owned and that the owner draws up all kinds of rules of conduct? Wat vindt u ervan dat Station Groningen gedeeltelijk privaat eigendom is en dat de eigenaar allerlei gedragsregels opstelt?

Aangezien het hier gaat om een plek waar veel mensen gebruik van maken, vind ik het heel normaal dat hier (gedrags)regels worden gesteld

Ik denk dat dit heel subjectief is. Op het moment dat de gedragsregels een deel van de samenleving uitsluiten of niet horen bij een plek die voor iedereen toegankelijk zou moeten zijn, wordt het een probleem. De geldende regels die hiervoor zijn toegelicht vallen niet binnen deze categorie.

Wel logisch

I'm fine with it.

Ik vind het prima dat ze gedragsregels opstellen maar enigzins ongemakkelijk dat ze deze ten alle tijden kunnen veranderen terwijl men niet echt een keuze heeft of ze het station wel of niet willen betreden. Het is namelijk noodzakelijk om Groningen in of uit te komen met de trein.

De regels die bij de vorige vraag opgesteld zijn vind ik wel redelijk. Ik vind wel dat NS niet veel meer regels mag verzinnen of mensen zonder goede reden eruit mag gooien.

Goed, omdat het dan waarschijnlijk beter onderhouden wordt. Ook denk ik dat de meeste gedragsregels redelijk van zelf sprekend zullen zijn en daarom voor weinig tot geen belemmering zullen zorgen in het dagelijks leven.

I dont care

Snap ik heel goed, want anders wordt het een rotzooitje

Wel prima want moeten toch wel een paar regels gelden voor de omgang

Terecht, door deze regels blijft het station een schone en veilige plek

Nodig, want anders gebeuren er dingen die niemand leuk vindt

Op het station zijn veel medewerkers van NS aan wezig, dus ik begrijp ergens wel dat er bijvoorbeeld maatregelen worden genomen om hen te beschermen.

Ik vind niet goed dat het station privaat eigendom is, aangezien het openbaar vervoer een aangelegenheid voor de overheid is. Het zou geen winstgevende organisatie moeten zijn, aangezien het van belang is dat openbaar vervoer betrouwbaar en toegankelijk moet zijn. Als iets (gedeeltelijk) openbaar is betekent het nog niet dat je mag doen en laten wat je wil. Op elke plaats, openbaar of niet openbaar, gelden regels over wat je er wel of niet mag. Bv een APV of een andere beleidsregel.

Ik vind het feit dat het gedeeltelijk is en niet gehaald privaat goed. Iedereen zou tot een bepaalde hoogte toegang moeten hebben op een plek zoals een station. Echter is het ook van belang dat mensen die werken op z'n locatie zich veilig voelen.

Als een private partij eigendom krijgt over plekken die publiek lijken maar daar voordelen aanzitten qua kosten en onderhoud dan vind ik dit goed. Ze mogen dan ook wel gedragsregels opleggen als dit niet hele gekke regels zijn, de zojuist genoemde gedragsregels gaan ook gewoon over netjes

met elkaar om gaan en rekening houden met mensen om je heen, dat NS ons die oplegt vind ik prima.

Dit vind ik erg logisch. Het bedrijf investeert in de gebouwen en het terrein, dus dat hier bepaalde regels gelden is voor het goed van alle mensen.

Ik snap het wel, als het privaat eigendom is wil je niet dat mensen kunnen doen en laten wat ze willen, maar zich gedragen. Ook zodat andere mensen die er ook mogen komen er geen last van hebben.

Iemand moet de regels opstellen, dus ergens wel goed. Weet de nadelen niet

Ik vind het wel goed, zo weten mensen ook hoe ze zich moeten gedragen en kunnen mensen die zich slecht gedragen ook worden beboet

Het is oké als het de leefbaarheid en veiligheid op het station verbeterd.

Prima

Ik vind dat prima en totaal hun recht om daar eigen gedragsregels op te stellen

Ik vind dat een beetje raar omdat een station een publieke plek hoort te zijn waar je vrij moet zijn. Maar ik snap het ook wel, want sommige regels zijn wel nodig, zoals verboden te roken

Dat vind ik geen probleem

priem

Regels ter bescherming van het bedrijf en hun personeel moeten kunnen. Wel moet een station toegankelijk zijn voor iedereen dus moeten de regels niet zorgen voor exclusiviteit mbt betreden van het station.

Ik vind de gedragsregels niet zo'n probleem want dat zou de overheid zelf ook doen. Ik heb meer een probleem met de prijzen die een gevolg zijn van de privatisering

ik denk dat de overheid niet toe kan zien op alle openbare plekken in de samenleving en dat hiervoor de bemoeienis van een particulieren partij een uitkomst is. gedragsregels zijn een bijkomstigheid waar mensen zich aan moeten houden

Ik vind dat het station een plek moet zijn waar landelijke gedragsregels gelden. Dit is omdat veel mensen afhankelijk zijn van het openbaar vervoer.

Logisch

ik vind dit prima zolang de regels goed te volgen blijven voor iedereen

Aan de ene kant wel logisch, aangezien de NS toch het meeste treinvervoer regelt. Aan de andere kant wel gek, omdat het 'openbaar vervoer' is. Dan is het voor mij logischer dat de overheid/ gemeente de regels bepaald van het openbaar vervoer en dus ook het station.

Q10 - What do you think are possible advantages of privately owned public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness, renovation)? Wat denkt u dat potentiële voordelen zijn van de openbare ruimtes in privé bezit (denk aan veiligheid, schoonheid, renovatie)?

What do you think are possible advantages of privately owned public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness, renovation)? Wat denkt u dat potentiële voordelen zijn van de openbare ruimtes in privé bezit (denk aan veiligheid, schoonheid, renovatie)?

veiligheid en schoonheid inderdaad, dat vind ik persoonlijk belangrijke dingen in een publieke ruimte

more jobs

dat er regels opgesteld kunnen worden

Zeker, zo is er iemand die het belangrijk vindt dat het gebied goed onderhouden wordt en dat er gekeken wordt naar hoe het verbeterd kan worden.

Wordt beter schoongehouden

Worden beter onderhouden omdat er een verantwoordelijkheid is

Vooraf inderdaad schoner en veiliger, aangezien deze plekken waarschijnlijk beter worden onderhouden

Vooraf de schoonmaak en veiligheid dat professioneel ingehuurd kan worden, daarnaast ook meer budget voor bijzondere activiteiten of betere apparatuur en voorzieningen in het gebouw

Veiligheid, orde en een goed lopend systeem

Veiligheid, en betere faciliteiten, maar ook een veiligere omgeving door gedragsregels/andere maatregelen.

Veiligheid met name, maar ook schoonheid. Alhoewel ik ook vind dat sommige regels niet nodig zouden moeten zijn, zoals bijvoorbeeld je afval in de prullenbak gooien.

Private partijen hebben vaak meer geld tot hun beschikking dan dat de overheid dat heeft. Meer geld is een voordeel voor schoonheid, meer renovatie en meer veiligheid.

Onderhoud wordt sneller opgepakt, al denk ik wel dat er makkelijker geld voor vrij gemaakt wordt wanneer het in gemeentelijk bezit is (maar dit kan ik ook fout hebben)

Onderhoud denk ik wel Daarnaast weet ik het niet zo goed

Omdat private instellingen zo veel mogelijk geld willen verdienen zullen ze sneller innoveren

NS zorgt er wel voor dat alles goed gefixt is, anders doet niemand het

NS regelt de bewaking en het schoonmaken

Minder gedoe voor de gemeente.

Meer veiligheid en comfortabel gebruik voor algemene personen

Meer toezicht en daardoor veiliger.

Meer geld voor veiligheid, schoonheid en renovatie.

Je hebt als particulier die in bezit is wel de verantwoordelijkheid om de ruimte goed te onderhouden, omdat je als ondernemer belang hebt dat mensen het winkelcentrum blijven

bezoeken. Wanneer het slecht onderhouden wordt, zal bezoek waarschijnlijk afnemen, en is het voor de particulier niet rendabel meer. Ze zal dit willen voorkomen

Ik verwacht dat er meer geld is om het gebouw goed te onderhouden, schoonhouden en te beveiligen.

Ik denk dat het voordelig werkt voor de veiligheid, zoals eerder benoemd bepaalde mensen geen toegang verlenen. Voor schoonheid en renovatie is het denk ik ook voordelig

Ik denk dat door privaat bezit er makkelijker toezicht gehouden kan worden op schoonheid, want ze willen hun bezoekers behouden. maar op het vlak van veiligheid vraag ik mij deze toezicht soms af.

Ik denk dat deze plekken beter onderhouden worden omdat er meer geld beschikbaar is.

Het zorgt ervoor dat het een veilige omgeving blijft. Ook kan het station hierdoor gerenoveerd worden en blijft het redelijk schoon.

Het word geregeld schoongemaakt en door de regels word het hoogstwaarschijnlijk leefbaarder

Het scheelt de gemeente geld om dit soort dingen te regelen, dat kan dan anders besteed worden.

Het kan voordelig zijn op het moment dat er vanuit de overheid een te klein budget is om een openbare ruimte schoon te houden/te renoveren en dat het geld dan uit een andere portemonnee kan komen

Gemeente heeft dan de mogelijkheid om tijd en geld in andere zaken te steken

Er mogen regels opgesteld worden door die instanties dus kunnen de regels strenger zijn, wat meer veiligheid en schoonheid kan bieden

Door marktwerking zou het kunnen dat bedrijven meer geld steken in de kwaliteit van openbare ruimtes. NS heeft alleen een monopolie als het gaat om openbaar vervoer, waardoor dit minder geldt

Door een bedrijf verantwoordelijkheid te geven over bovenstaande dingen verwacht ik dat het onderhoud daarom beter wordt bijgehouden.

Door dat openbare ruimtes in prive bezit zijn worden ze geforceerd om te concurreren waardoor de kwaliteit van het bezoek hoger zou kunnen zijn.

Dit zorgt ervoor dat onderhoud aan de ruimtes niet achterstallig wordt en de plek mooi en veilig blijft voor iedereen.

De renovatie die nu gebeurt bij het station zorgt ervoor dat het trein en busvervoer beter kan en NS zorgt er ook voor dat het station mooi schoon blijft

De plek wordt dan waarschijnlijk beter onderhouden

Dat de ruimte schoner en net blijft aangeziener echt iemand verantwoordelijk is voor de ruimte

Consideration of the public's opinion goes down

Cleanliness is definitely an advantage. Coming from a poorer country public spaces are usually worn down and not maintained while private spaces are much cleaner and hygienic

Beveiliging, hygiëne, faciliteiten zoals eten en drinken kopen.

Betere beveiliging en schoonmaak: de openbare ruimte is een soort reclame voor de eigenaar, waardoor het mooi, schoon, en veilig moet zijn. Daarnaast zal de eigenaar ook constant nieuwe trekpleisters toevoegen om meer mensen aan te trekken.

Beter onderhoud

Als winkel wil je natuurlijk een goed beeld uitstralen, dus als je controle hebt over je directe omgeving is dat ook voordelig voor bezoekers. Bedrijven/privébezitters voelen zich meer

verantwoordelijk voor hun directe omgeving, waardoor het denk ik in het algemeen een stuk netter en beter bijgehouden is.

Q11 - What do you think are possible downsides of the privately owned public spaces (e.g. extra surveillance, rules of conduct you need to adhere to, legal restriction) ? Wat denkt u dat potentiële nadelen zijn van openbare ruimtes in privé bezit (denk aan extra toezicht, gedragsregels waar u zich aan moet houden of rechtsbeperking) ?

What do you think are possible downsides of the privately owned public spaces (e.g. extra surveillance, rules of conduct you need to adhere to, legal restriction) ? Wat denkt u dat potentiële nadelen zijn van openbare ruimtes in privé bezit (denk aan extra toezicht, gedragsregels waar u zich aan moet houden of rechtsbeperking) ?

Limits to uses

Dat het dus niet echt altijd openbaar is voor iedereen, je hebt openingstijden en idd bepaalde regels die gelden

Gedrag wordt meer gereguleerd wat resulteert in het feit dat mensen minder 'mogen'

Dat de publieke plek - die er voor de hele samenleving moet zijn - een commercieel belang heeft. Ik denk dat dit een averechts effect heeft.

Minder inkomsten

De particulier zou te ver kunnen gaan met toezicht en de privacy kunnen schenden, controle is lastiger. De regels zijn prima, zolang ze binnen de perken van het redelijke blijven.

Geen toezicht op opgestelde regels en avg technisch met foto en video toezicht

More rules then necessary

Rechtsbeperking, de kans op onverwachtse nadelige verandering op regels

Als je trein vertraging heeft is het heel irritant dat je nergens mag roken. Verder is het ook irritant dat NS kan bepalen of je met de trein mag rijden als je op het station niet aan hun regels houdt
Dat sommige openbare ruimtes in privé bezit niet altijd toegankelijk zullen zijn door het hebben van bijvoorbeeld openingstijden.

Rechtsbeperking

Er wordt flink winst gemaakt, en dat gaat niet naar de overheid.

Discriminatie door bepaalde bedrijven en daarom geen openbare toegang voor iedereen

Geen idee

Iemand is 'de baas' dus kan het maken zoals hij/zij het wil

Ik kan zo 1 2 3 niet per se echt nadelen bedenken voor mij persoonlijk, maar voor sommige mensen kunnen bepaalde gedragsregels niet prettig zijn

Ik verwacht dat omdat er geld moet worden verdient er meer zaken zijn waarvoor je moet betalen, zoals eten en drinken moeten kopen ter plekke.

Camera's die alles in de gaten mogen houden, onnodige beveiliging (eerder meer dan nodig is) en gedragsregels die in het normale openbaar niet van toepassing zijn

Gedragregels waar misschien niet iedereen opzigt te wachten

Minder toezicht door de overheid

Hogere kosten die extra veiligheid in de vorm van camera's met zich meebrengen.

Het kan gebeuren dat een private partij te ver doorslaat in het opstellen van gedragsregels en dat het dan niets meer te maken heeft met een publieke plek. Als er op zulke plekken bijvoorbeeld niet meer geprotesteerd mag worden zou dat wel erg zijn.

Misschien kunnen de regels voor onduidelijkheid zorgen als het niet voor iedereen bekend is.

Exclusivity is a problem that I think arises from private spaces and to an extent it causes an economic segregation in the most extreme cases. Too much private public space means that there is no space for protests to happen with the case in New York.

Ik ben vooral bang voor eventuele prijsstijgingen

Zou zo niet echt erge nadelen kunnen bedenken

Rechtsbeperking met name

Dat ze niet inclusief genoeg zijn of voor sommige mensen niet toegankelijk is

misschien dat er camera's op gehangen kunnen worden die gericht staan op openbare ruimte. De eigenaar kan zelf alle regels bepalen

Niet iedereen zal zich willen houden aan de regels of niet iedereen zal de regels kennen

Zoals ik net al zei, er mogen regels verzonnen worden, waardoor het strenger kan zijn, minder vrijheid

Denk voornamelijk extra toezicht, op bijvoorbeeld het toegangsverbod wat gegeven is aan bepaalde mensen

andere mensen mogen dr niet komen

Potentieel oog op winst maken, door onder andere reclames, entreekosten, boetes voor het niet volgen van regels, etc.

Een bedrijf heeft eigen ideeën over het inrichten van een openbare ruimte, met daarbij regels etc. Dit moet niet ervoor zorgen dat een ruimte uiteindelijk niet meer openbaar wordt door beperkingen.

Prijzen, te druk

door het private bezit gaan vaak de kosten omhoog, doordat zij toezicht zelf moeten regelen. hierdoor worden de prijzen voor de consument hoger.

Het nadeel is dat deze ruimtes waarschijnlijk worden ingericht met een oog op winst maken. Dit zou ten nadele kunnen zijn van de mensen die afhankelijk zijn van deze openbare ruimtes in hun dagelijks leven.

Theoretisch gezien zouden bedrijven natuurlijk door kunnen slaan in regels, maar ik denk dat dit meevalt aangezien ze dan ook hun eigen doel voorbij streven. Ik kan niet zo veel grote nadelen bedenken.

Je kan er niet altijd heen wanneer je wil, maar alleen binnen de bepaalde openingstijden

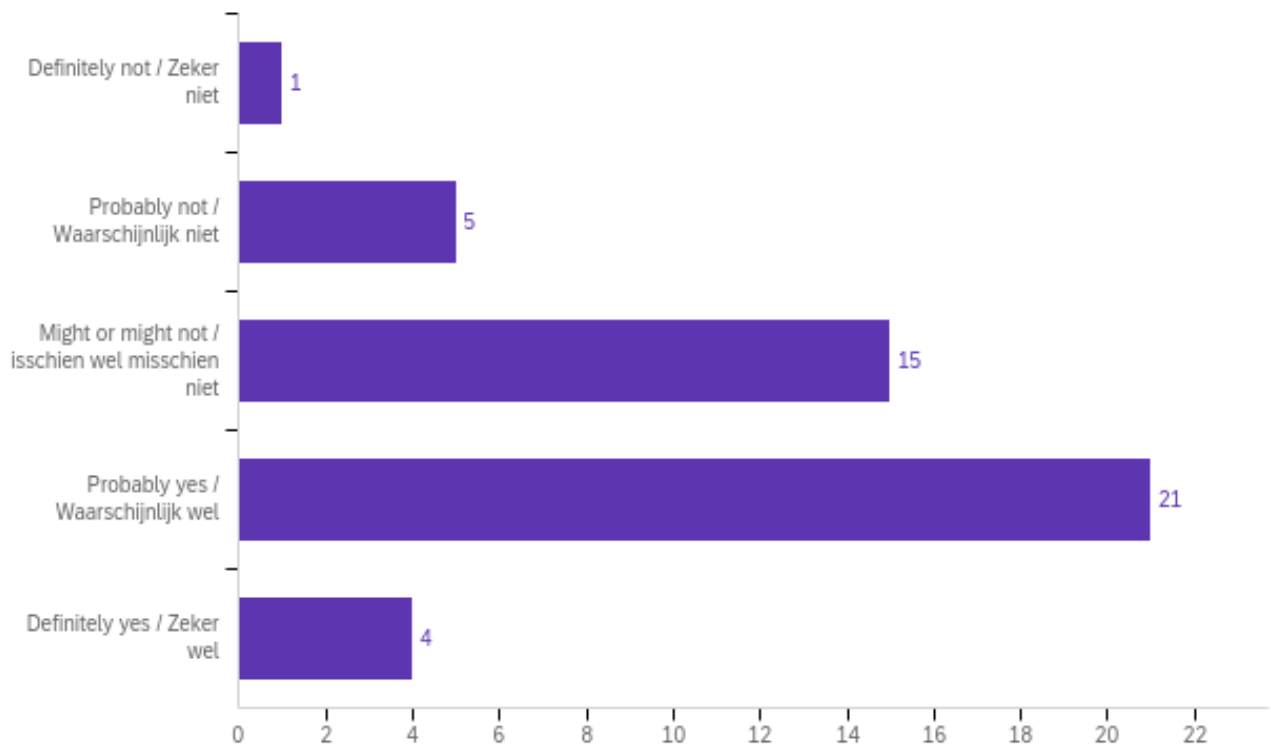
Minder zeggenschap vanuit de gemeente/overheid.

Beperking van vrijheid

Geen idee

Ik denk dat het nadeel is dat er dan regels kunnen worden opgesteld die normaal niet gelden in publieke ruimtes, maar omdat veel mensen niet weten dat het ook in privé bezit is, weten mensen ook niet dat er andere regels gelden.

Q12 - Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc.) ? Zou u bepaalde aspecten van de openbare ruimtes verbeterd willen zien, (bijvoorbeeld veiligheid, netheid en onderhoud) ook als dit ten koste gaat van mogelijk verlies van een stukje vrijheid (denk hierbij aan het niet mogen fotograferen, niet kunnen protesteren, daklozen buiten houden enz.) ?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ? Zou u bepaalde aspecten van de openbare ruimtes verbeterd willen zien, (bijvoorbeeld veiligheid, netheid en	1.00	5.00	3.48	0.88	0.77	46

onderhoud) ook als dit ten koste gaat van mogelijk verlies van een stukje vrijheid (denk hierbij aan het niet mogen fotograferen, niet kunnen protesteren, daklozen buiten houden enz.) ?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Definitely not / Zeker niet	2.17%	1
2	Probably not / Waarschijnlijk niet	10.87%	5
3	Might or might not / Misschien wel misschien niet	32.61%	15
4	Probably yes / Waarschijnlijk wel	45.65%	21
5	Definitely yes / Zeker wel	8.70%	4
	Total	100%	46

Q13 - Do you have any personal experience/encounters with privately owned public spaces? (For example, you have been confronted somewhere for not adhering to the rules of conduct while you thought you were in a public space) Heeft u enige persoonlijke ervaring met openbare ruimtes in privé bezit? (Bijvoorbeeld dat u ergens bent aangesproken op het niet naleven van de huisregels terwijl u dacht dat u zich in de openbare ruimte bevond)

Do you have any personal experience/encounters with privately owned public spaces? (For example, you have been confronted somewhere for not adhering to the rules of conduct while you thought you were in a public space) Heeft u enige persoonlijke ervaring met openbare ruimtes in privé bezit? (Bijvoorbeeld dat u ergens bent aangesproken op het niet naleven van de huisregels terwijl u dacht dat u zich in de openbare ruimte bevond)

wij hebben een prive haven waar veel mensen komen en dingen doen die niet mogen. irritant

nee

nee

het verplaatsen van fietsen

Vapen op het station

Roken op de stoep bij een schoolgebouw

Nog nooit

No

Njet

Niet persé

Niet dat ik weet.

Niet dat ik weet

Niet dat ik weet

Niet dat ik me kan herinneren

Nee.

Nee.

Nee, dit is mij niet overkomen.

Nee geen ervaring mee.

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Nee

Ja, zoals het niet mogen drinken of eten in de trein

Ja, niet roken bij de bushalte

Ja

Ik ging roken op het station en werd direct verteld dat ik m'n sigaret weer uit mocht doen

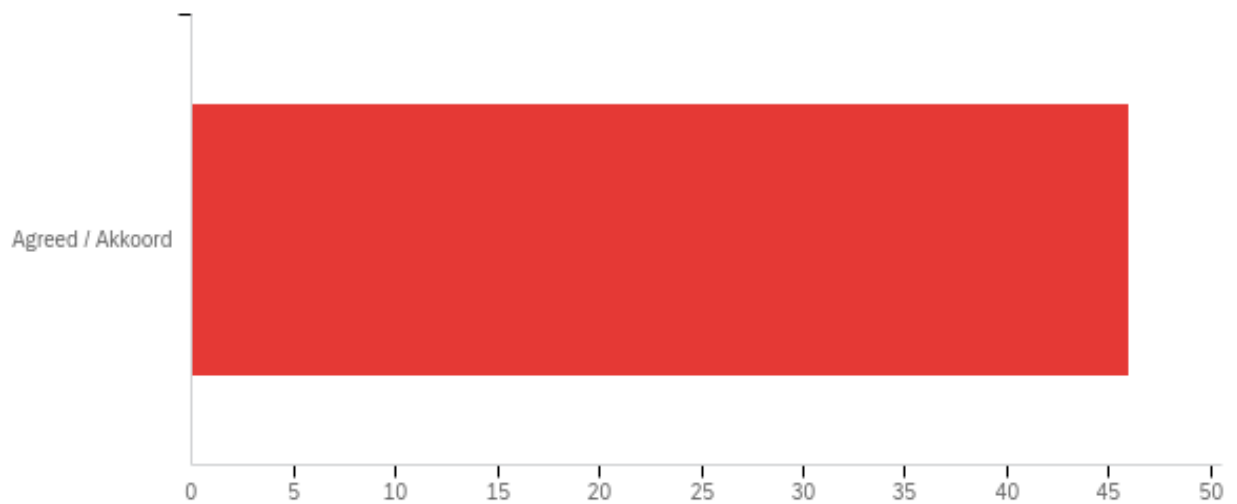
I was in what seemed to be a public space but got told not to smoke

Ergens bijvoorbeeld niet je eigen eten mee mogen nemen

Als je rookt op de Zernike campus wordt je weggestuurd. Nergens meer een plek meer voor rokers.

Q15 - I hereby give voluntary permission to use this questionnaire regarding 'privately owned public spaces in Groningen'. The questionnaire will be processed into data that will be safely stored where you remain completely anonymous. The data will only be used for purposes related to writing Flint Verbeek's bachelor thesis. I was well informed about this in advance. Contact: f.c.h.verbeek@student.rug.nl

Via deze weg geef ik vrijwillig toestemming voor het gebruiken van deze vragenlijst aangaande 'openbare ruimtes in privé bezit Groningen'. De vragenlijst zal verwerkt worden in data die veilig zal worden opgeslagen waarbij u volledig anoniem blijft. De data zal enkel en alleen gebruikt worden voor doeleinden die gerelateerd zijn tot het schrijven van de bachelor scriptie van Flint Verbeek. Hierover ben ik van tevoren goed ingelicht. Contact: f.c.h.verbeek@student.rug.nl



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	I hereby give voluntary permission to use this questionnaire regarding 'privately owned public spaces in Groningen'. The questionnaire will be processed into data that will be safely stored where you remain completely anonymous. The data will only be used for purposes related to writing Flint Verbeek's bachelor thesis. I was well informed about this in advance. Contact:	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	46

f.c.h.verbeek@student.rug.nl
 Via deze weg geef ik vrijwillig
 toestemming voor het
 gebruiken van deze vragenlijst
 aangaande 'openbare ruimtes
 in privé bezit Groningen'. De
 vragenlijst zal verwerkt
 worden in data die veilig zal
 worden opgeslagen waarbij u
 volledig anoniem blijft. De
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 doeleinden die gerelateerd zijn
 tot het schrijven van de
 bachelor scriptie van Flint
 Verbeek. Hierover ben ik van
 tevoren goed ingelicht.
 Contact:
 f.c.h.verbeek@student.rug.nl

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Agreed / Akkoord	100.00%	46
	Total	100%	46

Appendix 2: semi-structured interview guide

Control question(s)

1. Are you a student?
2. How would you identify yourself (man/women/other)
3. Do you have a Dutch nationality?

Opening question(s)

4. How would you define a public space?

Transition question(s)

5. Do you often dwell on the ownership of a place that you visit and the rules that apply to places you consider public?
6. Would you say you are aware of the rules of conduct in the places you visit?

Key question(s)

7. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center this results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?
8. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ?
9. What do you think are possible advantages of privately owned public spaces (think of renovation, cleanness, safety) ?
10. What do you think are possible downsides of privately owned public spaces (e.g. extra surveillance, rules of conduct, legal restriction) ?
11. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?
12. Do you have any personal experience/encounters with privatization of public space? E.g. ways it stood out to you.

Closing question(s)

13. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?
14. Is there anything you would change about the privatization of public space?
15. Do you have any other questions regarding this subject or the interview?

Appendix 3: interview transcriptions

Transcription interview 1

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1: Do you live in Groningen?

2: Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: As a man

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2: Yes

1: Okay perfect, then I will start with the first question: how would you define a public space?

2: In my opinion, a public space is a space where you can go without, for example, entrance fees or obligations or extra rules. Consider a park or certain public buildings such as a library.

1: Okay perfect. And when you are outdoors and visit a place that you think is public, do you ever think about the rules that apply in such a place?

2: Not very often I think. I usually follow the normal rules of conduct, such as not making too much noise or disturbing the peace of other people. I do not consider any special rules that apply in public spaces.

1: Okay, and if there were special rules, would you like to know about them?

2: I think so, this way you know in advance what is and what is not allowed.

1: Do you ever think about the owner of such a public place?

2: No, not really, I often think it is from the municipality.

1: Thank you, Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center these results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2: It's a bit confusing. The rules ensure that peace is maintained and denying access to certain people can also have a positive effect. But perhaps the purpose of a public space is damaged, because the whole idea of a public space is that everyone can go there and that there are few rules.

1: Thank you, Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ?

2: I think that on one hand it could be beneficial because this way you have better maintenance and better safety in public spaces. It's generally neater. And as long as the rules generally don't get out of

hand or are excessive, it's an advantage. But it remains ironic that you have a public space where, for example, homeless people are not allowed to enter.

1. And what do you think are the possible benefits of a privately owned public space?

2. I mainly think that there is better maintenance, that it is generally cleaner. Also that the toilets are cleaner and there is no mess. Furthermore, such a place is often safer. Privately owned public spaces can also stimulate innovation, as many people visit your space you can see it as advertisement which can cause a private owner to innovate sooner which ensures an improved public space.

1. And what do you think are possible disadvantages of a privately owned public space?

2. Because it is privately owned, you sometimes have to make additional purchases or an entrance fee is charged. Ultimately, everyone always wants to make a profit from such a space, so they will come up with all kinds of ways to do this. It is also contradictory that private owners are allowed to set their own rules in public spaces.

1. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?

2. No, private ownership should not expand towards the street, if that happens people will have no clue what rules to adhere to

1. And would you like to be better informed about who owns public spaces and what rules apply?

2. I think so.

1. Have you had personal experiences with privatization of public space? This could be because you noticed that you were confronted about not adhering to the house rules while you thought you were in a public space?

2. I was once in the forum and I thought it was very strange that there were security present. After a while I also liked it so that you can be sure that nothing crazy happens in the building.

1. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?

2. I think the government or the municipality. Public space is not intended to be profitable or to apply rules, which is why I think the government is suitable.

1. Those were all my questions, do you have any questions about this topic or about the interview in general?

2. No, everything is actually clear.

1. Okay thanks for your time.

Transcription interview 2

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. Are you a student?

2. Yes.

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1. How would you identify yourself?

2. As a woman

1. Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A place where everyone can be without many rules. So a place where the government can determine the rules if this proves necessary.

1. Do you often think about the ownership of a public place or the rules that apply when you visit a public place?

2. No, I don't think about it that much. For example, I behave more in a store than in a public place.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center this results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. As long as it doesn't go too far, I'm fine with this. I think not photographing each other are general rules of conduct that are not very disruptive. I wouldn't take pictures of other people in a public space. If security guards deport people for a good reason, for example to cause unrest, then that is fine. But the police could also be called in for this.

1. Suppose you take a photo on the street, in which case you might be denied access, what is your view on that?

2. I don't have a good idea of what extent that is.

1. In the Paddepoel shopping center it is not allowed to hand out flyers and these people may be turned away by security. Do you think that is correct?

2. Yes, in itself, I don't find it surprising that rules apply in such places.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ?

2. I think public spaces in Groningen are fairly neat. So at the moment I see little advantage in having it privatized.

1. What do you think are potential benefits of privately owned public spaces?

2. Yes, especially the money aspect, that private owners have more resources and time to invest to ensure that it looks neat.

1. And possible disadvantages?

2. Not being able to take photos doesn't really matter to me. Demonstrating is a fundamental right, and if you think you are in a place where you think it is allowed, but it turns out to be privatized and therefore it is not allowed, then I would take that seriously.

1. Recently there was a demonstration of extinction rebellion and fossil-free Netherlands in the forum. This demonstration was fairly peaceful and yet these people were sent away at the time, do you disapprove of that?

2. This requires a weighing of interests. If the demonstrators have gotten in the way of people or have appeared intimidating, then I think it is good if the owner of the forum says: I do not want this.

1. Do you think the rules should be more clearly visible in these types of places?

2. Yes, that seems good to me.

1. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?

2. No, I would take that seriously. I think that the state should put up general rules of conduct for privately owned public spaces so that private organizations don't take their rules too far. This way you have the advantages that other parties can invest in it, but not the disadvantages where owners may go too far in their own regulations.

1. Have you had personal experiences with privatization of public space? This could be because you noticed that you were confronted about not adhering to the house rules while you thought you were in a public space?

2. Yes, for example, smoking on the sidewalk of the school building. For example, between the academy building and the university library.

1. Those were all my questions, do you have any questions about this topic or about the interview in general?

2. Are there regulations for how private parties can draw up rules?

1. There are of course rules that make the prohibition of discrimination clear. However, many of these types of POPS have their house rules stating that they may change the rules at any time and act accordingly. I think this makes it difficult for the government to intervene in concrete terms.

Transcription interview 3

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: As a man

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. Okay perfect, then I will start with the first question: how would you define a public space?

2. A place that is accessible to everyone without entrance fees.

1. Okay great, and when you visit a place that you think is public, do you ever wonder about the rules that apply at that time?

2. No, then I assume the normal norms of conduct and laws that normally apply.

1. So you wouldn't be surprised if you weren't aware of certain rules?

2. No, I wouldn't be surprised about that.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center these results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. This varies per line. I think it should be clear what the rules are. I can imagine that in a shopping center like Paddepoel, security can kick you out if this is deemed necessary. However, it is also true that the police can also deny you access to public spaces. So it is questionable whether those companies should come up with rules for this themselves.

1. This often concerns fairly innocent things such as not being allowed to distribute flyers or hang around. In this case, that would be a serious reason for security to remove someone from the location.

2. I believe that it is very annoying for young people that they are not allowed to hang around and that the municipality should also give them the space to do so. At the same time, I can imagine that it is very nice for shoppers and entrepreneurs that there is no hanging youth.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ?

2. In an ideal world, you would want a beautifully renovated, yet free space. But if the municipality can no longer facilitate everything, I would prefer to adhere to certain rules in order to keep it nicely maintained. It remains a risk to place power in the hands of a private party. I would think it would be a great shame if I were no longer allowed to play football in the city park, for example.

1. Earlier you said that you believe everyone should be welcome in a public space. Is this a place with or without rules for you?

2. I think everyone should be welcome, but not for every purpose. It cannot be used by everyone in any way at any time. Rules can help with this.

1. Thank you. And what do you think are possible benefits of privately owned public spaces?

2. The facilities will be improved. Also the cleanliness of the area. But also the maintenance of the paths and roads, perhaps even public toilets that are well maintained.

1. And potential disadvantages?

2. By leaving the rules completely up to private landowners, they get their way, which can cause visiting groups to feel disadvantaged. As a landowner, it is your responsibility to ensure that everyone feels welcome.

1. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?

2. I would find that very difficult. If you walk down the street and in certain areas you have to adhere to different rules, you shouldn't want that as a society.

1. Have you had personal experiences with privatization of public space? This could be because you noticed that you were confronted about not adhering to the house rules while you thought you were in a public space?

2. In our village there was a public lake which was the meeting place in the summer. It then came into private ownership. Then the owner established rules that did not apply before. I wasn't aware of those rules. Suddenly, for example, we were no longer allowed to drink alcohol or play loud music. There were also certain times when you were no longer allowed to be there.

1. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?

2. The municipality

1. Those were all my questions, do you have any questions about this topic or about the interview in general?

2. No.

1. Okay thanks for your time.

Transcription interview 4

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: As a man

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. No, I do not. I'm Irish.

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A public space is an area where you can walk in and feel free. An area where you do not feel obliged to pay any money to do something. It should be open and free to everyone.

1. Once you go outside and visit places of which you think they are public. Do you ever stand still and think of the rules that apply in that moment?

2. Sometimes yes. Especially living in the Netherlands for the past time and how they handle smoking. I smoke so if I'm in an area of which I think it is public I always wonder: can I smoke here, am I allowed to do certain things? Will people look at me differently if I do a certain things that might be out of the normal.

1. Do you stand still and think about the ownership as well?

2. Sometimes I think about whether or not I am allowed to be somewhere. Is it okay for me to be here. For example on the Grote Markt I feel very okay but on the Nieuwe Markt I get the feeling that I shouldn't be there because there are so many high buildings around me.

1. That is an interesting answer. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center this results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. I suppose there needs to be a little bit of order to keep the chaos of public life together. But at the same time, if you try and advertise yourself as a public space then you should allow everybody in. It is not as 'gezellig' if you have to adhere to the rules of the owners, for example in the forum. When I go into a privately owned place I feel judged. It feels like a club. Either they let you in or they don't let you in. That shouldn't be the way when you are going into perceived public spaces.

1. You mentioned the forum, well in the Netherlands we have the right to demonstrate. And some organizations like extinction rebellion held a peaceful protest in the forum, but still they were sent away by security. What is your opinion on that?

2. To me it is a joke honestly, I think the right to demonstrate is important. And the right to your rights as well. And I can understand with the idea of public and private spaces it can be difficult to demonstrate every right that you have. It is really interesting.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of the public space such as safety, maintenance or cleanness, even if it at cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom? Think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to organize a protest, keeping out the homeless etc.

2. I don't really think that is a nice trade-off, well it is a good trade-off, but for me personally the city or a public space should be for the people who live in that city. It should be almost like a playground for the inhabitants of the city in my opinion. So that means if your homeless and going through hard times and you can't get a house, you should be allowed to sleep somewhere on the street. I understand that certain government officials don't like the look of it, but is a problem that we cannot sweep under a rug. So I feel in a city where you got people demonstrating and you got homeless people that the city belongs to them as well. Just because private parties own a part of that city does not mean they can control what goes on in that city. I have a strong opinion on who has the right to the city, it should be the people.

1. Would you say there are possible advantages to privately owned public spaces?

2. Of course there is, the cleaning. It can also take a lot of burden of the municipality. If a company can take care of an area, and look after the well-being of the area, then maybe the government and municipality can spend their money on something else. So therefore when looking at the homeless 'thing' again they could invest in more hostels and houses for the homeless while they do not have to worry about cleaning public spaces any more. The advantages depend on the degree of privatization.

1. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?

2. It would sit bad with me. I'm Irish so we have St Patricks day, where you are allowed to have a few drinks on the street although you are not meant to. I think it is the same thing as Kingsday or Sinterklaas over here. If the tradition of people in the city would be to do a parade and then all of a sudden the private owner states that they do not want that, then they are the ones that are going to decide that at the end of the day. That sits really wrong with me that they can control a certain street.

1. You mentioned smoking earlier on, do you have any more personal experience/encounters with privatization of public space? Maybe ways it stood out to you or times where you got reminded of not adhering to certain rules while you thought you were in a public space.

2. I remember this one time I was having a drink at the bar, when I say someone on the street. I had my beer in my hand and went over to my friend on the street. Then someone came to me and said: 'you can't have that here'. And I was like: 'Oh but I in the bar.' To which he replied: 'no that bar stops there'. And I was like: 'oh but I'm just saying hi'. To which he refused to listen. This showed how zoning works in certain places, it is so damn by the book that you cannot say hi to someone on the street.

1. Who said that to you?

2. It was the business owner of the other café, and then it escalated a bit when the other business owner of the café I came from came down. Other examples would be where you are allowed to smoke between the library and the academy building. Even though from what I understood it is public land. But lets a person who is not in the university walks through there smoking they (the university staff) will probably not say anything, but when a student stands there smoking in the blue area they will come and get you. It is where I have been caught before. I understand what they are trying to do but in reality you see this kind of inequality. Its weird.

1. Is there anything you would change about the privatization of the public space? For example in this case making the rules more clear, of making general rules.

2. I think public private partnership works really well for creating housing and buildings. But I don't feel that private owners should be able to own a piece of public space. If there is a large area around their building and it is huge connector piece for the city, I do not feel that it should be private. I feel it should be open to the city and allow the right of the city and the right of each person there. Instead of owners saying 'you cannot do that here, because I don't want that.' Well if that is the case you would be walking on egg-shells for the rest of your life wondering about whether or not you can do certain things. It should not be like that. The city should be your home, and if somebody starts buying up pieces of your home and not allows you in, I do not agree with that.

1. For me those were the core questions regarding this interview. Do you have any other questions regarding this subject or the interview?

2. When I mentioned Nieuwe Markt, I saw that rang a bell for you, is Nieuwe Markt a privately owned square or is it still public?

1. First of all it is very interesting that is very hard to find out the ownership of a certain space. So when I started all of this I asked the municipality about the ownership, but they were not allowed to tell me. Then my supervisor reached out to Kadaster, but they were not allowed to share info either. I know that the forum itself is private institution with cultural status. The Nieuwe markt was part of the same construction process, but it is not easy at all to find who owns it, which is interesting in and of itself.

Transcription interview 5

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: As a woman

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. Okay perfect, then I will start with the first question: how would you define a public space?

2. A space that everyone has access to.

1. And if you enter a public space, or at least a space that you suspect is public. Do you ever think about who owns that space and what rules apply there?

2. Not who owns it, I think you take into account that you behave and that you clean up your trash and things like that.

1. Are you referring to the general rules of conduct?

2. Yes

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center these results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. I think a little control is a good thing in that regard.

1. Okay, and when does that go too far?

2. When you are no longer allowed to decide, so to speak, who you have a conversation with or where you sit. But I think the general rules, such as that you have to throw away your waste, are fair to say.

1. For example, a homeless person, what would you think if such a person were sent away?

2. I think that's a good thing

1. How does this compare to the fact that you previously defined public spaces as spaces that everyone has access to?

2. Because I have the feeling that a homeless person is not aware of the rules regarding, for example, throwing away waste. Then the beauty of a square, for example, is compromised if such a person does not adhere to it. But if such a person does adhere to it, I think it's fine that such a person is there.

1. Exactly, so then someone should not be refused in the foreground, but only if such a person breaks the rules?

2. Yes, if someone adheres to the rules, that is allowed.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of public spaces (e.g. safety, cleanness and maintenance) if it is at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom (think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to protest, keeping out the homeless etc) ?

2. I think cleanliness is important, so if something like this comes at the expense of not protesting somewhere, I think that's a good thing.

1. What do you think are further advantages of privately owned public spaces?

2. I think it's good because I think there is more control in that area. So there is more supervision and rules are enforced more because you are aware that it belongs to someone else.

1. Okay thanks. And what do you think are possible disadvantages of privately owned public spaces?

2. Yes, it may become less accessible to people because they experience the rules as too strict, that there is too much control.

1. Okay, and imagine privatization expands even further and you also have to adhere to certain rules on the street, how would you view that?

2. With regard to the fact that you have to tidy things up, this must of course be the same everywhere. But there must also be places where there is less control and where you should be able to do your own thing a little more. So I think it's debatable whether that should be the same everywhere.

1. Yes, so if we look at the example of protesting, something like that is a fundamental right in this case. If this can no longer be implemented anywhere, we will have a problem in the Netherlands.

2. Yes, that's right, in that respect I think it is good that there are areas where it is allowed and where it is not. So privatization should not spread everywhere.

1. Have you ever had personal experiences with privatization of public space? Think of places where you noticed it or that you were confronted with a rule of conduct somewhere while you were in a public space?

2. Not that I know of.

1. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?

2. It must be shared, I think it is good that part of it ends up in private hands. I think it is also good that parties with different ideas and plans than the municipality can apply them to an area. Then you get more diversity than if the municipality owns everything.

1. Ok thanks. Then those were the most important questions for me. Do you have any questions about this topic or about this interview in general?

2. No

Transcription interview 6

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: Man

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. No, I do not. I'm Italian, Chilean and English.

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A public space is a space that is shared by any individual of society, that can be used for multiple users depending on the individual.

1. That is a beautiful definition, like you studied it before! Okay and once you go outside and you visit a place of which you think it is public, do you ever stand still and think about the rules that apply to you in that moment?

2. No, not really, only in a subconscious manner.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center this results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. I think it is right. We should follow rules to make sure the space is respected, in every manner.

1. And do you feel this excludes certain people?

2. If it does exclude someone I am not really aware of it.

1. And if I tell you it does in some cases. For example the other day there was a peaceful climate protest in the forum, and these people did get sent away although protesting is a fundamental right in the Netherlands. How do you feel about this?

2. Do you have to request a protest?

1. No, you just have to notify the municipality.

2. Okay because where I am from you get a time scheduled from the municipality.

1. Over here demonstrators can determine how when and where they would like to protest. You only have to give notice to the municipality. So how do you feel about the demonstrator situation?

2. If they were doing something that was going against somebody else's right within that space, it is okay that they were sent away. I do not know the exact context so that is all I can tell you.

1. Okay that is fair. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of the public space such as safety, maintenance or cleanness, even if it at cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom? Think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to organize a protest, keeping out the homeless etc.

2. I will say yes. It is fair as long as you are not excluding anyone, not even homeless people. The rest is fine, like not being to take pictures or any other rights that are not 'hard rights'.

1. But taking pictures is over here, you are allowed to take pictures in the public space. Do you think that there is a clash there?

2. I feel like for me personally it does not affect me as I do not really take pictures of others.

1. What do you think are possible advantages of privately owned public spaces?

2. I think it can help the economy obviously. Society benefits because there will be new jobs and an exchange place of any sort is created.

1. And possible downsides of privately owned public spaces?

2. I cannot come up with any. As long as there is good regulation from the public sector there should not be any issue with private actors owning public space.

1. Would you accept it if the privatization expanded and you needed to adhere to certain rules on the street as well?

2. It would be fine with it if there is still a mediator behind it which is of a public entity. They can decide on the regulations and laws and norms even though its privately owned.

1. Do you mean general rules that all private owners of public spaces need to adhere to?

2. Yes, for example what I can think of is a river. In America there are many private properties that have rivers running through them. Those rivers are then still publicly accessible through regulations even though it is in a private property. In Sweden as well, there they have private forests, but under regulations you are allowed to camp there either way. And then the owner cannot sent you away because it is nature, even though it is private. Theoretically you could do the same with for example a sidewalk.

1. That is a good answer. Do you have any personal experience/encounters with privatization of public space? Maybe ways it stood out to you or times where you got reminded of not adhering to certain rules while you thought you were in a public space.

2. Not that I can think of.

1. Okay that is perfectly fine. Who do you think should be the landowner of the public space?

2. Isn't a public space always owned by the state?

1. No that is exactly what makes this topic so interesting. Lets take the forum for example, that is a publicly accessible space but it is privately owned.

2. To me it does not feel public.

1. Where is the line for you?

2. To me the line is a square or something.

1. So does it have to be outside to you?

2. No not necessarily outside, as I would see the buildings of the municipality as public as well. But I guess when you involve commerce or money in any way I would say the public part gets eliminated.

1. Okay thank you. Those were my questions, do you have any other questions regarding this topic or this interview in general?

2. No not really.

1. Okay that is perfect, thank you for your time.

Transcription interview 7

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: Man

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A space that can be used by everyone

1. When you visit a space that you suspect is public, do you ever think about the rules that apply to you at that moment?

2. No, I don't think so. I just follow the laws that work in the Netherlands. Don't do anything strange and just follow the normal rules of conduct.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center these results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. I think that is logical for the places just mentioned, despite the fact that they are part of the public space, they are places with their own profit motive, so I think you can easily place your own security guards and things like that there.

1. Okay, and what do you think about the fact that public space is sometimes used for profit?

2. Yes, I have little objection to that unless it happens everywhere. At some point it has to be limited, it cannot be the case that all places in Groningen can be used for those types of purposes.

1. Imagine that privatization continues to expand, and that you also have to adhere to certain rules on the street that have been drawn up by private landowners. How would you view that?

2. I would find that strange.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of the public space such as safety, maintenance or cleanness, even if it at cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom? Think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to organize a protest, keeping out the homeless etc.

2. I think that's quite fine. Especially for aspects such as cleanliness and safety. I think you generally feel a lot safer when there is no waste on the street. However, this should not apply everywhere

because homeless people must be welcome somewhere. The municipality may be able to provide additional homeless shelter with the money saved from the maintenance that is outsourced. If at a certain point homeless people are no longer welcome, freedom will be limited in those types of spaces.

1. Are there any potential benefits to privately owned public spaces?

2. It is easier for the municipality because there are fewer places that they have to exercise control over themselves. It also benefits cleanliness.

1. And are there also potential disadvantages of privately owned public spaces?

2. Now that possible rules of conduct are being drawn up that are not in line with, for example, the Dutch Constitution? It is a bit strange that different rules suddenly apply.

1. Have you ever had personal experiences with privatization of public space? Think of places where you noticed it or that you were confronted with a rule of conduct somewhere while you were in a public space?

2. No, not that I can remember.

1. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?

2. The government I think.

1. Okay thank you. Those were my questions, do you have any other questions regarding this topic or this interview in general?

2. No not really.

1. Okay that is perfect, thank you for your time.

Transcription interview 8

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: Woman

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A space where everyone is welcome, always

1. If you visit a place of which you think it is public, do you ever stand still and think about who owns the place?

2. No I actually don't

1. And do you think about the rules that apply to you in that moment?

2. That depends, obviously I know to regular rules of conduct, for example when you are in noorderplantsoen you are aware of the fact that you are not allowed to drink alcohol anymore. But in that case there was many attention for that rule, in regular cases I think I would be less aware. But I guess that's also because I do not violate the rules that quickly.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center this results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. Yes, I think that's fine. I think it's strange not to take photos, but I don't mind the fact that there is security, I think that's a nice idea.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of the public space such as safety, maintenance or cleanness, even if it at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom? Think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to organize a protest, keeping out the homeless etc.

2. Yes, I actually think so. Especially in the evening I think it is important that places are safe, of course I like clean anyway.

1. Okay, and how would that relate to an earlier answer in which you stated that public spaces should be accessible to everyone?

2. Actually, this is of course not related. I think that comes down to personal preference. Of course you want to feel safe and perhaps that weighs more for me than the fact that everyone is welcome there. Anyone who follows the rules is welcome, and anyone who does not follow the rules is not welcome.

1. Is that the limit for you as to whether you adhere to the landowner's rules?

2. Yes

1. Do you think there are potential benefits to privately owned public spaces?

2. Yes, I think so, I think you can better guarantee safety and hygiene. They invest money in it themselves. I think it would be different if the municipality had to do this in all those places.

1. Okay, and potential downsides?

2. That the owners can also decide for themselves how and what the rules are. They can go quite far in that. And you may not even be aware that you are breaking some rules. And what is of course also a disadvantage is that they can also hang cameras and you don't know exactly what they are doing with them. Your privacy may be different there than in publicly owned public spaces.

1. Nice answer, imagine privatization will expand even further towards the street, meaning you will also have to adhere to different rules on the street. Would you accept this then?

2. Well that's going too far for me. Also because you don't necessarily have to go to a place like a forum, but you do have to go to the street. To say that you should also behave there is going a bit too far for me. Especially with the homeless in mind.

1. Have you had any personal experience with privatization of public space? For example, ways in which you noticed it or moments when you were challenged about your behavior while you thought you were in a public space?

2. Not that I can remember.

1. Who do you think should be the landowner of public space?

2. I find that difficult, on the one hand I think of the municipality as it is difficult to monitor how far an owner goes with his rules. However, I don't think that is really realistic either. So then I would say that private ownership is good, but there must be legislation about how far that can go.

1. Great, those were my most important questions. Do you have any questions about this topic or about the interview?

2. No

1. Okay, thanks for your time.

Transcription interview 9

Speaker 1: Flint

Speaker 2: Interviewee

1. 1: Are you a student?

2: Yes

1. Do you live in Groningen?

2. Yes

1: How would you identify yourself?

2: Woman

1: Do you have Dutch nationality?

2. Yes

1. How would you define a public space?

2. A space that is accessible to everyone

1. Okay . If you visit a place of which you think it is public, do you ever stand still and think about the rules that adhere to you in that moment?

2. Well, I always follow the normal rules of conduct, but I don't look up the rules or anything like that.

1. Some public spaces are actually privately owned, which means the owner is allowed to uphold rules of conduct. At locations such as Groningen Station/Forum Groningen or Paddepoel shopping center these results for example in it not being allowed to take pictures without consent, or that security can deny access to anyone when they think it is necessary. What do you think about this?

2. I agree with the rules just mentioned, but of course it all depends on the rules per place.

1. Would you prefer to improve certain aspects of the public space such as safety, maintenance or cleanness, even if it at the cost of potentially losing a bit of freedom? Think hereby of it not being allowed to take pictures, not being able to organize a protest, keeping out the homeless etc.

2. Yes

1. Okay, and if we're talking about keeping the homeless out, for example, how does this relate to your first answer in which you indicate that public space is accessible to everyone?

2. That depends on how the homeless behave and whether they disturb the peace and security. And if that happens, I indeed think that they should not be in public spaces at such a time. But if they adhere to the normal rules of conduct, I have no problem with homeless people being welcome.

1. Are there potential benefits for you from privately owned public spaces?

2. Not that I know of.

1. And potential disadvantages?

2. That the private owner determines the rules.

1. Nice answer, imagine privatization will expand even further towards the street, meaning you will also have to adhere to different rules on the street. Would you accept this then?

2. I'm not entirely sure I agree with that. But of course this depends on the extent to which they are allowed to determine the rules and what the rules are. If the private owner is allowed to decide everything himself, then I do not agree with it.

1. Have you had any personal experience with privatization of public space? For example, ways in which you noticed it or moments when you were challenged about your behavior while you thought you were in a public space?

2.No.

1. Who do you think you should be the landowner of the public space?

2. The municipality.

1. Okay perfect, those were my most important questions. Do you have any questions regarding either this subject in general or the interview?

2.No

1. Okay perfect, thank you for your time.

Appendix 4: informed consent form

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Geïnformeerd over toestemming formulier (English below)

Via deze weg geef ik vrijwillig toestemming voor het opnemen en gebruiken van dit interview aangaande 'openbare ruimtes in privaat bezit in Groningen'. Het interview zal verwerkt worden in data waarbij u volledig anoniem blijft. De data zal enkel en alleen gebruikt worden voor doeleinden die gerelateerd zijn tot het schrijven van de bachelor scriptie van Flint Verbeek. Hierover ben ik van tevoren goed ingelicht.

Informed consent form

I hereby voluntarily give permission for the recording and use of this interview regarding 'privately owned public spaces in Groningen'. The interview will be processed into data where you remain completely anonymous. The data will only be used for purposes related to writing Flint Verbeek's bachelor thesis. I was well informed about this in advance.

Naam / name: _____

E-mail adres / E-mail address: _____

Handtekening / Signature: _____