

Molina, Ahtziri, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico

Reality Check for Xalapa, the Athens of Veracruz

For over a century, Xalapa has been well known as a cultural and educational city in a tropical ambiance. For a long time this was a cool green oasis for locals and foreign where they could create and be formed. However, the unruly and unplanned growth the city has experimented in the past four decades, have led the city to experience major changes in the city. These drastic transformations have led the city and its inhabitants to a splitting between the celebrated artistically rich imaginaries and the current complicated economic and urban conditions of the city.

This paper seeks to identify the imaginaries based on this nostalgia from the past and the existing living circumstances of Xalapa with the aim to identify where the realities and imaginaries divide and meet.