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Ola Söderström is a geographer, professor at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. His work focuses on the social and cultural geography of the city. In recent years he has extensively worked on processes of globalization in cities of the Global South, looking at the role of the increasing mobility of persons, ideas and policies in the shaping of urban development. Since 2015, he also works on the relation between urban living and psychosis and publishes on this topic together with colleagues in psychiatry and linguistics both in medical and social science journals. He is also heavily involved in science policy and research evaluation as member of the Presiding board of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Link to open access papers: <https://unine.academia.edu/OlaSöderström>

Most recent monograph: Söderström, O. 2014. *Cities in Relations. Trajectories of Urban development in Hanoi and Ouagadougou*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

Here is also a short abstract:

Being a stranger in your own city: a video analysis.

Ola Söderström

There is a recent trend in psychiatry towards in situ studies on the social and environmental dimensions of psychosis. Experience sampling methodologies (ESM) using momentary assessments of symptoms have thus brought interesting new insights into the possible role of urban living in psychosis, compared to classical lab or spatial epidemiological studies. This 'research in the wild' (Callon and Rabearisao, 2003) is necessary to move beyond (important but rehearsed) findings regarding density, minority status, deprivation and social defeat. In this context, my talk will present a video-based methodology developed within an interdisciplinary project - including geographers, psychiatrists and linguists - which differs from ESM methodologies. I will first show how we used, with first episode patients, a combination of video-analysis of urban walks, on the one hand, and video-elicitation interviews, on the other, to capture both conscious and less conscious processes at work in participants' relations to their everyday environment. I will then explain how this methodology allowed us to generate hypotheses we tested through a survey with a larger group of participants. Finally, I will describe an on-going development of this methodology which includes biosensing and geolocalisation.

**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**