

# Vernacular Security in the Urban Space of Tbilisi, Georgia

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Location: Tbilisi, Georgia

Timeline: November 2019 – October 2020

## Project Description

This research covers the topic of vernacular (in)security in the urban space of Tbilisi, Georgia, specifically focusing on the period after the 2003 Rose Revolution. Besides a literary review, the two main research methods I use are: (1) interviews (life histories, walking interviews, and in-depth expert interviews); and (2)

visual analysis of the material space of the city, documented in the form of photographs I take in different neighbourhoods of Tbilisi. The data is then analysed using the method of discourse analysis, looking at the transformations and continuities of the discourses of (in)security in the urban space of Tbilisi.



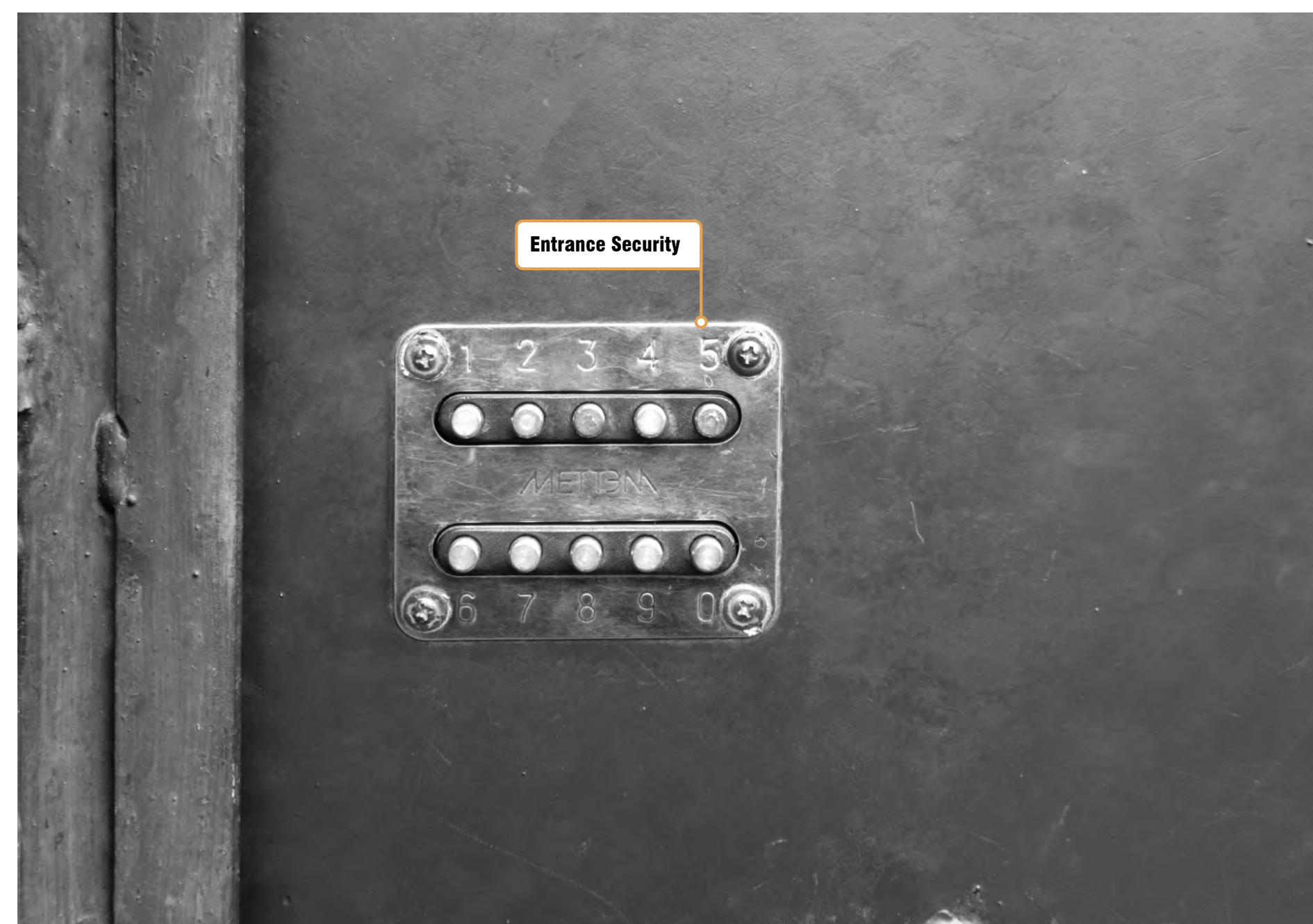
An iron door with security code secures a residential building entrance from non-residents (Saburtalo neighbourhood)



Privatising security - Orbi Security (founded in 2008) is one of the security companies in Georgia offering physical protection for private property, including installing alarm and video control systems



On-door speakerphone



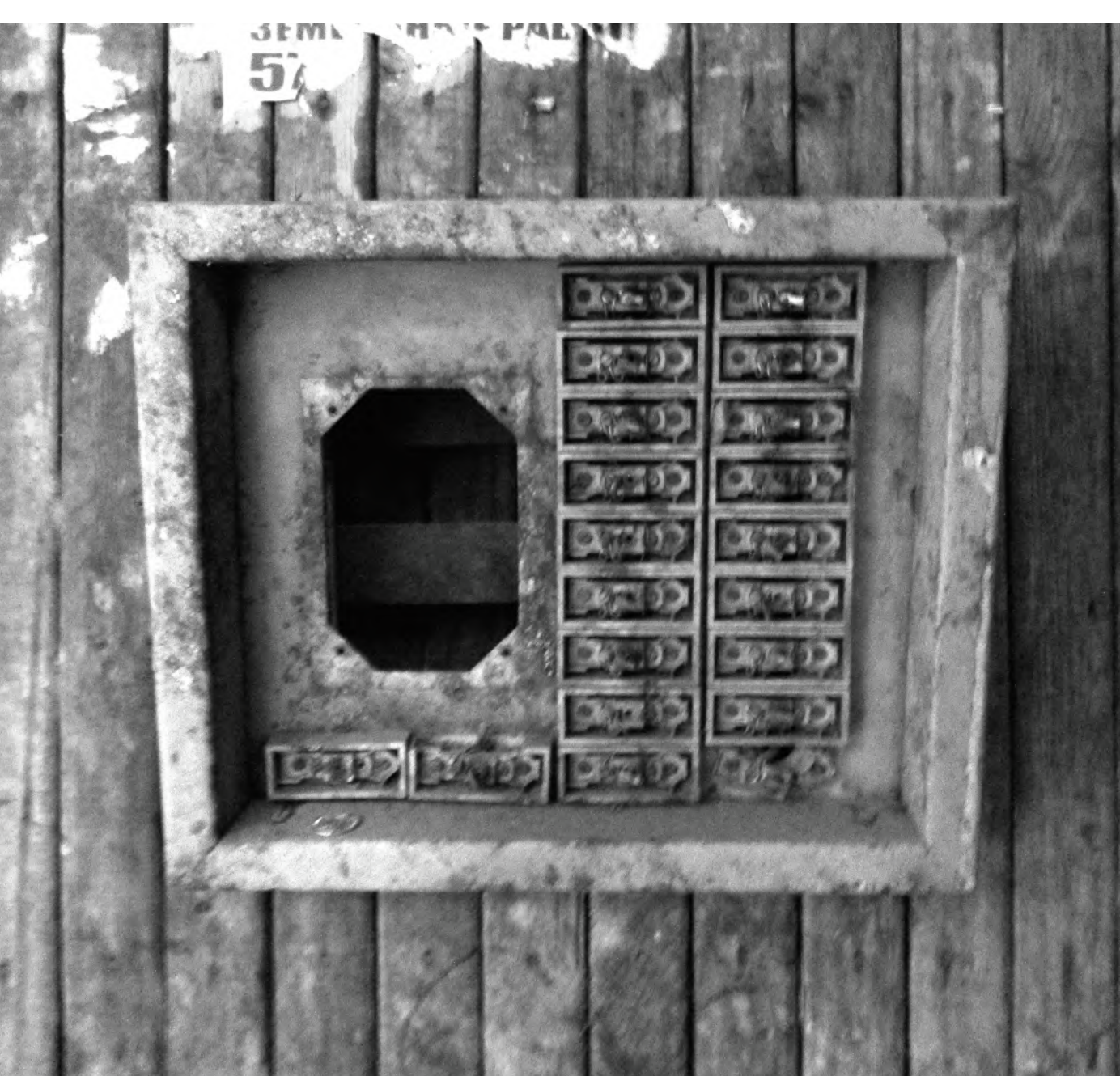
Entrance door security code in Saburtalo neighbourhood



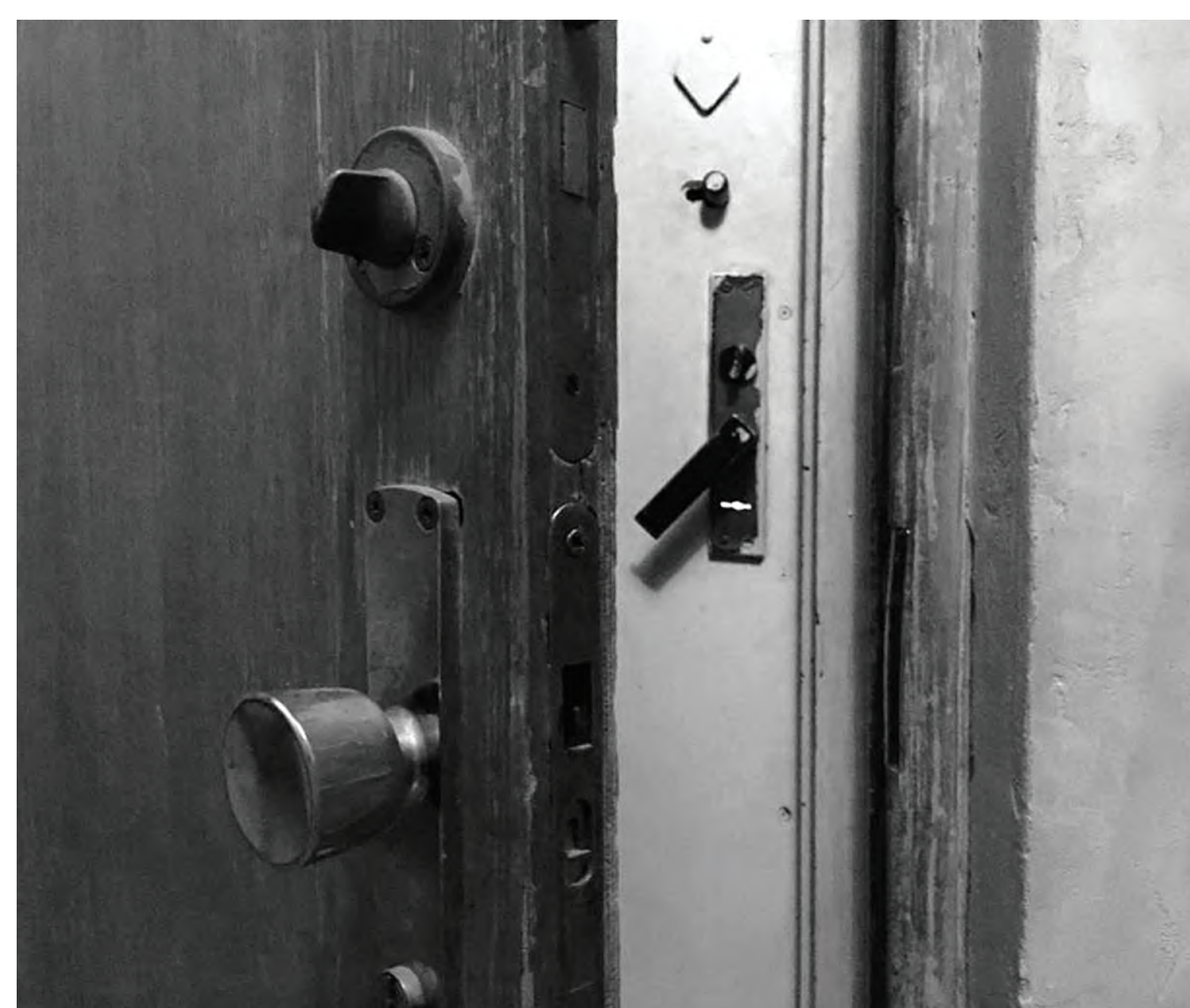
Informal claims to parking in a Saburtalo neighbourhood by indicating license plate numbers on the wall



Deteritorialisation in the post-Soviet city. "Where is home?" inscription representing the existential fears following the increased mobility and uncertainty of citizens connected with it



An old Soviet-time speakerphone in Saburtalo that was destroyed in the early 1990s



Double doors at an apartment entrance. Such doors were common both in the late Soviet period and chaotic 1990s - the "inside doors" were usually wooden, while the "outside doors" were steel

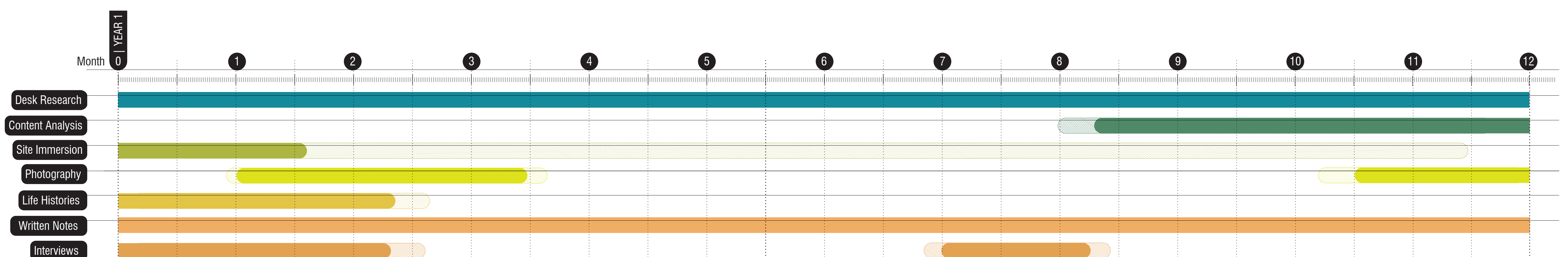


A barrier blocking the entrance of non-resident cars into a courtyard in Saburtalo neighbourhood



This obscene inscription has a double entendre: interpreted as "the city is f\*\*\*ed" or as "the city is a motherf\*\*\*er." The first speaks of the urban body of Tbilisi being destroyed while the second indicates the insecurity felt by citizens

## PHOTOGRAPHY



## PROJECT TIMELINE