4. From Neighbourhood to Community, or from Community to Neighbourhood?

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Format: traditional (call for abstracts)

Issues related to the urban neighbourhood comprise one of the classic themes of sociology, as well as one of the longest-running issues in the field of modern urban studies (cf. Chicago School: Thomas, Znaniecki 1918-20, Blumer 1986, Abbott 1997, Merriman 2015). From the very beginning, the building of neighbourly relations in an urban context illustrated succinctly the transition from Gemeinschaft to Gesellschaft, seen as a subjective strategy for dealing with the experience of the “big change” coping with “anomy” and taming turbulent times or traumatic experiences. We therefore assume that similar – at least to some extent – premises that historically triggered interest in the urban neighbourhood should be reconsidered. Furthermore, and even more importantly, the real effects of their impact need to be taken into account and re-evaluated. Examples of these conditions are the transformation of neighbourhood relations as a result of systemic changes and radical marketization in Central and Eastern Europe, resulting in their strong individualization and mercantilization (Rykiel 2016), or the more contemporary experience of the 2008 crisis and its consequences for contemporary Southern European cities (Donald, Glasmei, Grayc 2014, Petmesidou, Guillén 2015). However, we are also interested in the experiences of other countries, societies and communities - speaking the language of Immanuel Wallerstein’s system theory: both from the countries of the capitalist “core” and its “semiperipheries” or “peripheries”. We are primarily interested in specific case studies and fieldwork results in the urban environment, though not abstracted from the macrostructural and cultural context.

The session will focus on two interconnected dimensions of the analysis of neighbourhood relations: (1) neighbourhood as spatial nearness (neighbourhood) (Lewicka 2010) and (2) neighbourhood as social closeness (community) (Clark 2009). Each of these contexts is well-developed in the literature of social geography and sociology of the city (Grannis 2009). Both are also interconnected through their embedded social experience and individual or collective action (Rofé 1995, French, Foster, Wood, Giles-Corti 2013, Cornwell, Behler 2015).
IV Midterm Conference in Bologna, Italy, 2nd to 4th September 2020

Abstract submission deadline: 3rd April 2020

For abstract submission and further information visit https://esarn37.hypotheses.org/2065

We are calling for submissions on the following topics:

- Neighbourhood as a platform of social self-organization in the city;
- Neighbourhood as a framework for conflict and ways of dealing with conflict;
- Relationships between space and social interactions in the field of urban studies;
- Case studies of urban cooperation;
- Social movements, e.g. urban, tenant movements in the perspective of neighbourly relations;
- Building a neighbourhood;

As the organisers, we do not wish to solely generate demand for specific types of empirical studies, but also work on the assumption that urban studies are a multidisciplinary and multitheoretic space.

References


Rick Grannis (2009), From the Ground up: Translating Geography into Community Through Neighbour Networks. Princeton University Press.

Maria Lewicka (2010), What makes neighborhood different from home and city? Effects of place scale on place attachment, “Journal of Environmental Psychology” 30, p. 35–51.


