



Introductory Report Workshop V: Theories of Planning in Integration and Disintegration

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This Workshop amalgamates theoretical initiatives on the city, its assets and statutory instruments, which could be put into place to help urban areas cope with forces of integration and disintegration. Papers from developed and developing countries, have addressed issues of urban regeneration policy making, participatory planning for diversity and social cohesion, city attractiveness, marketing and promotion, tourism and other examples of integrated planning all seen from a variety of perspectives, and all targeting sustainability. Challenging times, indeed!

In this introductory report, the submitted papers have been grouped according to their main ideas related to the theme of the congress. Each topic is briefly described in order to assemble together those papers which have a common relevance to that topic. Each paper is introduced with a short reference linking it to the workshop topic.

The papers submitted to the 5th Workshop can be grouped under 5 topics, namely;

- A. The Impacts of Globalization and City Marketing
- B. Integrative Planning and Design Principles from Past to Future
- C. Appraisal Methodologies and Policy Framework
- D. Disintegrative Developments and Critical Approaches to Regeneration Projects
- E. Systemic Approaches and Participatory Planning for Social Cohesion

A. The Impacts of Globalization and City Marketing

It is a matter of fact that the principal motivating influence shaping urban development over the last 20-30 years is globalization. Undoubtedly, the extent of the impact of global dynamics over urban development is closely related to the political preferences of local governments and the regional, national systems within which they are governed. The main purpose of city planning, should be trying to work out the influence that global dynamics have on spatial structure and socio-economic order of cities, obviously sorting out and managing the political processes. This approach will help to protect the vulnerable groups of society from the possible adverse effects of globalization. It will also enable city planners to define the theoretical and pragmatic means for a fairer distribution of benefits. Establishing clearly the costs and benefits which are intrinsically bound up in all urban space, will help the planning paradigm which, as always, is caught between its traditional regulatory role and the unavoidable realities of modern economics.

There are 6 papers submitted (by Seisdodos; Saygin; Rocco; Garewal; Polat and Srinivas) under this subtopic exploring the integrative/disintegrative impacts of globalization and city marketing. Rocco's, Garewal's and Polat's papers represent a more sceptical view on the matter of globalization.

B. Integrative Planning and Design Principles from Past to Future

The appearance of the problem of disintegration started with the abandonment of traditional urban forms. Traditional urban forms and related integration were natural dimensions of city life and, indeed, carry the clues to help prevent disintegration. The regulatory attitude of planning and zoning, imposed by the changing patterns of modern social and economic engineering encouraged disintegration. However, in situations where market forces take over the role of organizing urban development, disintegration is still occurring. In identifying the true reasons for disintegration and restoring integration, it is essential to learn from previous urban development models. While taking lessons from the past, it is also important to acknowledge technological developments and trends in order to plan properly for the future. Through such understanding, the proper planning of public space is possible and the problems of disintegration can be effectively avoided.

3 papers have been submitted (by Wai Ki Pang; Gossop; Gencel-Velibeyoglu) under this subtopic. Wai ki Pang and Gossop explore the clues of integration which are embedded in traditional urban forms as well as their evolution. Gencel and Velibeyoglu, on the other hand, have a prospective view. The integrative role of public space is the important message central to both of these papers.

C. Appraisal Methodologies and Policy Framework

Ever increasing population, unbalanced development conditions, the pressure created on the metropolitan cities by migration and the rapid development of the cities ahead of policy making processes make uncontrolled urban developments unavoidable. Such indiscriminate development threatens sustainability. There is, therefore, a need to study environmental, economic, social and spatial dimensions of urban areas in order to create the conditions for healthy living. It is also important that the findings of related studies inform the policy making processes.

3 papers have been submitted (by Kashem-Hafiz; Abou El Ela-EI Din-Soliman; Mwaura) under this subtopic. The uncontrolled urban development pattern of the urban fringe in developing countries is explored and specific methodologies are discussed in these papers. Additionally, Abou El Ela et. al. and Mwaura relate their methodologies with the decision making processes.

D. Disintegrative Developments and Critical Approaches to Regeneration Projects

The areas most affected by the pressures of urban development are the peripheral area of conurbations. The low land values in these areas coupled with the lack of development control brings unplanned developments predominantly to such areas. Developments on the peripheral edges, however, are not limited to the informal settlements. These areas are also suitable places for gated communities since there is a preference to be close to nature. Furthermore, the centralized functions also generally relocate to peripheral areas. In doing so, they leave behind their former locations in inner city areas which, in turn, are poorly maintained and, as a consequence, deteriorate. They are then inhabited by the lower income groups. This appears to attract the attention of investors and renew their interest for the inner city. This interest, coupled to the objectives of local governments i.e. to create new areas of land for development and, at the same time, improve the image of the city, has brought the regeneration concept onto the agenda. Regeneration, undoubtedly, is a process, which uplifts the urban image and improves competitive power in terms of marketing the city. However, comprehensive reallocation programs need to be developed to accommodate the lower income groups who are again forced to move. Otherwise, disintegration is inevitable and the social cost to be paid for this is very high. It should also be stated that physical proximity may not necessarily bring integration. On the other hand, should a government take a regulatory role and move funds from higher income group areas to handicapped areas that could well play a better integrative role than the physical moves.



There are 4 papers submitted (by La Greca-Martinico-Occhipinti-Rizzo; Bracho-Faria-Paredes; Vonk; Ozaydin) under this subtopic. Urban regeneration projects are criticized in this group.

E. Systemic Approaches and Participatory Planning for Social Cohesion

It is observed that, governments which cannot cope with the deep transformation and rapid development of cities; which find it difficult to generate sufficient resources; and which direct generated funds to activities which in themselves are aimed at improving the competitive edge of the city, inevitably accept the formation of informal developments. This is especially true in developing countries. The dilemma which local governments face, that is, to cooperate with market forces and, at the same time, to stick to their social agenda of protecting vulnerable groups against those same market forces inevitably casts a shadow over any prospective restructuring of city planning. Systemic and wide scoped approaches are needed in order to strengthen the role of city planning. City planning is a fundamental pillar of any social state. Its role lies in the production of urban strategies which should be negotiated from as broad a platform base as possible with, of course, the full participation of all groups in society.

There are 5 papers submitted (by Ortiz Jasso; Kassim; Spaans; Hamamcioglu-Yenen; da Costa Lobo) under this subtopic. The papers in this group explore the urban planning process systematically from neighborhood level up to regional and national levels.

It is expected that the jointly raised issues and the range of arguments will contribute to shedding light on the future and the restructuring of city and regional planning.

The questions to stimulate discussion are as follows:

1. What kind of precautions can be taken to counter disintegration in the processes of globalization and marketing of cities?
2. What kind of changes, in current urban design / planning practices and approaches, will need to take place in order to enhance integration?
3. How can disintegration be avoided in urban regeneration projects?
4. What lessons should we take from practical planning outcomes and from the issues we have discussed?