
Digital-Cultural Ecology and the Medium-Sized City

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Abstract Submission Form

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6. Abstract:

This paper aims to give a better understanding of space in a typical modern medium-sized city and its resilienceⁱ in the internet era of 21st century. The dual issues of 'virtual communities' and 'immigration' mostly compromise the production of this space. *'It has both the virtue and the disadvantages of appearing obvious.'*ⁱⁱ

The abstract urban space produced by the online community is in strict contrast to the traditional production of space through physical public life and interrelation in poly-centric cities. We will try to explain the qualities of this abstract space and how in medium-sized cities, it is being organised and produced in such a measure to provide better possibilities for individuals and knowledge-intensive firmsⁱⁱⁱ, however eroding the historic balance of private and public space^{iv}.

This, more or less, is happening worldwide, where communities are moving out of the traditional social space, into a virtual cyber space, with no discernible meaning or reality of public life. It is the invasion of private smart metonyms of our public piazza^v. We will also discuss how this abstract space is causing a social split between generations, immigrants v locals and social conflict in contrast to the integrated environment expected from the modern, equal rights' society.

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ⁱ (High, 2015, p. 30) City resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems in a city to survive, adapt and grow, despite stresses and shocks. Or is it fundamentally a design problem?

ⁱⁱ (Massey D. , 2006)

ⁱⁱⁱ (Broadband Stakeholder Group)

^{iv} (Ampanavos & Markaki, 2014)

^v (Ampanavos & Markaki, 2014) People stay connected to their private networks even if they are located in public spaces...Consequently, interaction with the direct environment shrinks.