EUROPEAN CITIES IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING AND TRANSMITTING OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTER STUDENTS.

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Introduction to Urban Anthropology and Sociology

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Introduction

City and urbanity are one of the keystones of European civilization.

Cities have always played an important role as centers of economy, politics, culture and pluralism, as demonstrated by the examples of the Hellenic city-state, the Italian Renaissance city-state or the Hanseatic League.

Edward Glaeser: „cities have been the engine of innovation since Plato and Socrates bickered in an Athenian marketplace. The streets of Florence gave us the Renaissance, and the streets of Birmingham gave us the Industrial Revolution".

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Anthropology vs Socjology

Both disciplines were formed at the beginning of the 20th century and, at the beginning, have been focusing on two different types of societies:

Sociology was studying the modern, industrial, urbanized societies (*Gesellschaft*). Quantitative methods.

Anthropology was studying traditional, local societies (*Gemeinshaft).* Qualitative methods.

Today both disciplines are intertwined, focusing on the study of globalized, multicultural and hybridized society at the age of global urbanization.

The common "myth of the beginning" - Chicago School (social ecology).

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The City. Definition.

Robert Erza Park (1915): *The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City Environment.*

„The city s something more than a congeries of individual men and of social conveniences (…), something more, also, than a mere constellation of institutions and administrative devices-courts (…), The city is, rather, a state of mind, a body of customs and traditions, and of the organized attitudes and sentiments that inher in these customs and are transmitted with this tradition. The city is not, in other words, merely a physical mechanism and an artificial construction. It is involved in the vital processes of the people who compose it; it is a product of nature, and particularly of human nature".

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Chicago School (social ecology).

Backgrounds:

1. The City as a Social Laboratory.

2. Darwin's evolutionary biology:

Society (city) as a web of life in which organisms (individuals) adapt to each other; the process of adaptation as a continuous struggle for existence (city space).

3. Symbolic interactionism:

Focused on human behavior as shaped by social structures and physical environmental factors.

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Ernest Burgess: The concentric zone model. (1925).

Zone I (Central Business District) – This is the center (innermost zone) where the central business district is located and has highest land value.
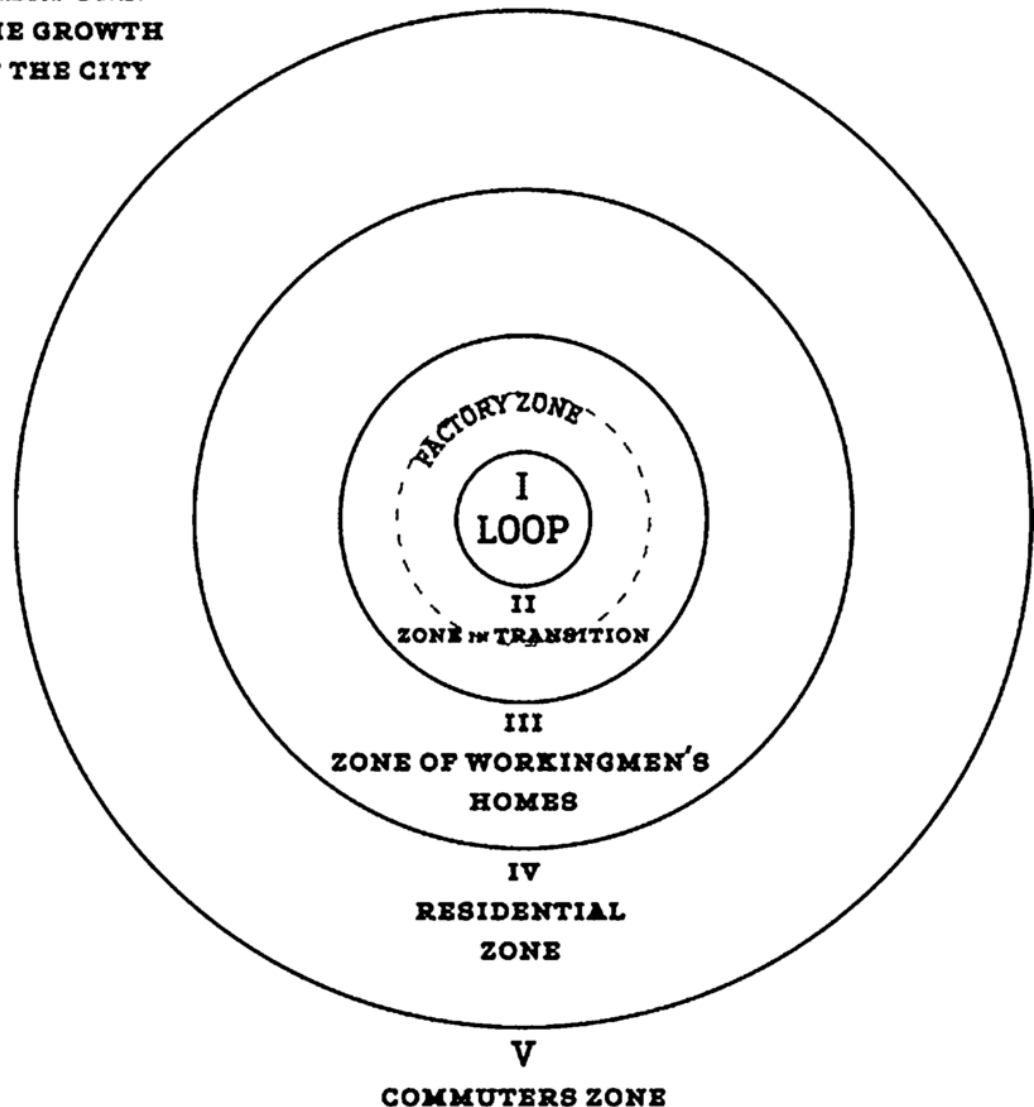
Zone II (Transition Zone) – Mixed residential and commercial. A large number of old buildings in transition .

Zone III (Inner City/ Working Class zone): consisted of houses built to accommodate factory workers but had better condition than the transition zone.

Zone IV (Outer Suburbs/ White Collar Homes: This zone had bigger houses and new development occupied by the middle class

Zone V (Commuter Zone) .

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CHART ONE: THE GROWTH OF THE CITY

FACTORY ZONE
I LOOP
II ZONE IN TRANSITION
III ZONE OF WORKINGMEN'S HOMES
IV RESIDENTIAL ZONE
V COMMUTERS ZONE

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Agglomeration processes

1. Centralisation: a natural tendency to concentrate people and institutions.

2. Concentration: a natural process of bringing together people and institutions with similar characteristics in the area of the city.

3. Segregation: selection of people and institutions by competing individuals and groups for city space (property, status, lifestyle, cultural patterns).

4. Invasion: penetration of a specific type of people from one area of the city to another.

5. Succession: the definitive conquest of the area of the city by a new grup.

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Louis Wirth *Urbanism as a way of life* (1938)

Defining characteristic of modern city as:

1. The large size of its population.

2. High population density.

3. Social heteregonity, social diversity.

This features of the city resulted in a quite distinctive urban way of life.

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Human turn

Florian Znaniecki:

1. The role of the „human factor" in the process of creating and perceiving of city space.

2. The role of personal documents: thougths and feelings about city: „Czym jest dla Ciebie miasto Poznań?" 1928, (*What does the city of Poznań mean to you?).*

Erving Goffman („The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" 1959):

1. The city space as a theatre scene; social identities performance.

2. Dramaturgical perspective: human behaviour are determined by the context (place and audience).

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Mental map

Kevin Lynch „The image of the city" (1960):

Five basic elements that people used to construct their image of the city (mental map):

1. Paths: streets, sidewalks etc.

2. Edges: boundaries; real (walls, railways etc.) or perceived (symbolic boundaries).

3. Districts: areas with a specific identity.

4. Nodes: central squares, central stations.

5. Landmarks: Points of reference, symbolic buildings, monuments etc.

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Semiotics of the City

In a semiotic perspective cities are perceived as plural texts, subject to continuous transformations and different readings and practices.

Jurij Łotman: „The city is a complex semiotic mechanism, a culture-generator, but it carries out this function only because it is a melting-pot of texts and codes, belonging to all kinds of languages and levels. (...). The city, being the place where different national, social and stylistic codes and texts confront each other, is the place of hybridization, recordings, semiotic translations, all of which makes it into a powerful generator of new information. The city is a mechanism, forever recreating its past, which then can be synchronically juxtaposed with the present. In this sense the city, like culture, is a mechanism that withstands time".

These features are obviously important for European cities which are deeply rooted in history and whose symbolic spaces have been created in the *longue durée* process.

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The Marxist Approach

David Harvey „Social Justice and the City" 1973:

Urban process under capitalis – cities are not to be seen simply as entities but rather as encompassing a series of processes of capitalist accumulation and class relations operating at different scales and over different time period.

Manuel Castells, „La Question urbaine", (The Urban Question) 1972:

The city as an arena for social conflicts ultimately emanating from the class divisions within capitalist society.

The Right to the City

An idea that was first proposed by Henri Lefebvre: „Le Droit à la ville" (The Right to the City) 1968.

The right to the city as „a cry and demand", as the right to urban life.

David Harvey: „the right to the city is far more than a right of individual access to the resources that the city embodies: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city more after our heart's desire. It is, moreover, a collective rather than an individual right since changing the city inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power over the processes of urbanization. The freedom to make and remake ourselves and our cities is one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights".

Today: a slogan using by urban social movements.

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Urban Social Movements

The term was introduced by Manule Castells in „La Question urbaine" (The Urban Question), 1972, and developed in „The City and the Grassroots." 1983 as a „city-oriented mobilization, affecting structural social change and transforming urban meanings."

Hans Pruijt: „urban movements are social movements through which citizens attempt to achieve some control over their urban environment. The urban environment comprises the built environment, the social fabric of the city, and the local political process."

Margit Mayer: urban social movemenst as a critics of neoliberal city.

Urban social movements in post-socialist Europe

Urban social movements in post-socialist Europe are followed by problems such as:

- Inadequate urban policies and urban planning.

- Conflicts related to restitution and the privatization of property.

- The deterioration of the housing stock, insufficient production of social housing .

- Gentrification, the rise of gated communities and privatization and commercialization of public space.

- Air pollution in cities.

Urban crisis

The urban crisis of 60'-70' was defined by the fact that businesses, jobs, and the middle-class moved to the suburbs that became more attractive than city-centres.

•De-industrialization: shrinking cities.

•*Bowling Alone:* social, cultural, and economic consequence of *s*uburbanization and urban sprawl; In-beetwen city.

•Class and ethnic segregation.

•Gated communities.

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The New Urban Crisis

Richard Florida : „The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class-and What We Can Do About It" (2017)

„Winner-take-all urbanism": The most important and innovative industries and the most talented, most ambitious, and wealthiest people are converging as never before in a relative handful of leading superstar cities that are knowledge and tech hubs. This small group of elite places forge ever forward, while most others struggle, stagnate, or fall behind.

The processes of gentrification and turistification of cities and their consequances.

Historical identity and heritage of cities has been replaced by thematic parks and so-call "Disneyfication".

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Urban Renewal

Andrzej Majer: urban renewal is the metaphorical name of the next stage and interpretation of a process that in fact deepens the qualitative renewal thanks to which cities, at various speeds, gain attractiveness. This is demonstrated by at least two discernible tendencies.

1. The first is the revival in a demographic and economic sense of entire agglomerations, which previously systematically lost their population and economic base.

2. The second the distinct 'revival' (meaning the emergence of many positive changes) of central districts of cities.

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Urban renewal

The role of symbolic economy, defined by Sharon Zukin as: "with the disappearance of local manufacturing industries and periodic crises in the government and finance, culture becomes more and more the business of cities – the basis of their tourist attractions and their unique, competitive age. The growth of culture consumption (of art, food, fashion, music, tourism) and the industries that cater to it fuels the city's symbolic economy, its visible ability to produce both symbols and space"

Creative cites: Charles Landry „The Creative City: A Toolkit for Urban Innovators" 2000.

Creative class: Richard Florida „The Rise of the Creative Class" 2002, argued that: "regional economic growth is powered by creative people, who prefer places that are diverse, tolerant and open to new ideas".

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The restoration of cities' memory and heritage

Symbolic space of a city stores multidimensional: collective memory, values and ideas which provide the framework of references for the process of creating collective identities.

The time of emergence of a new way of experiencing, seeing, and attaching meaning to the "old stones" that filled the centres of European cities.

An era of mass production of heritage dawned, falling on the fertile ground of economic transformations. Culture and heritage were to be the basis for "creative industries" to grow, becoming an impetus for development.

The role of European City (later Capital) of Culture.

The ECOC Effect: How the European Capital of Culture 2016 Competition Changed Polish Cities.

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Global city

Saskia Sassen „The Global City" 1991: pointed out that changes in the functioning of cities have had a massive impact upon both international economic activity and urban form.

As a result, a new type of city has emerged. the global city. Major cities have become strategic sites not only for global capital, but also for the transnationalization of labor and the formation of translocal communities and identities. In this regard, cities are sites for new types of political operations and for a whole range of new *cultural* and subjective operations

Such global cities are open for innovations and cultural diversity and often have greater interlinkages between them than they do with their respective regions or states.

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World Cities

Ulf Hannerz „Transnational Connections: Culture, People, Places" 1996: „world cities", are places in themselves, and also nodes in networks; their cultural organization involves local as well as transnational relationships. Four categories of people play a key role in such cities: transnational businesspeople, migrants from developing countries, individuals specialising in the artistic sector, and tourists.

Arjun Appadurai, „Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of. Globalization" 1996: five dimensions of global cultural flows: Ethnoscapes, Mediascapes, Technoscapes, Financescapes, Ideoscape.

Marc Augé „*Non-Places*. Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity" 1992. „Non-Places": a space which cannot be defined as relational, or historical, or concerned with identity will be a non-place.

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