



Home sharing. Short-term rentals affecting local housing markets

Co-chairs

Jan Polivka (ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development – Germany)

Diane Matuschek (ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development – Germany)

Sharing has become a consistent part in many areas of the economy.

By changing the access to local resources, digital accommodation platforms like Airbnb have changed the way people travel and accommodate. In cities where tourist appearance is high, central urban areas become increasingly frequented and experience a strong impact as many choose to rent so called shared accommodations in these areas.

Rising touristification results in daily life disturbances by facility misuse, noise, congestion or increased traffic. Strong impact seems to arise from the growing portion of renting out entire houses and apartments, as they compete with the local housing market. At the same time, renting out apartments via online platforms is more attractive for house lords and even tenants as it is most likely to yield higher incomes.

Cities are concerned that reducing the housing supply by sharing platforms will increase pressure on local housing markets in the long-term and increase rental prices. As digital accommodation platforms emerged fast and research still remains limited, the impact on cities and their communities, housing market and accommodation is yet difficult to estimate. Nevertheless, different measures are being undertaken by public administrations in order to regulate short-term rentals. Regulations and strategies to reduce sharing of housing have been implemented by municipalities as well as sharing platforms like Airbnb themselves.

This session focusses on the following topics and its related themes:

- Macro changes in availability and demand of housing, e.g. analysis of quantitative and qualitative data describing the short-term rentals and its influence on the housing market;
- Social and functional impacts on neighbourhoods and local communities caused by the sharing economy;
- Regulatory approaches of municipalities, especially legal, cooperative and competitive modes of regulation and their effects;
- Theory-based reflections of home sharing e.g. the crowd phenomenon, the access society or the change in housing



Dynamic change, uncertainty and planning for adaptivity

Co-chairs

Ward Rauws (University of Groningen – The Netherlands)

Stefano Cozzolino (ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development – Germany)

Angelique Chettiparambil (University of Reading – United Kingdom)

Stefano Moroni (Polytechnic of Milan – Italy)

This special session explores how interactions between the complexity sciences and the planning discipline can result in better understandings of and productive strategies for urban planning in a world of change. Cities and urban regions across the globe face a series of pressures and challenges.

One can think of global warming, processes of globalization, migration flows, technological innovations, geopolitical shifts, housing market affordability, changes in mobility and lifestyle, etc. A key question for spatial planners and governance experts is how to support cities and regions in remaining vital places under these conditions, knowing that the chances for planners to guide urban development towards predetermined, specific outcomes are inexorably limited, and that social-spatial complexity is something that must be preserved, and not fought or avoided. In other words, how to navigate uncertainty in catalyzing more sustainable, prosperous, resilient, and liveable cities. Introducing concepts such as self-organization, coevolution and bifurcation, the complexity sciences can help to clarify the interdependent, recursive and adaptive nature of processes underlying spatial transformations.

Therefore, this special session is about exploring ways to unwrap / disentangle / decode the 'complexity' of spatial systems and networks. Not with the aim of simplifying complexity, but with the ambition to identify the opportunities and limitations of strengthening the adaptive capacity of cities and regions in a context of dynamic change.

For this special session, we invite contributions that address:

- Non-linear perspectives on change that reveal the barriers and opportunities for improved futures;
- Advanced models that strengthen our understanding of, for instance, spontaneous pattern formations, processes of path-dependency and transition trajectories;
- Co-evolutionary strategies that leverage interdependencies to strengthen community capacities for resilience;
- Policy tools that utilise behavioural insights (such as nudge theory) to reveal hidden or underappreciated desires of citizens.



The role of the local in improving cohesion and spatial justice

Co-chairs

Petri Kahila (University of Eastern Finland – Finland)

Sabine Weck (ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development – Germany)

Place-based regional development as well as the more effective use of territorial capital and assets are some of the approaches that have been invoked to facilitate a greater local orientation of cohesion, territorial development and other EU policies.

Since the publication of the Barca Report, place-based notions of cohesion have entered the policy vocabulary. The challenge of situating urban scale and other local development settings within these highly complex policy contexts needs greater attention. Besides place-based development, there is growing concern about the increasing lack of positive identification with the European project by citizens.

Persistent regional disparities and increasing social injustices with marked spatial effects in localities are part of this trajectory and need to be addressed by the European policy community. Social, economic and environmental disadvantage are socially produced and spatially expressed, and spatial processes in turn produce and reproduce these conditions of disadvantage and vulnerability. The special session titled "The Role of the Local in Improving Cohesion and Spatial Justice" discusses the capacity of place-based approaches to deliver spatial justice. We invite papers that contribute to the understanding of the role of the local level in deploying cohesion policies.

The session is planned to address the following two questions:

- How do perceptions, capacities, tools and policies, forms of co-ordination, governance, participation and autonomy interact with each other and affect the relevance and effectiveness of place-based approaches in reducing spatial injustice?
- How specific place-based approaches to local development can be integrated into the design and deployment of the future Cohesion Policy of the EU?

We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions.

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