

SECTION 5. URBANISM: PERSPECTIVES AND IMPEDIMENTS

BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON URBAN POLITICS FROM A CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Today, most of the present political statements claim the necessity of reforming the administration, or even of simplifying of the administrative procedure. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to make some brief considerations on urban politics trying to find solutions in order to transform administration in the defender of the general interest and the needs of the citizens. We will approach this issue by presenting urbanism matter in comparison with the globalization effects.

Key-words: urban, administration, politics, critic, globalization.

Introduction

The human action and behaviour has a certain relation to the space in which it is situated. But from this basic observation to the conclusion that human action can be determined in specific ways through the design of specific spatial configurations there is a long way, and architects with a social purpose have often walked along this path (Dragos Dascalu, S., Ionescu, S. and Balan, T. , 2013, p. 7).

The public space as a public good and is understood as a 'void' in the urban continuum that has unlimited access for the city dwellers. We approach the public space as a physical, material space, as imaginative material space and as a formative part of the public domain in order to answer the following question: what are the aspects of public space that articulate the city? The public space is necessary for social and economic reasons. The city needs spaces to socialise, meeting places, and above all, spaces for the enjoyment of solitude (Komac, U., 2016, p. 3). As some researcher wrote the influences of the socio-cultural and politic paradigms are easily traced even in the field of architecture and urban planning. Studying the effects of the scientific paradigm though, is more obscure and requires solid interdisciplinary background.

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The 1990s years brought the general opinion that urban politics have changed. Globalization and related changes in economic geographies have brought about new urban political landscapes, in which an important element has been the different role of both business and workers in urban politics (Davidson & Martin, 2014, p. 190). In this context, cities have to compete with one another and this reduce influence of local political groups on urban government decision making.

Some traditional conceptual approaches on urbanism

The term "urban" according to the Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian language, means belonging to the city, town and figuratively, "which demonstrates urbanity, polite, civilized".

The concept of urbanization was outlined in the twentieth century, especially after the International Congress of Modern Architecture (initiated by Le Corbusier) and the adoption of the Athens Charter (1939), at the time when we can talk about the beginning of modern urbanism.

We find the origins of urbanization in sedentary cultures that have been defined and are recognized as such by various manners of "settlement", organization of settlements, accompanied everywhere by the tendency of isolation from the environment.

Traditional societies could not conceive the foundation of a settlement without a firm boundary. Enclosure wall, moat, palisade or limit property existed at the beginning, for religious reasons, then, for security reasons. That there has been this close relationship, a period of extremely long time between settlement (city) and religion - as interim cosmic forces - explains the durability of this concept in the history of pre-modern urbanization.

Drawing limit settlement - accompanying obsessive traditional whole civilization - have meant multiple, but the most subtle that it was the "closing" a group of people who then turn into society.

Until the twentieth century, it is not known a European settlement lacks of center, of a guidance system and a coherent internal structure. So, until this moment (after millennia 6-7) any settlement that was known, described, understood as being unique.

Minea wrote that, since the twentieth century no longer speaks of "settlements" (Since the twentieth century no longer speaks of "settlements" (urban or rural), but about "agglomeration". "Not being neither urban nor rural nor suburban, but containing elements belonging to all three categories, new-type city - congestion - defies conventional terminology experts" (Minea, 2014, p. 27).

As it is almost universally accepted the term urbanism as a neologism has more than a century, and yet defines the notion that *a priori* seems to be as old as urban civilization (Harouel, 2001, p. 5).

Some authors proposed two meanings. One of them stated that any sensible action designed to develop, organize, decorate and transform the city and urban space. So, the word designates urbanism and old reality which can be called "urban art".

Others consider that law and urban planning were developed separately so that if urbanization was developed in architecture and relying on architecture, urbanism right to interrelated with a significant manner than later (Duțu, 2010, p. 29).

Today, urban seeks spatial, and "as a function defining adaptation to the requirements of socio-cultural, economic and ecological they express the city." At this point the author believes that urban planning meets the law, which serves to formalize and institutionalize such requirements (Duțu, 2010, p. 29). According to some French authors, urban planning law can be defined as a set of rules regarding impairment space and its development (Morand- Deviller, 2003, p. 1).

Morand considers that reflections on urban origins are ancient, even Aristotle and Plato being invoked (to be more convincing referred Les lois, V lb) sau Vitruve ("The Ten Books of Architecture") (2003, p.3). Land-use and impaired projects are inconceivable space than in a prospective manner and progressive.

Administrative right sources can be found in the principles of the planning documents that have distinct administrative decentralization localities (Morand-Deville, 2003, p.18).

Urban planning law has long been limited to government regulations imposed by those with private property.

Urban politics - a modern conceptual approach

In recent decades occurred refocus and rethink the geography strong city and, by extension, to urban policies.

In the literature devoted to urban policies, jurisdictional boundaries of cities and municipalities have often served as a foundation for those who supported the urban as an enclosed and supported a particular combination of factors in an urban environment such as city size, demographic development that would be an argument for citizen participation.

According to Davidson & Martin, those interested in multi-level governance also adopted this model to conceptualize depicting the city as a nest with several levels: neighborhood, city, regions, national and global. In this approach, attention was focused on identifying the particular nature of governance, for development of the city and how they relate to other scales. (2014, p. 3). The same authors consider that the class identity in the post-industrial cities is in a continuous changing. The class relations are seen to stem from the antagonistic relationship between capital and labour.

Davidson & Martin wrote that in considering the relationship between social class and urban politics we face two intertwined issues. First, the continued fetishization of the city setting – such as the fact that it is a bounded political space – means that we need new conceptual approaches to think about how cities are bound up in class relations. Second, although the post- industrial city is clearly different from its historical antecedents, we need to carefully consider how this transition has impacted social class composition (2014, p. 201).

Conclusion

Definitely, in the last decades, the globalization brought a new understanding of urban politics as being organized around social class. We have to think that the post-industrial city is a next step in city's historical development and this could serve to depoliticize the city's class relation. Davidson & Martin gave an example regarding the case of municipal elections in a city and they consider that elections and the working class politics have come to play a less prominent role in urban politics (2014, p.202).

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