

Urban Economic Geography - Summarised Notes

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Contents

The city as a social product	2
L2	4
L3	5
L4	6
L5	7
L6	8
L7	9
L8	10
L9	11
L10	12
Glossary	12
Ordinary Urbanisations	12

The city as a social product

Emphasis on the city as a product dynamic relationships of societies with urban space, and not a set of necessary attributes that define 'the city'.

Urban triumphalism: the city is a site of progress and a way to prosperity. The major contemporary challenges are urban challenges, and the urban is where solutions can be found. Eg. green, smart, productive, participative, etc., city

Glaeser

Critique of urban triumphalism: it is a purely pro-growth perspective, which contradicts its sustainability goals. It is about finding solutions to pre-defined challenges (how to...) which turns urban issues into techno-management issues where copy/paste can be found and match city leader's views.

Breaking with urban triumphalism: the city should not be seen as an actor but as dynamic space, where actors with different resources, interests, inspirations, interact in diverse ways (conflict, resistance, mobilisation, collaboration, solidarity...)

Marcuse

P. Marcuse, *The City as a Perverse Metaphor*, 2005: seeing the city as an actor excludes a set of the population who does not share the same interests. Not all the city is international, competitive, etc., even if some firms and some people are.

Critical urban studies: contra-naturalising, there is nothing natural about cities and they are not living organisms; contra techno-managerial, focus instead on tensions and contradictions, not solutions to standardised challenges.

Lefebvre

Production of urban space: urban space is organised to reflect and support a particular society (capitalist, soviet, post-socialist, etc.) . Cities do not have a set of attributes necessary to be a city, but they are the product of dynamic relationships of societies with urban space.

LA vs. Moscow

Creative destruction: the production of space is always a work in progress, with inherited socio-spatial configurations reshaped by new logics.

Place de
Brouckère,
Senne
Brenner and
Schmidt

New epistemology of the urban: concentrated urbanisation, extended urbanisation, differential urbanisation

Concentrated urbanisation: spatial clustering of population, mean of transportation, infrastructure, investment, ie. agglomeration

Extended urbanisation: activation and transformation of places, territories, landscapes in relation to agglomeration processes; uneven thickening and stretching of urban fabric across the planet

Differential urbanisation: creative destruction of implosion/explosion of socio-spatial organisation; production of new urban 'potentials' for the appropriation of urban configurations and for the production of radically new forms of urban space

L2

L3

L4

L5

L6

L7

L8

L9

L10

Glossary

Accumulation by dispossession:

Internalisation of capitalism: our self worth is directly defined by our productivity

Ordinary Urbanisations

Ordinary urbanisations

Subaltern urbanism

Popular urbanisation

Urbanisation of neoliberalism

Neoliberalisation of urbanism

Popular centrality

Ordinary urbanisation