

4. From Neighbourhood to Community, or from Community to Neighbourhood?

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Format: traditional (call for abstracts and individual presentations of around 15 minutes)

Issues related to the urban neighbourhood comprise one of the classic themes of sociology, as well as one of the longest-running issues in the modern urban studies (cf. Chicago School: Thomas, Znaniecki 1918-20, Blumer 1986, Abbott 1997, Merriman 2015). From the very beginning, the building of neighbourly relations in an urban context illustrated succinctly the transition from *Gemeinschaft* to *Gesellschaft*, seen as a subjective strategy for dealing with the experience of the “big change” coping with “anomy” and taming turbulent times or traumatic experiences. We therefore assume that similar – at least to some extent – premises that historically triggered interest in the urban neighbourhood should be reconsidered. Furthermore, and even more importantly, the real effects of their impact need to be taken into account and re-evaluated. Examples of these conditions are the transformation of neighbourhood relations as a result of systemic changes and radical marketization in Central and Eastern Europe, resulting in their strong individualization and mercantilization (Rykiel 2016), or the more contemporary experience of the 2008 crisis and its consequences for contemporary Southern European cities (Donald, Glasmei, Grayc 2014; Petmesidou, Guillén 2015). However, we are also interested in the experiences of other countries, societies, and communities: speaking the language of Immanuel Wallerstein’s system theory, both from the countries of the capitalist “core” and its “semiperipheries” or “peripheries”. We are primarily interested in specific case studies and fieldwork results in the urban environment, though not abstracted from the macrostructural and cultural context.

The session will focus on two interconnected dimensions of the analysis of neighbourhood relations: (1) neighbourhood as spatial nearness (neighbourhood) (Lewicka 2010) and (2) neighbourhood as social closeness (community) (Clark 2009). Each of these contexts is well-developed in the literature of social geography and sociology of the city (Grannis 2009). Both are also interconnected through their embedded social experience and individual or collective action (Rofé, 1995; French, Foster, Wood, Giles-Corti, 2013; Cornwell, Behler, 2015).

We are calling for submissions on the following topics:

- Neighbourhood as a platform of social self-organization in the city;
- Neighbourhood as a framework for conflict and ways of dealing with conflict;
- Relationships between space and social interactions in the field of urban studies;
- Case studies of urban cooperation;

- Social movements, e.g. urban, tenant movements in the perspective of neighbourly relations;
- Building a neighbourhood.

As the organisers, we do not wish to solely generate demand for specific types of empirical studies, but also work on the assumption that urban studies are a multidisciplinary and multi-theoretical space.

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