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και Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης
Περιοδικό ΑΕΙΧΩΡΟΣ
Πεδίον Άρεως, 38334 ΒΟΛΟΣ
<http://www.prd.uth.gr/aeihoros> e-mail: aeihoros@prd.uth.gr
τηλ.: 24210 – 74456 fax: 24210 – 74388



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΑΚΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑΣ

Ειδικό τεύχος - Αφιέρωμα
Special Issue

**Μεταβιομηχανική πόλη:
Νέες Οικονομίες, χωρικοί μετασχηματισμοί
και νέα τοπία**

**The Post-Industrial City:
New Economies, Spatial Transformations
and New Landscapes**

*Επιμέλεια
Editor*

Άσπα Γοσποδίνη
Aspa Gospodini

Επιστημονικό Περιοδικό

αειχώρος

Επιμέλεια έκδοσης: Άννα Σαμαρίνα — Παναγιώτης Πανταζής

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INTRODUCTIONARY NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Post-Industrial City: New Economies, Spatial Transformations and New Landscapes

Aspa Gospodini

Asossiate Professor, University of Thessaly, Greece

Since the early 1990s, European and American cities in regions of advanced economies as well as some metropolitan cities in Asian regions of growth economies have been experiencing the flourishing of certain sectors of urban economies, termed by McNeil and While (2001) as "new urban economies". As such, McNeil and While (2001) have identified a fourfold typology; agglomeration economies, informational and knowledge-rich economies, technopoles and the urban leisure economy. Among them, cultural and leisure economies and informational technologies are the most widespread and perhaps the most visible manifestations of economic novelty in cities. In the new milieu of economic globalisation, volatility of capital and enterprises, and intercity competition (Jensen-Butler, 1997), the relocation of traditional industries in developing regions was accompanied by an unprecedented growth of cultural, leisure and informational industries in mature cities. Cultural and leisure production and consumption (of arts, fashion, music, food, tourism), creative industries of technology-intensive and knowledge-rich enterprises containing design (in architecture, fashion, graphics, internet, etc), new media and ICTs have become the growth engine of the post-industrial city (*see* Zukin, 1991 and 1995; Bianchini, 1993; Lash and Urry 1995; Castells, 1996; Scott, 1997 and 2000; Clarke, 1997; Hall, 2000).

In urban history, passages from one socio-economic paradigm to another have almost always entailed shifts in the city's spatial organisation, structure and landscape –as typically evinced in for instance, the transformations of European cities following the passage from feudalism to the Renaissance. In our era, the development of post-industrial urban economies has undoubtedly been affecting cities as spatial entities (*see* Bailly *et al.*, 1996;

Hutton, 2000; Lever, 2001; Shaw, 2001). As Hutton (2000) convincingly argued, impacts seem to be much stronger than those witnessed in the mid 20th century under Fordist economies. More specifically, in the 1950s and 1960s, *business services* mostly consisting of *accounting, stock exchange and public relations* just had a "lubricating effect" (Hutton, 2000: 290) without remodelling economy or causing major spatial shift in the city's structure. Because in economic terms, they were expanding always within the Fordist industrial production modes while in spatial terms, they were aggregated in the city's CBD causing a significant growth of it in size and height but not shifting the city's structure. In the 1970s and 1980s, a period characterised by OPEK shocks and phases of recession, the emergence and growth of new service sectors mainly involving *management consulting, marketing consulting, engineering consulting and commercial and industrial real estate*, started to have a noticeable economic and spatial impact on cities: In economic terms, services externalised production from the Fordist system, became "*producer services*" and a key to flexible specialization that accelerated division of labour, and thereby had "*productivity effects*" (Hutton, 2000: 290) on cities. In spatial terms, the growth of the second generation of services rearranged urban networks by establishing "world cities" such as London, New York, Tokyo (Hutton, 2000). Since the 1990s, the era of globalisation and the rise of new economies and new specialised services, mainly concerning *informatics and information technology, innovation and design, cultural production, global financial intermediaries and international mega-projects consortia*, have marked a major shift in urban economy, society and space. This third generation services, considered as a new "integrated service-technology production system" (Hutton, 2000:290; Hutton, 2004a and 2004b; Scott, 1997) is first the growth engine fuelling urban economy; Second, it has robust social effects by giving rise to a new species of workers –high tech staff and knowledge workers– and generating new middle classes (Harvey, 1989; Featherstone, 1989; Soja, 1989 and 2000; Short, 1989; Martin, 1998; Florida, 2002, 2004 and 2005) with a new consumption ethic and higher sensitivity to urban heritage, protection of natural environment and aesthetics; and third, it has strong spatial effects by:

- a. rearranging urban networks and upgrading certain cities in the global hierarchies as "service poles" (Hutton, 2000: 290) such as for instance Seattle, Hong Kong, Barcelona, Milan;
- b. clustering in inner city areas and thereby, sifting/expanding the city's spatial core and altering its spatial organisation and structure, and
- c. becoming a key catalyst for urban renewal and redevelopment and thereby, re-shaping urban landscape and re-imaging the city (Hannigan, 1998 and 2003; Evans, 2003; Hutton, 2004a, 2004b; Gospodini, 2006; Gospodini and Beriatos, 2006; Gospodini, 2009).

Regarding the evolution of urban landscapes since the mid 20th century, if someone labelled the Modern city of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s as the city of land-use zoning and homogeneous and non-hierarchic multi-nucleus landscape, then, the post-industrial city would be the city of eclectic clustering of flourishing economies, with a heterogeneous and hierarchical multi-nucleus landscape (Gospodini, 2006).

This special issue of *Aeichoros* presents some aspects of the spatial transformations and the new landscapes of the post-industrial city. It is a collection of papers, first presented in the 2nd international conference on *Sustainable Development & Planning*, organised by Wessex Institute of Technology and University of Thessaly, Bologna 12-14 Sept. 2005, in the Track "Urban landscape Transformation" organised by the guest-editor of this issue.

The first two papers of this issue deal with the growth of cultural and leisure economies in the post-industrial city –and their spatial impacts. The first paper entitled "*The Landscapes of Cultural and Leisure Economies in Greek Cities*" presents the role of cultural and leisure economies in the post-industrial city and documents the phenomenon of spontaneous cultural and leisure clusters in three Greek cities – Athens, Thessaloniki and Volos. The paper highlights the urban policies involved in the spontaneous formation, development and management of clusters in Greece and also discusses the differences among large cities in the core of Europe and Mediterranean large cities in the developing periphery of Europe. The second paper entitled "*Transformations in the Night-time Economy in English Town Centres: Challenges to Management*", Marion Roberts discusses the spatial and social impacts of the dramatic increase of night-time entertainment in the centres of British towns. She documents the deterioration of the centres of British towns by a proliferation of bars, pubs and nightclubs –fuelled by the British culture of youthful binge drinking– and she argues that the conflicts between "private affluence" and "public squalor" continue despite the best efforts of authorities to regenerate and revitalise their town centres.

The third paper entitled "*Urban Landscapes of Abandonment and Sustainable Regeneration of Inner City Areas: The case of Newcastle Gateshead, UK*" discusses the city's "*landscapes of abandonment*" caused by the economic changes in the post-industrial era. Tim Townshend argues that in British towns with traditional economies, the loss of industrial economic activities and the migrations in response to this have generated urban "*landscapes of abandonment*" in certain inner areas. The state of the art in inner city areas is nowadays characterised by two opposing trends - that of "gentrification" encouraged by public policies and that "abandonment" created by the decreasing inner city population and the low demand for housing.

The next paper entitled "*Transformations in Architecture: Do They Outline a New Paradigm in Urban Landscaping?*" deals with urban landscape transformations caused by the increasing use of computer-aided architectural design and the production of innovative forms. As Rena Papageorgiou–Sefertzi argues, these forms, based on skinfolds, and organic, flow, and smooth surfaces, radically alters the physical landscape of cities.

The paper entitled "*Urban Landscape, Place Identity and Their Components: A New Software Tool for Supporting the Sustainable Urban Planning and Design*" introduces a new software tool which can identify and map the elements of the urban landscape which have value for the identification of the places.

The final paper entitled "*The Present and Future of the Greek Urban andscape*" focuses on Greek cities; it presents the transformation of urban landscapes and investigates critical parameters such as the sequential development and redevelopment of inner city areas over time and the generation of layers of urban landscapes; the new global design trends.

The papers included in Policies section of this issue, are also concerned with the Greek cities. The former presents spatial policies for the competency and sustainable development of the Greek cities derived from three systems of reference (frameworks):

- i. the new global economic and socio-spatial phenomena and their impacts on cities,
- ii. European integration, the European urban network and the development potential of the different classes and groups of cities in it, and
- ii. the specific spatial characteristics of the Greek cities. The last paper deals with the management of built heritage, a competitive edge of cities, and the evolution of policies involved in Europe and Greece.

From different stand points, all the above corpus of papers attempts to contribute in the prosperous urban planning discourse concerning the post-industrial city –its spatial transformations, the new landscapes, and the policies related to its competitive and sustainable development.

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