

ABSTRACTS

Abandoned buildings: issues of management and rehabilitation using as case study the CBD of Lamia

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Abandoned buildings and property is a common problem that urban centers face. A field research carried out in the CBD of Lamia (a typical Greek medium-sized town) recorded 60 abandoned buildings. Of these, 18.5% were part of the designated built heritage, 27.7% were classified as high risk of collapse, 21.7% of medium risk of collapse, 38.5% with extensive signs of abandonment in their facades, 15% functionally abandoned (incomplete constructions), while 20% were recorded as dangerous to the public health. Given the negative impacts of abandonment in the CBD of Lamia, the paper makes proposals both per type of abandoned building and for the oldest neighborhood of the town (where a cluster of abandoned buildings is found), aimed at reversing abandonment, improving the attractiveness of the CBD and finally at achieving urban regeneration. The paper, concludes with the proposal of a simple methodology, applicable to medium-sized Greek cities.

Keywords: *abandoned buildings, urban planning, urban regeneration, Lamia*

The Obedient and Well-Trained “Military” Body: Disciplinary Practices in Hellenic Air Forces.

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In this paper we present the results of a qualitative study that was designed to examine the social-psychological attitudes and the interpretive perceptions of a particular social microcosm; namely the students of the Hellenic Air Force Academy Members (Icaroi) towards disciplinary techniques. It as well examines-through nine semi-structured interviews-the significance of the obedient and well-trained body regarding the fulfillment of the professional objectives posed by the military hierarchy. It seems that the uniform lifestyle that includes physical appearance, diet, sleep, the pursuit of good health and even collective punishment, as well as the custom of hazing, particularly socialize students in a military environment. In this coercive and demanding context, the body is perceived as a crucial material property and as a dynamic symbolic instrument of power. In this sense, physical and psychological stress, as well as disciplinary techniques, are understood, within this strict environment, as absolutely reasonable and accepted if certain, rational, limits are not exceeded.

Keywords: Disciplinary techniques, embodiment, Air Force Academy, military standards, qualitative research

The contribution of creative economy in the urban renaissance and sustainable development of cities: A Theoretical approach.

Theofanis T. Gkatzis

In modern society, it is commonly accepted that the competition cities are facing is fierce due to the increasing technology development that reduced the time distances. Therefore, the transfers of human and monetary capital were increased, as well as the amount of travelers. To cope with the new challenges, both internationally and domestically, officials of the cities must follow policies that will satisfy the needs of the persons of the inner environment (residents, businesses) and the external environment (new residents, investors, tourists) while, achieving their goals of development, boosting competitiveness and raising awareness of urban centers.

Such a policy is the development of creative sectors, by the officials of the city, in different places, which first appeared in the deindustrialized cities of the West (Great Britain, USA) and contributed to the viable development and urban renovation of the places while at the same it was used as a tool for strategic urban design..

Keywords: *Creative economy, Urban renaissance, Sustainable Urban development.*

Conducting qualitative research in the field of addiction: Dilemmas and challenges.

Zaharoula Kasser

This paper raises some methodological issues that researchers have to cope with when conducting a qualitative study in the field of addiction. More specifically, the paper presents some dilemmas and challenges that researchers have to face during their study of drug users or people in drug treatment. The main issues under consideration are access to the field, building of the emotional bond between the researcher and the participants, vulnerability of the researcher, disclosure of information about self and reciprocity in the research benefits. The cultivation of reflexivity in relation to the above topics can contribute to better planning and preparation of researchers who conduct qualitative studies in the field of addiction.

Keywords: *Qualitative research, addiction, research ethics, reflexivity*

Political education and political behavior: Empirical research on a sample of students.

Antonis Papaoikonomou

The purpose of this research is to investigate the sample attitudes of students regarding the political education lesson and the contribution of the particular course to their political behavior. The sample is comprised of high school students from central Macedonia. The research findings include gender differentiation in terms of content and the desired way of teaching the lesson and the emphasis that must be given. The issue that emerges from the research is the need for a radical reform of the course, since active political participation is at stake, an indisputable factor of democracy.

Keywords: *Political education, students, political behavior*