Challenging the Place Experiment: A critical take on the experiment as an urban planning strategy

Jacobsen, Sif Juhl

Department of Human Geography

Abstract

Despite a recent interest among geographers and planners in experiments in and on the city, urban experimentation has yet to be examined critically. This thesis takes on the challenge by conceptualizing the place experiment as hermeneutical, transformative, co-creational and geographically bounded, and further by examining the strategic use of place experiments in municipal urban planning. The thesis draws links between an entrepreneurial governance paradigm and the experimental turn in planning, and revisits the experiment’s journey from the natural sciences to municipal planning practice. Five semi-structured interviews with planners in the Municipality of Copenhagen make up the empirical core, and the planners’ logics and arguments for... (More)
The study of metropolitan areas and how their inhabitants interact with them is key to planning our future as a species. We also need theory and experiment. For a truly scientific approach to the problem of the city, we need to be able to test hypotheses, and compare alternative urban realities. But how can we do this when our subject matter consists of vast constructions of concrete, glass and metal? How do we develop an experimental science of urban design? In the research laboratory for immersive virtual environments (Relive) at the University of Waterloo, we have turned to simulation methods to help build such a science. Participants are placed into highly immersive simulations of city spaces using sophisticated head-mounted displays and precise motion tracking. The Urban Challenge in Developing Countries. National Urban Strategies. Strengthening Local Authorities. A city's prospects - or a town's - depend critically on its place within the urban system, national and international. So does the fate of the hinterland, with its agriculture, forestry, and mining, on which the urban system depends. 2. In many nations, certain kinds of industries and service enterprises are now being developed in rural areas. 7. The urban population growth rate in developing countries as a whole has been slowing down from 5.2 per cent per annum in the late 1950s to 3.4 per cent in the 1950s. It is expected to decline even further in the coming decades. Nevertheless, if current trends hold.