

2014 IGU Regional Conference

18-22.08.2014, Kraków, Poland

<http://www.igu2014.org>

Deadline for abstracts: January 15th 2014

Call for Papers:

Session title: 12-39 2- The Labyrinth of Social Changes: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches

Urban Geography Commission invited session: http://www.unil.ch/igu-urban/page99413_en.html

Chairs:

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The theme of this session directly addresses the issues of the urban geography dedicated to the diversity between and within the cities, and fits in the research problem identified by the Urban Commission referring to Contested Social Spaces. The aim of this session is twofold. Firstly, it focuses on the different theoretical approaches to identify and explain the current patterns of social diversification in metropolitan areas. Secondly, it tends to gather the innovative methodological approaches allowing grasp and explain the new forms of social structures and their dynamics.

The previously used approaches (derived from Chicago school or later from California school based on the postmodern concepts) are not always applicable in the case of the contemporary metropolitan areas where different processes superpose and create social contradictions. The fragmentation of space, in turn, does not produce easily recognizable zones or patterns. How these new structures should be named and defined? What are the new trends and phenomenon that plays the pivotal role in the metropolitan areas? The comparative perspective in this field is beneficial but sometimes neglected or limited to the European and North American case studies. The real challenge is to explain to what extent these processes are similar and/or dissimilar between the metropolitan areas that differ between themselves in terms of political, economic, social and cultural continuity or discontinuity that they have been undergoing.

The quantitative methods applied in order to measure the distribution of different groups as well as the level of their segregation, based on the theses from Chicago School (including their modifications in the consecutive years), are becoming insufficient in order to measure and explain the phenomena that appear nowadays. In addition, the lack of up-to-date data bases is not a singular obstacle but a major difficulty in different case studies. For this reason, the innovative, perhaps interdisciplinary approaches of how to tackle this problem are of the great importance. Thus, the presentation of successfully implemented research adopting the new methods of data gathering and analyses would be highly appreciated. The innovative, qualitative methods can be also considered as a supplementary proxy to verify the results of classic methods.

This session will gather two types of papers: (1) dedicated to the theoretical approaches to the processes of social changes creating social contradictions, and (2) to the innovative methodological approaches that would be an important added-value to the classic quantitative and qualitative approaches.

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The abstracts should be registered using the link below:

<http://igu2014.org/index.php?page=registration>

You will be able to choose this session "12-39 2 - The Labyrinth of Social Changes: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches" during the registration process

Do not hesitate to contact us in case of any questions.