

Position Paper – Cultural Aspects of Urbanity, Gender and Migration

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Exception, Exports, and the Creation of a Global Urban Formation

Suggested reading for the workshop offered several descriptions of the “zone” concept that is present in current urban sociology connected with geography and topology studies. The zone, by all defined concepts is more or less a consensual term describing the area functioning as a export force of the country with a very specific social structure concerned on production and export.

In first, I could not imagine the meaning of the concept of zone, and that is why I chose a wrong example for the home preparation /I could have read the articles first, though/. On the other hand, by trying to think of the zone-like site, I was free from imagining only strong development-oriented sites as described in the literature and I could focus more broadly on the urban constructions in general, that orient themselves on the production and export. This might be a methodological problem I would have with the Zones, that it is uniquely applied for underdeveloped societies, however, the mechanism of the Zones, or Zone-like sites can be similar in developed societies as well.

On the other hand, a precise theoretical concept of the Zone developed probably by ethnographies of the certain sites is very much helping to interpret its meaning in the societies they occur at. It is also a possibility to have a free mind in quantitative research of each of the site trying to understand its logic without international comparison. I very much appreciated the interconnection with the gradual governance of the Asian tigers and the connection of the treatment of the different social stratas, because it is itself a partly reason of the segregation of the Zones in economically developing countries.

Zone as a Zone is a world for itself and has a logic similar to concentration camp of a Siberian type in my view. It would be very interesting to get to know more about the interconnection of the workers in there, the narratives they share, the structure of their time, the possibility to create, and compare it with the life rhythm of the workers of the same “class” living in the cities and working in the factories in the urban contexts.

For me, it is a quite attractive question of the sustainability of the Zones in connection with the economy instability and the future of the Zones as a possible gentrification centers.

Keller Easterling(2008). 'Zone.' in *Urban Transformation*. A. Ruby & I. Ruby (eds). Berlin, Ruby Press: 30-45.

Ute Tellmann and Sven Opitz(2009). "Sovereign Topologies: The Off-Shore and the Camp as Territories of Circulation" Working Paper, Goldsmiths College, ATACD Project (A Topological Approach to Cultural Dynamics).October 2009.

Aihwa Ong (2000). "Graduated Sovereignty in South-East Asia" *Theory Culture Society*, 17; 55-75.