

Extensive urbanisation - a new scale for planning

Álvaro Domingues

CEAU-FAUP – Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto

alvarodomingues@netc.pt

Phone/fax numbers: 00 351 933184274

Extensive urbanization - what are we speaking (or planning) about? Extensive urbanization characterizes most of the urban contemporary field. Contrary to the forms and dynamics of canonical cities, extensive urbanization is an unconfined geographical pattern, a kind of nebula, where all seems chaotic. In what concerns to urban planning, we have two main problems: territorial and conceptual deconfination of the urban realm. Urban sprawl is always touched by negative stigmas. Sprawl is normally understood as some kind of perversion of the good city form or way of living (the energetic and environmental crises has been dramatized all those matters). Notwithstanding extensive urbanization is the most common way of the territorialization of society. The complex interaction between society and economy is deeply embedded on this urban fabric and is not supposed that things can go back. Than we have a truly real problem for political action and evaluation on this reality. Politics for urban sprawl must consider "splintering urbanism" (Graham, Marvin, 2001). Society and politics are "centrifugal" as told us D. Innerarity. This means that political actions are des-synchronised by the slightening of State and Public Administration. More and more, politics are sectorialized; old public responsibilities are privatised or concessioned; public realm is an obscure atmosphere linked with private interests (public virtues vs. private vicious); economics are globalised, etc. Diffused public/private institutions undermine the old clear descending chains of public decision and coordination. In what concerns territorial plans, the mismatch between the spatiality of the urban field and the institutional architecture (local/inter-municipal levels) doesn't fit the variable dynamics of the relational space.

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