Networked city: The multiplicity of urban links and nodes

at the conference

Networks in the Global World 2020

Structures in Contexts.
Understanding Relations in European Societies and Beyond
July 7-9, **St. Petersburg, Russia**
www.ngw.spbu.ru

Deadline: February 10th, 2020

Chairs: *Aleksandra Nenko and Maria Podkorytova, ITMO University*

Invited speaker: *Celine Rozenblat, University of Lausanne*

Since Lefebvre 2003 [1970] announced 'planetary' urbanization, researchers have been calling for new paradigms in theory and methodology to grasp the city's complexity. However, the apt remark by Soja (2000: xii) remains true 'it may indeed be both the best of times and the worst of times to be studying cities' because of the 'restless periodicity and extraordinary slipperiness of the urban phenomenon itself' (Brenner et al. 2011: 226).

The concept of 'networks' has become a new metaphor to thinking the city complexity. M. Batty (2005; 2013) has reconsidered urban dynamics in the context of complexity theory. Elaborating urban morphology and patternology, Batty has shown different kinds of networks as structural under-layers of multiscale urban dynamics.

There are multiple applications and achievements of network analysis in considerations of the city, summed up, for example, by Neal (2013) who defines three levels of network phenomena: networks of urban communities, the city as network and networks of cities. Study on "global cities" as proposed by Sassen (1991) and elaborated into a network methodology by Taylor (2004) have gained popularity within the regional economists and geographers, in particular "complementarity and competitiveness between the cities" and reconsideration of scaling (Rozenblat, 2010).

Network studies are undertaken to analyze urban communities, in particular, neighborhood communities (Wellman 1996, Pattison and Robins 2002). Investigation of socio-material configurations and non-human agencies in cities have been promoted through assemblage and actor-network theory (Farías and Bender 2010). Following this strand of thinking McFarlane (2011) describes the city through 'grammars of gathering, networking and composition' of different agents.

Network analysis allows researchers to explain the relations between diverse networks in the urban environment - from interpersonal to technical ones - influencing each other. There are numerous examples of such relations and influences between urban networks. To name a few, those are segregation and cohesion in urban communities as a consequence of spatial structure of the city streets and meeting spots, alternative centers of urban life based on clustering of urban practices represented in social media, e-neighborhoods and virtual spatial communities formed via Internet, paths and landmarks determining perception of city environment with its flows and the dynamics of city life.

We invite both papers that present comprehensive elaboration of theoretical assumptions and pick up networks as ontologies and those using network analysis methodologies to address the complexity of urban phenomena in European urban landscapes and beyond.

Please submit your abstract (not exceeding 200 words) **here** before **February 10th, 2020**.

When submitting, don't forget to select the session title **"Networked city: The multiplicity of urban links and nodes"** from the list. The conference website provides additional information.

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