

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (20873) - SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHALLENGE OF “GREEN” GENTRIFICATION: ON THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF URBAN GREENING AND GREEN DIMENSIONS OF GENTRIFICATION

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Background and objectives

Recently the issue of green gentrification has gained rising attention within research on gentrification and also on urban ecology or urban green infrastructure. The quite “young” debate has evolved in the mid-2000 with research on the displacement of low-income population due to rising rents and land prices as an effect of the creation of new green spaces or the qualification of existing ones. Today, green gentrification is far from being clearly defined and relates to unintended effects of urban development projects and policies in the context of sustainable and resilient urban development, but also includes intended upgrading and market-driven “green” housing projects for the “sustainability class” (author, year). Recently, scholars also speak of resilience or climate gentrification, when referring to the socio-economic effects of urban climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

With this conceptual contribution, we want to give an overview on the green gentrification debate and refer to the understandings and findings of a series of articles and books without doing an extended literature review.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

With green gentrification, a new research field located at the intersections of formerly separate research strands has evolved. In the past, the gentrification research has mostly neglected “green” dimensions and otherwise, research on urban greening rarely paid attention to displacement and long-term environmental justice. We want to shed light on these interlinkages, as we think it is crucial to acknowledge goal conflicts and dilemmas within research and policies aiming at sustainable urban development, environmental justice and resilience.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

We want to stress the possible dilemmas and conflicts of sustainable urban development, but also want to present approaches, such as “just green enough” (author, year) and the combination of greening and housing policies in order to avoid displacement of the population whose living conditions should initially be improved and trigger further research on the issue..

Palavras-chave : green gentrification, sustainability, urban governance, greening, housing market, climate adaptation, urban development