

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (20939) - HOW DOES MIGRATION LEAD TO A REDEFINITION OF THE IDENTITY OF PLACES: NEW IDENTITY OR MULTIPLE IDENTITIES?

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Background and objectives

The identity of a place is a dynamic process resulting from physical and social changes that occur in places. Migration is a disruptive event that challenges processes of distinctiveness and continuity in a new place for emigrants while acting as a threat to the sense of identity connection former residents have with their place. Therefore, the characteristics that underlie place identity among old and new residents can contribute to the understanding of the dynamics of local identity, namely whether we are building a new identity that integrates different perceptions, practices and appropriations or multiple identities that overlap or rival.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

Therefore to address this topic, 2 case studies with a strong presence of emigrants were studied: one in an urban context and the other in a peri-urban context. To capture neighborhood identity a qualitative based on stakeholder focus groups methodological approach has been developed (Loupa-Ramos et al. 2019).

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

For each case study, focus groups were performed with native and different types of migrant habitants. This approach allows us to explore the contents associated with the identity of a place for different groups. The contents of identity include tangible and intangible features of the relation between people and their environments, as well as features that can and can't be spatially identified. Furthermore, migrants seem to present different and similar elements of identity content depending on how well they adjust their identity with the previous living place and their new environment.

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

In sum, acknowledging the relevance of the contents of identity provides knowledge that can be crucial for supporting future planning and development options to improve territorial cohesion, whilst comprehending how each group creates and redefines their place identity, both in terms of structure, processes and implications in terms of intergroupal relationships.

Palavras-chave : Place Identity, Migration, Landscape