

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (20952) - PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES OF NEW URBAN DESIGNS

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Background and objectives

By acknowledging environmental emergency, we are witnessing a major change in our way of life. Local political discourse as well as territorial projects inscribe their actions in the framework of sustainable development and show the emergence of new standards in the production of the city. The transformation of the Duchère district (in Lyon, France) into an eco-district, and more particularly the redevelopment of its park, through a participatory project including inhabitants, is a good example. By considering how negotiations around space engage different actors with different social identities and realities, social psychology is well-positioned to study social change as well as the resistance it may entail.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

A first study from a larger research project explores what is and what must become a changing neighborhood for different actors involved in and by its renovation. We conducted qualitative interviews coupled with cognitive maps with residents (N= 10) as well as an analysis of the institutional discourse (N= 63).

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

The discourse of the local press and that of the new inhabitants converge around the need to integrate more nature in the city. Moreover, divergent experiences in terms of social relationships were described by old and new residents, the older reporting the renovation causing the degradation of the conviviality and more recent inhabitants reporting about social harmony characterizing this neighborhood. All in one, the results show how the discourses of the different actors meet, combine, or oppose each other, each driven by its own dynamic.

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

This study is based on strong political stakes at the local and national levels, and engages in a reflection on contemporary urban models, on the relationships we maintain with our living spaces, and on the meanings, we give them.

Palavras-chave : Sustainable development, Eco-district, Social identities, Nature, Urban models