



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "CITY AS A CLASSROOM"

24-28 AUGUST 2020

It is argued that statistics are a lot of stubborn categories and dry numbers that awaken the minds of non-trivial reflections seekers. One way or another, according to the general statistics only 10% of people on this planet live "well" and the other 90% are dissatisfied with their life, well-being, or general condition; often health and, most importantly with the lack of an answer to the banal question "Why my life is the way it is?" This issue is exacerbated under the conditions when around 50 megacities own almost 90 % of the world's financial capital.

Undoubtedly, everyone wants to live well and live with dignity. However, even today, in the advanced and technologically savvy 21st century, there is no clear answer on "how to achieve the desired future". Is there any way to find it out? HOW to live with dignity? HOW to be accomplished? HOW to become a part of 10% who live well? HOW does the development of personality relate to the city?

According to the paradigm shared by interdisciplinary academia, every human being is born as a blank "white sheet of paper" and one becomes who he is in the process of becoming an adult, socialization and experiencing trials on the path of life. So WHAT does impact on what that "white sheet of paper" will look like after a while? WHAT writes the human being?

Indisputably, one of the fundamental categories in the development of a person is the environment. The environment is where one grows up and is shaped by that very "invisible Author". The processes of urbanization, which actively catalyzed the dynamics of the development of civilization long before the 21st century, draw attention to the particular environment which is occupied by a modern person — a CITY.

How does a city shape and form a modern individual? How does a city's environment affect its residents? How does this define and shape one's personality? His character, preferences, potential, professional skills, and abilities in general? What is a city for us? How powerful is the urban environment? Most of these and other similar questions continue to be open in academics; they require solid interdisciplinary systematic study in the unity of the past, present and future.

Cities are the pillars of the modern world: they impersonate one of the pivotal roles in the global context, not only preserving their past but also determining their tomorrow. Therefore, the history of cities, their geographical spot, the purpose of building a city, its geometry, symbolism, and many other constituents compose a unique configuration and the power component of the space. This determines the distinctive characteristics and qualities of people who are born in these cities. These people may be firmly standing on their feet, successfully working on their career and leaving a mark after them... or, on the contrary, for some reason, they might not be understanding the "language" of the city, its mentality and flavor, not achieving their intended heights and instead, fight for survival.



Some are successful in their hometown; but as soon as they move to another point in the world, they cannot repeat their successes for some reason. Others depart from their failures in one city and inexplicably accomplish outstanding results, statuses and gain authority in a completely different city. What kind of a “break” with the city occurs in the first case? And what obliges a breakthrough in the second?

Again, naturally, everyone wants to live a happy, meaningful and prosperous life. Therefore, it is critical to know how to achieve this. Most people are born or reside in cities and suburbs; however, what does a person actually know about the environment that forms him? Most programs for the future are associated with the city, global transformations of society are associated with new urban meanings of “commune city”, “industrial city”, “garden city”, “metropolis”, “comfortable open city”, “smart city”, etc. What will be the agenda of the future city?

What is acknowledged about using the potential of the city to improve one’s own level of personal growth and qualifications? In particular, many people who start a business in a new city, do not even think about it and do not properly take into account the mental, historical and cultural ingredients of that city. If cities invisibly affect each of us from our birth, it seems logical and appropriate to study the power of this environment and the “city-person” system, to subsequently use this knowledge in life and professional activity.

The International Scientific and Practical Conference “City as a Classroom” brings together experts, scientists, writers, journalists, photographers and architects from all over the world — those who explore cities, their structure, history, mentality, principles of interaction in the environment, the special language of the city, its architecture, walkability, creativity and many other things.

The interdisciplinary nature of this discussion is also aimed at practical consideration of the following issues:

What cities “teach” people and can “teach”?

How can we consciously apply this knowledge in an efficient and well-handled way?

How to understand the language, history, distinctiveness of the city’s power and use that potential for one’s own benefit?

Education and training of a person occur in the process of life and activity concurrently at different levels. The “learning” range in a city as a classroom can be represented as follows:

- **SYMBOLIC**
- **PHILOSOPHICAL**
- **RELIGIOUS**
- **POLITICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL**
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL**
- **SOCIOLOGICAL**
- **NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL**
- **PHYSIOLOGICAL**
- **ANTHROPOLOGICAL**



BELOW ARE FIVE ONLINE DISCUSSION PANEL TOPICS:

1. Theoretical foundations for studying cities. City as a set of factors that define the status and level of personality development.
2. The city as a university and training program in life.
3. Symbolism, photography, expeditionary scientific activities and other methods of exploring cities.
4. Symbolism, mysticism and visual sociology of the European continent. Sociological, psychological, anthropological and religious perspectives on cities in other continents
5. Architecture as textbooks for city residents and unconscious training (shaping) of them in the course of their lives in a city

This conference is designed to unite the efforts of scientists and experts to ultimately comprehend existing questions with scientifically based answers, aimed at finding the logic and tactics of implementing the **“HOW TO MAKE THIS CIVILIZATION A FLOURISHING ONE”**.

MEDIA PARTNERS



Western Morning News



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