European cities between shrinkage and reurbanization

Impacts of urban trajectories on sustainability and liveability

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Issues addressed

1. Urban development in Europe
2. Shrinkage
3. Impacts of shrinkage
4. Reurbanization
5. Impacts of reurbanization
6. Discussion

   a) Consequences for urban sustainability and liveability
   b) Consequences for mobility, segregation, neighbourhood change
Urban development in Europe

Urban population development 1990-2008

Growing cities
Reurbanizing cities
Shrinking cities

Data: GISCO – Eurostat (European Commission) EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries, Urban Audit, National statistical agencies
Author: Nadja Kabisch
Date: 06. April 2010
Urban development in Europe (cont.)

- diversification of urban development in Europe
- shrinkage and reurbanization have become quite typical for European cities in the last years
- at present: shrinkage in eastern Europe, reurbanization all over the continent
- growing impact of demographic change
  → urban societies are ageing, getting less and more diverse
- need for more resource efficiency and resilience
- debates on the future of the European city
  → compact city as more resource efficient city?
  → shrinkage as chance for more sustainability and liveability?
  → adaptation to climate change, energy transformation, ageing?
Urban shrinkage

- worldwide phenomenon
- Detroit & rustbelt in US, Liverpool or Clydeside, Ruhr area … but also Upper Silesia, Russia, Japan (Hokkaido), South Africa, …
- trajectory next to others in urban Europe
- not a new phenomenon (historical dimension)
- „post-industrial“ shrinkage started in 1930s with the decline of old industrial cities
- today: shrinkage as the predominating trajectory in eastern Europe
Changing contexts and trends
in economy, demography, spatial development, politics, environment
operating at various scales from regional to global

Urban development at the local scale

Population decline
(including currently shrinking and shrunk cities)

direct or indirect consequences for urban development
(ageing, segregation, underuse, unemployment, disinvestment, tax deficits, …)

Governance
- Policies and decision-making on multiple levels and of different sectors
- Agency of various actors and institutions

impact on
lead to

Großmann, Haase, Rink (2012)
Shrink Smart –
The Governance of Shrinkage within a European Context

EU 7 FP project
2009-2012
Grant agreement no. 225193

8 partners
7 case studies

Focus on eastern Europe

Map: UFZ
Photos: A. Haase
Impacts of shrinkage: housing

BYTOM
Photos: A. Haase

Source: Krzystofik et al. 2010
Impacts of shrinkage: residential segregation


Source: Großmann et al. 2012

Ethnic segregation (% foreigners) in Genoa 2001, 2010
Impacts of shrinkage: brownfield (management)
Reurbanization

1. not a new phenomenon, too
2. Berg et al. (1982), hypothetical stage of urban development after urbanization, suburbanization, disurbanization
3. empirical evidence since 1990s, continuation of trend in 2000s
4. debate on „resurgence“, „renaissance“, „comeback“ of the city
5. reurbanization discussed in different contexts, no standardized definition, different national debates
   → UK: urban renaissance
   → Germany: re-concentration after decline
   → Poland: revitalization & incipient reurbanization
Reurbanization (cont.)

Definition

**Macro level**: process of relative or absolute increase in population of the core city in comparison to the surroundings

**Meso level**: process of stabilisation of the inner city as a residential site after a longer phase of decline, due to both increasing influx and lowered out-migration

(Haase et al. 2012)

- pushed by
  - specific residential groups (broad range)
  - change of housing arrangements and housing careers
  - transformation in lifestyles and working environment
  - globalization, economic development
Reurbanization … in Leipzig, Germany

Population development 1999-2009 per district

Source: Statistical office Leipzig
Layout: N. Kabisch

Source: UFZ database
Reurbanization … in Liverpool, UK

- stabilisation of population for the city as a whole
  → increase in city centre living (young people)
  → regrowth in some inner-city neighbourhoods
  BUT continuous loss in others

- continuous demolition of substandard housing, replacement constructions

- increase in fragmentation and segregation

- increasing impact of immigration (EU enlargement)
  → stabilization
  → ethnic concentration

Source: authors' research
Reurbanization … in Łódź, Poland

Transitory urbanites

1. young households, students and early stage professionals
2. use advantages of inner city → pragmatic choice
3. temporary/transitory choice
4. normality
5. gate-openers

Monika*, end of her 20s, Łódź

As far as the flat in the inner city is concerned, I am close to those places I make use of … I am close to my place of work. I do not need to go to the inner city because I am already there. This is very important at the moment. So far, I do not have any children and so I am not forced to think about things like the children not having a place to play. For the time being, living close to the city centre is important but it is not the most important thing in the world. Later, at some point in the future there could possibly be some changes.

- recent development, replacement of those who left
- quantitative terms?
- potential for reurbanization

Source: Semi-structured interview (2007)
* Pseudonym
Consequences for urban sustainability and liveability

Leipzig: Juxtaposition of shrinkage and reurbanization

Source: Thomas Arndt (map layout and photo d), Annegret Haase (all other photos)
Consequences for urban sustainability and liveability (cont.)

Photos: D. Haase, F. Kausch, D. Rink, A. Haase
Consequences for on urban sustainability and liveability (cont.)

Population development 1999-2009 per district

[Map showing population development with color coding]

Source: Statistical office Leipzig
Layout: N. Kabisch

Prize segments on Leipzig’s housing market

[Map showing housing market segments with color coding]

Source: Analyse und Konzepte 2008

Photos: D. Rink
Impacts on urban sustainability and liveability (cont.)

- juxtaposition of shrinkage and reurbanization at many places across Europe
- shrinkage does not automatically lead to less land consumption and to a more efficient use of resources
- it is often related to poverty and specific forms/dynamics of segregation
- provides potential for more sustainability and liveability
- compaction *per se* is not the solution, reurbanization shows ambiguous results (stabilization, diversification, gentrification & exclusionary displ.)
- synergies and trade-offs with respect to sustainability and liveability
- demand for transformative view by research and more flexible responses by policymaking and planning
Consequences for mobility, segregation, neighbourhood change

1. Shrinkage and reurbanization are meaningful examples to show the underpinnings between mobility, segregation and neighbourhood change.

2. Show the impact of population losses/re-gains, ageing and rejuvenation, diversification or homogenization of the residential make-up.

3. Change of mobility within affected cities (level, opportunities and constraints for different residential groups, niches → immigrants & transitory urbanites).


6. Consequences? Implications for policymaking & planning?

→ Research!
Thank you for your attention!
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Further reading


Urban shrinkage worldwide

Shrinking Cities 1950-2000
Cities > 100,000 pop.
Long-term and short-term pop. losses >10%

Source: Oswalt and Rieniets 2007
(Atlas of Shrinking Cities)