



## **Editorial ERIS 1/2013**

*No matter what happens in the world of human beings, it happens in a spatial setting, and the design of that setting has a deep and persisting influence on the people in that setting. (Edward Hall 1966)*

### **Detlef Baum**

Maybe, we have a new social question. The old classic social question asks for the socio-economic conditions of the proletarians at the beginning of industrialisation, earlier of the poor in the rural society. Now we have a discussion about the question, how far not the socio-economical status is responsible for social inclusion or exclusion but the degree of socio-spatial segregation is the reason for social exclusion.

And more and more we get the impression that socio-spatial conditions of housing and of housing-environments have a high meaning for shaping behaviour, consciousness and competences of people living under specific spatial conditions of an urban quarter or of a rural village.

Social work in theory and practice is more and more challenged to develop theoretical positions, with which we can explain the relationship between spatial segregation and social exclusion. Furthermore social work is compelled to develop concepts, with which we can change spatial influences under which people suffer, under which they cannot improve their life, their behaviour. The space develops to an important factor of social inclusion or exclusion. The question whether people belong to a community is often decided by the question where people live, by their address.

Surly, meanwhile we have the spatial discussion in the social sciences and in social work. The "spatial turn" (following the cultural turn") is a constitutive dimension in the scientific discussions about social conditions of life in modern societies. Even we have a debate about the question of the relationships between living and growing up in deprived areas and the chance of insuring a social status, which integrates and ensures identity.

And we have very differentiated debate about the understanding of social spaces in their objective structure on the one hand and the awarded and constructed social spaces in the head of the people acting in these spaces on the other hand.

Because of the urban sociology we know more about urban spaces, about urbanity in the contexts of urban spaces - more than about rural spaces, the meaning of Spaces in rural villages or small rural shaped cities. Not only the division of public spaces and private spheres is important, but the division of residential areas in privileged and deprived areas and the more and more differentiated access to public spaces and the urban lifestyle. "Say me, where you live and I can tell you, who you are!"

We discuss in this issue the importance of the space for shaping social life conditions and how we can research and explain it.

Christian Reutlinger's article deals with invisible youth and writing of coping maps in divided cities. It should be a contribution to a social geography of adolescence. How acquire young people urban spaces, how move they in urban public spaces and which intern and extern access opportunities have they to public spaces? And another question is important to be answered: Which capacities and resources are necessary for the access to public spaces and how cope young people the discrepancy between the competences and opportunities they have and the competences the need?

Fabian Kessl and Christian Reutlinger present an article, which is titled "Professional Social Work in divided Cities". More and more we get aware that spatial conditions of residential areas in cities produce privileged or deprived conditions of life which leads to advantaged or disadvantaged conditions of life. Therefore community orientated social work must deal with the fact that social work in deprived areas must mean social work with the community, with the people acting there. And we need theoretical and conceptional positions, which are able to explain and to reflect the consequences of spatial conditions of life on the behaviour level and on the structural - may be on the political - level.

Marek Mikulec deals in his article "Poverty and social exclusion in urban area" with poverty in Czech Republic and the spatial concentration of the poor in certain quarters of a city.

The term social exclusion as a multidimensional term and Mikulec deals with different dimensions of exclusion. A very interesting debate is linked to the question how poverty and social exclusion influences the structure of a space. Up to now we discussed more, how the structure of a space influences the development and behaviour of people living there, how

influences the space the socialisation and growing up of children and young people. And we discussed the dialectic of these processes.

The article from Dana Šýkorová is focused on meanings acquired by space and things in the context of ageing and old age and derives her research from the project “Seniors in Society. According the research are Space and things significant elements of life in old age.

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