New challenges for urban history: culture, networks, globalization

Abstract

Urban history is a very lively and dynamic research field, showing strict parallelism with the fast increasing of the urban population. Today, competitiveness is one of the key aims for cities in the globalized world. Factors such as accessibility and infrastructure, industry, human capital, innovation, and investment, green spaces, affordable housing, business support and quality of education are necessaries. However, the OECD recognizes three dilemmas in this strategic vision, concerning the spill over of metro-regions, the public strategic vision, and the relationship between economic dynamism and the liveable city. Today urban historians are facing some general challenges: comparative aspects are needed; also interdisciplinarity to develop cooperation between disciplines; and for maintaining the professional status of academic urban history. The expanding networks between towns and cities, and the meeting places as conferences and exhibitions are considered, as they are the multidudinous challenges and threats, especially for those cities suffering continuously of major natural and man-made disasters. Moreover, new amalgams of hazard are being created in metropolitan areas with overlapping natural, technological, biological and social risks, exposing more people and places, needing safety and security.

Keywords

city; urban history; comparative history; mega-cities; risks; environment

References


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The socio-cultural and political nexus of China, which had never been never static but which also had not experienced a genuine historical rupture for more than two millennia, was fundamentally restructured within a few decades. Some core institutions and patterns of the former Middle Kingdom largely disintegrated, especially during the first few decades of the 20th century. 4. Up until the 19th century China had stood rather firmly within its own regional historical context. It had not been challenged profoundly as an integrated cultural and political system. Another intellectual challenge when describing China’s encounter with globalization and its predecessors is the important regional dynamic in the emergence and transmission of transformative processes.