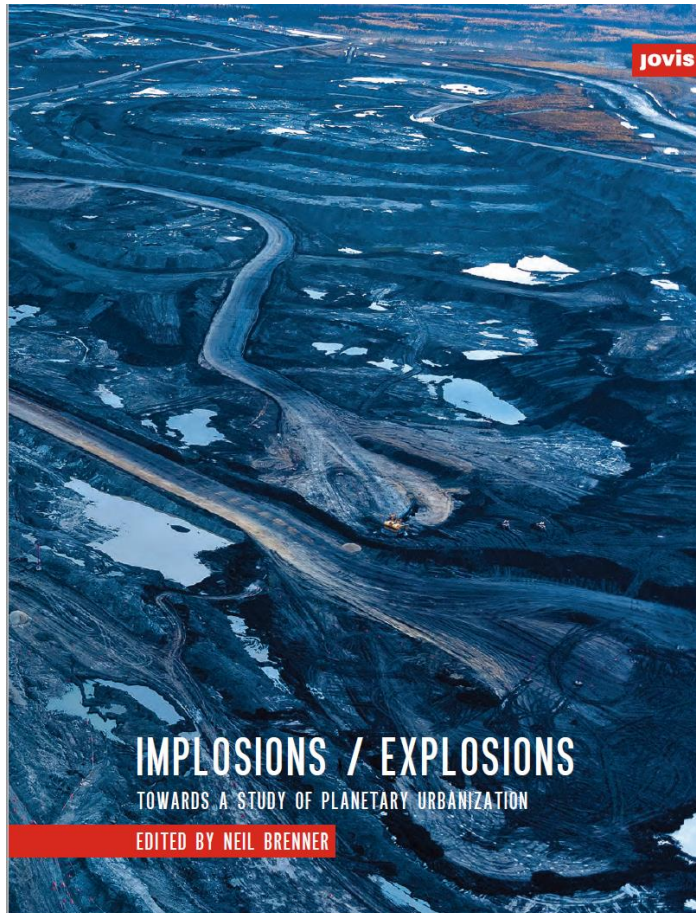


Planetary Urbanization: Überwindung von Stadt – Land – Dichotomien?

**Input von Alexander Hamedinger & Georg Wiesinger, 4.11.2022
Workshop Stadt vs. Land, Stadt & Land, Stadtland?!**

Hintergründe (Brenner & Schmid 2011, 2015, Brenner 2018)



- Der Fokus auf Stadt als eigener Raumtyp existiert seit 1925
- Die Kriterien zur Definition von Stadt sind immer noch dieselben (relatively large, dense, heterogenous)
- Und basiert auf einer Konstruktion einer Trennung zwischen dem Urbanen und dem Nicht –Urbanen → Nicht-Urbanes als „constitutive outside“ (Brenner & Schmid 2011) → „methodological cityism“, und dieser macht angesichts gegenwärtiger raumstruktureller Entwicklungen keinen Sinn

Hintergründe

Heute: komplette Urbanisierung der Gesellschaft (Referenz: H. Lefebvre 2003)

Urbanisation of the countryside and ruralisation of the city → dialectical thinking

“This society bears its utopia within itself, now and forever: the possible-impossible, the possible it makes impossible, ultimate contradictions that generate revolutionary situations that no longer coincide with those predicted by Marx, especially when we consider that they cannot be resolved by the organized (planned) growth of productive forces.” (Lefebvre 2016, p. 151)

Begründungen für planetary urbanization

- Empirisch betrachtet:
 - Städte haben aufgrund ihrer Involvierung in größere, supra-lokale ökonomische (Globalisierung) und soziale Prozesse (zB Migration) keine Grenzen mehr
 - Es entstehen neue Scales der Urbanisierung (zB mega-regions)
 - Es gibt neue Geographien der Governance
 - Es gibt keine „Wilderness“ mehr
- Epistemologisch betrachtet: die Definition von Stadt über quantitative Kriterien ist theoretisch nicht gut begründet und oft a-historisch (Kritik am „Urban Age“-Programm)

Argumente des Ansatzes

	Methodological cityism	Urban theory without an outside
Unit of analysis	Bounded: the city as a settlement type that is contrasted to other settlement types, usually within a national territory	Open, variegated, multiscalar: the urban as an unevenly developed yet worldwide condition and process of sociospatial transformation
Model of territorial organization	Typological, binary: territory is differentiated among distinct settlement types, with cities contrasted to specific non-city zones—suburbs, towns, villages, rural areas, the countryside and “natural” areas	Processual, dialectical: agglomerations (“cities”) relate dialectically to their (“non-city”) operational landscapes, which are in turn continually transformed through their roles in supporting agglomerations
Understanding of territorial development	Population-centric: growth of city populations relative to total (national) population size	Mediated through capitalism, state strategies and sociopolitical struggle: worldwide implosion/explosion of capitalist sociospatial organization, encompassing the evolving relations between agglomerations and their operational landscapes within a crisis-prone capitalist world economy
Model of <i>longue durée</i> historical-geographical change	Linear, universal: specific cities may grow or decline, but the phenomenon of cityness is increasingly universalized as a settlement type around the world	Discontinuous, uneven: sociospatial configurations (including both agglomerations and their operational landscapes) are creatively destroyed through the crisis-tendencies of capital (mediated through state institutions and sociopolitical struggles), contributing to successive rounds of territorial differentiation and redifferentiation at various spatial scales

Argumente

→ Städte, das Urbane sollte als Prozess sozial-räumlicher Transformation betrachtet werden und nicht als starre Einheiten → Entwicklung einer Stadttheorie ohne ein „outside“.

“As this erstwhile non-urban realm is increasingly subsumed within and operationalized by a world-encompassing—and, indeed, world-*making*—process of capitalist urbanization, the meaning of the urban must itself be fundamentally re-imagined both in theory and in practice” (Brenner 2018: 17)

“Consequently, despite its continued pervasiveness in scholarly and political discourse, the category of the “city” has today become obsolete as an analytical social science tool. Today, the urban represents an increasingly worldwide condition in which political-economic relations are enmeshed” (Brenner & Schmid 2011: 13)

Weitere Argumente

- Complete urbanisation, global capitalist mega-urbanisation, housing not for housing purposes but as a commodity (Keil 2018; Kemper Vogelpohl 2013), „empire“, national states loss of influence (Negri & Hardt 2000)
- reciprocal degradation, climate change, building sites vs. slums, gentrification, gated communities, abandonment
- dichotomy between urban and rural
- PU as a means of overcoming systemic contradictions, as a generative theory for a chance of survival, as a possibility for an unalienated life, of being diverse

Kritikpunkte

- Zu universalistisch und „euro-american centred“: Vernachlässigung von regionaler Differenz (Robinson & Roy 2016; Leitner & Sheppard 2016;
- Politisch-ökonomischer Reduktionismus; es fehlt Fokus auf Kultur und Identität und ist zu anthropozentrisch (more-than-human agency?) (Leitner & Sheppard 2016)
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