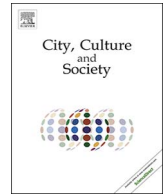




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

City, Culture and Society

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ccs

Understanding the process of parks' attachment: Interrelation between place attachment, behavioural tendencies, and the use of public place

Amine Moulay^a, Norsidah Ujang^{a,*}, Suhardi Maulan^a, Sumarni Ismail^b

^a Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

^b Department of Architecture, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Place attachment
Liveability
Behaviour
Neighborhood park

ABSTRACT

Developing cities in the world are facing the threat of rapid urbanization. Creating liveable neighborhood has become a new urban agenda for the coming decades. Public spaces, including neighborhood parks, play a significant role in improving the social life of a community since they are considered the backbone of the urban park systems. However, there are many underutilized parks. In the past, this issue was mainly considered in terms of physical and social attributes. Less attention was directed to the psychological attachment process of park users. This is due to the multifaceted, multidisciplinary, multidimensional, and multi-paradigmatic nature of research on place attachment, which has led to an accumulation of concepts and definitions. To this end, and within the growing influence of environmental psychology on urban design, the immensity and complexity of place attachment literature can be difficult to navigate and time-consuming. This paper reviews various conceptualisations of place attachment and use, the process of attachment towards places, and the behaviour commitment of users towards parks. This analysis provides further insight into the psychological process of park attachment to encourage holistic approach, underpin innovative concepts, deepen reflection on research paradigm, and guide empirical studies. The central message of this paper is that integrating the psychological aspect of place attachment in the place-making process will help transform values of places into a responsive social environment.

1. Introduction

Cities and urban design are intimately linked to liveability goals. Physical and social characteristics should cooperate to enhance citizens' quality of life. In this regard, shared public spaces are crucial for sociability and the foci of entire communities (Ellis & Roberts, 2016; Hagerty, Cummins, & Ferriss, 2001). 50% of the global population lives in urban places, a figure expected to rise to 70% by 2050 (UN report, 2015). This alarming situation constitutes an unprecedented challenge for urban designers, planners, and architects. According to the UN Habitat III Report on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III, 2016), one of the primary outcomes of the new urban agenda for the next two decades regarding urban planning and design is to emphasize the provision of public places in terms of responsiveness and inclusiveness. Despite being regarded as fundamental social spaces in city planning, neighborhood parks in the context of planned residential areas are not fully utilized to the benefits of the users (Azmi & Karim, 2012; Moser, 2010; Moulay & Ujang, 2016; Moulay, Ujang, & Said, 2017; Neutens, Farber, Delafontaine, & Boussauw, 2012; Peters, Elands, & Buijs, 2010). Such conditions deprive residents of the

opportunity to socialize, which is considered a crucial human need (Ellis & Roberts, 2016; Kazmierczak, 2013). This paper reviews related theories on place attachment and behavioural tendencies to understand what may cause the lack of park's attachment in the urban design context.

The issue of underutilized parks has been the focus of discussion for decades. In understanding what contributes to the problems and how to mitigate them, many dwell on the physical and social attributes of parks. These include commuting distance between work and home (Christian, 2012; Delmelle, Haslauer, & Prinz, 2013; Hopkins & Williamson, 2014) leading to the need for compact mixed use, mixed-income neighbourhoods of walkable social networks (Alexander, Ishikawa, & Silverstein, 1977; Gehl, 2011; Nelson, 2013). Some have also highlighted the influence of socio-demographics, park sizes, and facilities (Averill, Stanat, & More, 1998; Cascetta & Carteni, 2014; Cohen, Han, & Derosé, 2012, 2016; Droseltis & Vignoles, 2010; Giles-Corti et al., 2005). Accessibility, proximity, location, permeability, legibility, comfort, quality, congestion level, maintenance, aesthetic, density of the population, and perceived safety have been examined in relation to social activities and general satisfaction (Jorgensen &

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: norsidah@upm.edu.my (N. Ujang).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccs.2017.12.002>

Received 25 March 2017; Received in revised form 26 November 2017; Accepted 8 December 2017
1877-9166/ © 2017 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Stedman, 2001; Kazmierczak, 2013; Lelévrier, 2013; Moulay & Ujang, 2016; Yeung, 1996), as well as ethnic diversity (Lewicka, 2011a; Wilson & Baldassare, 1996). While most findings benefit urban designers in making parks and public spaces more visually and physically functional, the impact of these qualities on users' psychological sense and well-being has not been adequately explored in the literature. Psychological metrics have not been integrated into evaluating place responsiveness. Less concern has been given to understand the process of developing an affective bonding between people and specific places including emotion, meaning, and behaviour (Manzo & Devine-Wright, 2014; Manzo & Perkins, 2006; McCunn & Gifford, 2014).

Although environmental psychology has a growing influence on urban design (Beer, 1991), the multi-faceted, multidisciplinary, multi-dimensional and multi-paradigmatic nature of place attachment research remains the primary barrier to linking environmental psychology and urban design fields. Even among trained scholars in environmental and social psychology as well as psychologists and humanistic geographers, terms like “unclear,” “slow,” “stuck,” “little empirical progress,” and “lack of theory,” are used to describe research on place attachment (Giuliani, 2003; Hernandez, Hidalgo, Salazar-Laplace, & Hess, 2007; Jorgensen & Stedman, 2006; Lewicka, 2011a; Scannell & Gifford, 2010). In that regard, this paper examines the link between park utilization, the process of place attachment, and how it can shape the behavioural tendencies of park users. The familiarity of designers with environmental psychology helps in the recognition of people's behaviour towards creating designs compatible with people's needs. It also provides excellent conditions for human life (Farkisch, Ahmadi, & Che-Ani, 2015). At the same time, the most significant challenge for researchers in using the multidimensional concept of place attachment is to integrate different viewpoints and approaches (Giuliani & Feldman, 1993).

2. Place attachment definitions

The affective bonds with places and human experiences have recently raised concerns about place attachment studies (Gustafson, 2006; Manzo & Devine-Wright, 2014; Raymond, Brown, & Weber, 2010; Scannell & Gifford, 2010; Trentelman, 2009; Wirth, Gret-Regamey, Moser, & Stauffacher, 2016). Place attachment, or the positive bonding of people to a particular place (Manzo, 2005), is a major facet of man-environment relationship and represents a convenient form of human experience. In broader social and physical environments such as a neighborhood, person-place bonding may comfort the inhabitants by affecting their cognitions and behaviours (Lewicka, 2011a). Furthermore, for psychologists and sociologists, research on place attachment has a significant motivational potential for residents to use public places further and spend more time outdoors for enhanced social interaction (Manzo & Perkins, 2006). This leads to the core of the place making tradition of urban design; that is, the process of making good places with regards to design and behavioural settings (Carmona, 2014). Improving the symbolic value of public places, considered the primary nodes for residents, is meant to serve as social binder and promote the liveability of neighbourhoods (Lynch, 1998; Moughtin, Cuesta, Sarris, & Signoretta, 1999).

Place attachment is a complex and multidimensional concept with varied definitions. These multi-paradigmatic and methodologically diverse natures of place attachment research were spotlighted by many researchers (Hidalgo & Hernandez, 2001; Hummon, 1992; Theodori, 2000). They noted the overlapping use of terms and concepts such as the sense of place, community sentiment, community satisfaction, sentimental attachment, community ties, and place identity. These concepts are used interchangeably in such a way that it is difficult to understand whether the same idea is being discussed (Hidalgo & Hernandez, 2001).

Place attachment is generally understood to refer to the affective bond or link between people and specific places and most of the

researchers view place attachment as both positive and powerful (Manzo & Devine-Wright, 2014). A few studies, however, have highlighted the negative link between the concept of place bonding and the cultural and social position such as ethnic diversity and cultural capital (Lewicka, 2011a, b; Soroka & Johnston, 2008). Taylor and Shumaker describe attachment as “a positive affective bond or association between individuals and their residential environment” (1983, p233) while Altman and Low (1992) refer to place attachment as people cognitive or emotional bonding to a particular location or milieu.

For geographers, bonding with meaningful spaces represents a universal connection that fulfils fundamental human needs (Relph, 1976). To psychologists and sociologists, attachment to one's town or residential neighborhood, or to particular places in one's community, are important motivations for people to spend more time outdoors in those places, to meet and talk to one's neighbours, to share their concern about local problems and ideas for solutions, and most of all promote the liveability of surrounding areas (Manzo & Perkins, 2006). A more recent definition by Manzo (2005) and Lewicka (2011a) states that place attachment can be described as the emotional connections between individuals and a specific setting or place. Among the existing plethora of place attachment definitions, it was found that the closest definition to the field of urban design and planning in term of place, covering the meaning, physical form and activity (Montgomery, 1998), is that suggested by Shumaker and Taylor. This is because they postulated the physical, social and affective components of person-place bonds (Shumaker & Taylor, 1983).

3. Place attachment dimensions

Although several methods are used to measure place attachment across disciplines, the common ground is differentiation between a functional and an emotional dimension (Anton & Lawrence, 2016; Lin & Lockwood, 2014; Kyle et al., 2004; Williams & Vaske, 2003; Bricker & Kerstetter, 2005). The emotional and symbolic importance of place to users are usually alluded to as “place identity” whilst the functional attachment is referred to as “place dependence” (Moore & Scott, 2003). Empirical as well as theoretical evidence support this differentiation (Shamsuddin & Ujang, 2008; Williams & Vaske, 2003). Distinct attachment processes will trigger the development of both place identity and place dependence, which in turn affects human behaviour (Neuvonen et al., 2010; Kyle, Graefe, Manning, & Bacon, 2004; Moore & Graefe, 1994).

Researchers have validated the two-dimensional constructs of place attachment in many types of settings, encompassing landscapes (Williams & Vaske, 2003), festival-hosting destinations (Davis, 2016), national parks (Hwang, Lee, & Chen, 2005), and the natural environment (Kyle et al., 2004). Nonetheless, recent studies focusing on the sociocultural dimension of place attachment argued that the basic place attachment model with two-dimensions is incomplete (Luo, Wang, & Yun, 2016) for three main reasons.

First, Kyle et al., (2004) argued that the structure of place concepts is influenced by the study context. For instance, in recreational settings, studies tend towards the sub-dimension approach due to the complex nature of the users' interaction with place. On the other hand, in residential settings, studies tend to use a broader approach because of the deeper social and cultural aspect of attachment. Second, a more comprehensive model is needed to link the different place constructs to attitude structure, in order to explore the correlation between place and people within an existing large literature and rooted psychological theory structure. In this perspective, Eagly and Chaiken (1998) argued that positive or negative attitudes towards a particular place are based on behavioural, affective, and cognitive responses to that place. Third, the two-dimensional model of place attachment is methodologically challenging. According to Nielsen-Pincus, Hall, Force, and et al (2010), rather than relying on theoretical justification, the model constraints are based on statistical necessity i.e. if place identity and place

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8960802>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8960802>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)