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Title: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS ON PARTICIPATION AND PLACEMAKING

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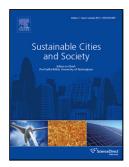
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#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Facebook is the virtual social network communities most use. Some platforms ae used to share information such as Instagram (photos) and You Tube (videos). LinkedIn did not show activity at a social community level.
   Tweeter was used to a lesser degree, and mainly to advertise events or links to Facebook pages.
- Also, the form of participation (face to face or online) seems to be influenced by people's lifestyles (employment and dependent children primarily) more than socio-economic factors such as level of education.
- The levels of unemployment had some correlation with traditional face to face participation levels, and an inverse correlation with online participation.
- The numbers of Facebook community memberships were in an inverse correlation with the levels of traditional face to face participation in community events.
- A pattern was found in that leadership seems to be the main driver for community online activity.
- Facebook as a Placemaking capacity predictor: The more Facebook community memberships an area has, the
  higher the number of place changes appearing on Facebook. In all cases a strong correlation between physical
  neighbourhood structure/assets, and Facebook networks operating in the area was found.
- Facebook as a tool for engagement: Facebook analysis proved to be a valuable tool to understand the
  community values and interests, and to open communication channels for more active engagement and
  participation in a broader study. It helped understand the interests and motivations of the community and it
  highlighted some of the critical local politics involved in Placemaking and more specifically some grassroots place
  protection processes already in place.
- Although Facebook analysis can offer some benefits, it is not an alternative tool to traditional engagement and consultation methods but an additional strategy to be used in conjunction with face-to-face engagement.

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