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## The City as a Spatial and Functional Structure, and as a Place Having Subjective Meanings

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### Streszczenie

Współcześnie problematyka miast i ich funkcji jest istotnym problemem z dziedziny studiów miejskich w geografii, architekturze, socjologii i psychologii. W artykule przedstawiono badania na grupie 228 studentów z obszaru konurbacji katowickiej. Celem prezentowanego badania było poznanie jakie jest subiektywne postrzeganie funkcji, jakie dla człowieka pełni miasto. Badania zrealizowano metodą jakościową, analizą swobodnych wypowiedzi osób badanych.

Rezultaty pokazały, że miasto najczęściej jest postrzegane jako: miejsce nauki i pracy, miejsce spotkań, rozrywek, wydarzeń kulturalnych oraz jako miejsce zamieszkania. Miasto posiada też wiele psychologicznych funkcji związanych z poczuciem tożsamości, poczuciem przywiązania, domem, małą ojczyzną, rozwojem, wychowaniem, dorastaniem, wychodzeniem w świat. Część badanych wskazywała na brak funkcji i negatywne funkcje miasta. Kobiety częściej niż mężczyźni postrzegały miasto jako: miejsce wypoczynku i rekreacji, miejsce pełniące funkcje socjalne, zaś mężczyźni częściej postrzegali miasto jako nie pełniące dla nich żadnych funkcji lub miejsce złe.

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### Abstract

Nowadays, the issue of cities and their functions is an important topic in urban studies in geography, architecture, sociology, and, psychology. The social per-

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ception and the interpretation of material forms is what the city is for people, and what function it fulfils for them is particularly important. The aim of this study was to investigate the subjective perception of the city's functions for the people living there. The article conducted research on a group of 228 subjects. The study qualitatively analysed the respondents' free expressions.

The results showed that the city is frequently seen as a learning and work center, a place for meetings, entertainment, cultural events, and as a place of residence. The city also has many psychological functions related to a person's identity, sense of attachment, the home, the little country, development, being brought up as a child, growing up, and going into society. Some respondents pointed to the city's negative functions or to its lack of them. Women more often than men perceived the city as a place of rest and recreation, to learn and work, to development oneself, or to socialize, while men more often perceived it as without any functions or a negative place.

Keywords: city, urban studies, urban geography, psychology of place

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## **Introduction**

The space surrounding humans has always been accompanied by analyses and scientific research in the fields of philosophy, sociology, psychology, architecture and geography. Even in the Bible we find descriptions of Sodom and Gomorrah and other destroyed cities exemplifying accumulated pathologies. In philosophy Aristotle described the ideal city (polis); we also find an urban theme in Democritus, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and Immanuel Kant (in: Jałowicki, Szczepanski, 2002). Cities are a phenomenon analyzed both geographically and socio-humanistically. Geographically, urban space and its functions are analyzed in terms of settlements, specifically in urban geography (Maik, 1992). Sociologically, space and city are fundamental concepts understood as, among others, part of "human ecology" (Park, 1915, in: Jałowicki, Szczepanski, 2002). Architecturally the city is "the theatre of social action", the place of art, politics, education, and commerce. The city, socially, creates differentiated opportunities for common life and a "collective drama" (Mumford, 1937). In psychology the city is researched environmentally in terms of its space perception, one's sense of attachment to place (Bańka, 2002; Lewicka, 2012) and as a place for realizing many human needs (Lang, 1994; Dębek, 2010).

The city as functional was first introduced in 1891 as the geography of settlement by Friedrich Ratzel, who compared the city to a living organism (Suliborski,

2010). The term "function" originally referred to the city itself as an independent socio-spatial reality, the description of which was to show its distinctive features (Suliborski, 2003). According to J. Beaujeu-Garnier and G. Chabot (1971, p. 104), "... the city's functions are its profession, its reason of existence, ... the form in which it appears outside". The city's functions are its inhabitants' activities, on which the life and the city's development depend (Kiełczawska-Zaleska, 1972). The city's geographical function (as a stand-alone unit) was greatly enhanced in the structuralistic approach. Function is defined as "a set of consequences which a particular activity or object (plant, institution) entails, or the role that the settlement unit plays in the national economy and the socio-economic space" (Maik, 1992, p. 30). By function we understand every socio-economic activity carried out in the city, regardless of its economic and spatial status, considered both from the point of view of the settlement system and the city which is a part of this system (Suliborski, 1983). Function also indicates the settlement's location in the relationship system, or the purpose of its existence and the tasks that it fulfils (Lienau, 1970).

In the settlement studies, research has taken four basic directions into city functions: the place of residence and work, employment structure, core-centre theories, the concept of its economic base (Maik, 1992; Słodczyk, 2003). Considering the city's functions as place of residence and place of work (production), it may be assumed that the city is both labour market and place of residence, and therefore fulfils both these functions. To assess the relationship between these two functions, it is necessary to define the extent to which the demand for labor (the number of jobs) matches the labour supply (the number of people of economically productive age) (Maik 1992, Słodczyk, 2003). In terms of its employment population, the city's functions may be generally divided into two groups: manufacturing and service. Thus a particular city's importance can be evaluated on the basis of employment.

Not all city functions have the same importance. Often, one is the so-called "dominant function", which is that city's basis of life and around which the other functions focus (Słodczyk, 2003). The basic functions are production, trade, cultural and educational, administrative and political, economic, communication, and recreational, (Maik, 1992, Kiełczawska-Zalewska, 1972, Szajnowska-Wysocka, 1995).

Walter Christaller (1933) created the basic category theory, or the city's settlement structure. He called it the central function. The occurrence of this function in certain settlements makes them central (higher level occurrences) -- unlike other settlements where these central functions do not exist or are not central (Słodczyk J, 2003; Suliborski A., 2008). Christaller distinguished the central functions of the higher order -- produced and sold only in these places -- from the central lower or-

der functions -- produced and sold in lower order centers, but also in higher-order centers. The different types of central functions with different market ranges determines their hierarchy places. This results from the so-called importance surplus of some settlements' central functions in relation to others that are characterized by a deficiency in these functions.

The economic base theory created by Werner Sombart (1907) explains the growth of the city by dividing the city's economy into two components (functions). The first one includes those activities (functions) that provide for the external world (Maik, 1992). This kind of function, so-called exogenous, is recognized as a factor for the city's existence and development -- its economic base -- and as a component that determines its identity and place in the social and spatial division of labour (Jerczyński, 1977). The second component consists of those activities (functions) providing for the local market, the so-called endogenous functions. It is assumed that both components are closely interrelated, and that population and urban employment changes are determined by changes in the exogenous sector (Maik, 1992).

Since the 1980s, increasing importance in urban geography has been attributed to social, political, cultural factors and processes. The cities' functions began to be more widely understood as a feature of the place, not just as a result of something or someone's action. The place's function is its social role, which consists in fulfilling both individual and societal needs. The function's socio-cultural nature is emphasized, leading from the socio-economic perspective to the place's function resulting from both these activities (social and economic), and to the social interpretation of material forms (Suliborski, 2003). In recent years, such a perception has been accentuated in such approaches as human geography, moral geography (Smith, 2000; Kaczmarek, Kaczmarek, 2011), justice geography (Wright, 2009), and geographies of exclusion (Sibley, 1995; Kaczmarek, 2004).

Nowadays a city's perception and its functions is an important issue in the fields of geography and social studies. It is related, inter alia, to quality of life, development, upbringing, teaching, moral transformation, social exclusion, spatial and functional changes, demographic processes and the ongoing depopulation of most Polish cities. A city's functions are also important in creating different urban images such as those promoting, in recent years, Katowice as "Katowice – The City of Gardens", "Katowice – European Capital of Culture", "Katowice – The City of Music", "Katowice – The City of Interesting Events".

This study was based on the assumption that knowledge of the city's function should take into account not only its importance due to spatial and economic factors, but also social and psychological factors. The social perception and the interpretation of material forms: these are what the city is for people; and the functions

it fulfils for them is particularly important. The aim of this study was to answer the question - what are a city's functions in the subjective perception of people.

### **Method and subjects**

Research was conducted on a group of 228 subjects (168 women and 62 men), students studying in psychology and pedagogy at the University of Silesia in Katowice, and in political science, finance and accounting at the Chorzow School of Banking, in the Katowice conurbation. The age of the participants was between 19 and 49 years old. The study was conducted using qualitative research - surveys. The respondents answered the open question: "What functions does your city fulfil for you?" Participation in the research was voluntary. The respondents provided answers at a time convenient for them; no time limits were applied.

### **Results**

Quantitative and qualitative content analyses on statements obtained from the respondents were used. Content analysis of the participants' statements showed that the city has many important functions for them. This analysis enabled one to distinguish several city functions subjectively experienced by the students (respondents). Criteria for selecting the city's functions were space (place) and the main activities and needs achieved in the urban areas. The respondents indicated the following city functions:

#### *City as a place on earth*

The city is seen as as specific geographical space, as a specific place on earth. There were statements such as: "The city is a place on earth to which we return because our home, work and family are there , (woman, 42 years old, Chorzow II)".

#### *City as a little country*

The city is seen as a little country, a specific place, and a spirit of the place genius loci, where local patriotism is emphasized. These were the statements of the respondents: "The city in which I live is something like a little country (from the psychological point of view) where I feel good and rather safe. It results from the fact that I grew up here, and I know my surroundings and the people living there well" (man, 24 years old – Bytom, Lagiewniki). "My city's importance is very big - local patriotism" (man, 32 years – Slawkow). "This is the place of my memories and traditional cultivation" (woman, 37 years Bytom).

### *City as a place of origin*

The city is seen as a place where we come from, a place where many generations of family have resided, as a hometown. This is illustrated by the following respondents' statements: "This is my hometown, it is where my ancestors, me and my son were born. It has sentimental value; I identify myself with the history of the city; on the basis of the city's history I analyzed the history of my family, their fate and choices (woman, 42 – Chorzow, Chorzow II)". "... is a place of residence, where I have lived almost all my life. It is the place where my ancestors lived and now are buried, and the place where you can live (man, 23 – Chorzow, Batory)". This function prevails over all the others whenever a person says that the city's function is mostly sentimental; however, at the current level it does not provide for me the access to education, job, prospects, spending free time" (woman, 21 years old – Bytom).

### *City as a place of birth*

The city is seen as an important element of biography - as the place of birth. Respondents indicating that role emphasized explicitly that the city "is the place of my birth" (woman 19 years old, Zabrze). "It is the place of birth" (woman, 24 years old, Zabrze). These respondents who indicated this city's function wrote that this function is dominant for them, for example: "It has the greatest importance, because I was born there" (woman, 21 years old, Raciborz). Other respondents - on the contrary - while pointing to the city's function emphasized that the city where they live now is not their place of birth; for example, "I was not born there, so it has no special meaning for me" (woman, 21 years – Swierklaniec).

### *City as home*

The city is seen as home, as a place we live in, where we return, a place where you can relax, calm down. Respondents wrote about the city: "It has the function of home." (woman, 31 years old – Cieszyn). "My city is my home, the place where I live" (woman, 21 years old, Czestochowa). "For me it is the place where I still come back to; it is my support, home" (woman, 22 years – Zabrze). "It is home to which I come back" (woman, 21 years – Gliwice). "...is my place where I can come back to. It gives me peace of mind, a sense of calming down" (woman, 31 years old – Cieszyn). Some respondents, while appreciating the role of the city as home, indicated the lack of a sense of being at home in their statements, such as "I have recently moved in, so I haven't had time to settle in. Yet I still prefer Katowice to where I lived before, because I feel a citizen of Katowice" (woman, 30 years old, Chorzow II).

*City as a safe place*

The city is seen as ensuring a sense of security to the individual. There were statements such as "I feel safe and comfortable there; all the people know each other at least by sight, because it is a small town" (woman, 21 years old – Wojkowice). "the city's function – it is difficult to determine – I don't feel safe and happy with its functionality" (woman, 19 years old – Bedzin, Ksawera)."

*City as a place of attachment*

The city is seen as a place to which people feel attached, or even - love it. There were statements such as "I have lived in this city since childhood, so I'm attached to it" (woman, 21 years old – Kedzierzyn-Kozle); "I love Gliwice" (man, 23 years old, Gliwice, Os. Obroncow Pokoju). Lack of attachment is seen as an important fact in such subjective evaluations as "I do not feel any attachment to the city..." (woman, 19 – Bedzin-Ksawera).

*City as a part of identity*

The city is seen as a place with which the individual identifies, thus being a component of the individual's identity. There were statements such as "It is a part of my identity. I prefer this city to others and defend it when someone criticizes it" (man, 23 years old – Gliwice); "... is the place with which I identify myself" (woman, 19 years old, Katowice). It is connected with a sense of affiliation -- for example "It gives me a sense of affiliation to the place" (woman, 19 years old, Zawiercie); "it gives me a cultural affiliation" (woman, 21 years old – Jaworzno). "It serves as the affiliation function to a place; memories and the whole childhood connect me with this city" (woman, 19 years old, Katowice). Failure to feel affiliation with the city, not to identify with it, was also regarded as an important aspect for some respondents; for example, "My city is only a temporary place for me; I do not identify with it" (woman, 22 years old -- Katowice).

*City as a place for growing up*

The city is seen as the place where we grew up, went to school, where we were brought up: "It is the place for bringing up" (woman, 24 years old, Zabrze). "It is the place where I grew up; it reminds me of carefree days of childhood and fun" (woman, 31 years old – Cieszyn). The city is seen as a place where we grew up and future generations – our own children -- will grow up. There were such statements as "It is the place where I bring up my child, and I want to send it to kindergarten and school in this city" (woman, 31 years old – Bytom). "... is a place where my

5-year-old son socializes; he attends kindergarten in this city” (woman 37 years old – Bytom).

#### *City as a place of development*

The city is assessed as a place in which people develop, which gives them many opportunities to do so. There were statements such as “It is a place where I can develop” (woman, 21 years old – Katowice); “To some extent the city may direct the development of the human” (man, 20 years old – Ruda Slaska, Wirek). “It provides a lot of opportunities” (man, 22 years old – Gliwice). “It gives me more opportunities to develop than the village where I come from” (woman, 21 years old – Katowice). “The city offers many more opportunities than a village” (woman, 24 years old – Herby). “It gives historical knowledge” (woman, 26 years old – Tarnowskie Gory). “It allows me to develop my interests” (woman, 19 years old – Klobuck).

#### *City as a place for going into society*

The city is seen as the place for going into society, a kind of “window on the world”. There were statements such as “The city gives me a sense of openness to the world through access to libraries, theatres, shops, bookstores” (woman, 21 years old – Katowice). “The city is a safe haven for me, from which I am able to stretch my wings; it is a kind of escape from the big world” (woman, 22 years old – Swietochlowice).

#### *City as a place for learning and working*

The city is seen as a place for learning or studying, for example, a “place of learning” (woman, 21 years old – Katowice)., “... an educational function” (woman, 21 years old – Katowice). “... learning-studying at university”, (woman, 32 years old – Katowice-Brynow). “... an educational function” (man, 22 years old – Bytom-Centrum). The city is a place of work, for example, “it provides a job” (woman, 23 years old – Szopienice). “... a place of work, earnings, job satisfaction” (woman, 22 years old – Katowice). “It gives jobs” (woman, 20 years old – Bedzin). “... gainful function” (woman, 25 years old – Piekary Slaskie-Szarlej).

#### *City as a place of residence*

The city is seen as the place where we live: “... a place of residence” (woman, 32 years old – Ruda Slaska). “I live here” (woman, 30 years old – Chorzow). “It is a place of residence, where I have lived almost all my life”, (man, 23 year old – Chorzow). “My city has a living function for me” (woman, 24 years old – Swietochlowice). “I have lived here for 22 years” (man, 24 years old – By-



tom-Radzionkow). Sometimes the respondents emphasized that it is the only function performed by the city for them: "It is my place of residence, but to be honest I want to leave it as soon as possible" (woman, 21 years old - Zabrze). "It is mainly my place of residence... actually it is no difference to me where I live" (woman, 21 years old - Gliwice). "... bedroom" (man, 22 years old - Czeladz).

#### *City as a collection of services*

The city is seen as services that you can make use of: "For me it is a collection of services that I can make use of; it is what it can offer me" (man,...). "The city fulfils most of my needs, because near my place of residence there are all institutions, services, places associated with culture and entertainment, (woman, 19 years old – Bytom), "it fulfils the utility functions" (woman, 22 years old – Katowice), "My city serves a consumer function, so I often buy different products there..." (man, 23 years old – Chorzow Batory). "... a place of supply" (man, 21 years old – Chrzanow). "It enables me to settle a matter in the Municipal Council, access to general shops, access to church, using sports facilities" (female, 24 years – Sosnowice-Trachy). "It fills and fulfills many important projects that are important to me, namely the construction of a water-supply and sewerage-disposal, recycling program, the large role of ecology, building orliki (type of football pitches for teens) and recreational facilities" (woman, 23 years old – Siewierz).

#### *City as a place of meetings, entertainment and culture*

The city is seen as a place where you can meet with friends and best friends, a place where you can enjoy spending your free time, which hosts various cultural events: "... a place where you can meet with friends" (woman, 21 years old – Wojkowice). "A group of my friends live here... it provides entertainment and cultural attractions, it provides tourist attractions..." (woman, 26 years old – Tarnowskie Gory). "My city fulfils a cultural function: theatre, cinema, museums, a place associated with a religious cult (woman, 31 years old – Czestochowa). "... an every-day entertainment place" (man, 19 years old – Warszawa). "... place of entertainment - cinema, pub" (woman, 24 years old – Katowice). "... is a place of entertainment..." (woman, 21 years old – Wojkowice).

#### *City as a place of rest and recreation*

The city is seen as a place where you can rest from every-day routines, escape from life's hustle and bustle, relax, for example while walking through a forest or park, as well as in shopping centers, or while playing sports: "I spend free time in my town" (woman, 19 years old – Katowice). "It fulfils a recreational function; there are many places where you can actively spend your time, for example

Pogoria lake, a park” (woman, 21 years old – Dabrowa Gornicza).”... a park - recreational function, the market square - walks and shopping (woman, 21 years old – Chorzow).”It is quiet at weekends... that peace is an advantage” (woman, 22 years old – Piekary Slaskie-Centrum).

#### *City as a place of integration*

The city is seen as a place where people form a community, where they are together. For example, ”The city fulfils an integration function, we build a community...” (woman, 19 years old – Chorzow-Centrum).”... an integration function” (woman, 23 years old – Katowice ).

#### *City as a source of information*

The city is a source of information, where people find out about issues important to them. City newspapers, billboards, and advertisements pasted on street poles are the source of this information. These were statements about that function:”... an informative function - newspapers, radio, advertisements” (man, 25 years old – Bytom-Centrum),”... information of the most important events in the city, in the monthly ‘Aktualnosci Bedzina’ (Bedzin News)” (woman, 32 years old, Bedzin-Grodziec).

#### *City as an administrative structure*

The city fulfils an administrative function:”From the administrative point of view it is an authority that controls my life by using specific tools of control; sometimes I feel that my city has only the function of the Exchequer, which takes all it can from me” (man, 24 years old – Bytom-Lagiewniki).”... offices, the ability to settle official matters” (woman, 21 years old – Bytom-Karb).”... a place of residence visible on the ID card, which implies other things such as admission to the local school” (woman, 32 years old – Chorzow II).

#### *City as an evolutionary structure that enables survival*

The city is seen as a structure that allows people to survive, having been formed in the process of human development:”I think that cities facilitate the survival of the human species - provide security, fulfil needs, generally make living easier” (man, 23 years old – Gliwice-Sosnica).

#### *City as a negative place*

The city is seen as a place where things are not going well. Some respondents identified the city’s functions as, for example, ”negative (alcoholism, drug addiction, difficult access to benefits, slight social support” (woman, 19 years

old – Bedzin-Ksawera). In general I do not like my city” (woman, 22 years old – Piekary Slaskie-Szarlej Centrum).”My city is limited, a mindless administering of the budget, not well organized public transport and roads, councillors who sit at meetings instead of thinking, lack of interest in health care, not enough leisure activities for young and old, not enough greenery, poor lighting, ugly railway station,... a division of the city into better and worse neighbourhoods does not make sense” (man, 25 years old – Myslowice-Morgi).

#### *City without a function*

The city is subjectively perceived as not fulfilling any function. Respondents showing lack of a city’s function:”For me – no functions” (woman, 20 years old – Rydułtowy).”Does not have any meaning for me” (man, 21 years old – Gliwice-Sosnica).”Does not fulfil any function for me; I just live there” (man, 24 years old – Wozniki).”The city as a city, without details” (man, 23 years old – Zory).”Does not fulfill any function for me, for me as a 19-year-old”.”The city does not fulfill many functions for me; at least in my every day life I do not feel the impact of the city on my life” (man, 20 years old – Dabrowa Gornicza).

Quantitative analysis showed that most respondents pointed to the following city functions: the city as a place of learning and work (37.72%); of meetings, entertainment and cultural events (27.19%); residence (24.56%); and the city as a place of rest and recreation (18.42%). Respondents often pointed to the city’s function as a place of origin – hometown (7.89%). Other functions were also noticed, mainly social and communication (9.65%). For some respondents, the city did not fulfill any function at all (7.89%).

The most often indicated cityfunctions by men were as a place of residence (32.26%); learning and work (25.81%); and as a place of meetings, entertainment, cultural events (25.81%). For women, the city especially fulfilled the function of learning and work (42.17%), but also as a place of meetings, entertainment and cultural events (27.71%); rest and recreation (24.10%); and residence (21.69%). Men (19.35%) more often than women (3.61%) perceived the city as a place without any functions. Also men (6.45%) were more likely than women (0%) to perceive the city negatively. However, women (12.05%) more often than men indicated that the city had social functions (3.23%) (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** City's functions in the respondents' opinions

City's function	Women (N=166)		Men (N=62)		In general (N=228)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
City as a place on earth	2	1.20	0	0.00	2	0.88
City as a little country	0	0.00	4	6.45	4	1.75
City as a place of origin (hometown)	14	8.43	4	6.45	18	7.89
City as a place of birth	12	7.23	4	6.45	16	7.02
City as a part of the identity	12	7.23	2	3.23	14	6.14
City as home	10	6.02	0	0.00	10	4.39
City as a place of attachment	6	3.61	0	0.00	6	2.63
City as a place of growing up	4	2.41	0	0.00	4	1.75
City as a place of development	12	7.23	2	3.23	14	6.14
City as a place of going into society	4	2.41	0	0.00	4	1.75
City as a safe place	12	7.23	4	6.45	16	7.02
City as a place of residence	36	21.69	20	32.26	56	24.56
City as a place of learning and work	70	42.17	16	25.81	86	37.72
City as a collection of services	12	7.23	6	9.68	18	7.89
City as a place of meetings, entertainment and culture	46	27.71	16	25.81	62	27.19
City as a place of integration	4	2.41	0	0.00	4	1.75
City as a place of rest and recreation	40	24.10	2	3.23	42	18.42
City as a source of information	4	2.41	2	3.23	6	2.63
City as an administrative structure	6	3.61	2	3.23	8	3.51
City as an evolutionary structure	0	0.00	4	6.45	4	1.75
City as a negative place	0	0.00	4	6.45	4	1.75
Other functions (social)	20	12.05	2	3.23	22	9.65
City without a function	6	3.61	12	19.35	18	7.89

The data in the table do not add up to 100% because many respondents indicated more than one function.

## **Discussion**

The presented study shows that the city fulfills many functions for people. On one hand, these functions can be perceived as space; on the other hand, – as functions associated with basic human activities. Psychologically the city is understood as having many meanings. They are associated with fulfilling different types of needs; for example, for security, belonging and affiliation, and for community and social identity.

The city's function is often perceived by such subjective meanings as one's hometown (the place where you come from), one's space on earth, a little country, a genius loci, a home, a family place, a safe place, a place for developing, growing up, being brought up and bringing up one's own children, and a place for going out into society. Most often indicated city functions were related to basic activities: learning and work; for meetings, entertainment and cultural events; and a place of residence. These activities are prevalent in a person's (especially student's) everyday life.

The differences in the perception of city's function between men and women were noted. Women more often than men perceived the city as a place of rest and recreation, a place of learning and work, and a place with social functions; while men more often perceived the city as a place of residence, or as having no functions at all or even as being a negative place. Women also indicated many city functions connected with their development and upbringing or the bringing up of children: the city as home, an attachment, a place to grow up, a place to go into society, and a place of integration. It may result from the fact that women more often than men undertake activities related to teaching, and bringing up and caring for others. Stereotypically, women more often than men prefer relaxing in the city, including social gatherings and going to shopping centres, thus indicating a city's function of rest and relaxation. However, men according to the masculinity stereotype, are more focused professionally so as to ensure the existence of families, and therefore more often pay attention to the lack of city functions; they must think about such problems as unemployment, lack of career prospects and poor housing conditions.

This study showed that some respondents perceived the city as not having any functions for them or having negative and bad functions. The respondents explained it by the following: There is crime, alcoholism, drug addiction, poverty, lack of career and housing prospects plus there is inadequate support or social care. Generally, it shows that the city is perceived in terms of good and evil. Overall, the results confirm how important the socio-psychological approach is to urban studies.

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