

Abstract

Michał Bukowski

Joanna Grzechnik

**Urban time-space decompression:
discursive perspective on urban
social movement**

In global scale we experience the phenomenon of urbanization with its consequences (like sub-urbanization). This process has systemic limitations, exemplified best by city spillover effect. It is so, that the urbanization is usually accompanied by resistance, protest and modifications. These effects are not obvious as far as their scale, direction, scope and cohesion is concerned, but one might find some coherent demands formed e.g. by the 'new townspeople' (Kubicki 2016) and their movements. The change of city into something more compact and slowed down (by material reasons: costs of management, victims) effects in discursive outcomes, recognized by communication practices and by socially negotiated imaginaries. These outcomes may undermine city's state of permanence – a historical, stretched out in time, place of creation, realization and distribution of values (in the Marxist context). The struggle for legitimization or delegitimization of certain vision of city is in fact the struggle for making city a sustainable and permanent place. Thus, the effect of current transformations of cities must lead to time-space decompression, manifesting itself by a growing distance between time and place. For some of us cities are becoming more faraway, for the others – remain close as they are. Social conflicts are much likely, if not controlled, may influence the system in a negative way. That is why it is so important to recognize the discursive dimension of those conflicts in order to make a rational estimation of

opportunities for successful negotiations and stabilization.