

Abstract

In the broad subject area of the scientific debate devoted to contemporary urban transformations, the issues relating to structural changes in cities, their causes and effects, as well as numerous factors and determinants of the development of an external (exogenous) nature can be found. The development of urban centers is often a specific resultant of local and endogenous changes as well as the impact of external processes that together accelerate or delay the achievement of city development goals formulated by urban policy. *Cities in the Process of Transition. Towards a New Style of Urban Management*. These are cities perceived in the medium and long term perspective as undergoing a process of transformation, while modernizing their governance and management methods at the same time. This interdisciplinary monograph opens a new research and expert project conducted by the interdisciplinary Commission for Studies on the Future of Upper Silesia, Polish Academy of Sciences, Katowice branch and by the University of Economics in Katowice, University of Silesia in Katowice, Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, The Karol Godula Upper Silesian University of Entrepreneurship in Chorzów and Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice in cooperation with the Silesian Library in Katowice.

Research and expert works focused on cities in the process of transformations refer to the publications from the beginning of the 21st century devoted to the structural transformation and the changing faces of the Upper Silesian region¹. In the third decade of the 21st century, the interdisciplinary monograph presents research and expertise in which the focus is on creative thinking and the use of a transdisciplinary approach to the review of the present day and creation of the future of cities in transition (Fig. 1).

The first, opening part of the presented monographs includes the works on various approaches to the city as a common good. The result of development, at least partially, are hard-to-renewable urban resources, such as local identity, spatial order, quality of the air or the values of the natural environment. They affect the quality of life of the city's inhabitants and users, and, in this sense, they can be treated as urban commons that become an important object of interest for urban movements. Representing such an approach to the development of the city, *Krzysztof Heffner*, *Agnieszka Majorek* and

¹ See: [Jacher, Klasik 2005, 2007].

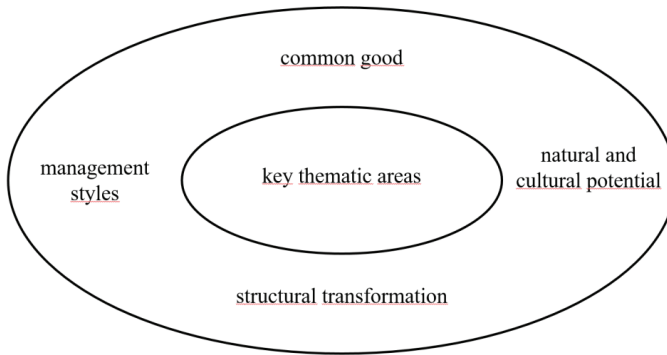


Figure 1. Cities in the process of transition. Schematic diagram

Source: own case study K. Heffner, K. Gasidło, A. Klasik.

Adam Polko from the University of Economics in Katowice analyzed the potential of unused urban spaces in the creation of urban commons (the example of Katowice was used). *Aleksander Noworól* from the University of Economics in Cracow referred to the issue of the city as a common good, while using the assumptions of the *Adaptive Governance* concept developed in the 1990s by Elinor Ostrom². On the other hand, *Marek Janik* from the Silesian University of Technology presents urban common goods in the context of the cultural patterns of the community, while using the example of *Commoning* in the processes of (re)building urbaneness. *Brygida Klemens* from the Opole University of Technology made an attempt to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the access to public services in Poland.

The second part of this volume is devoted to the role of natural and cultural potential in urban transformation. Space is a special type of natural good. Its limited amount as well as the long-lasting development and use processes should encourage cities to prudent land management. *Krzysztof Gasidło* and *Aleksandra Wyrzykowska* (Silesian University of Technology) are trying to assess how selected cities of the Upper Silesian agglomeration manage the areas changing their purpose and development that appear in their territories. Are these places, in this case post-industrial areas, perceived in communal strategic and planning documents as places for achievement of goals formulated in development strategies? The understanding of the role of nature in the life and development of cities is changing. Seeing it only in terms of recreation and aesthetics extends to existential issues related to climate security and food production. *Barbara Stankiewicz* from the Silesian University of Technology raises the important issue of the lack of sufficient knowledge about green resources in the cities of the Silesian Voivodeship. It is difficult to manage these areas without, for example, the results of valorization of green areas. The look at innovative, non-obvious use of post-industrial areas and facilities for the development of urban agriculture is another aspect of this subject area. The use of cultural goods, both tangible and intangible, for the development purposes requires a slightly different approach. Also in this respect, we

² [Ostrom 1990].

see not only the educational, symbolic, tourist and entertainment importance of the products of cultural institutions, but also social and economic significance that determines the maintenance of the assumed directions of transformation especially of post-industrial cities. *Elżbieta Zuzanska-Żyśko* (University of Silesia) notes that in the post-industrial region, to which the Górnos Śląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolis (GZM) belongs, the development of culture and cultural institutions seems to be a crucial element of changes on the way to metropolization. The creation of new cultural institutions, organization of events, new functional and spatial projects, including the use of post-industrial facilities, contribute to changing the image of cities. It is interesting that despite the fact that major industrial plants have been restructured or liquidated, the cultural institutions they have created still play a significant role.

Piotr Rykala (University of Economics in Katowice) reflects on the role of seemingly traditional development factors such as entertainment and sport. Rapid changes are taking place in this cultural sector. In addition to the official sport of huge events, completely new types of activities, *i.e.*, gaming and e-sports are held in stadiums as well as sports and entertainment halls. Does their dynamic development contribute to the transformation of cities? The answer to this question is not obvious. Certainly, they are innovative activities of great economic and social importance. However, their non-spatial character and a significant level of individualization of consumption seem to indicate the difficulty in finding a simple relationship between their level and the development of a given city. It is worth noting, however, that some e-sport events gather as many players and crowds of fans as classic competitions in stadiums.

The subject of the third part of the interdisciplinary monograph are cities and local communities in the process of structural transformation. *Adam Bartoszek* from the University of Silesia formulates the thesis that the local government urban policy is moving to a new stage of managing smart resources. In proving this thesis, the author formulates practical conclusions for networked local governments within the participatory model of urban governance. *Jerzy Runge* from the University of Silesia develops the current research trends concerning structural changes in cities with a complex settlement system. As a result of his own research, the author attempts to conceptualize the structures, while exposing the model of the relative balance of socio-cultural space in agglomeration systems with a polycentric structure.

Agata Twardoch and *Łukasz Harat* from the Silesian University of Technology present the strategy of shaping psycho-acoustic studies in selected cities. The authors conducted a comparative analysis of strategies that combine types of pollutants as well as types of activities and their categories. The above leads to the formulation of two strategic options. The first option focuses on combating noise pollution. The second strategic option, on the other hand, is targeted at reducing the noise nuisance. In a more detailed approach, the above-mentioned options are complemented by various decisions on implementation made in cities.

The fourth part of the monograph opens with an expert study prepared by *Tomasz Komornicki* from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Development of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in which functional areas are approached as the territorial key to urban governance. By developing this issue, cities are confronted with contemporary

territorial challenges. Among them, high importance is attributed to territorial challenges such as climate change and emission reduction policies, the demographic crisis, with the simultaneous continued concentration of the population in the largest metropolitan areas. Long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are another challenge. *Tadeusz Markowski* from the University of Lodz combines the functioning of local government with the search for new styles (methods) of local development management. The analytical approach applied by the author focuses on the systemic, economic and social determinants of professional decision-making activity of local governments. On the other hand, they are associated with authoritarian, leadership, democratic and participatory management styles. In terms of management styles, the study presents the elements of the diagnosis of the situation in the field of local development management and in subjective and objective competition of local governments. All of the above encourages the author to formulate the thesis about the need to create new styles of local development management in Polish conditions. *Andrzej Klasik* (Upper Silesian University of Entrepreneurship in Chorzów), *Florian Kuźnik* (University of Economics in Katowice) and *Krzysztof Wrana* (WSB Academy in Dąbrowa Górnicza) make an attempt to present a fresh style of managing the future of cities and urban development. The complex determinants of contemporary urban development increasingly require a new style of urban governance. The authors' study includes the conceptual and methodological foundations of the new style of city and urban region management, which are co-created by three coherent components, *i.e.*, creative, strategic and participatory management.

The book constituting the Studies of Committee for Spatial Economy and Regional Planning of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and published as part of a series of monographs is a collective work that we address to a wide audience from academic, scientific and research communities as well as managers and groups of specialists in urban centers. The publication may also be addressed to a group of expert teams gathered in design offices and studios engaged in urban development planning and urban design. The interdisciplinary nature of the publication may also inspire new trends of research and promotional works, creating new educational projects and launching model case studies in such areas as socio-economic geography and spatial management, architecture and urban planning, sociological sciences, economics and finance, management and quality studies, as well as ecology.

Keywords: Metropolitan functions, post-industrial areas, urban commons, urban governance styles, urban transition.