

# The Rhythms of the City, Perspectives on the City

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# Urban life as Difference

*The city is the 'place of our meeting with the other' (Roland Barthes)*

*The city is 'a mental and social form, that of simultaneity, of gathering, of convergence, of encounter' (Henri Lefebvre)*

*Urban dwellers are 'people in the presence of otherness' (Richard Sennett)*

*Urban experience is about 'mobilisation and mixture', about 'encounters and challenges' (Lewis Mumford)*

# The Rhythms of the City, Perspectives on the City

1. Chronotopes of the city
2. Overall framework: scales and rhythms
3. Analytical figures
4. Constructions of the city

# Chronotopes of the City

- Urban life as increasing mobility and speed  
space of flows, time of simultaneity
- Urban life as place and community  
enclosed and bounded places

# Overall framework: Scales and rhythms

I. Multiscalar construction of places and cities

II. Time, space and movement

- A day in the city
- Different groups, multiple places
- Meeting the stranger
- Dominant rhythms, invisibility

# The rhythms of the City

By city rhythms is meant anything from the comings and goings of people about the city to a range of repetitive activities, sounds and smells that punctuate life in the city and which give many of those who live and work there a sense of time and place. The rhythms are not a result of an overall orchestration or coordination. Rather they arise out of the teeming mix when people move in and around the city at different times of the day or night, in a constant renewal process week in, week out, season after season.

# Analytical figures

- I. The embodied city
- II. The narrative city

# The embodied city

- Incorporation and disciplination
- Bodily practice
  - *appropriation* of the urban topographical system
  - *spatial realization* or acting-out of place
  - constitution of *relations* among different places
- The emotional city



# The narrative city

- Temporality
  - Multiple temporalities
  - Past – present - future
- Spatiality
  - Spaces and places
  - Boundaries and bridges
  - Territoriality, 'othering' and naming

# Construction of the city I: Spatio-temporal figurations

.The city as a collage of places

- The city as mobility and speed
- The city as space of opportunities
- The as the facticity of everyday life

# Construction of the city II: Perspectives of the city

- Work as perspective
- Consumption as perspective
- 'The tour' as perspective

# Thank you for your attention

