

PRAXIS AND LIFE-WORLDS IN THE POST-COMMUNIST CLUJ-NAPOCA

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This paper emphasizes the outcomes of two socio-anthropological researches done in 1999 and 2004 in the Cluj-Napoca city from Transylvania, Romania. We have investigated inhabitants from different areas of the city and also “local experts” from urban field (e.g., local administration representatives, architects, public notaries, lawyers, estate agents etc.). The fieldwork was focused on the housing quality in the post-communist urban environment and on the developmental paths followed by the city in the latest years. The main conclusion is that the Romanian urban environment is passing an aggressive process of counter-urbanization, visible at the macro-level as deregulation, at the mezo-level as the diktat of spatial organization and also at the micro-level (i.e., the household space), where, is manifest/obvious in the aesthetics of the post-communist houses and latent/obscure in the habitudes of the socio-spatial consumers of this period.

Introduction

The socio-economic and political transformations that took place in the Romanian society since the 1989 Revolution are covering institutions, groups, markets (e.g., the capital market, the housing market, the land market etc.), locations (urban, rural, suburban or periurban) etc. The social change has brought us transformations of the attitudes, behaviors, and socio-economic-political-cultural praxis. Here, I will emphasize some of the processes which, in the past years, have been affecting the urban environment: the *built environment* of the city and the *daily life* of its inhabitants. I should mention here that due to the research restrictions (i.e., I have investigated only the Cluj-Napoca city at two different moments in time: 1999 and 2004), the conclusions of this paper cannot be directly applied to other Romanian cities, although the common knowledge rises the idea of similar development (or regress!) for the urban environment.

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