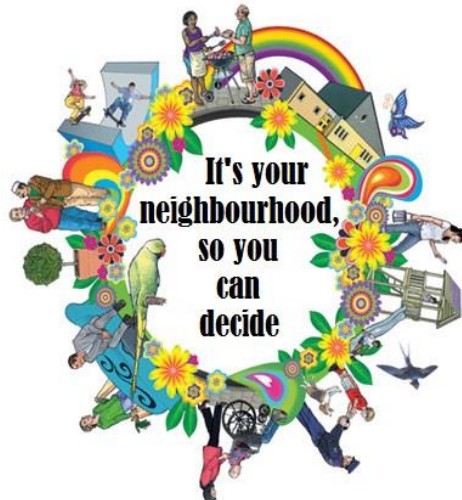


The role of entrepreneurship in citizen-led urban regeneration

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, urban regeneration, neoliberalism, active citizenship, neighbourhoods

OTB Department / Urban Renewal and Housing

Area of Research: Urban Sociology



Research Summary: With less funding from the national government combined with a significant increase in tasks and responsibilities, cities are facing the challenge to maintain the quality of life in urban neighbourhoods. Therefore cities are experimenting with new partnerships and new approaches to urban regeneration. In developing these new approaches, an important role is being allocated to citizens and expectations of citizen's role in the development of their neighbourhood have become higher. At the same time many citizens also feel the growing need to take up more responsibilities themselves. Self-organizing communities, active citizens and social entrepreneurs are increasingly demanding their place within the field of local welfare provision and social policy. Concepts like social entrepreneurship, social co-operatives, community enterprises and other initiatives that operate on the community level and try to achieve social goals by entrepreneurial means have gained visibility and importance. In this research we focus on entrepreneurial citizens who undertake initiatives with the aim to contribute to the regeneration of disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods and to provide for the needs of underserved communities. The aim of this research is to provide a better understanding of discourses of entrepreneurial citizenship, practices as well as citizen's experiences in the context of urban regeneration.

Research Methodology: The research is based on a variety of qualitative research methods such as discourse analysis of policy documents, qualitative in-depths interviews with policy makers and entrepreneurial citizens and case studies of citizen initiatives.



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Main question: How does the current political and public discourse on the city level represent the notion of entrepreneurial citizenship and what are citizens own experiences and motivations?

Deliverables: PhD thesis consisting of five articles in peer reviewed journals.

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