

Leveraging Spatial Capital for Pandemic-proof Living Environments

Chandel, Abhijeet; Newton, Caroline; Lee, Rachel

Publication date

2023

Document Version

Final published version

Published in

35th AESOP Annual Congress: Integrated Planning in a World of Turbulence

Citation (APA)

Chandel, A., Newton, C., & Lee, R. (2023). Leveraging Spatial Capital for Pandemic-proof Living Environments. In I. Pielesiak, & K. Leśniewska-Napierała (Eds.), *35th AESOP Annual Congress: Integrated Planning in a World of Turbulence: Book of Abstracts* (pp. 1349-1350). Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP).

Important note

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

Takedown policy

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights. We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



35th AESOP Annual Congress

**INTEGRATED
PLANNING
IN A WORLD
OF TURBULENCE**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Łódź - Poland // 11-15.07.2023

Edited by Iwona PIELESIAK
Katarzyna LEŚNIEWSKA-NAPIERAŁA
(Faculty of Geographical Sciences, University of Lodz)

Cover Iwona PIELESIAK
Typesetting Joanna ULAŃSKA

This publication is publicly available under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC-BY 4.0).

The editors of this publication are not responsible for opinions, statements or copyrights in relation to the content of this Book of Abstract. These issues are the responsibility of the authors of the abstract submitted to the AESOP Congress 2023

ISBN: 978-90-82-81918-2

Published by AESOP
Lodz, 2023

LEVERAGING SPATIAL CAPITAL FOR PANDEMIC-PROOF LIVING ENVIRONMENTS (973)

Abhijeet Chandel^{1*}, Caroline Newton¹, Rachel Lee¹

¹Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands; *a.chandel@tudelft.nl

Studies suggest that communities with greater social and economic capital are better equipped to deal with crises such as the covid-19 pandemic (Kiruthu, 2014; Pitas & Ehmer, 2020). Although social, economic, and cultural capital influence the impact on a community during a pandemic, it is spatial capital that anchors the community to a physical space. Depending on access, ownership and control of physical space, spatial capital becomes an enabler or a discriminator. It plays a critical role in creating, sustaining and shaping spatial inequalities. However, spatial capital has been scarcely studied in urban planning and even less so in terms of its operationality in research and practice.

Through this study, we redefine spatial capital and propose a novel operational framework - AURA - to measure the ability of different groups to Access, Utilize, (right to) Refuse and Adapt the spatial capital. The framework is used to understand how spatial capital has affected varied communities' abilities to endure the impact of the pandemic by examining the scale, typology and user relationships of various spaces before, during and after the covid-19 pandemic.

Methodologically, the paper will review existing theory arriving at initial framework indicators to analyse the forms, roles and attributes of spatial capital on a neighbourhood scale. We will then conduct a comparative analysis of case studies in selected neighbourhoods in Mumbai, India and Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The case study research will consist of a grounded approach and multi-perspective analysis to examine spaces of various scales, ownership and functions to understand how groups generate, use and engage with spatial capital. The inferences and lessons from the case studies will further help modify, upgrade and develop the analytical framework as a tool for broader use. The further stages of work include identifying weak spots in the neighbourhoods and formulating evidence-based spatial suggestions that contribute to making healthier cities for all.

As observed globally during the ongoing pandemic, the already marginalised and vulnerable communities have suffered the greatest negative impact, bringing a renewed interest in the issues of spatial and social justice. By bringing evidence from the most vulnerable neighbourhoods of two diverse contexts, we add an empirical perspective to the evolving knowledge of spatial capital. We hope the framework can serve as an analytical and decision-making tool for contexts beyond the two countries to help reduce spatial inequality and contribute to ongoing efforts towards just and equitable cities.

Keywords: Spatial capital, Spatial inequalities, Post-pandemic city, Just City

References:

Kiruthu, F., 2014. Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post Disaster Recovery by Daniel P. Aldrich. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. 248 pp. Governance 27, 169–171. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12061>

Pitas, N., Ehmer, C., 2020. Social Capital in the Response to COVID-19. *Am J Health Promot* 34, 942–944. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0890117120924531>