

KASZA-KELEMEN KATA, GÁTI MIRKÓ, RIDEG-PISKÓTI MARIANNA, SOMOSI ÁGNES: Resident satisfaction and place attachment

Abstract

Place attachment, including attachment to the neighbourhood, as a multidimensional construct can be understood along social, functional, and symbolic dimensions, which are determined by both the social and physical environment of the neighbourhood. Concerning the former, research on the social attachment patterns of neighbourhood residents typically focuses on social participation and social ties. Several studies have confirmed that strong local networks and frequent neighbourhood participation contribute greatly to the formation and strengthening of attachment. Along with the physical environment, it can be highlighted the functional and symbolic aspects of place attachment, reflected in the dimensions of place dependence and place identity. The physical environment shapes the attachment of the inhabitants partly along with aesthetic aspects and through the functionality of the neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods with appropriate facilities and services can quickly develop high levels of attachment by meeting the needs of residents. Related to the use of neighbourhood services to different patterns of attachment, the provision of services that promote neighbourhood cohesion was highlighted. In line with this, small businesses are found also to be related to attachment to neighbourhood. In this study, it was investigated the predictors of neighbourhood satisfaction and linear regression results show that neighbourhood interaction and commercial interaction affect neighbourhood satisfaction in low traffic areas, including a stronger, personal contact with small businesses that highlights the role of service sectors in neighbourhoods.

Keywords: attachment to place, resident satisfaction, resident interaction, commercial interaction

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