

Invisible Bricks: Urban places for social wellbeing

A lived experience of place in London borough of Tower Hamlets, UK

An image giga map: Adopting an environmental and social psychology lens to understand urban places for social wellbeing



Cultivating democracy through the social quality of the urban environment



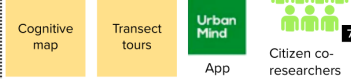
Aim

Social sustainability in urban places is undervalued in urban planning due to the intangible nature of the concept.

A qualitative study explores individual lived experiences in day-to-day urban outdoor environments in relation to social sustainability in place

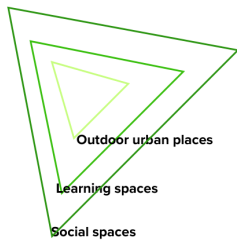
Framed by Bramley et al's (2009) definition of sustainable communities: safety, quality of the environment and individual and collective participation in place

Method



Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) - inductive theory generation

Results



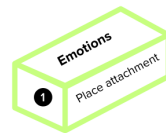
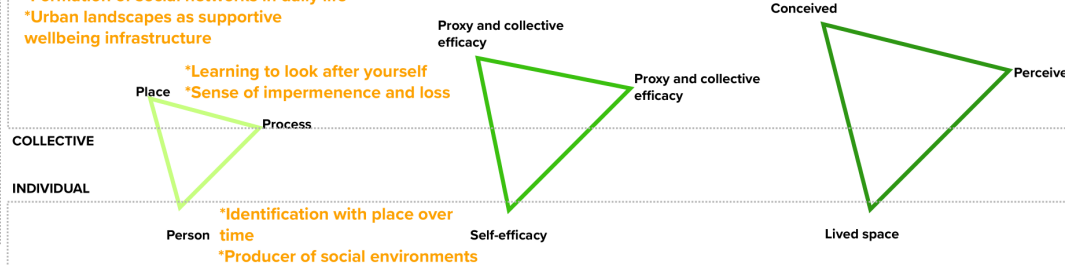
Three integrated theories: spatial politics, environmental and social psychology

Safe social environments can support place attachment processes and safe green spaces can support self-regulation of emotions for social behaviours

Lack of care observed and feelings of mistrust represents a failure of proxy efficacy and contributes to learned helplessness. The urban outdoors can be viewed as a social learning environment

Heightened emotional states influence how environments are perceived and conceived and what is visible in the collective social environment

***Formation of social networks in daily life**
***Urban landscapes as supportive wellbeing infrastructure**



Scannell and Gifford's Tripartite Theory of Place Attachment

Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory and the Triadic Reciprocal Causation Model

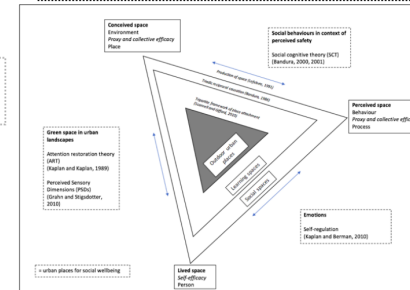
Lefebvre's Triad Theory of Produced Social Space

A behavioural model for context sensitive urban planning

Conclusion

Place attachment is at the heart of dynamic social environments and influences social learning behaviours through vicarious learning and the manifestation of social spaces. Safe green spaces contribute to social wellbeing by enabling self-regulation, reflection and connection.

The quality of the urban environment, becomes an issue for the operation of democracy through recognition of invisible bricks (psychological processes) that form urban places for social wellbeing, supporting need for context sensitive urban planning in the realm of global health.



Invisible Bricks: 3 processes that contribute to social wellbeing in urban places

